

# SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN MARTIN, SLOVAKIA  
AND INDEPENDENCE/SUGAR  
CREEK, MISSOURI, USA

# WHAT IS A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP?

A sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two (or more) communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities.



# PURPOSE

The relationship is dependent on bilateral business, trade, educational, and cultural exchanges and projects with their sister city. A sister city relationship is intended to expand, strengthen and deliver great benefit to both parties. This voluntary forging of ties helps to encourage business, trade, educational, cultural exchanges and projects between the sister cities.

The sister cities can each expect an influx of business, tourism and trade, and more investment in the local economy. Raising the international profile of the cities is a great opportunity for each city to showcase their local government achievements.



# PURPOSE

In addition, each city is able to improve their global ranking across various fields by sharing valuable resources and approaches in business, education, culture and technologies. Educational partnerships and developments, including bilateral exchanges, joint research and teaching programs, have proven to be a particularly popular means of intercity collaborations.





# BENEFITS SUMMARIZED

- Contributing to international diplomacy
- Increased city-wide cultural awareness
- Educational partnerships and developments, including joint research and teaching programs
- An influx of business, tourism & trade
- Sharing of valuable resources and approaches in business, education, culture & technologies
- Raising the international profile of cities
- Showcasing local government achievements
- More investment in the local economy.



**SisterCities**  
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

# SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

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SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI) IS A NONPROFIT CITIZEN DIPLOMACY NETWORK THAT CREATES AND STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "SISTER CITIES". A TOTAL OF 1,800 CITIES, STATES AND COUNTIES ARE PARTNERED IN 138 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. THE ORGANIZATION "STRIVES TO BUILD GLOBAL COOPERATION AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL, PROMOTE CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND STIMULATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT".

THE ORGANIZATION'S MISSION IS TO "PROMOTE PEACE THROUGH MUTUAL RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING, AND COOPERATION — ONE INDIVIDUAL, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME."

# SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

As the official organization which links jurisdictions in the U.S. with communities worldwide, Sister Cities International recognizes, registers, and coordinates sister city, county, municipalities, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, regions, state, town, and village linkages.

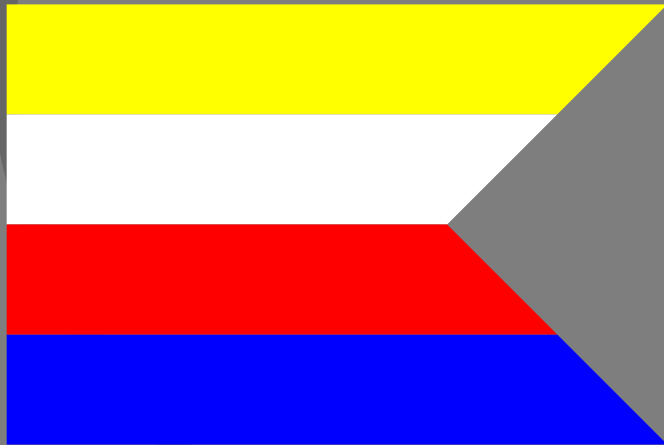
The U.S. sister city program began in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a people-to-people, citizen diplomacy initiative. Originally a program of the National League of Cities, Sister Cities International became a separate, nonprofit corporation in 1967, due to the growth and popularity of the U.S. program.



# SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S STATED GOALS ARE TO:

- Develop municipal partnerships between U.S. cities, counties, and states and similar jurisdictions in other nations.
- Provide opportunities for city officials and citizens to experience and explore other cultures through long-term community partnerships.
- Create an atmosphere in which economic and community development can be implemented and strengthened.
- Stimulate environments through which communities will creatively learn, work, and solve problems together through reciprocal cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional and technical exchanges and projects.
- Collaborate with organizations in the United States and other countries which share similar goals

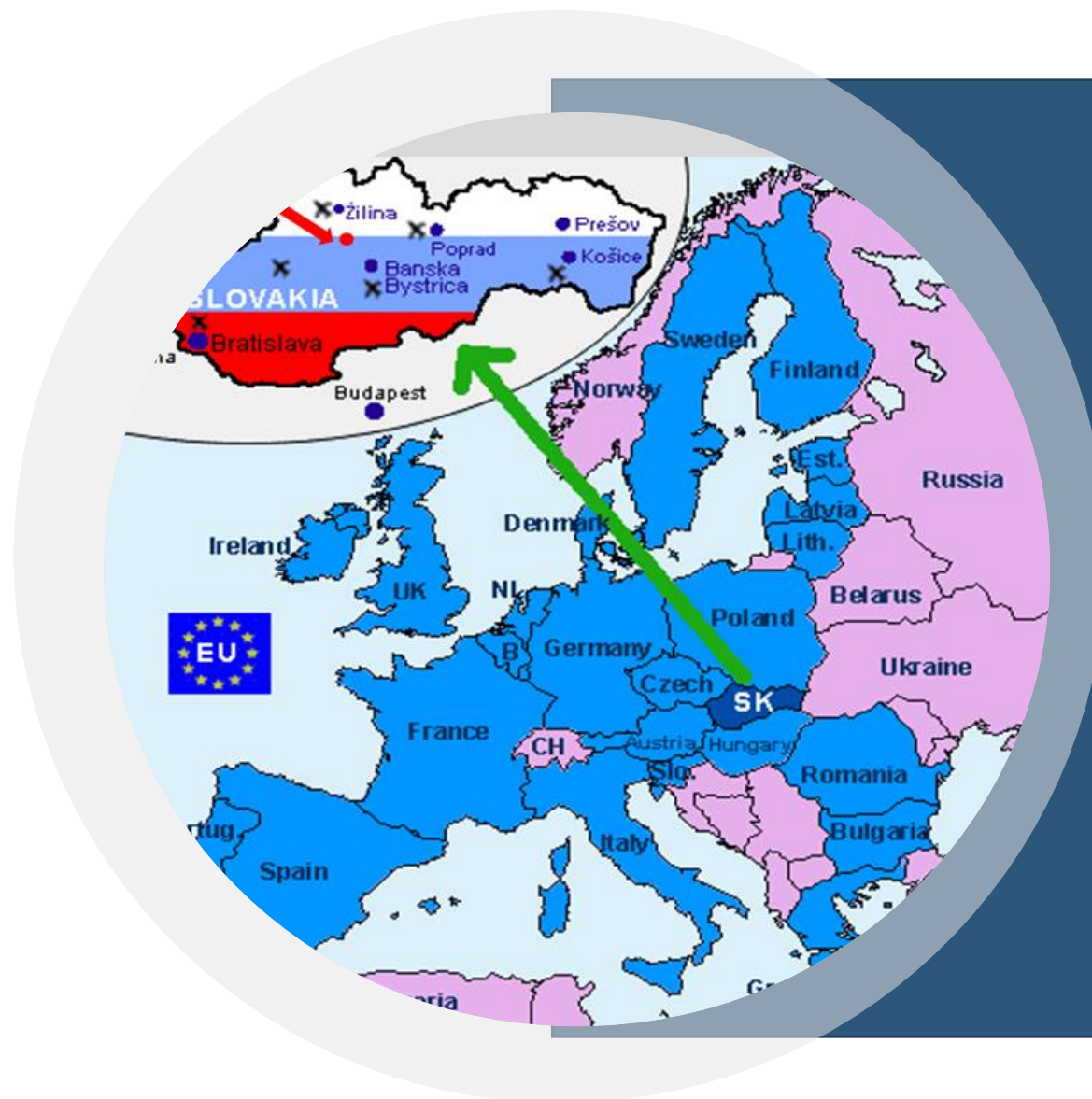




# CITY OF MARTIN, SLOVAKIA

# THE CITY OF MARTIN, SLOVAKIA

- Location/Size
  - Martin is the center of the Turiec region in Northern Slovakia (Central Europe).
  - Area: 26,000 sq.m/67,740 km<sup>2</sup>
  - The population numbers approximately 56,000, which makes it the 8th-largest city in Slovakia.
  - First mentioned in 1264



# MARTIN, SLOVAKIA

- Economy

- Martin is home to a Volkswagen Group-owned automotive industry production plant, under the Volkswagen Slovakia, a.s. subsidiary, since 1999.
- Other major industrial companies include ŽOS Vrútky (rail vehicles industry); Prefa Sučany (concrete prefabricates); Trim Leader (USA) (seat covers for cars of Toyota, Fiat and Renault), Hoechst Biotika (pharmaceutical), Stamart (construction), Seco (transport), KPK (engineering).
- The Danish shoe company ECCO is located near the Kosuty II borough in an industrial park. This park also hosts other companies such as MAR SK, GGB or Zinkpower.
- The university hospital employs approximately two thousand persons: doctors, nurses and other staff. The printing company Neografia has clients in more than 15 European countries, where Neografia exports the decisive part of its production of books.



# MARTIN, SLOVAKIA

- Culture

- Martin is home to the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, which is one of three medical schools in Slovakia- Medical Faculty of J.A. Commenius University
- Martin has a Hockey and a Handball sport teams
- Slovak parliament legitimized the City of Martin as the centre of national culture of the Slovaks in 1994





# MARTIN, SLOVAKIA

## CULTURE

- The oldest building is a Romanesque church dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours (13th century).
- The Slovak National Museum placed its ethnographic collection in Martin.
- An open-air museum in the suburbs, the Museum of the Slovak Village (Jahodnícke háje), exhibits the traditional rural architecture and folk traditions of the region of Turiec.



- The Slovak National Cemetery is the official Slovak hall of fame, inspired by the Panthéon in Paris. The Slovak Chamber Theatre in Martin was established in 1944 as the second professional theatre company in Slovakia.
- The theatre building is a landmark of the city center.
- Martin is surrounded by Malá Fatra and Veľká Fatra mountains, which in winter offer excellent conditions for skiing and bike trails in summer.

Pictures by @slovakia.travel





## HONORARY CONSUL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO THE MIDWEST USA

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### ROSS P. MARINE

ROSS P. MARINE, DHL, MHA WAS APPOINTED HONORARY CONSUL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO THE STATES OF MISSOURI, KANSAS, IOWA AND NEBRASKA ON FEBRUARY 22, 2001 BY THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. CONSUL MARINE REPRESENTS THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF COMMERCE, BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE/FARMING, CULTURAL/HERITAGE , EDUCATIONAL, ACADEMIC EXCHANGES, RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO NAME A FEW BETWEEN THE MIDWEST OF THE U.S, AND SLOVAKIA. AS WELL REPRESENTING THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AT LOCAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, CIVIC, SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES. THE CONSULAR OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IS LOCATED IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.



## CZECH AND SLOVAK CLUB

A SOCIAL AND CULTURAL 501(C) 3 NON-PROFIT MISSOURI CORPORATION FOR THOSE WHO APPRECIATE CZECH AND SLOVAK CULTURES AND TRADITIONS.

THE CZECH AND SLOVAK CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY WELCOMES PERSONS OF CZECH OR SLOVAKIAN DESCENT, THEIR FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AS WELL AS OTHERS WHO ENJOY THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION.

CLUB PRESIDENT: STAN SALVA



# ROLE OF CZECH/SLOVAK CLUB

## PURPOSE/MEMBERS

Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City was organized in 1984 by immigrants and those of Czech and Slovak descent and their families.

Membership is open to all people of Czech and Slovak ancestry and people with a strong interest in these cultures.

The purpose of this club is to unite people of Czech and Slovak origin to share, preserve and perpetuate the Czech and Slovak cultures, traditions and customs. The goal is to educate the local community and teach the younger generations about the history, language and culture of the region.

The club's programs are based on educational programming, holiday traditions, cultural information, Czech and Slovak foods and fellowship.



Photo: Ms. Aimee Hanes - Miss Czech Slovak Missouri 2019-2020 Queen; [Miss Czech-Slovak Missouri Pageant](#)

## ACTIVITIES

- Annual Meeting
- Music Concerts (Polka, folk music etc)
- Ethnic Enrichment Festival & Diplomatic Ball
  - Club Picnic
  - Kansas International Film Festival
  - St. Mikulas Celebration
- Sugar Creek Slavic Festival, Missouri Queen Contest
- Kansas Czech Festival, Kansas Queen Contest
- The club sponsors annual contestant for National Czech-Slovak Festival & Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Queen Pageant
- Member of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

# SISTER CITY COMMITTEE: MEMBERSHIP

## PURPOSE

A committee to be known as the Slovak Sister City Committee to cooperate with a like committee for the City of Martin, Slovakia, for the purpose of building international friendship and understanding. The committee will actively support the Sister City Program of Sister City International.



That membership of said committee shall consist of 14 members, evenly split between the cities of Independence, Missouri and Sugar Creek, Missouri, and may include members of the Czech Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City. Mayors of Independence and Sugar Creek, ex-officio, shall be included; and the remaining members shall be appointed by the respective City Councils for overlapping three terms; except that of the original members appointed to the committee, four (4) shall be for a term of one (1) years, five (5) shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and five (5) shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years; said members to serve upon this committee without compensation.

## MEMBERSHIP

# NEXT STEPS

1. Presentations to Independence and Sugar Creek City Councils
2. Approval of Sister City resolutions
3. Approval of Sister City Committee resolution
4. Zoom call with Martin on their status
5. Appointment of Sister City Committee
6. Sister City International contact
7. Final confirmation & Celebration







# THANK YOU!

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ROSS MARINE, STAN SALVA, ROBERT PAVLOVIC,  
IRINA KOBZEVA-PAVLOVIC



MORE: [HTTP://WWW.MARTIN.SK](http://www.martin.sk)