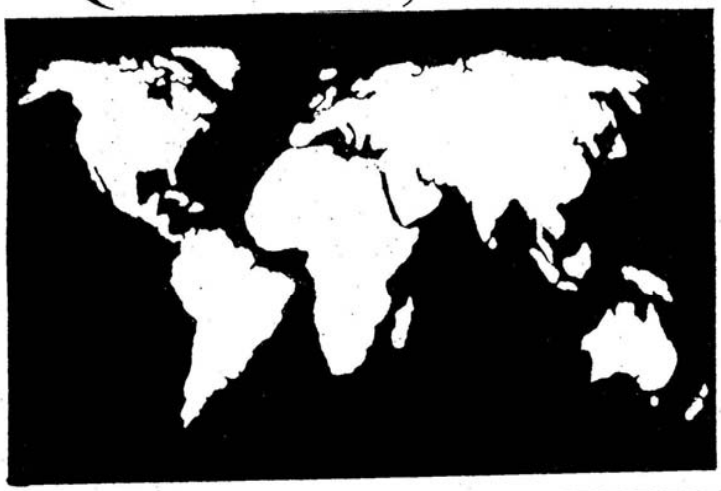
SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL®

City of Holland
And
Santiago de Queretaro
Queretaro, Mexico



City of Holland
International Relations Commission

- **1993**- IRC established by City Council
- **1996** – Signed Official Acts of Protocol to establish relationship with Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico
- **2003** – Relationship officially recognized by Sister Cities International

City of Holland
International Relations Commission

MISSION:

To promote international and cross-cultural knowledge, awareness, understanding, and sensitivity through interactions within the community and across borders.

Sister City
Santiago de Querétaro

POLITICAL CLIMATE AND AWARENESS:

- Mayors and political leadership completely changes every 3 years
- Visitations by delegations important to establish positive working relationship with each new administration
- 2009-2012 Mayor: Francisco Domínguez Servién

Sister City 1996 - 2010
HISTORY OF MAJOR VISITATIONS

9 delegations visited Querétaro & **13** visited Holland

- Government, Business, Chamber of Commerce
- Educational - Hope/Local School students, faculty
- Rotary Club members, Artists, Musicians
- Sports Teams - Soccer, Football, Basketball
- Medical Professionals – Holland Hospital
- Emergency Services – Fire, Police
- Querétaro Fountain, Parque Holland, Kids Books

Querétaro vs. Hope Football Exchanges

September 1999: Autonomous University of Querétaro (UAQ) football team, Los Gatos Salvajes (48 members) friendship game vs. Hope's Flying Dutchmen at Holland Municipal Stadium.

June 2000: Hope's Flying Dutchmen football team plays a game against the UAQ football team and runs American football clinics in Querétaro. (73 members)

May 1998 - Presidente Francisco Garrido Patron and his family visit Holland

Santiago de Querétaro Fountain in Kollen Park

Fountain dedicated May 8, 1999

Park benches purchased and dedicated September 2, 2006

“Parque Holland”
Holland’s Gift to Santiago de Querétaro
Installed and dedicated September 15, 2000

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Holland’s Gift to Santiago de Querétaro
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2002 – City delegation and Fire Chief visit Querétaro to attend International Business Conference

2006 - "La Estudiantina" of University of Querétaro visit and performed at Hope's dedication of the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication and offered performances to community and local schools

November 2009 – IRC and Hope College host Mr. Jose Antonio Alvarez Martin, Director of Leisure & Cultural Services for State and City of Querétaro

2004 – IRC collected books donated by the Holland community and shipped 1,100 books to Querétaro Museum's Children's Library

May 2010 - Querétaro's Club Libertadores Youth Basketball Teams Play Holland "Friendship Games"

May 2010 - Club Libertadores "Friendship Games"

International Relations Commission
Goals 2010-2011

- Establish a strategy for 3-year delegation visits between Querétaro and Holland.
- Promote tourism and cultural exchange opportunities with Querétaro.
- Explore opportunities for an annual fundraising event (Golf Outing held July 31, 2010).
- Establish connections with businesses and industry between Holland and Querétaro.
- Continue to develop relationships with community groups and organizations that promote goals of the IRC.

International Relations Commission
Goals 2010-2011

- Develop a relationship with the Rotary Club and invite to IRC meetings.
- Promote a Youth Exchange program with Querétaro.
- Explore possibilities for a student to student or family to family cultural exchange with Querétaro.
- Explore additional Sister-City relationships
- Host a city delegation from Querétaro, Mexico in the Spring of 2011 (FY 2011).
- Hold 3rd Annual Celebration of Multicultural Connections May 21, 2011.

HISTORY OF EXCHANGES 1996-2011

Querétaro Delegations Hosted and Holland Visitations to Querétaro

- 1996 – Holland City delegation visits Querétaro to establish Sister City Relationship
- 1997 - Lic. Luis Alberto Fernandez & Gerardo Hilguera delegation visit Holland for Community Day
- 1997 – Holland Hospital delegation visits Qro.
- 1998 – Presidente Francisco Garrido visits Holland.
- 1998 – HASP visits Qro. with Dr. Herb Weller
- 1999 – Mexican artisans build water fountain

HISTORY OF EXCHANGES 1996-2011

Querétaro Delegations Hosted and Holland Visitations to Querétaro

- 1999- Presidente Francisco Garrido Patron delegation attends fountain dedication
- 2000 – City delegation visits Qro. for Day of the Kings Parade
- 2000 – City delegation visits Qro. to deliver and install Parque Holland playground
- 2000 – IRC Hosts 2 Qro. Guests for "Tale of Two Cities Reception" at Holland Museum
- 2001 – Gov. Ignacio Loyola Vera delegation visits Holland for Tulip Time/Transmatic

HISTORY OF EXCHANGES 1996-2011

Querétaro Delegations Hosted and Holland Visitations to Querétaro

- 2002 – City delegation and Fire Chief visit Qro. to attend International Business Conference
- 2003 – IRC hosted delegation of 12 Rotary Club members and 2 Qro. Representatives
- 2004 – City/IRC delegation attended Festival de Querétaro with Holland Youth Quartet & Hope Jazz Group
- 2004 – City hosted Qro. Mayor & Governor during Tulip Time

HISTORY OF EXCHANGES 1996-2011

Querétaro Delegations Hosted and Holland Visitations to Querétaro

- 2005 – Herb & Ann Weller take Holland group to Qro.
- 2006 – Mayor Armando Rivera administration (12) & Rotary Club (6) delegation visits Holland for Tulip Time Festival
- 2006 – Holland delegation visits Querétaro to celebrate its 475th Anniversary and Alfredo Gonzales given one of highest honors from Qro. for his role in establishing and continuing Sister City Relationship
- 2006 – IRC hosts Mexican Consul Vicente Sanchez

HISTORY OF EXCHANGES 1996-2011

Querétaro Delegations Hosted and Holland Visitations to Querétaro

- 2008 – Holland extends official delegation invitation to Presidente Manuel Gonzalez Valle; declined due to economy/political reasons related to candidacy for Governor
- 2008 – Qro. Hosts West Michigan Fire Soccer Club & holds "Copa Querétaro" (12-14 yr olds)
- 2008 – Herb & Ann Weller take Holland group to Qro.
- 2008 – Holland teachers visit Qro. to set up educational "e-pal" partnerships

HISTORY OF EXCHANGES 1996-2011

Querétaro Delegations Hosted and Holland Visitations to Querétaro

- 2009 – IRC & Hope College hosted 2 Qro. "Club Libertadores" basketball team representatives
- 2009 – IRC & Hope College hosted Mr. Jose Antonio Alvarez Martin, Qro. Leisure & Cultural Svcs Director
- 2010 – IRC & Hope College hosted 2 youth "Club Libertadores" basketball teams to play Holland club teams

HISTORY OF EXCHANGES 1996-2011
Querétaro Delegations Hosted and Holland Visitations to Querétaro

- June 2011 – Holland City Delegation comprised of Mayor Dykstra, Council Members Burch and Whiteman, IRC Chair Strachan, Commissioner Weller, IRC Student Representative Ariagno, and Holland Chorale's "Showtime" participate in Querétaro's "4th Annual Foreign Communities Festival" held June 3-5, 2011.

International Relations Commission
Other Notable Exchanges & Activities

- 1997 - “La Estudiantina” musical group (19 members) from Autonomous University of Querétaro, perfoms at DeWitt Theatre
- 2000- Sponsored Holland Turtle Project - Holland children painted clay turtles and sent to Querétaro
- 2002 – Helped Mr. Karsten, Holland Town Crier, for competition in England
- 2002- Hosted welcome reception for 26 students and teachers from Nagahama, Japan

International Relations Commission
Other Notable Exchanges & Activities

- 2002 – Supported Mexican Consulate for processing passports and Mexican IDs
- 2002 - Supported Tulipanes Festival
- 2002 – Sent Al Serrano and Kate Gutierrez to Annual Sister Cities Conference – Toledo, OH
- 2002 – IRC & Hope College sponsored “Shared Sensibilities” art exhibit

International Relations Commission
Other Notable Exchanges & Activities

- 2003 – Sponsored proefssional video production of the Aerial Dance Theater/ Grosso Modo concert
- 2004 - IRC collected books donated by the Holland community and shipped 1,100 books to Querétaro Museum's Children's Library
- 2005 – Sister Cities signage placed at 2 City entry points: W. 16th St & Lincoln Ave

International Relations Commission
Other Notable Exchanges & Activities

- 2006 – IRC hosted welcome reception for 26 students and teachers from Nagahama, Japan
- 2006 – IRC raised funds for 6 park benches made in Qro. to be placed at Querétaro Fountain, Kollen Park and held dedication ceremony
- 2006 – IRC helped sponsor Qro.art exhibit put on by Meredith Ridl during 475th Anniversary Celebration

International Relations Commission
Other Notable Exchanges & Activities

- 2009 - IRC and South Shore Village Merchants sponsored 1st Annual Celebration of Multicultural Connections
- 2010- IRC and South Shore Village Merchants sponsored 2nd Annual Celebration of Multicultural Connections
- 2010: IRC sponsored 1st Annual Friendship Golf Outing – raised $1,400 for Commission's exchange program with Querétaro

International Relations Commission
Other Notable Exchanges & Activities

- September 2011: IRC sponsored welcome Holland reception for Querétaro artist Ticha González (Maria Beatriz González Martinez) who participated in Grand Rapids' ArtPrize Event