



## History of Exchange

### Accra, Ghana Chicago's Sister City Since 1989

#### Chair:

**1989**

**June 28**

#### **Focus: Signing Agreement**

Former Mayor Mensah of Accra visited Chicago in March 1988 to begin discussions with city officials on establishing a Sister Cities relationship. Prior to signing the Sister Cities agreement, the International Division of the Department of Economic Development sent a consultant to Accra in the summer of 1988 to determine opportunities for economic development and public works projects.

A City Council resolution establishing Chicago and Accra as Sister Cities was signed by Mayor Richard M. Daley on June 28, 1989.

**1991**

#### **Focus: Medical & Social Service**

The Accra Committee organized the 1991 Ghana Medical Foundation Annual Fundraiser, with proceeds used to establish a modern hospital in Ghana.

**1992**

#### **Focus: Government**

A delegation including Ghana's Minister of Trade and Tourism visited Chicago to promote tourism and industry.

**1994**

#### **Focus: Culture**

A "Poem for Accra" literary competition, in collaboration with Neutral Turf, encapsulated the theme, "Poetry Without Borders." The winning Chicago poet, Tyehimba Jess, traveled to Accra. His winning poem was "election day: u.s. of a. - u. of s.a."

**Focus: Economic Development**

The Accra Committee and World Trade Center Chicago sponsored "Chicago-Accra 1995 Trade & Investment Opportunities," a symposium for Chicago's first trade mission to Accra. Panelists included the commerce counselor of the Ghanaian Embassy, the regional director of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the executive director of the African-American Institute in Washington, D.C.

**August 20-24****Focus: Government**

The Honorable Nat Nii Amar Nuno-Amarteifio, Mayor of Accra visited Chicago. The Mayor toured Chicago and met with several city officials and business people, including John H. Johnson, publisher of Johnson Publications. He also viewed the Field Museum's Africa exhibit and attended services at the Ghanaian Community Church Augustana Lutheran.

**1995****Focus: Culture**

Dance Africa presented an outstanding array of talented dance companies from Ghana. A portion of tickets to the event were sold by the Accra Committee and proceeds supported the shipping of relief supplies to Accra for the benefit of thousands left homeless in the wake of the devastating flood during the summer.

**Focus: Economic Development**

Members of the Accra Committee presented the seminar, "Doing Business in Ghana" at the World Trade Center.

**Focus: Government**

Mayor Nat Nii Amar Nuno-Amarteifio visited Chicago in September; he met with city officials and explored trade and investment opportunities with several members of the Chicago business community. The Accra Committee hosted a reception in his honor.

**Focus: Medical & Social Service**

The Accra, Ghana metropolitan area was devastated by flash flooding which displaced 100,000 residents of the city and surrounding communities. The Accra Committee coordinated relief efforts with the United States Embassy in Accra that resulted in immediate shipment of needed medical supplies and children's clothing to Accra.

**1996****Focus: Culture**

Under the aegis of the Ghana National Theater, six children, winners of a national Ghanaian toy-making competition, traveled to Chicago from Accra to participate in the 10th annual International Children's Festival sponsored by the Chicago Children's Museum. They were hosted by the Accra Committee, Columbia College, and the Chicago Children's Museum. The children and their teachers explained their toy-making process to their counterparts in Chicago.

**Focus: Culture**

The Accra Committee hosted a reception for the opening of the Ghanaian coffin exhibit at the Cultural Center. The exhibit featured hand-crafted fantasy coffins created by artisan Kane Quaye.

## **December**

### **Focus: Education**

The Accra Committee provided technical assistance for an exchange of faculty members from DePaul University. Two DePaul faculty members traveled to Ghana to plan a student and study seminar which took place in Ghana in December 1996.

### **Focus: Education**

With the cooperation of Mayor Nat Nuno-Amarteifo and the Kimbu Middle School, the Accra Committee coordinated the collection and shipment of 25,000 donated books and educational materials to Accra for use in a citywide mobile library program.

## **1997**

### **Focus: Culture**

Dance Africa presented an array of talented dance companies from the African Diaspora. The Accra Committee sold tickets to benefit the Accra Committee.

### **Focus: Culture**

The First Lady of Accra, Mrs. Aurora Nuno-Amarteifio, welcomed members of the Accra Committee and personally conducted a cultural tour of Ghana. Committee members produced a video about their experiences in Ghana.

## **1998**

### **Focus: Culture**

The Accra Committee co-hosted with the Durban Committee the Baule exhibit at The Art Institute of Chicago.

### **Focus: Culture**

Accra, Ghana was featured in A World in a Weekend, a two-day festival featuring a different city each month, which includes a sampling of culinary, fine, folk and performing arts, at the Chicago Cultural Center.

### **Focus: Economic Development**

The Chief Financial Officer of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly visited Chicago.

### **Focus: Education**

The Homework Show on local television featured Accra.

### **Focus: Government**

The Accra Committee hosted a week-long program for municipal managers from Accra and their Chicago counterparts.

### **Focus: Government**

The Accra Committee Chair visited Mayor Amatifino and American Ambassador in Accra.

## **1999**

### **Focus: Economic Development**

Committee Chairman Dorian Williams traveled to Accra to promote exchange with Chicago.

**Focus: Education**

The Committee assisted international business students from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business who studied business in Ghana.

**Focus: Education**

The Committee assisted Captain William Pinkney on his visit to Accra. Captain Pinkney, a native Chicagoan and world renowned seaman, embarked on an educational voyage to retrace the 18th and 19th century Middle Passage slave trade routes.

**Focus: Government**

The Ghana Committee assisted The Black Caucus of the Illinois General Assembly Committee on its fact-finding mission to Ghana.

**2000****Focus: Culture**

Accra was featured in A World in a Weekend--a two-day festival featuring a different city each month, which includes a sampling of culinary, fine, folk and performing arts--at the Chicago Cultural Center.

**2001****Focus: Culture**

The Accra Committee hosted a reception and lecture on "Ghana's Kingdom of Gold" at the Field Museum.

**Focus: Medical & Social Service**

The "Listen to Africa" conference in Chicago in conjunction with Global Alliance for Africa brought together grass roots innovators from more than 20 African countries to discuss solutions to the interrelated crises in health, environment, and economic development.

**Focus: Culture**

The Museum of Contemporary Art opened the largest exhibition of African art in the United States titled "The Short Century - Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa 1945-1994."

**2003****April 5****Focus: Culture**

The Accra Committee held a benefit at HotHouse to raise funds for committee projects.

**August-September****Focus: Education**

The Second Annual Accra Technology Camp introduced Ghanaian children to computer skills, including navigating the internet, graphic design and other software use, as well as solar technology.

**September 9****Focus: Culture**

“Night of Ananse: Exploring the Web of Ghanaian Cultures” featured storytelling, kente cloth demonstrations, background information on the Ananse project, a spiritual journey performance, and a silent auction and raffle.

**2004****October****Focus: Education**

Students at Whitney Young Magnet High School in Chicago and Labone Senior Secondary School in Accra, Ghana created and exchanged Web video stories about their lives and their communities. University scholars guided a Web dialog about the students' stories. Exhibits and public performances grew out of this exchange.

**2005****June****Focus: Government**

Mayor Stanley Nii Adjiri Blankson of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly and his wife, Mme. Florence Okai – Blankson visited Chicago to participate in the US Conference of Mayors.

**June****Focus: Education**

Accra committee collaborated with Northwestern University's Program of African Studies in honoring Judge Emile Francis Short for his service and commitment to human rights and Democratic governance. The Accra Committee presented Judge short with an award of achievement.

**July****Focus: Economic Development**

The Accra Committee assisted in hosting a delegation from Ghana, consisting of Academics and private sector representatives attending the “Focus on Africa” conference.

**2006****Focus: Fundraiser**

The Accra Committee hosted ‘Afrodisiac’, a night of dancing to African DJs to help fundraise for future initiatives.

**Focus: Fashion**

Eight renowned Chicago designers presented their own exquisite collections at the Tapestry Fashion Show and Student Design Competition. One-of-a-kind garments created with traditional Ghanaian textiles were displayed. Emerging designers from Chicago's top University design programs competed to win a trip to Accra.

## **March**

### **Focus: Environment**

“Chicago Worldview: Impacting the Environment of Ghana”- A panel discussed the practices and long-term benefits Chicago will have on the rural and urban areas of Ghana. Preparations are made for Chicago’s own environmental initiatives ready for adoption in Accra.

## **2007**

### **June**

#### **Focus: Culture**

What the Traveler Saw represented Accra in the International Festival on Daley Plaza.

### **June 23**

#### **Focus: Sports**

Accra participated in the Department of Cultural Affairs World of Games event at Millennium Park on June 23rd. They showcased several of Ghana's traditional games, including ampe.

### **October 10**

#### **Focus: Culture**

Andy Osafo represented Accra in the World Fashion Chicago runway show, which features designers to represent Chicago’s 27 Sister Cities.

### **December 24**

#### **Focus: Culture**

Accra was featured in ABC’s “Christmas Around the World” 4-day segment, which featured the varied ways Chicago’s 27 Sister Cities celebrate Christmas.

## **2008**

### **June**

#### **Focus: Culture**

What the Traveler Saw represented Accra in the International Festival on Daley Plaza.

### **October 10**

#### **Focus: Culture**

Andy Osafo represented Accra in the World Fashion Chicago runway show, which features designers to represent Chicago’s 27 Sister Cities.

## **2009**

### **April**

#### **Focus: Education**

Tuskegee International School participated in World Art Chicago, an international student online gallery that celebrated the Olympic spirit.

### **June 11**

#### **Focus: Government**

The newly appointed Mayor of Accra, the Honorable Alfred Vanderpuije, visited Chicago and met with the acting executive director of Chicago Sister Cities and the education sub-committee

chair. They discussed ways to expand on the relationship between Chicago and Accra, including health care, best practice exchanges and education.

#### **July 24**

##### **Focus: Government**

Mrs. Ernestina Naadu Mills, First Lady of Ghana visited Chicago in partnership with PROJECT CURE to help raise awareness about the need for medical care in Ghana and to support the delivery of life-saving medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics in Ghana.

PROJECT C.U.R.E. exceeded its fundraising goal for the event. Enough money was raised at the luncheon to fund the delivery of more than \$2 million in medical relief to people in need in Ghana.

#### **October 1-4**

##### **Focus: Medical**

Dr. Joel Yarney from Korle Bu Teaching Hospital participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

#### **2010**

##### **Focus: Education**

Kindergartners and third graders at Francis Parker made heart shaped coin purses that were given to the students at Tuskegee as a sister school project. Each purse included two pesewa coins that went towards the purchase of a snack.

#### **May 1**

##### **Focus: Education**

Francis Parker's 4th Annual Tuskegee Trot supports the Tuskegee International School, one of Parker's official Sister Schools, where 1st grade teacher Beverly "Greenie" Greenberg volunteers twice a year, in Ghana, West Africa.

Every year Trot raises several thousand dollars, which put a roof on the newly constructed parts of the school, bought much-needed school supplies and sponsored a number of Tuskegee students. Many of these students have lost at least one parent to AIDS, so their donations feed as well as educate them.

#### **May 18**

##### **Focus: Education**

HE Daniel Ohene Agyekum, Ambassador of Ghana to the United States, visited Chicago and met with Mayor Daley, members of the Accra Committee and Francis Parker School, as well as other organizations working with Ghana.

#### **June**

##### **Focus: Education**

Francis Parker teachers Beverly "Greenie" Greenberg, fourth-grade teacher Kate Cicchell and shop and stagecraft teacher Joey Wade visited their Sister School Tuskegee in Ghana. They worked with their Ghanaian colleagues to help teach classes and worked with students to build shelving for the library.

## **August**

### **Focus: Culture**

What the Traveler Saw represented Accra at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sister Cities International Festival, held for the first time in Millennium Park. Prince Kwame Kludjeson, President of the Africa Sister Cities International based in Accra, visited the festival.

## **October**

### **Focus: Education**

Charles Yarfoh, Principal and Founder of Tuskegee International School in Ghana visited his Sister School, Francis W. Parker in Chicago. Principal Dr. Frank had a reception in his honor, and all grades gathered for an assembly to learn about the Sister School relationship between Francis Parker and Tuskegee.

## **2011**

### **Focus: Humanitarian & Education**

The Accra Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International is raised money for *Books for Africa* to ship 22,000 textbooks to children in need and stock libraries with outdated books in Accra, Ghana.

Currently, books in some of the libraries in Accra and surrounding towns have copyright dates in the 1960s and '70s. Additionally, the government has built 50 new schools, and these books will be the used by the students of these schools.

The Accra Committee is working directly with the Mayor of Accra and the Ministry of Education.

## **June 30**

### **Focus: Celebration**

The Accra Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International celebrated Ghana's 51st Republic Anniversary with a fundraising reception at Akainyah Gallery. The proceeds of the event will help to send textbooks to schools in Accra with Books for Africa.

## **2012**

### **May 14-18**

#### **Focus: Education**

The Accra Committee under the direction of Robert Acquaye, donated books – 4 boxes each – to Accra Girls High School, Accra High School, Ghana Library Board and Joy FM, all in the city of Accra and Oasis Christian Academy in Kumasi.

### **August 6-10**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival transformed Daley Plaza into an international village filled with merchants, food, music, and dance from Chicago's 28 Sister Cities. Merchant What the Traveler Saw sold traditional Ghanaian arts and crafts representing the culture and heritage of Accra.

### **October 4-7**

#### **Focus: Medical**



The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium was a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Florence Dedey from University of Ghana Medical School – Korle Bu Teaching Hospital participated and represented Accra in the 2012 symposium.