



OUR CORNER OF THE WORLD

LOUISVILLE SISTER CITIES MONTHLY

Montpellier / Tamale / Quito / La Plata / Mainz / Jiujiang / Leeds/ Perm / Adapazari



AT-A-GLANCE

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April - Downtown Revitalization

In April, most states in the U.S. were able to make vaccines available to all eligible adults 16 years and older. This development is significantly ahead of the schedule set by the Biden administration. With about 40% of Americans vaccinated, many cities have begun the earnest work of economic recovery.

The pandemic has hurt every community around the world in varying degrees. Each city has its own unique history, resources, and priorities for development. In this issue, we highlight the things that Louisville is focused on in its recovery, and share some of the areas that our Sister Cities are prioritizing.

From reviving its historic landmarks (Mainz & Quito) to organizing citizen's reserves (Montpellier) and improving the environment around the cities (Perm and Jiujiang), all of our sister cities are working to rebuild and improve the quality of life of their residents. We wish you all the best of luck and look forward to when we can travel and see the fruit of these efforts.

Thank you for your friendship and support!

The World Affairs Council Team



Reflections from Louisville

This month we are focusing on Downtown and Urban Revitalization. Below, we focus on what Louisville is prioritizing in this process.

With potential light at the end of the tunnel of the deadly coronavirus pandemic, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and his administration have made it one of their top priorities this year to revitalize downtown, a major economic engine in Jefferson County.

The city has struggled, like so many others around the world, with the economic impacts of the pandemic. There is hope amongst many leaders in the city that growth will return and quickly.

There are several key areas the city government and business leaders hope to focus on, but the task will be difficult. Louisville Metro Government is expected to land \$435 million from the American Rescue Plan stimulus that was recently passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden. This will hopefully assist our local leaders in accomplishing the various policies over the next year or two.

On the right side, we highlight the top priorities and issues the city and business leaders are focusing on to revitalize the region. Many are calling for things not to just return to normal, but to think of Downtown in a whole new way.

1

Homelessness/Racial Justice

To begin healing from the ongoing calls for racial injustice in the city, leaders are proposing a multi-pronged approach to addressing the issues of racial justice and homelessness.

2

Empty Office Space Solutions

The increase of remote work due to the pandemic has caused office space vacancies to be at an all time high in the city. One proposal is to see how to create housing out of these spaces as a means to address both homelessness and encourage more people to live in the area.

3

Bring Back Foot Traffic

The lack of events and "foot traffic" in downtown impacts local businesses and overall confidence in the area. The need to encourage businesses, event organizers, tourists, and locals to return and enjoy the attractions is of great importance.

4

Arts and Tourism

Louisville is lucky to have a leading arts scene well before the pandemic and while these institutions have been impacted they also reinvented themselves and are a key part of revitalization. Tourism is also key as it was the third largest industry in Kentucky before the pandemic.



What Revitalization Means to Louisville's Sister Cities

Urban revitalization and renewal is similar and different amongst our Sister Cities. Below we highlight the various projects and goals our counterparts are focusing on in the months ahead.



Mainz, Germany

Sister City with Louisville since 1994.

In the center of town, rising prominently on the banks of the Rhine River, is the “gut Stubb”—the Mainz City Hall. It is an imposing structure, built in 1973 during the time when Jockel Fuchs was Lord Mayor of the city (that is why it is sometimes called “Fuchsbau” = “foxhole”). The building was designed by Arne Jacobsen, who was the top Danish architect of that period.

With the cost of the renovation having been estimated at 100 million euros, some discussion ensued about the practicality of razing the original structure and rebuilding in another location. However, history and tradition won the day. The city council has decided on renovation after all. Plans are being drafted in close consultation with the monument authority.



Montpellier, France

Sister City with Louisville since 1954.

Montpellier created a citizens' reserve, in order to strengthen the protection of the inhabitants in the face of climatic and sanitary risks and to raise the awareness of the public.

The Communal Civil Security Reserve, also known as the Citizens' Reserve, is composed of volunteer citizens. Their mission will be to provide assistance, logistical and technical support, as well as prevention and awareness to the population throughout the year.

Montpellier's focus is on engaging citizens to be a part of city-wide safety policies and promote them to the wider public.



Jiujiang, China

Sister City with Louisville since 2004.

For Jiujiang, revitalization means an improved industrial structure, with green and high-tech industries as the leading industries. It also includes more developed transportation, which provides convenient travel for people. Finally, we focus on creating a better ecological environment, making people get a higher sense of happiness and gain.

The city works hard to ensure security in the six areas of employment, basic living needs, operations of market entities, food and energy security, stable industrial and supply chains, and the normal functioning of primary-level governments. Now that production has returned to normal, the domestic and foreign demand has been expanded, and economic development has registered a good momentum.

Green Ring of Perm

This feature is from our counterparts in Perm, Russia. They detail their focus on creating more green spaces in and around the city.



Perm, Russia

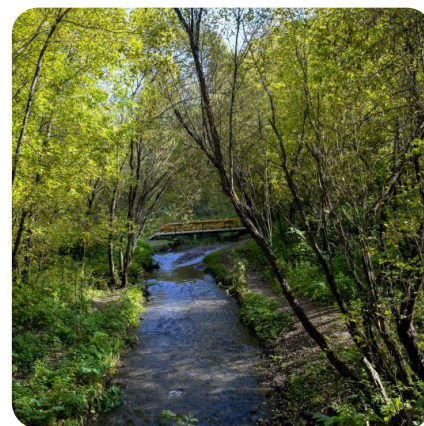
Sister City with Louisville since 1994.

The Kama is a major navigable river in Russia and the longest left tributary of the Volga River. The city of Perm stretches along the Kama River for 70 kilometers. But it was not the Kama but minor rivers that have created a unique topography of the urban area and had a tremendous effect on its development. As for the number of minor rivers, Perm is a record-setter among the cities of Russia - there are more than 300 minor rivers and streams in the city.

The valleys of minor rivers are the green "lungs" of the city. The foreshore of minor rivers is home to nesting birds - redstart, nightingale, robin, titmouse, chaffinch, white wagtail, thrush, mallard.

Strategic decisions have been worked out in Perm to create a favorable and comfortable environment in the valleys of minor rivers (creeks) in the downtown of Perm as the first stage of the establishment of the Green Ring of the city by 2023.

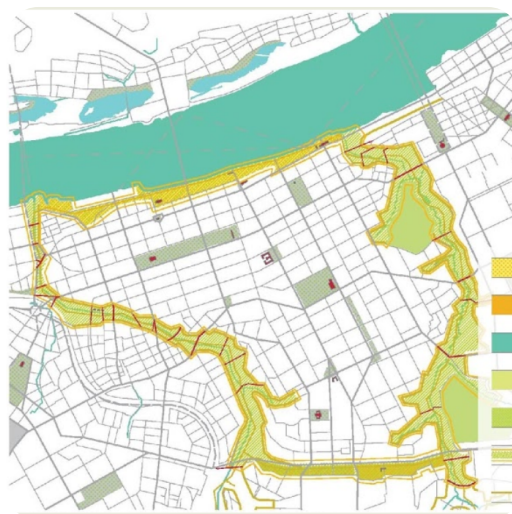
The **Green Ring Project** includes the Yegoshikha and the Danilikha minor river valleys transformed for recreational use and connected through the Kama Embankment (which is under great reconstruction). The Project is an important instrument to improve the efficiency of the urban area use and the development of a green economy and responsible attitude towards the environment.



Minor River.



Kama Embankment



Proposal of Perm Green Ring Project

Events Across our Cities

Highlights of past and upcoming events of significance in our communities.



Quito, Ecuador

Sister City with Louisville since 1962

Sister Cities Lunch and Learn

The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana is hosting on April 29th at 12:00pm EST another Sister Cities Lunch and Learn with our counterparts in Quito, Ecuador.

This month, like our newsletter, we focus the discussion on "Downtown Revitalization" with Carlos Zaldumbide (Quito) and Rebecca Fleischaker (Louisville). Carlos is currently the Executive Director of the Quito Chamber of Commerce and General Secretary of the International Chamber of Commerce, Ecuador Chapter. Rebecca is the co-chief of Louisville Forward.

They will discuss what challenges and opportunities the two cities face toward economic revitalization especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To attend [register HERE.](#)



Tamale, Ghana

Sister City with Louisville since 1979

Celebrating Local Graduates

Tamale Technical University (TaTU) on 23rd March, 2021 presented 50 certificates to graduates of GIZ funded Mango Value Chain training participants in the Auditorium of Computer Science Block of Tamale Technical University.

The participants were drawn from Mango outgrowing farms within Tamale and its surrounding communities. The training was aimed at improving the participants' knowledge and skills in mango plantation and also to enable them to create employment for themselves and the community.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Saeed Bashiru Ibn Imoro, Alhaji Yakubu Iddrisu; Registrar, and Dr. Zakaria Issaaka; Dean of the School of Engineering and Built Environment, and a Representative from the Donors were present to witness the program.



Picture: Courtesy of Tamale Sister City

WAC Team

Our work at the World Affairs Council is facilitated and supported by a group of passionate individuals that believe in the power of global exchange, dialogue and learning. They comprise of capable professionals at the staff level, supported by a strong and active board of directors and committee members who are community leaders and seasoned professionals.

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