

"Without question of ideology, culture, tradition or religion, there is not a country on the face of the earth which has the natural, economic, technological nor territorial resources enabling it to sustain in isolation unto itself. One nation's resource is the link to another nation's survival. We are living in an interdependent world whereby no one nation has a monopoly on oil, gold, wheat, water, territory nor technology combined. Thus, it is our responsibility to work together, according other countries the same respect we seek for ourselves, to ensure greater prospects of peace in the world. After all, the world is getting smaller every day."

Dr. Earnestine Thomas-Robertson

The concept of the International Sister City network was fostered by President Dwight Eisenhower. This was done in the spirit of international peace, trade, cultural and educational exchange, social and economic development.

Thusly, we get the Los Angeles-Lusaka Sister City Committee, a non-profit corporation organized in 1967, building on the idea of international interdependence.

This committee is one of 25 Los Angeles Sister City Committees which operate under the auspices of the Mayor's Office and the Mayor's Council on Sister Cities and International Visitors, chaired by Honorable Tom LaBonge. Lusaka is the first African Sister City to the City of Los Angeles.

Lusaka is both the capital city of Zambia, a center for trade, and a terminal for Southern Africa air travel. Zambia, a key African country located in the Southern Region of the continent, exports copper, zinc, lead and cobalt to a number of western world countries and is an important and resourceful link to health, housing and industrial groups in the United States.

The Port of Los Angeles is an important link to trade efforts that embody the ideas of interdependence and linkage.

Like Los Angeles, Lusaka has a large urban populous where nearly six million people live in towns and cities with an ethnic diversity exceeding seventy ethnic groups. It is a thriving center for trade with English as the official language.

LOS ANGELES-LUSAKA SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 61264
Los Angeles, California 90061

COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Dr. Earnestine Thomas-Robertson, President
Rev. Mary Williams Jackson, 1st Vice President
Dr. Clifton Lee, 2nd Vice President
Ms. Lois King, Treasurer

The Honorable Tom LaBonge, President of the Los Angeles Sister City Association, embraced the concept of people to people diplomacy many years ago. Councilman LaBonge is moving steadfastly to strengthen the concept of Sisters Cities, the importance of their work, and to improve relations among nations.

For membership application information:
Please call Mayor's Office, Los Angeles City Hall.



The late Mayor Tom Bradley (left) and
Zambia's founding President Kenneth Kaunda (right)

LOS ANGELES LUSAKA SISTER CITY COMMITTEE



While on his first visit to the continent of Africa, in 1979, the late Mayor Tom Bradley met several African heads of state and established "stronger social, cultural and commercial ties between African countries and Los Angeles."

Mayor Bradley and former Zambian President, Kenneth Kaunda, met in Lusaka during that time, and affirmed the importance of the Sister City relationship between Lusaka and Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES-LUSAKA SPECIAL PROJECTS:

The twin cities of Los Angeles and Lusaka have enjoyed a well-established relationship since 1967. The Los Angeles-Lusaka Sister City Committee has been instrumental in medical, educational, social, youth, and technical assistance projects in Lusaka, Zambia since 1967.

Medical Projects

Between 1974 and 2004, the Committee's medical support team collected and delivered medical supplies, minor equipment, pharmaceutical items, endoscopic scopes, and emergency room equipment to Lusaka. In October of 2010, a dual feature microscope was presented to Deputy Ambassador Alfred Chioza for the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. The Ministry of Health has been helpful in facilitating a process whereby donations reach the hospital, a primary destination for medical donations. This project assists with a broad range of health issues, including HIV/AIDS.

Anniversary Park Project

The Los Angeles-Lusaka Sister City Committee submitted a proposal to the U.S. Agency for International Development and received a grant of \$50,000



Dr. Earnestine Thomas-Robertson, President, Deputy Ambassador Alfred Chioza, Mrs. Elga Sharpe, Chief of Protocol, Mayor's Office, Counselor Kalaba, and Ms. Lois King, LA-Lusaka Committee

which was donated to Lusaka through the Zambian Council for Social Development to build a Community and Recreation Center. The purpose of the Center was to provide a centrally located facility where young people could join amateur teams in basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, and net ball.



LA-Lusaka Student Ambassadors and committee members attend the Southern California Sister Cities Regional Conference in Huntington Beach, January 2011.

Educational and Micro-Finance Projects

Instructional programs in agriculture and mechanics were included as part of the funded Anniversary Park endeavor.

Working with the Ministry of Education, medical, self-help, and classroom textbooks have been presented with regularity to Evelyn Hone College along with scholarships for Zambian students.

The Los Angeles-Lusaka Student Exchange Project was arranged with the Zambian government and the Los Angeles Community College District in the mid 1990's. Two Zambian students came to Los Angeles to study Business at two of the nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District. The students lived with American families, worked, and received their degrees in business after two years. Their contributions were scholarly. The cultural, academic, and social impact of the Zambian students helped to promote international awareness of Zambia and Africa in the Los Angeles Community College District and the greater Los Angeles area. April 20 to June 22, 2011, Ms. Lidia Mongerie Brown, a graduate of California State University, Dominguez Hills and a LA-Lusaka Sister City Committee member, will serve as director of the Micro-Finance Project in Lusaka. Ten women will utilize funds for agriculture and goat farms. This project is a collaborative partnership between LA-Lusaka, Dr. Maureen Mwanawasa's Community Initiative (MMCI), and the Association of Zambians in California (AZACA).



Ambassador to the United States for the Republic of Zambia, Mrs. Sheila Siwela and Mr. Mwelwa Mulenga, President, AZACA

Technical Assistance Projects

The prospect of a small business microloans project for economic development is at the top of our critical endeavors through 2011. Prior technical assistance projects include: (1) A study of the Kanyama Disaster provided by a Civil Engineer commissioned by the City of Los Angeles; and (2) A Los Angeles Fire Department Assistant Chief made an assessment of problems with fighting fires at large structures. The recommendations were accepted by the Governor of Lusaka as submitted by the Assistant Chief. The assessment and recommendations aided Zambia in preserving structures and buildings using better safety methods. For six years, the funds for many of the Committee's projects have been raised through our Annual Spring Luncheon. Several recent projects have been done in collaboration with the Association of Zambians in California (AZACA).

