

Sister Cities Association of Pittsburgh

Project Status: Accelerate

This investment serves to re-invigorate Pittsburgh's long-dormant Sister Cities program as a means of economic development and city strengthening. The Sister Cities Association of Pittsburgh's mission is to develop deep and broad relationships with selected cities around the world with an ultimate goal of creating mutually beneficial economic development opportunities and stronger economies for Pittsburgh and its sister cities.

To implement the programs and initiatives associated with Pittsburgh's Sister Cities, this investment will be used to cover the salary of four new staff members and supplement program costs. SCAP's organizational priority will be to hire an Executive Director and expand the team annually to include an Administrative Assistant and two Program Managers. This team will help implement a number of initiatives collected from Sister Cities programs nationwide. It is assumed that SCAP will have office space and equipment donated "in kind", so nothing has been budgeted for that expense.

Potential programming of Sister Cities Association of Pittsburgh will be modeled after other successful initiatives in American cities such as Phoenix, Chicago and Fort Worth. These could include delegations, student travelers, junior leadership, teach abroad, medical conferences, environmental conferences, STEAM education, adult travel, and internships.

Current Sister Cities:

Bilbao, Spain; Donetsk, Ukraine; Fernando de la Mora, Paraguay; Karmiel, Israel; Misgav, Israel; Matanzas, Cuba; Omiya, Japan; Saitama City (Urawa), Japan; Ostrava, Czech Republic; Presov, Slovakia; Saarbrücken, Germany; San Isidro, Nicaragua; Sheffield, United Kingdom; Sofia, Bulgaria; Wuhan, China; Zagreb, Croatia; Skopje, Macedonia; Da Nang, Vietnam; Naucalpan, Mexico; Gaziantep, Turkey.

All current Sister Cities will be evaluated for their further inclusion in active Sister City management activities. Three cities have been prioritized for initial review based on discussions with Mayor Peduto. They are: Bilbao, Spain; Wuhan, China; and Da Nang, Vietnam. Initial discussions have occurred with all three cities. A visit has been made to Bilbao, and Bilbao, Wuhan and Da Nang all plan to send delegations to Pittsburgh in 2018.

The need for this investment has been vetted and documented through the following plans and initiatives:

Many SCAP activities will be based on successful models across the United States learned through first-hand research done with Sister Cities International, Washington, DC, and through visits to "best practices" Sister City organizations around the country.

The following organizations would lead the implementation of this investment:

The SCAP will provide overarching planning, coordination and execution of Pittsburgh’s Sister Cities strategy, but many Pittsburgh NGOs, foundations, corporations, educational institutions and individuals will be involved in implementation of specific activities.

Total Estimated Budget

\$5,034,500

Existing and Potential Sources of Funding

Type of Funding	Specific Source	Total Possible Amount
Public	City of Pittsburgh	\$10,000
Private	Anonymous	\$15,000
Total		\$25,000

Additional Investment Needed

\$5,009,500

Funding Sources: Public, Private, Philanthropic

Estimated Uses of Funding

	Personnel	Capital	Program-Related	Total Per Period
2018-2020	\$381,500	\$0	\$195,000	\$576,500
2021-2025	\$1,523,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$2,023,000
2026-2030	\$1,915,000	\$0	\$520,000	\$2,435,000
Total	\$2,819,500	\$0	\$1,215,000	\$5,034,500

Timeline

Investment Status

A voting Board of Directors and an Advisory Board have been created to assist the staff of SCAP in creating vision and support for its broad mission. These boards are constantly being fine-tuned, with an emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and representation of broad skill sets and contacts in critical Pittsburgh stakeholder communities.

The SCAP initiative directed by Mayor Peduto is actively engaged in vetting three current Sister Cities (Bilbao, Wuhan and Danang) for future relationships and is being asked to examine the candidacies of at least four other cities. Initial results of those activities are extremely encouraging for Pittsburgh. All of this work is being done through the volunteer efforts, which is an unsustainable scenario after the end of 2018.

Key Milestones

- 1. 2019:** Hire Executive Director and Administrative Assistant, complete vetting for three initial potential Sister Cities and initiate relationship/economic exchange activities and visits with all three, report on progress to stakeholders.
- 2. 2020:** Hire Program Manager #1, complete vetting for at least an additional three potential Sister Cities and expand relationship/economic activities and visits with additional existing and potential Sister Cities, report on progress to stakeholders.
- 3. 2021:** Hire Program Manager #2, complete vetting for at least an additional three potential Sister Cities and expand relationship/economic activities and visits with additional existing and potential Sister Cities, report on progress to stakeholders.