



Baltimore Sister Cities
baltimoresistercities.org

2023

ANNUAL PLAN

BUILDING BALTIMORE'S
GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD

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2023 ORGANIZATION-WIDE PLANNED EVENTS & MEETINGS

BSC Annual Membership Meeting & BSC Board Leadership Election

Conduct annual general membership meeting to vote for directors of the board, approve 2022 report and 2023 plan. Followed by first BSC board meeting of the year, to elect executive officers and non-voting directors.

FEB
15

Joint BSC / WTCI Networking Event

Joint event at Tradeport Atlantic. World Trade Center Institute (WTCI) will manage this event with BSC supporting. WTCI and BSC members and friends will be invited. Main purpose is publicity for BSC and WTCI and to attract new members to both organizations and new officers for BSC.

Q2

Sister Cities International's Young Audiences & Authors Showcase

BSC plans to have youth create artwork and written work, to submit to SCI's annual showcase competition. This year the theme is 'Food Security in My Community,' including the impact of climate change. Deadline for submission is May 1.

MAY
1

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM)

Annual event that celebrates Asian and Pacific Islander cultures and the contributions of their communities to Baltimore. Most likely to be a collaboration of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA), BCSCC, BKSCC, BXSCC, and/or other Asian and Asian-American organizations.

MAY

WTCI Annual Maryland State of the Ports

BSC supports World Trade Center Institute (WTCI) by promoting and attending the event and inviting embassies to host tables at the reception.

DEC

ABOUT US

Baltimore Sister Cities (BSC) is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that aims to promote mutual economic development, educational, cultural, health/environmental and other cooperation and exchanges between Baltimore City, Maryland, and its international Sister Cities.

BSC is composed of Sister City Committees dedicated to managing these relationships. BSC's activities are designed to benefit the City, its residents and the business community by supporting the Mayoral Initiatives of the City and the goals of the Sister Cities International organization.

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Food & Agriculture Theme for 2023

'Food & Agriculture' has been proposed as a theme for BSC activities in 2023. This will be discussed and decided at Executive Team and Board meetings in early 2023.

50th Anniversary of Baltimore Sister Cities

2023 is BSC's 50th anniversary — Baltimore's first sister city relationship was established 50 years ago in 1973 with Gbarnga in Liberia. We will highlight this anniversary at our annual meeting and at other events this year.

New Sister City in Cameroon

Plan for the signing of a new sister city agreement signing to take place in 2023 with Kribi, a seaport in Cameroon. This will involve the mayors of Baltimore and Kribi.

Planning for Sister City Sculptures

In Q1, BOSCC and BRSCC complete their planning work under the Maryland States Arts Council (MSAC) planning grant from 2022. In March, the two committees will jointly apply for a MSAC Conservation Implementation Grant to fund the installation of the artworks and the creation of accompanying educational materials.

The Peale - Baltimore's Community Museum

BSC to meet with The Peale in early 2023 to discuss using their facilities for future BSC events, possibly including a Gbarnga and BSC 50th anniversary exhibit and reception and/or a celebration of the National Immigrant Heritage Month (June).



Leadership and Organization

- Management succession is a key issue for BSC in 2023, first to elect a new Vice President and Secretary in early 2023, then to find a new President and Treasurer for 2024. Many of our sister city committees are facing similar challenges in finding new leaders.
- Hire a part-time Executive Director. With nine sister cities and several more applying, the organization has become too complex and time-consuming for 100% volunteer management. Target date is year-end 2024, but we need to begin recruiting and fundraising now.

Address organizational structure in early 2023:

- Composition of Executive Team, especially the possibility of including committee chairs in these meetings.
- Is there a continuing need for some Functional Champions such as Grants Champion, WTCI Champion and Education Champion?
- Develop and approve a new organizational chart.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Blooming Rainbow

The Blooming Rainbow project is an international art project launched in 2021-2022 with children from Changwon, South Korea and Baltimore, Maryland. BCSCC will continue the Blooming Rainbow project in 2023, modifying some aspects from the previous year. BCSCC is collaborating with Dr. Jinyoung Koh from Towson University and plans to hold the exhibition at Baltimore City Hall, sometime between April and May.

SPRING

Asia North Festival during Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM)

BCSCC will hold the Korean Food and Baltimore Immigration History tour in the Station North neighborhood of Baltimore City, as part of the annual Asia North event celebrating APAHM month. BCSCC is collaborating with the Korean American Foundation - Greater Washington (KAF-GW), and staff members from Towson University.

MAY

Sister City visit to Changwon [TBC]

TENTATIVE: In April, representatives from BCSCC will travel to Changwon, Korea to meet with delegates from Changwon and attend the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

APR

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000



KEY ACTIVITIES

Baltimore-Gbarnga 50th Anniversary

Baltimore’s first sister city relationship was established 50 years ago in 1973 with Gbarnga in Liberia. BGSCC intends to plan 50th Anniversary Celebration and to increase its activities programs with two Baltimore groups.

University Collaborations

BGSCC will continue to collaborate with Baltimore’s Morgan State University and Johns Hopkins University.

Agricultural Program

Cuttington University (Liberia) and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (USA) initiated an agricultural program in 2022 (Phase 1) and asked to Baltimore Gbarnga Sister Cities to work on Phase 2, starting with strategic planning in Q1 2023 and discussions with Morgan State University.

Urban Farming

Investigate doing an activity related to urban farming in Baltimore and/or Liberia.

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000



KEY ACTIVITIES

**Lunar New Year
Ceramics Exhibition**

Chinese/Vietnamese American artist, Adam Chau, has produced this exhibition of original ceramic works created by AAPI and mixed-heritage artists, inspired by the animals from the Asian zodiac – a rabbit for the year 2023. Multiple cultures are represented in this exhibit on view at Baltimore Clayworks — including China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. Exhibit sponsors include BXSCC and BKSCC.

**JAN
TO
MAR**

Hanami Picnic

BKSCC’s annual Japanese style “flower viewing” spring celebration, to be held again at Fort McHenry National Park in Baltimore this year, with a traditional Japanese picnic enjoyed under flowering cherry trees.

APR

**Asian/Pacific
American Heritage
Month (APAHM)**

Participate in a celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures and the contributions of their communities to Baltimore.

MAY

Spring Picnic

Baltimore-Kawasaki spring picnic at Patapsco Valley State Park with Japanese and American food, drink, and games.

MAY

**Japan Day - Aki Matsuri
(Fall Festival)**

BKSCC will help promote and participate in the annual Embassy of Japan sponsored cultural exposition, along with the Maryland-Kanagawa Sister States Committee.

OCT

**Sake Promotion Event
[TBC]**

TENTATIVE: In-person sake tasting with Japanese side dishes at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA). BKSCC has collaborated with BMA and the Embassy of Japan on these types of events in years past.

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,200



KEY ACTIVITIES

Virtual Author Conversations

Collaboration with Montgomery County Middle Eastern American Advisory Committee to host 3 virtual author conversations with the Montgomery County Public Library.

**FEB
TO
APR**

Fundraiser and Film Screening

Fundraiser and film screening event, possibly including a silent auction, and featuring a new film from Unity Productions Foundation at a site in Baltimore.

SUMMER

Virtual School Exchanges with 5th Graders

Continuing its program from 2022, BLASCC will continue to nurture virtual conversations between 5th graders in Alexandria, Egypt, and Baltimore with three pairs of schools: Furley Elementary and St Vincent de Paul (Alexandria); Baltimore International Academy and Alexandria International Academy; Schutz American School and Woodmoor Elementary (Baltimore County).

Nurses Project

Plan a nurses project or a project for related health issues.

American Egyptian Women of Influence podcasts

Produce an additional series for this ongoing BLASCC-produced podcast, with episodes throughout the year to highlight accomplished American Egyptian women.

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$2,000



KEY ACTIVITIES

Fundraising & Outreach for Ukraine

BOSCC to continue community engagement and fundraising for Ukrainian humanitarian relief by tabling at various events throughout the year.

Fundraising for the Ukrainian Association Building

Grant-writing throughout the year to raise funds to remodel the Ukrainian Association building in southeast Baltimore.

Planning for Sister City Sculptures

Planning for the placement of the anchor sculpture from Odesa in Fell's Point neighborhood of Baltimore and for accompanying educational materials. Sister City Sculptures is a joint BOSCC/BRSCC project for 2023.

Refugee Support

Connect Ukrainian refugees with services.

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL

N/A



KEY ACTIVITIES

Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade

The Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade is a significant annual Greek heritage event in Baltimore. In 2023, BPSCC will continue to support the Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade, and we are looking into having a group march in the parade with the BPSCC banner.

**MAR
26**

'Greek Myths and Stories Day' at Baltimore School

BPSCC is planning to continue its Greek Mythology reading stories event at Baltimore International Academy West, expanding to include Kindergarten through Grade 3.

Akela Baltimore Global Youth Ambassador Summer Program Partnership

BPSCC will be working in partnership with Akela Baltimore, Baltimore Sunset Rotary Club, and Mayor's Office of Employment Development YouthWorks to work with youth during the summer in a program to promote global awareness, ambassadorship, and work on a service project in Baltimore City.

SUMMER

Baltimore Mayor's Christmas Parade

BPSCC to support the Baltimore Mayor's annual Christmas Parade by having a group march in the parade with the BPSCC banner.

DEC

Fundraising & Outreach

BPSCC will engage in various fundraising activities. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 and create an annual signature event.

BPSCC will engage in outreach and partnership to increase activities and membership. Our goal is to increase our membership to 10 and partner with several organizations through the year.

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL
\$1,000



PIRAEUS

KEY ACTIVITIES

Baltimore + Rotterdam: Designing Cities Webinar Series

A sequel to the 2022 series. In 4 webinars in 2023, a panel of Baltimore and Rotterdam architects, urban designers, and researchers, facilitated by an international moderator, discuss how to (re)design spaces for people, with a focus on addressing harmful infrastructure that currently divides communities. Designed and coordinated by Assistant Professor Cristina Murphy, Morgan State University School of Architecture+Planning (MSU SA+P). Event partners: AIA Baltimore; MSU SA+P; Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design (RAvB).

**FEB
TO
MAR**

Baltimore-Rotterdam Architecture Student Exchange

Students and faculty from MSU SA+P will travel to Rotterdam in March. Includes visits to architecture firms, architecture and infrastructure tours; also lectures and other activities at RAvB. BRSCC is fundraising for student & faculty travel costs and assisting with planning.

MAR

In April, RAvB students and faculty will reciprocate the exchange by coming to Baltimore to study infrastructure sites similar to the Rotterdam site in their design studio, and learn about Baltimore's efforts to heal the divides caused by past infrastructure projects.

APR

Netherlands Embassy Urban Dialogues Program

Support the embassy in setting up Urban Dialogues program with Baltimore and Rotterdam/The Hague, with workshops in Baltimore in April 2023 with participants from Baltimore and the Netherlands. Themes are expected to be flood & heat resilience, and food resilience/urban farming. After the workshops, determine follow-on activities.

APR

Planning for Sister City Sculptures

Planning for the placement of the seal sculpture from Rotterdam at the Baltimore Museum of Industry and for accompanying educational materials. Sister City Sculptures is a joint BOSCC/BRSCC project for 2023.

Baltimore-Rotterdam Exhibit and Artists Exchange

Exhibit of Baltimore and Rotterdam artists from the African diaspora, curated by Baltimore curator Joy Davis. Collaborative project with Creative Alliance (Baltimore) and TENT (Rotterdam). BRSCC is raising funds for a portion of the costs. There are planning trips in March/April. In fall 2023, Rotterdam artists and artwork travel to Baltimore. In 2024, Baltimore artists and artwork travel to Rotterdam. Community engagement activities are a key part of the program.

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL
\$48,000



KEY ACTIVITIES

**Lunar New Year
Ceramics Exhibition**

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**JAN
TO
MAR**

**Asian/Pacific
American Heritage
Month (APAHM)**

Participate in a celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures and the contributions of their communities to Baltimore.

MAY

**17th Annual
CHINA Town Hall**

After several years having switched to a virtual format due to the pandemic, BXSCC looks forward to hosting an in-person session again in Baltimore as part of the national annual live-streamed CHINA Town Hall from National Committee for U.S.–China Relations (NCUSCR).

**OCT
OR
NOV**

K-12 Education

Expand upon collaborations with K-12 schools in Baltimore City and beyond.

Business Outreach

Engage more with area businesses, especially in Asian American / Pacific Islander (AAPI) businesses’ expansion efforts and local businesses’ outreach to the AAPI community and to potential partners in Xiamen.

Health & Environment

Continue dialogues with organizations looking to collaborate in best practices in the health and environment arenas in Baltimore and/or Xiamen.

2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$3,650



PHOTO: BXSCC