



# HOUSTON-ABU DHABI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

## President's welcome letter

Dear Friends,

Howdy and Salaam!

As we welcome 2024, I am reminded of the profound connections that unite us across continents and cultures. It is with great pleasure that I reach out to you today, extending warm greetings and heartfelt wishes from the Houston-Abu Dhabi Sister City Association.

Our decades old partnership stands as a beacon of collaboration, fostering understanding and goodwill between our two vibrant cities. In this rapidly changing world, the bonds we have cultivated serve as a testament to the enduring power of friendship and cooperation.

Throughout the recent past, despite the challenges posed by global events, our commitment to strengthening ties has remained unwavering. From cultural and sports exchanges to educational initiatives, each endeavor has brought our cities closer together, enriching our communities and opening new avenues for dialogue.

As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism for the future of our relationship. Together, we have the opportunity to build upon our shared values and aspirations, creating a brighter tomorrow for generations to come. Our relationship connects citizens and businesses between the two cities through the various programs we support that focus on arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development and technical exchange.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of our partnership. Your dedication and enthusiasm continue to inspire us, driving us forward on this remarkable journey of friendship and collaboration.

In the spirit of unity and mutual respect, let us reaffirm our commitment to one another and embrace the boundless possibilities that lie ahead.

Lastly, I would like to invite anyone with questions about our association or programs to contact me by e-mail through [president@abudhabihouston.org](mailto:president@abudhabihouston.org).

With warmest regards,

President





## WHAT IS A SISTER CITY

A Sister City is an officially-sanctioned partnership between two communities from different countries. Sister Cities programs involve the three main sectors of the community: resident volunteers, local government and businesses. Such programs provide a vital service by broadening the cultural experiences of its residents and by providing opportunities to hold municipal, business, professional, educational and cultural exchanges.

## ABOUT US

The Houston-Abu Dhabi Sister City Association was formally ratified and launched at an official ceremony in Abu Dhabi on March 13, 2001 by the then Chairman of Abu Dhabi Municipality His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Butti Al Hamed and former Mayor of Houston Honorable Lee Brown.

Abu Dhabi and Houston, while geographically distant, share many common niches and areas of interest due to their economic, cultural, and societal factors. Some common niches between the two regions are healthcare and biotechnology, energy and oil industries, aerospace, education, ports, education and research, and love of art and culture among others. Over the years, there has been an escalation in the number of Houston-based corporations which have launched new offices in Abu Dhabi and similarly Abu Dhabi businesses and citizens are also invested in Houston's economy.

Students from Abu Dhabi have also increasingly gained access to universities in Texas, and hundreds of Emirati patients are often referred to the Texas Medical Center in Houston for further assessments and treatments.



## OUR MISSION

Our principal MISSION is to explore, promote, and facilitate ideas and opportunities between the two cities and develop a comprehensive method to share those ideas and experiences.



Collaboration between Houston and Abu Dhabi in the energy sector drives innovation, promotes sustainability, and creates economic opportunities for both cities and regions. By leveraging each other's strengths and expertise, both cities contribute to shaping the future of the global energy landscape.

Collaboration in healthcare between Abu Dhabi and Houston includes exchange of knowledge, expertise, and resources benefiting patients, healthcare professionals, and healthcare systems in both regions.



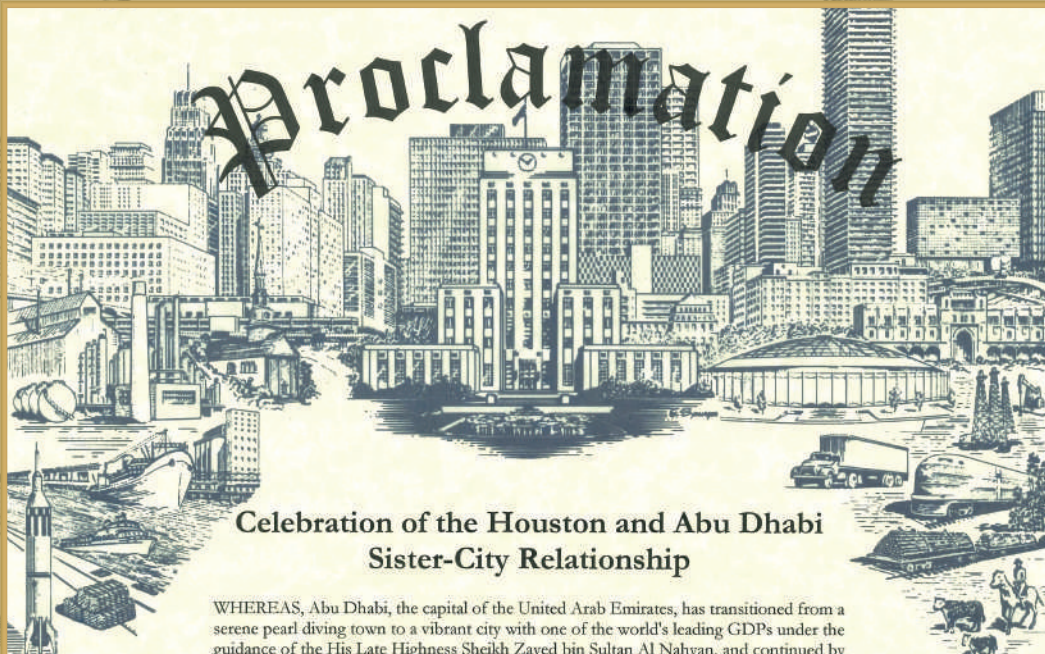
Houston and Abu Dhabi collaboration in arts and culture fosters creativity, dialogue, and mutual enrichment, while also promoting cultural diversity, heritage preservation, and tourism development in both cities. It could also involve loaning artworks, artifacts, and cultural treasures from museums and galleries in both cities to create immersive and educational exhibitions that celebrate shared histories and cultural diversity. By working together, both cities create dynamic and inclusive cultural ecosystems that celebrate their shared humanity and creative expression.

Houston and Abu Dhabi have significant involvement in space-related activities. Collaboration between Houston and Abu Dhabi in space exploration includes joint research projects, sharing of expertise and resources, educational exchanges, and even joint missions and partnerships.



***“Two Cities, Shared Dreams :  
Houston and Abu Dhabi Inspire Collaboration”***





## Celebration of the Houston and Abu Dhabi Sister-City Relationship

WHEREAS, Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, has transitioned from a serene pearl diving town to a vibrant city with one of the world's leading GDPs under the guidance of the His Late Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and continued by his son, current President His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; and,

WHEREAS, In 1965 President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated the principle of citizen diplomacy, fostering ties to reduce the likelihood of conflict, a concept that grew into the Sister Cities program and which engages nearly 145 countries, strengthening global bonds through various endeavors; and,

WHEREAS, On 26 October 2002, former Mayor of Houston Lee Brown, and His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Al Hamed, then chairman of Abu Dhabi Municipality, recognized the mutual benefits of partnership and formally committed to a sister-city relationship based common interests in sectors such as medicine, education, energy, oil industries, space exploration, port management, art, and culture; and,

WHEREAS, The relationship has led to a continued increased bi-lateral exchanges and number of Houston-based corporations establishing offices in Abu Dhabi, of student exchanges, and of patients referred to Houston for treatment in the Texas Medical Center, all of which has continued to the economic growth and opportunities for both cities; and,

WHEREAS, The strengthening and continued development of the sister-city relationship between Houston and Abu Dhabi should be celebrated and nurtured, recognizing the profound benefits both cities have experienced and the potential for future collaboration in diverse areas of mutual interest.

THEREFORE, I, Sylvester Turner, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim August 22, 2023, as

### Houston-Abu Dhabi Sister City Day

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor of the City of Houston

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# Contact

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