



## History of Exchange

### Amman, Jordan Chicago's Sister City Since 2004

#### Chair:

#### 2004

##### June 11

##### Focus: Signing Agreement

Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and Mayor Nidal Al-Hadid of Amman signed a sister city agreement between Chicago and Amman, solidifying an already existing relationship between the two cities. His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan attended the ceremony.

#### 2005

##### November

##### Focus: Culture

The Amman committee co-hosted a Fashion of Arabia. The show featured more than 60 traditional costumes representing 22 Middle Eastern Countries, modeled by local high school and college students. Four Jordanian-American students modeled the Jordanian costumes.

#### 2006

##### April

##### Focus: Government

A delegation consisting of Mayor Daley and Mrs. Daley and five members of the Amman Committee traveled to Amman, Jordan for a 10-day visit. They met with Mayor Omar Maani, members of the Chicago sister city committee, U.S. Ambassador David Hale, members of the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Education and members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce. They successfully launched the sister schools initiative, toured the historical sites, museums and art galleries. At a press conference held on the grounds of the U.S. embassy in Jordan, Mayor Daley announced the City of Chicago's donation of five fully equipped ambulances to the city of Amman.

##### June 5-9

##### Focus: Culture

The culture committee arranged for the Jordanian dance troupe, Church of the Virgin Mary Debke Group, to perform at the Sister Cities 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Fest held at the Daley Center. Petra Café sold Arab cuisine at the weeklong fest. Travel brochures were distributed through the information booth.

**Focus: Education**

The education committee organized and implemented the Sister Schools Projects with the following schools: Peck Elementary School matched with Al-Ahliyah School (Amman, Jordan) and Lindblom High School matched with the Jubilee School (Amman, Jordan).

**September 21****Focus: General**

The Amman committee hosted a successful fundraiser dinner at Maxim's: The Nancy Goldberg International Center.

**September 26****Focus: Culture**

Jordanian jewelry designer, Lubna Hourani, was showcased during World Fashion Chicago Runway Show.

**October 2-7****Focus: Government**

The Amman Committee hosted Mayor Maani and his delegation. The visit highlights included a City Council reception, meeting with City of Chicago officials (Department of Environment, Department of Planning & Development, Department of Streets and Sanitation, Chicago Park District) on public policy, economic development, urban planning, environmental and green space initiatives, as well as a taped television show for Public Access Television, a visit to Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Millennium Park and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

**December****Focus: Culture**

A three-person delegation from Amman was in Chicago for a one-week training program with the Chicago Children's Museum in preparation for the opening of the Amman Children's Museum. They planned ongoing exchanges and dialogue.

**2007****January 27- February 2****Focus: Education**

Amman Global Voices of the Pegasus Player's Program participants Lina Attel and Samia Doany visited Chicago for an orientation and planning meetings. The participants observed and worked in the classrooms along side their counterparts to develop an understanding of the structure and operational dynamics of the participating schools and cultural institutions. In addition, they visited a few high schools and met with both Amman and Casablanca Committee members.

**May 2****Focus: Government**

Mayor Maani participated in the Richard J. Daley forum at UIC. He met with Mayor Daley and the Amman committee, made extensive plans for future activities and also visited the 911 center.

**May 10****Focus: Government & Fundraising**

The Amman committee held a reception in honor of his Excellency Senator Akel Biltaji, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at Maxim's: The Nancy Goldberg International Center. Mayor and Mrs. Daley, as well as Nora Daley were in attendance at the reception.

**June**

**Focus: Education**

Four students (two from Francis Parker High School and two from Lindblom High School) traveled to Amman, Jordan to participate in Queen Noor's Arab Children's Congress summer camp. Chicago was the first American city represented at the camp and was chosen because of the active sister cities relationship.

**Focus: Education**

A group of Chicago elementary students were hosted by the Greater Amman Municipality to participate in the "With Jordan We Grow" summer camp, where they had the opportunity to meet many Jordanian and Middle Eastern children.

**June 4-8****Focus: Culture & Tourism**

The Second Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival was held 6/4-6/8 on Daley Plaza. The Chicago -Amman committee ran a *Vote for Petra* booth fashioned as a Bedouin tent and shared tourism information and encouraged people to vote for Petra as a Natural Wonder of the World.

**Focus: Art & Education**

The Zaha Cultural Center in Amman and the Greater Amman Municipality donated a mural entitled Childhood of Jordan to the Chicago Children's Museum.

**October 4****Focus: Healthcare**

The Amman Committee presented HRH Princess Ghida Tala and HRH Princess Dina Mired of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation with \$200,000 worth of hearing aides to benefit those in Jordan who have lost their hearing due to chemotherapy, as well flew an audiologist from Amman to Chicago to train in the use of the aides.

**October 10****Focus: Fashion**

Abla Majali and Fatina Asfour of Kumbaz (designers for Queen Noor) represented Amman, Jordan in CSCI World of Fashion Runway show. They received a great deal of press coverage in Chicago, including the Chicago Tribune and several TV spots.

**October 14-21****Focus: Trade and Education**

The Amman Committee, in partnership with the State of Illinois, participated in a trade and education mission to Amman. The University of Illinois at Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Roosevelt University, and Robert Morris College participated in this mission. The group met with the US Embassy, the Mayor of Amman, the King Hussein Cancer Center, and had several one-on-one meetings with Sister Schools, IT Centers, youth development centers, universities, tech parks, urban planners, and the business sector. Several plans were made for future exchanges and collaborations.

**Focus: Culture**

The City of Amman donated a large mosaic, *Petra*, by renowned artist Sonia Twal to the City of Chicago that has been installed in a prominent position at the international terminal of O'Hare International Airport.

**December**

**Focus: Culture**

The Amman committee member Khaled Akawi represented Chicago Sister Cities on ABC 7's news at 11:00 in a segment featuring holiday traditions (through food, merchandise and performances) from Chicago's Sister Cities (Africa/Middle East region).

**2008****January****Focus: Education**

The CSCIP Education Team met with Dr. Akkawi the Education Sub-Committee Chair for Amman and the principals from the Chicago schools interested in forming a partnership with schools in Amman late November. The Chicago schools are Lindblom Math and Science Academy, Peck Elementary School, Roosevelt High School and Volta Elementary School. The contact persons at each of the Chicago schools will communicate with their counterparts in Amman hoping to get the program underway in the New Year. Dr. Akkawi also presented information on the Arab Children's Conference and the Amman summer Camp.

**February 7****Focus: Art**

The Amman Committee and the Arabesque Foundation for Arab Culture cosponsored the Arabesque Music Ensemble performance of "The Music of the Three Musketeers" and "Al-Fursan at-Talatha" (music by three composers for the legendary Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum) in Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center. Over 200 guests attended the concert.

**April****Focus: Education**

Robert Morris College donated several one-year old computers to Amman's not-for-profit IT Centers, a need that was identified during the October education mission.

**April****Focus: Government**

Mayor Richard M. Daley and Chicago Sister Cities convened municipal leaders from throughout the United States, Canada and the Arab world for the first-ever U.S. – Arab Cities Forum. The three-day conference provided a unique opportunity for mayors and local leaders to engage in a high-level dialogue about the challenges municipalities face and strategies to ensure cities remain competitive in a global society.

Building on the strong sister city ties Chicago has forged with Amman, Jordan and Casablanca, Morocco, Mayor Daley co-hosted the event with Mayor Omar Maani of Amman and Mayor Mohamed Sajid of Casablanca. The Forum featured sessions focused on education and youth, economic development and improved quality of life, and environment and sustainability.

**May****Focus: Art**

The Chicago Children's Museum donated an original work of art to the Amman Children's Museum in celebration of their ongoing collaboration.

**June 30**

**Focus: Culture**

The Amman and Petach Tikva committees of CSCI co-hosted a reception and concert performed by pianist Mark Damisch. The event was a send-off to Mr. Damisch's Middle East tour, which included visits to Amman and Petach Tikva. The Amman Committee hosted a night of American memorable music, "The Trio Chicago and Friends" featuring Gershwin, Ellington and Bernstein by Mark Damisch at the Al-Husseini Cultural Center Theater in Amman.

**June 14-20****Focus: Music**

The Amman committee hosted a traditional musical performance on Daley Plaza during Chicago Sister Cities International Festival.

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

Six students participated in Queen Noor's Arab Children's Congress in Amman, Jordan. This prestigious event gives youths aged 14-16 the same opportunity as national leaders to express their needs and aspirations and to be heard by decision makers in the Arab world. Chicago was the first American city represented at the Congress, because of the Chicago Amman sister city relationship.

**July 14 - 20****Focus: Education**

Four students from Peck Elementary School participated in the Greater Amman Municipality Summer Camp, for the third year. The students learned about the traditions of Jordan through different cultural visits, language classes, games and handicraft lessons. The students camped in tents for the week visited historical sites in Amman and Petra, and at Wadi Rum.

**October****Focus: Fashion**

Fashion from Kumbaz was featured at the World Fashion Show during Fashion Focus Week.

**October 5****Focus: Fashion**

The Honorary Consul of Jordan and the Amman Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International Program welcomed HRH Princess Ghida Tala and HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan, rising over \$71,000 for the King Hussein Cancer Center at a Night of Jordanian Fashion on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Alhambra Palace and Restaurant. The fashion extravaganza featured the fashion designers of Kumbaz and the jewelry of Nadia Dajani.

**November 18****Focus: Film**

During Arab Heritage Month, the Amman Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted the screening of this first-ever independent film to come out of Jordan, *Captain Abu Raed*, with a guest appearance by Amin Matalqa (writer, director and producer of *Captain Abu Raed*).

**2009****March****Focus: Theater**

"The Arab-Israeli Cookbook" performance was featured at the Storefront Theater.

**June**

**Focus: Fundraiser**

During the Chicago Sister Cities 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Festival on Daley Plaza, the Amman Committee sold the Ziyad Brother's Wild Garden hummus to raise funds for the committees programs.

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

Mayor Richard M. Daley traveled to Amman, Jordan to co-host the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Arab Mayor's Forum with HE Mayor Maani. Mrs. Daley and Amman committee members accompanied him, and visited the King Hussein Cancer Center.

**June 21****Focus: Government**

The Jordanian Civil Defense held a ceremony honoring the US Embassy in Amman and the City of Chicago for items given as part of the State Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program, including 5 ambulances from the City of Chicago. In attendance were Prince Faisal Bin Al-Hussein, Mayor Richard M. Daley, Mayor Omar Maani and Directorate Maj. Gen. Abdullah Hamadneh.

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

Six students (two from Francis Parker High School, two from Lindblom High School and two from the Jordanian community) participated in Queen Noor's Arab Children's Congress in Amman, Jordan. This prestigious event gives youth aged 14-16 the same opportunity as nations leaders to express their needs and aspirations and to be heard by decision makers in the Arab world. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that Chicago was invited to attend the Congress because of the Sister City relationship.

**July****Focus: Education**

Four students from Peck Elementary School participated in the Greater Amman Municipality Summer Camp, for the third consecutive year. The students learned about the traditions of Jordan through different cultural visits, language classes, games and handicraft lessons. The students camped in tents for the week visited historical sites in Amman and Petra, and at Wadi Rum.

**October 9****Focus: Parade**

Greater Amman Municipality celebrated the 10th anniversary of His Majesty King Abdullah the 2nd accession to the throne and the Centennial Anniversary of Greater Amman Municipality's. GAMs Centennial Parade was the first of its kind in the Middle East, and the executive director of the Chicago Festival Association provided planning expertise and was on site to witness the historical event.

The organizers of the parade visited Chicago for the Thanksgiving Day Parade to gain more ideas for their next celebration.

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

Dr. Kayed Akkawi, Vice-Chair of the Amman Committee, attended and acted as Principal for a Day at Pershing West Middle School.

**October 1-4**

**Focus: Medical**

Dr. Lina Marei from the King Hussein Cancer Center participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

**November 5****Focus: Media**

Dr. Kayed Akkawi, Education Sub-Committee Chair, was interviewed on Comcast's Public Perspective and spoke about the Jordanian community in Chicago and the activities of the Amman Committee.

**November 18****Focus: Culture**

The Amman Committee helped celebrate Arab Heritage Month with a performance by Doris, a Middle Eastern singing sensation.

**2010****April****Focus: Government**

His Majesty King Abdullah visited Chicago and gave a presentation at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. He met with members of the Amman Committee for dinner afterwards.

**Focus: Government**

Mayor Maani participated in the 2010 Richard J. Daley Global Cities Forum, which assembled the leaders of more than 100 cities and local governments, along with prominent business, civic, academic and foundation leaders for discussions on key urban issues. The theme, New Partnerships for a New Economy: Driving Innovation in Cities fostered a dialogue on the role of public-private partnerships as a key tool to help cities continue to deliver innovative programs and services in these challenging economic times.

**April 23****Focus: Humanitarian**

Mayor Richard M. Daley, members of the Amman Committee and Todd Murray, President of Beltone Electronics Corporation, welcomed Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan to Chicago.

Beltone partnered Chicago Sister Cities International to donate 100 Beltone hearing instruments, worth more than \$200,000, to the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Jordan. The hearing aids will benefit children with hearing impairment, some with additional disabilities such as cerebral palsy, low vision or intellectual impairment.

**July****Focus: Education**

Four students (two from Francis Parker High School and two from Lindblom High School) traveled to Amman, Jordan to participate in Queen Noor's Arab Children's Congress summer camp. Chicago was the first American city represented at the camp and was chosen because of the active sister cities relationship.

**July****Focus: Education & Culture**

Chicago Sister Cities International's staff participated in a panel discussion "US – Muslim World Partnerships" at the Annual Sister Cities International Conference in Albuquerque, along side Casablanca, Riverside and Austin.

The panel aimed to discuss how bridging the gap between the Muslim World and the U.S. has

evolved well beyond cultural connections.

### **August 23-27**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Chicago Sister Cities International Program hosted its 5th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival at Millennium Park. This year marked the 50th Anniversary of Chicago Sister Cities International, and in celebration, the festival transformed Millennium Park's South Promenade into an international village of food, music, dance and merchants. With all 28 of Chicago's Sister Cities represented, this festival truly represents the diversity and international spirit that exists in Chicago. Amman was represented by Ziyad Brother Importing, who had a photography display of prominent Arabs in Chicago.

### **November**

#### **Focus: Culture**

The Amman Committee with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations invited the public to celebrate Arab Heritage Month with the Al Rabi Ensemble. This celebration featured classical and modern Middle Eastern music performed by internationally acclaimed master violinist Anton Shamoun. The performance was held at Alhambra's Palace immediately following Mayor Daley's Arab Heritage Month reception.

### **2011**

#### **April**

#### **Focus: Education**

Education Sub-Committee Chair, Dr. Nesreen Akhtarkhvari, visited Amman and met with the Minister of Education, Greater Amman Municipality staff, Jordanian American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan and educators to discuss Sister City programming.

#### **July 5, 2011**

#### **Focus: Humanitarian**

The Amman committee hosted a dinner for H.E. Dr. Mohammad Al-Hadid, the President of the Jordanian Red Crescent and the Chair of the Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent International. The Committee discussed future opportunities to work with the Jordanian Red Crescent, including areas in women's health, book drives, and education.

### **November**

#### **Focus: Government and Trade**

H.E. Dr. Alia Bouran, Ambassador of Jordan to the United States visited Chicago, along with Mr. Fawaz Bilbeisi, Director of the Economic & Commerce Bureau of the Embassy of Jordan and Mr. Rami Kharab, Consul at the Embassy of Jordan. They promoted trade with Jordan, met with World Business Chicago, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and DePaul University, attended a reception with the Jordanian American community. Ambassador Bouran also spoke at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs about the Arab Spring in Jordan.

### **2012**

#### **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. Amman singer Saed Khoury performed traditional and beautiful songs representing the culture and heritage of Amman.

#### **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. Yasser Ahmad from King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan participated and represented Amman in the 2012 symposium.