
**SARCAMENTO BETHLEHEM SISTER CITY WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD FOR
ARTS AND CULTURE**

WASHINGTON, DC – SacramentoBethlehem Sister City has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Innovation Award for Arts and Culture for a city with a population between 100,001 and 500,000. 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.

SacramentoBethlehem Sister City has a long-established partnership with Palestine Writing Workshop where both organizations bring reading encouragement and enrichment activities to schools in Palestine. Thanks to these efforts, Palestine Writing Workshop became aware of the need for additional Arabic children's book choices and, with the successful contributions of SacramentoBethlehem and the Boulder-Nabulus Sister City Project, was able to publish six original Arabic children's books. Two of these books won Etisalat Awards for Arabic Children's Literature: the most important and prestigious award for children's literature in the Arabic world.

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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