



News Release

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Riverside Receives International Arts Award

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Sister Cities International has awarded Riverside with the “Innovation: Arts & Culture Award” during their 2009 Annual Awards Program held in Belfast, Ireland.

Riverside received the award for an art project titled “Riverside Views” by Mark Schooley, Executive Director of the Riverside Community Arts Association (RCAA). The project featured 25 child and adult artists each from Riverside and its two Mexican sister cities, Cuautla and Ensenada. The Cuautla and Ensenada artists were exhibited in Riverside while the Riverside artists were shown in Cuautla and Ensenada. The “Riverside-Cuautla Views” exhibition commemorated the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship between the two cities.

Patrick Madden, President and CEO of Sister Cities International, said “This award is a tribute to the work, contribution, and dedication of Riverside’s volunteers and community to help foster international cooperation and understanding over the past year.”

In receiving this award, Riverside competed favorably with cities up to 500,000 in population and was selected as the winner from a large pool of worldwide entries. “This award is a testament to the innovative and creative ways Riverside celebrates and shares our culture internationally,” said Mayor Ron Loveridge. “This honor is an affirmation by international audiences that Riverside is a City of Arts & Innovation.”

An event celebrating this award will be held September 11, 2009 during Race Equality Week, at the Riverside Community Arts Association gallery. This event will be free to the public and will include an opportunity to view various exhibits in the gallery. Further event details will be available soon.

This is the second award in as many years from Sister Cities International. Riverside received the 2008 Sister Cities International Award for Best Overall Program for the 2007 celebration of the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Riverside and Sendai, Japan. Riverside has seven sister cities overall spanning six different countries.

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