

**Memorandum of Understanding
Augmenting
The Sister City Relationship
Between
The Cities of San Francisco and Zürich**

Whereas, the sister city agreement between the great Cities of San Francisco and Zürich was originally forged on November 13, 2003; and

Whereas, both cities have continued to foster this flourishing relationship—building global cooperation at the municipal level, promoting cultural understanding and stimulating economic development; now

Therefore be it resolved that both Cities agree to undertake together these below listed projects, through the auspices of The San Francisco - Zürich Initiative, providing new opportunities for city officials and citizens to experience and explore each other's respective cities:

- 1) *Actively support each city's respective airport's efforts to establish non-stop air service between the San Francisco International Airport and the Zürich International Airport on a year-round basis.***

Both the San Francisco Bay Area and the Greater Zürich Area are widely recognized as growing gateways and both cities are committed to make it more convenient for business and leisure customers to travel between the two sister cities.

Non-stop air service will allow for future exchanges that develop tourism opportunities and increased airport usage between San Francisco and Zürich.

- 2) *Establish an artist-in-residence exchange program, which will broaden each city's cultural and artistic awareness and provide a unique and invaluable platform upon which this global partnership may be illuminated.***

This program will aim to negotiate cultural differences, explore the potential to engage in cross cultural activities, as well as to further enhance the cultural environment in both cities.

During their residence, the artists will not only focus on their arts, but they will also engage in interactions with local artists and residents. Through this process, they will share their creativity and native culture with others.

Both cities will be committed to hosting open studios sessions, giving residents an opportunity to see the works of the artists.

The program and artist selection will be carried out by The San Francisco-Zürich Initiative.

3) Exchange information and best practices for green stormwater management technologies between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and the Entsorgung + Recycling Zürich (ERZ).

Before development, both San Francisco and Zürich had natural systems that absorbed rainwater and infiltrated most runoff into the soil to replenish groundwater and streams. Today, impervious surfaces such as buildings, streets, and parking lots have covered most of these areas and prevent rainfall infiltration. Runoff picks up pollutants like oil and debris that washes them into sewer systems or other receiving water bodies (i.e. Zürichsee and the San Francisco Bay).

San Francisco and Zürich are taking advantage of green stormwater management technologies and using approaches that can help mitigate the effects of urbanization on stormwater. These technologies and designs mimic natural watershed processes.

Green stormwater management technologies such as swales, creek daylighting, rainwater gardens, stormwater planters, green roofs, pervious concrete and green streets can be incorporated into various urban designs such as tree planters, container gardens, traffic calming devices, parks and schools to create multi-purpose designs that beautify, increase pedestrian safety, and provide either passive or active recreational opportunities.

Through this exchange, the SFPUC and the ERZ are committed to actively pursue ways to share information, staff and best practices about green technologies for managing stormwater. Through this program administered by the SFPUC, we will enhance environmental quality and reduce pollutants.

4) Support the establishment of formal dialogues between San Francisco and Zürich's biotechnology and life sciences research institutions with the mission of promoting the field of stem cell research.

The State of California is a leader in driving stem cell research forward through the creation of the San Francisco-based California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). CIRM is administering the US\$3 billion in general obligation bonds for stem cell research authorized by voters with the passage of Proposition 71 in November 2004.

Through the auspices of the sister city relationship, San Francisco and Zürich will encourage and promote the sharing of innovative experiences in stem cell research and encourage efforts to increase scientific cooperation through exchange programs and joint research projects.

5) Pursue a program to exchange governmental personnel. Each city will host management or staff personnel for a time that adequately allows for the sharing of best practice solutions to practical problems. The final purpose will be to achieve the fostering of long-term knowledge sharing between San Francisco and Zürich's city agencies. Some areas of specific interest are: water, sanitation, environmental protection, health services and emergency management and preparedness (including police and fire departments).

- 6) Continued commitment to supporting the highly successful student exchange between San Francisco and Zürich.** Since they began in 2004, these home stays have provided students with an opportunity to develop their understanding and experience with the American and Swiss cultures.
- 7) Both Cities agree to entertain additional proposals so long as they are able to be adequately funded and meet the criteria of offering mutual benefit and promoting the mission of The San Francisco-Zürich Initiative.**

In witness hereof, the Cities of San Francisco and Zürich, as represented by their respective Mayors, hereby sign this agreement on January 23, 2007, at Zürich City Hall, Switzerland.

Signatories:

Gavin Newsom
Mayor of San Francisco

Elmar Ledergerber
Mayor of Zürich