



Baltimore Sister Cities

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHANGWON SOUTH KOREA
GBARNGA LIBERIA
LUXOR & ALEXANDRIA EGYPT
KAWASAKI JAPAN

PIRAEUS GREECE
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS
XIAMEN CHINA

baltimoresistercities.org



BSC's Asian sister city committees partnered with MIMA and Asian-American organizations in celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at Baltimore City Hall. Mayor Pugh welcomed the delegation from Changwon, Baltimore's new sister city.



Representatives from China International Fair for Investment & Trade and other Chinese organizations visited Baltimore throughout 2018.



Egypt and Rotterdam committees facilitated virtual exchanges with schools.



International delegates from Liberia, Rotterdam, Japan, and elsewhere attended our Sister Port Reception for GreenPort Congress America 2018. Reception co-hosted with Maryland Sister States and the ports of Tacoma and Seattle.



Our Asian and Liberia committees organized several film screenings and cultural festivals in Baltimore.



Four Baltimore high school "Youth Ambassadors" traveled to Xiamen and Shanghai, China for a summer camp in 2018.

Baltimore Sister City Committees

Annual Accomplishments Report 2018

This document contains the accomplishments for the Baltimore Sister City program as a whole, and for each of the individual committees.

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PROJECT THEMES – COLOR KEY

- Economic development
- Educational
- Cultural
- Health/environmental
- Government
- Organizational operations
- Other

PROJECT TYPES - KEY







Event for multiple sister city committees to engage in (BSC-wide):







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Other type of activity: Thin borders


Baltimore Sister Cities program (consolidated)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

Q2 	Sister Cities added/revitalized: The dormant relationship with Gbarnga, Liberia, was reinvigorated and a new BGSCC committee installed, culminating in formal re-instatement of Gbarnga as a Sister City in the April 18 Board meeting. In the same meeting the relationship with Changwon, South Korea, was approved for Sister City status.
MAY 3 	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration — Held joint event with BCSCC, BKSCC, BXSCC, Mayor's Office of Immigrant & Multicultural Affairs (MIMA) and other Asian and Asian-American organizations in celebrating Asian Pacific American (APA) cultures and the contributions of APAs to Baltimore at Baltimore City Hall. Mayor Catherine Pugh, city and state officials, representatives of the Chinese Embassy, a delegation from Changwon, South Korea, representatives of the Korean consulate in NYC, and approximately 200 community members attended. Strengthened ties with APA community groups and raised our profile in the community.
MAY 15–18 	GreenPort Congress America 2018 — Baltimore Sister Cities and Maryland Sister States assisted Maryland Port Administration in attracting international speakers and holding a “sister ports panel” at the conference. BRSCC, BKSCC, BGSCC participated in this initiative. To welcome our international speakers, we hosted an International Sister Port Reception on May 17 at Baltimore Visitor Center with 100 invited guests, co-hosted with Maryland Sister States and the ports of Seattle and Tacoma. Maryland Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith and Sister Cities International President & CEO Roger-Mark De Souza spoke at the reception. UpLevl was the gold sponsor; 7 other entities including MD Commerce, BDC, and Ports America Chesapeake provided silver sponsorships.
AUGUST 1 	Gbarnga mayor visits Baltimore — Visit by Mayor Lucia Herbert of Gbarnga and delegation to Baltimore, including meeting at City Hall with Mayor Pugh and representatives of educational institutions, BSC, and BGSCC.
SEPTEMBER 12 	Mayor's office provides BSC with funding support — BSC Funding Request approved by Baltimore Mayor's office and City Board of Estimates providing BSC with \$4,405 funding for FY 2018 (7/1/17 – 6/30/18) expenses and up to \$10,000 for FY 2019 (7/1/18 – 6/30/19) expenses.
SEPTEMBER 30 	Baltimore Book Festival — BLASCC and BKSCC had a booth at Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts (BOPA)'s annual book festival, with literary items for sale, along with pamphlets.

SEPTEMBER 22 	Charm City Night Market – BCSCC, BKSCC and BXSCC participated in this inaugural street festival celebrating Baltimore’s Asian community, organized by ‘The Chinatown Collective’ at Park Avenue and Lexington Street.
SEPTEMBER 26 	World Trade Center Institute (WTCI) State of the Ports and Embassy Wine Tasting — Three BSC committees (BCSCC, BRSCC, and BKSCC) assisted embassies of South Korea, Japan, and the Netherlands with their wine/beer tasting tables.
OCTOBER 3 	Baltimore Black International Film Festival — BKSCC and BGSCC co-hosted “Out of My Hand”, the opening film to the 5th Baltimore Black Film Festival by a young Japanese director about a Liberian immigrant in the U.S. BRSCC helped get a Rotterdam filmmaker’s animated short into the program.
OCTOBER 11 	Global Startup Baltimore (Baltimore Innovation Week) — BSC and Maryland Sister States had a joint table at this event in order to promote our organizations as a resource for companies looking to expand abroad. Event was organized by ETC Baltimore and U.S. Commercial Service. BRSCC, BXSCC, and BKSCC participated with support from BSC volunteer Tafadzwa Gwitira.
NOVEMBER 27 	Baltimore Ambassadors program proposal — BSC, Inc., and four committees (BKSCC, BLASCC, BRSCC, and BXSCC) submitted support letters for the concept of a Baltimore Ambassadors exchange program for city staff to bring best practices to/from foreign cities, with sister cities as promising candidates.
DECEMBER 5 	WTCI Maryland Global Gala — BSC hosted a joint booth at this annual celebration for Baltimore businesses with global trade interests. Rob Perry, a BKSCC member, provided a Japanese tea tasting component.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 12 	1st BSC Annual Meeting & Holiday Party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved 2017 Accomplishments & 2018 Plan. • Approved the following Bylaws Amendments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amended Articles 3.1.c and 3.2 to allow corporate membership at BSC level in addition to committee level memberships ○ Approved a new Article 7 to allow the establishment of a BSC International Advisory Council ○ Amended renumbered Article 8 to allow voting by proxy • Approved nominations for BSC Directors and Committee Chairs for 2018. • Party: 110 registrants; Pot luck dinner and entertainment; presented Mayoral Certificate of Appreciation to Dan Young.
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MARCH 6 ●	Board meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved General Liability insurance policy with Alliance for Non-Profits Insurance Company through Gorges & Co. (broker).
MARCH 10 ●	1st BSC annual strategic planning meeting
APRIL 18 ●	Board meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved BSC to join Baltimore Visitors Center (free membership was negotiated later). BKSCC Co-Chair Kathy Shiota agreed to be BSC main contact and manager of this relationship. Approved BCSCC and BGSCC as Sister City Committees.
MAY 30 ●	Board meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved BSC Foreign Travel Policy.
Q1 – Q2 ●	2018 Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — Drawing was on June 24. Results: 173 tickets sold @ \$20 each, donation \$20, expenses \$1,377.01 Gross receipts \$3,480, net receipts \$2,102.99
JULY 11 ●	Baltimore Development Corporation promotional flyer — Flyer for BSC use introduced at BSC board meeting. BXSCC has created bilingual version.
JULY 24 – AUG 6 ●	First use of BSC’s new Foreign Travel Policy — BSC's new travel policy was successfully put to the test as it governed the logistics of a student trip in which BXSCC Vice Chair Danny Evans took four Baltimore area high school students to Xiamen and Jiading (Shanghai) for a “Youth Ambassadors” summer camp.
AUGUST 2–4 ●	Sister Cities International (SCI) Annual Conference — BSC Vice President Fontaine Bell attended the annual conference in Aurora, CO.
SEPTEMBER 1 ● ●	Maryland International Education Consortium (MIEC) — BSC joins MIEC at \$350/year. This membership was part of BSC Funding Request noted above.
SEPTEMBER 12 ●	Board meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved BSC to join WTCI at \$1,000/year. BXSCC member Nancy Taylor agreed to be main contact and manager of this relationship. This membership was also part of BSC Funding Request noted above. BRSCC Vice Chair Gary Davison volunteered to set up and manage BSC level Eventbrite account. The above two volunteer positions plus Kathy Shiota’s as main contact and manager of Visitors Center relationship (see above – April 18) are part of a new program to find volunteers within BSC to handle specific tasks, freeing up BSC officers for management responsibilities.
OCTOBER 2	International Advisory Council (IAC) meeting

●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Dr. Saleha Suleman and Dr. Qaisar Abbas as Co-Chairs of IAC.
● OCTOBER 24	Board meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved set up of BSC communications and records management on Google G Suites. Fontaine Bell to implement with target completion date of 12/31/18.
● DECEMBER 6	Visit Baltimore promotional flyer — Flyer for BSC use introduced at BSC board meeting. Cindy Wang (BXSCC) offered to help other committees create bilingual versions.
● DECEMBER 9	Eventbrite account — BSC-level account set up by Rachel Sengers and Gary Davison (BRSCC) in preparation for 2019 Annual Meeting and other future BSC events.
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR	
●	Development of existing and future sister city (SC) relationships: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Delegations from Changwon (Korea), Gbarnga (Liberia), and Xiamen (China) visited Baltimore this year. Three representatives from the Odessa (Ukraine) city government visited Baltimore September 28 to discuss reactivating our sister city relationship. Although this is our second oldest relationship (since 1974), for many years it has been managed by the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore (“The Associated”). Members of The Associated participated in the meeting and discussions are underway about changing the structure of the relationship in the future. Communications are continuing with government officials in Bizerte (Tunisia), with the purpose of building a friendship city relationship, to be expanded to SC.

BSC, INC. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- 15** board members as of Dec 2018
- 8** board meetings in 2018
- 1** strategic planning meeting in 2018
- 3** International Advisory Council events/meetings in 2018

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Gislin Dagnelie, President
Fontaine Bell, Vice President
and Acting Secretary
Shawn Burman (MKSH), Treasurer












TOTAL ASSETS AS OF DEC 31, 2018

BSC, Inc.	\$4,228.78
BCSCC	\$2,030.60
BGSCC	\$180.21
BKSCC	\$17,973.26
BLASCC	\$9,564.66
BPSCC	\$6,322.64
BRSCC	\$3,928.65
BXSCC	\$12,279.26
TOTAL	\$56,508.06

Changwon Sister City Committee (BCSCC)

In 2019, Baltimore and Changwon, South Korea decided to become sister cities, and Baltimore formed a sister city committee to manage the relationship.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

APRIL 18 	Approved as a Sister City by BSC, Inc. Board.
APRIL 1 – AUGUST 31  	Changwon Sister City display at Baltimore Visitor Center — Organized an informational display about BCSCC at the Baltimore Visitor Center, including a Turtle Boat Ship crafted by Mr. Joseph H Chae and graphics created by BCSCC member Peter Tak, a graphic design student at MICA.
APRIL 30 – MAY 3   	Changwon delegation — Hosted Changwon delegation to attend APAHM Reception and receive acknowledgement from Mayor Pugh of new sister city relationship. Held a dinner reception for the Delegation at the Rusty Scupper, which Baltimore Government Officials and BCSCC members attended. Visited Korean Embassy in Washington D.C., Johns Hopkins University, and Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). Attended Changwon tourism promotional event at the Baltimore Visitor Center. The Changwon delegates met with BOPA to discuss future collaboration between the two cities.
MAY 3  	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration — Partnered with BXSCC, BKSCC, MIMA and other Asian and Asian-American organizations in celebrating APA cultures and the contributions of APAs to Baltimore at Baltimore City Hall. Mayor Pugh welcomed the delegation from Changwon. Visiting calligrapher from Changwon, Kum Suk Park, demonstrated live calligraphy art and gifted the artwork to attendees. Korean food was provided by Heather Chung, owner of Brown Rice. Traditional Korean drum and fan dance was performed by the Korean Culture and Art Center of Maryland.
SEPTEMBER 12 	MICA Admissions Counselor presentation in Changwon — Changwon City organized a presentation for MICA's Admissions Counselor to give information to prospective students about applying to MICA at Changwon National University. Approximately 120 high school students attended.
SEPTEMBER 22  	Charm City Night Market — Participated in a booth with BKSCC and BXSCC during this inaugural street festival celebrating Baltimore's Asian community. Presented educational information about the city of Changwon and cultural events hosted there.
SEPTEMBER 26	Maryland State of the Ports and Embassy Wine Tasting — Participated in the

● ● ●	wine tasting event in collaboration with the Korean Embassy by supplying Korean beverages served to attendees by BCSCC members.
OCTOBER 24 ●	WTCl's Taste of Business in Korea — Participated by introducing the newly formed Baltimore-Changwon Sister City relationship and supplied Korean appetizers.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Q2 ●	Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — Worked with other committees to raffle and raise funds for BSC and our committees, using Orioles tickets donated from the Mayor's Office together with a purchased Skybox. BCSCC raised \$120.
OCTOBER ●	BCSCC logo — Approved logo designed by Peter Tak, constructed with elements from Changwon and Baltimore City.
OCTOBER 11 ●	Global Startup Baltimore (Baltimore Innovation Week) — Supported BSC's & Maryland Sister States' participation in this event and helped man our joint table, in order to promote our organizations as a resource for companies looking to expand abroad.
DECEMBER 13 ● ●	BCSCC Chair visits Changwon — Matthew Lee, BCSCC Chair, traveled to Changwon to meet with Mayor Huh.

BCSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

17 members as of Dec 2018

14 Regular | 1 Associate | 2 Corporate

10 committee meetings in 2018

2018 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2018










\$4,380

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues




Gbarnga Sister City Committee (BGSCC)

Gbarnga, Liberia was Baltimore's first sister city (1973). In 2019, Baltimore and Gbarnga decided to revive the long-dormant relationship, and Baltimore formed a sister city committee to manage the relationship.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

APRIL 18 	Approved as a Sister City by BSC, Inc. Board — The dormant relationship with Gbarnga, Liberia, was reinvigorated and a new BGSCC committee installed, culminating in formal re-instatement of Gbarnga as a Sister City in the April 18 Board meeting.
MAY 15–18   	GreenPort Congress America 2018 — Together with the Maryland-Liberia Sister States Committee, welcomed Harry Conway, Liberian rep to International Maritime Organisation as a speaker to this conference along with a delegation from Liberia Port Authority . Participated in BSC's International Sister Port Reception on May 17 at Baltimore Visitor Center.
Q2 	Re-signed the sister city agreement between Baltimore & Gbarnga mayors
AUGUST 1  	Gbarnga mayor visited Baltimore — Visit by Mayor Lucia Herbert of Gbarnga and delegation to Baltimore, including meeting at City Hall with Mayor Pugh and representatives of educational institutions, BSC, and BGSCC.
OCTOBER 3  	Baltimore Black International Film Festival — BKSCC and BGSCC co-hosted "Out of My Hand", the opening film to the 5th Baltimore Black Film Festival by a young Japanese director, Takeshi Fukunaga, at the Charles Theater. The film is about a Liberian that emigrates to the U.S. A Japan Embassy Cultural Attaché spoke at the pre-film reception on his experiences in Liberia when the film premiered there in a small local town.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Q1 	Established working subcommittees
Q2 	Met with Liberia's Ambassador to the U.S.
	Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — Worked with other committees to raise funds for BSC and our committees, using Orioles tickets donated from the Mayor's Office together with a purchased Skybox. BGSCC raised \$100.
OCTOBER	Liberia Port Manager residency at Port of Baltimore — As a result of Liberia



Port Authority’s participation in GreenPort Congress in May, the ports of Baltimore, MD and Tacoma, WA invited Alex Sonnyboy Noah, Port Manager, Samuel Alfred Ross Port of Greenville, for residencies at the ports in October. We supported Maryland-Liberia Sister States Committee in providing hospitality to Mr. Noah.

BGSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

17 members as of Dec 2018

10 committee meetings in 2018

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2018

\$250

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues

Kawasaki Sister City Committee (BKSCC)


MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

MARCH 27 	Film program and Director's talk "Post X Years" Screening – Presented a documentary at City Hall about radiation effects on Japanese fishermen during Pacific Rim testing in the 1950s, followed by a discussion with Director Hideaki Ito. Invited members from the Baltimore Non-Violence Center to the screening.
APRIL 7 	Bento cooking demonstration — Three BKSCC members gave a cooking demonstration to the public, using recipes for healthy bento lunch foods; a group lunch was held afterwards.
APRIL 14 	Hanami celebration — Held a community picnic in the Japanese tradition with healthy Hanami foods, music, kayaking, and community groups at tables, all done under blossoming cherry trees. Collaborated with Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore, Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, and other city horticultural groups in Middle Branch Park. City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young made a short speech.
MAY 3 	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration — Partnered with BXSCC, BCSCC, MIMA and other Asian and Asian-American organizations in celebrating APA cultures and the contributions of APAs to Baltimore at Baltimore City Hall. BKSCC contributed a shamisen performance by Sumie Kanako and sushi by Matsuri Restaurant.
MAY 15–18 	GreenPort Congress America 2018 — Helped organize the BSC Sister Port Reception at the Baltimore Visitor Center to welcome sister city international speakers who were in Baltimore for the 3-day GreenPort Congress. BKSCC arranged for catering through new diversity program by Visit Baltimore. BKSCC provided hospitality to delegates from the Japanese ports of Yokohama/Kawasaki, which are handled under the same municipal management corporation.
JUNE 6 	Japanese Embassy Reception for Japanese Coast Guard Vessel — Partnered with the Japanese Embassy for a reception on board the vessel "Kojima," in recognition of graduating Japanese naval cadets. BKSCC contributed Baltimore gifts to cadets including a new product, ReThink Water. Officers from the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Coast Guard as well as Officers from the Japanese Coast Guard made comments, along with other Baltimore city officials.
JULY 28	Outdoor film program "The Wind Rises" screening – BKSCC screened a Studio Ghibli classic at the Farm in Station North, with vendors and snacks.

<p>●</p> <p>JULY – AUGUST</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Venture Scout exchange — A Baltimore Venture Scout exchange group visited Kawasaki for two weeks in Japan and were hosted for camping and home-stays by Kawasaki Scouts.</p>
<p>AUGUST 9</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Baltimore Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration Day – Attended a commemoration for the atomic bombing and met with the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee of Baltimore, a non-nuclear advocacy group.</p>
<p>AUGUST 25</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Film program “Chimneys are Seen” – Screened a vintage “Shomin” film depicting the lives of ordinary people in post-war Japan, at The Crown in Station North.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 4</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Film program “My Small Steps from Hiroshima” – Screened an NHK documentary at the Parkway Theatre, featuring a Japanese-American who returned to Japan and was instrumental in expanding awareness about the after-effects of the atomic bomb, working with western scholars like Robert Jay Lifton. The post-film discussion included the director of the film, Jay Ike, and experts from local universities.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 18</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Film program “Self-Obliteration” – Collaborated with Nadia Hironaka, head of MICA’s film department, to screen Yayoi Kusama’s avant-garde film shot in NYC in the 1960s for MICA film students at the Parkway Theatre.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 22</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Charm City Night Market – Presented hands-on crafts in a booth with BXSCC and BCSCC during this inaugural street festival celebrating Baltimore’s Asian community. BKSCC demonstrated Japanese calligraphy to visitors.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 28–29</p> <p>● ● ●</p>	<p>Baltimore Japan Art Festival / New York Japan Cinefest Screening — Partnered with Nippon Motion for the second annual 2-day festival, featuring Japanese artist Yusuke Nakamura from Osaka. Nakamura held art-student critique sessions at MICA and gave a lecture on his artistic process at MICA’s Falvey Hall. Nakamura’s works were exhibited in MICA’s Rosenberg Gallery. BKSCC sponsored the NY Cinefest screening of film shorts shown on Sept. 28 and hosted an outdoor Aki Matsuri on Sept. 29.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 29</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Aki Matsuri Festival — BKSCC hosted a traditional Japanese fall festival in the Station North Arts District, partnering with Table for Two, a Japanese NGO. The festival included Japanese arts and foods, taiko drumming, tea ceremony, street games, and martial arts demonstrations.</p>
<p>OCTOBER 3</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Baltimore Black International Film Festival — BKSCC and BGSCC co-hosted “Out of My Hand”, the opening film to the 5th Baltimore Black Film Festival by a young Japanese director, Takeshi Fukunaga, at the Charles Theater. The</p>

	film is about a Liberian that emigrates to the U.S. A Japan Embassy Cultural Attaché spoke at the pre-film reception on his experiences in Liberia when the film premiered there in a small local town.
NOVEMBER 10 	Second Annual Flowering Tree Planting – Partnered with Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore and TreeBaltimore to plant 42 trees in Druid Hill Park, including several Japanese Yoshino cherry trees. Baltimore Venture Scouts volunteered during the planting, as friends to BKSCC.
NOVEMBER 12 	Towson University Distinguished Global Speaker Evening – Recruited Jacob Schlesinger, a well-known Wall Street Journal Tokyo Bureau Chief, to be the feature speaker at this TU annual event, presenting on “Japan in the 21 st Century: Peace, Media and Politics.” Member Rob Perry provided tea tastings. Japan Embassy officials were on hand to make introductory remarks.
NOVEMBER 14 	Woodmoor Elementary School World Cultures Celebration Day – Presented to several classrooms describing the cultural customs in Japan, for students grades 3 – 5.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 12 	BSC Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Party — Joined other BSC committees at the annual meeting and contributed to the holiday festivities.
JANUARY 30 	Maryland Sister States Program Annual Legislative Reception – Attended the Sister State Annual Legislative Reception and handed out BKSCC literature.
MARCH 22 	“Arts of Asia” Tour at the Walters Museum – Toured the Asian collection with Walters Director of Curatorial Affairs Amy Landau, followed by a dinner at the Helmand Restaurant.
Q2 	Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — BKSCC member Dan Young organized the raffle on behalf of all of BSC and worked with other committees raise funds for BSC and our committees, using Orioles tickets donated from the Mayor’s Office together with a purchased Skybox. BKSCC raised \$1,800.00.
SEPTEMBER 26 	Maryland State of the Ports and Embassy Wine Tasting — Supported Japanese embassy with their participation.
SEPTEMBER 30 	Baltimore Book Festival — Together with BLASCC, had a booth at BOPA’s annual book festival, with literary items for sale, along with our pamphlets.
DECEMBER 5 	WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Rob Perry, a BKSCC member, provided a Japanese tea tasting component to the joint BSC booth.
DECEMBER 8 	BKSCC member holiday party – Hosted an end-of-year party for Baltimore-Kawasaki members and friends at the Matsuri Restaurant.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Japanese film program — NHK, Japan's national public broadcasting organization, agreed to enter an ongoing arrangement with BKSCC to provide English-language dubbed documentaries on timely topics for showing in Baltimore.



Website & social media — We have recruited a new BKSCC member to take on social media programming, design new materials for future BKSCC events, and continue to update the current BKSCC website and Facebook pages.



Exchanges — Several BKSCC members made personal visits to Kawasaki in 2018, laying the groundwork for potential future exchange programs in the arts, education, and other civic areas.



Healthy, sustainable life style projects — BKSCC had initial talks with non-profits in the DC/Baltimore area and laid the groundwork for future projects towards green, healthy, sustainable goals, especially in collaboration with city entities like the Baltimore City Public School system and the Department of Recreation and Parks. These include:

- Planting trees for park beautification.
- Holding virtual education classroom exchanges on environmental and STEM topics.
- Asking Baltimore businesses, like restaurants and catering services, to partner with Table for Two in healthy eating projects.



Kawasaki stone lantern — BKSCC held several meetings with Waterfront Partnership people in anticipation of moving the Kawasaki Sister City stone lantern from MD Science Center to a new Inner Harbor location.



BKSCC oral history project — BKSCC members with professional video shooting and production experience are developing a project to collect oral histories from some of our legacy members.



Partnerships — BKSCC continued to create strong partnerships with city organizations/departments, and city non-profits, as well as with the Japan Embassy. In 2018, we had meetings and made development plans. These groups include: Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland Scout Association, Towson University, Stevenson University, TreeBaltimore, Waterfront Partnership, Flowering Tree Trails, Table for Two, Chinatown Collective, Asian Art and Culture Center, and many others. Through discussions, we are planning collaborative events into 2019 and beyond.

BKSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

52 members as of Dec 2018

37 Regular | 14 Associate | 1 Corporate

11 committee meetings in 2018

6 officer meetings in 2018

2018 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$2,500










TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2018

\$5,515


including fundraising, donations, &
membership dues

Luxor & Alexandria Sister City Committee (BLASCC)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

JANUARY – FEBRUARY  	Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) — Friends of the BA is a subcommittee of BLASCC. It shared stories of Egypt and its Arab Spring revolution with presentations of member Karen Leggett Abouraya’s children’s book <i>Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt’s Treasured Books</i> . Karen participated in Multicultural Children’s Book Day, Read Africa Week, the Children’s Africana Book Awards celebrations and World Read Aloud Day, when she read the book via Skype to students in New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin.
FEBRUARY – MAY  	Egypt-US “Dialogues for Peace” school collaboration — Friends of the BA organized a Skype session between students at St. Thomas More School (Arlington, Virginia) and the librarians at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the great library in Alexandria, Egypt. This school is paired with Alexandria International Academy in Alexandria and 6th graders at the two schools had a live Skype conversation in May, after sharing videos, self-portraits and essays about themselves and their schools. There were also exchanges between 6 th graders at the SEED School in Baltimore and St. Vincent de Paul School in Alexandria. All four schools are now participating in a Dialogues for Peace exchange project for the 2018-19 school year, organized by the children’s librarian at the BA in Alexandria.
MAY 	Cooking class — BLASCC sponsored a one-day Egyptian cooking class led by member Aida Mady at Baltimore’s R House.
 	Egyptian lunch at World Bank — BLASCC members volunteered to help cook and serve an Egyptian lunch at the World Bank, under the auspices of former BLASCC chair and chef/cookbook author Amy Riolo.
OCTOBER  	21st Annual Meeting of the International Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) — BLASCC chairman Tharwat Abouraya attended the annual meeting in Alexandria, Egypt. He met BLASCC counterparts from Alexandria and Luxor and also met with teachers at the Alexandria schools participating in digital exchanges with the U.S. BLASCC donated children’s books by or about Marylanders to the library in Alexandria.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MARCH 	Virtual Exchange Coalition — BLASCC began participating in the Virtual Exchange Coalition, a regular gathering of nonprofits and government agencies that facilitate digital conversations between people in the U.S. and
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	other countries, especially the Middle East.
MAY ●	World Trade Month Mediterranean Lifestyle Panel — Tharwat Abouraya participated in this panel, offering perspectives on Egyptian trade development in the Mediterranean.
Q2 ●	Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — Worked with other committees to raise funds for BSC and our committees, using Orioles tickets donated from the Mayor's Office together with a purchased Skybox. BLASCC raised \$100.
SEPTEMBER 30 ●	Baltimore Book Festival — Together with BKSCC, had a booth at BOPA's annual book festival, with literary items for sale, along with our pamphlets.
OCTOBER ●	Alexandria Folk Dance Troupe — BLASCC promoted and attended performances by this dance troupe at The Kennedy Center and at Montgomery College Rockville.
NOVEMBER ●	Workforce development — BLASCC initiated discussions on a project proposed by our Sister City Committee in Alexandria to provide small business training on hiring people with disabilities, a new legal requirement in Egypt.

BLASCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

19 members as of Dec 2018

15 Regular | 3 Associate | 1 Corporate

6 committee meetings in 2018

2018 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$3,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2018

\$1,715

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues

Piraeus Sister City Committee (BPSCC)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

JANUARY 27 ● ●	Greek Independence Day Parade Dance — Sponsored this dance.
MARCH 19–25 ● ●	Baltimore Greek Week <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supported local businesses by sponsoring annual Baltimore Greek Week and promoting the restaurants and events throughout Baltimore area.Worked with Greek-owned restaurants and other businesses in Baltimore and the surrounding area to feature Greek food and specials, local artists and other activities.Promoted knowledge of Greek customs and heritage to patrons of the businesses.
MARCH 25 ● ●	Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade — Participated in the annual Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade.
MARCH 27 ●	Hermes International Expo — Participated in annual Greek-American international business networking trade show in Philadelphia area; BPSCC represented Baltimore and State of Maryland, promoting tourism and business and economic development.
OCTOBER 12 ● ●	Greek Independence Day Parade Concert — Sponsored this concert.
NOVEMBER 2–4 ● ●	Greek Food & Cultural Festival — Promoted this annual Baltimore festival that celebrates local restaurants and local Greek history.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Q2 ●	Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — Worked with other committees to raise funds for BSC and our committees, using Orioles tickets donated from the Mayor's Office together with a purchased SkyBox. BPSCC raised \$1,040.
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BPSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

3 members as of Dec 2018

3 Regular | 0 Associate

3 committee meetings in 2018

2018 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000






TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2018

\$2,640



including fundraising, donations, &
membership dues











Rotterdam Sister City Committee (BRSCC)








MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

SPRING & FALL 	Operation Trash educational programs — Supported Kathie diStefano, theatre artist and educator from Rotterdam-based Avalanche Arts, in conducting educational programs about trash in South Baltimore Gateway schools (workshops in Baltimore plus an exchange between Lakeland elementary school in Baltimore and Het Balkon, a Rotterdam area school) and helped connect her with other contacts and potential partners. In addition, diStefano became part of Young Audiences of Maryland's artist roster in 2018 after they observed a performance by her at Lakeland.
MAY 15–18 	GreenPort Congress America 2018 — Took the lead on Baltimore Sister Cities involvement in the conference programming and reception; helped coordinate demo of Rotterdam trash cleaning technology in Baltimore Inner Harbor (KCI Technologies, an IAC member, organized this demo).
JUNE 14 	Info session in the Netherlands on doing business in Maryland & Baltimore — We held a session for startups at Venture Café Rotterdam, in collaboration with MKSH, Maryland Commerce, and Innovation Quarter, to promote doing business in Maryland and the Maryland-Netherlands cybersecurity soft landing program.
OCTOBER 	Supported MD Commerce's visit to the Netherlands — Facilitated planning/contacts for their presence at Cyber Security Week in The Hague in 1 st week of October; helped them set up meetings with Rotterdam Partners, and with reps from offshore wind and a life science soft landing program.
Q1–Q4 	Kickstarted and fostered a Rotterdam-Baltimore Sister City Committee (BRSCC) — Found a starter set of volunteers in Rotterdam; worked with them to start a committee to be the counterpart of the Baltimore-Rotterdam committee. Multiple BRSCC members visited Rotterdam during 2018 and held a half dozen meetings with the newly formed BRSCC.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 12  	BSC Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Party — Joined other BSC committees at the annual meeting and contributed to the holiday festivities.
FEBRUARY	Meeting with Rotterdam's International Relations Manager — Committee member Alexander Regnault met with Martin Dukker, who recently took over the North America relationship management from Nicole de Zwart.
	Dutch film promotion – Promoted a Dutch film about immigrant elementary

	school students at Baltimore's Creative Alliance
MARCH 	Circular economy lectures — Provided support for Francesco Di Maio, a professor at TU Delft in the Netherlands, to teach sessions at MSU School of Architecture including a public lecture. Intended as a first step towards doing more knowledge sharing with Netherlands on circular economy (re-using waste and minimizing the production of waste).
Q2 	Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — Worked with other committees to organize raffle and raise funds for BSC and our committees. BRSCC raised \$40.
MAY 22 	Circular economy discussion with state of Maryland — Arranged a discussion with reps from Netherlands Embassy, IMG Rebel, and Maryland state government environmental agencies about circular economy.
JUNE 	Meetings in the Netherlands — Four BRSCC members and several members of the newly-formed RBSCC participated in meetings with economic development agencies (Rotterdam Partners – miscellaneous topics; innovation Quarter – circular economy topic), US Embassy in the Hague, IMG Rebel, and Impact Hub Rotterdam. Some attended Rotterdam Resiliency Day.
JUNE 	Urban farming/composting — Rodette Jones, manager of Filbert Street Community Garden, conducted a fact-finding trip to Rotterdam.
AUGUST 26 	Joint happy hour “borrel” with DC Dutch organization in Baltimore
SEPTEMBER 24 	Meeting with reps from NL's RVO and MD Commerce — Meetings to discuss several areas for possible business collaboration with Maryland and the Netherlands.
SEPTEMBER 26 	WTCI State of the Ports and Embassy Wine Tasting — Recruited Netherlands Embassy to have a table at the event for the first time, with a beer tasting; co-ran the table with them. The offshore wind theme was of particular interest to them.
OCTOBER 	Annual Baltimore Black International Film Festival — Helped secure a spot for a Rotterdam filmmaker's animated short at this festival.
OCTOBER 11 	Global Startup Baltimore (Baltimore Innovation Week) — Coordinated BSC's & Maryland Sister States' participation in this event and helped man our joint table, in order to promote our organizations as a resource for companies looking to expand abroad.
DECEMBER	MICA/WdKA sister academy relationship — Continue to promote the Unravel the Code digital fabrication course, co-taught by the art academies in

DECEMBER 5  DECEMBER 11 	Baltimore (Maryland Institute College of Art, MICA) and Rotterdam (Willem de Kooning Academy, WdKA).
	WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Supported the joint BSC booth at this celebration for Baltimore businesses with global trade interests.
	Netherlands Embassy Holland on the Hill reception — Attended reception; helped bring a rep from Maryland Commerce to the event; discussed our initiatives with select attendees.
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR	
	DC-area Dutch networking happy hour — BRSCC is a co-sponsor of the periodic ongoing business networking “borrel” organized by the Netherlands Embassy, NACCWM, and other DC-area Dutch organizations.
	Medtech — Discussions with some Maryland companies for matchmaking with Dutch companies to potentially partner with.
	Architecture school exchange program — Helped Morgan State University (MSU) School of Architecture + Planning explore setting up an exchange program with the architecture academy in Rotterdam (RAvB).
	Offshore wind — Continued to support Maryland in its efforts to recruit Dutch firms to help build and operate offshore wind farms.
	Partnerships — Increased collaborations with Netherlands Embassy, NACCWM, Rotterdam Partners, Baltimore city government, Maryland Commerce, DC Dutch, WTCl, MSU School of Architecture + Planning, Maryland Port Administration, Maryland Energy Administration, South Holland’s Innovation Quarter, KCI Technologies. New relationships: Venture Café Rotterdam, Port of Rotterdam, RAvB, and IMG Rebel.

BRSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

16 members as of Dec 2018

10 Regular | 6 Associate

10 committee meetings in 2018

2018 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$2,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2018

\$1,120

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues

Xiamen Sister City Committee (BXSCC)

















MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

FEBRUARY 23 ● ●	Chinese New Year presentation at Govans Elementary School — Introduced students in several third grade classes at this Baltimore charter school to Chinese culture and the Lunar New Year.
FEBRUARY 24 ● ●	Port Discovery Children's Museum Chinese New Year Celebration — Provided special Chinese New Year's activities for children at Port Discovery, such as learning basic Chinese, the zodiac, and how to use chopsticks.
APRIL 28 ●	I Am the Change Youth Empowerment Conference — Hosted a panel with the theme "Global Exposure Leads to Unexpected Trendsetters" for Baltimore youth at Western High School. Panelists were local students and young professionals with experience studying and/or working abroad.
MAY 2 & 22 ●	Celebration of Chinese-language education at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (BPI) — Presented top Chinese language students with certificates and monetary gifts, spoke about the benefits of studying Chinese, and discussed the history of the Chinese community in Baltimore. Later in the month, organized and chaperoned a tour of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. by 51 Chinese language students and 5 chaperones; students were also treated to a traditional Chinese meal in Baltimore's historic Chinatown.
MAY 3 ● ●	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration — Partnered with BKSCC, BCSCC, MIMA and other Asian and Asian-American organizations in celebrating APA cultures and the contributions of APAs to Baltimore at Baltimore City Hall. Representatives of the Chinese Embassy attended. Used \$235 in funds from the MECU Neighborhood Event Grant awarded in November 2017 towards this event.
MAY 14–26 ● ●	Association of Southeast Asian Nations Government Officials Seminar in Fujian Province, China — A committee member represented Baltimore at this multinational seminar in and around Xiamen.
MAY 19 ● ●	Port Discovery Children's Museum APA Heritage Month Celebration — Provided special activities such as calligraphy practice.
JUNE 14 ● ●	Xiamen, China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT) Promotion delegation visit to Baltimore — Hosted this Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Convention & Exhibition Affairs delegation at Baltimore Development Corp. (BDC), where the visitors promoted the event to a full house of area business and civic leaders interested in business with Xiamen / China.

<p>JULY 2, SEP 19, & OCT 30</p> <p>● ● ●</p>	<p>Foreign Affairs Office / Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) delegations — Courtesy of the U.S. – China Business Training Center (UCBTC) (twice) and George Mason University (GMU) (once), BXSCC hosted these delegations of 18 to 20 high-ranking officials from a number of Chinese provincial and city governments at Baltimore City Hall, where they learned about and discussed Baltimore’s government structure, Baltimore’s experience with sister cities, and how sister cities can help foster economic development. BXSCC was given two \$1,000 honorariums by the UCBTC and one \$350 honorarium by GMU.</p>
<p>JULY 24 – AUG 6</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Jiading, Shanghai, and Xiamen “Youth Ambassadors” summer camp — Organized and chaperoned a trip of four local high school students to Xiamen and the Jiading District of Shanghai, including visits to Xiamen’s BRICS Summit venue, Children’s Palace, and Gulangyu Island. The Jiading leg of the trip centered around an international summer camp, which also involved several dozen other students from around the world. BXSCC obtained \$5,500 in grants to help offset trip costs and received \$10,000 in trip deposits; excess funds were distributed back to students/parents & chaperone after all trip expenses were accounted for. Students/parents donated a total of \$1,400 post-trip.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 22</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Charm City Night Market – Participated in a booth with BKSCC and BCSCC during this inaugural street festival celebrating Baltimore’s Asian community.</p>
<p>SEP 27 – OCT 18</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Xiamen photo exhibit at the World Trade Center Baltimore (WTCB) — Displayed photos from and of Xiamen in the lobby of WTCB.</p>
<p>OCTOBER 24</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>12th Annual CHINA Town Hall — Courtesy of the National Committee on U.S. – China Relations, the Office of the Mayor, and the Office of the City Council President, this event featured former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as the national webcast speaker and Executive Director of SAIS China at the Johns Hopkins University Madelyn Ross as the local speaker. Notable attendees included representatives of the Commercial Section of the Chinese Embassy, USEAC Baltimore, the Maryland Department of Commerce, and the Maryland Secretary of State’s Office, as well as the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the City Council President, the BDC, and several sister city / state committees. The event was included a raffle for a voucher to Baltimore Center Stage. The event sold out with 84 registrants, out of which 79 attended. The event raised \$1,430 in registration fees, \$115 in raffle ticket sales, and \$2,000 in corporate memberships / event sponsorships.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 5–8</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Global Mayor’s Forum and Innovation Conference in Guangzhou, China — In conjunction with the Xiamen Municipal Government’s Foreign & Overseas</p>

	Chinese Affairs Office (FOCAO), facilitated attendance of Baltimore's Office of the Mayor representative Ethan Cohen at this international urban innovation & development conference in Guangzhou, China. Mr. Cohen met with Xiamen FOCAO representatives while at the conference.
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OTHER ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 12  	BSC Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Party — Joined other BSC committees at the annual meeting and contributed to the holiday festivities.
JUNE 2–3  	Charles Village Festival — Promoted Sister Cities programs among community members. Sold \$188 in merchandise to raise funds for upcoming programs.
Q2 	Orioles Skybox and ticket raffle — Worked with other committees to organize raffle and raise funds for BSC and our committees. BXSCC raised \$100.
OCTOBER 11 	Global Startup Baltimore (Baltimore Innovation Week) — Supported BSC's & Maryland Sister States' participation in this event and helped man our joint table, in order to promote our organizations as a resource for companies looking to expand abroad.
NOVEMBER 9 	Night Market at Baltimore Center Stage — Promoted Sister Cities programs at informational booth at event during the run of the Chinatown-themed play <i>King of the Yees</i> . Sold \$339 in goods to raise funds for upcoming programs.
DECEMBER 5  	WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Supported the joint BSC booth at this celebration for Baltimore businesses with global trade interests.
DECEMBER 15 	BXSCC holiday party — Celebrated the successes of 2018 with members, family, and friends.
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR	
	Membership & management — Continued to promote individual memberships and to expand the Corporate Member/Sponsor program. Elected new Secretary. Appointed new Arts, Culture, Sports, & Tourism, Education, and Health & Environment Subcommittee Chairs and Website & E-Communications Content Manager.
    	Promotion & outreach — Established or strengthened ties with the America-China Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, Baltimore Center Stage, Baltimore City Public Schools' World Languages program, the Baltimore Council of Foreign Affairs, the Baltimore Curriculum Project, BDC, Baltimore International Academy parents & students, BPI, Bard High School Early College (BHSEC) Baltimore, the Chinatown Collective, the Columbia-Liyang

Sister City Committee, the Confucius Institute at the University of Maryland, GMU, the Jiading District of Shanghai, the Johns Hopkins University, the Maryland – Anhui Sister State Committee, the Maryland Department of Commerce, the Maryland Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Maryland Nonprofits, MIMA, Morgan State University, the New Century School, Project Pengyou, the Baltimore Rotary Club, Towson University, USEAC Baltimore, the US – China Association of Commerce, UCBTC, Visit Baltimore, the World Trade Center Institute, and other organizations through joint programs and site visits, etc.

Renewed event sponsors / corporate members include BRIC, LLC and the Exelon Asian American Resource Group. New event sponsors / corporate members include Towson University and Venable LLP.

Government delegations — Hosted or met with government officials representing Xiamen and 9 other Chinese cities (including Fujian Province’s Fuzhou & Putian, Gansu’s Baiyin, Guangdong’s Shenzhen, Jiangsu’s Liyang & Nanjing, Shaanxi’s Yulin, Shandong’s Jinan & Qingdao, Sichuan’s Chengdu, and Zhejiang’s Ningbo) as well as 11 Chinese municipalities and provinces (including Beijing, Shanghai, Anhui, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Shanxi, Qinghai, Yunnan, and Zhejiang), among other locales, as depicted below in dark blue:



Education exchanges — Introduced BPI to Project Pengyou; the administration approved of a BPI chapter. BPI’s Chinese language teacher and students attended the Oct. 9 CHINA Town Hall. Appointed a new Education Subcommittee Chair, a Chinese language teacher at BHSEC.



Baltimore Chinatown Revival — Discussions with the Chinatown Collective, the Market Center Merchants Association, and merchants on Park Avenue about how to revive Baltimore’s historic Chinatown.

BXSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

27 members as of Dec 2018

14 Regular | 9 Associate | 3 Corporate |
1 Associate & Corporate

11 committee meetings in 2018

2 officers’ meetings in 2018

2018 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$5,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2018

\$23,987

including fundraising, donations, &
membership dues