



**CITY OF CUPERTINO
FRIENDSHIP CITIES PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION**

Instructions

This application is to be completed by the Friendship City Committee of the requesting international city and submitted electronically to the Cupertino City Manager's Office by emailing CityManager@cupertino.gov.

Background

A Friendship Cities Designation is an established relationship between the City of Cupertino and a partnering international organization that is mutually beneficial. The first step towards establishing a Friendship Cities Designation is to complete this application. This application helps to identify proposed goals of the relationship, the supporting activities expected, and highlights the areas of interest strengths, or needs of each party. The proponents of establishing such a relationship must be a collaboration of a community organization (a Friendship City Committee) and an elected official of the participating international city.

Who May Request a Friendship Cities Designation?

Any established Friendship City Committee of the proponent Friendship City may submit an application. The most successful applications will have more than one sponsor and will represent multiple agencies or organizations.

Processing and Approval of the Application

This application will clearly state the rationale and the goals of the relationship and the mutual benefits in establishing this relationship. Once the designation is in place, all information in the application will be shared with the community and stakeholders upon request.

Complete information for key contacts and authorizing individuals (the signing authorities) must be provided before the relationship can be finalized. In addition, the committee must have a Cupertino Councilmember sponsorship. Incomplete information will delay the process. A Friendship Cities Designation will be authorized for a period of two (2) years as outlined in the City of Cupertino's "Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, and International Delegations" and will be subject to all guidelines therein.



CUPERTINO FRIENDSHIP CITIES PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION

To be completed in English by the requesting organization

Name and Country of the proposed Friendship City and the Friendship City Committee: Xuhui District, Shanghai, People's Republic of China
Shanghai Xuhui Friendship City Committee

Today's date: 11/10/2025

Name of person requesting relationship: Lanru Huang, Xianchen Xu

Title: Cupertino - Shanghai Xuhui Friendship City Committee

Affiliation: Board Members: Cupertino - Shanghai Xuhui Friendship City Committee

Address: 20830 Stevens Creek Blvd #1048
Cupertino, CA 95014

Email: CupertinoShanghaiFriendship@gmail.com Phone: (408) 806-7026

City of Cupertino Sponsor(s): Liang Chao, Mayor (2024-2025)

Friendship City Elected Official Sponsor: Gang Wei, Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office of Xuhui District, Shanghai, People's Republic of China

RESOURCES: Please address monetary and in-kind resources that may be necessary to conduct the activities of this relationship, how they are to be obtained, and from whom. If none, state “no funding required”. Please note that the City of Cupertino does not currently provide funding for Friendship Cities.

No funding required.

We do not intend to utilize any resources from the City of Cupertino. All proposed activities will be supported by community members, non-profit organizations, or other volunteer-based groups. Any in-kind resources used, if applicable, will be in full compliance with the relevant Friendship Cities policies.

PROFILE: Please attach a brief profile of your city and Friendship City Committee including, but not limited to: background, location, nature, size, and relevant programs.

Shanghai is China's largest and most developed city, serving as a global financial center and a major hub for trade, innovation, and culture. Known for its dynamic economy, modern skyline, and historical landmarks, Shanghai plays a leading role in shaping China's economic and international outlook.

Located in the heart of Shanghai (just like Cupertino located in the heart of Silicon Valley), Xuhui District is one of the city's most vibrant and historically rich areas. It blends tradition with modernity, featuring elegant French-style architecture from its days as part of the former French Concession alongside bustling commercial zones and high-end residential neighborhoods. Xuhui is also a cultural and educational hub, home to renowned institutions such as Shanghai Jiao Tong University and various museums, galleries, and theaters. With its tree-lined streets, thriving business environment, and cultural charm, Xuhui represents both the historical depth and forward-looking spirit of Shanghai.

We will form a formal committee once the application is approved.

RATIONALE: Please explain the rationale and focus of the requested Friendship Cities Designation. Describe why a Friendship City relationship would be beneficial to the City of Cupertino and your local community, organization, and city. Please outline the areas of mutual strength and interest for each of the participants.

Items to include:

- Names, titles, and affiliations of those who will be involved at the proponent Friendship City and the Friendship City Committee. Be sure to include information for the proponent Friendship City's Mayor as they will have the primary signing authority of the Friendship City.
- Areas of mutual interest upon which the relationship will focus.
- Opportunities for new activities and potential outcomes.
- Benefits and measurable results that the City of Cupertino and proponent Friendship City can expect as a result of the establishment of such a relationship.

Gang Wei, Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office of Xuhui District, Shanghai, People's Republic of China

There is frequent movement of people, economic exchange, and cultural interaction between the City of Cupertino and Shanghai's Xuhui District. The District Mayor of Xuhui has written a letter expressing the hope to establish an official sister-city relationship with Cupertino, in order to promote bilateral cooperation in business, culture, education, and other areas. This proposal received a warm response from the Mayor of Cupertino. The letters will be provided later.

The Friendship City relationship will center on areas of mutual interest, with a focus on ongoing collaboration and exchange between the two cities. City officials and staff will continue to engage in both virtual and in-person meetings to share best practices and experiences in municipal services. Once the formal Friendship City partnership is established, the Friendship City Committee will encourage increased people-to-people exchanges and coordinate official delegations to visit Xuhui District in Shanghai.

The establishment of this relationship is expected to yield a variety of benefits for both the City of Cupertino and its Friendship City partner. These include:

- Strengthened international cooperation and mutual understanding
- Enhanced educational and cultural exchange opportunities for local students and educators
- Knowledge sharing in areas such as urban planning, public services, and community engagement
- Development of long-term relationships that support future collaboration in education, culture, and economic development
- Measurable outcomes such as implemented exchange programs, successful delegation visits, and documented improvements in shared service practices This partnership aims to create meaningful, lasting impact through mutual learning and international friendship.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Friendship city programs foster meaningful connections between international municipal officials, institutions, and businesses. These relationships build trust, open new channels for collaboration, and provide access to valuable expertise—helping local organizations identify fresh opportunities and resources.

Through peer learning and exchange, municipal employees and elected officials can share best practices and innovative approaches to public service. These collaborations can enhance policy development and management in key areas such as sanitation, water, public health, transportation, sustainability, economic development, and education.

In times of crisis, friendship city partnerships can also play a vital role in mobilizing support—raising funds or coordinating the collection of essential supplies for natural disasters, health emergencies, or other urgent situations, including pandemic response efforts.

EDUCATIONAL

Non-governmental organizations may collaborate to develop additional programs, such as summer camps for students from both cities. These initiatives provide a wide range of valuable benefits and outcomes, including:

- **Cultural Understanding:** Exposure to international learning environments fosters greater acceptance of and appreciation for diverse cultures and community perspectives.
- **Language Skills:** Students enhance their ability to communicate across cultures through language acquisition and daily practice.
- **Adaptability in Learning:** Participants gain insight into alternative educational approaches and develop more flexible, multi-dimensional learning strategies.
- **Critical Thinking:** The experience strengthens analytical and problem-solving skills in real-world, cross-cultural settings.
- **Global Awareness:** Exchange students often develop a deeper interest in global issues and broaden their general knowledge.
- **Personal Growth:** Immersion in a new environment promotes self-awareness, confidence, and self esteem — often one of the most noticeable changes in returning students.
- **Maturity and Independence:** Navigating life outside of familiar support systems builds resilience, social poise, and emotional maturity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please add any additional information about this proposed relationship, the proponent Friendship City, and/or the Friendship City Committee that you wish to share.

Famous Landmarks in Xuhui District:

Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) is one of China's oldest and most prestigious institutions of higher education. Founded in 1896, SJTU has played a vital role in China's modernization and development, earning a reputation for academic excellence, cutting edge research, and innovation.

Located in the dynamic city of Shanghai, the university offers a wide range of programs across science, engineering, medicine, business, humanities, and the arts. It is particularly well-known for its strengths in engineering, computer science, and business, and is home to several national key laboratories and research centers.

As a member of China's elite C9 League (often compared to the Ivy League in the U.S.), SJTU collaborates extensively with top universities and institutions worldwide. It also initiated the globally influential Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), also known as the Shanghai Ranking.

With a strong commitment to global engagement and talent development, Shanghai Jiao Tong University continues to be a leading force in education, research, and international collaboration.

The Shanghai Film Museum is a landmark institution that celebrates the rich legacy of China's film industry, particularly its roots in Shanghai—the birthplace of Chinese cinema. Housed in a beautifully renovated historic building, the museum offers an immersive journey through over a century of cinematic history, showcasing how Shanghai led the nation in film production, innovation, and artistic expression.

During the last century, Shanghai stood at the forefront of China's film technology, representing the most advanced cinematic techniques and equipment of its time. From sound and lighting to editing and special effects, the city's studios and filmmakers embraced cutting-edge technologies that set national standards and laid the foundation for modern Chinese cinema.

The museum also reflects the profound influence of Hollywood on Shanghai's film industry. In the early 20th century, American films, production styles, and storytelling techniques significantly shaped Shanghai's cinematic culture, giving rise to a unique blend of Eastern and Western artistry. This cross-cultural exchange helped establish Shanghai as the “Hollywood of the East,” a title that resonates throughout the museum's exhibits.

Today, the Shanghai Film Museum not only preserves this pioneering history but also inspires future generations of filmmakers and film lovers through its interactive displays, historical archives, and tribute to international cinematic influence.

Wukang Mansion

The Wukang Mansion, formerly known as the Normandie Apartments, is one of Shanghai's most iconic historical buildings. Located in the heart of the city's former French Concession, this landmark was completed in 1924 and designed by renowned Hungarian-Slovak architect László Hudec. Funded by International Savings Society (ISS), it stands as one of the earliest examples of foreign investment in Shanghai's urban development, symbolizing the beginning of western economic engagement in the city over a century ago.

With its distinctive wedge-shaped structure and elegant European architectural style, the Wukang Mansion has become a symbol of Shanghai's rich cultural heritage and its long history of international exchange. Today, it remains a beloved city landmark, reflecting both the cosmopolitan spirit and historical depth of Shanghai.

Reply Regarding the Establishment of a Friendship-City Relationship between Xuhui District, Shanghai and Cupertino, California, USA

Ms. Jennifer Zou,
Bay Area Council,

The letter from your Council regarding the establishment of a friendship-city relationship between Xuhui District and Cupertino, dated September 21, 2025, has been received. We sincerely appreciate the efforts and recommendations of your Council in advancing this matter.

As one of the central districts of Shanghai, Xuhui District, upholding the concept of openness, inclusiveness, and mutual benefit, has actively explored high-level international exchanges and cooperation across multiple areas. Cupertino, a key city in Silicon Valley, has achieved remarkable accomplishments in technological innovation, talent development, and community wellbeing.

As you mentioned in your letter, on September 20, during her visit to the United States, Ms. Wei Lan, Deputy District Mayor of Xuhui District, met with Ms. Liang Chao, Mayor of Cupertino, to exchange information on both cities and discuss cooperation opportunities in relevant fields. We believe that the two sides enjoy strong economic complementarity and significant cooperation potential. Establishing a friendship-city relationship serves the shared interests of both and will inject new momentum into sub-national cooperation between China and the US.

Xuhui District agrees in principle to advance the establishment of a friendship-city relationship with the City of Cupertino and promote multi-sector exchanges. We support enterprises, universities, and social organizations in both cities in carrying out practical cooperation in areas of mutual interest, forming a multi-tiered exchange landscape.

Xuhui District stands ready to work with Cupertino to steadily advance the development of the friendship-city partnership on the principle of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit. We look forward to your Council continuing to serve as a bridge and jointly working for substantive progress in exchanges and cooperation between the two cities.

We recommend that this reply be copied to the City of Cupertino and to Mayor Liang Chao for their information to facilitate follow-up work.

Yours sincerely.

WEI Gang

Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office

Shanghai Xuhui District People's Government

xuhuifao@hotmail.com

November 4, 2025

关于推动我区与加州库比蒂诺市 缔结友好城市关系的复函

湾区委员会

邹艳玲女士：

贵委员会 2025 年 9 月 21 日致函收悉，衷心感谢贵委员会为推动上海市徐汇区与美国加州库比蒂诺市缔结友好城市关系所作的努力与建议。

徐汇区作为上海市的中心城区之一，始终秉持开放包容、合作共赢的发展理念，积极拓展高层次、多领域的国际交流合作。库比蒂诺市作为硅谷核心城市，在科技创新、人才培养、社区建设等方面成就卓著。正如您来函所提，9 月 20 日我区副区长魏兰率代表团访美期间，与库比蒂诺市赵良方女士进行会见，互通两地城区情况，商榷有关领域合作机会。应该说，两地经济互补性较强，合作潜力巨大，建立友好城市关系符合两地共同利益，也将为中美地方合作注入新动能。

我区原则同意推动与库比蒂诺市建立友好城市关系，促进多元交流。支持两地企业、高校、社会组织等在共同感兴趣的领域开展务实合作，形成多层次交流格局。

我区愿与库比蒂诺市一道，本着相互尊重、平等互利的原则，稳步推进友好城市建设。期待贵委员会继续发挥桥梁作用，共同促进两地交流合作取得实质性进展。

建议将此复函同时抄送库比蒂诺市及赵良方市长知悉。为便于后续工作推进。

特此函复。

徐汇区人民政府外事办公室

2025年11月4日



卫钢

Handwritten signature of Wei Gang

2025.11.4

区政府外办副主任

xuhuifao@hotmail.com