

Recommended Path for Creating a Relationship with an International City International Exchange - Friendship Cities - Sister Cities

City of Austin International Economic Development Program
Austin Sister Cities International Committee
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A sister cities proposal will demonstrate that the following minimum requirements have been met:

1. The establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between one or more organizations in Austin and the international city to pursue at least one exchange, which has a positive economic impact for both cities.
2. At least two years of continual exchanges pursuant to the MOU.
3. A Friendship City Agreement which outlines the original exchange and includes a second MOU for an exchange with a strong economic development component, signed by the Mayor (or the highest municipal official) of the international city and by the Mayor of Austin.
4. The formation of a Texas committee of at least 15 individuals to coordinate the exchanges between Austin and the international city. A majority of those committee members should be residents of the Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area (Austin MSA).
5. Designation of the Texas committee as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
6. Two years of continual exchanges pursuant to the Friendship City Agreement.

The above requirements are minimum prerequisites only. Meeting them does not guarantee that the international city will become a Sister City with the City of Austin. Likewise, the establishment of an MOU and two years of exchanges does not guarantee that the international city will become a Friendship City with the City of Austin.

