



History of Exchange

Lahore, Pakistan
Chicago's Sister City Since 2007

Chairs: Dr. Tariq Butt and Tariq Malhance

2007

February 6

Focus: Signing Agreement

The Official Signing of the Chicago-Lahore Sister City Agreement took place at the Chicago Cultural Center on Tuesday, February 6, 2007. The agreement was signed by The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago and The Honorable Mian Amir Mahmood, District Nazim of Lahore, Pakistan.

2008

January 12

Focus: Recognition

The Lahore Committee Chair, Dr. Tariq Butt made a presentation on the Chicago-Lahore relationship at the Asian American Coalition of Chicago celebrating Lunar New Year Celebration. The Pakistani Community was the official host of this year's celebration. A letter of recognition for public service from the President of the United States was read at the event and presented to Dr. Butt.

April 29

Focus: Government

The Honorable Mian Amer Mahmood, Mayor of Lahore participated in The Fourth Annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum in Chicago, Illinois. Mayor Mahmood participated on a panel title "Innovation in Access to Health Care and Education."

April 30

Focus: Government

The Honorable Mian Amer Mahmood, Mayor of Lahore, Pakistan addressed an audience of Chicago Sister Cities International members at a dinner in his honor at the Union League Club of Chicago.

September 20**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities and Endless eye Productions, in association with the Iqbal Academy Pakistan proudly presented “A Message from the East” a feature documentary on Allama Muhammed Iqbal, the visionary poet and philosopher.

The evening featured Iftar, Maghrib, Dinner, Iqbal Poetry Recitation, and exclusive sneak peek preview of “A Message from the East”, and a Q&A with the filmmakers.

2009**September 20****Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and Endless Eye productions, in association with the Iqbal Academy Pakistan presented “A Message from the East”. This was a featured documentary which expressed the visionary works of a poet and Philosopher Allama Muhammed Iqbal. Included in this event were a traditional Iftar, Maghrib prayer, dinner, and Iqbal Poetry recitation.

October 1-4**Focus: Medical**

Dr. Iqtedar Ahmed from Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Center participated in the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium – Sister Cities Medical Initiative.

Focus: Government

The Honorable Mian Amer Mahmood, Mayor of Lahore, came to Chicago for meetings.

2010**May 27****Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International held a public book launch event of 26-year-old Paskistani-American author, Farhan Noorani’s book titled, *Mea Culpa*, in Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center. The reception included a reading by Farhan and book signing afterwards. Anchor Ravi Baichwal of ABC 7 News emceed the speaking program, and Secretary of State Jesse White said a few words. Traditional Pakistani food was served, in addition to more modern fare. The event was attended by approximately 150 people.

July 27**Focus: Public Safety**

On the morning of July 27, a video conference was held between Chicago safety officials and representatives from the Lahore and Punjab State to discuss public safety operations. The video conference took place at Chicago’s 911 Emergency Communications Center.

August 27**Focus: Arts & Culture**

On the closing day of the 5th Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival in Millennium Park, the Sister City of Lahore was represented via a performance by Chicago’s own Absolutrag, performing classical to modern compositions.

August 30**Focus: Humanitarian**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International in conjunction with the Humanitarian Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, the Badin Education and Welfare Trust, the Pakistan Physician Society and the Sarah Foundation, along with honorary co-hosts Hon. Richard J. Durbin, United States Senator, Hon. Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, Hon. Richard M. Daley, Mayor, City of Chicago and Hon. Jessie White, Illinois Secretary of State, hosted a reception in Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center benefiting the American Red Cross's Pakistan Relief efforts after the devastating floods that left nearly one-fifth of Pakistan under water. A total of \$38,284 was raised.

October 20**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International presented its first ever public multi-media exhibition, titled *From Chicago to Lahore: Connecting Edge*, curated by Sadia Uquaili, Arts & Culture Chair of the Committee.

This premier exhibition featured drawings, films, photographs, writings and paintings by artists with works ranging from renowned masterpieces to contemporary explorations in various media. Artists included the likes of Abdur Rahman Chughtai, Adam Siegel, Bashir Ahmed, Khalid Iqbal, Meher Afroz, Tassaduq Sohail, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker John Lyons, MacArthur Fellow Shahzia Sikander and Berlin Today Award-winning filmmaker Maheen Zia.

2011**August 18****Focus: Government, Culture**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International held a Ramadan Celebration reception in which the committee welcomed Mr. Amer Ahmad, the new City of Chicago Comptroller, who is of Pakistani descent.

September 15-18**Focus: Medical**

Dr. Susheel Kumar from the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre in Lahore, Pakistan participated in the 13th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium in Chicago as part of a grant from Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The grant allowed one physician from each Chicago Sister City to attend the Symposium.

2012**March 16****Focus: Culture**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a reception celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Chicago's Sister City relationship with Lahore in the G.A.R. Hall and Rotunda of the Chicago Cultural Center. Traditional Pakistani fare and entertainment (sitar and tabla music) complemented the event, which was attended by 130 members of the Pakistani community and supporters including the Honorable Consul General Khan, Tammy Duckworth and Pamela Leeming, the first Pakistani-American judge in the United States.

August 6-10

Focus: Culture

The 7th 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. Merchants Elegant Peddler and Pakistan Fashion Lounge sold traditional Pakistani arts and crafts representing the culture and heritage of Lahore.

October 4-7**Focus: Medical**

The 14th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium was a professional educational event highlighting the most recent clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research. Dr. Azhar Shafi from Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital participated and represented Lahore in the 2012 symposium.

October 17**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International presented its second public multi-media exhibition, curated by Sadia Uquaili, Arts & Culture Chair of the Lahore Committee. This exhibition featured drawings, films, photographs, writings and paintings by various artists from various backgrounds.

2013**August 5-9****Focus: Culture**

The 8th 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. Performer Shariq Sidz performed traditional and authentic Pakistani music representing the culture and heritage of Lahore.

August 18**Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lahore Committee of CSCI, together with The Performance Club of Chicago presented *Bulleh: a journey of self-discovery* in the Claudia Cassidy Theater. This original play, which was preceded by a reception, was performed in Punjabi and is about the spiritual journey of the sufi poet Bulleh Shah in his chaotic times. The reception and performance were attended by about 200 persons, including Consul General Khan.

2014**May 11****Focus: Arts & Culture**

The Lahore Committee of CSCI, together with The Performance Club of Chicago presented *Faiz: Samey Sey Parey* in the Claudia Cassidy Theater. The original play, performed in Urdu and preceded by a reception, is about the timelessness of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poetry. The reception and performance were attended by about 260 persons, including Consul General Sayeed.

May 22**Focus: Culture**

CSCI is sponsoring the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' public program Pakistan's Paradigm

Shift, with His Excellency, His Excellency Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the US.

May 23

Focus: Business

The Lahore Committee of CSCI, together with The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and World Business Chicago, hosted a business luncheon in honor of His Excellency Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States. The exclusive luncheon was titled Trade and Investment Opportunities with Pakistan. The event brought together U.S. business representatives to learn about trade, investments and partnership opportunities between the two countries.

July 21

Focus: Business and Culture

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International held a Ramadan Iftar dinner to celebrate the time of spiritual contemplation and reflection as well as sharing with friends and appreciating our human bonds. The dinner at GAR Hall & Rotunda was attended by 125 Chicagoans who are instrumental in business, government and culture, including guest of honor Mr. Faisal Niaz Tirmazi, the Consul General of Pakistan at Chicago.

2015

July 12

Focus: Celebration

The Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted an Iftar dinner celebrating Ramadan at the Chicago Cultural Center's G.A.R. Hall & Rotunda. The celebration was attended by 170 distinguished guests, including the Honorable Faisal Niaz Tirmazi, Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago; Ken Bennett, First Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Public Engagement for Mayor Rahm Emanuel; Kenneth Gunn, First Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Commission on Human Relations; State Representative Ken Dunkin, Illinois' 5th Legislative District; and Alderman Joe Moore, Chicago's 49th Ward.

July 21-26

Focus: Sport

A number of youth soccer teams from around the world participated in the Second Annual Chicago KICS Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament in Chicago, including several teams from Chicago's sister cities and surrounding regions. The Lahore Committee supported a team from Pakistan comprised of children who had been dwelling on the streets in Pakistan. This team finished as second runner up during the Street Children Football World Cup 2014 in Brazil, and placed second in the Chicago 2015 KICS Cup.

August 2

Focus: Arts & Culture

The Lahore Committee of CSCI and the Performance Club of Chicago proudly presented *Jungi*, a dramatic, passionate, and soul-searching exploration into the impact of violence on our society. Through the eyes of the play's titular character, *Jungi* transports its audience across time and place to open a window into the role of violence in the creation of our shared histories, institutions, and cultures.

December 15**Focus: Award**

Dr. Tariq Butt, Chair of the Lahore, Pakistan Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI), was selected by the Advisory Board of CSCI to receive the Second Annual CSCI Volunteer of the Year Award. Dr. Butt was selected by his CSCI peers for showing leadership, talent, passion, enthusiasm and tenacity in promoting the work of CSCI locally and abroad.

The award recognizes a CSCI volunteer committee member who has played an important role in furthering CSCI's mission to promote Chicago as a global city, develop international partnerships and networks, and share best practices through citizen-to-citizen connections, particularly in the areas of business, culture, education, immigration and tourism.

2016