

Sister City News

A note for our members and supporters:

Building Bridges

The Sedona Sister Cities Association is proud to reaffirm its commitment to building bridges of understanding through citizen diplomacy. While national governments—including those in Canada and the United States—may see leadership changes and policy differences, people-to-people connections remain a steadfast way to foster goodwill, cultural exchange, and cooperation.

The foundation of this citizen-led movement dates back to 1956, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower introduced his groundbreaking People-to-People program. He believed that lasting peace depends on direct engagement between everyday citizens, saying, “I have long believed, as have many before me, that peaceful relations between nations require mutual respect between individuals.” This vision of “citizen diplomacy” took root through Sister Cities International, which continues to champion these values worldwide.

Today, the Sedona Sister Cities Association carries on this legacy through proactive partnerships and dynamic exchanges designed to promote mutual understanding:

Strengthening Ties with Canmore, Alberta

- **Friendship Cities Agreement:** Sedona’s Friendship Cities relationship with Canmore, Alberta, Canada, has already yielded inspiring educational collaborations. Initially involving one classroom in a single school, the program has expanded to five Canmore schools, connecting Sedona and Canmore grade school teachers and their students in culturally rich lessons.
- **Reciprocal Concerts:** Looking ahead, planning is in progress for concerts that will feature both talented youth performers and nationally recognized artists from Sedona and Canmore, further enriching the cultural ties between the two communities.

New Bridges with Jaslo, Poland

- **Historical Film Premiere:** Sedona recently hosted the premier U.S. showing of *Raze to the Ground*, a film depicting Jaslo’s destruction during World War II. This poignant event fostered a deeper appreciation for the resilience of Jaslo’s people and their shared history.
- **Visual Exchange:** Soon, Jaslo residents will view posters in their town square showcasing “The Beauty and History of Sedona,” encouraging mutual awareness and highlighting the captivating landscapes and heritage of Northern Arizona.
- **Educational and Scientific Collaboration:** The Jaslo Gen Science Center and the Science Vortex of the Verde Valley are preparing to launch cooperative projects, leveraging each institution’s expertise to enhance STEM education and innovation in both communities.
- **Invitation to Jaslo Wine Festival:** In August 2025, the Jaslo Wine Festival will welcome Sedona-area wineries to feature their varietals, offering an exciting cross-cultural exchange and opening the door to future economic and tourism partnerships.

A Steadfast Commitment to Citizen Diplomacy

Despite shifts and disagreements in governmental policies at home and abroad, citizen diplomats remain dedicated to weaving strong global relationships at the community level. Through visits, exchanges, cultural events, and collaborative endeavors, the Sedona Sister Cities Association illustrates the enduring power of grassroots diplomacy in bridging divides and creating a more peaceful, interconnected world.

Our mission transcends political changes. By bringing people together—teacher to teacher, artist to artist, family to family—we help establish mutual respect and understanding that paves the way for future generations.”

sedonasistercities.org