



**VALLEJO SISTER CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AT 5:30 PM**

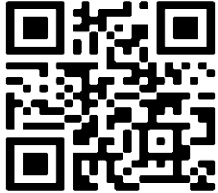

DECEMBER 15, 2025

COMMISSIONERS

Elissa Shanks-Stewart (Chair)
Paul Lamb (Vice Chair)
Emanuel Andreas
Paul Ligda
Yajaira Rubio Machado
Norma Placido
Pelton Stewart

HYBRID MEETING
www.Cityofvallejo.net

**Vallejo Room (Lower-Level JFK Library)
505 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, CA 94590**

<p>NOTICE: Members of the Public will be able to participate in-person or remotely via Zoom</p>	<p>The Vallejo Room will be open to members of the public 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the Public may provide public comments during the Meeting in person or via ZOOM https://ZoomVallejoRoom.Cityofvallejo.net, or via phone, by dialing (669) 900-6833.</p>	<p>For additional instructions on how to speak remotely during public comment, please visit, www.cityofvallejo.net/publiccomment</p>
<p>VIEW THE MEETING: There are four different ways you can view this public meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Person • Stream from the City website: www.cityofvallejo.net/Streaming • Join the Zoom webinar: https://zoomvallejoroom.cityofvallejo.net/ 	<p>Scan QR code for live captions and translation in Spanish and Tagalog.</p> 
<p>Hybrid Options are available for members of the public to participate. To participate remotely</p>	
<p><u>Option to Join by Computer</u> From your browser go to https://ZoomVallejoRoom.CityofVallejo.net to launch and join the zoom application. Meeting ID: 814 4681 4741# Meeting Password: 131313</p>	<p><u>Option to Join by Phone</u> Dial (669) 900-6833 Enter Meeting ID: 814 4681 4741# Meeting Password: 131313 Press *9 to digitally raise your hand from the phone. Press *6 to unmute/mute</p>
<p>Any supplemental writing related to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting that is distributed to all or a majority of all members of the Commission less than 72 hours before the meeting will be posted concurrently on the City’s website at www.cityofvallejo.net/agendas Written material distributed during the meeting, will be available at the meeting if prepared by the City or after the meeting if prepared by someone else. Such materials may be obtained from the Commission Secretary</p>	
	<p>The Vallejo Meeting Facility is ADA compliant. Devices for the hearing impaired are available from the Staff Secretary. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made by a person with a disability via email to Erik Rzomp, Staff Secretary at Erik.Rzomp@cityofvallejo.net or via phone by calling (707) 648-4377 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof</p>

AGENDA

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3 THANK YOU TO THE NATIVE TRIBES

We pause to commemorate the Native American Tribes upon whose land our city was built: The Patwin Tribes, the Coastal Miwoks, the Suisunes, and the Karkins.

4 ROLL CALL

5 COMMUNICATIONS

**A REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR,
SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION.**

**B REPORT FROM COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE VALLEJO SISTER CITY
COMMISSION.**

C REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE VALLEJO SISTER CITY COMMISSION.

6 COMMUNITY FORUM

Anyone wishing to address the Commission on any matter for which another opportunity to speak is not provided on the agenda, and which is within the jurisdiction of the Commission to resolve, is requested to submit a completed speaker card to the staff secretary. When called upon, each speaker should step to the podium, state his /her name, and address for the record. Each speaker is limited to three minutes pursuant to Vallejo Municipal Code Section 2.20.300.

7 APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Recommendation: By motion, approve the agenda for December 15, 2025, Regular meeting of the Vallejo Sister City Commission and approve the minutes of October 19, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Vallejo Sister City Commission.

Contact: Erik Rzomp, Executive Secretary (707) 648-4377

Erik.Rzomp@cityofvallejo.net

8 OLD BUSINESS

A REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER LAMB ON YOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE.

**B REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER LAMB ON POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES
TO WORK WITH COACH SARNA FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOR
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WITH SISTER CITIES.**

C REPORT FROM ENTRY SIGN SUBCOMMITTEE.

**D RECEIVE STATUS REPORT RELATING TO THE JAPANESE GARDEN AND
REVIEW THE PLANS AND DRAWINGS FOR THE OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF**

THE ONIGAWARA. BY MOTION ACCEPT OR REJECT THE PROPOSAL TO THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS (CCA). AUTHORIZE COMMISSIONER STEWART TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE SISTER CITY COMMISSION AT CCA MEETING AND WHEN NECESSARY, AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING. IN THE EVENT THAT CCA APPROVES PLAN FOR ONIGAWARA, BY MOTION AUTHORIZE THE REQUEST FOR THE PLAN TO GO TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL WITHOUT COMING BACK IN FRONT OF THE SISTER CITY COMMISSION.

Recommendations:

By motion approve plans for outdoor display of the Onigawara to then be forwarded to CCA.

By motion authorize Commissioner Stewart to speak on behalf of the Sister City Commission regarding the Japanese Garden at both the Commission on Culture and the Arts and City Council.

By motion authorize CCA approved plan to go in front of City Council for final decision.

E STATUS REPORT FROM STAFF ON REQUEST FROM CITY OF AKIM ODA, BIRIM CENTRAL MUNICIPALITY, GHANA. COMMISSIONER ANDREAS TO REPORT ON INTEREST IN FORMATION OF EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE. PROVIDE DIRECTION ON NEXT STEPS.

F RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM STAFF ON REVISED COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026 TO ACCOMMODATE SIX SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND DETERMINE MEETING DATES FOR 2026.

Recommendation:

By motion, approve the meeting schedule for odd-numbered months:

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 5:30 PM

Monday, March 16, 2026, 5:30 PM

Monday, May 18, 2026 5:30 PM

Monday, July 20, 2026, 5:30 PM

Monday, September 21, 2026, 5:30 PM

Monday, November 16, 2026, 5:30 PM

G UPDATE ON POTENTIAL FOLLOW-UP TO CONSULTANT REPORT — BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES ASSESSMENT REPORT,

9 NEW BUSINESS

A NONE.

10 REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE/BOARD

A SISTER CITY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - (NEW INFORMATION UPDATES ONLY)

1. Trondheim, Norway- Commissioner Ligda
2. Baguio City, Philippines - Commissioner Placido
3. Bagamoyo, Tanzania - Commissioner Stewart

4. Jincheon, South Korea - Commissioner Lamb
5. La Spezia, Italy - Chair Shanks-Stewart
6. Akashi, Japan - Commissioner Stewart
7. Ensenada, Mexico - Commissioner Stewart & Rubio-Machado

B FRIENDSHIP CITY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS- (NEW INFORMATION UPDATES ONLY)

- 1 Muju, South Korea - Commissioner Lamb
- 2 Ennery, Haiti — Commissioners Andreas and Stewart
- 3 Rota, Northern Marianas Islands (U.S. Commonwealth) - Chair Shanks-Stewart
- 4 Zanzibar, Tanzania - open
- 5 Seven Generations Inter-Tribal Council — Commissioner Lamb
- 6 Parun, Afghanistan - Commissioner Placido

11 NEXT MEETING DATE

Tentatively Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 5:30 PM

12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13 ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL CITY INFORMATION

Members of the public can:

- Like us on Facebook and Instagram ([@cityofvallejo](#))
- Sign up to receive City Communications via e-mail (www.cityofvallejo.net/subscribe)
- Sign up for emergency alerts at: alertsolan.com

I, Erik Rzomp, Executive Secretary do hereby certify that I have caused a true copy of the above notice and agenda to be delivered to

Elissa Shanks-Stewart (Chair)
Paul Lamb (Vice Chair)
Emanuel Andreas
Paul Ligda
Yajaira Rubio Machado
Norma Placido
Pelton Stewart,

at the time and in the manner prescribed by law and that this agenda was posted at City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, CA at 5:30 PM, DECEMBER 12, 2025.

Dated: DECEMBER 12, 2025

Erik Rzomp

Executive Secretary

**SISTER CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Elissa Shanks-Stewart at 5:31 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. THANK YOU TO THE NATIVE TRIBES

4. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chair Shanks-Stewart, Vice Chair Lamb, Commissioners Stewart, Ligda, Placido and Andreas. Commissioner Rubio-Machado arrived late

Commissioners Absent: none.

City Staff Present: Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Erik Rzomp and City Attorney Veronica Nebb

Council Liaison: Councilmember Helen-Marie Gordon

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report from Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Secretary to the Commission

1. Board and commission appreciation event on 10/30 at Suite Treatments. RSVP time has elapsed.

B. Report from Council Liaison to the Vallejo Sister City Commission – Commission Liaison Councilmember Helen-Marie Gordon

1. Spoke about the board and commission consultant report which made recommendations to the council about eliminating commissions. Recommended that the commissioners email her or city staff secretary with their thoughts about the recommendation to eliminate the Sister City Commission.

C. Report from Chair of the Vallejo Sister City Commission – The Chair’s report is attached to the minutes.

6. COMMUNITY FORUM – Speakers:

A. none

7. CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes & Approval of Agenda

Recommendation: By motion, approve the Minutes for June 16, 2025, Vallejo Sister City Commission Regular Meeting, and approval of Agenda for October 20, 2025, Vallejo Sister City Regular Meeting.

Action: Approval of minutes for June 16, 2025, Regular Meeting and the agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2025. Motion offered by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Placido. Motion passed unanimously to approve minutes and agenda.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Report from Commissioner Lamb on Youth Subcommittee –** Expanded membership, two new members, Alison Morgan present from MIT who introduced herself.
- b. **Report from Entry Sign Subcommittee –** Commissioner Ligda shared information about a sign prototype suggested dimensions 18x24 inches, suggested six entry points to the city. The proposal needs to be written up as a report and presented to council for approval. There would need be approvals for posting and an assurance that the signs meet specifications for street/outdoor signs. Commissioner Ligda to write up report. Moved and seconded that there be a formal report to go to the city manager outlining the six locations and referencing the sister cities. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Update on status of Japanese Garden –** July 2025 Commission on Culture and the Arts approved that Onigawara goes outside. Next step to approve plan for the plinth/platform for the Onigawara. Need estimate from public works. Commissioner Stewart spoke on behalf of Sister City Commission, Staff secretary Rzomp wrote report that went to CCA and presented it. Beautification Commissioner Rick Weyrich addressed the CCA. Next steps to get a design and estimate from public works that can come back to this commission for approval then to CCA and then finally to City Council.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A **Status report of request from city of Akim Oda, Birim Central Municipality, Ghana. Provide directions on next steps.** Follow up on

whether Akim Oda is a member of SCI. Need evidence on both sides of formation of committee formation. Commissioner Andreas to explore committee formation here in Vallejo. We should have interest in Vallejo before asking Akim Oda to commit to SCI membership. Guidelines to be sent to Commissioner Andreas.

- B **Discussion of meeting schedule for 2026.** Consider a change in the meeting calendar for 2026 – meet in the odd numbered months so we avoid missing a meeting in August when city hall goes dark. Bring back in December for consideration.
- C **Receive correspondence from Ken Sarna regarding the possibility of establishing a flag football league and possibly provide input and recommendations into opportunities for such a league to connect across Vallejo’s various Sister Cities.** Commissioner Lamb volunteered to be a liaison to the Flag Football league and invited Commissioner Rubio-Machado to join him to meet with Coach Sarna and report back.
- D **Receive and consider consultant report – Boards, Commissions, and Committees Assessment Report and provide input /recommendations to the city council related to recommendations regarding the Sister City Commission.**
Council’s direction on the item at the 10/14/25 City Council Meeting:
Schedule a Council study session on boards and commission after staff/consultant has held 2-3 focus groups to which all commissioners are invited and input on board/commission matters has been a agendized topic of discussion at each board and commission. Deliver the results of this engagement with board/commission members to Council in January 2026.

Public Comment – Teena Miller spoke on this item.

Commission members are encouraged to provide feedback to the staff secretary. Staff secretary will keep the commissioners informed of any focus groups or meetings. The chair asked that the other commissioners read the consultant report that was attached to the meeting agenda.

10. REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

A. Sister City Sub Committee Reports – Report only new items

1. Trondheim, Norway- Commissioner Ligda. - no report
2. Baguio City, Philippines – Commissioner Placido - no report

3. Bagamoyo, Tanzania – Commissioner Stewart – no report
4. Jincheon, South Korea – Commissioner Lamb – no report
5. La Spezia, Italy – Chair Shanks-Stewart – no report
6. Akashi, Japan – Commissioner Stewart – no report
7. Ensenada, Mexico – Secretary to the commission reported that there is a zoom call scheduled with Jared Gutierrez the Director International Affairs in Ensenada. Commissioner Rubio - Machado was invited to attend the call.

B. Friendship Cities Subcommittee – Report only new items

1. Muju, South Korea – Commissioner Lamb- No report.
2. Ennery, Haiti – Commissioner Andreas - no report
3. Rota, Northern Mariana Islands (U.S. Commonwealth) – Commissioner Stewart- no report
4. Zanzibar, Tanzania – open-no report –
5. Seven Generations Inter Tribal Council – Vice Chair Lamb – no report
6. Parun, Afghanistan – Commissioner Placido & Chair Stewart – no report

11. NEXT MEETING DATE: Possible Special Meeting and/or December 15. 2025

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- Change of scheduled meeting dates
- Feedback and/or updates on the Board and Commission report.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Elissa Shanks- Stewart, CHAIR

ATTEST:

ERIK RZOMP, SECRETARY

Agenda Item 5C: Chair's Report

Vallejo Sister City Commission Report October 20, 2025

~ Voting Confirmation Receipt was received from Sister Cities International. Votes were cast on July 18, 2025. Election winners were announced during the 2025 Annual Business Meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas.

~ August 18 meeting was cancelled. City Hall goes dark in August to allow for vacations.

~ Commissioner Paul Ligda and I have been working on the specifications related to Sister City Signs at the main entrances to Vallejo.

~ Commissioners who are also Board Members for the Association participated in the Vallejo Sister City International Dinner/Auction on September 27, 2025. This year we highlighted Japan and it was a wonderful affair.

~ We have been approached by Ken Sarna to consider a Sister City Flag Football Outreach. He also contacted Kirk Smith, Executive Director of Visit Vallejo, who loved the idea and offered to assist.

~ We have recently connected with Raynette Castillo who, I believe, is a member of the Northern California Chamorro Club in Vacaville. Commissioner Pelton Stewart has agreed to reach out and find out if that group might be interested in organizing a committee to continue the Friendship level previously started. The other members all moved to Las Vegas.

In peace,
Elissa Shanks Stewart, Chair
Vallejo Sister City Commission

SISTER CITY SIGNS PROJECT- 2025 VALLEJO SISTER CITY COMMISSION

The purpose of this project is to continue to fill a void that was identified and reported by the Economic Development Department more than ten years ago. Sister City Signs were also included in a very viable Participatory Budgeting Project in 2015. At that time it was determined that Vallejo needed to improve its image and reputation. Unfortunately, those are still needs of our city .We hope to have street signs with the names of our Sister Cities proudly displayed at all major entrances to the City of Vallejo. This improvement project would benefit all of Vallejo's residents and visitors.

Vallejo has seven Sister Cities (Trondheim, Norway-1960; Akashi, Japan-1968; LaSpezia, Italy-1987; Baguio City, Phillipines-1993; Bagamoyo, Tanzania-1993; Jincheon, South Korea-2001 and Ensenada, Mexico-2023.) These cities would be acknowledged making it clear that we seek peace and value diversity of residents and visitors. Vallejo has been declared one of the most diverse cities in the United States. As such, it is important to educate local citizens and put our best foot forward to those traveling our streets and highways of the connection to Vallejo with the world.

When organizing Sister City International in 1960, President Dwight Eisenhower envisioned an organization that could be a hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world, and our goal is to spread the information of our Sister Cities throughout our community. We hope this will provide pride and a feeling of worldly connection for all who view these signs.

A suggested design is attached. We have been advised that a sign in that design, 18x24, in aluminum would cost \$100 +/- .

Entrances to Vallejo for Sister City Signs

~ Highway 29 at Maritime Academy Drive

~ Highway 29 at Mini Drive

~ Columbus Parkway at Benicia Road

~ Lake Herman Road at Columbus Parkway

~ I-780 West at Glen Cove Exit

~ Highway 37 at Mare Island Exit

~ Fairgrounds Drive at Corcoran Street

~ I-80 at Hunter's Hill

Public works has indicated that, given approval by the City Manager/Mayor, after final approval by the Commission, they would erect the signs with the caution that the cost of the signs is not in their current budget. That might be covered by the current Commission budget, if approved or covered by the Vallejo Sister City Association.

Paul Ligda, Commissioner

Elissa Shanks Stewart, Commission Chair



From: [PM](#)
To: [Erik Rzomp](#)
Subject: Committee
Date: Friday, December 5, 2025 12:35:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Hello Erik,

Yes, we have a proposed, 7-member committee in place, which is made up of 2 council members, me, the Mayor and 3 other prominent members who were carefully selected from the community after engagement with some stakeholders .

This committee is yet to be sent to the general assembly (council) meeting for the final approval

and set specific terms of reference for the committee, which will be done very soon.

I would forward the details of the committee to you immediately after the council's approval.

Thank you.

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From: Erik Rzomp <Erik.Rzomp@cityofvallejo.net>

Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 2:49:37 AM

To: PM <pm@bcma.gov.gh>

Subject: RE: Sister City Application Form

Hi Castro,

Before you pursue the SCI membership further, I want to be sure that we both have local interest to form a committee.

That is the requirement from both cities according to our guidelines.

Our commission has authorized the committee formation which requires that one of our commissioners find local people who want to participate.

The search for willing committee participants is ongoing.

We have a Sister City Commission meeting on December 15 where we will get a report on

the progress of forming a committee of interest.

Please let me know if you have been able to form a local committee of interest in Akim Oda.

Erik Rzomp

Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Andrea Sorce

City of Vallejo | Mayor's Office

555 Santa Clara Street Vallejo, CA 94590

(707) 648-4377 | erik.rzomp@cityofvallejo.net



From: PM <pm@bcma.gov.gh>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 4:53 PM
To: Erik Rzomp <Erik.Rzomp@cityofvallejo.net>
Subject: Sister City Application Form

Hello Erik,
I am happy to hear from you once more.
My City is not a member of the Sister City International though, we have made application to them since 27th November 2020 but we have still not received from them ever since.
My City has now had 3 different Mayors from the year of our application to the Sister City International and so, this current Mayor, (Honorable Solomon Brako Kusi) is counting so much on your kind assistance to make our City's dream come through.
The said application form my City sent to the Sister City International is attached above, for your kind perusal.
Thanks for your time.
Castro

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From: Erik Rzomp <Erik.Rzomp@cityofvallejo.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 10:43:28 PM
To: PM <pm@bcma.gov.gh>
Cc: Elissa Shanks-Stewart <eshanksstewart@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: proposed sister-city partnership

Hello Castro,

I hope you are well.

My Sister City Commission has asked me to follow up with you about your city's membership in Sister City International.

Have you been pursuing a membership?

Erik Rzomp

Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Andrea Sorce

City of Vallejo | Mayor's Office

555 Santa Clara Street Vallejo, CA 94590

(707) 648-4377 | erik.rzomp@cityofvallejo.net



From: PM <pm@bcma.gov.gh>

Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2025 1:29 AM

To: Erik Rzomp <Erik.Rzomp@cityofvallejo.net>

Cc: Elissa Shanks-Stewart <eshanksstewart@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: proposed sister-city partnership

Hello Erik,

I am delighted to hear from you and the good news as well.

I forwarded your mail to the Mayor, and he was so happy.

The Mayor, and I have together gone through every bit of the guidelines for forming a relationship and we are very much enthused and that, by the kind word of the Major, I wish to gladly inform you that, we are ready to proceed.

As you inquired also, Akim Oda is not yet a member of the Sister City International.

I look forward to hearing from you again.

Thank you for kind assistance.

Castro Asumadu Addae

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From: Erik Rzomp <Erik.Rzomp@cityofvallejo.net>

Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 2:03:06 AM

To: PM <pm@bcma.gov.gh>

Cc: Elissa Shanks-Stewart <eshanksstewart@yahoo.com>

Subject: RE: proposed sister-city partnership

Helo Castro,

Thank you for your patience.

Our Sister City Commission has agreed to explore a sister city relationship with Akim Oda.



Community Pairing Survey Date

Community:

State/Province: Country:

Primary Contact:

Primary Contact Phone:

Email:

Secondary Contact:

Secondary Contact Phone:

Email

Organization (Government/Private)

Demographics

Population:

Density:

Area:

Weather:

0

0

Predominant languages in the community:

Diaspora populations/culturally distinct communities:

Neighboring cities/countries:

Main industry:

Number of primary schools: Twenty - Nine (29)

Number of colleges/universities: Four (4)

Tourist attractions/points of interest:

The extent of government interest in and support for city pairing:

The extent of private groups/affinity organizations interest in the city pairing:

Awards or recognitions received by the city?

Personal testimony (helpful information for Sister City pairing):

Pairing Interests

What spurred interest for city pairing?

What does your city have to offer to a potential Sister City?

Other areas beyond the previous specific interests your city would be willing to pursue?

Thematic interests:

- Virtual cultural exchanges, festivals and activities
- Organizing global travel exchanges
- Youth/student exchange programs
- Supporting developing communities
- Humanitarian projects
- Economic partnerships / business development / trade delegations
- Virtual classroom partnerships
- Municipal governance exchanges
- Hosting Annual/regional conferences

Regional Interests (communities seeking a non-US partners only):

Any	Southern Africa	Central Asia
Central America	Northern Africa	East Asia
South America	Middle East	South Asia
Caribbean	Western Europe	Oceania
Western Africa	Eastern Europe	Other:
Eastern Africa	Northern Europe	

U.S. Regional Interests (communities seeking a U.S. partner only):

Top three US states of interest (communities seeking a U.S. partner only):

Geographic interests (ex: mountain/coastal towns):

Any specific cities previously researched?

Why do these particular cities stand out?

Aspects to avoid when researching potential pairings that could hinder the pairing process:

Any pertinent information missed in the previous sections?