



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

April 7, 2026

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SUBJECT: COST OF ADDING A NEW SISTER CITY

This Informal Report outlines projected costs associated with adding a new sister city to Fort Worth’s international partnership network, including initial expenses, ongoing costs, and potential funding sources.

Background

The City of Fort Worth participates in the Sister Cities International program to promote global understanding, cultural exchange, and economic cooperation. Establishing a new sister city requires a formal City commitment and ongoing program support.

The City currently provides up to \$100,000 annually from the General Fund to Sister Cities, including a \$50,000 base allocation and up to \$50,000 contingent on fundraising performance. This report informs potential expansion of the Sister Cities portfolio. The Sister Cities Board has expressed interest in future additions, which would require an increase in base funding.

Estimated Costs

Costs are grouped into three phases: initial setup, ongoing annual expenses, and communications/outreach:

Phase	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Description
Initial Setup - One Time Costs	Year One - Exploration	\$16,000	Travel and initial engagement activities
	Year Two - Formalization	\$41,500	Delegations, ceremonies, and agreement execution
Ongoing Annual Costs for Sister Cities	Annual	\$10,000	Program delivery and sustained engagement; would require increased City funding Cultural, business, and educational exchanges; delegation hosting; program development; staff coordination
Communications & Outreach Expenses for Sister Cities	Annual	\$5,000	Public awareness and community engagement (managed by Sister Cities), marketing materials, website & social media, and public engagement.

Timing

The process to establish a new sister city spans approximately two years, with programming beginning in Year 3:

- Year 1: Exploratory travel (e.g., Pacific Hub: Australia/New Zealand)
- Year 2: Formalization via City Council action and ceremonies
- Year 3: Program launch and exchanges

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SUBJECT: COST OF ADDING A NEW SISTER CITY**Potential Funding Sources**

The Sister Cities Board will pursue external funding to offset costs:

- Private sponsorships (businesses, corporations, foundations)
- Grants (state, federal, private)
- Membership dues
- Community partnerships (education, nonprofit, arts)
- Partnerships with Visit Fort Worth
- Earned revenue from exchanges

Historical Funding of Sister City Development

The most recent addition, Nîmes, France (2019), did not require additional General Fund appropriations. Initial costs were largely offset through private fundraising, in-kind support, and existing funding. The City's fiscal impact was minimal and largely limited to elected officials' delegation travel.

Recommendation

Continue working with Sister Cities to assess long-term benefits. The addition of two new sister cities is contingent upon securing sponsorships and funding to offset program costs.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Valerie Washington at Valerie.washington@fortworthtexas.gov

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