

# Cincinnati USA Sister City Association Newsletter

Building Bridges, Connecting People, Promoting Peace

Volume 1, Edition 3

December 2009



Dear Friends,

Hard to believe another year has past. It has certainly been a busy one. Taking a cue from the December edition of Cincinnati Magazine, which detailed the positive diplomatic impact of gift sharing between Cincinnati and our sister cities, we can reflect upon the many wonderful gifts that are unwrapped as a result of Sister City programs and outreach. Our international connections helped secure the World Choir games in 2012; work on the Berlin Wall Monument project continues; delegations visit Cincinnati and interact with students, professionals and business leaders. This is the way people-to-people connections are supposed to work and with the help of hundreds of volunteers hosting, meeting, and collaborating, it does.

If there was one present I would like to see under the sister city tree, it would be more direct international flights, particularly one to Asia.

Happy holidays!

Bob Stevie, Executive Director

## Name Change in Progress: Cincinnati USA Sister City Association Selected

With a unanimous vote from the OKI Sister City Coalition Board members, the name of the organization is changing to the *Cincinnati USA Sister City Association*.

The Board believes that the new name will more accurately reflect the organization's mission. In the past, people living outside of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana area, particularly those living internationally, did not recognize the region and had difficulty understanding what it meant. The new name is also more in line with other regional partners such as the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau.

## Sister Cities Weekend at Findlay Market



Nancy sister city table at Findlay Market.

On October 24th and 25th, the historic Findlay Market graciously hosted "Sister Cities Weekend" in Over-the-Rhine. The Cincinnati USA Sister City Association and its Sister City member groups partnered with Findlay Market to present a free event that was open to the public. Representatives from the Cincinnati USA Sister City Association and all seven Sister City member groups including Gifu, Kharkiv, Liuzhou, Taipei-Hsien, Nancy, Munich, and Harare were there to share information about Cincinnati's sister cities, hand out food and souvenirs, and make crafts from their countries.

Market-goers were tremendously receptive to and enjoyed interacting with the Sister City groups. Those unfamiliar with Sister Cities were excited that Cincinnati has an internationally-focused organization such as this and were eager to learn more. As Dominic Klier, an intern in Mayor Mallory's office from Munich, stated, "[i]t was nice to see the different nations and how they presented their culture and cities to the citizens of Cincinnati." We look forward to working with Findlay Market in the Spring to put on another great event!



Taipei-Hsien group posing with Findlay market-goers and their crafts.



## Munich Interns Share Their Positive Experience

For two months, Tobias Hauffe and Dominic Klier learned the ins and outs of local city government during their internship in the Office of Mayor Mark Mallory. In addition to assisting with daily office tasks, sitting in on City Council sessions, and accompanying visiting delegations, they had the opportunity to help with the Next Leaders Summit and the Cincinnati Energy, Economics, and Environment Summit. Through their efforts to promote Cincinnati's submission for the Cans for Cash: American Recycler Video Award sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Novelis Inc. and Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the City of Cincinnati won the national competition and was granted a prize of \$5,000 to enhance local recycling efforts.

While the impact the interns had on those they encountered in Cincinnati is apparent, the impact their internship and experience in the U.S. had on them can be best ascertained from hearing it in their own words.

**Tobias Hauffe:** "I have to mention that my internship in the Mayor's office in Cincinnati was a very interesting, exciting and miscellaneous part of my studies, let's say the "highlight" of my studies. I learned a lot about how a foreign city administration and government works on being involved by myself in the daily routine of Cincinnati City Hall. Opening the daily mail, helping other city employees and citizens, answering the phone, writing letters and proclamations, accompanying delegations etc. – and I recognized that it was getting easier day after day, especially the "barrier" called language was less a problem than I worried about



Tobias Hauffe, Carla Walker, Dominic Klier, and Kelley Boldt at Findlay Market.

before. In summary, this internship and the whole stay in the United States was a part of my life that I will never forget! Thank you!"

**Dominic Klier:** "It was of course a great time! The first time in my life I went abroad not only for being a tourist, but for working. By now, I have a good overview of how the city runs and functions. This was also possible because of the participations at City Council meetings or the introduc-



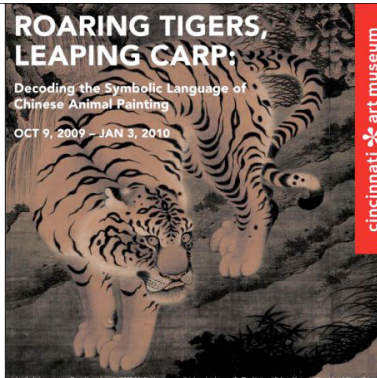
Tobias Hauffe and Dominic Klier.

tion of many projects and departments of the City to the people of the Kharkiv delegation, which we accompanied during their stay....Besides the smaller tasks like answering the phone, handling the mail or setting meetings, I also had the possibility to work for some projects during my internship in the Mayor's Office. For example, organizing the Sister City Day at Findlay Market or assisting the next leader summit and the energy summit - only to mention a few of them. But the most "beautiful" work is nothing without the assistance of the colleagues or a good working atmosphere, of which the Mayor's Office has enough. I found only good guys here. To conclude, I would take the chance again having an internship at the city administration of Cincinnati. But I think the city of Munich has other imaginations for me than going for another new foreign internship. The next time, I will visit the U.S., I will appear as a tourist!"

We certainly appreciated their work ethic and positive attitudes they brought to the office everyday. Best of luck in your future endeavors!

## 35 People Attend Cin-Liu Fundraiser at the Cincinnati Art Museum

On November 18, a special lecture entitled "Chinese History through Western Eyes" was given by Professor James Uhrig, a Fulbright Scholar, professor at Xavier University, and history teacher at Roger Bacon. The Cin-Liu Committee Fundraiser sponsored in partnership with the CAM was attended by 35 individuals. Professor Uhrig discussed what was happening in the Western world, particularly in the United States, when China changed dynasties.



The Cincinnati Art Museum will be hosting an art exhibit entitled, "Roaring Tigers, Leaping Carp: Decoding the Symbolic Language of Chinese Animal Painting" until January 3, 2010. The exhibit uses animal paintings and their symbolic messages to introduce Chinese cultural and art history. Please visit [www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org](http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org) for more information.

## Local Cincinnati Students Called to Participate in Sister Cities International 22nd Annual Young Artist/Author Showcases



The Cincinnati USA Sister City Association and its member groups encourage local Cincinnati students, ages 13 to 18, to participate in the 22nd Annual Young Artist or Author Showcases. The two competitions are sponsored by Sister Cities International.

The 2010 theme is “Your World... What makes you, you?” International travel and cultural exchanges can impact one’s life in many different ways. Students are to show how cultures and experiences have

impacted their ideas and perspectives of the world.

The Young Artist Showcase is limited by the number of submissions that each city can have, therefore Cincinnati Sister Cities will hold a local competition early in 2010. The number of submissions for the Young Author’s Showcase is unlimited. The official website for the competitions is <http://www.sister-cities.org/programs/youth.cfm>. More information regarding the competition will be available in January 2010. If you have questions, please contact Kelley Boldt at [kelley.boldt@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:kelley.boldt@cincinnati-oh.gov).

## Native Cincinnatians Bolster Ties with Nancy, France

Two native Cincinnatians, Jenny O’Donnell and Patrick McDevitt, have been living in Paris, France for the past couple years. They recently made a visit to Nancy, France before returning for good to Cincinnati. The purpose of their Nancy visit: to meet with government officials in order to continue forging the sister city relationship between Nancy and Cincinnati.

The conversation of their meeting with Jean-Michel Berlemont, Deputy Mayor in charge of European, International, and Cross-border Affairs, and his assistant, Verena Denry, centered on creating potential economic development projects between the two cities, internship and job opportunities, exchanging technological, cultural, and sustainability ideas, and promoting the 2012 World Choir Games.



Patrick McDevitt, Nancy Deputy Mayor in charge of European, International, and Cross-boarder Affairs, Jean-Michel Berlemont, and Jenney O’Donnell pose with the Rookwood commemorative tile, a gift from Cincinnati to Nancy.

Jenny commented that, “I believe if we seriously want to pursue substantive economic development projects with this city - the door is wide open and the possibilities are endless. We can capitalize on this occasion to change a merely token relationship to one that can provide lasting economic capital for both cities.”

In honor of their visit, Jenny and Patrick presented Mr. Berlemont and the City of Nancy with a commemorative Rookwood Pottery tile detailed with a picture of Cincinnati Music Hall. The two have returned to Cincinnati and hope to continue to bolster Cincinnati’s relations with Nancy.

## Munich’s Lord Mayor Ude Visiting Cincinnati in February 2010 to Celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relationship and for Berlin Wall Groundbreaking

Munich’s Lord Mayor Ude will stop by Cincinnati from February 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> after he attends the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. He will partake in a celebration of the fruitful 20 year sister city relationship between the cities of Cincinnati and Munich. In addition, he will be on hand for the ground breaking of Berlin Wall exhibit at the Freedom Center.



## Boldt Represents Cincinnati at the 2nd Japanese Sister City Exchange Forum



Boldt outside of the Japanese Consul General's residence in Detroit, MI.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Japanese Sister City Exchange Forum, the second of its kind to be held in this region, brought together mayors and sister city officials from cities throughout Michigan and Ohio, and served as a forum to exchange ideas and

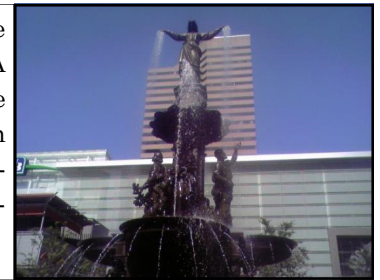
experiences about each attendees respective sister city program. In addition, the Director of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), New York office, gave a presentation about how CLAIR can

support sister city programs. Following the forum, the Consul General Ishikawa of Japan hosted the group at his home where attendees had the opportunity to meet and network with other individuals who are active in the U.S.-Japan business, academic, and cultural communities.

Kelley Boldt, the Program Development and Administrative Assistant for the Cincinnati USA Sister City Association, represented the City of Cincinnati and the Gifu Sister City Association. Boldt commented that the Forum was an “excellent way to make connections, exchange ideas, and promote Cincinnati’s international activities, such as the World Choir Games, to the region. I found our sister city program to be ahead of the curve compared to other cities that was represented there. That is definitely a positive nod to the sustainability and longevity of our program and the work of our volunteers.”

## Sister Cities Holiday Message Displayed on LED Screen in Fountain Square

When you are down at Fountain Square this winter for a little ice skating or a nice dinner, be sure to look up at the LED screen on the Vine Street side of the square. A holiday greeting in the different languages from Cincinnati’s sister cities will be shown throughout the month of December. We would like to thank our partners with the Fountain Square Management Group and the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation for allowing us to promote our organization and bring a little international flavor to the Square for the holidays.



## Zimbabwean Representatives Meet with Mayor Mallory

Last month, Mayor Mark Mallory met with the representatives from Harare and the Harare Sister City Committee.

Mr. Alexander Chisango, a religious minister in Harare, is spearheading the effort to redevelop the partnership between Harare and Cincinnati. He was appointed by the Mayor of Harare, M A Ma-



Representatives from Zimbabwe meet with Mayor Mallory.

sunda, as the duly authorized representative in negotiations with Cincinnati which Mayor Masuda hopes will, “lead to the restoration of the twinning arrangements between our respective cities.” The group presented Mayor Mallory with their progress thus far and their plans for the future.

Photos courtesy of: the Office of Mayor Mark Mallory, Dominic Klier, Jenny O'Donnell, Clem Luken, and Bob Stevie.

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