



COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Moscow, Russia Sister-County Commission

FISCAL YEAR 2019 -2020 WORK PLAN

AND

2018-2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Members

Adrianna Stankovich, Chairperson	Galia Tchvikhovskaia
Anne Garvey, Vice-Chair	Natalya Venzon
Elena Supryadkina, Secretary	Rowan Pike
Eric Venzon, Treasurer	Forrest Williams
Larissa Chiriaeva	Lorance Wilson
Margaret Bdzil	4 vacancies

MISSION STATEMENT:

The County of Santa Clara, California, USA/Moscow, Russian Federation Sister-County Commission, also known as the “Moscow Commission”, is committed to fostering the close working relationships among the art, business, culture, education, technology and government communities between the County of Santa Clara and Moscow, Russia.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The County of Santa Clara/Moscow Sister-County Commission was established in 1994 between Santa Clara County and the Moscow Region (Oblast). It was officially formalized in 1996 following delegation visits to the Moscow Oblast led by Supervisors Diridon and McHugh. In 2006 the scope of the Commission was redefined to include the city of Moscow via Protocol agreement. The relationship with the city of Moscow was formalized during our 2006 delegation to Moscow led by Supervisor Kniss.

Since its founding, the Commission has successfully sponsored many exchanges between Moscow and Santa Clara County including two telecommunications delegations from Moscow in 1998 and 2002, a delegation of the Moscow Oblast Militia in 2001, numerous Social Services exchanges between 2003 and 2018, an arts exchange in 2010, an accountable governance delegation in 2011, a juvenile justice delegation in 2013, educational exchanges in 2015, 2016, 2017 and a delegation visit from Moscow public defender system delegation visit from Moscow in 2018.

Many of the early delegations were done in partnership with other service organizations, including the Rotary Club and the Center for Citizen Initiatives. Since 2009, the Moscow Commission has been awarded six citizen diplomacy grants from the US Congress and the State Department in order to underwrite exchanges with Moscow. The Moscow Commission won its first grant in 2009 from the US Congress’ Open World program to host a delegation on the topic of Programs for Children without Parental Care. This delegation led to a multi-year collaboration with key stakeholders in Moscow’s Social Services Department for Family and Children’s Services and resulted in the establishment of a network of Independent Living Skills Programs for orphanage graduates throughout the city of Moscow that is modeled on Santa Clara County’s Independent Living Skills Programs for emancipated youth. In 2013, in recognition of this multi-year collaboration with Moscow, Sister Cities International selected the Moscow Commission as the national award winner for Innovative Youth Programs.

Since 2014, with the increasing tension between the US and Russia, collaborative citizen diplomacy opportunities have become more difficult to identify and implement, although more important than ever. Even in the current challenging environment, the Moscow Commission continues to pursue all potential opportunities. Recently it has found its biggest successes in its Educational Connections initiative in part due to connections made through Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Association (SCVSEFA) Synopsys Science and Technology Science Fair where commissioners met the teachers and students from a SAAS school attending the Science Fair. In 2015, the Moscow Commission facilitated discussions between the Slavic-Anglo-American School (SAAS) in Moscow and both the Harker School in San Jose and Christopher High School in Gilroy. A SAAS delegation visited both Santa Clara schools in 2015 and sister school projects were launched in the 2015-2016 academic year. In addition, SAAS delegations participated in projects with the Tech Museum. In 2017, Christopher High School (CHS) sent a delegation of 15 students and 2 teachers to Moscow to participate in SAAS' Shakespeare Festival. In 2018, the CHS drama teacher conducted a series of theater workshops in Moscow and CHS drama students together with SAAS drama students put on a joint production of Fahrenheit 451 in Gilroy.

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 WORK PLAN

GOAL/OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	PRIORITY RANKING	TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION
1. Continue strengthening Sister-County relationship with Moscow, Russia; city and region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue follow up with the Moscow governing council and Moscow civic organizations to grow their support in building people-to-people type relationships. Obtain input and feedback from Moscow on specific objectives and coordinate/ negotiate the specific projects/activities. 	Top	Ongoing
2. Foster Exchanges and share ideas with Moscow counterparts in the areas of social services, cultural, government functions (e.g....transportation, parks and recreation, welfare, medical facilities, planning and zoning standards, etc.), education, volunteerism and beneficial philanthropic action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the current circumstances, the commission will continue to focus on developing its educational connections program. Particularly, it will continue to facilitate the sister school relationships between the Slavic-Anglo-American (aka 'Marina') or ('SAAS') school in Moscow and both the Harker School and Christopher High School in Santa Clara County. The commission will also work on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> promoting relationships between the Slavic-Anglo American School in Moscow and other educational institutions in Santa Clara County, such as the Tech Museum; reaching out to other schools in both jurisdictions to promote additional sister school relationships; 	Top	Ongoing

	<p>3. facilitating student and teacher exchanges between Christopher High School in Gilroy and the Slavic-Anglo-American School in Moscow;</p> <p>4. assisting with the exchange program from St. Mary's school between 6th graders and students in Moscow and St. Petersburg.</p>		
<p>3. Identify and recruit interested and committed individuals as prospective members to maintain commission at a full complement of 15. A full complement of committed commissioners is key to achieve the commission's work and mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current commissioners to seek and identify interested prospects, ensure their commitment to actively participate, and foster their application to the Board of Supervisors. Following their appointment, nurture and mentor their participation and activity. • Three commissioners term ended in 2018. Successfully recruited 2 additional members during 2018. The commission now stands at 11 commissioners. A full complement of 15 remains an important goal to help ensure commission quorums. 	Top	Ongoing
<p>4. Identify, communicate and build cooperative relationships in furtherance of the commission's mission with public, private and educational organizations located in the county which currently have, or seek to establish, a relationship with Moscow organizational counterparts. This could include service clubs, arts/cultural organizations, private companies, educational and academic institutes, NASA-RAKA, etc. Interested individuals would be enlisted for the commission's "Friends of Moscow Commission" support group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outreach subcommittee "Friends of Moscow Commission" will continue to identify, communicate and establish a database of such interested organizations, and as appropriate, solicit their support for commission projects and delegation visits. • Continue to update the County's "Friends of Moscow Commission" database and enlist private individuals who have previously indicated support of the commission's mission and programs. 	Medium	Ongoing

5. Raise funds in support of the commission's mission and objectives from external sources, such as grants, sponsorships, contributions and admission charges.	Pursue fundraising ideas proposed by the event's Ad Hoc subcommittee, which was established to focus efforts on fundraising.	Medium	Ongoing
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PRIOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GOAL/OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING GOAL	STATUS
Continue to strengthen/grow relationship with Moscow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission representatives and former Supervisor Liz Kniss visited Moscow in 2006 and a Sister relationship protocol was subsequently signed & approved by both sides. Supervisors McHugh and Diridon also led visiting Santa Clara County delegations. In addition, without being accompanied by County Supervisors, individual commissioners have visited Moscow on behalf of the commission. 	<p>Commission continues to work on establishing and maintaining ongoing relationship.</p> <p>The Commission has been pursuing a Supervisor Led visit to Moscow. This been impacted by County Budget Priorities and the Supervisor availability. This will be an ongoing effort until the trip is scheduled.</p>
<p>Foster exchange programs and share ideas with Moscow counterparts in the areas of social services, cultural activities, and key governmental functions.</p> <p>Host Moscow delegations and send our own exchange delegations between Santa Clara County and Moscow with primary focus on social services and child welfare issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Santa Clara County/Moscow Arts Exchange Program was established in December 2009 and sponsored the first arts exchange event in 2010. The commission also hosted an Open World delegation visit from Moscow focused on governmental transparency and accountability in November 2011. In 2009, a child protection delegation from Moscow to Santa Clara County was funded by an Open World grant. In 2012, reciprocal child protection delegations between Moscow 	<p>The Commission hosted another Open World delegation from Moscow with collaboration with the County's Public Defender Office to facilitate a week-long professional program for the delegation of Moscow Attorneys in September 2018. The delegation also visited law clinics from Santa Clara and Stanford Law Schools. The delegation was intrigued and inspired. Information and photos can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/y6e7f4jx</p>

	and Santa Clara County were funded by a Eurasia Foundation grant.	
Actively facilitate the Educational Connections Program between Slavic-Anglo American School (SAAS), Christopher, Harker and other interested schools.	The Educational Connections Program is already underway with SAAS in Moscow and Christopher and Harker schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission hosted an Open World delegation on inclusive theater/education in October 2017. • The Commission was awarded on Open World grant to host a Public Defenders delegation in September 2018. It will continue to monitor and pursue other opportunities for funded grants from the US governments. • Science Fair delegation from SAAS in Moscow worked as docents at the Tech Museum, attended Christopher School in Gilroy and was home hosted in Gilroy. • Theater Delegation from SAAS in Moscow participated in a theater workshop at Christopher High School in Gilroy and was home hosted in Gilroy. • Theater Delegation from Christopher High School in Gilroy participated in SAAS Shakespeare Festival in Moscow.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Nancy Madison visited Moscow to meet with the administration of SAAS, as well as theater, hospital and educational organizations to discuss future collaborations.
Raise funds in support of Commission goals, objectives and programs	Implement fundraising recommendations adopted from the Events Ad Hoc Subcommittee.	Currently the trust fund balance is \$19,811.87 as of 02/19/2019.
Increase commission membership. Comply with Brown Act to ensure transparency and accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently, there are 11 commissioners with four vacancies to be filled. Commissioners have been made aware of Brown Act implications and compliance via attendance at County Ethics Compliance workshops 	Continue efforts to recruit new commissioners. Commissioners continue to receive Brown Act training from County Counsel's office as sessions are held.

ONGOING PROJECTS

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES
Continue contact with Moscow, and leveraging relationships built with former visiting delegates, work with them to help establish a formal counterpart committee/commission within the Moscow governmental system focusing on mutually agreeable goals and programs.	Continue to nurture a culture that would support the formation of a formal counterpart committee/commission in Moscow. Work to establish a self-sustainable committee/commission on the Moscow side in furtherance of the commission's goals, objectives and programs. In the absence of a formal commission in Moscow, the commission continues to work with Russian civic organizations who are interested in citizen diplomacy.
US State Department or Library of Congress funded grants would potentially bring to Santa Clara County another social services delegation from Moscow. This delegation would build upon previous ideas/lessons-learned focused upon senior services, and social welfare programs here in Santa Clara County and in Moscow.	Continue to research for potential U.S. government grant opportunities to fund exchanges.

Conduct another fundraising event in FY 2018-2019 to raise funds in support of commission projects (hiring translators, providing tours and transportation, hosting dinners/barbecues, etc.).	Pursue potential fundraising recommendations adopted from the Events Ad Hoc Subcommittee during 2018-2019.
Update/maintain database of Sister City programs within the county and other Santa Clara County based organizations, educational institutions and businesses having relationships with Moscow or Russia (cultural, educational or commercial) for future collaboration/support. Maintain/update “Friends of the Commission” database. Work with local schools to foster interest in Educational Connections Program.	Commission will update the roster of Sister City organizations within the county to share info and mutual support. Other commissioners will be tasked with doing the same for other identified cultural, educational institutions and businesses within the county which have Moscow or Russian interests. Staff continues to maintain the ‘Friends of Moscow’ database. Commission continues to work on Educational Connections Program which links local private schools with Moscow area counterparts.