

Sister City Relationship Annual Report Form Questionnaire

City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities



LOCAL SPONSOR ORGANIZATION IN MILWAUKEE

Legal Organization Name
St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral - Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister Cities Committee

Mailing Address (Address, City, State, Zip Code)

3201 S 51st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219

Website
www.stsava-milw.org

PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MILWAUKEE

Name Miroslav (Mike) Jovic	Phone 414-545-4080
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Mailing Address (Address, City, State, Zip Code) 3201 S. 51 st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219	Email president@stsava-milw.org
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SISTER CITY

Name Kragujevac	Country Serbia	Population 171,186
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LOCAL SPONSOR ORGANIZATION IN THE SISTER CITY

Legal Organization Name
Kragujevac-Milvoki Gradovi Pobratimi

PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION IN THE SISTER CITY

Name Mayor Nikola Dašić	Phone and/or email +381 34 306 106
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Please provide information in your annual report by responding to the following:

1. What are the goals, areas of mutual interest, and involvement between Milwaukee and the sister city based on the areas of culture, business, and/or any other aspects for the past reporting year?
2. Please identify in length specific activities planned or performed and the methods used by the organization to achieve the goals and objectives for the sister city relationship for the past reporting year.
3. Please identify the progress made (or lack thereof) for the goals, objectives, and activities of the organization regarding the sister city relationship for the past year.
4. Please provide measurable outcomes and/or results for each activity.
5. Please complete the accompanying Activities Summary Worksheet or provide a summary in similar fashion to go along with your report.

Please also consider reporting on any information that has changed from the original application pertaining to:

- Goals, objectives, and activities (both short-term and long-term) for the sister city relationship.
- Local organizational structure in Milwaukee that supports the relationship including number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information.
- Current list of Board of Directors and bylaws of your organization.
- Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship including financial support, volunteer support, and interest.
- Information regarding the financial base or resources of the organization available and used to support the sister city relationship.
- Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship.

MILWAUKEE – KRAGUJEVAC SISTER CITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Prepared by:

Milwaukee -Kragujevac Sister Cities Committee
Committee Chairman and Church President Miroslav Jovic

for consideration by the

City of Milwaukee Sister Cities Committee
Committee Chairman Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II

Letter From the Chairman

Dear City of Milwaukee Sister Cities Committee,

It is with great honor that I, as the Chairman of the Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister Cities Committee, present our 2024 Annual Report to the City of Milwaukee Sister Cities Committee. It is my great privilege to be part of the work your outstanding institution does for Milwaukee, and for society in general, by building bridges between international communities.

In January, the City of Kragujevac Mayor Nikola Dašić arrived with a delegation to formally sign an agreement establishing the Sister Cities relationship. Mayor Dašić and his team were able to see firsthand the economic, educational, and investment opportunities that make Milwaukee a great American city. The delegation saw that Milwaukee and Kragujevac share many commonalities: rich histories, a strong industrial base, a thriving culture, and an educational system that transforms lives. They visited many storied Milwaukee-based companies, including Milwaukee's own Harley-Davidson, and experienced firsthand the exciting advances taking place at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as well as the Medical College of Wisconsin. The visit ended with excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead.

On behalf of our committee and St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, I would like to thank Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II, and his office, Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, City of Milwaukee Planning Manager Vanessa Koster, former Alderman Mark Borkowski, all the Milwaukee Sister Cities Committee members, as well as Chris Lee and Deborah Moore for the respective roles they all played in accomplishing this worthwhile effort.

There is more work ahead of us, and our committee is excited to continue building bridges through Milwaukee's Sister Cities Initiative.

Miroslav Jovic, Chairman
Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister Cities Committee

Background

The Serbian community has been part of Milwaukee's rich history since the latter part of the 19th century. By 1912 there were about two and a half thousand Serbian souls here, and that same year, the house at 724 S. 3rd Street was purchased and transformed into a house of worship. The first Divine Liturgy was served on Christmas Day, January 7, 1913. The church also became a space for preserving Serbian traditions, language, and customs. As many new immigrants began to arrive in Milwaukee, the community decided to begin the preparations for the building of a new church. In 1958, the new cathedral church of St. Sava was built in the Serbo-Byzantine style at 51st Street and Oklahoma Avenue. Along with the iconic Serb Hall, the St. Sava Orthodox School, and numerous other organizations, the parish continues to honor and embrace the Holy Orthodox Faith, Serbian culture and traditions.



In 2022 the church board and members of the community expressed great interest and support in establishing the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Kragujevac. In addition, individuals and businesses throughout the United States

indicated that they also have an interest in the sister city project and would be receptive to providing both financial and collective support to the project. The Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister Cities Committee (MKSCC) was formed in early 2023 and began work on establishing the sister city relationship by submitting the Letter of Intent to the City of Milwaukee Sister Cities Committee on May 26, 2023.

Why Kragujevac?

Milwaukee and Kragujevac share many commonalities, making them excellent candidates for a sister city partnership. Both cities have rich histories, a strong industrial base, and thriving cultural as well as educational environments. The City of Milwaukee is renowned for its picturesque location on the shores of Lake Michigan, vibrant arts and music scene, and a proud working-class tradition. It serves as a hub for innovation, manufacturing, and higher education, offering endless opportunities for cultural and economic exchange.



The spirit of Milwaukee's residents, characterized by their warmth and hospitality, would undoubtedly provide a welcoming environment for visitors from Kragujevac. Similarly, the City of Kragujevac stands as an important economic and cultural center in Serbia, with a rich heritage and a progressive vision for the future. It boasts a diverse industrial sector, renowned educational institutions, and a wealth of historical landmarks. Kragujevac's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage while embracing innovation aligns closely with Milwaukee's own values and aspirations.

Kragujevac Delegation Visit and Sister City Agreement Signing

The Serbian Kragujevac delegation arrived just ahead of the signing ceremony and in the interest of time, given a short span of the visit, they attended several

stakeholder meetings ahead of the ceremony. The delegation consisted of Nikola Dašić (Mayor), Danka Andonovski (Minister for Investments), Dejan Ružić (Head of the Administration for Development and Investments), Prof. Dr. Nenad Filipović (Rector, University of Kragujevac), Marica Dašić (COO at AMM Manufacturing - MIND Group d.o.o), Darko Djorić (CEO of MIND Group d.o.o.), and Zoran Lazarević (Photographer).



The Sister City Agreement was signed by Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Kragujevac Mayor Nikola Dašić on Friday, January 26, 2024, at the Milwaukee City Hall. Officials from both cities, leaders from the local Serbian American community, children from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox School, and many local residents gathered to witness this historic event and celebrate it with traditional food, song, and dance.

Following the ceremony, the MKSCC and the Kragujevac delegation continued to attend meetings with key business, government, and civic entities across Milwaukee. In addition, MKSCC hosted a celebration dinner with local, state, and community leaders at the American Serb Hall.

Achievements and First Year's Goals

Immediately upon the adoption and signing of FILE NO: 230665, a resolution establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and Kragujevac, Serbia, MKSCC began working on its first and immediate goal: hosting the Mayor and the Kragujevac delegation in Milwaukee for the Sister Cities Agreement signing ceremony.



Following the ceremony, MKSCC made it a priority to turn the agreement signing visit into a working one. While the MKSCC valued equally all aspects of the Sister Cities relationship, including but not limited to economic, cultural, and educational, it was determined that the principal focus of the delegation's visit was economic development and education. To that end, the delegation visited several prominent Milwaukee companies and academic institutions. The following is a summary of those productive visits:

1. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)

Kragujevac delegation member Dr. Nenad Filipović , who is rector of the University of Kragujevac, visited with representatives from UWM to discuss potential areas of cooperation between two universities. The endeavors discussed included cultural exchanges, student exchanges, postgraduate studies, cooperation on U.S. and EU projects, and cooperation between the Universities.

The visit was productive, and the University of Kragujevac is prepared to sign a document of mutual cooperation.

2. Medical College of Wisconsin

The delegation's visit to the MCW was also very productive. The delegation will promote the program of the Medical College of Wisconsin to the Faculty of Medicine in Kragujevac, with the intention of initiating the exchange of experiences and interests of students, especially postgraduates, from both sides.

3. Harley-Davidson

Though the Harley-Davidson Company does not have a presence in Southeast Europe, Kragujevac invited the company to open a branch in MIND Park (<https://mind.rs/>) in Kragujevac. Harley-Davidson's management representatives will check with the London branch office to see if such an investment is justified.



4. Johnson Controls

During this visit, the company's management presented its products to the delegation, including technologies, software, and services. Considering the fact that Kragujevac is growing fast, there is great potential for cooperation with Johnson Controls. MIND Group from Kragujevac has already established regular communication with the company and started discussions on a mutually beneficial partnership.

5. GE Healthcare

The delegation was very impressed by the presentation given to them by the GE Healthcare representatives. The Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Health is planning the reconstruction of the University Clinical Centre Kragujevac. The project is financed by the Serbian government and will include reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing facilities and building of the new clinical capacities. New medical equipment will certainly be needed, and the delegation will forward GE Healthcare contacts (and our impressions) to the relevant medical authorities. The delegation's goal is to familiarize medical management with GE Healthcare products for future public procurement of medical equipment.



6. Port of Milwaukee

The visit to the Port of Milwaukee was insightful for the delegation. Despite the fact that the Port of Milwaukee does not handle container shipping, the delegation will further explore the potential for collaboration.



7. MMSD Veolia

The delegation was very impressed by the exceptional tour at MMSD Veolia. Since the Veolia has great municipal technologies regarding diverse water, wastewater, and bio-solids treatment, they believe there is much to learn from them about environmental protection, carbon footprint reduction, water consumption, reuse of wastewater, etc. The delegation has forwarded the contacts to Kragujevac Public Utility Company "Water supply and Sewerage" (JKP Vodovod i Kanalizacija Kragujevac) with strong recommendation for cooperation.

8. Ingeteam Inc.

In July of 2024, Stellantis started the production of its first EVs in Kragujevac, Serbia, resulting in Kragujevac and the Serbian market needing more EV chargers. Currently, there is just one company producing EV chargers in Serbia. The "European" Ingeteam is situated in Spain. Bearing in mind the Ingeteam references, the delegation will encourage Serbian Stellantis management to make contact with the Ingeteam in order to discuss the potential cooperation. As a city, Kragujevac will consider possibilities to engage the Ingeteam in our Smart City projects.

9. Data Holdings

The Serbian State Data Center is located in Kragujevac (it also houses the Data Center of the City of Kragujevac). In Data Holdings Milwaukee the delegation was introduced to local technologies and solutions of data storage. They believe that exchange of experiences and knowledge would be mutually beneficial and will explore the possibilities to that end.

10. Near West Side

The visit and presentation the delegation saw at Near West Side was very inspiring, but since such model involves many stakeholders, many of which are unique to the U.S., for the time being the delegation will forward the contacts and the materials to Mrs. Gordana Damjanovic, Member of the Kragujevac City Council in charge of Social and Health care.

Additional Site Visits

It is worth noting that MKSCC hosted several events during the visit that were attended by various civic, business, and community leaders, thus promoting cross-cultural exchange and cooperation. The Kragujevac delegation also attended the annual Saint Sava celebration and witnessed first-hand the Serbian-American community in Milwaukee during its hallmark events. Finally, the delegation toured many notable Milwaukee landmarks during their visit.



Ongoing Initiatives

One of the initiatives that is already under way involves cooperation between Mr. Vladimir Bjelić, a speech-language pathologist, and Dr. Filipović on establishing an exchange of ideas, methods, and even toys to help children with special needs in Kragujevac. MKSCC is meeting regularly and brainstorming other worthwhile future initiatives.

Future Vision and Goals

One of our principal goals for 2025 is to facilitate the Sister Cities agreement signing ceremony by Milwaukee's delegation in Kragujevac, Serbia. We sincerely hope that the Milwaukee counterparts of this sister cities relationship will demonstrate good faith and commitment by traveling to Serbia to sign the agreement.

The commitment to fostering economic development also remains one of our top priorities. We intend to continue to mediate between business entities outlined in the report in hope to foster business opportunities on both sides. While we are mindful of the mutual benefit of this sister cities relationship, we recognize that we are the Milwaukee-based organization facilitating this relationship and as such we intend to always put our hometown Milwaukee first. The guiding question in our efforts will always be: How does this benefit Milwaukee?

Generally, MKSCC is committed to the goals outlined in its inception, which are to strengthen the partnership between Milwaukee and Kragujevac through initiatives that foster international understanding, cultural appreciation, and mutual growth. By promoting collaboration in community development, we seek to enhance the welfare of local populations and build trust between communities. Through educational, cultural, charitable, and economic exchanges, the organization aspires to create a continuing relationship of mutual respect and goodwill. Efforts focus on engaging local leaders, maintaining open communication, and undertaking collaborative projects that benefit both cities, enriching their cultural and educational ties while promoting charitable goodwill and a sense of shared purpose within the global family of nations.

Conclusion

The establishment of the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Kragujevac marks a significant milestone in fostering international collaboration and cultural exchange. Rooted in shared values and histories, this partnership holds immense potential for both cities to strengthen their economic, educational, and cultural ties. The initial visit by the Kragujevac delegation has already laid the groundwork for productive collaborations across various sectors, including higher education, healthcare, environmental technology, and business development.

As the Milwaukee-Kragujevac Sister Cities Committee (MKSCC) moves forward, its commitment to deepening this relationship through ongoing initiatives will ensure that both cities continue to benefit from mutual growth and understanding. By prioritizing

meaningful exchanges and partnerships, this relationship sets an example of how global connections can enrich local communities, enhance cultural appreciation, and create opportunities for collective advancement. The partnership promises to not only honor the shared heritage of Milwaukee's Serbian community but also to contribute to a future of innovation, cooperation, and shared success.

