

DRESDEN DEPUTY MAYOR VISITS COLUMBUS IN HONOR OF CITY'S BICENTENNIAL

The city wanted to celebrate its Bicentennial with all its friends, near and far, so Mayor Michael B. Coleman sent out invitations to the mayors of Columbus' eight sister cities. In early February, delegations from Ahmedabad, India, Odense, Denmark and Dresden, Germany arrived in Columbus. With the help of Columbus Sister Cities International, we had prepared a schedule for Deputy Mayor Winfried Lehmann and Ms. Antje Beutekamp from the City's International Department, that catered to the visitors' interest in education, sports and sister city affairs. Deputy Mayor Lehmann is one of seven Deputy Mayors in Dresden that are in charge of their individual resorts and who report directly to the Mayor, Ms. Helma Orosz. Mr. Lehmann's resorts are sport facilities, school buildings and maintenance and General Administration.

The three visiting delegations participated in a special welcome reception hosted by Schneider Downs at their Huntington Center office, which offered a view of Stuart Williams' light installation at COSI and gave the artist a chance to talk about his project and the ideas he has for a similar installation in Dresden this fall. The three delegations also attended a special dinner hosted by Mayor Michael B. Coleman; a Columbus Metropolitan Club Luncheon focusing on the role of sister cities with Mary D. Kane, president and CEO of Sister Cities International as the keynote speaker; a Columbus 2020 business presentation, a Columbus Jazz Arts Group / BalletMet performance and last but not least the big Bicentennial Bash at the Convention Center on February 10. The visitors especially enjoyed a Blue Jackets game, during which BJ president Mike Priest presented each group with a BJ jersey, and Mayor Lehmann reciprocated the gesture with a custom-made *Dresdner Eislöwen* jersey.

The Dresden delegation's individual schedule included a visit to COSI and talks about a possible exchange between COSI and the Dresden based Technical Collection; a visit to Upper Arlington School District; a discussion about growing up in the DDR and the ways life has changed since the wall came down with students at OSU's German Department, a lunch hosted by Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks, who met Mr. Lehmann in Dresden in 2006 during her participation in the city's 800th anniversary celebrations, and a tour of the OSU Athletic Center and the Stadium. On the coldest and windiest day of all, we took the visitors on a tour of Columbus (thanks to Jeff LaFever of the Columbus Historical Society, and to DSCI member Lois Allen for driving the van!) and a Tour of German Village (thanks to Russ and Marika Arledge of the German Village Society!).



Picture above: Dresden Deputy Mayor Lehmann (right), Odense Deputy Mayor Brian Dybro (center) and BJ President Mike Priest (left) posing with the jerseys they exchanged

Before the visitors left Columbus, we were able to host a special farewell brunch reception for them that included supporters of the Dresden - Columbus relationship. Deputy Mayor Lehmann used this opportunity to express his enthusiastic willingness to support the sister city relationship in any way he can, and to recognize the efforts of the numerous individuals on both ends that are the driving force behind the various exchanges.

Dresden Sister City would like to thank all supporters of this event, but especially Barb Pratzner and the board of Columbus Sister Cities International for their invaluable support and insight.



Picture above: Attendees of the Farewell Brunch at Rocky Fork

Photo: Lucy Wolfe

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CELEBRATE 2012 – 200 YEARS COLUMBUS AND 20 YEARS DRESDEN - COLUMBUS



THE EXCHANGE

A Dresden Sister City Newsletter

Spring 2012

Read the DSCI newsletter online! Visit us at www.dresdensistercityinc.org

GET OUT YOUR RUNNING SHOES AND GEAR UP FOR THE MARATHON!

Columbus Marathon and Dresden Sister City, Inc. Partnering on Marathon Exchange with Dresden in October



COLUMBUS SUNDAY MARATHON OCT. 21, 2012

On October 21, 2012, Columbus and Dresden will not be their regular selves. That Sunday, both cities will see thousands of runners and fans of the event in their streets. Sunday, October 21, 2012, will be the day for the 33rd Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon and Half-Marathon, as well as the 14th Morgenpost Dresden Marathon and Half-Marathon. And in order to highlight the fact that 2012 is also the 20th anniversary of the Columbus-Dresden sister city relationship, we are gearing up to start an exchange between the two marathon programs.

Truth be told, this will not be the first time that Columbus will be hosting runners from its German sister city. Every year between 1993 and 1998, and again in 2000, between one and ten athletes from Dresden competed in the Columbus Marathon, many of them city officials. In 1999, Dresden started its own Marathon program, and the event has been taking place on the same day as the Columbus Marathon.

What is the plan?

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of our sister city relationship, Dresden wants to send over a group of 20 (!) runners – 10 men and 10 women – to compete in the Columbus Marathon. We are working with Darris Blackford, the race director of the Columbus Marathon, who has embraced the idea and is enthusiastically supporting the endeavor, to coordinate the exchange. We are hoping to be able to put together a group of Columbus athletes to compete in the Dresden Marathon. On October 21st, we will live-stream the Dresden finish-line to video screens in downtown Columbus, and the Columbus start-line to screens in downtown Dresden. The visitors from Dresden will get some special attention during the broadcast.

What do we need help with?

Well, we need **runners** who would like to run either the marathon or the half-marathon in beautiful Dresden. The course is picturesque, leading through Dresden's old town and along the river Elbe. We are working with our partners in Dresden to put together some incentives for the travelers – such as free race entry, a gift package, host families and some special V.I.P. treatment! More on that soon! Meanwhile, think about it, and talk about it to your friends and neighbors!

Then, we need **host families** for the runners from Dresden. They are planning to be in town October 18th through 23rd. That will be a week of hosting, during which the guests will also need transportation (at least on the race weekend). Please consider hosting one or more Dresden athletes!

Once we are closer to the event, there will be other things we will need help with, such as a fundraising event for the runners who are traveling to Dresden, to help with their travel expenses. On race weekend, we will be hosting a reception for the Dresden runners, and will need you there as well. There might be some additional needs when it comes to entertaining the visitors. So, please stay tuned and gear up for some serious sister city business!

DSCI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Dresden Sister City, Inc. relationship is to foster an international understanding at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. To achieve this understanding, both cities will promote the exchange of people, ideas, economic development, and culture through a variety of educational institutions, municipal, corporate, professional, technical and youth projects. The focus of these exchanges will be to foster world peace.

Support the sister city relationship! Become a member of Dresden Sister City, Inc.! For membership information, please visit our website, or call Dorit Fratzscher at (614) 227-2240.

GERMAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM CREATED IN MEMORY OF FRANK WOBST



From left: Carina Ketzmerick (Dresden), Jamie Feyko (CSG), Adele Anderson (CSG), Saskia Liese (Dresden) in front of the Columbus Memorabilia Case in the Mayor's office in Dresden. Photo: A. Beutekamp

Posted April 12, 2012 in Unicorn NewsCenter, a CSG Publication

Columbus School for Girls German teacher, Ron Nocks, had a conference with a parent one day last year where the two spoke briefly about creating an exchange program that would give CSG students the opportunity to spend time in Germany. Now, one year after that initial conversation, two students from CSG and two students from Dresden, Germany already have experienced the first exchange!

Franck Wobst, past CSG parent and Board President, was the parent with whom Ron Nocks spoke that day and the driving force and sponsor of the exchange. In the discussions that followed, it was decided that the program would be set up in memory of Mr. Wobst's father, Frank Georg Wobst, who, as a young man, attended Kreuzschule Gymnasium, a college preparatory school in Dresden, Germany. Dresden is the Sister City of Columbus, Ohio, a relationship that was established during Frank G. Wobst's tenure as CEO of Huntington Bank. With those connections in mind, Mr. Nocks contacted Karin Kober, an English teacher at Kreuzschule Gymnasium, and together they developed the details of the exchange program.

Upper School students, Jamie Feyko and Adele Anderson were the CSG travelers for this inaugural year of the exchange. "I have been taking German for six years," said Jamie. "The month I spent in Germany was a once-in-a-lifetime experience." Adele remarked, "The German exchange was one of the best and most beneficial experiences this year, not only because my German improved so much, but also because I was able to experience another culture, which ultimately guided me to think about my own."

The girls each lived with a German family during their stay in Dresden, and the daughters of those two families, Carina Ketzmerick and Saskia Liese, traveled to Columbus and CSG in early April to experience life in the United States. Carina and Saskia are being hosted by a CSG family.

Ron Nocks and Franck Wobst hope that the program will continue for many years to come, enabling more CSG girls to experience the German culture. "Never have I felt so equally excited, nervous, independent, and confident," said Jamie. Adele added, "I will always remember the people I met and the places I have gone, and hope to return in the future." ■



Picture right: Exchange students with CSG German teacher Ron Nocks and DSCI Board Member Franck Wobst at Columbus School for Girls Source: Unicorn

DSCI board member Franck Wobst and director Dorit Fratzscher joined Dresden students Carina Ketzmerick and Saskia Liese and CSG German teacher Ron Nocks on a tour of the Ohio State House and sat down with them afterwards to discuss the exchange program and the experience they had had in Columbus. Both students warmly praised Columbus School for Girls and their hosts, saying that this had been a very valuable experience for them, and that they hoped the program would continue in the future. Both students said that their English had improved immensely over these three and a half weeks, and that they had learned a lot about life in the U.S.

Dresden

Picture Right: The City of Dresden is currently displaying the gifts it has received from sister city Columbus over the 20 years since the sister city agreement was signed. The items are displayed in a glass case in the Mayor's office.



DSCI INTERNAL NEWS

During its January 18, 2012 board meeting, the board of directors of Dresden Sister City, Inc. unanimously voted to appoint **Peter Coccia** to the board. Mr. Coccia is fluent in German and very interested in German language and culture. He recently retired from a thirty-one year career in State Government in January, 2010. His major offices of service included: Finance Administrator for the Department of Administrative Services (17 years), Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Development, Assistant Deputy Director of Personnel for the Department of Administrative Services, and Budget Analyst for the Office of Budget and Management. Before entering state service, Mr. Coccia taught high school German, and he is currently renewing his license as a German teacher at OSU.

In January 2012, **David Barker** and **Elfi DiBella** resigned from the DSCI board after many years of volunteering their expertise to the organization. We would like to thank them for their work and wish them good luck for their future endeavors!

COTA INSPIRES PUBLIC ART PROJECT – REINIGUNGSGESELLSCHAFT BACK IN COLUMBUS



Martin Keil and Henrik Mayer in Downtown Columbus. Photo Source: Lorrie Cecil / THISWEEK www.thisweeknews.com

Columbus is celebrating its 200th birthday, and this is an opportunity for the city to shine. In recognition of the fact that public art is an indicator for the quality of life and the vitality of a city, *Finding Time: Columbus Public Art 2012* is transforming downtown Columbus into an open art gallery throughout the year. The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) will serve as the venue for one of the 14 temporary art projects. German artists Martin Keil and Henrik Mayer, who work together as *Reinigungsgesellschaft*, are partnering with COTA on a project titled ColumBUS, that will creatively explore the concepts of public transportation and its future in this Midwestern city. Their sites will include buses, drivers, bus stops, passengers, management and print pieces, such as schedules and maps.

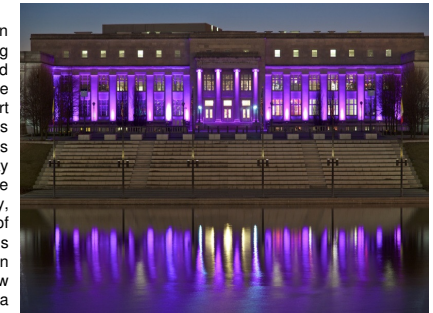
The artists spent two weeks in Columbus in March, absorbing everything they could about the city's public transportation system, its customers, management and employees, and the geographical and infrastructural realities of the city. They spent several days riding the bus to very remote areas, while chatting with the riders and drivers and getting to know the city. They will be back in May to present the products of their work.

Keil and Mayer are no strangers to Columbus: the artists first came to Columbus ten years ago on a GCAC-Saxony artist residency. They were back in 2009 to stage a 1989-East-Germany-inspired demonstration in downtown Columbus, and that project was hosted by the Columbus College of Art and Design.

During their March visit, members of Dresden Sister City were able to get to know Martin Keil and Henrik Mayer during an artist talk that was organized by *Finding Time* Project Director Malcolm Cochran.

BREATH OF LIFE / COLUMBUS & DRESDEN BY STUART WILLIAMS - PROJECT STATUS

Waves of light, rising and falling at the pace of human breathing and creating an impression of the building breathing in a state of meditation, temporarily transformed the east façade of COSI between dusk and dawn during the months of February and March. New York artist Stuart Williams was commissioned for this project by the Columbus Cultural Arts Commission, as part of *Finding Time: Columbus Public Art 2012*. In an effort to extend the project to sister city Dresden and have a dual-city art event during the anniversary of the sister city relationship, Dresden Sister City, Inc., Columbus Sister City International, and the City of Dresden supported a visit of Stuart Williams to Dresden this past fall, so the artist could select potential sites and begin efforts to obtain the necessary permits. Williams has now obtained official permit from one site and is expecting a decision from another site. During their visit, Dresden Deputy Mayor Winfried Lehmann and Antje Beutekamp were able to view the installation, and both showed enthusiasm and their willingness to support the project in Dresden. Meanwhile, fundraising efforts have started, and either one of the selected buildings will hopefully feature the light installation this fall. We will keep you posted.



"Breath of Life / Columbus & Dresden," © Stuart Williams 2012. COSI, Columbus, Ohio, USA. Photo © Craig Collins.

COLUMBUS ARTISTS PARTICIPATED IN DRESDEN ART SHOW

On invitation of Künstlerbund Dresden e.V., a professional artist association, two Columbus artists participated in an art show accompanying Room & Style, an annual consumer trade show in Dresden that took place in January. The artists selected were Elizabeth Gerdeman, a visual artist currently residing in Dresden, and Nicholas Hill, a printmaker and professor at the Otterbein University Art Department. The event was the first in a series of events marking the 20th anniversary of the signing of the sister city agreement between Columbus and Dresden.

Photo: A. Beutekamp, Dresden

