

Talia Lomax-O'dneal
Director of Finance

February 5, 2019

Dear Talia,

Sister Cities of Nashville respectfully requests \$80,000 in Metro Direct Appropriation Funds (same as FY2019).

Sister Cities of Nashville works to promote cross cultural understanding, respect, tolerance and peace. We offer a number of programs and events for all ages that offer opportunities for Nashvillians to learn and connect with people of other cultures, most specifically our eight international sister city partners. We also work to provide financial assistance to deserving students who want to participate in our Student Ambassador program. This past summer, we provided more than \$13,000 in financial aid to students so they could participate in our two-week educational and cultural exchanges with our sister city partners. Students broaden their horizon and global understanding by visiting one of our international sister cities and learning about their culture, history and language.

Through our displays, exhibits and hands-on activities at festivals including Celebrate Nashville, Cherry Blossom Festival, French Fest, TIRRC InterNASHional Food Crawl, Dragon Boat Festival/Sister Cities Kite Flying Festival, Music City Irish Fest, we reach more than 30,000 area residents. Through our Student Ambassador program, we reach over 3,000 community members. Families have opportunities to host visiting international students who also attend the high school of their host "brother or sister," meet other students and teachers, and experience life at an American high school. Additionally, Nashville area students travel on cultural and educational immersion programs to our sister cities every summer.

In 2018, we also had adults participate in inbound and outbound cultural, civic and professional exchanges to Caen, France; Tamworth, Australia; Taiyuan, China; Kamakura, Japan; Mendoza, Argentina; Belfast, Northern Ireland; Magdeburg, Germany; and Edmonton, Canada. With all inbound exchanges, we offer opportunities for our members and others in the community to connect with international visitors at receptions, lectures, city sightseeing and home hosting.

We continue to receive interest from other cities around the world in becoming a sister city to Nashville. With the addition of new cities, we typically increase our membership and reach due to expanded interest in these new city partnerships. Currently, we are exploring additional partnerships and/or have had conversations with interested parties about partnerships in Mexico, Israel, Poland, China, Cuba and Russia.

We collaborate with a number of organizations and non-profits in town and work to grow those. This past year, new partnerships included the Arts & Business Council and Fort Houston where we hosted a free public event "Creating Community: An International Artist Forum." We hosted an artist exchange involving artists from two of our sister cities and Nashville artists who

participated in this forum as well as worked with a community group to paint a mural/fence in the Hillsboro/Natchez Trace area. We worked with the Girl Scouts to create a Sister Cities patch which is now available for local troops (16,000+ girls in GSMT) to achieve.

Our programs, activities, hosting and traveling opportunities for adults and students are open and available to all residents of the Nashville area. We promote our programs in area public and private schools.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this information or request. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Heather Cunningham
Executive Director