

CULVER CITY SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Brief History

The Sister City concept started in 1956, some years after the end of the Second World War, during the Eisenhower presidential administration. A worldwide network of sister city relations was established to help rebuild nation to nation relationships and foster global harmony. Efforts were made to create “citizen diplomats” by opening communication between peoples of the world. Out of this effort came the Sister Cities International organization.

On December 10, 1962, the Culver Sister City Council established the Culver City Sister City Committee (CCSCC) for the cultural betterment of the City and its people.

Almost 45 years later, on June 22, 2008, Culver City Sister City Committee, Inc. received its Final Determination Letter as a 501 (c)(3) charitable non-profit organization, retroactive to January 31, 2008.

The Culver City Sister City relationships were established as follows:

Uruapan, Michoacán, Mexico	February 24, 1964
Kaizuka, Osaka, Japan	April 29, 1965
Iksan City, Chollabuk-do, South Korea	September 12, 1983
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada	November 6, 1989
Yanji City, Jilin, China	October 11, 1994 terminated 1998

With a City Council mandate to share Culver City, California with the world and the spirit of bringing the world to Culver City, the Culver City Sister City Committee engages our citizens in a number of creative and charitable activities that benefit both the sister city and our Culver City community:

Home stays - culture, music & sports exchanges for adults as well as middle and high school students;	
Cultural art and music exchanges	Ecology exchanges• Charitable support
International dignitary recognitions	Civic awareness development
Donations to select orphanages	

Mission

The Culver City Sister City Committee (CCSCC) is committed to promoting Culver City as a global city. The CCSCC promotes international awareness and understanding through cultural, educational, civic, and business engagement and exchange with our international sister cities by empowering private citizens, municipal officials, as well as leaders, business and academia to serve as citizen diplomats and global advocates.

Vision

In today’s global economy, the Sister City program is one key dimension which promotes Culver City as a global city, advancing cultural understanding, developing global connections, strengthening international partnerships and supporting business development.

Values

- Respect for all people, all beliefs and all cultures
- Inclusive for all to participate
- Volunteer in a team approach, with professionalism, integrity, and a focus to benefit our community
- Provide rewarding opportunities for our volunteers



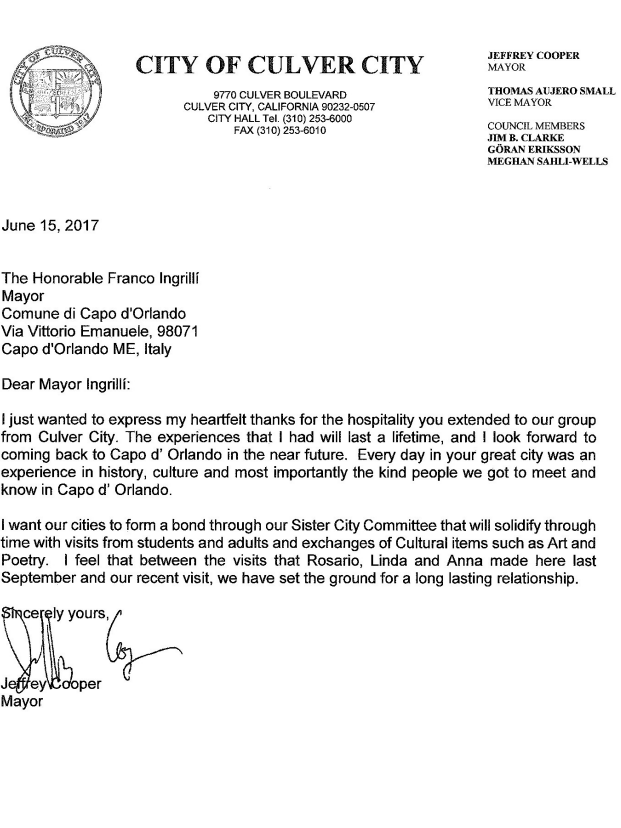
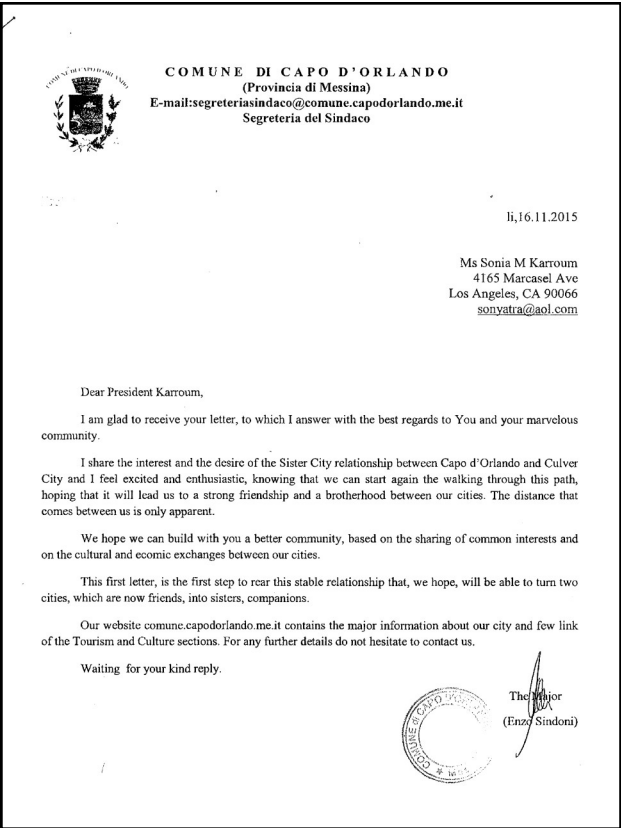
“Building bridges through friendship and cultural understanding”



Sister City Proposal

Capo d’Orlando, Italy
Culver City, USA

Culver City
Sister City Committee, Inc.



Capo d’Orlando

Is a city in the province of Messina, Sicily, Italy and is regarded as one of the main centers of the mountain and coastal district of Nebrodi comprensorio dei Nebrodi. Well known as a thriving tourist and commercial center, Capo d'Orlando is also the birthplace of the poet Lucio Piccolo, cousin of Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (autohor of "Il Gattopardo"). Artistic activities take place in Capo d'Orlando (museum "Villa Piccolo"), entertainment (cinema, theater, blues club). Capo d’Orlando is the home to a top division basketball team, Orlandina Basket.

Capo d'Orlando is renowned, among other things for its beautiful coastline, which offers a wonderful view of the Aeolian islands right in front, a remarkable coastal landscape and stunning sunsets to be admired. Tourism is one of the main resources that greatly contributes to the local economy. Capo d'Orlando's based on its centrality role in the area which makes for a point of reference for the entire surrounding area. For the massive presence of banks and businesses along with several fair sized factories located nearby such as "Porte IMIC" (wooden and metal door manufacturer), "irritec" and "siplast" (irrigation systems). Another successful business is related to the exploitation of the extensive presence of orange of lemon fields throughout the area.

The town started off as just a tiny fisherman's village of bare self-subsistence -based living. In fact, there wasn't a real settlement for centuries after the destruction, kidnapping and deportation of the former population ofAgathyrnum at the hands of the Roman republican army. It was reborn around 1925 after centuries of relative irrelevance when it was elevated to the status of Comune (council), whereas, before it was just a part of the territory of Naso (a hillside town located just above - i.e. to the south of - Capo d'Orlando), and the railway station was made, during the fascist "ventennio" (short history). During the 20th century, its population, influence and tourist development quickly grew taking Capo d'Orlando to a new level of “excellence” in the Sicilian frame which it is actually broadly recognized today.

The town also has a small marina for both fishing and tourist boats alike that also offers transportation to and from the Aeolian islands during the summer season and approximately 14 km of beaches, rocky shores that face the deep blue Tyrrhenian sea making it an ideal spot to enjoy the summer-time, early fall and late springtime. The location of Capo d'Orlando is also very peculiar because for a town that faces the sea, it is also very close (less than 20 km) to Nebrodi Mountain Regional Environmental Park: a fairly large extension of temperate woods, where is possible to hike to lakes, rivers, falls and tiny historical villages where everyone can enjoy the best of traditional Sicilian food and wine.

Source: Wikipedia

Sister City relationships and their positive impact on our communities:

Every city in a Sister City relationship receives significant benefits to its own community life, including enhancement of cultural and community vitality through cross-cultural exchanges of art, education, professional expertise, and friendship.

The Culver City Sister City Committee has supported cross-cultural sister city programs for over 50 years. Some of these programs include student and adult exchanges, annual marathon runner’s exchange, scholarships for our CCHS seniors, art competitions, student participation in the Youth Leadership Summit at the annual SCI Conference, adult exchanges among other community activities. Our city has also received group officials from two of our sister cities to discuss and review Culver City’s architectural preservation actions, water and waste management methods and commended us on our use of compressed natural gas (CNG) technology to run city vehicles. As we embark on this project to establish a new sister city relationship for the first time in 27 years, we see a positive outlook that will not only benefit our community but also open the door to opportunities for mutual cooperation between our cities.

We would like to highlight some of the benefits of a sister city relationship between Capo d’Orlando in the province of Messina, Sicily, Italy, and our city of Culver City:

- First:** A Sister City relationship will provide an economic opportunity through delegation visits, business ventures, and enhanced awareness of both cities as tourist destinations. Building trust, respect, and good communication are necessary prerequisites for business partnerships to succeed, especially in an international setting.
- Second:** A relationship between citizens from diverse backgrounds provides the building blocks to establish mutual understanding and respect for the cultural differences, leading to a solid and lasting friendship. Through one-to-one and small group-to-small group interaction, relationships will provide opportunities for collaborations in areas of education, arts and culture. Capo d’Orlando offers a rich art and cultural heritage, and at the same time is a forward thinking community very much like Culver City.
- Third:** The youth of our communities will benefit greatly from future student exchange programs and sister-school projects.

This recommendation is a first step to establish the Capo d’Orlando and Culver City sister city relationship that will have a positive impact on both our communities and the overall relationship between the people of Italy and the United States.