

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, USA and the City of Huehuetenango, Guatemala

Background

The City of Charlottesville and the City of Huehuetenango have actively maintained a Friendship City relationship since July 1, 2021, based on mutual respect and a shared commitment to cultural exchange, community engagement and economic development. Both cities seek to strengthen ties through collaboration in areas such as education, culture, commerce and public service, fostering goodwill and understanding between their communities.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalize the Sister City relationship between Charlottesville and Huehuetenango to promote ongoing cooperation, mutual learning and sustainable partnerships for the benefit of both communities.

Scope of Collaboration

The Sister City partnership aims to encourage and support the following activities:

- Promote cultural exchanges and shared celebrations to foster cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.
- Facilitate educational collaborations, including academic exchanges, language programs and shared research opportunities.
- Support economic development initiatives that benefit both communities, including business networking and sustainable and fair-trade practices.
- Encourage community and youth engagement through joint programs, volunteerism and capacity-building activities.
- Share best practices in municipal governance, public health, environmental stewardship and social services.
- Explore opportunities for future collaborative projects in areas of mutual interest (e.g., textile weaving, storytelling, food sovereignty, land justice, murals, music and art education and exchange).
- Explore historical and eco-tourism tour opportunities between both geographical regions.

Roles and Responsibilities

Both cities commit to:

- Foster open and respectful communication between partners.
- Seek opportunities to involve local organizations, educational institutions and residents in partnership activities.
- Promote awareness of the Sister City relationship within their respective communities.

Duration and Review

This MOU shall take effect upon the date of signing by the authorized representatives of both cities and shall remain in effect indefinitely. The parties agree to periodically review the terms and activities of this Memorandum of Understanding to ensure it continues to meet the interests and needs of both communities.

Acknowledgments

The parties recognize and appreciate the important role of community organizations that have supported this relationship, including the GuateMaya Alliance.

Signatories:

Signed: _____

Juandiego R. Wade

Mayor, City of Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

Date

Signed: _____

Gustavo Cano

Mayor, City of Huehuetenango, Guatemala

Date