

# ANNUAL REPORT



2019



## CITY OF ATLANTA

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

TEL (404) 330-6100

KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS  
MAYOR

Greetings:

As the 60<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Atlanta, it is my pleasure to offer my support to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission.

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.

The City of Atlanta salutes the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission's continued efforts to cultivate relationships with our counterparts across the globe, and we appreciate the Sister Cities Committees' service in making Atlanta the thriving international city it is today.

Sincerely,

Keisha Lance Bottoms

# 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.

## 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.

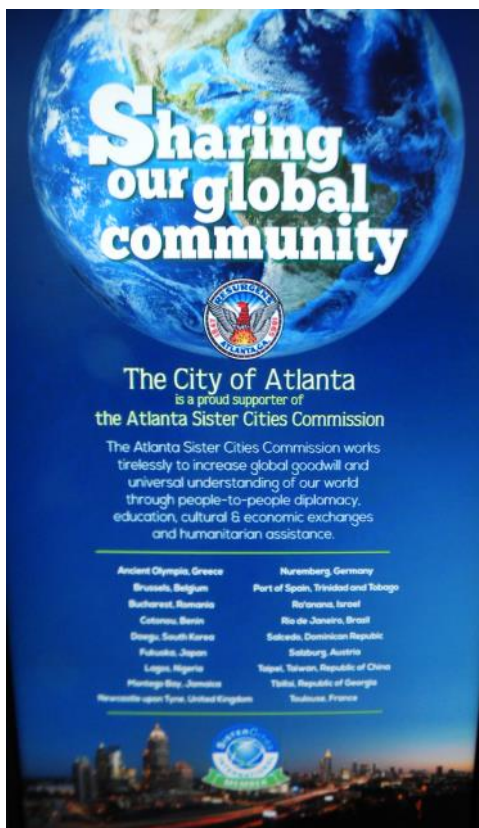
## Chairman's Letter



Matt Ohm  
Chair  
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

I am pleased to submit to you the 2019 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 2019 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, information on each of the sister cities and details of the process of becoming a sister city.

[www.atlsistercities.org](http://www.atlsistercities.org)

# 2018 Highlights

## 25th Annual Health Mission

2018 was a year of celebration for Atlanta Montego Bay Sister Cities as it celebrated 25 years of medical missions. Over 50,000 patients have been served in 25 years to the approximate value of US \$5 million.

The annual Vin Martin Memorial Health Mission took place from October 8-12, 2018. Members of AMBSCC team donated medical equipment to local health clinics, in addition to providing much needed medical and dental services.



In September, prior to the Mission, Mayor Homer Davis and a delegation from Montego Bay were hosted by the Atlanta Mayor's Office of International Affairs. They had the opportunity of meeting with Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and several city management offices. The team shared best practices in areas such as water and sewer services, fire and safety and inward investment.

As part of the visit, Hon. Homer Davis presented awards to members with 20 years or more of service at a fundraising gala dinner.



Patients served:

50,000



Value of health services delivered to Montego Bay:

\$5 Million



# Events In 2019

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

- Atlanta-Toulouse:  
Fete des Rois.  
Theatre du Reve.
- Atlanta-Ra'anana:  
Presentation of "Hope and Per-  
severance".
- Atlanta-Taipei:  
Committee joins Hikelanta to  
volunteer cleaning of Birdberry  
Trail at Fort Yargo.  
Atlanta screening of More than  
Blue, 2018 Taiwanese box-  
office hit.

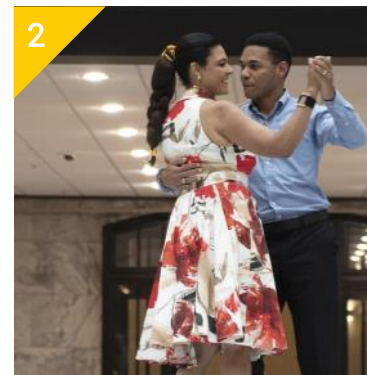
### 1. Holocaust Remembrance / January

Atlanta—Ra'anana sponsored presen-  
tation of 'Hope and Perseverance',  
Marion Blumenthal Lazar, Keynote.



### 2. Independence Day / February

The Atlanta—Salcedo Sister Cities  
Committee commemorated the 175th  
anniversary of the Dominican Repub-  
lic's Declaration of Independence.



### 3. Youth Exchange / March

Atlanta—Fukuoka: Seven high school  
students from Fukuoka City visited  
Atlanta as part of the annual Youth  
Exchange Program.



### 4. Trade mission / March

Atlanta—Newcastle: 'Northern Power-  
house' mission, comprising 12 compa-  
nies from North East England visits  
Atlanta.



### 5. Fundraising Brunch / March

Montego Bay Health Mission fundrais-  
ing brunch in Atlanta City Hall.



### 6. Daffodil Dash / March

Atlanta—Ra'anana sponsored the  
Daffodil Dash Run and Walk held in  
Brook Run Park.



### Business delegation March

Taipei Mayor accompanies a dele-  
gation to Atlanta. Signs memoran-  
dum to increase business coopera-  
tion.

### Student visit/ March

Atlanta—Toulouse: Celebrates the  
arrival of masters students from  
Lorraine visiting Georgia Tech.

# Events In 2019

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

- Atlanta-Toulouse:  
Basserie Bazati on the Beltline.  
Center for Puppetry Arts  
Diner en Blanc.
- Lagos-Atlanta  
Smart Cities Conference.  
Association of Nigerian Engi-  
neers and Scientists.
- Atlanta-Taipei  
Taiwanese tea party.

### 1. Tree planting / May

Atlanta—Taipei Sister Cities Commit-  
tee planted two trees, along with a  
commemorative plaque, on the  
eastside trail of the Atlanta BeltLine  
in honor of the 40th anniversary of  
the sister city friendship.



### 2. Student Exchange / May

Atlanta—Nürnberg: Maynard Jack-  
son High School and Sigmund-  
Schuckert-Gymnasium hold their an-  
nual student exchange.



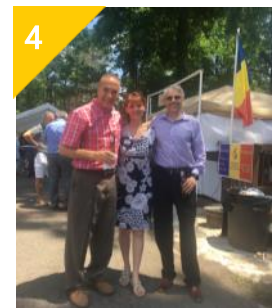
### 3. Great Art Fun / May

Atlanta—Daegu: Grand opening cer-  
emony and exhibition of Korean art  
at Atlanta City Hall.



### 4. Romanian Festival / May

Atlanta—Bucharest Chair meets with  
Mr. Darius Gazinchi, Romanian Hon-  
orary Consulate in Atlanta GA, at the  
Romanian Festival.



### 5. Executive meeting / May

Atlanta—Bucharest Chair meets in  
New York with Mirela Minca, Execu-  
tive Director for Foreign Relations for  
the Bucharest Mayor's office.



### Educational assistance/ June

Lagos—Atlanta: Chair makes a tour  
to the Lagos East Local Government  
Montessori facilities with to review its  
adoption by the Lagos-Atlanta Com-  
mittee.

### Memorandum / June

The City of Nürnberg discussions  
with the Atlanta Center for Civil and  
Human Rights to re-sign their Memo-  
randum of Understanding.



# Events In 2019

## Youth Ambassadors / July

Atlanta—Nurnberg: The Global Youth Ambassador's Program sent a delegation of 24 students on a trip to Germany. The delegation visited Berlin, Nurnberg, and Munich.

### 1. Porsche Experience / July

Atlanta—Toulouse: Members met at the Porsche headquarters to tour the exhibit of automobiles, etc. with lunch on premise.

### 2. Bastille Day / July

Atlanta—Toulouse Board Members were invited to the private reception of the Consul General in honor of French National Day.

### Children's convention / July

The Japan-America Society of Georgia sent the delegation of four 11-year-old children to Fukuoka.

### 3. Memorial / August

[Memorial to Saul Cohen](#), 1933 – 2019, a Founding Member of the Atlanta – Ra'anana Sister City Committee.

### 4. Travelogue / August

Atlanta—Toulouse: Travelogue by member Randa Bartow with slides on a recent trip to Dubai and Abu Dhabi.



### Puppetry arts / June

A famous Taiwanese puppetry troupe visits Atlanta to perform at the Center for Puppetry Arts.

### Youth Workshop / July

Paulina Guzman, Global Engagement Officer for the City of Atlanta attended a Youth Workshop in Nürnberg.

# Events In 2019

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

- Atlanta-Toulouse:  
Masters students reception.  
Women of the French Revolution.  
Beltline tour.
- Atlanta-Nurnberg  
Committee supports the Wunderbar Together PopUp Tour.
- Lagos-Atlanta:  
Donation to the African American Institute at annual fundraiser in New York.  
EKO Club Fundraiser.  
Visit to Lagos.

### 1. Jerk Festival / September

Atlanta—Montego Bay team provided emergency care to attendees at the Atlanta festival.

### 2. JapanFest / September

Fukuoka City booth promoted its relationship with Atlanta the largest Japanese cultural festival in the US Southeast.

### Performance / September

Atlanta—Nurnberg: German musician Stefan Grasse visited Atlanta and performed music from his new Album.

### 3. Independence / October

Lagos—Atlanta: Celebrating Nigerian Independence and service awards to distinguished Nigerians.

### 4. Health Mission / October

Montego Bay 26th Annual Health Mission. Included donations of medical equipment to local health clinics as well as medical and dental services

### 5. Adopt a Clinic / October

Atlanta—Montego Bay adopted two health centers which will better enable the institution to deliver improved quality services in their communities.





# Events In 2019

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

- Atlanta-Toulouse:  
Masters students reception.  
Women of the French Revolution  
Beltline tour.  
Impressionist Works at Ogle-  
thorpe.
- Atlanta-Nurnberg  
Nürnberg delegation visits Ger-  
man American Chamber Gala.
- Lagos-Atlanta:  
Address at Nobel Laureate play.  
Visit to adopted schools in Lagos.
- Atlanta-Ra'anana:  
"Rescue and Refuge" with Rabbi  
Bent Melchior, Holocaust survi-  
vor.

### 1. Ra'anana visit / November

Vice Chair Myrna Cohen visits Ra'anana to celebrate the planting of 500 daffodil bulbs and two saplings honoring child victims of the Holocaust. Mrs. Cohen was honored for 20 years as committee vice chair.



### 2. Taipei Symphony / November

Taipei Symphony Orchestra visits Atlanta to give a special performance at Rialto Center for the Arts, followed by a dinner banquet.



### 3. Economic development / November

City of Nürnberg Economic Affairs delegation meets with representatives of the City of Atlanta, the German Consul General, the Joachim Herz Foundation and the German American Chamber of Commerce.



### Fundraiser / November

Lagos—Atlanta: Africa's Children's Fund Evening of Hope supporting education and scholarships in Georgia, the Caribbean and Africa.

### Award / November

Lagos—Atlanta founding chair, Prof. Augustine Esogbue, awarded with Lifetime Achievement Award for his philanthropic support for the African Diaspora at Global Women Chamber of Commerce Festival and Symposium.



### 4. Holiday market / December

Fourth Nürnberger Christkindl Market in Atlanta. Atlanta-Nurnberg chair welcomed the original Nürnberger Christkind to the market. In attendance were representatives of the Cities of Nürnberg and Atlanta and German Consulate.

### 5. Summit / December

USA— Nigeria Investment Summit, hosted by the Nigerian Consulate General.





## Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

55 Trinity Avenue SW, Suite 3450  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
[info@atlsistercities.org](mailto:info@atlsistercities.org)  
[www.atlsistercities.org](http://www.atlsistercities.org)

### COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Mr. Matt Ohm, Chair

Dr. Margo Alexander, Ancient Olympia  
Chair, Brussels

Mr. Nick Modares, Bucharest

Dr. Charleise Young, Cotonou

Mr. John Lee, Daegu

Ms. Keiko Scott, Fukuoka

Dr. Augustine Esogbue, Lagos

Dr. Yvonne Smith, Montego Bay

Mr. David Smith, Newcastle

Mr. Matt Ohm, Nuremberg

Ms. Karen Clarke, Port of Spain

Dr. Arnold Heller, Ra'anana

Chair, Rio de Janeiro

Mr. Victor Ramirez, Salcedo

Mr. Allen Chang, Taipei

Ms. Nina Tickaradze, Tbilisi

Ms. Sherry von Klitzing, Toulouse