

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 10/13/2022 1:14:51 PM
Subject: [Launch: Friendship City Program](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this e-mail is to advise that the [Friendship City Program webpage](#) is now live on the City's website, and the online application form is open and available for local non-profits to apply for prospective Friendship City relationships with Vancouver.

As per the [Friendship City Program](#) report (RTS# - 14721) approved by City Council in July 2022, Friendship Cities are time-limited city-to-city partnerships that strengthen cultural and business relationships internationally, and are governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with measurable goals and objectives.

Friendship City relationships are initiated and operated by local non-profits representing a group of residents or businesses in Vancouver with an active relationship with a proposed Friendship City. The local non-profit is responsible for all associated friendship city activities and costs, and is required to demonstrate that the friendship city relationship meets the program criteria, including:

- Strong community, civic and corporate support
- Strong alignment of goals and priorities
- Strong diplomatic and ethical alignment

Online applications for prospective Friendship Cities are submitted by local non-profits and reviewed by the Protocol Office. If the application meets the basic criteria, the proposal is forwarded to the Mayor's Office for further review, preliminary approval and the drafting of an MOU, which will require Council approval before being signed.

All Friendship City MOUs will expire at the end of five years with an option to renew for one additional five year term. The Friendship City Program is limited to one new Friendship City per calendar year, and a maximum of five active Friendship Cities at any given time.

Kindly note that Vancouver's five current Sister Cities (Odesa, Yokohama, Edinburgh, Guangzhou and Los Angeles) maintain their Sister City status. Information on the City's Sister Program remains available on the same website [here](#).

If you require further information about the Friendship City Program, please contact me or Rosemary Hagiwara.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.