



Baltimore Sister Cities

baltimoresistercities.org

2026

ANNUAL PLAN

BUILDING BALTIMORE'S
GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD

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BSC Social Event

Networking event for prospective and existing BSC members to promote BSC and grow our network.

JAN
22

BSC Annual Membership Meeting & BSC Board Leadership Election

Conduct annual general membership meeting on Feb 10 to vote for directors of the board, and to approve 2025 report and 2026 plan. Followed by first BSC board meeting of the year on Feb 24, to elect executive officers.

FEB

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Month (AANHPIM)

Annual event that celebrates Asian and Pacific Islander cultures and the contributions of their communities to Baltimore. Our Asian sister city committees (Changwon, Kawasaki, Xiamen) do activities for AANHPIM.

MAY

Sister Cities International Annual Meeting & Youth Summit

This year, SCI's Annual Meeting & Youth Leadership Summit takes place in Washington, D.C., near Baltimore. BSC plans to participate in the meeting and help youth to participate in the summit.

JU
21-27

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

Enoch Pratt Library — Sister City Collaboration

Continue collaborating with Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library by holding activities with the library and helping with their International Library Summit in 2026.



BSC Outreach Events

May 23–24 – Artscape

Jun 5 – Baltimore Immigration Summit

Aug – Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Democracy Day Community Engagement Fair

Sep – Annual Ukrainian Festival

Operations

- Website redesign
- Development of criteria for new sister cities
- Identify additional funding for BSC

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 (SCI) organization.

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KEY ACTIVITIES

Asia North Festival during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Month (AANHPIM)

BCSCC will participate again in Baltimore’s annual Asia North Festival, an annual festival celebrating AANHPI Heritage Month that is coordinated by Towson University’s Asian Arts & Culture Center. BCSCC plans to host their annual walking tour showcasing the Station North District neighborhood’s Koreatown history and Korean cuisine; collaborate with Korean restaurants for a special K-Food restaurant week in Station North; and host a K-Film screening or K Beauty workshop.

MAY

The Synesthesia Show Peabody x MICA

Synesthesia Show is presented by Synesthesia Spectrum, the collaborative initiative between the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. It is a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration between artists and musicians in Baltimore. Dooree Kang (BCSCC, MICA) is co-director of this event.

OCT

Enoch Pratt Free Library Collaboration

BCSCC intends to do at least one collaborative activity with Baltimore’s Enoch Pratt Free Library, for example: exhibition about the history of Korean immigration to Baltimore; Korean cooking demonstration; K-Film screening, or a mini-expo for Hallyu (the global rise of Korean pop culture).



2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL
\$1,000



KEY ACTIVITIES

Health, Food Security, and Environment

Food as Medicine — Formalize the pilot programs that were started last year in collaboration with area farms.

Healthcare — Strengthen **health sector collaboration** with Cuttington University (located near Gbarnga) and possibly other universities, to investigate and research cultural and homeopathic medicine as a viable alternative to access to healthcare.

Ending Period Poverty — Continue BGSCC’s partnership with this organization, led by Eta Beta Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority. Feminine hygiene products are not easily acquired or accessible in many parts of the world. Providing these items significantly increases quality of life for girls and women.

Libraries and Literacy

WE-CARE Foundation & WE-CARE library — engage with this nonprofit organization dedicated to the centrality of reading in society that provides free reading materials and quality education materials across Liberia.

Introduce WE-CARE to the leadership of Baltimore’s Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL).



Cuttington University Explore an engagement with this university for teaching reading and possibly include it in BSC’s collaboration with EPFL.

Youth Engagement

Mandela Washington Fellowship — Do an exchange with the Liberian young leaders who were part of last year’s Mandela Washington Fellowship cohort at University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Sports diplomacy — Explore ways to engage youth in the benefits from sports diplomacy, as a follow up to the Atlantic Council / Africa Center discussion in December 2025 about sports as a way to advance diplomacy, business, development, and international partnerships, with the FIFA soccer World Cup being hosted in United States, Mexico, and Canada in 2026.

2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$2,500



KEY ACTIVITIES

Japan Film Program

[more info](#)

This ongoing bimonthly screening series of classic Japanese films is organized by BKSCC in partnership with the Dean’s Office of Towson University College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC), along with the Asian Arts & Culture Center at Towson University and its Director, Joanna Pecore. Films are hosted by and from the private collection of Reed Hessler, longtime host on WBJC.

Asia North Festival during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Month (AANHPIM)

BKSCC will participate in Baltimore’s Asia North Festival, an annual festival celebrating AANHPIM coordinated by Towson University’s Asian Arts & Culture Center. BKSCC is looking to host an artist talk in the Station North District neighborhood and might host a Japanese film (part of the Japan Film Program) at the SNF Parkway Theater.

MAY

Traditional Celebrations

Hanami — BKSCC’s annual Japanese style “flower viewing” spring celebration with traditional-style picnic under flowering cherry trees.

APR

Japan Day — An annual cultural exposition in Columbia MD, hosted by Maryland-Kanagawa Sister States in collaboration with BKSCC.

OCT

Bonenkai — BKSCC’s annual committee get-together in December. Bonenkai is a traditional Japanese end-of-year celebration.

DEC

U.S.-Japan Global Impact Grant

BKSCC has a grant proposal pending through the United States-Japan Foundation in partnership with Sister Cities International which will connect the Baltimore City Public School system to Kawasaki’s public school system to develop an ongoing exchange project that uses art to explore and define local ecology and sustainability. The grant is being managed by Baltimore’s BCPS Arts Education Office and Senior Art Program Developer, Jessica Chambers. The program will start with a restricted time frame but is hoped to continue indefinitely, with continued funding. It is tentatively titled *Twin Canvases: Growing and Reflecting on Art, Culture, and Sustainability*.

2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

(None)



KEY ACTIVITIES

Nurse Training

In 2023, BLASCC and the Alexandria Sister City Committee collaborated to strengthen emergency/trauma nurse preparedness in Alexandria, Egypt. BLASCC sent Egyptian-American nurse Nora Mady to train emergency room nurses at the Egyptian High Institute of Public Health in Alexandria, Egypt. One week of in-person training in emergency room procedures was provided to 16 nurses. This successful initiative will be repeated in 2026.

SPRING

World of Spices Event

BLASCC plans to hold an event to shed light on some of Egyptian cuisine's most popular and unique spices. Guests will get to experience the smell and taste of different spices and enjoy music.

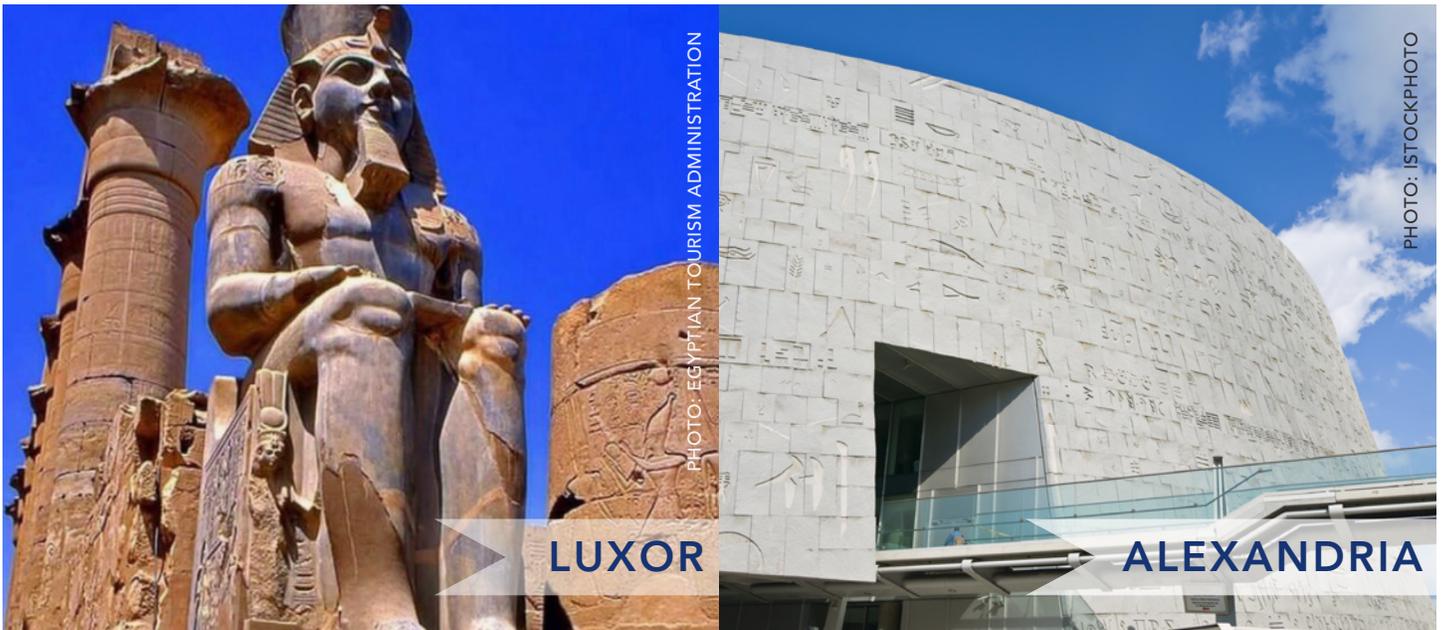
FALL

Stories to Broaden Understanding: Author Conversations

BLASCC plans to collaborate again with Montgomery County Middle Eastern American Advisory Committee and Montgomery County Public Library on this ongoing series of virtual and in-person author conversations.

2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$500



KEY ACTIVITIES

50th Year Anniversary Baltimore-Odesa Sister Cities

Host a delegation from Odesa City Council and other dignitaries at a Ukraine Summit in Maryland, to meet with officials from Baltimore City, State of Maryland, Port of Baltimore, and business leaders, in honor of the 50th year anniversary of the sister city relationship. (This visit was originally scheduled for 2025 but was postponed to 2026 due to a change of the Odesa Mayor and difficulties caused by the Russian invasion.)

Vyshyvanka Day

Mark this annual international holiday by wearing traditional embroidered Ukrainian clothing to preserve and celebrate Ukrainian culture.

**MAY
21**

Ukrainian Artists Exhibition at The Peale

We Know Who They Are... (WKWTA), a traveling exhibition of 23 Ukrainian artists responding to the war in Ukraine, will be on display at The Peale community museum in Baltimore from July 31 to Oct 4, 2026. BOSCC plans to collaborate with the Peale on companion events for this exhibition. In addition, the Baltimore-Odesa and Baltimore-Rotterdam committees are jointly proposing a moderated panel discussion, related to exchanges that have happened recently between Ukrainian and Dutch museum professionals about preserving cultural heritage in times of conflict.

FALL

Educational Exchanges

Facilitate exchanges with:

- Artists at Grekov Odesa Art School and Maryland Institute of College Art (MICA)
- Odesa law professors and Baltimore law schools, in addition to existing ancillary programs or mock trial programs

Explore a Sister States Program

Increase economic development for the ports of Baltimore and Odesa by including the controlling authorities — the State of Maryland and Odesa Oblast — in a sister state program.

2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$3,000



KEY ACTIVITIES

Baltimore-Rotterdam Architecture & Urban Design Exchanges

March trip — Under the leadership of Prof. Cristina Murphy, students and faculty from Morgan State University School of Architecture + Planning (SA+P) and design professionals travel again to Rotterdam in March 2026. Program includes design workshops, visits to design firms, city tours, seminars. Environmental sustainability, community-centered design, and urban resilience are key themes for this year’s trip.

MARCH

Planning Academy — Baltimore and Rotterdam continue their knowledge exchange about creating a Planning Academy in Rotterdam to support community-driven urban development, inspired by Baltimore’s academy, and a delegation from Baltimore may go to the Netherlands in fall 2026 on this topic.

Student internship — 2026 edition of Ghana/Netherlands architecture internship program for Morgan SA+P students (facilitated by Prof. coleman e. jordan).

Baltimore-Rotterdam Artists Exchange

Artist residencies — As a follow-on to the 2024-2025 Walk On By exhibition and artists exchange: Nosreme Baltimore foundation is planning and fundraising two-part artist residencies with Walk On By artists kolpeace (Baltimore) and Naomi King (Rotterdam), to span two or more years. The artists plan to co-create murals in Baltimore and Rotterdam with community involvement.

Film screenings — Screening events for the film documentary of the 2024-2025 Walk On By exchange.

Sister City Sculpture

Continue planning and fundraising for the installment of a steel sculpture of a seal from Rotterdam in Baltimore and accompanying educational materials.

Economic Development

Support Netherlands Embassy and Maryland Commerce with furthering economic ties between our regions in sectors like cybersecurity, space, photonics, water, and re-industrialization. Possible activities include: Maryland cybersecurity delegation to the Netherlands; a port cybersecurity event; Maryland-Netherlands networking events at Select USA and trade shows like RSA, BIO, MEDICA.

Ukrainian-Dutch Event at The Peale

Baltimore-Odesa and Baltimore-Rotterdam committees plan to collaborate with The Peale community museum in Baltimore to host a moderated panel discussion, related to recent exchanges that have happened between Ukrainian and Dutch museum professionals.

Q3

2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL \$15,575



KEY ACTIVITIES

Education

Expand upon collaborations with K-12 schools, colleges, and universities in Baltimore City and beyond – including, but not limited to, continuing the summer Youth Ambassadors student travel program to China.

Arts & Culture

Support local arts and culture programs such as Baltimore’s annual Asia North Festival, an annual festival celebrating AANHPI Heritage Month that is coordinated by Towson University’s Asian Arts & Culture Center.

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 – including through serving as the Baltimore host for the National Council on U.S.-China Relations’ annual CHINA Town Hall event.

Health & Environment

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

2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$33,550

