



Baltimore Sister Cities
baltimoresistercities.org

2022

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING BALTIMORE'S
GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD

CONTENTS

- 2** Organization-wide accomplishments
- 4** Changwon Sister City Committee BCSCC
- 5** Gbarnga Sister City Committee BGSCC
- 6** Kawasaki Sister City Committee BKSCC
- 7** Luxor & Alexandria Sister City Committee BLASCC
- 8** Odesa Sister City Committee BOSCC
- 9** Piraeus Sister City Committee BPSCC
- 10** Rotterdam Sister City Committee BRSCC
- 11** Xiamen Sister City Committee BXSCC

BSC Annual Membership Meeting & Celebration

Conducted annual general membership meeting to vote for directors of the board, approved 2021 report and 2022 plan, and hosted a party to celebrate our volunteers. This year the event was virtual again due to the pandemic.

JAN
27

BSC Board Leadership Election

Elected executive officers: President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary. Elected new non-voting directors, approved a new Finance Committee, and approved 2021 financial report and 2022 budget.

FEB
23

Podcast: 'Baltimore's Sister Cities: Where Are They? And Why Them?'

WYPR's Aaron Henkin produced a podcast with interviews with leaders of several of BSC's sister city committees. Part of WYPR's Maryland Curiosity Bureau series. WYPR is a public radio station based in Baltimore.

MAR
21

BSC Meet & Greet

Our volunteers and friends mingled at R. House in Baltimore for an open house; people stopped by learned about volunteering opportunities with BSC.

JUL
6

WTCI Annual Maryland State of the Ports

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

DEC
7

Planning for Sister City Sculptures

BOSCC and BRSCC jointly applied for, and were awarded, a Conservation Planning Grant from Maryland State Arts Council, to plan the installation of artworks in Baltimore symbolizing two BSC relationships: a bronze anchor from the city of Odesa and a steel silhouette of a harbor seal made by a Rotterdam artist.

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.

baltimoresistercities.org





2022 ORGANIZATION

BSC Executive Officers

President

Teresa Leslie

Feb 23, 2022 – Feb 29, 2024

Vice President

Roger Nakazawa

Feb 23, 2022 – Nov 15, 2022

Treasurer

Daniel Young

Feb 23, 2022 – Feb 29, 2024

Secretary

Alfred Griffin

Feb 24, 2021 – Dec 7, 2022

Acting Secretary

Fontaine Bell

Dec 7, 2022 – Dec 31, 2023

ASSISTANTS

Assistant Secretary

Kelsey Bista

Feb 23, 2022 – Dec 7, 2022

BSC Board Members

Mayor's Office representative

Nina Themelis

Jan 27, 2022 – Jan 31, 2024

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) representative

Catalina Rodriguez-Lima

Jan 29, 2021 – Jan 29, 2023

Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) representative

William Cawthern

Jan 27, 2022 – Jan 31, 2024

Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts (BOPA) representative

Lauren Green

Jan 29, 2021 – Jan 31, 2023

BCSCC representative

Michelle Lee

Jan 29, 2021 – Jan 31, 2023

BGSCC representative

Luana Kiandoli

Feb 23, 2022 – Dec 31, 2023

BKSCC representative

Jay Gordon

Jan 29, 2021 – Jan 31, 2023

BLASCC representative

Karen Leggett Abouraya

Jan 29, 2021 – Jan 31, 2023

BOSCC representative

Karina Mandell

Jan 27, 2022 – Jan 31, 2024

BPSCC representative

Diane Homberg

Jan 27, 2022 – Jan 31, 2024

BRSCC representative

Gary Davison

Jan 27, 2022 – Jan 31, 2024

BXSCC representative

Kerry Holahan

Jan 27, 2022 – Jan 31, 2024

Xin (Cindy) Wang (Alternate)

CO-OPTED BOARD MEMBERS (non-voting)

Fontaine Bell

Director Emeritus

Feb 23, 2022 – Feb 23, 2023

Feb 23, 2022 – Feb 23, 2023

Geri Byrd

Director of External Affairs & DEI

Feb 23, 2022 – Feb 23, 2023

Hosea Chew

Director City Council Liaison

Feb 23, 2022 – Feb 23, 2023

Teresa Leslie

BSC President

Aug 10, 2022 – Aug 10, 2023

Nancy Taylor

Director of Strategic Growth

Feb 23, 2022 – Feb 23, 2023

17 board members as of Dec 2022

12 voting | **5** non-voting

6 board meetings

1 joint executive team / strategic planning meeting

6 executive team meetings

3 finance committee meetings

Total Assets

AS OF DEC 31, 2022

BSC, Inc.	\$ 2,261.93
BCSCC	\$ 3,129.00
BGSCC	\$ 168.56
BKSCC	\$ 18,175.67
BLASCC	\$ 9,009.40
BOSCC	\$ 11,712.49
BPSCC	\$ 6,619.62
BRSCC	\$ 15,267.79
BXSCC	\$ 28,365.81
TOTAL	\$ 94,710.27

Total Funds Raised 2022

\$79,397.49

For funds raised by each Sister City Committee: See each committee's section in this report.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Over **3,000** hours since Jan 1, 2022

Blooming Rainbow

The Blooming Rainbow project was an international correspondence art project with a group of children from Changwon, South Korea and a group from Baltimore, Maryland.

During 2021-2022, artists conducted "Blooming Rainbow" — a collaborative class with children, 5-15 years old, in Baltimore and South Korea to create abstract painting jointly together. In this program, children paint scribbles — they can express their feelings, impulsion or their favorite figures. The scribbles are then exchanged with the artists in Baltimore and Korea, who overlap color onto the scribbles. The children learn about the sister cities of Baltimore, Maryland USA and Changwon, South Korea, and learn about abstract art concepts and artists.

An exhibition was held on June 10, 2022 to conclude the Blooming Rainbow project. The exhibition was held at the Greenmount West Community Center in Baltimore City and livestreamed with the collaborating group in Changwon, South Korea.

JUN 10

Asia Collective Night Market

BCSCC hosted a table at the Asia Collective Night Market at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The committee offered a paper fan craft center, received two new members, and over twenty people signed up to receive more information by email.

AUG 20

Committee Growth

Four new members joined the committee in 2022: Kristine Nellenbach, Melissa Jeresano, Krista Brown, Shtina Love.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- 8** members as of Dec 2022
all members are Regular-level
- 8** committee meetings in 2022

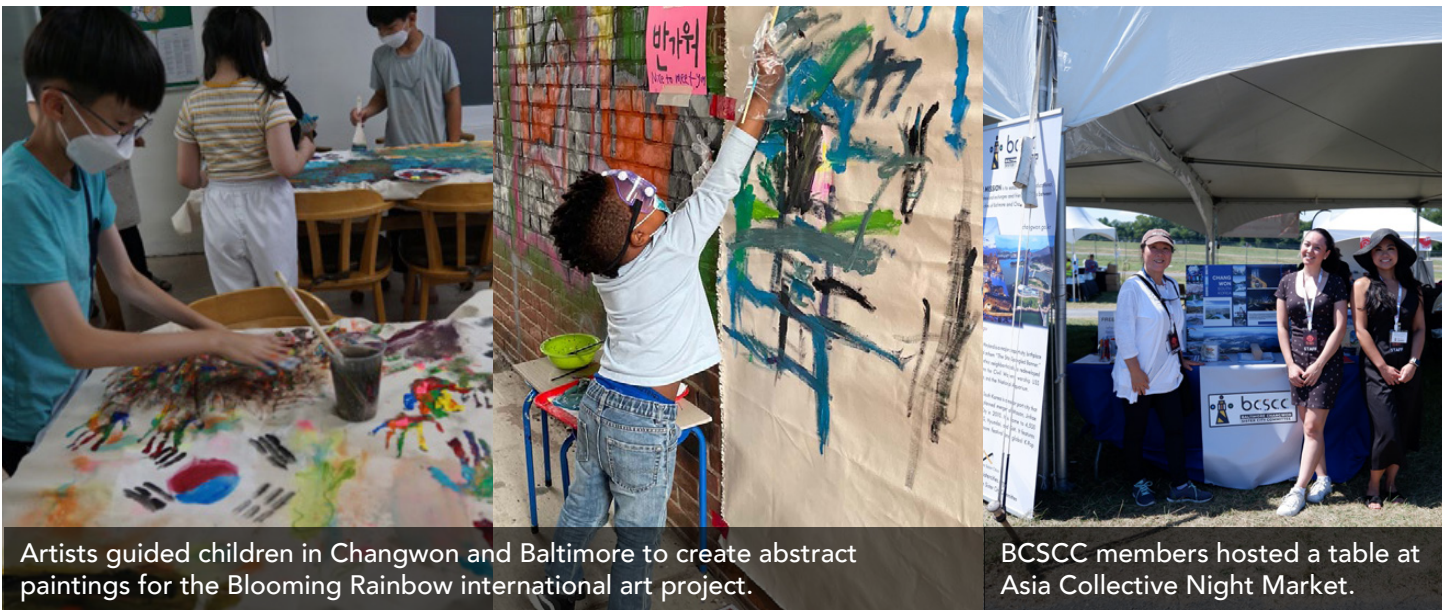
2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$1,300

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues



Artists guided children in Changwon and Baltimore to create abstract paintings for the Blooming Rainbow international art project.

BCSCC members hosted a table at Asia Collective Night Market.

B4 Youth Theatre: 200 Years of Returns

BGSCC supported and collaborated with the Program in Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship (RIC) at Baltimore’s Johns Hopkins University (JHU) on a historic trip commemorating the 200th year since the arrival of the first repatriated families in Liberia. B4 Youth Theatre, a troupe of young Baltimore performers, performed in Liberia to build a cultural and societal bridge between the two countries and its peoples. The performance, *200 Years of Returns*, commemorated the Liberia Bicentennial. A collaboration with the Angels of Praise dancers and the Just One Spirit dance ministry — the culmination of more than a year of rehearsing, research, and performances in Virginia and Maryland. B4 Youth Theatre visited Gbarnga and its community college during their trip.

Sister City Relationship

Revitalization of the 2018 Baltimore Gbarnga Sister Cities MOU and the relationship between the cities, including administrative structure, ensuring continuity of the administration from previous BGSCC committee leaders.

Youth Programs

BGSCC supported these programs:
Dr. Raymond Terry from Morgan State University and member of BGSCC led two programs:

- Youth development in collaboration with the Change Action Network
- Geo-agricultural program in Bomi Hills, Liberia

Our Children Future —Three programs focusing on keeping Liberian girls in school and preparing them for a sustainable lifestyle, founded by AKA sorority members. Leadership: Sia Barbara Kamara USA; Clarine Simpkins Liberia

Teach Teens to Fish —A nonprofit organization based in Bomi County, Liberia that promotes, educates and counsels teens about family planning. Leadership: Shirley G Seckey Fahnbulleh

Restoring Hope for Survival — Liberian youth group of girls and boys focused upon community development waste management education. Leadership: Philip Totaye

Agricultural Program

Cuttington University (Liberia) and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (USA) helped to facilitate the initiation of a now-funded agricultural program and supported efforts between the entities, culminating Phase 1.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

19 members as of Dec 2022
15 Regular | **4** Associate (in USA+Liberia)
3 committee meetings in 2022 in USA (plus 21-30 meetings in + with Liberia)

2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

N/A

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$60
 including fundraising, donations,
 & membership dues



JHU / B4 Youth Theatre visit to Liberia — Left photo: with Gbarnga Mayor Lucia Herbert and staff; Right photo: with Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former president of Liberia.

Hanami Picnic

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

APR 3

Hellbound: Dancing with the Spirits

BKSCC was a sponsor of a multicultural and interdisciplinary performance from OTS Productions at the James E Hooper House in Baltimore during Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM). Featuring dancers and musicians from all over East Asia, including Azumi O E and Hideo Sekino.

APR 30 – MAY 8

Spring Picnic

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

MAY 15

Japan Day - Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival)

BKSCC partnered with the Maryland-Kanagawa Sister States Committee, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Misako Ballet, and Matcha Time Café, to host an annual event for the public to experience Japanese culture, with performances and hands-on activities at The Meeting House in Columbia, Maryland.

OCT 2

Tradepoint Atlantic - Kawasaki meeting

Kawasaki is embarking on a new municipal project following the closure of a large steel facility in its harbor. As a follow-up to 2021 knowledge-exchange meetings with Tradepoint Atlantic and other Baltimore representatives, Kawasaki held another meeting this year with Tradepoint Atlantic regarding the JFE redevelopment in Kawasaki.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

25 members as of Dec 2022

11 Regular | **14** Associate

10 committee meetings in 2022

2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$1,030

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues

Picnic in Patapsco Valley State Park.

Annual Japan Day — Kanagawa is the prefecture where Kawasaki is located.

Arab American Heritage Month at Baltimore International Academy

Chef and BLASCC member Aida Mady presented a program on spices and Egyptian cuisine to children at Baltimore International Academy; children received recipes and small samples of Egyptian biscuits made with fennel.

APR

Virtual School Exchanges with 5th Graders

BLASCC continued to nurture virtual conversations during September – December 2022 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).

SEP TO DEC

Celebrate King Tut, the Rosetta Stone and Modern Egypt

This free family celebration at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore provided presentations; craft activities; a scavenger hunt; a live Zoom conversation from Luxor, Egypt; and an Egyptian food truck to honor the 100th anniversary of the discovery of King Tut’s tomb and the 200th anniversary of the translation of the Rosetta Stone. About 75-100 people attended.

NOV 12

BLASCC Visit to Egypt

BLASCC co-chair Tharwat Abouraya traveled to Egypt in November 2022 to facilitate the live Zoom conversation above. He delivered renewed MOUs to the Governates of Luxor and Alexandria, met a potential collaborator for a nurse training program in Alexandria, established a partnership with Rotary Alexandria and began exploring the addition of six Suez Canal port cities to BLASCC.

NOV

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

17 members as of Dec 2022

17 Regular | **4** Associate

1 Corporate | **1** Honorary

8 committee meetings in 2022

2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$2,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$1,050

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues



Celebrate King Tut, the Rosetta Stone and Modern Egypt — activities for young & old at Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Tale of Two Cities: The Role of Sister Cities in International Relations

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February, BOSCC hosted an informational Baltimore-Odesa webinar on March 1. Speakers included Mary E. ('Mendy') Nitsch, Director, International Programs, Maryland Department of Commerce; Lewis Madanick, Senior Program Manager, Open World; Eric Hontz, Deputy Regional Director, Center for International Private Enterprise - Europe & Eurasia; and Ugo Poletti, Chief Editor of Odesa Journal.

MAR 1

Maryland State Donates Medical Supplies and Body Armor to Ukraine

BOSCC assisted Governor Hogan and the state of Maryland by shepherding the distribution of \$5 million in aid to Ukraine including ventilator units, vests and bandages; BOSCC coordinated the distribution with the Odesa's governor's office. Governor Hogan thanked BOSCC for being "indispensable in helping us coordinate efforts on the ground."

MAY

Purchase of a Van for Ukraine Non-Profit

BOSCC helped purchase a van for a Ukrainian non-profit helping to feed over 1,000 people who have been displaced by the war.

JUN

Bmore for Ukraine Fundraiser in Patterson Park

Fundraiser event organized by BOSCC in Patterson Park to support Ukraine in its time of need, with live music, cultural dance, food & drink, kids activities, raffles, and more. The event raised \$17,000 for World Central Kitchen and United Help Ukraine.

JUL 23

Throughout the year, BOSCC raised funds for Ukraine humanitarian relief at local events like the Ukrainian Festival, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Benefit Concert, Arts and Drafts, Bolton Hill Festival, and via a fundraising drive on Baltimore Sister Cities website.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

4 members as of Dec 2022
 all members are Regular-level

2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$51,400

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues

Mayor Brandon Scott's statement

BOSCC hosted a big outdoor fundraiser event with the Baltimore community.

Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade

The Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade is a significant annual Greek heritage event in Baltimore. The parade, held in Baltimore, is organized by volunteers from Baltimore-area Greek Orthodox Parishes; BPSCC provides support.

MAR 27

'Greek Myths and Stories Day' at Baltimore School

Originally intended to be an in-person event, members of BPSCC read Greek Mythology stories to Kindergarten and First graders at Baltimore International Academy West via Zoom. The event was well received and is expected to become a yearly tradition.

Youth Recruitment Strategy

Conducted research and presentation on sister cities organizations with 70 youth across Baltimore City as a strategy for youth recruitment. We were able to connect with youth who would be interested in joining. These youth will be followed up to discuss the membership process.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

4 members as of Dec 2022

3 Regular | **1** Associate

4 committee meetings in 2022

2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$1,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$100

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues



BPSCC members read Greek mythology stories to young students.



BPSCC participates in the annual Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade in Baltimore.

Webinar: Growth Opportunities for AgriTech Between Maryland and the Netherlands

Webinar hosted by InnovationQuarter, Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Netherlands America Chamber of Commerce Washington Metro (NACCWM), Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee (BRSCC), Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC), F3 Tech, Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET), CyberAg, Security Delta (HSD), Rotterdam Partners. Speakers from Maryland's Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, Dutch Greenhouse Delta, HSD, IMET, F3 Tech, CyberAg.

**JAN
27**

Operation Trash Middle School Virtual Exchange

The program raises students' awareness of the global dimensions of our trash problem and how they can help address it. Designed and coordinated by American-born, Rotterdam resident Kathie diStefano. Participating schools this semester: Bay Brook EMS in South Baltimore; Wolfert Lansing in a suburb just north of Rotterdam.

**FEB
TO
APR**

Baltimore + Rotterdam: Designing Cities Webinar Series

In each of 9 webinars, a Baltimore-based architecture firm was paired with a Rotterdam-based firm and a moderator, for a conversation about how they design (in) the city. Designed and coordinated by Assistant Professor Cristina Murphy, Morgan State University School of Architecture+Planning. Event partners: AIA Baltimore; Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design (RAvB).

**FEB
TO
APR**

Maryland Commerce Bluetech/Greentech Business Mission to the Netherlands

Led by Maryland Department of Commerce; BRSCC helped organize and promote it. 2 Baltimore companies traveled to the Netherlands with the delegation; 3 other Maryland companies participated virtually. Activities included: European Water Technology Week conference and trade fair; meetings in Rotterdam and The Hague, and a "Meet the Maryland delegation" info session and networking at Venture Café Rotterdam (at CIC Rotterdam).

**SEP
19-24**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

18 members as of Dec 2022

10 Regular | **8** Associate

9 committee meetings in 2022

2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$8,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$11,300

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues

The image shows two promotional banners. The left banner is for the 'Baltimore+Rotterdam Designing Cities CONVERSATION SERIES SPRING 2022'. It features a cityscape with a sailboat and logos for Baltimore ↔ Rotterdam Sister Cities, AIA Baltimore, Rotterdamse Academie van Bouwkunst, and SIA P Morgan. The right banner is for the 'bluetech | greentech MARYLAND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO EUROPEAN WATER TECHNOLOGY WEEK'. It includes the Maryland 'Open for Business' logo, 'Wetsus Congress • Water Tech Europe trade show', and dates '19-24 SEPT 2022'. It also lists 'PROMOTION PARTNERS' as BlueTechMD and Baltimore ↔ Rotterdam Sister Cities.

Webinar series with architects and urban designers from Baltimore and Rotterdam.

BRSCC assisted Maryland Commerce in bringing firms from Maryland to the Netherlands.

Support to Bard High School Early College

BXSCC secured a grant from BGE / Exelon to support Bard High School Early College Baltimore Chinese cultural events and educational programs. Funds will be used to support cultural programming and classroom needs at this Baltimore City public high school.

China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT)

BXSCC and its partners returned to CIFIT this year! Baltimore and Maryland were represented in-person at the China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT), the largest investment and trade promotion activity in China, which takes place each September in Xiamen. BXSCC's booth at this year's fair was presented in partnership with the Maryland Department of Commerce and Maryland Center China, with the assistance of Baltimore Development Corporation and Visit Baltimore.

**SEP
8-11**

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott's 410 Report

Xin (Cindy) Wang, BXSCC Chair, spoke with other representatives from Baltimore's Asian-American communities and Mayor Brandon Scott during the May edition of the Mayor's '410 Report' broadcast during Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM).

**MAY
19**

BXSCC was also featured in Baltimore's celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month and in Chinese social media.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

19 members as of Dec 2022

8 Regular | **7** Associate

3 Corporate | **1** Honorary

12 committee meetings in 2022

2022 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$2,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$8,150

including fundraising, donations, & membership dues



Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott's 410 Report in May.

BXSCC's Meet & Greet at Joey Chiu's on November 10.