



**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 pio@cupertino.org.

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:

1. Name and Country of the proposed Friendship City and the Friendship City Committee:

_Cupertino-Suzhou Friendship City Foundation_____

2. Today's date: _____11/18/2016_____

3. Name of person requesting relationship: _____Roy Kong_____

Title: _____President_____

Affiliation: _____U.S. Suzhou Chamber of Commerce Vice president: Christie Wang, Jie Chen Secretary:

David Lee Treasurer: Lucy Ku Member representatives: Chin Lin , Sandy Wang , Qin Zhou, Xinrong

Xiong__

4. Address: ____PO Box 1563, Cupertino, CA 95015_____

Email: _____roy.kong@svcangel.com_____

Phone: _____4086475818_____

5. City of Cupertino Sponsor: _____Barry Chang_____

6. Friendship City Elected Official Sponsor: __Mayor of Suzhou: Futian Qu_____

7. 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. Limit this section to four pages and attach it to this application. 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.

8. 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. Limit this section to one page and attach it to this application.

9. 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. Limit the profile to no more than two pages.

10. 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. Limit additional information to no more than 2 pages.

Proposal for Friendship City between City of Cupertino, California, USA and Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China (PRC)

To: City of Cupertino

From: Cupertino-Suzhou Friendship City Foundation

Date: November 18, 2016

Re: Establish Friendship City between City of Cupertino, CA, USA and City of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, PRC

Dear Cupertino City,

We would like to establish a Friendship City Relationship between City of Cupertino, and City of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province.

Cupertino-Suzhou City Foundation:

Cupertino-Suzhou Friendship City Foundation is founded in Cupertino by a group of Cupertino residents and friends. The Foundation will apply for a non-profit organization status from IRS. The founding members of the Association are as below:

President: Mingli Chu
Vice President: Gloria You
Secretary: Misty Zhang
Treasurer: Jackie Chen

Proposal for future events:

- a. Education and science exchange,
- b. Traffic improvement strategies exchange.
- c. Environmental protection ,
- d. Smart City Conference between two cities.
- e. "Tell the story of your city" video competition.

Funding:

We are not asking any funding from Cupertino city. We will do our own fundraising events and ask community members to contribute. The Foundation will actively raise fund for potential activities in the future.

Benefits of a Friendship City agreement between the two cities:

Both cities can learn from each other about the solution for environmental protections. .

Areas of mutual interest:

1. Protect the environment and the beauty of the surroundings
2. Cultural exchanges and mutual understanding

Introduction of Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China

Suzhou, formerly romanized as **Soochow**, is a major city located in southeastern **Jiangsu Province** of **East China**, about 100 km (62 mi) northwest of **Shanghai**. It is a major economic center and focal point of trade and commerce, and the second largest city in the province after the capital **Nanjing**. The city is situated on the lower reaches of the **Yangtze River** and the shores of **Lake Tai** and belongs to the **Yangtze River Delta** region. Administratively, Suzhou is a **prefecture-level city** with a population of 4.33 million in its city proper, and a total resident population (as of 2013) of 10.58 million in its administrative area.^{[2][4]} Its urban population grew at an unprecedented rate of 6.5% between 2000 and 2014, which is the highest among cities with more than 5 million people.^{[5][6]}

Founded in 514 BC, Suzhou has over 2,500 years of history, with an abundant display of relics and sites of historical interest. Around AD 100, during the **Eastern Han Dynasty**, it became one of the ten largest cities in the world mostly due to emigration from **Northern China**.^{[7][8]} Since the 10th-century **Song Dynasty**, it has been an important commercial center of China. During the **Ming** and **Qing Dynasty**, Suzhou was a national economic, cultural, and commercial^[9] center, as well as the largest non-capital city in the world, until the 1860 **Taiping Rebellion**.^[10] When **Li Hongzhang** and **Charles George Gordon** recaptured the city three years later, **Shanghai** had already taken its predominant place in the nation.^[11] Since major **economic reforms began in 1978**, Suzhou has become one of the fastest growing major cities in the world, with GDP growth rates of about 14% in the past 35 years.^{[2][12]} With high life expectancy and per capita incomes, Suzhou's **Human Development Index** ratings is roughly comparable to a moderately developed country, making it one of the most highly developed and prosperous cities in China.^[3]

The city's canals, stone bridges, **pagodas**, and meticulously designed **gardens** have contributed to its status as one of the top tourist attractions in China. The **Classical Gardens of Suzhou** were added to the list of the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** in 1997 and 2000. Suzhou is often dubbed the "**Venice of the East**" or "**Venice of China**".^{[13][14][15]}