

Lexington Sister Cities

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW NEWSLETTER

LEXINGTON SISTER CITIES

CONNECT GLOBALLY, THRIVE LOCALLY

This extraordinary year has been made possible by the unwavering dedication of our diverse community—comprising members, ambassadors, sponsors, donors, and steadfast supporters.

Thanks to this support, we have successfully nurtured and expanded our Youth programs, cultivated enriching internship opportunities, advanced our university program, embarked on transformative tourism trips, and so much more. We are excited to share all that happened in 2023 and look forward to 2024.

Arts & Culture

2023 Young Artists & Young Authors Competition

This year's theme was "Peace by Piece: Food Security in my Community" which highlights the importance of climate change and issues that communities face with food.

The winners of our local YAAS competition were Eldon Stephan (1st), Jamie Thornton (2nd), and Sara Grace Eames (3rd). They received prizes of \$250, \$150, and \$100 respectively. Thank you to the Central Bank for sponsoring this program.

Eldon attends Sayre School, while Jamie and Sara attend Bryan Station High School. Honorable mentions went to Miriam Chavira-Garcia (Bryan Station High) and Ellen J Li (Dunbar High), who each received a \$50 prize. Althea Wiggs was the winning teacher from Sayre. A big thank you to all of our applicants!

The theme for 2024 is "ClimateScape: Resilient Cities for Tomorrow's Climate."

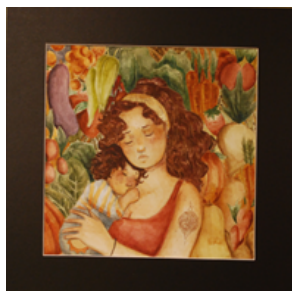
There are 6 categories for submission and applications can be found at <https://lexingtonsistercities.org/yaas-competition>. All entries must be submitted by February 23, 2024.



"Piece(s) of Childhood" - Eldon Stephan



"Will Work" - Jamie Thornton



"Community Gardens" - Sara Grace Eames



Inside This Issue

Arts & Culture.....	1
Municipal.....	2
Fundraising.....	2
Education.....	3
Youth Exchanges.....	3
Delegation Visit.....	4
Social & Membership.....	5

Commission Members

- Mary Quinn Ramer, Chair
- Thomas Appel
- Hannah LeGris
- Glen Krebs
- Heather Lyons
- Melody Ryan
- Sue Roberts

Municipal



Mayor Linda Gorton with Mayor Philippe Augier in Deauville

A 36-member Lexington delegation in September set off on a 10-day tourism mission to Deauville, France, engaging in enriching experiences that spanned cultural exchanges, scenic wonders, and historical landmarks. During this unforgettable visit, the delegation had the privilege of meeting with esteemed Deauville officials, immersing themselves in the charm of Deauville, and exploring iconic destinations like Paris, Baden-Baden, Strasbourg, and Reims. During their stay in Deauville, they had the opportunity to attend the 49th Deauville American Film Festival, visit the Normandy American Cemetery, tour the La Spiriterie Chateau da Breuil Calvados distillery, and Lisieux.



Fundraising

Golf Scramble

The 11th annual Golf Scramble was at Kearney Hill Golf Links on July 12th. 15 teams enjoyed playing golf on this beautiful hot summer day. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were given prizes in addition to longest. Congratulations to Scott Clark's Team for placing 1st, Kandi Harper's Team for placing 2nd, and Jeff Franklin's Team for placing 3rd! A big thank you to our ACE sponsor: Kentucky Utilities.

Make sure to mark your calendar for next year's Golf Scramble! It will be on June 10. It's a fun and easy way to support Lexington Sister Cities' cultural programs.



Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

In its 21st year, our Edward T. Houlihan Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event continued as an online silent auction. Generous contributions from a diverse array of local businesses made this event possible. The funds raised will directly support student scholarships, ensuring a bright future for aspiring minds in our community.

Thank you to all that donated this year to contribute to our fundraisers:

- Kendra Scott
- Chocolate Holler
- Hilton Lexington
- North Lime
- Cycle You
- 21C Hotel and Museum
- Ramsey's
- Vinaigrette
- Alumni Hall
- Solidcore
- Blue Sushi
- Shake Shack
- Failte Irish Import Shot
- Martine's Pastries
- Mulberry & Lime
- SkyZone
- Buffalo Trace Distillery
- Kearney Hill Golf Links
- Canes
- Kentucky Utilities
- Visit Lex
- Helen Hamilton
- Dick Mathy
- Bites of the Bluegrass
- Farmer's Jewelry
- Ethereal Brewing
- Kent & Dale Barker
- Four Roses
- Ethereal Brewing
- LEF Climbing
- Chipotle
- Poppy & Pomelo
- Target
- Pies and Pints
- BHG
- Talon Winery
- Wise Bird Cider Co.
- Lucia's World Emporium
- Shop Local KY
- Fizz Facial Bar
- Keeneland
- Chick-Fil-A
- Total Wine
- Greer Portrait Studio
- Krispy Kreme
- KY Horse Park
- Michler's Florist
- Peggy's Gifts & Accessories

Education



Loane in Lexington

- University of Caen Scholarship- Connor Hill a UK student, was the lucky recipient for the scholarship to attend the University of Caen in the spring of 2024. As well as Deauville student Loane Maupilet will be in Lexington studying and living on campus at the University of Kentucky for one year.
- Shinhidaka Internship- Anna Gutierrez and Jackie Wilder from the Japan Studies Program at the University of Kentucky were chosen to go to Shinhidaka this summer to assist in teaching English in the schools.
- Teaching Assistantship in Deauville- Katherine Rintamaa a student at the University of Kentucky and Sam Showalter a Transylvania student were selected to teach English to elementary students in Deauville for the 2023/24 school year.
- Deauville Internship- Emma Mantooth and Cynthia Kayitesi from Transylvania University were chosen to participate in the 2023 Deauville, France internship over the summer to strengthen their French and gain cultural experiences!
- Racing School Ambassador Program- Erwan Leclaire, a student from AFASEC in France, was in Lexington for 3 weeks working at Stonerside Farm, Jonabell Farm, Gainsborough Farm, Geoff Mulcathy Racing Stables and Hagyard Veterinary Institute.
- ESL Program with Shinhidaka, Japan, and the University of Kentucky- Ayana Hiroshima and Yuta Kotera were chosen to come to study English at The University of Kentucky 7/22- 8/12, accompanied by their teacher Hiroharu Suko.

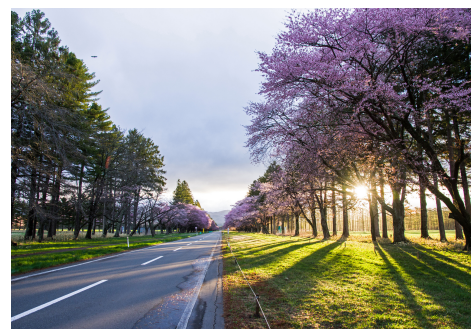


Erwan at Jonabell Farm in Lexington



Ayana, Yuta and Hiroshima at The University of Kentucky

2023 Shinhidaka and Lexington Photo Exchange consisted of over 50 photos.



Youth Exchanges



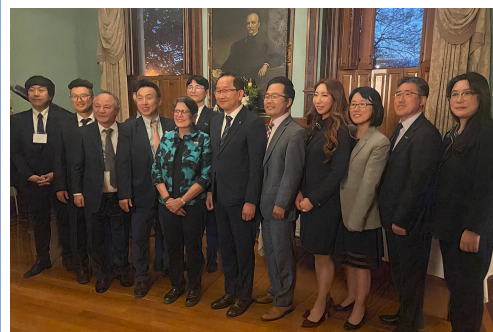
- 31 Lexington students participated in the 2023 Deauville, County Kildare, and Newmarket summer exchange programs. Students were from Henry Clay, Baylor, Lafayette, Scott Co., Atherton, West Jessamine, Christ the King, Lexington Catholic, Model Laboratory High, Great Crossing, Steam Academy, Woodford CO., and Virtual Learning Academy.
- The students from Deauville were hosted in Lexington July 6-27. The County Kildare students were in Lexington June 30- July 10, and Newmarket students October 20-31.
- We are excited to announce that our Shinhidaka, Japan youth exchange program will resume in 2024 for the first time since COVID!

Elementary and Middle School Exchange:

- Cassidy Elementary and The Lexington School began a video exchange with Deauville, France Elementary and Middle schools.

Delegation Visit

In April, a delegation from Jeju City, South Korea visited Lexington to discuss future partnerships. The 6 member delegation, led by Mayor Byung Sam Kang visited Keeneland, Alltech Lexington Brewing & Distilling, The University of Kentucky, Jonabell Farm, Fasig-Tipton, and The North American Racing Academy.



Delegation Visit

The 13-member delegation from County Kildare, Ireland visited Lexington 10/11-10/15/2023. The Delegation went on many tours: Jonabell Farm, Ashford Stud, Kentucky Capitol, Alltech International Headquarters, Alltech Lexington Brewing & Distilling, and Keeneland.



2023 State Meeting

The 2023 State Meeting took place on December 5, 2023.

Cities that participated:

- Owensboro
- Danville
- Louisville
- Elizabeth Town
- Pikeville
- Frankfort
- Grayson
- Moorehead
- Hopkinsville
- Georgetown

Topics discussed included:

- SCI Global Conversations
- All Americas SCI Summit
- City Networking Groups



AMBASSADORS:

- Jack Hilderbrand
- Dick & Annette Mathy
- Mike Seiler
- Helen Hamilton
- Jan Ellinger
- Jewel Vanderhoef
- Frank Thompson
- Missy & Wendell Jarvis
- Kent & Dale Barker
- Charlie & Linda Gorton
- Mary Ousley
- Kandi Harper
- Lisle & Kathy Dalton
- Brenda & Dale White
- Kathy Houlihan
- Molly Anderson
- Mary Parlanti
- Bill Farmer
- Kimra Cole
- Craig McCloud
- Richard Plymale

MEMBERSHIP:

Do you have friends who are interested in joining Lexington Sister Cities? Help them become a member today! Share our membership brochure with anyone you think might be interested in our organization! Encourage them to become part of this journey towards promoting international peace. You can find membership brochures on our website, or contact our office to send you one.

www.lexingtonsistercities.org
lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com
Office Phone: 859-258-3137



Social & Membership

To spread awareness of the Lexington Sister Cities Commission, we participated in the following events:

- UK Education Abroad Spring Fair
- St. Patricks Day Festival
- KY World Language Festival
- University of Kentucky Career Fair



Ways to help support

- Volunteer!

- GiveBGH

GiveBGH allows guests to purchase BHG gift cards online through givebgh.com, and designate 20% of the value of the card to their favorite non-profit organization



- Kroger Community Rewards Program

Call 1-800-KROGER, extension 3 to give your Kroger Shopping Plus card number (on the back of your card). Say that you want your card number to benefit LEXINGTON SISTER CITIES. After that, any time you purchase at Kroger, you are helping Sister Cities! It costs NOTHING to you, and it DOES NOT use any of your reward points.



- Donate through our website

Simply go to our website (lexingtonsistercities.org), and click on the DONATE button at the top of the page. From there, click on the DONATE NOW button, fill out the information and submit.



Follow Us!

Facebook:

facebook.com/lexingtonsistercities

Instagram:

[lexingtonsistercities](https://www.instagram.com/lexingtonsistercities)

Blog:

www.lexingtonsistercities.blogspot.com

Website:

www.lexingtonsistercities.org