

January 14, 2013

### Sister Cities International Inaugural Gala: Showcasing the Strength of Citizen Diplomacy

WASHINGTON, DC – On January 17, Sister Cities International will host its first-ever Inaugural Gala celebrating the inauguration of its Honorary Chairperson, the President of the United States.

Since Sister Cities International's founding in 1956, Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, and now President Obama have served as its Honorary Chairperson. The Gala will celebrate this tradition of Presidential support as well as showcase the important role of citizen diplomats in furthering peace and prosperity across the world.

General Colin L. Powell, Senator Richard Burr (NC), Senator Benjamin Cardin (MD), Senator Robert Casey (PA), and Senator Charles Schumer (NY) are members of the Gala Honorary Host Committee. To see the full list of Representatives on the Gala's Honorary Host Committee, please visit [www.SisterCitiesInaugural.org](http://www.SisterCitiesInaugural.org).

Senators, Congressmen, Ambassadors, Mayors, and local elected officials as well as citizen diplomats and community leaders are expected to attend this black-tie event. Sister Cities International President and CEO Mary D. Kane says, "The Gala is a great opportunity for us to display the strength of the sister cities network and the achievements of everyday citizens in strengthening ties between the US and other nations."

The US Marine Band will provide the opening entertainment followed with a performance by the Mood Swings Big Band. Entertainer Sean O'Kane will be emceeing the Gala and acclaimed comedian Dan Nainan is scheduled for a stand-up act as part of the evening's program.

**When:**

Thursday, January 17, 2013

Doors open at 7:30pm

**Where:**

International Hall of Flags  
US Chamber of Commerce  
1615 H Street NW  
Washington, DC 20062

**Tickets:**

The Gala is open to the public

General admission tickets: \$250/ticket

Young Professional (25 years old or under) tickets: \$125/ticket

Tickets are available for purchase at [www.SisterCitiesInaugural.org](http://www.SisterCitiesInaugural.org).

The Sister Cities International Inaugural Gala is made possible through the generous support of MGM Resorts International, Amazon Web Services LLC, Mike E. Fox Jr., Mike Hyatt, and many others.

For interview opportunities, press passes and event details, email Megha Swamy at [mswamy@sister-cities.org](mailto:mswamy@sister-cities.org).

### About Sister Cities International

Sister Cities International facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries across six continents between 550 plus communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. Sister Cities International represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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