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In 2015 Sister City organizations used their reimbursement budget for costs such as website hosting, event programming, media materials and administrative costs. They are not allowed to use the reimbursement budget for food and gifts. Each year most of the Sister City organizations use the reimbursement funds as well as thousands of dollars that they raise themselves for things such as sponsorships of festivals, donations to gardens and museums to help with exhibits, hosting exchange students, and public art installations. These expenses per year are much higher than the current reimbursement budget.

Council intent is that the additional \$10,500 be put into a separate fund to which each Sister City organization could apply for reimbursement, rather than making \$500 additional dollars available to each Sister City organization. This is because some Sister City organizations function better than others and may use their funds to pay for items that OIR deems better support the Sister Cities program.

OIR would be responsible for creating the reimbursement criteria and for delivering the money. The maximum additional reimbursement per Sister City organization would be \$1,000 per year.

Background

The Seattle Sister Cities program provides opportunities for establishing meaningful and lasting global friendships, partnerships, and connections. Sister Cities programs help generate economic opportunities, raise awareness of global issues, promote greater participation in international dialogue and exchange, and by doing so, build and strengthen bridges of mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation. Seattle has 21 Sister Cities; each is represented by a corresponding non-profit organization.

Each Sister City organization participates in putting on annual events, doing community outreach, facilitating travel and hosting visiting delegations. Eight Sister City representatives meet quarterly with OIR staff at what is called the Sister Cities Coordinating Council where they consider actions and help draft legislation concerning the Seattle Sister Cities. These representatives rotate yearly.

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Budget Action Transactions

Budget Action Title: Add \$10,500 GSF to OIR for Sister City Organizations

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase appropriation for Sister Cities				OIR	Intergovernmental Relations	X1G00	00100	2016		\$10,500