

Baltimore Sister City Committees – Annual Accomplishments Report 2017

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):

Thick blue border on the right

Other type of activity: Thin borders

Baltimore Sister Cities program (consolidated)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

MARCH 13 ● ●	Bizerte, Tunisia exploratory meeting — Met with a delegation from Tunisia about possible formation of a Sister City relationship with Bizerte.
APRIL 26 ● ●	Business Roundtable — Organized roundtable at Wells Fargo Bank to begin process of setting up an International Advisory Council (IAC). Approximately 30 local organizations (businesses and educational institutions) attended briefing on BSC activities and plans, followed by a reception.
MAY 16 ● ●	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Reception — BXSCC organized joint reception at the <i>Gas & Electric Building</i> with Exelon’s Asian American Resource Group, the Baltimore-Kawasaki Sister City Committee (BKSCC), and the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant & Multicultural Affairs (MIMA). Mayor Catherine Pugh, BGE CEO Calvin G. Butler, Jr., Meals on Wheels Maryland Executive Director Stephanie Archer-Smith, state and city officials, representatives of the Chinese Embassy, a Xiamen delegation, and around 200 community members attended. The event included a seminar on Japanese green tea from BKSCC.
JUNE 6 ● ●	Governors Association of Korea Delegation — BSC and MIMA hosted the delegation at City Hall. This 20-person delegation was requested by the Korean Consulate in NY to learn about Baltimore’s sister cities program. A number of local Korean organizations and individuals also attended which eventually led to interest in setting up a Baltimore-Korea sister city committee.
JUNE 28 ● ●	Inaugural meeting of BSC’s International Advisory Council — 16 potential IAC members attended the meeting in addition to BSC officers and committee chairs. Ethan Cohen represented the Mayor’s Office and made opening remarks. Committee chairs briefed the IAC on upcoming projects. Topics included: Structure of IAC; the proposed Corporate Membership Program; fundraising ideas for BSC.
JULY 21–23 ●	Artscape — Coordinated joint BSC, Inc. booth. All BSC committees participated in this annual event. Good publicity resulting in several new memberships. IAC member Towson University was partial sponsor. Created display panels about the sister cities that are re-usable for other events.
JULY 24 ● ●	Gbarnga, Liberia mayoral meeting — Gbarnga Mayor Viola Cooper visited Baltimore and met with Mayor Pugh. BSC and IAC member Morgan State University co-hosted lunch for her and her delegation. Maryland’s Liberia

<p>SEPTEMBER 26</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Sister States committee provided support. This meeting led to re-establishing the Baltimore-Gbarnga Sister City Committee (BGSCC), which had been in Emeritus status for more than 10 years.</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 28</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Inaugural meeting of Baltimore-Gbarnga committee — 9 potential members attended the meeting in addition to Gislin Dagnelie and Fontaine Bell. Ethan Cohen represented the Mayor’s office and made opening remarks. Topics included a review of Gbarnga Mayor Viola Cooper’s July 24 visit to Baltimore and procedures for reactivating the committee. By the end of 2017, this committee had 15 paid members.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 6</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Coordinated the joint BSC, Inc. booth. Sister city committees provided sweets from around the world to attendees.</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES

<p>Q1</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Planning for the Business Roundtable – The purpose of this event was to present our organization to the business community and increase interest in possible collaborations and corporate membership potential.</p>
<p>●</p>	<p>Marketing materials — Designed logo, signage, and a PowerPoint presentation for BSC, Inc.</p>
<p>SUMMER</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Mayor’s Orioles Tickets Raffle — Coordinated joint BSC fundraiser raffle. Mayor Pugh generously donated tickets and parking passes for this fundraiser. BSC board members and committees sold tickets. Drawing happened at BSC’s booth at Artscape.</p>
<p>Q4</p> <p>●</p>	<p>New BSC Corporate Secretary — With help from IAC member Towson University, we identified a TU senior, Nicholas Diunizio, to intern as BSC Corporate Secretary beginning in January 2018. Mr. Diunizio will be available to continue in this position through his MA studies until mid-2019.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 7</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Meeting with Columbia, MD’s International Exchange and Multi-Cultural Programs — BSC talked about BSC programs and activities; discussed possible cooperation, including with their proposed new China sister city (Liyang, Jiangsu).</p>
<p>DECEMBER 19</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>Barbados governmental meeting — BSC attended meeting of Barbados Ambassador Selwin Hart with Mayor Pugh. Sister city relationship unlikely but BSC and BDC will help promote a US Dept. of Commerce trade mission to</p>

Q1–Q4

Barbados in May. Both Southwest Airlines and Jet Blue are about to start direct flights from BWI.

Planned and created an International Advisory Council (IAC)– The goal of this council is to advise BSC, Inc. and its committees on an on-going basis regarding matters of policy and new initiatives, and to grant us access to potential partners in industry, higher education, etc. An amendment will be submitted for approval at our 2018 Annual Meeting to add this body to our bylaws.

New sister city initiatives/requests — Worked with the Mayor's Office to consider several potential new requests for Sister City relationships, including Tunisia, Korea, and Liberia.

Planned the Corporate Membership Program — An amendment will be submitted for approval at our 2018 Annual Meeting to incorporate this into our bylaws.

Proxy voting system – A mechanism for voting by proxy at membership meetings of our corporation was developed. An amendment will be submitted for approval at our 2018 Annual Meeting to incorporate this into our bylaws.

Eventbrite registration & credit card payment system approved and implemented by BSC for BKSCC's 'Bonsai Afternoon' cultural and fundraising event in November. Will be expanded to other committees in 2018 to facilitate fundraising.

Event insurance — Insured specific individual events. Started exploring options for purchasing umbrella event insurance to cover the bulk of our yearly events.

Partnerships — Increased collaborations with Towson University and other members of the International Advisory Council; World Trade Center Institute (WTCI); Mayor's Office of Immigrant & Multicultural Affairs (MIMA); Maryland Sister States; Columbia, MD's International Exchange and Multi-Cultural Programs; and JHU International Studies Leadership Council.

PENDING ITEMS

The 'Baltimore City Sister Cities Program Working Group Report' signed by the Mayor in October 2015 listed two important items that have yet to be implemented:

- Codification of Baltimore Sister Cities Inc. status by Mayor's Executive Order
- A one-time allocation of \$15,000 from the City of Baltimore to BSC, Inc.

BSC, INC. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

12 board members as of Dec 2017

8 board meetings in 2017

3 International Advisory Council
events/meetings in 2017









TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

BSC, Inc.	\$152
BKSCC	\$6,947
BLASCC	\$1,425
BPSCC	\$1,425
BRSCC	\$507
BXSCC	\$6,095
TOTAL	\$16,551



Kawasaki Sister City Committee (BKSCC)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017









MARCH 11 ●	Theatre production tour — Organized a theater outing to the Center Stage performance of “White Snake” directed by Washington DC Director, Natsu Onoda Power, with a pre-curtain private lunch (Eki-Ben restaurant) where she discussed her theatrical career.
APRIL 1 ●	Japanese ballet performance — Sponsored a performance by Misako Ballet for Light City Baltimore, at Kaufman Pavilion, Rash Field stage. \$1000 from MECU Foundation went to this event and the May 6 event.
APRIL 6 ●	Japan Art Festival — Sponsored an evening of NY Japan Cinefest film shorts, acclaimed during the 2016 New York premiere. Part of the Japan Art Festival held in the Station North Arts District from April 5 to April 7 by OTS Productions. The screening was followed by a tea presentation by Rob Perry and panel discussion with film curator Hiroshi Kono.
APRIL 10 ●	Japanese Defense Reception — Invited by the Embassy of Japan to a Defense Reception for USNA Midshipmen and Basic School Marines, as a send-off for the new midshipmen prior to their assignment in Japan.
MAY 6 ●	Frederick Asian Heritage Month Festival — Sponsored 2 artists to perform at the Frederick Asian Heritage Month Festival, along with Asian Arts and Culture Center of Towson University. A calligraphy and movement performance by Setsuhi Shiraishi and performance by Misako Ballet were supported by a MECU Foundation grant. Four Boonsboro HS Japanese class students helped with our Origami & Shuji demo.
MAY 16 ● ●	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Reception — Participated together with BXSCC and MIMA in an event celebrating Baltimore’s Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. By invitation from Exelon, BKSCC and other Asian groups were asked to showcase diversity and inclusion through business and cultural activities. 6 BKSCC members attended. Rob Perry presented “Japanese Tea and You”, a seminar on Japanese green tea.
JUNE 9 ●	Japanese vessel — Invited to a reception by the Japanese Embassy for Japan’s Coast Guard Training Vessel “Kojima” docked at the Inner Harbor, prior to the craft’s return to Japan. In attendance: high ranking Japanese and US naval officers, Embassy officials, and City legislators. BKSCC provided gifts to the new recruits as a token of their American visit.
JUL 29 – AUG 11 ●	Boy Scout exchange — Facilitated the 2017 Baltimore-Kawasaki Venture Scout Exchange in Baltimore, as a designated Charter Member of the Boy

	Scouts of America. 10 Venture Scouts arrived from Kawasaki, Japan. BKSCC participated in many of the week’s activities: a Welcome Party given by Baltimore Scouts; Meeting with Mayor Pugh in City Hall; a Sayonara Party hosted by the Kawasaki Scouts as a thank you to host families.
SEPTEMBER 8 	Tsukimi & Outdoor Film Night — Collaborated on a Tsukimi Celebration and Outdoor Film Viewing by OTS Productions, a production company producing Japanese themed events in Baltimore. BKSCC presented a talk about autumn traditions in Japan to benefit the local North Avenue neighborhood association.
NOVEMBER 11  	Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore event — Invited as a Partner to the inaugural tree planting by Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore in Druid Hill Park. In attendance were: Leon Pinkett III, City Councilman, Reginald Moore, Director of Department of Recreation & Parks, Erik Dihle, Chief of Forestry Division, and other city officials. Venture Crew 3776 and BKSCC members helped plant trees.
NOV 13–20 	Baltimore educators visit Kawasaki — Set the groundwork for 2 educators from Baltimore to attend the 8 th Kawasaki International Education Symposium in Kawasaki, Japan. BKSCC’s committee member, Warren Cohen, and Baltimore City Public School System’s attendee Dontria Cole (second-in-place for Teacher of the Year) were delegates to the conference; both made presentations about Baltimore’s Public School operations and objectives.
NOVEMBER 18  	Bonsai Afternoon event — Organized a fundraiser event at the Vollmer Center, Cylburn Arboretum, to raise funds for BKSCC’s 40th Anniversary projects in 2019. The event was partnered by Baltimore City’s Department of Recreation and Parks, and their Chief Horticulturalist, Melissa Grim, and sponsored by the Asian Arts and Culture Center at Towson University. Bonsai Afternoon raised over \$1600 in ticket sales and more than \$1000 in sponsorship, including \$500 from Towson University’s Asian Arts and Culture Center.
DECEMBER 31  	Port Discovery Children’s Museum Noontime New Year — Provide special Japanese New Year’s activities for children at Port Discovery.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 21 	Shinnenkai New Year’s Party for BKSCC members
FEBRUARY 1 	Maryland Sister States Program Annual Legislative Reception — Attended reception in Annapolis to support the Kanagawa Sister State Committee.

APRIL 20 ●	Japanese business in South Africa — Presentation by Lester Miller, Vice President of Business Development at Strategic Factory, Owings Mills, on the history of Japanese business ventures in Africa, at a BKSCC committee meeting.
APRIL 26 ● ●	Business roundtable — Participated in roundtable, to recruit businesses/ organizations to join an International Advisory Council to support BSC, Inc.
MAY 10 ●	Netsuke art exhibit tour — Organized a private tour of the Netsuke exhibit at the Japanese Information and Culture Center (JICC) with 7 BKSCC members & friends who were privileged to hear comments from the exhibit curator.
JUNE 6 ●	Tourism promotion — Invited by the Japan Tourism Agency to a Japanese Tourism Seminar at the Japan Embassy to promote tourism by local Japanese groups.
JUNE 15 ●	Maglev railway — Presentation by Masahiro Nakayama, General Manager of Central Japan Railway, and Rob Kiernan, TNEM (Northeast Maglev), about their US-based Maglev magnetic-railway project based in downtown Baltimore, at a BKSCC Committee Meeting.
●	Installation of new committee officers
SUMMER ●	Mayor’s Orioles Tickets Raffle — Worked with other committees to organize raffle and raise funds; BKSCC raised \$1,197.00.
JULY 21–23 ●	Artscape — Provided cultural support for Sister Cities booth and contributed to the joint program of BSC, Inc.
AUGUST 9 ● ●	Planning for re-location of the Baltimore-Kawasaki stone lantern — Presentation by Waterfront Partnership and Mahan Rykiel at the Mahan Rykiel offices. BKSCC invited to hear about decisions regarding the relocation of the Kawasaki Stone Lantern due to Inner Harbor Redevelopment. Participants included: Laurie Schwartz, Waterfront Partnership President; Lauren Moloney, Director of Special Projects; Jason Castillo, Mahan Rykiel Landscape Architect; Ethan Cohen, Senior Project Coordinator for the Mayor’s Office; and BKSCC Committee members. This relocation project will be a major goal for BKSCC’s 40 th Anniversary Program.
FALL ● ● ●	Planning for GreenPort Congress America 2018 — Worked with BSC & Maryland Sister States to help MPA/MDOT/MDE attract Japanese speakers.
SEPTEMBER 21 ●	Trees for park beautification — Presentation by Jill Jonnes, Director of Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore, about FTT goals as they partner with the Forestry Board and other city horticulture groups to create 39 miles of tree trails throughout Baltimore, at a BKSCC Committee Meeting.

	<p>Green resource mapping — Presentation by Janet Felsten, Founder of Baltimore Green Map, about projects by the International Green Map organization including the International Advisory Board Member, Rie Nakamura, and projects by Janet in Baltimore, at a BKSCC Committee Meeting.</p>
<p>OCTOBER 19</p> 	<p>Food computer program in Baltimore schools — Presentation by Melanie Shimano, a STEM teacher and the founder of the “Food Computer Program” at Green Street Academy, who talked about her work at Green Street Academy where students are using agrotechnology to grow food in the classroom, at a BKSCC Committee Meeting.</p>
	<p>Governmental meetings in Kawasaki — BKSCC member Michael Young met with the Kawasaki International Affairs Unit in Kawasaki, Japan, to discuss BKSCC’s 40th Anniversary Initiatives. Michael discussed exchange opportunities between Baltimore and Kawasaki. In attendance were: Miho Yamaguchi, Mitsuhiro Yoshida, Sophie Dowdeswell.</p>
<p>OCTOBER 26</p> 	<p>Origami art exhibition tour — Organized a private tour of JICC’s Origami Exhibition for BKSCC members and friends; attended the evening’s lecture by Prof. Eric Demaine, MIT professor, on computational applications for origami and mathematical lessons learned from origami.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 6</p> 	<p>WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Contributed to the joint BSC, Inc. booth. Rob Perry, a BKSCC member, and his assistant provided a Japanese tea tasting and explained Japanese green tea to gala attendees.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 16</p> 	<p>BKSCC Member Holiday Party</p>
<p>Q1–Q4</p> 	<p>Communication intern — Hired student communication intern from Stevenson University in January to May 2017, and in September to December 2017.</p>
	<p>Partnerships — Established several new relationships: with OTS Productions, Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore, and Baltimore Green Map. Continued relationships with Japan Coast Guard and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force.</p>

BKSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

43 members as of Dec 2017

36 Regular | 6 Associate | 1 Corporate

10 committee meetings in 2017

2017 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$5,000




TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2017

\$6,947





Luxor & Alexandria Sister City Committee (BLASCC)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

MARCH ●	Koshary and Sweets Sister City networking event — Dinner meeting with traditional Egyptian cuisine at the home of BLASCC Chairman Tharwat Abouraya and his wife, BLASCC Secretary Karen. Included Facetime conversations with Ahmed Nouby Moussa, Luxor Committee Chair and Sahar Hammouda, representing the Alexandria Sister City Committee.
●	Updated the Baltimore-Alexandria Sister City MOU — Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding between Baltimore and Alexandria, to be delivered to the Governor of Alexandria.
APRIL 21 ●	BLASCC officially re-activated — Because of the committee’s many accomplishments since new leadership and reorganization last year, BSC board voted to return the committee to full active status.
SEPTEMBER ●	The Sultan and The Saint film screening — Co-sponsored screening of the docudrama <i>The Sultan and The Saint</i> at the Egyptian Culture and Education Bureau in Washington, D.C. This movie recounts a true story of peacemaking during the Crusades between an Egyptian Sultan and St. Francis of Assisi. Most of the film was filmed in Baltimore.
OCTOBER ● ●	20th Annual Meeting of the International Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) — At the library in Alexandria, Egypt. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BLASCC Chair Tharwat Abouraya attended the meeting.• BLASCC Member Aida Mady presented her planner/recipe/travel book Heart to Heart to other IFBA members.• Friends of the BA (a BLASCC subcommittee) donated books to the Children’s Library of the BA.
●	The Sultan and The Saint film screenings in Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oct 12 in Cairo with Al Ahram Weekly (200 attended).• Oct 17 in Alexandria at the BA (400 attended).• Two additional screenings were held in Luxor, sponsored by the Luxor Sister City Committee.• Screenings included post-film discussions with producer/director Alex Kronemer via Skype from the USA to Alexandria.
● ●	Online student collaboration — BLASCC Education Subcommittee initiated online collaboration between 6th graders at the SEED School in Baltimore and St. Vincent de Paul Language School in Alexandria.
OCTOBER 3 ●	The Sultan and The Saint film screening — Screening at Montgomery College, in collaboration with Montgomery College Global Nexus.

NOVEMBER  	Online student collaboration continues — Initial Skype conversation between SEED and St. Vincent students – teachers and students very enthusiastic; future conversations scheduled.
	Egypt-US “Dialogues for Peace” school collaboration — Under the auspices of the Friends of the BA, Karen Leggett Abouraya from BLASCC talked to 6th graders at St. Thomas More School in Arlington, VA, about the ancient and new libraries in Alexandria. Children spoke via Google Hangout with 4 children’s librarians at the Alexandria Library. St. Thomas More is now considering joining the BA’s Dialogues for Peace project, engaging children online in classrooms around the world.
DECEMBER 6 	Baltimore premiere of The Sultan and The Saint — Co-sponsored with Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter, in the Cedarcroft neighborhood. Producer/director Alex Kronemer led post-film discussion. Wide publicity for the event throughout Baltimore. Tharwat received Peace Award from Unity Productions Foundation for “significant work building bridges beyond faith traditions in Egypt & America with BLASCC.”

OTHER ACTIVITIES

APRIL 26 	Business roundtable — Participated in roundtable, to recruit businesses/ organizations to join an International Advisory Council to support BSC, Inc.
SUMMER 	Mayor’s Orioles Tickets Raffle — Worked with other committees to organize raffle and raise funds; BLASCC raised \$200.
JULY 21–23 	Artscape — Provided cultural support for Sister Cities booth and contributed to the joint program of BSC, Inc.
DECEMBER 6 	WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Contributed to the joint BSC, Inc. booth.

BLASCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

18 members as of Dec 2017

13 Regular | 5 Associate

6 committee meetings in 2017

2017 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$5,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2017

\$1,425

Piraeus Sister City Committee (BPSCC)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

MAR 27 – APR 2 ● ●	Baltimore Greek Week <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supported local businesses by sponsoring 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.
APRIL 2 ● ●	Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade — Participated in the annual Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade.
APRIL 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 27–29 ● ●	Greek Food & Cultural Festival — Promoted this annual Baltimore festival that celebrates local restaurants and local Greek history.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

APRIL 26 ● ●	Business roundtable — Participated in roundtable, to recruit businesses/ organizations to join an International Advisory Council to support BSC, Inc.
SUMMER ●	Mayor's Orioles Tickets Raffle — Worked with other committees to organize raffle and raise funds; BPSCC raised \$225.
JULY 21–23 ●	Artscape — Provided cultural support for Sister Cities booth and contributed to the joint program of BSC, Inc.
DECEMBER ●	Expanded membership — Recruited a new committee member and a couple prospects.

BPSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

4 members as of Dec 2017

4 Regular | 0 Associate

3 committee meetings in 2017

2017 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2017

\$1,425

Rotterdam Sister City Committee (BRSCC)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

FEBRUARY 15 ●	WTCl Taste of Business in The Netherlands event — BRSCC provided refreshments and participated in this WTCl event to promote business opportunities in the Netherlands to Maryland firms.
SPRING & FALL ● ● ●	Operation Trash educational projects — Supported Kathie diStefano, theatre artist and educator from Rotterdam-based Avalanche Arts, in conducting educational programs about trash, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online exchange programs with 2 Baltimore schools (BHSEC - Bard High School Early College, BFHS - Benjamin Franklin High School) and 2 Rotterdam-area schools to teach recycling and sustainability.• Artist residency at Mann Residential School.• Workshops & planning meetings with South Baltimore Gateway schools. diStefano received logistical support from Baltimore Office of Sustainability and commitment of funding from Mayor’s Office for activities in these schools.• Planning meetings with other Baltimore schools and with DPW.• Workshops for community residents with Filbert Street Community Garden — at the garden, Curtis Bay Rec Center, and Brooklyn branch of Enoch Pratt Library. MECU Foundation and other funders are listed on BRSCC’s arts/education website (www.harbortraces.org/partners-sponsors).
JUNE 3–4 ●	Dutch-Indonesian chef — Brought chef to Baltimore and DC to do cooking classes, in partnership with the DC Dutch organization.
FALL ● ●	Morgan State University School of Architecture + Planning’s Baltimore-Rotterdam project — Supported graduate students as they designed structures to support immigrants, for sites in Baltimore and Rotterdam.
SEPTEMBER ● ● ●	Rotterdam Vice Mayor delegation — Rotterdam Vice Mayor Pex Langenberg came to Baltimore with a delegation to talk about Rotterdam’s approach to circular economy at the ISWA/SWANA Congress. BRSCC organized a reception for him with Mayor Pugh and representatives from NL, MD, and Baltimore governments, NL & MD businesses, education institutions, and non-profits. Maryland Port Administration gave the delegation a green-themed port tour.
OCTOBER 4 ●	Cybersecurity event at Baltimore Innovation Week — Hosted a talk on the Maryland-Netherlands 3-year bilateral soft landing program for cybersecurity companies to explore each other’s markets. Partnered with Netherlands America Chamber of Commerce Washington Metro (NACCWM), Maryland

Department of Commerce, UMBC iCyber incubator, and the Netherlands Embassy.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

JANUARY ●	Medtech meetings in Rotterdam — BRSCC member Ben Arthur met with Rotterdam Partners and Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship, primarily to discuss concepts for medtech/life sciences exchanges.
MARCH ●	Maryland-Netherlands Cybersecurity Soft Landing Program — Networked with the businesses participating in the 2017 edition of the program.
APRIL 17 ●	Historical BRSCC artifact — BSC president Gislin Dagnelie met in Vaassen, Netherlands with Rudolf Buré, nephew of BRSCC's founding chair, the late Herbert Buré. Mr. Buré had inherited a memorial plate, given to his uncle by the Mayor of Rotterdam in 1985. Plate is now back in Baltimore; we plan to add it to the collection of Baltimore Sister City memorabilia in City Hall.
APRIL 26 ● ●	Business roundtable — Participated in roundtable, to recruit businesses/organizations to join an International Advisory Council to support BSC, Inc.
JUNE ● ●	Meetings in Rotterdam — BRSCC Treasurer Regnault met with Nicole de Zwart, Manager International Relations for Rotterdam, to plan upcoming vice mayor visit to Baltimore; BRSCC Member-at-Large Dagnelie met with Rotterdam Partners.
SUMMER ●	Mayor's Orioles Tickets Raffle — Worked with other committees to organize raffle and raise funds; BRSCC raised \$332.
JULY 15 ●	Sister City International Annual Conference in Virginia Beach — BRSCC Chair attended one of the days.
JULY 21–23 ●	Artscape — Provided cultural support for Sister Cities booth and contributed to the joint program of BSC, Inc.
AUGUST ● ●	Economic/governmental meetings in Rotterdam — BRSCC Chair met with Nicole de Zwart, Manager International Relations for Rotterdam, Rotterdam Partners, and Impact Hub Rotterdam to discuss: upcoming vice mayor visit to Baltimore; concepts for economic collaborations e.g., in the maritime sector; and concepts for social enterprise collaborations with Impact Hub Baltimore. Toured Maasvlakte 2 (the new section of Port of Rotterdam).
● ● ●	Operation Trash presentation — BRSCC & Avalanche Arts presented the program to Nicole de Zwart, Manager International Relations for Rotterdam city government, and Rotterdam Partners.
● ● ●	Arts meetings in Rotterdam — BRSCC took Lynn Tomlinson, digital media

<p>FALL</p> <p>● ● ●</p>	<p>artist & Towson Univ professor to Rotterdam for a city tour, meetings with museums, and meetings with Avalanche Arts & Rotterdam-based animator.</p> <p>Planning for GreenPort Congress America 2018 — Helped arrange meetings with Rotterdam maritime reps in Amsterdam for Barbara McMahon from MD Port Administration and Deputy Secretary Lewis from MD Dept of Transportation in October 2017. Solicited Netherlands speakers to speak at the 2018 conference to be hosted by MPA/MDOT/MDE in Baltimore. Worked with other sister cities/states to recruit international speakers. Contributed ideas for speaker program & related events.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 18</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Medtech meeting in Rotterdam — BRSCC member Ben Arthur met with Rotterdam Partners and Renate Veercamp from Rotterdam city gov, primarily to discuss concepts for medtech/life sciences exchanges.</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>● ●</p> <p>● ● ●</p>	<p>DC-area Dutch networking happy hour — BRSCC became a co-sponsor of the periodic ongoing business networking “borrel” organized by the Netherlands Embassy and other DC-area Dutch organizations.</p> <p>Planning for future Maryland Home & Garden Show — Provided support to this event’s organizers to bring a Dutch/tulip theme to their show; worked with Netherlands Embassy on this. The theme was originally planned for March 2018 but has now been deferred to a later year.</p>
<p>OCTOBER 4</p> <p>●</p>	<p>WTCl State of the Ports — Attended this event to investigate possibilities for future Baltimore-Rotterdam collaboration on port topics.</p>
<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>● ● ●</p> <p>● ● ● ●</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Offshore wind — Provided support for Maryland Energy Administration & Maryland Commerce’s visit to WindEurope 2017 in Amsterdam to investigate offshore wind and to recruit Dutch firms to do business in MD.</p> <p>Impact Hubs / MICA Social Design / WdKA / RAVB — Meeting with Impact Hub Baltimore, MICA, and XCOOP in November to discuss several possible projects for 2018. Helped XCOOP arrange meetings with Impact Hub Rotterdam / WdKA / RAVB in early 2018 in Rotterdam.</p> <p>Committee elections</p>
<p>DECEMBER 6</p> <p>● ●</p>	<p>WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Contributed to the joint BSC, Inc. booth; invited reps from NL Embassy and NACCWM to attend.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 12</p> <p>● ● ●</p>	<p>Netherlands Embassy Holland on the Hill reception — Attended reception; discussed potential future medtech and sustainability-themed projects with select attendees and promoted GreenPort Congress.</p>
<p>Q1–Q4</p> <p>●</p>	<p>Business database — Continued building database of businesses with interests in our region and Rotterdam or the Netherlands.</p>

●	Planning for possible future maritime delegation from Rotterdam — Attended several port-related networking events in Maryland (including WTCI State of the Ports) to investigate possibilities for future Baltimore-Rotterdam collaboration on port topics.
●	Expanded membership – Recruited more committee members to broaden talents/strengths of our program.
●	Social media — Expanded use of social media platforms to do outreach and promotion.
● ● ● ● ●	Partnerships — Increased collaborations with Netherlands Embassy, NACCWM, Rotterdam city gov, Rotterdam Partners, Baltimore city gov, Maryland Commerce, and DC Dutch. Supported MICA in their sister academy relationship with WdKA and continued to explore options for Impact Hubs Baltimore/Rotterdam collaboration. New relationships: WTCI, MPA, MEA, MSU School of Architecture + Planning, XCOOP, South Holland’s Innovation Quarter.

BRSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

15 members as of Dec 2017

10 Regular | 5 Associate

10 committee meetings in 2017

2017 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$3,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2017

\$507

IN ADDITION:

- **\$700** was provided by BSC, Inc. to BRSCC in 2017 for Operation Trash activities — it was left over from the 2016 \$3,000 MECU Foundation grant to BSC, Inc.
- **\$5,750** was committed by Baltimore Mayor’s Office to Katie diStefano (Rotterdam-based Avalanche Arts) for several educational programs about trash in South Baltimore Gateway Schools in fall 2017 and spring 2018.

Xiamen Sister City Committee (BXSCC)

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

FEBRUARY 4 ● ●	Port Discovery Children’s Museum Chinese New Year Celebration — Provided special Chinese New Year’s activities for children at Port Discovery.
FEBRUARY 16 ● ●	US-China Trade Conference at the Chinese Embassy’s Economic and Commercial Office — Co-hosted conference with the Maryland-China Business Council and the Maryland-Anhui Sister State Committee. Speakers included the Embassy’s Minister for Commercial Affairs, Mr. Zhu Hong, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, Director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States Robert Daly, and Senior Vice President of the US-China Business Council Erin Ennis.
FEB 28 – MAR 1 & SEP 21–22 ●	Towson University visits to Xiamen — Set up an initial two-day Xiamen visit for Dr. Saleha Suleman, Towson University (TU) Assistant Vice President for International Initiatives, including meetings with Xiamen University of Technology (XMUT), Xiamen University (XMU) and, and the Xiamen Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (XFOCAC). Dr. Suleman signed a general cooperation memorandum of understanding with XMUT. For a follow-up visit in September, the BXSCC set up a two-day Xiamen visit for Dr. Susan Picinich, TU Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communications, and two other TU staff. This included meetings with XMUT, XMU and the XFOCAC. TU reached an agreement with the XMU School of Music on specific cooperation projects.
MARCH 5 ● ●	On Leong Chinese Merchants Association of Baltimore’s Chinese New Year Banquet — Business Sub-Committee Co-Chair Carol (Min) Du emceed at this event with about 130 attendees.
MARCH 24–26 ● ●	Amoy Art Deco Weekend in Xiamen — PR and Promotion Chair Gabriel Meredith, his Asian Art Deco Alliance group, and Historic Shanghai, hosted a three days of walking tours of the Art Deco architectural gems of Xiamen.
APRIL 6–7 ● ● ● ● ●	BXSCC Chair visit to Xiamen — Cindy Wang met with the Xiamen Foreign Service Center, Xiamen Information School, XMU’s Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, the XFOCAC, the Xiamen Bureau of Education, the Xiamen Municipal Commission of Health and Family Planning, the Xiamen Maternity and Child Care Hospital, CCPIT Xiamen, and the Xiamen Federation of Industry and Commerce during a two-day learning tour.
MAY 4 ●	Cecil County Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event — Represented Baltimore Sister Cities with a tabletop display showcasing BXSCC programs, Xiamen, and Chinese culture.

MAY 15 & 17	<p>Celebration of Chinese-language education at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute — 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. Two days later, fifty-two Chinese language students toured the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC, an excursion organized and chaperoned by the BXSCC.</p>
MAY 16	<p>Xiamen China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT) delegation visit to Baltimore — Hosted delegation from the Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Convention & Exhibition Affairs at Baltimore’s Asian Pacific American Heritage Month reception, where the delegation promoted the event.</p>
MAY 16	<p>Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Reception — Held joint reception at the <i>Gas & Electric Building</i> with Exelon’s Asian American Resource Group, the Baltimore-Kawasaki Sister City Committee (BKSCC), and the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant & Multicultural Affairs (MIMA). Mayor Catherine Pugh, BGE CEO Calvin G. Butler, Jr., Meals on Wheels Maryland Executive Director Stephanie Archer-Smith, state and city officials, representatives of the Chinese Embassy, the Xiamen delegation, and around 200 community members attended.</p>
MAY 27	<p>Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event at Port Discovery — Participated in Port Discovery’s Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Day. Met with community members and introduced Chinese culture to children and their parents.</p>
JUNE 3–4	<p>Charles Village Festival— Promoted Sister Cities programs among community members. Sold \$589 in merchandise to raise funds for upcoming programs.</p>
JUNE 14	<p>People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries delegation — Courtesy of the University of Maryland – Office of China Affairs, the BXSCC hosted this delegation of 24 high-ranking officials from a number of Chinese provincial and city governments at Baltimore City Hall, where they learned about Baltimore’s experience with sister cities and discussed cross-cultural communications. The BXSCC was paid a \$400 honorarium by the University of Maryland.</p>
JULY 25	<p>University of Maryland Office of China Affairs Global Leadership Program delegation — Courtesy of the University of Maryland – Office of China Affairs, the BXSCC hosted this delegation of 31 students and representatives from the Shanghai area for a briefing on city government and civil society. The BXSCC was paid a \$400 honorarium by the University of Maryland.</p>
OCTOBER 24	<p>11th 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, BXSCC, and Maryland-Anhui Sister States, this event featured</p>

	<p>Susan E. Rice as the national webcast speaker and Maryland Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith as the local speaker. Baltimore’s Chief of Strategic Alliances James T. Smith introduced Secretary Wobensmith. Minister Counselor Deyou Tian of the Chinese Embassy and Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs President Dr. Frank Burd also served as panelists. The event was augmented with a raffle for vouchers for a steak dinner at Maryland Live! Casino. The event sold out with 106 registrants; 83 guests attended. The event raised \$1,575 in registration fees, \$135 in raffle ticket sales, and \$2,000 in corporate / event sponsorships.</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 13 ● ●</p>	<p>Lecture at Coppin State University College of Business – Vice Chair Danny Evans and Member-at-Large Fontaine Bell gave a presentation about how China can help shape professional careers to students in the Business Leaders of the Future Program.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 4–5 ● ●</p>	<p>Xiamen Publicity Department visit to Baltimore — Arranged for visits with the Mayor, the Office of the City Council President, the Baltimore of Office of Promotion and the Arts, Maryland Institute College of Art, the University of Maryland – Baltimore County, and Towson University to discuss potential future arts and culture collaborations and exchanges.</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES

<p>JAN 12 & FEB 9 ●</p>	<p>BXSCC midterm elections — After 10 years as Chair and 1 year as Acting Chair, W. Fontaine Bell was elected Member-at-Large. Vice Chair Xin (Cindy) Wang was elected as new Chair. Culture, Sports, Promotion & Tourism Subcommittee Chair Danny Evans was elected Vice Chair.</p>
<p>APRIL 26 ●</p>	<p>Business roundtable — Participated in roundtable, to recruit businesses/ organizations to join an International Advisory Council to support BSC, Inc.</p>
<p>SUMMER ●</p>	<p>Mayor’s Orioles Tickets Raffle — Worked with other committees to organize raffle and raise funds; BKSCC raised \$416.</p>
<p>JULY 21–23 ●</p>	<p>Artscape — Provided cultural support for Sister Cities booth and contributed to the joint program of BSC, Inc. Showcased traditional Chinese watercolor painting by past Xiamen exchange teacher Lifeng Weng. BXSCC sold \$190 in merchandise to raise funds for upcoming programs.</p>
<p>JULY 24 ●</p>	<p>Website overhaul — The second generation of the BXSCC’s website was retired and replaced with a modern smart phone-friendly version.</p>
<p>JULY 31 ●</p>	<p>Light City 2018 proposal — BXSCC partnered with Xiamen’s XMUT to submit a proposal for a light installation melding both traditional Chinese lantern elements and modern technological innovations to be exhibited as part of the</p>

	BGE Light Art Walk along Baltimore’s Inner Harbor in April 2018. The proposal was not selected for installation.
FALL ● ●	Planning for GreenPort Congress America 2018 — Worked with Maryland Sister States to help MPA/MDOT/MDE try to attract Chinese speakers.
DECEMBER 1 ●	Towson University Asian Faculty & Staff Association event — BXSCC helped arrange for Robert Daly to be the keynote speaker for this event and sponsored a table at the event.
DECEMBER 6 ● ●	WTCl Maryland Global Gala — Contributed to the joint BSC, Inc. booth.
Q1–Q4 ●	Membership — Continued to refine and expand BXSCC Corporate Member/Sponsor program. Cleaned up individual membership listing by enforcing membership conditions per BSC’s bylaw terms.
●	Promotion — Overhauled BXSCC brochure & other promotional literature.
● ●	Partnerships — Established / strengthened ties with the Baltimore Curriculum Project, Bard High School Early College Baltimore, Coppin State University, the Johns Hopkins University’s International Studies Leadership Council, Morgan State University, and Towson University, etc.
●	Education exchanges — Supported the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute’s identification of a new Chinese language teacher. Chinese language teacher and students attended the Oct. 24 CHINA Town Hall event.
● ● ●	Baltimore Chinatown revival — Discussed with the Baltimore Heritage Area Association, Baltimore Heritage, the Market Center Merchants Association, and the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs how to revive Baltimore’s historic Chinatown.

BXSCC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

31 members as of Nov 2017

16 Regular | 9 Associate | 6 Corporate

11 committee meetings in 2017

3 officers’ meetings in 2017

2017 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$5,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2017

\$6,095