

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

OMAHA SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

OSCA Visits Isigny-Omaha Intercom, France

In May, an Omaha Sister Cities Association (OSCA) delegation, led by Omaha Mayor John Ewing Jr. traveled to Isigny-Omaha Intercom, France, where delegates were welcomed to celebrate our sister city partnership. The visit included cultural activities, discussions about future collaborations, and a luncheon with community leaders. Omaha Mayor John Ewing joined Intercom President Patrick Thomines in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery, honoring the Americans who gave their lives during World War II.

Delegates also visited Omaha Beach, the Charles N. Shay Memorial, and Les Braves monument, while learning the inspiring story of Nebraska twins Julius and Ludwig Pieper. The visit also included an informal gathering of leaders, reaffirming the friendships and shared history that continue to strengthen the Omaha–Isigny-Omaha Intercom partnership.

After touring Isigny-Omaha Intercom region, the travelers also visited St. Malo, Mont St. Michel, Paris, and Strasbourg.







The Day of Lower Saxony Event

OSCA Board Member, Makayla Leiting, represented Omaha Sister Cities and the Omaha Chamber in Braunschweig, Germany during the Day of Lower Saxony (Tag der Niedersachsen). The event is a three-day festival in June celebrating culture, community, and international friendship. Makayla was joined at the event by longtime volunteer Carol Stoltenberg, OSCA Chairman of the Braunschweig Committee, and Omaha students who were in Braunschweig as a part of the annual student exchange.



SCI Youth Leadership Conference

Annually, the Omaha Sister Cities Association selects a high school student to attend the Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., hosted by Sister Cities International. This exceptional, week-long summit, brings together students from across the United States and beyond. The Youth Leadership Summit is a comprehensive program providing immersive training seminars, cultural events, and hands-on diplomacy simulations to cultivate the next generation of global leaders and citizen diplomats.

This year, OSCA selected Samantha, an area sophomore, to attend the conference.

If you have a high school age child who would be interested in this program, please follow our Facebook page. At the beginning of each year you will see an announcement for the summit and how to apply.
Questions? Please email Laura at executivedirector@omahasistercities.com





Samantha, second from right, with new friends at the SCI Youth Summit



Building Bridges Across the Atlantic: OSCA Visits Lithuania and Sicily September 7–17, 2026

The Omaha Sister Cities Association (OSCA) traveled to Šiauliai, Lithuania, and Carlentini, Sicily, from September 7–17 to strengthen international relationships and explore new opportunities for collaboration.

In Šiauliai, the visit held special significance as the city celebrated the 30th anniversary of its sister-city relationship with Omaha, along with its 790th birthday. During the visit, the OSCA delegation met with city leaders, business representatives, educators, and other community partners to discuss opportunities for expanded cooperation. The delegation then traveled to Carlentini, Sicily, with a similar goal: to strengthen ties between our communities and identify opportunities for future collaboration.

International visits like these are an important part of OSCA's mission to foster friendship and cooperation between Omaha and its sister cities around the world. By bringing people together across borders, OSCA helps create opportunities for learning, collaboration, and meaningful cultural exchange.







Around the World: A Taste of 9 - A Successful New Event

OSCA's inaugural Around the World: Taste of 9 welcomed 126 guests for an evening celebrating the food, traditions, and cultures of Omaha's nine sister cities. Attendees enjoyed international appetizers prepared by Metro Community College's Institute for the Culinary Arts, cultural displays, live performances, and a raffle. The event offered a fun and engaging way to experience cultures from around the world while highlighting the importance of international connections and cultural exchange. Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, performed, and supported this special event, especially Metro Community College for its outstanding space and culinary contributions. We look forward to making this an annual celebration!



Membership Renewal

Keep an eye on your email inbox, new membership letters are headed your way after the first of the year!

BECOME A HOST for OSCA

Have you ever thought of hosting an international visitor or student? Please email executivedirector@omahasistercities.com for more information. Hosts are needed for both students and adults throughout the year.

Upcoming Activities

- Monthly Sisters Meet and Eat Group
  - November 19- 12pm -Pacific Eating House
  - December- No Meet and Eat
  - For more info or to RSVP, please email omahasistercities19@gmail.com
- Holiday Cultural Festival- December 5, 2026 at the Durham Museum.
- Delegation trip to Accra, Ghana, February 27-March 6.
  - Follow us on Facebook or email executivedirector@omahasistercities.com for more details!
- OSCA Delegation trip to Ireland in 2027.
  - Dates to be announced soon!
- Follow us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM for up-to-date information, pictures, and videos of all our activities!



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Shizuoka, Japan (1965)

SHIZUOKA EXCHANGES AND JAPANESE AMBIENCE

- Ichiritsu High School Visit: OSCA hosted 18 students from August 12-16. Students participated in many fun activities around the Omaha area.
- Teachers from Standing Bear Elementary visited Japan in June for the reciprocal teacher exchange.
- A successful Japanese Ambience at the Lauritzen Gardens was held October 3-4, 2026. Attendance keeps growing; this year was more than 3,300!

Braunschweig, Germany (1992)

STUDENT EXCHANGE UPDATE

- In collaboration with the German American Society, Omaha students visited Braunschweig as a part of the reciprocal exchange earlier this summer.
- We are currently recruiting students and families for the 2027 exchange. For more information, please email csto@mac.com.

Yantai, China (2010)

COMMITTEE UPDATE

- The Yantai Committee received an invitation to participate in a Sister Cities conference in Shandong province at the end of May. Two OSCA members represented OSCA and engaged with officials from Yantai.

Isigny-Omaha Intercom, France (2023)

DELEGATION VISIT

- Four members from the Omaha Beach Events Committee were in Omaha from October 16-19. Their itinerary included a visit to an equestrian facility, visits to the Lauritzen Gardens, Joslyn, Glacial Till Cider House in Ashland, and meetings with Brownell-Talbot, and the Omaha Chamber.
- A France Trip reunion took place on 10/29 with our tour guide from France and Mayor Ewing attending.

Jamestown/Accra, Ghana (2027)

SISTER CITY DELEGATION AND SIGNING TRIP

- A sister city delegation and signing trip, led by Mayor John Ewing, will take place from February 27- March 6, 2027.
- Informational sessions have been ongoing and registration details will be sent soon!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

World Cup Watch Party

On July 11th, the Community Engagement Committee hosted a World Cup Watch Party.





Omaha Community Playhouse: Come From Away

OSCA was the featured community partner for Come From Away, a play about international hospitality during 9/11, put on by the OCP. The play ran from September 11-October 11.

OSCA Annual Potluck

The Annual Potluck was brought back by demand in 2026. Clover 24 offered their space for members to get together on 8/23.



Keller Night- German American Society

The first Member Meet-up was hosted at the German American Society on 10/9 for Keller Night. More Member Meet-ups will be scheduled in 2027!