



333 S. Hope St., 18th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
www.SeeMyLA.com

Los Angeles/Sister Cities Visiting Journalists Fellowship

Program Description

The Sister Cities program was created in 1956 by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower to strengthen relationships between U.S. and international cities, with the hope that these relationships would foster trade, cultural and educational exchange, and, ultimately, mutual understanding and appreciation, thereby lessening the chance of future world conflicts. Los Angeles began its Sister Cities program in 1959 with Nagoya, Japan, and now is engaged with 23 Sister Cities over six continents.

To advance the goals of the Sister Cities program, LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau, launched the first Los Angeles/Sister Cities Visiting Journalist Fellowships program in 2006 to bring to Los Angeles journalists from media outlets serving LA's Sister Cities for a weeklong fellowship to learn firsthand about Los Angeles. The 2006 Fellowship included journalists from Japan, New Zealand, The People's Republic of China, and The Philippines.

"What I found brave and refreshing, is how the Fellowship helped us to see the real L.A. This Fellowship offered a balanced picture—not a sugarcoated one. In addition, we were able to gain access to places and persons not normally within the reach of ordinary visitors. Therein alone lay one of the Fellowship's strengths. The Fellowship covered almost every imaginable aspect about LA. I highly recommend it."

*--2006 Fellow Alex Vergara
The Philippines*

Fellowships cover all lodging, meals and instruction for seven days. Airfare and travel expenses to and from Los Angeles will be covered up to a maximum of U.S. \$1,500 for each fellow. Fellowship participation is limited to professional journalists employed by or freelancing for print or electronic media outlets located in or that serve one of Los Angeles' Sister Cities, including national media organizations.

Los Angeles' Sister Cities are: **Athens**, Greece; **Auckland**, New Zealand; **Beirut**, Lebanon; **Berlin**, Germany; **Bordeaux**, France; **Busan**, Korea; **Eilat**, Israel; **Giza**, Egypt; **Guangzhou**, People's Republic of China; **Ischia**, Italy; **Jakarta**, Indonesia; **Kaunas**, Lithuania; **Lusaka**, Zambia; **Makati**, Philippines; **Mexico City**, Mexico; **Mumbai** (formerly known as Bombay), India; **Nagoya**, Japan; **Salvador de Bahia**, Brazil; **San Salvador**, El Salvador; **Split**, Croatia; **St. Petersburg**, Russia; **Taipei**, Taiwan; and **Vancouver**, Canada.

"The Fellowship brought exactly the right information about Los Angeles. Every activity was wonderful, and every person we talked with was brilliant and helpful. The images of LA in my mind are more and more clear, rich and colorful. I believe my readers will now get a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of LA through my articles."

*--2006 Fellow Tanya Wan
People's Republic of China*

Up to six fellowships will be awarded each year, following a competitive selection process. Applicants must be currently employed as professional journalists and have a minimum of three years of experience.

Fellowships are residential, and fellows are expected to attend all organized sessions as well as other related activities, stay in the host hotel and participate in organized meals. As part of the application process, fellows agree to share the knowledge they gain from the fellowship with colleagues at their news organizations when they return as well as with their readers, viewers or listeners.

"The Los Angeles Sister Cities Fellowship completely changed my view of Los Angeles. The variety is astonishing, the pace of life is electrifying, and the friendliness of the people is so welcoming and appreciated. The Fellowship is a worthwhile investment as it gives journalists from around the world a very significant taste of LA. We then report back to our readers/listeners about a side of LA most people don't ever get."

*--2006 Fellow Tim Fookes
New Zealand*

The fellowships will be held May 12-21, 2007. Fellows are solely responsible for securing appropriate visas and any other government-required documentation and/or authorization to participate in this program.

"L.A. wasn't one of my favorite American cities. I couldn't get a handle on the city--despite having visited it three times before. Well, not anymore. Because of the Fellowship, I have a better understanding and appreciation of the city. LA offers a mix of opportunities that are decidedly close to the ideal of the American Dream.

*--2006 Fellow Alex Vergara
The Philippines*



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Los Angeles/Sister Cities Visiting Journalists Fellowship Application Instructions

The following material must be included in application packages to receive consideration:

1. **Completed application forms.** Both applicant and supervisor forms must be completed and signed.
2. **Resume or curriculum vitae.** Not to exceed three single-spaced pages.
3. **Personal Statement.** A personal statement of no more than 500 words (2 pages, single spaced) explaining how this Sister City Visiting Fellowship experience would benefit you, your news organization and your audience.
4. **Letter of Recommendation.** Your supervising editor or producer familiar with your work should provide a letter commenting on your abilities and potential as a journalist and also commit to pay your salary during the seminar (vacation time should not be taken to participate) as well as pay for any non-fellowship expenses such as room service, long distance phone calls, etc. Freelancers should submit a letter of assignment from a media outlet serving a Sister City.
5. **Samples of professional work.** Submit three samples of your best work. The subject does not need to relate to Los Angeles or travel but should show your skill and ability to present a complex topic. Samples in languages other than English should include a translation. All samples should have been published or broadcast within the past five years.
 - **Print:** Samples need not be originals. Work should be submitted on standard 8.5-by-11-inch paper. Editors applying to the program should submit samples of projects they supervised and edited with a summary explanation of how the work was approached and the editor's philosophy of story management.
 - **Broadcast:** CD, DVD, cassette or VHS tapes up to 30 minutes in total running time should be sent along with supporting explanations as necessary.
 - **Internet:** Submit work samples either as printouts on paper or, if applicable, provide the URLs.

Please send two (2) copies of all application materials to:

Michael McDowell
Senior Director, Cultural Tourism
LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau
333 S. Hope St., 18th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071 USA

Applications **must be received by 5 p.m. PST Friday, February 9, 2007**, to be considered for the 2007 program. Questions? Please e-mail mmcdowell@lainc.us.



The Convention and Visitors Bureau

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Application for Los Angeles/Sister Cities Visiting Journalists Fellowship: Part I

Fellowships include: All lodging, meals, events and instruction as well as a travel subsidy of up to \$1,500.

Instructions:

- Fill out this form. Type or print clearly. If additional space is needed, please use a separate sheet of paper.
- Submit two (2) copies of all application materials.
- Application, including supporting materials, **must be received by the deadline, 5 p.m. PST, Friday, February 9, 2007.**
- No material will be returned.

Information supplied by the applicant will be used only to evaluate the application and will be kept confidential.

TO BE FILLED OUT BY APPLYING JOURNALIST

APPLICANT NAME:

Last	First	Middle
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MEDIA ORGANIZATION:

POSITION/TITLE:

DIRECT SUPERVISOR:

Name	Title	Email
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BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Street

City	State/Province	Country	Postal Code
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HOME ADDRESS:

Street

City

State/Province

Country

Postal Code

Preferred Mail Address: Business _____ Home _____

TELEPHONE:

Business

Home/Mobile

Fax number

BUSINESS EMAIL: _____

PERSONAL EMAIL: _____

BIRTH & CITIZENSHIP:

Birth date (month/day/year)

Citizenship

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THIS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM?

Government agency _____ Former Fellow _____ Bulletin board _____ Web site _____ Listserv _____

Your news organization _____ Electronic announcement _____

Other (please explain) _____

I understand spoken English (please check one box):

Very well

Somewhat

Not very well

I understand written English (please check one box):

Very well

Somewhat

Not very well

I can speak English (please check one box):

Very well

Somewhat

Not very well

Please note: A telephone interview may be required in the selection process.

Have you ever visited the U.S.? Yes No

If yes, which U.S. cities have you visited and when:

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of interest in the following topics, with 1 indicating “not interested” and 5 indicating “very interested.”

I would like to learn about and/or experience and report on Los Angeles’:

Arts and Culture

1 2 3 4 5

History and Historic Sites

1 2 3 4 5

Hollywood/Celebrity Lifestyles

1 2 3 4 5

Fine Dining and Shopping

1 2 3 4 5

Outdoor Activities and Attractions

1 2 3 4 5

Sports and Nightlife

1 2 3 4 5

Business and Industry

1 2 3 4 5

Urban Challenges

1 2 3 4 5

ACADEMIC HISTORY:

College or University Attended: _____

Undergraduate degree and field of study Date of degree

Graduate degree and field of study Date of degree

Other formal academic studies

AWARDS AND HONORS: (Please list)

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING: (Please list fellowships, training conferences, in-house training programs and other continuing-education programs you have attended, including sponsoring organization(s) and length of time involved.)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

TOTAL YEARS PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE: _____

I certify that all information in this application is true and that, if accepted, I understand the fellowship is a residential program and I will attend all sessions and activities.

Signature

Date



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Application for Los Angeles/Sister Cities Visiting Journalists Fellowship: Part II

TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYER/NOMINATING SUPERVISOR

NEWS ORGANIZATION PROFILE:

Please describe the nature of your news organization, the market served and circulation or broadcast audience served:

How many full-time professional journalists does the organization employ? _____

Describe your organization's interest in publishing or airing feature material on Los Angeles:

I certify that I accept the terms of this fellowship, and, if the applicant is accepted, I will authorize payment of the applicant's salary during the Fellowship and support the plan for sharing his or her newfound knowledge with colleagues and audiences.

Supervisor signature

Date



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Los Angeles/Sister Cities Visiting Fellowship Application Checklist

- Completed and signed application forms, Part I and Part II
- Resume or curriculum vitae of applicant
- Personal statement
- Letter of recommendation for the Fellowship from applicant's supervisor or a letter of assignment for freelance journalists.
- Three work samples, with translations if not originally printed or broadcast in English.

Please send two (2) copies of each of the above to:

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Senior Director, Cultural Tourism
LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau
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USA

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Fellows are solely responsible for securing appropriate visas and any other government-required documentation and/or authorization to participate in this program.