

1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 850
Washington, DC 20004
Phone 202.347.8630
Fax 202.393.6524
www.sister-cities.org



Promoting peace through
mutual respect,
understanding
& cooperation - one
individual, one community
at a time.

50th Anniversary Celebration, 1956-2006 Local Event Ideas

You can bring the 50th Anniversary celebration home to your community and use the celebration to draw attention to local sister city programs. The 50th anniversary in 2006 provides media interest and is a great hook to encourage publicity, raise money and recruit more volunteers.

Here are some event ideas for your local organization to consider when thinking about how to celebrate our 50th Anniversary at the local level. These ideas are a great way to start planning for your community's celebration!

Host A Tree Planting Ceremony

If you like the idea of hosting a media event that involves a minimal amount of time and effort, a tree planting may be just the event for you! The concept is simple: plant a tree in honor of the past 50 years of citizen diplomacy and the future and commitment we have to building a better future for our world and its natural resources. Invite International organizations, special international citizens, and revered seniors to assist with turning a few shovels full of dirt. Remarks by your mayor or other international dignitaries can embellish the event, but should be kept brief. Adding a group of children from a school class or youth organization can add additional excitement to the event if they assist with planting the tree and serve as an additional media draw. This event can be held in less than an hour and is visually appealing to news media seeking film footage.

Sponsor a Bookstore Reading

Description: The reading public's appetite remains voracious. In 2002 book sales climbed to more than \$26 billion dollars in the United States. How can you connect international engagement and people-to-people diplomacy with the millions of Americans who frequent bookstores and libraries more than the outdoors? Host a bookstore reading of a book or author that addresses multi-cultural or international engagement issues. Promote this event at your public library, schools, and community businesses. You may even ask a local author to do reading and address citizen diplomacy in some way. This is a great way to draw in a big audience and get the message out there.

Time Capsule

Help your community create a legacy in the creation of time capsule that leaves its mark on future generations. This is great event for bringing together a variety of organizations and involving youth. Promote this event at your local schools by having classrooms donate different items. You can also ask different international/minority organizations to participate by adding an item to the capsule. You can involve your mayor and other local dignitaries in the burying of the time capsule to draw media attention. This event can be held in less than an hour and is visually appealing to news media seeking film footage.

Cultural Arts Kids Carnival

In order to commemorate Sister Cities International's 50th Anniversary and increase participation in international engagement and citizen diplomacy, you can plan special events that draw attention to this movement. Here are some event ideas for your local organizations to consider when thinking about how to celebrate our 50th Anniversary at the local level. These "Events in a box" are a great way to get started on some exciting plans for your community's 50th celebration!