

ATLANTA SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023





ANDRE DICKENS
MAYOR



CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY AVE. S.W.
ATLANTA GA 30303-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

Greetings:

As the 61st Mayor of Atlanta, I am pleased to offer my support to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and the 17 sister-city relationships Atlanta currently shares in countries around the world.

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission is an essential part of Atlanta's international community. It represents an incredible tool to promote peace and prosperity through culture, education, humanitarianism, and economic development exchanges.

This year, nine students from the Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy visited Fukuoka, Japan, and had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Sōichirō Takashima. We also recognized our Atlanta-Lagos relationships with a signing ceremony at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, honoring a Sister Airport Cooperation Agreement between Atlanta's airport and the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria.

The City of Atlanta was also honored to host the Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee Annual Spring Luncheon at Atlanta City Hall and support the Atlanta Montego Bay Sister Cities 30th Anniversary Gala. In addition, our city was also thrilled to welcome Newcastle United F.C. to Mercedes-Benz stadium as the Premier League hosted its first pre-season tournament in the United States. Moreover, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of our sister-city relationship with Nuremberg, Germany, we hosted a delegation led by Lord Mayor Marcus König featuring City Councilors, City officials, business, and university representatives, as well as a youth delegation from the German-American Institute Nuremberg.

Our mission of an equitable and resilient city is achieved by drawing circles, not lines. Progress would not be possible without the efforts made by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, advocates, and volunteers who work tirelessly to empower and build upon people-to-people diplomacy.

The City of Atlanta salutes the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission's continued efforts to cultivate relationships with our counterparts across the globe. This work has been key to making Atlanta the thriving international city it is today. We look forward to continuing to foster and strengthen these relationships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Dickens".

Mayor Andre Dickens

Atlanta Sister Cities



Ancient Olympia – Greece 1994

Brussels – Belgium 1983

Bucharest – Romania 1994

Cotonou – Benin 1995

Fukuoka – Japan 2005

Lagos – Nigeria 1974

Montego Bay – Jamaica 1972

Newcastle-Upon-Tyne – Great Britain 1977

Nuremberg – Germany 1998

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad 1987

Rio de Janeiro – Brazil 1972

Ra'anana – Israel 2000

Salcedo – Dominican Republic 1996

Daegu – Korea 1981

Taipei – Taiwan 1979

Tbilisi – Republic of Georgia 1988

Toulouse – France 1974



About ASCC

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) is an organization whose objective is to form friendship links between the Atlanta community and similar jurisdictions in other countries so that citizens can express their goodwill and common desire for friendship and the development of understanding through a variety of mutually beneficial programs.

The ASCC encourages the participation of a cross-section of citizens in the development of international relationships.

ASCC manages the process of developing Atlanta's sister city affiliations, and establishes and supports a sister city committee for each recognized link.

ASCC has a vigorous program of exchange activities with its sister cities, including educational programs, cultural exchanges, philanthropy, economic development and social development.

ASCC members' programs have been recognized by Sister Cities International and awarded for their community outreach, economic and educational development.



ASCC Members meet at Atlanta Christkindl Market

Atlanta's sister cities activities contribute to the local economy through business and trade, tourism, education, and cultural programs.

Today, the ASCC oversees Atlanta's 17 sister city relationships and aims to increase the knowledge, goodwill, and understanding of the world through people-to-people diplomacy and exchanges.

It provides a platform for Atlantans to explore different cultures, expand academic opportunities, drive trade and investment, assist those in need, and ultimately raise Atlanta's visibility in the global community.

Through these strategic relationships, companies such as Sage North America and NurnbergMesse selected Atlanta for their North American operations; Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport expanded its global connectivity to Belgium, Nigeria, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic; Georgia Tech established global campuses in France and China; more than \$80 million of medical supplies and services have been donated to treat more than 50,000 patients in Jamaica; and more than 300,000 people visit the Atlanta Christkindl Market and enjoy the rich German culture each year.

Through these programs, and many others, Atlanta's sister cities activities contribute nearly \$100 million to the local economy through business and trade, tourism, education, and cultural programs.

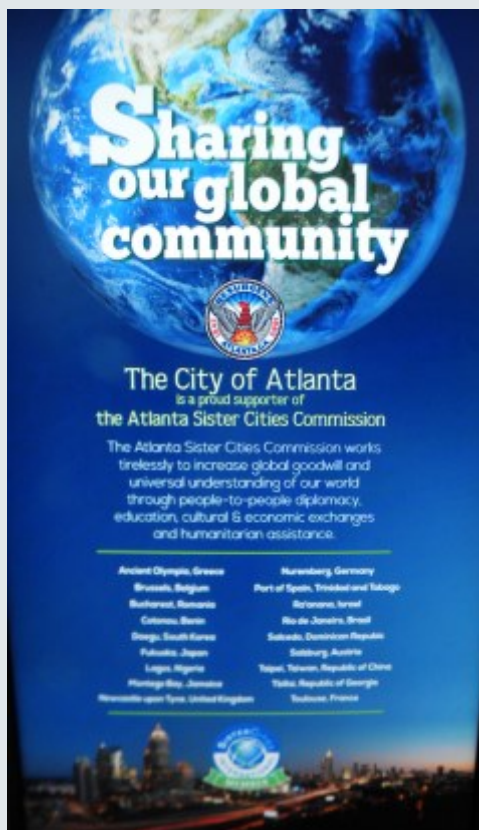
Chairman's Letter



Matt Ohm
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

I am pleased to submit to you the 2023 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC). In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC carries out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2023 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.



The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair appointed by the Mayor of Atlanta and ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, three additional Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

The Commission is supported by members of the Mayor's Office staff who participate in monthly and special meetings, help shape the Commission's policy and act as liaison with the Mayor.

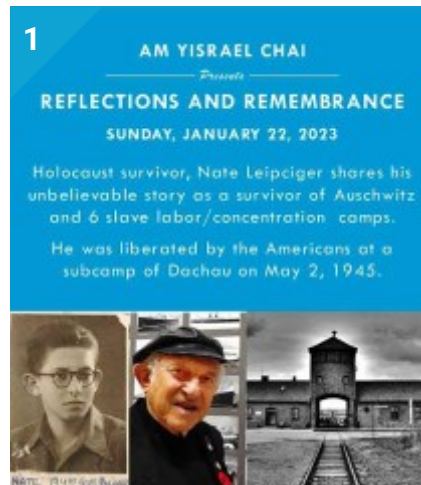
ASCC maintains a web site with annual reports and information on each of the sister cities. Please visit www.atlsistercities.com.

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Foundation, Inc is a Nonprofit 501 (c)(3) Corporation, organized to engage in charitable, educational and scientific programs that support the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and the international endeavors of the City of Atlanta.

Events In 2023

1. Holocaust Remembrance / January

Atlanta—Ra'anana: Holocaust Remembrance event featured Nate Leipziger, survivor of Auschwitz and Dachau.



2. Fete des Rois / January

Atlanta—Toulouse: The Fete des Rois soirée kicks off the year for ATSCC.

3. Vasilopita / January

Atlanta—Olympia: Committee sponsors Greek New Year celebration.



4. Chairs Meeting / January

Atlanta—Cotonou: Stanislas Mawugnon Dégbo and Chair Brandyn Pierce in Cotonou, Benin Republic, meet backstage at a Sagbohan Dani-alou concert.

5. Independence Day / February

Atlanta—Salcedo: Committee hosts Dominican Independence Day with Vice Consuls of the Dominican Republic in Georgia and Assistant to the Governor of Mirabal Sisters Province in the Dominican Republic.



6. Ambassador Visit / February

Atlanta—Salcedo: El Salvadoran Ambassador to USA Milena Mayorga, meets with Atlanta-based Dominican Republic Consular staff and chair of Salcedo Sister City Committee.



Events In 2023

1. Premier / February

Atlanta—Nuremberg: Documentary film premiere for Nuremberg-born artist, Steffen Thomas: Rock & Chisel.



2. Consul Reception / February

Atlanta—Toulouse: A reception was held for the new French Consul General, Anne-Laure Desjonqueres.



3. Africa Summit / February

Lagos—Atlanta: Chair Dr. Augustine Esogbue attended the Sister Cities International Summit in Capetown, South Africa.



4. SCADFASH / February

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC toured the SCADFASH exhibition "Madame Gres: The Art of Draping."



5. Delegation/ February

Atlanta—Salcedo: Dominican delegation with Asst. Governor of Salcedo, tours the Michael C. Carlos Museum.



6. Emperor Birthday / February

Atlanta—Fukuoka: Birthday reception in Atlanta for His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Fukuoka table display.



7. Daffodil Dash / March

Atlanta—Ra'anana: The 2023 [Daffodil Dash](#), was held in March. The Daffodil Dash raises funds for holocaust education and genocide awareness.



Events In 2023

1. Marrakech / March

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC Board members met with Toulouse-Atlanta Board members in Marrakech, Morocco.



2. Mayor Meeting / April

Atlanta—Cotonou: Committee Members met with Cotonou Mayor Luc A Atrokpo to discuss plans for future engagement between the two cities.

3. Spring Lunch / April

Atlanta—Montego Bay: AMBSCC Spring Luncheon takes place at Atlanta City Hall.



4. Tour Group / April

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members enjoy tour of stately Oak Hill in Rome, the home of pioneer educator Martha Berry.

5. Guest Speaker / April

Atlanta—Toulouse: Toulouse native, Marie Belgioino, speaks at the ATSCC spring luncheon at La Petite Maison.



6. Meeting Outdoors / May

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members enjoyed a hike at Clyde Shepherd Nature Center, Decatur.



Events In 2023

1. Museum Tour / June

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members were impressed with the Michael C. Carlos exhibition “Life and The After-life”.



2. Nuit en Blanc / June

Atlanta—Toulouse: The annual ATSCC Nuit en Blanc soirée was held at a lakeside setting.



3. Summer Welcome / June

Atlanta—Olympia: Olympia Committee sponsors a summer seasonal community celebration.



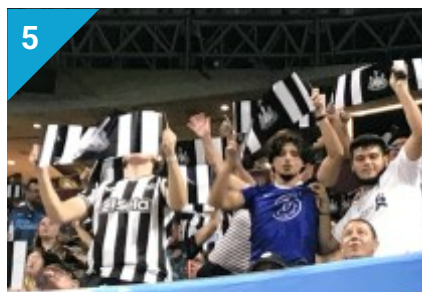
4. Radio Interview / June

Atlanta—Salcedo: WABE host Rose Scott delivers a radio show focused on the Dominican Community and Atlanta’s international relationships.



5. Professional Soccer / July

Atlanta—Newcastle: 70,000 fans watch Newcastle United Football Club vs Chelsea at Mercedes Benz Stadium, Atlanta.



6. Youth Soccer / July

Atlanta—Newcastle: Former Atlanta United, now Newcastle, winger, Miguel Almiron, presents Mayor Andre Dickens with a shirt bearing the Newcastle colors after meeting young players with the Soccer-in-the-Streets Organization.



Events In 2023

1. Anniversary / July

Atlanta—Nuremberg: The 25th anniversary of the sister city relationship is celebrated in Nuremberg. Atlanta's sister city chairs are recognized for their service.



2. Historical Tour / July

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC visited the Atlanta Preservation Center for a tour of Historic Druid Hills.



3. Royal Reception / July

Atlanta—Cotonou: Sister City Chair hosted Her Royal Majesty Queen Mother Sèmèvo 1st, Dr. Dòwòti Dèsir from Benin Republic, at a private reception in Atlanta.



4. City Hall Visit / July

Atlanta—Fukuoka: Atlanta chair held a meeting with the International Affairs Section's staff at Fukuoka City Hall.



5. Exhibition / July

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members toured the '75 Years of Porsche' exhibition at the Savoy Automobile Museum in Cartersville.



6. Life Celebration / July

Atlanta—Port of Spain: The Trinidadian Community celebrates the life of Norma Kendall-Hamlett, former chair Atlanta-Port of Spain Sister City Committee.



7. Youth Camp / July

Atlanta—Daegu: University students from Daegu's sister cities gathered in Daegu to attend the Youth Camp for a week to learn the Korean language and culture and make friendship among participants.



Events In 2023

1. Recognition Award / July

Lagos—Atlanta: Debby Classique Entertainment Magazine recognized Lagos chair, Dr. Augustine Esogbue, with a lifetime honor achievement award.



2. Wine Tasting / August

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC hosted a French Wine Tasting with members of the French Chamber of Commerce.



3. President Summit / August

Atlanta—Daegu: Chair meets with Mayor Dickens and Korean President, Yoon Suk Yeo, who was en-route to a summit at Camp David.



4. JapanFest / September

Atlanta—Fukuoka: Fukuoka Committee participated in JapanFest 2023 to promote Fukuoka as Atlanta's sister city.



5. Journalist Visit / September

Atlanta—Newcastle: Michal Jensby of GlobalAtlanta visits business, civic and sports connections in Newcastle.



6. Student Reception / September

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC held a brunch for Georgia Tech graduate students from the Metz, France, campus.



Events In 2023

1. Paris Exhibition / September

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members toured the High Museum exhibition 'In the City of Light: Paris, 1850-1920.'



2. Fundraiser / September

Atlanta—Montego Bay: Community award presentation at the fundraising event in support of the AMBSCC upcoming Health Mission.



3. Cultural Day / September

Lagos—Atlanta: Committee members joined diplomatic and community leaders to celebrate Nigeria Cultural Day at Stone Mountain Park, hosted by the Alliance of Nigerian Organizations in Georgia.

4. Sustainability / October

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC toured The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design at Georgia Tech.

5. Mayor Delegation / October

Atlanta —Nuremberg: The Lord Mayor of Nuremberg and a delegation, including councilors and student groups, visits Atlanta.

6. Korean Festival / October

Atlanta—Daegu: : Committee sponsors the Atlanta Korean Festival and promotes the sister city relationship as well as a discussion about the new Daegu-Kyungbuk Airport Project.



Events In 2023

1. Museum / October

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members toured the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art.



2. Film Festival / October

Atlanta—Olympia: The Greek Consul in Atlanta and Co Chair of Ancient Olympia Greece welcomed participants at the Atlanta Greek Film Expo.



3. Mayor Meeting / October

Atlanta—Cotonou: Committee Chair Brandyn Pierce meets Cotonou Mayor Luc A. Atrokpo at the AIMF Conference hosted in Cotonou.



4. Health Mission / October

Atlanta—Montego Bay: At the 30th Annual Health Mission—donation of medications and other supplies to the Health Department in Montego Bay.



5. Credit Union Day / October

Atlanta—Montego Bay: The Credit Union of Atlanta is joined by Montego Bay's Gateway Cooperative Credit Union to celebrate Credit Union Day.



6. Kosher Festival / October

Atlanta—Ra'anana: Committee members attended the annual Atlanta Kosher Barbeque Festival to show support for the sponsors, community, and Israel.



Events In 2023

1. Consul Tour / October

Atlanta—Fukuoka: Atlanta Japanese Consul General, Mio Maeda, visited Fukuoka City Hall as well as Seinan University and Fukusho High School, which have been interacting with colleges in Atlanta.



2. Springboard City / October

Atlanta—Fukuoka: GlobalAtlanta visits Fukuoka to report on how American companies can use the city as a springboard for the Japanese market.

3. Cultural Identity / October

Lagos—Atlanta: Chair Dr. Austin Esogbue was Silver Sponsor of an Alliance of Nigerian Organizations in Georgia' Otu Umunne Cultural Music Launching and Fundraiser event.



4. Interview / November

Atlanta—Newcastle: Chair gives interview on the city relationship to Older Voices, the weekly radio show of the Elders Council of Newcastle.



5. Thanksgiving / November

Atlanta—Montego Bay: Holiday treats are served in Atlanta and Montego Bay.



6. Holiday Celebration / December

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members enjoy their annual holiday party.



COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Mr. Matt Ohm, Chair

Dr. Margo Alexander, Ancient Olympia

Chair, Brussels

Mr. Nick Modares, Bucharest

Mr. Brandyn Pierce, Cotonou

Mr. John Lee, Daegu

Ms. Keiko Scott, Fukuoka

Dr. Augustine Esogbue, Lagos

Dr. Yvonne Smith, Montego Bay

Mr. David Smith, Newcastle

Ms. Dorothea Hockel, Nuremberg

Ms. Karen Clarke, Port of Spain

Dr. Arnold Heller, Ra'anana

Ms. Alexis Powers, Rio de Janeiro

Mr. Victor Ramirez, Salcedo

Mr. Allen Chang, Taipei

Ms. Nina Tickaradze, Tbilisi

Mr. Weslyn Samson, Toulouse

Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

55 Trinity Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
info@atlsistercities.com
www.atlsistercities.com

