



History of Exchange

Belgrade, Serbia Chicago's Sister City Since 2005

Chair: Desko Nikitovic

2005

June 7

Focus: Signing Agreement

Mayor Richard M. Daley and Nenad Bogdanovic Mayor of Belgrade signed a Sister Cities agreement in G.A.R. Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center. Mayor Bogdanovic and a delegation of City Councilman were in Chicago as part of the USAID Serbian Local Government Reform Program. Chicago's Serbian-American community played a major role in supporting the relationship. The Soko Folklore Group from Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church and the Sloboda Choir of St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church performed for the over 200 people in attendance at the signing ceremony.

September 22

Focus: Culture

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander II and Crown Princess Katherine hosted a dinner at The White Palace in Belgrade on the occasion of the Belgrade-Chicago Sister City Signing. Various government officials as well as Committee Chair, Candice Rosen attended. Their Royal Highnesses, His Excellency Ambassador Polt, and Minister Milosavljevic agreed that the cooperation between Belgrade and Chicago is an excellent opportunity to further improve cooperation in the future.

2006

July 4

Focus: Culture

Working with the City of Belgrade, Phil Simmons of American Music Festivals and the Prague Committee, guest conducted a concert celebrating the Sister Cities relationship in Belgrade. This concert was part of the Fourth Belgrade International Cello Fest and was held at City Hall. The program featured American music.

August 15-25**Focus: Culture**

Dragan Babovic's Grand Opening of the Evergreen Belgrade Project featured forty large-scale posters in the Daley Center in the Chicago loop, highlighting Chicago's Sister City of Belgrade, Serbia. This photographic project showcased Belgrade as a vibrant European city and recreates its image as a sought-after destination in the global community.

October 7-12**Focus: Education**

Mr. Kenneth Staral, Principal of Ogden School in Chicago, along with Edgar Sanchez-Ferrer, Dean of students, traveled to Belgrade, Serbia to meet Crown Prince Alexander, Princess Katherine, and Nenad Boganovic, Mayor of Belgrade. This was a preliminary visit to Belgrade in the hopes of making a Sister School connection with Milos Crnjanski School as well as visited the career center at Belgrade University. Their program focused on an upcoming student trip to Belgrade from Chicago in March of 2007.

October 26**Focus: Business**

The Serbian Unity Congress held a conference with a focus on trade and business in Serbia. Chicago Sister Cities International was invited to speak at this conference on the benefits of sister city relationships, and presented a letter on behalf of Mayor Richard M. Daley.

October 30**Focus: General**

Sister Cities worked with Kathy Fanslow, Director of the Lifeline Organization in Chicago, to host Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine from Belgrade. CSCI assisted in this visit by setting up a meeting with Mayor Richard M. Daley as well as other city department visits. The Belgrade Committee set up a venue for roundtable discussions led by Crown Prince Alexander and attended by Chicago's business leaders. A gala dinner was held in their honor.

Focus: Medical

Dr. Mimis Cohen traveled to Belgrade twice in 2006, responding to a request from HRH Crown Princess Katherine and the Life Line Foundation. During his stay, Dr. Cohen gave lectures and performed volunteer surgeries in children with Cleft lip and palate. The goals of his visits were to interact with the local physicians, assist them in improving their skills and knowledge and help them establish a multidisciplinary Center to manage Children with birth defects, modeled after our Craniofacial Center at UIC.

2007**March 24-April 2****Focus: Education**

Ten children and four adults traveled to Belgrade for an educational exchange. Maja Sucin, a teacher from Milos School in Belgrade worked with Ogden School in Chicago, who began their relationship in 2006. CSCI coordinated the contractual signing of the Sister Schools agreement at Belgrade City Hall. Prior to their trip, Ogden students showed tremendous enthusiasm and dedication by attending after school classes to learn about the culture, customs, government, geography, and history of Serbia.

April 12-16**Focus: Medical**

The physician exchange visit from Belgrade brought seven physicians to Chicago. They visited the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, with Dr. Elliott Roth, The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer of Northwestern University with Dr. Steven Rosen, and Prentice Women's Hospital. The purpose of their visit was to establish a sister city relationship with a Chicago hospital in order to improve health care in Serbia. Dr. Ida Jovanovic later appeared on CBS with Susanne LeMignot. Lifeline/Chicago Humanitarian Organization, who organized their visit as well as hosted a welcome dinner in their honor.

July 13**Focus: Culture**

The Belgrade Committee and members of the Serbian Unity Congress joined together to host "Belgrade Night in Chicago" at the Chicago Cultural Center. Over three hundred guests enjoyed Serbian food, drinks, music, and dancing. The evening showcased the cultural, business and educational initiatives that bridge Chicago and Belgrade as well as provided networking opportunities with local Serbian organizations. WBBM Channel 2's Suzanne LeMignot was mistress of ceremonies and covered the event on CBS morning news broadcast

July**Focus: Education**

Ogden School's Principal Staral visited Belgrade City Hall, University of Belgrade, and Prince Alexander's Foundation to discuss student exchange program with Loyola University.

September**Focus: General**

Candice Rosen, Belgrade Committee Chair traveled to Belgrade. The goal of this visit was to meet with city officials and potential partners for collaborations on initiatives. Plans for a Hospice/Palliative care initiative are underway. Hospice of the Northshore participated along with Bellhospice in England, in helping Belgrade and Serbia establish a much needed hospice program.

October 7**Focus: Medical**

The Committee celebrated the grand opening of the New Prentice Women's Hospital at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Dr. Steven Rosen and Candice Rosen, Chair of the Belgrade Committee, invited the CSCI community to attend a private breakfast and informational gathering, preceding the open house of the new hospital.

October 10**Focus: Government**

The Belgrade Committee welcomed the First Lady of Serbia, Mrs. Tatjana Tadić to Chicago. During her four day visit, Mrs. Tadić met the Mayor and Mrs. Daley and attended World Fashion Chicago as an honored guest. Mrs. Tadić also visited Belgrade's sister city school, Ogden Elementary, Misericordia, Access Living, as well as several hospitals, palliative care programs and the Navy Pier administration.

October 10**Focus: Culture**

Fashion Designer Ms. Dragana Ognjenovic appeared as a special guest at World Fashion Chicago. While Ms. Ognjenovic was the guest of the First Lady of Serbia on her visit to Chicago, she was one of two Serbian designers who showcased their collections in the 2nd Annual World Fashion Show.

October

Focus: Education

Principal Staral and reps from Loyola University visited Belgrade in October and discussed partnership opportunities. Principal Staral then followed up with the Career Center.

November

Focus: Education

Zeljko Tadic was selected as the exchange student with Loyola. Another visit to Belgrade by Principal Staral, who met with Mrs. Tatjana Tadic, was arranged to discuss the exchange between Chicago and Belgrade. Educational meetings continued with all parties in Belgrade.

Focus: Medical

Dr. Mimis Cohen (Chief of plastic surgery at the University of Illinois) sponsored a surgeon from Belgrade. Dr. Ivan Rakic, a pediatric surgeon working at the University Children's Hospital in Belgrade was offered six months of training under the leadership of Dr. Cohen, learning the latest techniques in cleft palate/cleft lip repair. Dr. Cohen met Dr. Rakic in 2006 during one of his trips to Belgrade and accepted him as a visiting fellow at the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Illinois. During his stay he worked with Dr. Cohen and his staff at the Craniofacial Center to help him improve his experience in Pediatric Plastic surgery.

The goal of this exchange was for Dr. Rakic to use his Chicago experience to improve the care of patients with birth and other defects in his home institution. Dr. Rakic was hosted in Chicago by Belgrade Committee member Dr. Zivojin Pavlovic.

Focus: Culture

Dr. Ivan Ciric, member of the Belgrade Committee, and his family, donated their family library to Matica Srpska in Novi Sad, Serbia. Matica Srpska is one of the oldest cultural institutions in Serbia. It was established in 1826 to safeguard the Serbian cultural and written heritage. The vast, UNESCO protected library of 700,000 books, contains some of the first Serbian manuscripts dating to the 12th century.

2008

January

Focus: Education

The Belgrade Committee welcomed Zeljko Tadic, winner of the Loyola University Serbian Scholarship to Chicago. Tadic began working on his Master's degree at Loyola University while working full time at William B. Ogden School, a partner school in the Sister Cities Abroad Program. The co-chairs for the Education Sub-Committee Edgar Sanchez-Ferrer and Kenneth Staral helped Tadic to facilitate his stay in Chicago.

August

Focus: Government

Dragan Djilas was elected Mayor of Belgrade. Mayor Djilas has been a member of the Democratic Party (DP) since 2004. He was a member of the DP General and the Executive Committees. In February 2006, Mr. Djilas became the member of the Party Presidency for Belgrade's district. In June 2006, he was elected President of the DP City Council for Belgrade.

November 9**Focus: Culture**

The Belgrade Committee and Lifeline Humanitarian Organization hosted a special viewing of *Tesla's Letters* by Jeffrey Stanley, at the Timeline Theatre. The director and actors were available for question/answer after the show, followed by dessert and coffee reception.

November**Focus: Education**

Principal Staral and four administrators visited Belgrade to discuss future ideas in education and the existing partnership.

2009**April 24****Focus: Government**

The Honorable Radmila Hrustanović, Deputy Mayor of Belgrade visited Chicago to attend the Chicago Global Cities Forum.

May 9-13**Focus: Education**

Seven students from William B Ogden Elementary School, ages 12-14 traveled to Belgrade, Serbia for a 10-day educational program in Belgrade and visited Milos Crnjanski Primary School.

May**Focus: Humanitarian**

Former professional basketball player and humanitarian Vlade Divac visited Chicago in spring of 2009. Mr. Divac and his wife Ana met with Candice Rosen and toured Prentice Women's Hospital. Through their own humanitarian foundation, they work with refugees in Serbia and have a deep concern for the well being for mothers and children. This keen interest brought them to Chicago to learn about Women's Prentice Hospital in Chicago.

June 24-26**Focus: Education**

Global Education: Internationalism, International Schools and Student Preparation - An International Forum for Policymakers and Practitioners was hosted by William B. Ogden School at the University of Belgrade in Belgrade. Led by Principal Staral, teachers and school leaders learned effective K-12 strategies and resources for integrating international content across the curriculum, professional development opportunities and resources for teachers to expand their international knowledge and hands-on pedagogy using the city of Belgrade as curriculum.

Principal Staral sponsored 15 Chicago teachers and administrators to attend this international conference. The Forum also outlined the steps to becoming a member of the Sister Schools Abroad Program. Also during this visit, the Chicago group visited the American Center and met with representatives in City Hall.

September 30**Focus: Culture**

Elan Furs represented Belgrade during the World Fashion Chicago runway show at Millennium Park.

October 26-28**Focus: Government**

The Honorable Dragan Djilas, Mayor of Belgrade and Mrs. Iva Pelevic visited Chicago and met with Mayor Daley.

October 1-4**Focus: Medical**

Chicago Sister Cities International, in collaboration with the Belgrade Committee of CSCI and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, was proud to present the inaugural Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative Program.

This unique collaboration presented an exceptional opportunity for oncologists from Chicago's 28 Sister Cities to attend the *11th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium*, a conference that brings approximately 800 clinicians together in Chicago to learn about recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research from international experts. 24 international physicians attended this 3.5 day symposium including Dr. Jasmina Mladenovic from the Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia.

December**Focus: Education**

Zeljko Tadic, winner of the Loyola University Serbian Scholarship to Chicago, graduated from Loyola.

2010**May 19****Focus: Sports**

The Chicago Fire welcomed Legia Warsaw, Paris Saint-Germain and Red Star Belgrade for the first-ever Chicago Sister Cities International Cup at Toyota Park. Red Star Belgrade won the Sister Cities International Cup.

June 1-4

A delegation from Belgrade came as a result of the visit by Mr. Dragan Djilas, Mayor of Belgrade in October of 2009, where he sent his departments to learn best practices from City of Chicago. The delegation was made up of Milan Vukovic, Commissioner, Building & Zoning, City of Belgrade, Iboja Stojanovic, Deputy Commissioner, Building & Zoning, City of Belgrade, and Dejan Zivkovic, Advisor to the Mayor, Department Emergency department, in charge of parking services. Majority of the meetings took place with the Department of Building and Department of Zoning and Land Use Planning. 311 City Services was of great interest as well as the parking garages in Chicago.

November 21

Representatives from Ogden International School visited their sister schools abroad partners in Belgrade.

2011

August 6-28

The Belgrade Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, in collaboration with the Chicago Council on Science and Technology, hosted a travelling exhibit honoring Nikola Tesla, a scientist and inventor who invented alternating current (AC power) and won the bid for illuminating The Chicago World's Fair, the first World's Fair to be illuminated by electricity. This marked the first time that the Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade, Serbia exhibited in the United States. The exhibit was held at Navy Pier and was free and open to the public.

2012

October 4-7

Focus: Medical

Dr. Tatjana Roganovic, from Oncology Institut of Vojvodina in Belgrade participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium –Chicago Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

October 9

Focus: Business

Dragan Djilas, Mayor of Belgrade visited Chicago on a business mission. He gave a speech and led a discussion for Chicago business leaders about the business climate, investment opportunities and incentives for US companies in Belgrade. He also met with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and attended an evening reception at the Serbian Consulate in Chicago.

2013

September 25-29

Focus: Medical

The Chicago Sister Cities International Medical Initiative Program took place in conjunction with the 15th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium, a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Snezana Milosevic of the Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia participated and represented Belgrade in the 2013 symposium.