
**COUNCIL BLUFFS SISTER CITIES WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD FOR
ARTS AND CULTURE**

WASHINGTON, DC – Council Bluffs Sister Cities Association (CBSCA) has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Innovation Award for Arts and Culture for a city with a population under 100,000 for their work with the Herat Sister Cities Committee. The Sister Cities International Innovation Award for Arts and Culture recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

In 2016, CBSCA and the Herat Sister Cities Committee commemorated their new sister cities agreement with a simultaneous, joint exhibition of women's photography from both Herat and Council Bluffs launched on International Women's Day. The juried selection of 30 photographs from compared and contrasted each city's culture and daily life. This exhibition established the intent of CBSCA and the Herat Sister Cities Committee to develop a strong and long-term relationship with each other while recognizing, honoring, and sharing the contributions of women from both communities through the lens of art.

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 15 during SCI's 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

SCI's 61st [Annual Conference](#) events, which include a [Youth Leadership Summit](#) and a [U.S.-Russia Mayors' Summit](#), will take place in Virginia Beach, VA from July 12-16, 2017. The events will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme "Global Communities for World Peace," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships through communities.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 500 member communities with over 2,000 partnerships in 145 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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