

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022





ANDRE DICKENS  
MAYOR



## CITY OF ATLANTA

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Greetings:

As the 61st 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 for promoting peace and prosperity through culture, education, humanitarianism, and economic development exchanges.

Our mission of an equitable and resilient city is achieved by drawing circles, not lines. Progress on this front 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, and we appreciate your service in helping to make Atlanta the thriving, international city it is today..

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.



## 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.

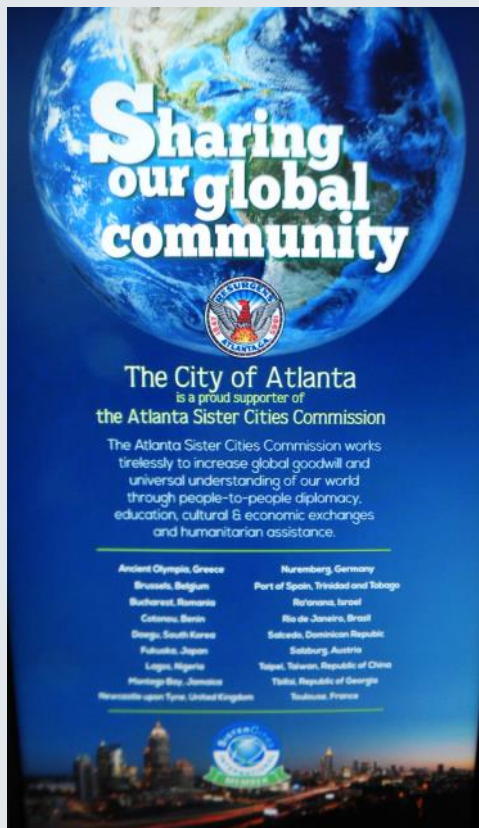
## Chairman's Letter



Matt Ohm  
Chair  
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

I am pleased to submit to you the 2022 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 2022 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 city. Please visit [www.atlsistercities.com](http://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 2022

## 1. Holocaust Remembrance / January

Atlanta—Ra'anana: Holocaust Remembrance event featured Ella Blumenthal, a survivor of Majdanek, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.



## 2. Tour Groups / January

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC tours Ivy Hall and the SCADFlash Behind the Scenes exhibition.



## 3. Film Expo / January

Atlanta—Olympia: Atlanta Greek Film Expo presented award-winning biographical drama 'My Name is Eftihia'.

## 4. Proclamation / February

Atlanta—Salcedo: Atlanta City Council presented the committee with a signed proclamation in honor of the Dominican Republic's 118th anniversary of independence.



## 5. Diversity & Inclusion / March

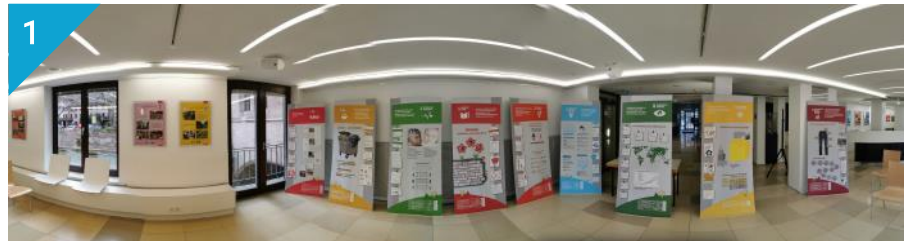
Atlanta—Newcastle: Representatives of SAGE Atlanta and other organizations meet with UK Minister, Mike Freer, and British Consul General to discuss D&I programs in Newcastle and Atlanta.



# Events In 2022

## 1. Schools Project / March

Atlanta—Nuremberg: Sigmund-Schuckert-Gymnasium and Maynard Jackson High School in Atlanta worked virtually on human rights issues such as human trafficking, the death penalty, educational justice, sustainable consumption and migration.



## 2. Lagos Meetings / March

Lagos—Atlanta: Lagos-Atlanta Chair and Atlanta-Lagos executives pay a courtesy visit and hold a working meeting with Lagos Island Mayor.



## 3. Independence Day / March

Atlanta—Olympia: Atlanta's Hellenic community celebrates Independence Day with Greek Consul Hon. T. Dimopoulos.



## 4. Daffodil Dash / April

Atlanta—Ra'anana: The 2022 [Daffodil Dash](#), was held in April. The Daffodil Dash raises funds for Holocaust Education and Genocide Awareness.



## 5. Consul's Reception / April

Atlanta—Toulouse: France's Consul General provides reception in honor of the Atlanta-Toulouse Sister City Committee and meets members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission.



# Events In 2022

## 1. High Museum / May

Atlanta—Toulouse: Committee members visit the Toulouse Lautrec Collection at High Museum of Art.



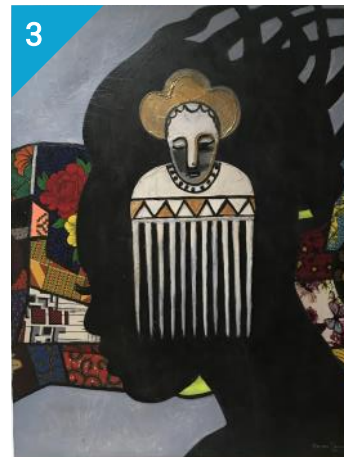
## 2. Cultural Delegation / May

Lagos—Atlanta: As part of the 'Nigeria Speaks' cultural event, a delegation visits Mayor Andre Dickens at Atlanta City Hall.



## 3. Nigeria Speaks / May

Lagos—Atlanta: A major cultural exhibition that showcased the wide breadth and richness of Nigerian culture, arts, creativity, literature, languages, and other forms of expression.



## 4. Nuit Blanche / June

Atlanta—Toulouse: French dinner in white that has become a tradition in France and now around the world.





# Events In 2022

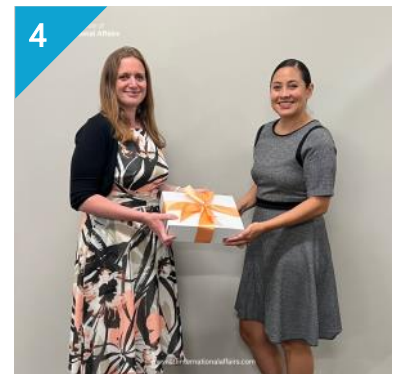
## 1. Inauguration / July

Atlanta—Daegu: Hong Jun-pyo, was inaugurated as Mayor of Daegu Metropolitan City. Mayor Andre Dickens and Mayor Hong Joon-pyo exchanged correspondence.



## 2. Exhibition / July

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members tour the French Rocco exhibition at Oglethorpe Museum of Art.



## 3. Founder's Day / July

Atlanta—Nuremberg: The Nuremberg committee celebrates Founder's Day at the Steffen Thomas Museum.

## 4. Consul Welcome / August

Atlanta—Newcastle: New British Consul General, Rachel Galloway is welcomed at the Mayor's Office of International Affairs.



## 5. Editorial Tour / August

Atlanta—Daegu: GlobalAtlanta editor, Trevor Williams, visits Daegu, meets Mayor Jun-pyo and writes [extensively on Georgia's links with South Korea](#).

# Events In 2022

## 1. Soccer Link / August

Atlanta—Newcastle: Darren Eales, President of Atlanta United since its inception, returns to the UK as CEO of Newcastle United.



## 2. Garden Tour / September

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members visit Woodlands Garden, Decatur.



## 3. Greek Festival/ September

Atlanta—Ancient Olympia: The Greek community celebrates 'GreekFest' in Atlanta.



## 4. Fundraiser / September

Atlanta—Montego Bay: At their health care mission fundraising, MBSSC chair, Dr. Yvonne Smith, receives an award in recognition of her outstanding contribution as leader of the organization.



## 5. Culture Exchange / September

Atlanta—Newcastle: Georgia State University recommences its Exchange in British and American Culture with the University of Northumbria in Newcastle.



# Events In 2022

## 1. JapanFest / September

Atlanta—Fukuoka: The Fukuoka committee participated with a booth at the Japanese cultural festival.



## 2. Group Tour / October

Atlanta—Toulouse: Committee members take a tour of Ansley Park.



## 3. Studies Abroad / October

Atlanta—Newcastle: Vikki Hedges of the University of Newcastle visits Atlanta to promote opportunities for student studies abroad programs.



## 4. Greek Film Expo / October

Atlanta—Ancient Olympia: Committee sponsored Film Expo in Atlanta.



## 5. Independence Day / October

Lagos—Atlanta: The Nigerian Independence Day included a rally at Atlanta City Hall and a march to Grady Hospital.



## 6. Soiree / October

Atlanta—Toulouse: ATSCC members enjoy their annual crepe soirée.



## 7. Leadership Award / October

Lagos—Atlanta: Dr. Esogbue, chair Lagos-Atlanta Sister City Committee, receives 'Trailblazer Award' for leadership among Nigerian organizations in Georgia.



# Events In 2022

## 1. Cotonou Exploration / October

Atlanta—Cotonou: Brandyn Pierce visits Cotonou, Benin, to explore exchange potential with Atlanta.



## 2. Memorandum / October

Atlanta—Nuremberg: Memorandum of Understanding for student exchanges signed between Atlanta Technical College and Nuremberg B-1 College.



## 4 Thanksgiving / November

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



## 5. Christkindl Market/ December

Atlanta—Nuremberg: Sister City Commission members and guests meet at the traditional German holiday marketplace in Atlanta.



## 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. Franzisca Heinze, 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

Msr. Weslyn Samson, Toulouse

## Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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