

Connecting Maine and Aomori

Sister Cities, Art Exchanges, & Sharing Regional Cultures



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LECTURE CONTENTS

1.SISTER CITIES

Their history and what they are today

2.VISUAL CULTURE

What is is and how it is used in exchanges

3.THE MAPS PROGRAM

Maine-Aomori Sister State Art Exchange

4.VOLUNTEERING AS COMMUNITY/SELF-DEVELOPMENT

What is a Sister City?

"Twin Town"

"Friendship City"

A BROAD-BASED, LONG-TERM
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO
COMMUNITIES IN TWO COUNTRIES.

A CITY CAN HAVE
MULTIPLE SISTER CITIES

EACH SISTER CITY
ORGANIZATION IS
INDEPENDENT AND
VARIES IN SIZE

PURSUE SHARED AREAS
OF INDUSTRY/INTEREST
THAT ARE IMPORTANT
TO THEM

A quick history of Sister City Ties

PRE-WWII

836: PADERBORN, GERMANY AND LE MANS, FRANCE FORMED THE FIRST RECOGNIZED SISTER RELATIONSHIP.

1920: KEIGHLEY, ENGLAND AND POIX-DU-NORD, FRANCE FORMED THE FIRST LEGALLY RECORDED SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

WWI & WWII - SISTER CITY AS AN ACT OF PEACEBUILDING

A quick history of Sister City Ties

POST-WWII

1945: COVENTRY, ENGLAND,
STALINGRAD, RUSSIA AND LATER
DRESDEN, GERMANY FORM TRI-SISTER
CITY - ALL THREE CITIES WERE
HEAVILY BOMBED DURING WWII

1945-46: BATH, ENGLAND FORMED
AN "ALKMAAR ADOPTION SISTER
COMMITTEE" WITH ALKMAAR,
DENMARK. CHILDREN FROM EACH
CITY TOOK PART IN EXCHANGES
DURING 1945 AND 1946.

1955: ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA (US)
AND NAGASAKI, JAPAN FORM
SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP ON
PEARL HARBOR DAY.

US-JAPAN SISTER CITIES

451 SISTER CITIES (2018)

25% of Japan's overall sister ties.

1ST SISTERS:
NAGASAKI & ST.PAUL

Established in 1955 on "Pearl Harbor Day" as a sign of peace.

US-JAPAN ART INITIATIVES:
HIROSHIMA & SANTA FE

An exchange of children's art started by Chuzo Tamotzu in 1953

Question 1:

Do you know if your hometown has a sister city?

If you do, why do you think your city
paired with their sister city?

WRECKED OFF THE JAPAN COAST NINETEEN OF THE CREW OF AN AMERICAN SHIP LOST.

YOKOHAMA, Nov. 7.—The American ship Cheseborough, Capt. Ericsson, from Higo via Okadadi for New-York, has been wrecked on the northwest coast of Japan. Nineteen of her crew were drowned.

D. B. Dearborn, the agent of the Cheseborough at this port, says that she was owned by Arthur Wall & Co. of Bath, Me. She was built in 1878 and measured 1,461 tons. Her dimensions were: Length, 204 feet; breadth of beam, 40 feet, and depth of hold, 24 feet. She was a full-rigged clipper, and rated in the first class. She had made a number of voyages between this port and San Francisco.

The New York Times

Published: November 8, 1889

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Maine & Aomori

The Cheseborough from Bath, Maine, shipwrecked off of the coast of Shariki village in Aomori (Tsugaru Village today).

The people of Shariki village saved survivors from that shipwreck, nursed them back to health, and helped them get back to the United States. It is an event in our shared histories that we decided to celebrate by establishing an official sister state relationship.

"WRECKED OFF THE JAPAN COAST. NINETEEN OF THE CREW OF AN AMERICAN SHIP LOST" The New York Times. New York. November 7, 1889.

2018: Sasakawa Peace Foundation findings

"Sister Cities: Seedbed for the Grassroots of U.S.-Japan Relations"
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, May 23rd 2018.

1. SISTER PROGRAMS HAVE GREATLY
LOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
2. SISTER PROGRAMS ARE OFTEN
VOLUNTEER-RUN AND LED
3. LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND
RESOURCES LEADS TO ISOLATION
4. SITUATION HAS BEEN MADE
WORSE DUE TO COVID-19

what is

VISUAL CULTURE?

and what are

CULTURAL IMAGES?

VISUAL CULTURE:

A visible and tangible object(s) that presents the forms and practices within a society, including those of everyday life, popular culture, and high culture.

CULTURAL IMAGES:

Cultural images are characteristic images of an individual culture.



<https://twitter.com/cityportland/status/9913090668269281292022/1/17>



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Question 2:

*Does your city
have public art or
landmarks within
the city that
educate the public
about their sister
and its culture?*

What can
Visual Art
Exchanges
achieve?

1. ELIMINATE LANGUAGE BARRIERS
2. LOWER COSTS OF EXCHANGE BY EXCHANGING ARTWORKS RATHER THAN PERSONS
3. WIDER ACCESSIBILITY TO MORE PEOPLE IN SISTER COMMUNITIES

The Maine- Aomori Printmaking Society

INTERNATIONAL ART
EXCHANGE PROGRAM

EST.2016 AS PART OF
MAINE-AOMORI SISTER-
STATE RELATIONSHIP

2016: INTERN
2017 - PRESENT:
BOARD MEMBER &
EXCHANGE ORGANIZER

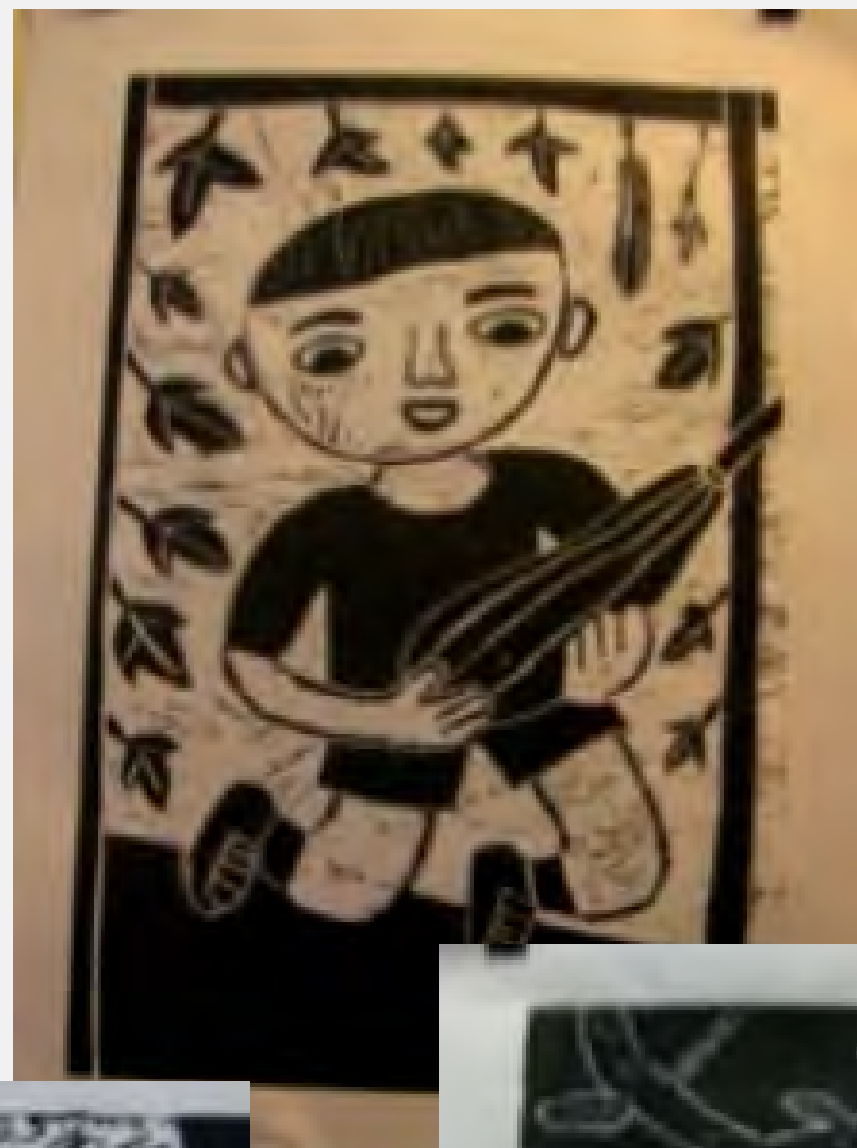


*Two (2)
prints of Portland,
Maine landscapes
by Aomori artists
during sister-state
artist residency.*



MAPS Project timeline

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Inaugural exchange Exhibition at SPACE Gallery Portland, ME USA & Aomori Bunka Center Aomori, Japan Portland, ME residency	Annual exchange established Traveling exhibition series begins	Children's print exchange begins Rural community outrach begins Open-call submissions begin	Aomori, Japan residency Annual children's print exchange established	5 Years x 100 Prints 5 year retrospective exhibition postponed due to covid-19 Virtual exhibitions implemented





Volunteering for Community and for Yourself

What Volunteering Gave Me:
A 6-month internship with
MAPS/Munakata Shiko Memorial
Museum of Art in Aomori City.

Hosted by Hirosaki University.

My first international experience.

A new, global community.

New opportunities.



*Volunteering for your community
leads to personal growth.*

*Not only will you enrich your
community at large, you will take
personal experiences and skills with
you throughout your life.*





*Volunteering
broadens your
network.*

*It can also
lead to new
opportunities
and directions
you did not have
access to before!*



In Conclusion:

1. You are more internationally connected than you may think - through sister city connections.
2. Consider volunteering for sister city programs, because they need you.
3. Investing in your community is an investment in yourself.

Question 3:

If you could share a cultural image of your hometown with a sister city community, what image would you choose and why?

What method would you use to share it?



Thank you