



TUSCALOOSA  
**SISTER CITIES**  
INTERNATIONAL

NARASHINO  
JAPAN

SCHORNDORF  
GERMANY

SUNYANI-TECHIMAN  
GHANA



**Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International**

**1st Quarter 2023 Edition**

**January 2023**



It is a pleasure to start 2023 with friends and colleagues around the world. The mission of every Sister Cities International program is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation - one individual, one

community at a time. At Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International, we strive to honor those goals every day.

Welcome aboard as we begin our 37th year of fostering international understanding and promoting global peace and friendship. We're so happy to have you with us!

*Lisa Keyes*

Lisa Keyes - TSCI Executive Director *Alabama State Representative and Board of Directors Liaison, Sister Cities International*

## Wunderbar Weihnachtsmärkte and 26th Anniversary Celebration!



A 27-member Community Delegation from Tuscaloosa, led by Mayor Walt Maddox and Councilor John Faile, enjoyed several festive Christmas Markets in and around Schorndorf in December. Delegates shopped and tasted German treats during the visit. The highlight of the trip was the celebration of the 26th Anniversary of the Tuscaloosa -Schorndorf Sister Cities Partnership. Schorndorf Oberbürgermeister Bernd Hornikel and Mayor Maddox signed the official re-commitment documents during a beautiful evening celebration at

Schorndorf's Barbara Kunkelin Halle. Thank you, Schorndorf, for a wonderful occasion to celebrate our strong friendship and thriving partnership!

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## Books for Schorndorf's Library



Among the Tuscaloosa gifts presented to Schorndorf during the 26th Anniversary Celebration were children's books for the Schorndorf Public Library. The books are in their new home now, and ready to be enjoyed by Schorndorf children.

Special thanks to Mrs. Marianne Seidel, library manager, Franziska Starz, City of Schorndorf, and Mrs. Julia Terber, the employee responsible for children's books in the library, for sharing the books with young readers!

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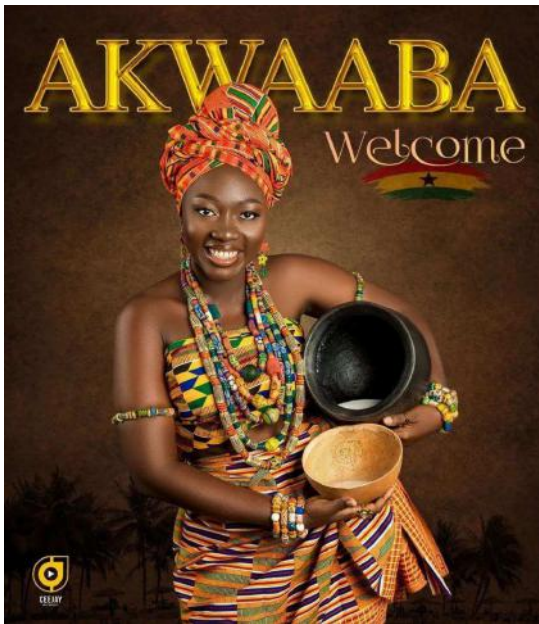
## Meet our Student Delegates for the July 2023 TSCI/TCS Schorndorf Exchange!



Meet our Student Delegates for the July 2023 TSCI/TCS Schorndorf Exchange! Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International and Tuscaloosa City Schools are thrilled to welcome our 2023 Student Ambassadors for the July 2023 Exchange to Schorndorf, Germany! The students and their parents met this month to begin planning for our exciting exchange in Schorndorf. During the next six months of preparation, the delegates, from Paul W. Bryant, Central, and Northridge High Schools, will learn about German history, culture, and language. Our thanks to Max Planck Gymnasium (MPG) in Schorndorf for hosting our delegation! MPG students will visit Tuscaloosa for their reciprocal exchange in October 2023.

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## Ghana 2023



Tuscaloosa Sister Cities is delighted to welcome an Official Delegation from Sunyani-Techiman, Ghana, West Africa in Spring 2023! The Mayors and Regional Ministers from the Sunyani-Techiman regions are invited to be among the featured speakers at Tuscaloosa's West Alabama Multicultural Alliance WAMA Fest on April 2, 2023.

During their visit, TSCI will celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the partnership between our cities, as well as greet delegates for TSCI's visit to Ghana in May.

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## Spring Ghana Trip

A May 27 – June 9, 2023 TSCI Student/Community Delegation trip to Sunyani-Techiman, Ghana! There are only a few remaining available spaces for the 2023 Ghana trip, which includes tours of Accra, historic Cape Coast, Mole National Park, and amazing experiences in Sunyani and Techiman. If you are interested, please contact TSCI at (205) 343-0100 or email [tuscaloosasistercities@gmail.com](mailto:tuscaloosasistercities@gmail.com) as soon as possible!



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## Sakura Festival 2023



Mark your calendars for a celebration of all things Japanese! On Saturday, March 25, from 8 am–noon, at Tuscaloosa’s River Market, you will enjoy the 37th Annual Sakura (Cherry Blossom)!

Special activities include taiko drumming, music, dancing, music, martial arts, and more! This year’s Sakura Festival theme is “Renew” – a wonderful way to celebrate spring! Don’t forget to visit the Sakura Art Contest display at the Tuscaloosa Public Library throughout the month of March. The art display will artwork by students from Tuscaloosa and Narashino, Japan.

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## **TSCI 2022 Board of Directors**

Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International is proud of the support and commitment, locally and globally, of its Board of Directors. The board meets at 5pm on the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. Each member supports TSCI programs and events throughout the year. Thank you to each outstanding member of the TSCI Board of Directors!



- Kip Tyner, Chairman, Tuscaloosa City Council President
- Christy Beem, Ken Chapman & Associates
- Matt Feller, Michelin Corporation
- Dr. Pamela Foster, University of Alabama
- Yukiko Gilbert, University of Alabama, JVC (retired)
- Bernd Greimel, SMP Automotive Manufacturer
- Chad L. Jackson, University of Alabama
- Megan Legerski, University of Alabama
- Greg Madrid, DCH Health System
- Donna McKee, MBUSI (retired)
- Matthew Orndorff, Alabama Public Radio
- Leigh Pate, University of Alabama
- Edel Revord, MBUSI (retired)
- Dr. Janet Sherrod, Tuscaloosa City Schools
- Lisa Keyes, Executive Director, TSCI

## Tuscaloosa Sister Cities Wants You



To become more involved with us! Whether you are interested in international culture, hosting an international student or adult delegate, or love to travel and would like to be a member of our next visit to Narashino, Schorndorf, or Sunyani-Techiman, Ghana we'd love to know you. TSCI is a non-profit, publicly funded agency and our goal is

to promote peace, mutual respect and global understanding and respect. We welcome your interest and your input, and we look forward to getting to know you better as we "Connect Globally and Thrive Locally".



Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International is a member  
of Sister Cities International  
"A Global Citizen Diplomacy Network"

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