“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 or territorial resources enabling it to sustain its people without help from another nation. Each 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, or technology combined. Thus, it is our responsibility to work together, according to the rules of the game we seek for ourselves, to ensure a greater prospect of peace in the world. After all, the world is getting smaller every day.”

Dr. Earnestine Thomas-Roberson

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.

Thus, 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 Council’s Office 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 growth 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 popula- tion 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-Roberson, 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 years ago. Councilman LaBonge is moving steadfastly to strengthen the concept of Sister 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)
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 in 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 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.

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-1990s. 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. Lida 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).