



Ashkelon, Israel



Bologna, Italy



Guadalajara, Mexico



Khabarovsk, Russia



Sapporo, Japan



Ulsan, South Korea



Kaohsiung, Taiwan



Mutare, Zimbabwe



Suzhou,
People's Republic of China



Lviv, Ukraine



Portland - Ashkelon Sister City Association

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PASCA was created to foster industrial, economic, educational & cultural exchanges by encouraging understanding between our citizens.

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[June 29](#)
Sunday



[General Steering Committee at Congregation Shaarie Torah](#)

[June 29, 2014](#) from 5pm to 7pm – [TBA](#)

[August 31](#)
Sunday



[General Steering Committee at Congregation Shaarie Torah](#)

[August 31, 2014](#) from 5pm to 7pm – [Congregation Shaarie Torah](#)

[November 30](#)
Sunday



[General Steering Committee at Congregation Shaarie Torah](#)

[November 30, 2014](#) from 5pm to 7pm – [Congregation Shaarie Torah](#)

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Connecting Our Cities for Our Common Good

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Portland Time [1:03:06 PM](#) & [Weather](#) Ashkelon Time [11:03:06 PM](#) & [Weather](#)

In 1987, the citizens of Portland, Oregon, USA chose Ashkelon, Israel as a sister-city and established PASCA. Our sister-city association was created to foster industrial, economic, educational and cultural exchanges. Our relationship encourages cultural understanding between our citizens. Ashkelon has a major hospital, Barzelai, that serves the entire region including Gazans, that we are most concerned about.



James Autry

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PASCA was created to foster industrial, economic, educational & cultural exchanges by encouraging...

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- Ashkelon has been a Portland Sister City for 37 years
- Ashkelon is a growing Israeli city of 153,000 citizens, with 5,861 Ethiopian-Israelis living in the city
- Ashkelon is home to the world's largest water desalination plant, the Israeli Beer Breweries & some of the finest most creative young entrepreneurs.

SAMSON
GOLIATH
HEROD
ALEXANDER
RICHARD THE
LION-HEARTED
MAY HAVE WALKED THE STREETS OF
ASHKELON
ANCIENT CITY
OF THE SEA



- Ashkelon is an ancient 5,000+ year old “Philistine” garden city located on the Israel’s west coast, the beautiful Mediterranean Sea, rich in world history, the arts & recently added to the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilience Cities



- Ashkelon is a modern Israeli city led by Mayor **Tomer Glam** and is the bedroom community for Jews & Arabs that work in Israel's Silicon Forest, inventors of Intel's Pentium 4 Chip, modern voicemail, smart phones, medical breakthroughs & cutting edge environmental technologies.



- PASCA has been working to rebuild our leadership, planning a tour in March 2026 and helping other Sister City Associations with our new website & Facebook page, as well as our annual Rose Festival Reception & Grand Floral Parade entry.

MENU

HOME ROSE FESTIVAL RECEPTION GRAND FLORAL PARADE EVENTS CALENDAR ROYAL ROSARIANS CONTACT

PORTLAND SISTER CITIES COALITION



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Ashkelon, Israel



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Mutare, Zimbabwe



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Suzhou,
People's Republic of China



Ulsan, South Korea



Lviv, Ukraine

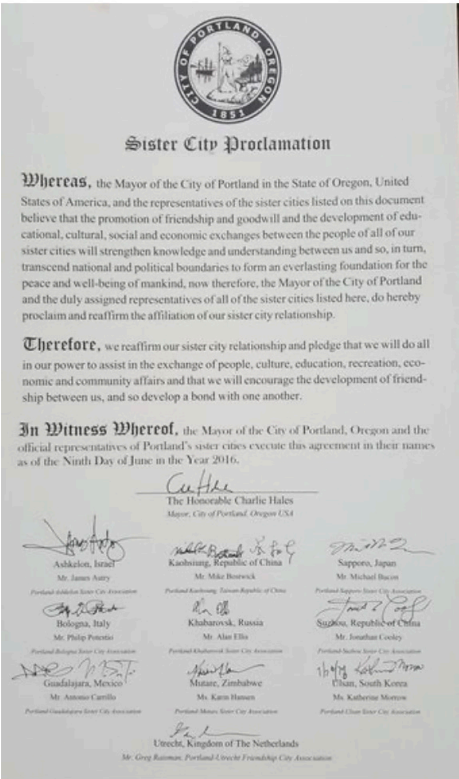
On the Thursday before the Annual Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade in June of each year, we host and coordinate an Annual Rose Festival Reception with the Mayor of Portland at City Hall. Each year we feature special guests, delegations from several of our Sister Cities, sign a Friendship Memorandum, reaffirming our special relationship with each of our Sister Cities, and celebrate special accomplishments, such as Sister City Association Anniversaries & special projects of mutual benefit that have been facilitated between the City of Portland & our Sister Cities around the world.



PRESENTATIONS



PROCLAMATION



RECEPTION





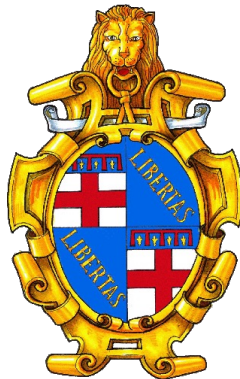
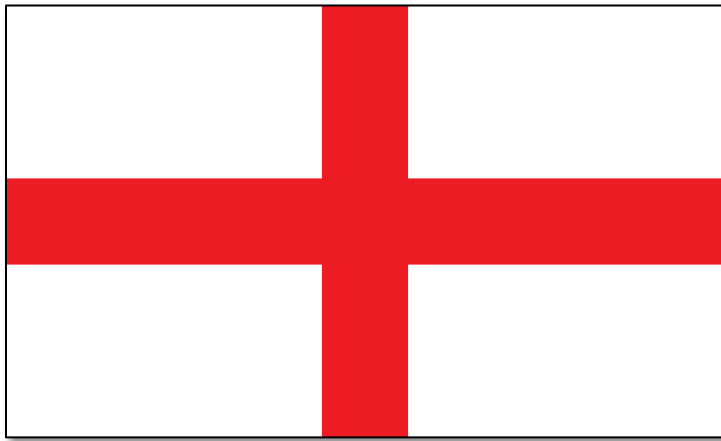








Portland-Bologna Sister City Association (PBSCA) actively promotes the strong ties between Portland, Oregon and Bologna, Italy through events, exchanges, exhibits, and outreach.



- Bologna has been a Portland Sister City for 20 years
- Bologna has three nicknames:
 - Bologna la Rossa (the red) for its red rooftops and the leaning of its politics
 - Bologna la Grassa (the fat) for its world-famous cuisine and food products
 - Bologna la Dotta (the learned) for its incredible university

Portland-Bologna Scambio *Youth Exchange*



High school students from Bologna will be hosted by Portland families this summer for the first post-pandemic youth exchange. Students from Portland will travel to Bologna next year.

2024 Events

- **Cooking Class with Cucina Amole** - April
- **Italian Film Festival Aperitivo** - April
- **20th Anniversary Amici Dinner** - June
- **Youth Exchange, Portland kids in Bologna** - June
- **Ferragosto (Aperol & gelato in the park, free event)** - August
- **Annual Sagra Dinner** - October

Learn more at: <https://www.portland-bologna.org/events>





Established in 1983-Celebrating 41 years!





- Guadalajara has been a Portland Sister City since 1983.
- Guadalajara is Mexico's third most populous metro area with 5 million citizens & Latin America's 10th largest city
- Guadalajara is also a city of roses and the cultural center of Mexico.
- Guadalajara hosts a number of large-scale cultural events such as an International Film Festival and International Book Fair.

Established at Waterfront Park in 1984

Our main fundraiser is also our best way to deliver a cultural experience to all of the citizens of PDX and surrounding areas.

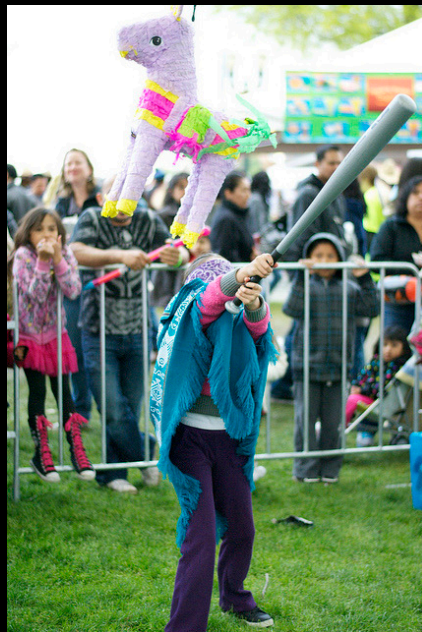




Featuring music and dancing
from Guadalajara and
Portland.



Guinness Book of ---



---World Records fun!



NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

30 PEOPLE FROM 8 COUNTRIES BECAME CITIZENS THIS DAY





CATHOLIC MASS WITH MARIACHI CITY OF GUADALAJARA

The Mariachi Mass provides a spiritual and cultural aspect to PGSCA 's Cinco de Mayo festival, where positive family values are emphasized and shared by the Hispanic community. Everyone is welcome to attend the Mass, regardless of religious affiliation.



Sharing business, education,
culture and love between
the citizens of Portland and
Guadalajara since 1983.



SPONSORING FREE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

DIRECTLY FROM GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

*México
en el
Corazón.*

Mexico in the Heart presents to the Mexican, Mexican-American community and the American public in general, a great free event with the most representative of the music, dances and songs of Mexican folklore.



Portland Guadalajara Sister City Community Giving Program Continues



Lifesaving techniques shared with firefighters from around the world in Guadalajara and in Portland.

Bombero Program...

Portland firefighter and PGSCA board member Jose Troncoso trains firefighters from around central America in Guadalajara, Mexico.

PGSCA financially supports this effort to save lives.





Community giving for 2024 will include donations to education, the arts and business to business collaborations. A big thanks for the effort put forth by the Mayor, commissioners, Portland Police, Portland Parks and everyone who helped to bring this event back to Portland!



- The Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association was founded in November 1987
- Portland City Council officially approved Kaohsiung as Portland's Sister City on May 1988
- The Association selected the Dragon Boat Racing as the annual cultural event in Portland
- The First Eye Dotting Ceremony was performed on April 10th 1989 at Portland Waterfront Park



PORTLAND-KAOHSIUNG Sister City Association

To promote friendship and understanding between the people of Portland, Oregon and Kaohsiung, Taiwan



About PKSCA

Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association promotes people to people exchanges of educational, artistic, and cultural activities. PKSCA maintains several programs that focus on and support our mission. These include the annual Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race, participation in the Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade, and Starlight Parade, annual good will delegation exchanges between Portland and Kaohsiung, and support of Portland Chinese/Taiwanese organizations and programs.

Dragon Boat Race

The Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race is an annual cultural event hosted by the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association (PKSCA) that is held in early June as a sanctioned event of the Portland Rose Festival Foundation. The event features as many as 96 dragon boat teams from all over the world who race in Taiwan-style dragon boats. There are three divisions: Mixed, Women, and High School. The race is held on the Willamette River located at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown Portland.



- Kaohsiung has been a Portland Sister City for 34 years
- A major international seaport and the largest industrial city in southern Taiwan
- The 3rd most populous city in Taiwan with a population of 2.77 millions
- The host city of the 2009 World Games





Portland Delegation visit Kaohsiung Lantern Festival





- Kaohsiung Delegation to Portland Rose Festival Celebration & 35th Year Anniversary of Sister City Relationship
- Kaohsiung City Government Officials visit Portland City Hall and attend International Sister Cities Luncheon
- Rose Bed Dedicatin Ceremony at International Rose Test Garden with Portland Rose Society
- Grand Floral Parade and PKSCA Float Entry



- Shu-Te High School Cultural Music & Dance Performance
- 30+ Years Host Family Program
- 2018 Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade Marching Band Sweepstakes Award Winner
- Sister School with Portland David Douglas High

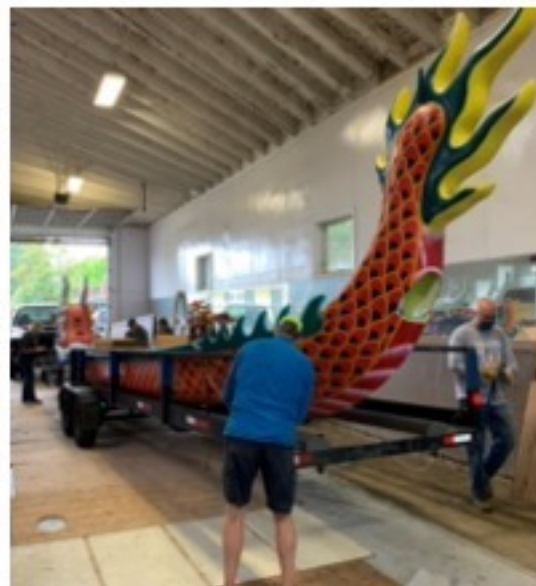
- A Cultural Event Sponsored by Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association
- A Portland Rose Festival Sanctioned Event since 1989
- Highly Decorative Classical Dragon Boats historically used in Kaohsiung Taiwan
- The Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race is totally managed and presented by all volunteers











Volunteer sign-up web links :

<https://www.pksca.net/Default.aspx?tabid=1217556>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f44aea92aa6fcc07-fall>



Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association

From Гласность to the Українська Steppe

**Thomas R. Benke, President
May 21, 2024**

Opinion: Portland should maintain sister-city relationship with Khabarovsk

Published: Jun. 12, 2022, 6:30 a.m.



Buildings line the Amur River in Khabarovsk, Russia, in the country's Far East. Portland should not abandon its long-standing relationship with the Russian city, despite a request from Ukraine's president, the author writes. AP Photo/Daniel Kozin AP Photo/Daniel Kozin



Advertisement



Portland Rose Festival



ALL ARE WELCOME! Make your plans now to join us in May & June, 2024!



CAN'T WAIT FOR ROSE FEST 2024!



By [Guest Columnist](#) | [The Oregonian](#)

Recommended for You

A Bond Formed Amid Adversity & Uncertainty

- October 20, 1987: Formation of the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association
- April 5, 1988: Pravda publishes “The Principles of Perestroika”
- May 29, 1988: U.S. President Ronald Reagan visits Moscow
- June 1, 1988: Portland Sister City delegation visits Khabarovsk
- December 26, 1991: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics dissolved



Mike Lindberg

**Portland City Council Member
and Vice Mayor in Khabarovsk
June 1988**



Sid Lezak

**U.S. Attorney for the District of
Oregon 1961-1982 in Khabarovsk
June 1988**

Catherine Hay

**First President of the Portland-
Khabarovsk Sister City
Association in Khabarovsk
June 1988**



Declamation Platform for Peace

pkzca.org/platform-for-peace/

pkzca.org/платформ-за-мир-в-україне/

PKSCA **declaims** this **Platform for Peace** to articulate a basis for the end of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine:

- That is consistent with international law;
- That recognizes the preeminence of human rights over the juridical rights of nation-states;
- That is culturally equitable; and
- Which ensures the well-being of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples in perpetuity.



**A PLATFORM
FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE**

PREAMBLE

With deep respect for the Russian people, and acting in accordance with the purpose for which the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association (hereinafter "the Association") was organized thirty-six years ago, to wit:

to foster and promote cultural, social, educational, and economic relations and to further international understanding, friendship, and goodwill between Portland, Oregon and Khabarovsk, Russia, and to promote the well-being of the public at-large

the Board of Directors of the Association declaims this Platform for Peace to articulate a basis for the end of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine that is consistent with international law, that recognizes the preeminence of human rights over the juridical rights of nation-states, that is culturally equitable, and which ensures the well-being of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples in perpetuity.

The Board of Directors of the Association hereby recommends to its Members and to all others who may wish to endorse this Platform for Peace the following Articles.

Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association
Portland, Oregon pkscsca.org

ARTICLES

Art. 1. We understand the history of the region in which Russia and Ukraine coexist but believe that present-day circumstances require adherence to, and mutual respect for, their shared international boundary in the interests of peace and prosperity.

Art. 2. We recognize Russia and Ukraine, individually and equally, as nation-states with all rights afforded under international law, including but not limited to the inviolability of their territorial limits as declared in the Belovezha Accords and as later affirmed by acts of lawfully authorized representatives of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 3. We believe that militarily imposed "spheres of influence" are antithetical to the sovereignty of modern nation-states and that in an age of long-range missiles, satellites and nuclear armaments that such attempts at hegemony are counterproductive. Fair competition for the affinity and cooperation of neighboring nation-states should be encouraged.

Art. 4. We oppose any aggression that imperils the Russian people or Russia's sovereignty. We oppose any aggression that imperils the Ukrainian people or Ukraine's sovereignty. We understand that some Russian people (or "peoples") live in Ukraine and that some Ukrainian people (or "peoples") live in Russia. Nevertheless, we reject irredentism as irreconcilable with the concept of a modern nation-state. Likewise, we call on both Russia and

PKSCA Platform for Peace

Page 2 of 4

Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association
Portland, Oregon pkscsca.org

Ukraine to protect all peoples living within their territorial limits without discrimination and irrespective of their claimed nationality, heritage or cultural affinity. Cultural norms and practices, so long as they do not infringe upon basic human rights or substantially impair the rights of nation-states, must be protected wherever they exist.

Art. 5. As a corollary to the rights of nation-states as juridical persons (e.g., as a practical legal construct dating back to the Peace of Westphalia), we believe that emigration and immigration across territorial boundaries must be recognized as a basic human right subject only to balancing against the territorial rights of nation-states.

Art. 6. We understand that the military power of nation-states can be usurped by individual and/or corporate actors to advance their private interests. We urge all nation-states to enact and enforce such statutes as necessary to ensure that private interests falsely purported to be national interests are not advanced by the military power of nation-states.

Art. 7. We understand that some defensive postures can be fairly perceived as aggression and urge all nations to mutually and cooperatively disarm and stand down as necessary to assure peace among all nation-states.

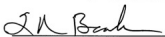
PKSCA Platform for Peace

Page 3 of 4

Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association
Portland, Oregon pkscsca.org

RECOMMENDATION

Recommended to the Members of the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association by consent of its Board of Directors by action at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 24, 2023.


Thomas R. Benke, President


Martha Hickey, Secretary

PKSCA Platform for Peace

Page 4 of 4



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ПЛАТФОРМА
ЗА МИР В УКРАИНЕ



ПРЕАМБУЛА

Испытывая глубокое уважение к российскому народу и действуя в соответствии с целью, ради которой тридцать шесть лет назад была учреждена Ассоциация городов-побратимов Портленд-Хабаровск (далее «Ассоциация»), а именно:

развивать и поощрять культурные, социальные, образовательные и экономические отношения, а также способствовать международному взаимопониманию, дружбе и доброй воле между Портлендом, штат Орегон, и Хабаровском, Россия, и содействовать благополучию общества в целом

Совет директоров Ассоциации представляет настоящую Платформу за мир, целью которой является определение основы для прекращения военных действий между Россией и Украиной, соответствующей нормам международного права, признающей приоритет прав человека над юридическими правами национальных государств, а также обеспечивающей культурное равноправие и благосостояние российского и украинского народов на неограниченный срок.

I, Andriy Mykhaylo, professional translator, hereby certify that I have translated this document into Russian from the original source document in English and that this translation is true to the best of my knowledge. For and in collaboration with ATA Translation Inc., October 31, 2023. Tel. 448 503 1758. Translation Reference # 23-0035-01.

PKSCA Платформа за мир

Стр. 1 из 4

CERTIFIED
TRANSLATION

Ассоциация городов-побратимов Портленд-Хабаровск
Портленд, штат Орегон pkscs.org

Совет директоров Ассоциации настоящим рекомендует своим членам и другим лицам, которые могут испытывать желание поддержать данную Платформу мира, следующие статьи.

СТАТЬИ



Ст. 1. Мы понимаем историю региона, в котором сосуществуют Россия и Украина, но считаем, что текущие обстоятельства требуют соблюдения и взаимного уважения их общих международных границ в интересах мира и процветания.

Ст. 2. Мы признаем Россию и Украину, по отдельности и в равной степени, как национальные государства, обладающие всеми правами, предоставляемыми международным правом, включая, помимо прочего, право на территориальную целостность, провозглашенное в Беловежских соглашениях и в дальнейшем подтвержденное актами законно уполномоченных представителей бывшего СССР.

Ст. 3. Мы считаем, что навязанные военным путем «сферы влияния» противоречат суверенитету современных национальных государств и что в эпоху ракет дальнего радиуса действия, спутников и ядерных вооружений подобные попытки гегемонии приводят к обратным результатам. Необходимо поощрять честную конкуренцию за влияние и сотрудничество соседних национальных государств.

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Стр. 2 из 4

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TRANSLATION

Ассоциация городов-побратимов Портленд-Хабаровск
Портленд, штат Орегон pkscs.org

Ст. 4. Мы выступаем против любой агрессии, угрожающей российскому народу или суверенитету России. Мы выступаем против любой агрессии, угрожающей украинскому народу или суверенитету Украины. Мы понимаем, что некоторые россияне (или народы) живут в Украине, а некоторые украинцы (или народы) – в России. Тем не менее, мы не приемлем ирредентизм как нечто несовместимое с представлением о современном национальном государстве. Мы также призываем и Россию, и Украину защищать все народы, проживающие в их территориальных пределах, не допуская дискриминации и независимо от их заявленной национальности, исторического наследия или культурной близости. Если культурные нормы и обычаи не ущемляют основных прав человека и не наносят существенного ущерба правам национальных государств, они должны защищаться независимо от того, где существуют.

Ст. 5. Исходя из прав национальных государств как юридических лиц (например, практическая правовая конструкция, заложённая еще во времена Вестфальского мира), мы считаем, что эмиграция и иммиграция через территориальные границы должны быть признаны одними из основных прав человека только при условии их уравнивания с территориальными правами национальных государств.



PKSCA Платформа за мир

Стр. 3 из 4

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TRANSLATION

Ассоциация городов-побратимов Портленд-Хабаровск
Портленд, штат Орегон pkscs.org

Ст. 6. Мы отдаем себе отчет в том, что военная мощь национальных государств может быть узурпирована физическими лицами и/или корпорациями для продвижения своих частных интересов. Мы призываем все национальные государства принять такие законы и обеспечить их соблюдение, что исключит возможность продвижения частных целей, ложно выдаваемых за «национальные интересы», с помощью военных сил этих государств.

Ст. 7. Мы понимаем, что некоторые оборонительные меры могут вполне обоснованно восприниматься как агрессия, и призываем все страны к взаимному и совместному разоружению и отступлению, если это необходимо для обеспечения мира между всеми национальными государствами.

РЕКОМЕНДАЦИЯ

Рекомендовано к утверждению членам Ассоциации городов-побратимов Портленд-Хабаровск с согласия Совета директоров путем принятия решения на очередном заседании 24 октября 2023 г.

Томас Р. Бенте, Председатель



Марта Хили, секретарь

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PKSCA Платформа за мир

Стр. 4 из 4



Precepts

- Ukraine and Russia Recognized as Nation-States
- Human Rights Construed Broadly
- Rights of Nation-States Construed Narrowly
- Spheres of Influence Rejected
- Irredentism Rejected
- Right to Emigrate / Immigrate Balanced Against the Right of Nation-States to Exist
- Military Power of Nation-States Not Usurped by Private Interests



Goal

- To be heard
- To promote constructive discourse among persons diametrically opposed on the facts but fundamentally in agreement on how people should treat each other
- Historical argument becomes irrelevant
- The least statement necessary to advance consensus consistent with PKSCA's values and mission



Desideratum

- The Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association operates under a Charter issued by the City of Portland but is otherwise independent of the City, the Mayor and City Council. Views expressed in the Platform for Peace are solely those of the Board of Directors of the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association and/or its President Thomas Benke.
- We encourage you to read the Platform for Peace in full on the PKSCA website pkzca.org
- If you have questions or comments please contact Thomas Benke (trbenke@me.com) or submit them on the PKSCA website pkzca.org







MUTARE, ZIMBABWE

PORTLAND – MUTARE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

- Established in 1991 out of a response to Apartheid in Southern Africa, the Portland-Mutare Sister City supports humanitarian efforts in Mutare and surrounding villages in Manicaland.
- Mutare, an inland port city, is located in the Eastern Highlands on the Mozambique border.
- Mutare is the third largest city in Zimbabwe with a background in forestry, farming, and tourism. It remains a region known for growing coffee beans, especially in the Vumba.



ST. WERBURGHS CLINIC

This clinic built as part of sister city effort between 2000 and 2008 is currently well equipped and serving a 15 km diameter service area. In addition to acting as a medical hub for the region, it has become a HIV testing center and provides antiretroviral therapy to anyone who tests positive.

St. Werburghs receives sustainable funding from:

- Plan International
- FACT,
- Mwana Trust
- Unicef
- USAID





FAMILY AIDS SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (FASO)

FASO currently has 47 members with HIV and provides support to 4 child-headed households

Priorities include:

- **Access to vitamins and medical care outside of antiretroviral treatment**
- **Access to food, many individuals are struggling to get their basic needs met, often supplementing contract income with fetching and selling firewood.**
- **School fees for children of people with HIV**



SEMWAYO SCHOOL OF SEWING & CREATIVE DESIGN



HOPE IS VITAL

IT TAKES A PLANET TO SAVE A VILLAGE



PORTLAND-MUTARE
OREGON-SHIMBABWE
SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION





Portland-Sapporo Sister City Association



PORTLAND-SAPPORO
SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Sapporo, Japan

- The largest Japanese city north of Tokyo (Population: 1.97million)
- Settled by the indigenous Ainu people, beginning over 15,000 years ago. Japanese migrant started to settle in the late 19th Century.
- Known for the Sapporo Snow Festival
- Hosted 1972 Winter Olympics



PORTLAND-SAPPORO
SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Celebrating 65th Anniversary in 2024



- Sapporo Delegation is visiting Portland in June
- Portland Delegation will visit Sapporo in September



Sapporo Summer Institute





A large, intricate snow sculpture of a swan with its wings spread wide, standing in a snowy park. A man in winter gear stands next to it for scale. A sign in the foreground lists "International Br" and various countries.



Sapporo Food Fair



Yasui Brothers Translation Project With Oregon Historical Society



Min (Minoru) Yasui (1916–86)

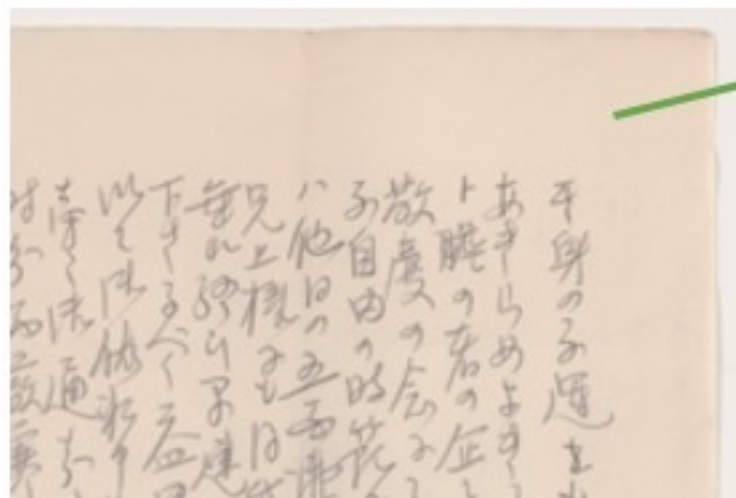
One of four Japanese Americans who fought the legality of exclusion and/or detention during World War II all the way to the Supreme Court. In 2015, Min became the first Presidential Medal of Freedom (posthumous) winner from Oregon.

Masuo Yasui (1886-1957)

Min Yasui's father. He immigrated from Japan to Portland, then opened a general store in Hood River. As a leader in the Japanese community, six days after the outbreak of war, Masuo was arrested by FBI agents, and charged with being a "potentially dangerous enemy alien."



Yasui family donated old diaries and letters to OHS



Deciphered and typed in modern Japanese by volunteers in Sapporo

B013F01_1904-02-27

<Masuo's diary 2/27/1904>

2月27日、土曜日、晴れ

午前7時30分頃ハウスを出て、セクション境から
に入り、エツパク運中とレール突きをして戻る。
時から例の配っておいたアングルヴァーを替える
私のアングルバーを替える際、少し虫穴の間に

**Translated into
English in Portland**

B013F01_1904-02-27

<Masuo's diary 2/27/1904>

February 27, Saturday, Clear

We left the house around 7:30 AM, entered the Ep
boundary and worked on track tamping with the E
distributed angle bars along the way. At 1:00 PM
in the morning



**Digital
Collection
at OHS**

Fundraising Events



Two film Viewing Events
Dad's Lunch Box & Allegiance

Thank you for your support!!



Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association's mission is to promote education, cultural exchanges as well as business development opportunities to the benefit of Portland and Suzhou.



Suzhou China

- **Suzhou**, founded in 514 BC.
- Shortest travel time can be only 21 minutes between Shanghai and Suzhou by highspeed Train.
- A major economic center and focal point of trade and commerce in China.
- Population of approximately 7 million people in the city proper and 13 million people in the administrative area.
- Average GDP growth rates have been as much as 14% in the past 35 years.
- Famous for its World Heritage classical gardens, dating back to the 6th century BC.
- Suzhou and Portland in 1987 agree to build the Lan Su Chinese Classical Garden as a symbol of friendship and for the promotion of international tourism.
- Shortly thereafter the Portland- Suzhou Sister City Association in 1988 is formed.



PSSCA 2023-24 Highlights

International Mural by Mail – Exhibition



The International Mural by Mail Network offered the opportunity for networking and communicating visually with other artists on a global scale including Portland and Suzhou. John Teply Atelier initiated a series of large-scale murals, created jointly by two artists of diverse cultural backgrounds and artistic persuasion, in a collaborative exchange entirely by mail. John Teply interviewed Hobart using zoom from the Lloyd Center. PSSCA Board member Christina Jinghui Li translated for Hobart. A most interesting presentation and encounter between the two artists.

2023 Kunqu Opera Performance at Lan Su Gardens



The Suzhou Foreign Affairs Office gifted Portland with a Kunqu Opera Culture Exhibition and Performance. The exhibit and event were held in in collaboration with the Lan Su Chinese Garden.

The performance was described as an Immersive Performance Experience with the performance beautifully staged in various locations in the Garden for all guests to appreciate.

2023 Kunqu Opera Exhibit



PSSCA arranged to have the prints matted by PSSCA and Garden volunteers to poster boards, rented easels and presented them for display. There were approximately twenty-five photographic prints of costumed Kunqu Opera performers which were exhibited in the Hall of Brocade Clouds overlooking the pond.

2023 Highlights of 35th Anniversary Delegation Visit to Suzhou



Our first stop was a welcoming dinner by Vice Mayor Ji Jing for which PSSCA gifted a rendering of a mural the students at Woodstock Elementary School created entitled the “Bridges of Suzhou and Portland.”

PSSCA Board Members, Robert Fraser (2023 President), Jean Li (Vice President), Christina Jinghui (Treasurer) and Steve Pape (2024 Board Member) attended

Visit with the Suzhou Ballet Company



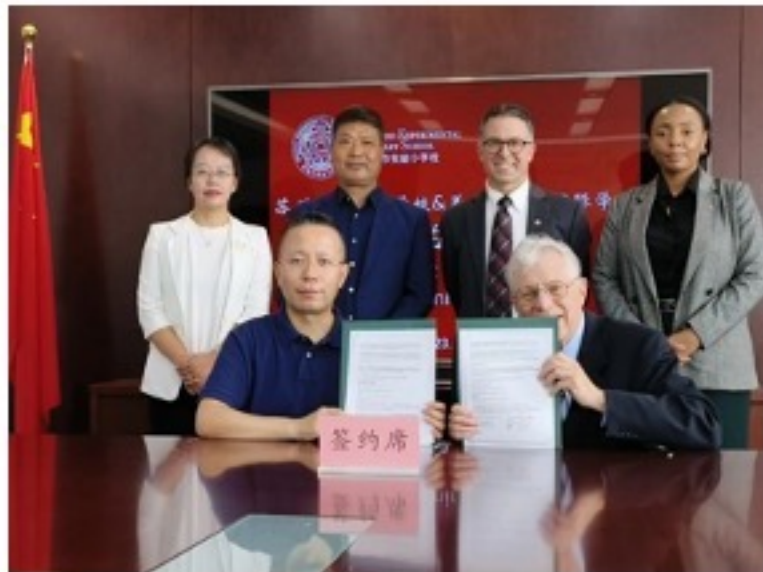
The Suzhou Ballet Theatre, the Suzhou Symphony Orchestra and Kunqu Opera provided a short performance

All three organizations would welcome any opportunity to perform in Portland.



Visit to Portland International School's Sister City School

The Suzhou Experimental Primary School provided in person demonstrations by students of cultural skills they are learning on instruments well known in Suzhou. They are taught to appreciate their cultural roots in music, calligraphy, embroidery, and the arts which include those taken on the Silk Road for hundreds of years to faraway lands.



Four School MOUs Ceremoniously Performed

PSSCA was also proud of our meeting with Suzhou High School for which another MOU was signed, culminating in Lincoln High School's collaborative support to Suzhou High School's effort to pursue an IB curriculum for their 11th and 12 grade students.



Board Member and Vice Principal Steven Pape from Lincoln High School leads this effort

Two World Class Gardens MOU

As a world cultural heritage site, the Master-of-Nets Garden in Suzhou is a representative of Chinese classical gardens with a history of more than 800 years. Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland is a typical Suzhou-style garden, which is consistent with the concept of a Suzhou classical garden of pursuing cozy, natural and people-oriented life. It has been awarded the “Human Settlements Award” by the government of Oregon, USA.

In 2001, the Master-of-Nets Garden and Lan Su Chinese Garden signed a friendship garden agreement. The year 2023 marked the 35th anniversary of the establishment of friendship cities between Suzhou and Portland as signified by this signing ceremony.



2023 China Sister City International Conference



The PSSCA delegation attended the Suzhou Sister City International Conference in which Lincoln High School Vice Principal Steve Pape participated in the Educational Breakout Meeting. Steve Pape spoke about the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and the cooperation between Lincoln High School and Suzhou High School.



Portland – Suzhou Sister City MOU Exchange Ceremony



Chido Dhliwayo, Portland's International Relations Director participated in the celebration of renewal in our Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Suzhou.

**China-US China Sister City Conference
July 18 - 20, 2024
Tacoma, Washington**

2024 PSSCA President Alix Nathan will be attending the China-US Sister City Conference July 18 - 20 in Tacoma, WA. Vice Mayor of Suzhou Ji Jing and Suzhou Foreign Affairs Director Renjie Guo will be in attendance.



PORTLAND – LVIV

Friendship City Association

City Council Presentation
June 6, 2024



Lviv, Ukraine

- Lviv is a city in western Ukraine, around 70 kilometers from the border with Poland.
- Lviv was founded in 1256 by King Danylo Galytskyi and named after his son, Lev/Leo/Lion.
- Lviv is known as the City of Lions; you will see many statues of lions throughout Lviv.
- This is represented in Lviv's coat of arms which features a golden lion beneath a city gate in a blue field.
- Lviv is one of the main cultural and humanitarian centers of the country, as well as a major political, economic, and educational center.





Our Connections

Despite their geographical distance and distinct histories, Lviv and Portland share several cultural and lifestyle similarities.

Both cities are vibrant hubs for arts, music, and creativity, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity among their residents.





Our Events

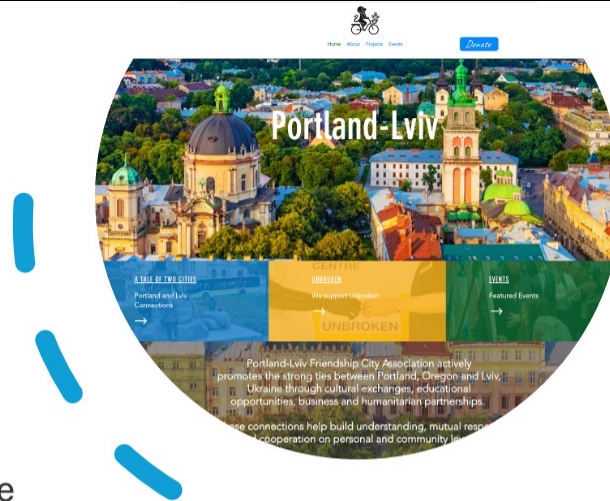
Since becoming a Friendship City, we have spent a great deal of time getting our website launched, building relationships, and hosting events such as participating in the International Art Festival, Rose Festival, Visit to Lviv, Ukrainian Day, Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Coffee with Lviv, Believe in Ukraine, and Vyshyvanka Day!



Website Launch!

January 2024

We started 2024 with unveiling our new website that features our logo, information about our organization, including its history, our leadership team, past and upcoming events. There are many pictures—both from Lviv and Portland. We encourage everyone to visit our website and try to figure out which pictures come from which of our two cities.



July 16 | Lucky Lab

Vyshyvanka Day With Us!

Vyshyvanka Day is a Ukrainian holiday, dedicated to preserving the rich traditions of creating and wearing vyshyvankas. This observance is deeply rooted in Ukrainian culture and has gained global prominence. People worldwide now wear vyshyvankas in solidarity with Ukraine.





Rose Festival

June 2023

The week of the Rose Festival included two firsts for our organization. For the first time in Portland's history, the Friendship Signing Ceremony at the Portland Sister City and Royal Rosarians Rose Festival Reception included representatives of Portland-Lviv Friendship City Association adding our President's signature to the Sister City Proclamation.

Our organization was also invited to join members of the Ukrainian community of Oregon as a group marching in the Grand Floral Parade. It was a great pleasure to be part of this cherished Portland tradition.





Visit to Lviv

August 2023

In August 2023, our President and Secretary traveled to Lviv. Due to ongoing Russian invasion and acts of terror against civilians, there is no civilian air traffic over Ukraine, so all travel into Ukraine is by car, bus, train, or on foot. Our members were warmly met in Lviv and had several meetings, both with Lviv City administration officials and members of Lviv public who had been working towards a sister city relationship between our two cities for a number of years.

Instagram celebrity #lvivcitycat Levchyk ("Little Lion") also welcomed us at the City Hall in his official capacity as Cat Mayor of Lviv. He let us hold him and pet him before hurrying to another appointment.

At the invitation of Ms. Dzhyhovska, we toured Unbroken Rehabilitation Center. Since the start of the all-out Russian invasion in 2022, Lviv has become a major humanitarian and medical center providing shelter to hundreds of thousands of refugees from the occupied areas of Ukraine and offering medical and other services to its growing population.





Visit to Lviv

August 2023

Visit to Lviv offered many opportunities to enjoy the city's art, culture, coffeeshops and bookstores.

We also had the pleasure of touring the new campus of Ukrainian Catholic University based on the master plan developed by University of Oregon Associate Professor Gerald Gast and graduate students from the Urban Projects Workshop at the College of Design in Portland.

Most of our days and some nights in Lviv were interrupted by air raid alarms; we had to get accustomed to going to bomb shelters as part of Lviv's reality of a city in wartime.





Coffee with Lviv

February 24, 2024

“Coffee with Lviv” was our first event of 2024 starting early on Saturday, February 24, 2024. We met at 7 am at Just Bob on NE Alberta for an early morning Lviv Latte and a live link to Lviv. Many community members got up early on a Saturday to join our event and say Hello! to people in Lviv. Our counterparts in Lviv connected from a Lviv art space where they enjoyed afternoon coffee and opportunities to speak to people in Portland.



Believe in Ukraine

February 24, 2024

At Pioneer Square—the Heart of Portland—Portlanders joined people in over 100 cities around the world in marking a decade of Ukrainian resilience in their struggle against Russian imperialism. Civic and religious leaders, and different community organizations, including Portland-Lviv Friendship City Association, participated in the event. Ukrainian and American anthems and songs were performed by second generation Ukrainian Americans and newly arrived refugees from Russian occupied Mariupol and other areas of Ukraine.

Vyshyvanka Day

May 16, 2024

Many joined us for Vyshyvanka Day at Lucky Lab in NW Portland. We talked into the night, only pausing for pictures while it was still daylight.

So many different embroideries—colors, patterns—from different areas of Ukraine. Such beauty and diversity!



Thank you!

PORTLAND – LVIV
Friendship City
Association



Arts Culture

Lviv and Portland both have vibrant and distinctive art cultures that reflect their historical influences and contemporary creativity.

While Lviv's art culture reflects its historical and European influences, Portland's scene is characterized by its contemporary and avant-garde spirit. Both cities, however, share a commitment to fostering creativity, providing platforms for artists, and making art accessible to the community.



Bike Culture

Lviv and Portland each have their own unique and evolving bike cultures that reflect the local lifestyle and values.

Both Lviv and Portland share a commitment to sustainable and active transportation, making biking an integral part of the local culture.

Whether you're navigating the cobblestone streets of Lviv or cruising along the bike lanes of Portland, you'll likely find a welcoming and diverse biking community in both cities.



Book Culture

Lviv and Portland each have vibrant book cultures shaped by their unique histories and contemporary influences.

Both Lviv and Portland share a passion for literature, with a focus on community engagement and celebration of cultural diversity.

Whether you're exploring the historic libraries in Lviv or browsing the shelves of an independent bookstore in Portland, you're likely to find a rich tapestry of stories and ideas that reflect the literary vibrancy of each city.



Coffee Culture

Lviv and Portland offer diverse coffee scenes, with local roasters, artisanal cafes, and passionate coffee lovers.

Both cities share a commitment to quality coffee, but the cultural nuances and historical contexts contribute to distinct coffee experiences in Lviv and Portland.

Whether you're exploring the historic coffeehouses in Lviv or the eclectic independent coffee shops in Portland, you'll find a rich tapestry of flavors and atmospheres to enjoy.



Foodie Culture

Lviv and Portland each have distinctive and thriving foodie cultures that reflect the local culinary scene and community preferences.

While Lviv's foodie culture is influenced by its historical roots and regional traditions, Portland's scene is characterized by its modern and eclectic approach to gastronomy.

Whether you're exploring Lviv's traditional Ukrainian dishes or Portland's avant-garde culinary offerings, both cities provide unique and delightful experiences for food enthusiasts.



Sustainability Culture

Lviv and Portland both demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, albeit with distinct approaches.

Both Lviv and Portland share a dedication to sustainability, but the specific focus areas may vary. Lviv's efforts often revolve around preserving its cultural and historical assets, while Portland's sustainability initiatives extend to broader environmental and lifestyle considerations.

Whether you're navigating Lviv's historic streets or exploring Portland's eco-friendly neighborhoods, you'll likely encounter a shared ethos of environmental consciousness.



Thank you!

PORTLAND – LVIV
Friendship City
Association





Ashkelon, Israel



Bologna, Italy



Guadalajara, Mexico



Khabarovsk, Russia



Sapporo, Japan



Ulsan, South Korea



Kaohsiung, Taiwan



Mutare, Zimbabwe



Suzhou,
People's Republic of China



Lviv, Ukraine