
**CITY OF MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

WASHINGTON, DC – The City of Monterey, California has won Sister Cities International's (SCI) 2016 Economic Development Award for a city with a population less than 100,000. The 2016 Sister Cities International Economic Development Award recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

In 2015, the inaugural Dubrovnik Half Marathon took place, including a Kids Run and 2K Run on the Wall. Nearly 500 participants representing 40 countries and 480 volunteers took part in multi-day festivities. The marathon was created with the goal of diversifying tourism in non-summer months, as a source of local well-being, and a means of expanding the city's economic base. The project help to bond Monterey and Dubrovnik and has been a huge asset to both communities.

The inaugural marathon created an atmosphere of camaraderie with people from several countries bonding with one another through the sport of running. It made the staff from the City of Monterey so proud to be involved with their sister city relationship acting as a catalyst. Not only has the City of Dubrovnik learned how to bring a sporting event home, they learned so much about how to bring in their local community to help and participate; most notably their youth and teens. They provide an opportunity for their youth to learn new skills, interact with a larger, more diverse community, and raise awareness for staying active and healthy.

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 16 during SCI's 60th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC.

SCI's 60th anniversary celebration will include an [Annual Conference](#) and [Youth Leadership Summit](#) in Washington, DC July 13-16, 2016. The celebration will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme "Peace through People," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 570 member communities with 2,300 partnerships in 150 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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