



Board of Directors Elections

Sister Cities International member communities will vote for the following board positions:

- 7 Board positions (three-year terms, 2009-2012)
- 2 Board positions (one-year terms, 2009-2010)
- One Young Professional (ages 21 to 34, two-year term)
- One Youth Representative (21 years old or younger, two-year term)

The two one-year board positions fill the terms of vacated board positions that expire in 2010. The top nine vote gatherers will be elected at Sister Cities International's Annual Business Meeting. Board candidates who finish 8 and 9 in total votes garnered will be elected to fill one-year board terms. Candidates interested in the Young Professional or the Youth Representative positions are elected in a separate category than the board positions as these candidates must meet age requirements.

Sister Cities International Board Nominees 2009

Lalit Acharya – Director Candidate

Lalit Acharya (Ph.D., University of Southern California) serves as International Relations Manager for Riverside Mayor Ronald Loveridge, overseeing the city's seven sister cities. He also spearheads the Mayor's initiatives on international, economic, and "green" development, and staffs the city's Human Relations Commission.

Acharya, originally from Hyderabad, India, was a professor of media law, ethics, and journalism prior to his current appointment in July 2006. As Chair of International Relations Council's India Committee (1998-2000), he developed the sister-city relationship between Riverside and Hyderabad on an economic platform, persuading two software firms TCS and Infotech Enterprises to open offices in Riverside. TCS invested \$1 million in software research at University of California Riverside (UCR) as a result of the relationship.

Mayor and Council appointed Acharya to the city's Riverside Public Utilities Board in 1999. He served as Board Chair from 2002-2004. In 2003, he was selected to represent California on the Policy Makers Council of the American Public Power Association. Acharya has served on the boards of UCR's Anderson School of Management (2004-2006), Riverside County Philharmonic (2007 to present), and Community Foundation of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties (2007 to present), and is co-chair of the "Green Jobs" team of the Green Valley Initiative of Inland Southern California (2008 to present).

Acharya is founder and president of Riverside Mahatma Gandhi Peace Foundation. He spearheaded the effort to place a \$500,000 Gandhi monument in Downtown Riverside. He is a 2004 graduate of the leadership academy of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

James G. Hromas – Director Candidate

Jim Hromas is the Director of International Education and Outreach (IE &O) at the School of International Studies, and Associate Professor of Marketing at Oklahoma State University. Responsibilities for IE&O include the Master of International Studies graduate programs, study abroad, international outreach programs, English Language Institute, and Fulbright resource center, OSU Mexico Liaison Office, OSU's Phil Beta Delta chapter, Independent Study, and the Wes Watkins Conference Center. Jim has held other positions at OSU; AMOCO Corporation in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and NASA Johnson Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas.

IE&O was honored to help develop Oklahoma's International Strategic Plan which included testifying before the state House and Senate regarding the status of international education in Oklahoma. IE&O continues to work with the Governor's International Team.

Jim holds a PhD in Marketing, MBA, BS in Accounting and has delivered conference presentations and papers on international education, service marketing and distance learning. He has been involved in several organizations at the international, national, state and local level and also served on many boards of advisors and directors including the Zayed University International Business Advisory Board, UAE; University Continuing Education Association; National University Degree Consortium; Leadership Oklahoma; Stillwater's Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Foundation, Leadership programs, and Frontier Rotary Club. He has managed projects/programming in Brazil, Canada, China, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates and was recently recognized by the national University Continuing Education Association with the Walter S. Bittner Service Citation.

Sarah Beverley Larkin – Director Candidate

Sarah Larkin is an Account Executive with New York-based Collective Media. Collective Media is a luxury online advertising network. She is a seasoned professional in the online advertising space with more than 10 years of experience, working previously at America Online and Google. While at Google, she was an active participant in the Google Grants program, an in-kind donation program that donates free advertising to charitable organizations. While a part of that program, she was able to offer her expertise in online marketing to overseas non-profits who otherwise would not have had the inside knowledge of how best to raise awareness of their organization. She was able to see firsthand the benefit of connecting with organizations overseas, and has sought a way to continue that work in the online community. Sarah is currently an active member of both the Dallas Ft. Worth Interactive marketing Association as well as the Dallas Ad League.

A resident of Frisco, TX, Sarah has traveled throughout Europe and Mexico for work and personal interests. She is committed to local volunteerism having worked with Habitat for Humanity, the Frisco Women's League and Frisco Family Services. Both Frisco Organizations strive to bring local volunteers together to build a better community through outreach services. She holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University in English.

Thomas A. Lisk – Director Candidate

Tom Lisk became involved in Sister Cities International at a young age when his father helped to found the first sister city relationship for Roanoke, VA with Wonju, Korea in 1964. He became active in the Sister Cities Youth organization when attending my first National Conference in St. Louis in 1978 and continued the next two years, attending the National Conference in Louisville, KY (1979) and San Diego, CA (1980), where Tom was elected National Youth President. In 1980, he was elected to a 3-year term on the National Board of Directors at the Kansas City, MO national Conference; however, he did not seek re-election at the end of my term since he was attending law school and could no longer commit the necessary time to properly serve. After graduation from law school, Tom moved to Richmond, VA and immediately became involved with the local sister cities committee, which only had one relationship (with Richmond-Upon-Thames) at the time. During his tenure with Richmond Sister Cities Commission, the city added five more sister city affiliations. Tom would now like the opportunity to return and offer my time and talent to Sister Cities International and the National Board of Directors.

Carol Robertson Lopez – Director Candidate

Carol was born in Erie, Pennsylvania--small wonder that her imagination was captured by images of the old west and wide open sunny skies. She now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

She graduated from New Mexico State University with a Master's and completed studies for her Ph.D. in higher education management, organizational development and experimental statistics. After retirement from 25 years in state government, Carol now works part-time as the Executive Director of the New Mexico Children's Foundation.

Carol completed two 4-year terms as a Santa Fe City Councilor and six years as the Mayor Pro Temp. While the President of the New Mexico Municipal League, the organization joined Sister Cities International and created an International Task Force to promote greater involvement for local government and the world. After leaving office, Carol became the SCI state coordinator for New Mexico and worked statewide with New Mexico's local programs and promoting new sister cities relationships. As an Economic Development Commissioner for New Mexico, the organization promotes sister cities involvement as means of building economic ties and opportunities.

Carol has been a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market. This Folk Art Market is the largest in world and promotes the creation of folk art markets in Africa through internship programs.

Her household includes her husband, Dr. Jeff Case, who served in the Peace Corp in Swaziland, her 87-year old mother, two great dogs and a cat.

Malou Mariano – Director Candidate

Malou Mariano is a seasoned professional with an extensive global experience in the private sector, the academe, and the media & arts. She has lived in Manila, Tokyo, Canada and the U.S. Her career experience includes working at Ayala Corporation, Kloeckner GmbH, Cameron & Middleton, and

Stanford University. She has also worked at the Corporate Secretary for an international hotel management company.

A strong advocate of community building activities, she has been a member of the Singapore American Business Association, the California Asia Business Council and Westminster Rotary. Volunteerism has been an integral part of her life that started with manning the UNICEF shop, visiting with the homebound elderly, advocating for the WWII Filipino American veterans, organizing multicultural festivals, and assisting other communities such as the Cambodians during their New Year Festival in Long Beach or the Indonesians at their National Day celebration in San Francisco.

As part of the media, she had a weekly column entitled “Over A Cup of Tea” for the Manila Bulletin USA for almost 5 years and has co-hosted in a Saturday Radio Show called “*Pagusapan Natin*” (Let’s Talk). She is an active author and for her contributions to the Philippine Library & Historical Heritage Museum in San Diego, she was presented the 2008 “*Bayanihan Spirit*” Award in June 2008.

Today, she lives in downtown Long Beach, California close to her mother. She hopes to continue traveling and find the time to indulge in pastel painting.

Frank Tripicchio – Director Candidate

Frank Tripicchio was born in the Southern Region of Italy in 1947. In 1961, along with his immediate family he immigrated into the USA, as a permanent resident. For a number of years his family all lived in the NY, NJ area, where he attended secondary school, community college and technical school, graduating with an AA degree in Electrical Construction. In 1971 he was married and by 1974 his family had grown to four, a son born in February of 1973 and four daughters born in May of 1974. By 1980 he had established his own company, Electrical Construction Co., which he operated until 1985.

The last four years of his residence in NJ he became active with the local school board and a member, as well as chair, of the Environmental Commission of the township. In 1984 his children visited relatives in Southern California and, prompted by their desire to live closer to relatives, in 1985 the family moved to Bakersfield, CA. Since his move to California, he has served in a number of community leadership positions including an appointment to the Advisory Committee for the Panama School District to review the, then present, academic curriculum and recommend modifications. From 1986-1994, Frank concentrated on establishing himself as a real estate professional.

Mark Walton – Director Candidate

Mark Walton has over 20 years experience in marketing, media and business development. Mr. Walton is currently Executive Vice President for Sponsorship & Corporate Development at *The Africa Channel*, a cable television network that brings viewers around the world closer to daily life in Africa.

In his role, Mark is responsible for all advertising sales and sponsorship activities as well as with developing relationships with organizations operating in the African arena. He is also the liaison with a number of African countries.

Prior to joining *The Africa Channel*, he was President / CEO of Onyx Media Group International, an advertising sales and program distribution company, he co-founded. Mark spent over ten years with the

CBS Television Network holding various management positions in sales, marketing and finance. He also was the head of marketing for an independent film distributor; he has been an account manager at an advertising agency and a writer for a monthly newsmagazine.

Among his other affiliations, Mark is an adjunct instructor at Fordham University's Graduate School of Business and serves on the Board of Directors for the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center. He is a member of the Board of Advisors at the Yale School of Management. Mark holds a BS in journalism from Boston University and received a Master's from the Yale School of Management.

He lives in New York City with his wife, Christine Roth, a United Nations executive and their two children.

Carlo Capua - Young Professional Candidate

Carlo Capua was raised in an Italian family in Texas where food and family formed the foundation of his personality. In his own words, "my eyes were opened to the power of global friendship when I hosted a boy from our Sister City in Italy and visited him the following year."

At Texas Christian University he became a Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society Mentor and trained first-time marathon runners, raising \$50,000 for research and patient aid while completing 14 marathons and five triathlons.

After graduating college with a BBA in marketing and minor in Japanese, Carlo spent four years in Fort Worth's Sister City of Nagaoka, Japan teaching English and international culture. Here he discovered and developed his passion for working with international youth. He also founded the Niigata Papua New Guinea Association, where 130 English teachers and Japanese nationals raised \$100,000 for school supplies and built 20 Habitat for Humanity homes.

From 2006-2008 he worked as a teacher of English and Japanese at the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Fort Worth's Sister City of Toluca, Mexico.

He now owns and operates his own café in Fort Worth with his family, and he is also involved in the Rotary Club, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, and a number of worthwhile nonprofits in Dallas/Fort Worth.

Carlos Hernandez - Youth Representative Candidate

Carlos Hernandez is a rising junior in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He is majoring in international politics, exploring foreign policy and policy processes, while concurrently pursuing a certificate in European studies. He spent two years on the City of Phoenix Youth and Education Commission and also represented the city on official delegations to China, Mexico and Czech Republic with Phoenix Sister Cities.

Currently, Carlos works for Georgetown University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. He is also an associate with Impacto Group, a Washington D.C.-based strategic communications and market research firm focusing on the emerging Hispanic market and community's influence on politics. He is fluent in English, Spanish and French and hopes to one day serve his country abroad before returning to local politics in Arizona.



Date: June 1, 2009

To: All Sister Cities International Members

From: Brad Cole, Chair, SCI Governance Committee

Subj: By-Law Amendment Recommendation

At the request of the Conference Committee, the Governance Committee has reviewed the necessity to make changes in the By-Laws to allow for modifications in the annual meeting and annual conference schedules of the corporation.

The Board of Directors approved these proposed amendments in March 2009 and the Governance Committee and Board of Directors recommend approval by the membership for adoption on August 1, 2009.

1. The by-laws currently state that one Board of Directors meeting shall be held in the spring and one meeting shall be held in the fall, preventing the annual conference from being held during either time period meaning two meetings would actually be held during either the spring or fall. This is clearly a technicality. To allow the maximum flexibility, the intent could be accomplished by simply striking the following line:

Article VIII, Section 3, Regular Meetings and Special Meetings. *(strike) "One meeting shall be held in the Spring of each year and one meeting shall be held in the Fall of each year."*

With this deletion, the board can adjust its meeting schedule to accommodate potential conference scheduling changes. This is further noted in Article VIII, Sections 1. and 2. wherein the by-laws read that "The Board of Directors shall determine the date and location..." of the annual conference and the annual meeting. With no seasonal specificity, the board can meet whenever it wants, as long as it meets "not less than four times each calendar year" as stipulated in Article VIII, Section 3, and gives timely notice of the schedule.

2. The by-laws currently dictate the terms of office of each director. If the board chooses to move its annual meeting, it would therefore reduce the length of some directors' terms of office, which would be another technical violation of the by-laws. For instance, a regular director "shall serve a term of three years." If the annual meeting and election of new board members is moved from the summer to the spring, it could reduce a director's term by as much as four months and that director could legitimately claim that their term of office was adversely affected and did not meet the language of the by-laws. To eliminate any possible conflict that could arise from changes in the meeting dates in the future, the following change could be considered:

Article III, Section 3. Term of Office. *(insert) "Terms of office may fluctuate somewhat in precise length due to annual meeting schedules as approved by the Board of Directors and shall be limited or otherwise governed accordingly:"*

By adding this phrase, if a director's term of office was either slightly lengthened or slightly shortened because the annual meeting was moved one way or another, it would not create a conflict with the terms of office as prescribed in the current by-laws.