



**Portland Khabarovsk Sister City Association
PO Box 80651, Portland, OR 97280-1651**

March 4, 2024

Ms. Chido Dhliwayo
International Relations Director
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Ave #410
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Annual Report of Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association

Dear Ms. Dhliwayo,

This Annual Report is submitted on behalf of the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association (“PKSCA”).

PKSCA is funded entirely by membership contributions. We are a small organization with twenty paid memberships in 2023 totaling \$1,600.00. (By comparison, we had 32 dues paying members in 2016). As of December 31, 2023, the Association held \$7,806.34 in its accounts, slightly down from a balance \$7,959.38 at the end of 2022.

Please see attached copy of our 2024 Membership Brochure, which describes activities of the PKSCA in 2023 and includes a schedule of meetings and activities planned for 2024.

Russia invaded eastern Ukraine in February 2022, though a less overt military incursion into eastern Ukraine (aka “little green men”) began in 2014 about the same time as Russia’s annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. Despite calls to terminate our relationship with the City of Khabarovsk, the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association has continued its relations with Khabarovsk through the present for reasons given in an editorial appearing in The Oregonian on June 13, 2022.

In May 2023, at the invitation of the City of Khabarovsk, the Association sent to Khabarovsk for display at its annual Day of the City celebration the artwork of students participating in Portland Public Schools' Kelly Elementary Russian Immersion Program. City officials responded in part "Your schoolchildren's paintings will help Russian kids understand American culture better and make the friendship between our cities stronger." Beyond that 2023 children's artwork exchange and plans for another exchange in May 2024, the Association has not engaged substantially with the Khabarovsk City Administration this past year, although informal communications with city staff continue. Individual members of the Association report continued engagement with private citizens in Khabarovsk.

On October 24, 2023, the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association Board of Directors adopted a Platform for Peace in Ukraine articulating a basis for the end of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine. A copy of the Platform for Peace is attached to this letter and is posted on the Association's website at <https://pk sca.org/platform-for-peace/>. We trust that you will find the Platform for Peace, as too the Association's June 13, 2022, editorial, intolerant of the Russian Federation's actions in Ukraine and a fair repudiation of President Putin's attempts to justify those actions. Nevertheless, the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association remains firmly committed to engagement with the people of Khabarovsk in pursuit of a common understanding based on historical fact, international law, and a shared interest in an open, free, and democratic society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "T R Benke". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Thomas Benke
PKSCA President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PKSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On October 24, 2023, the PKSCA Board of Directors adopted a Platform for Peace in Ukraine – included with mailing of this brochure – articulating a basis for the end of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine. The Platform accepts (in lieu of all other historical and/or cultural precedent) the territorial limits mutually agreed upon dissolution of the former Soviet Union, acknowledges both the Russian and Ukrainian “peoples”, and asserts that the rights of nation-states are limited to those necessary to fulfill the purpose for which the nation-states are recognized in international law.

The Board recommends the Platform for Peace to the Association’s members. We ask that members scrutinize each of the seven Articles separately, irrespective of any predisposition. The Platform for Peace will be posted on the Association’s website to allow for member comment.

PKSCA is, and always has been, dedicated to the well-being of our comrades in Khabarovsk. The Board believes that adherence to the principles espoused in the Platform for Peace (which would not infringe upon Russian culture or autonomy) represents the best path to prosperity for all peoples.

All PKSCA members are welcome to attend and participate in monthly Board meetings. Please renew your membership by mail or online at

<https://pkzca.org/membership/>

Thomas R. Benke, President

ABOUT KHABAROVSK

KHABAROVSK (HA-BA-RUVSK) IS PORTLAND'S SISTER CITY IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST. OUR CITY HISTORIES HAVE MANY SIMILARITIES. KHABAROVSK, AN INLAND PORT CITY ON THE CONFLUENCE OF TWO MAJOR RIVERS, FOUNDED IN 1858, OFFERED EASTWARD PIONEERS ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES: GOLD, TIMBER & SALMON. NAMED FOR THE 17TH CENTURY EXPLORER YEROFYEV KHABAROV, KHABAROVSK IS A TERRITORIAL CAPITAL, POPULATION 800,000, AND A MAJOR CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURE & COMMERCE. KHABAROVSK, LOCATED ON THREE HILLS OVERLOOKING THE AMUR RIVER, WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED AS A MILITARY OUTPOST IN 1651, DURING THE FIRST WAVE OF RUSSIAN COLONIZATION. IT GAINED IMPORTANCE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AS A TRADING OUTPOST AND TODAY IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING CITIES OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST.



PORTLAND-KHABAROVSK SISTER
CITY ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 80651
PORTLAND, OR 97280-
1651
WWW.PKSCA.ORG



2024
MEMBERSHIP

What is PKSCA?

The Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association (PKSCA) was formed June 10, 1988 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to foster international friendship through cultural & educational exchange and to facilitate social & economic ties between the citizens of our two communities. We are a self-governing board operating under a city ordinance which requires us to be both financially independent of and accountable to the Mayor of Portland. PKSCA is entirely dependent on contributions from its members, supportive businesses and organizations, and fund-raising events. (nonprofit EIN = 93-0981758)

PKSCA is governed by a Board of Directors. (Honorary Directors are designated from time to time for their service in achieving the PKSCA mission.) A Board member serves a three-year renewable term, participating in scheduled meetings and helping to further the PKSCA mission. Board members nominate candidates to fill vacancies on the Board, with a simple majority vote needed for approval. *If you have an interest in serving on the Board, contact PKSCA President Thomas Benke trbenke@me.com*

Board of Directors meetings are at held on the last Tuesday of most months, beginning at 6:30pm and adjourning around 8:00pm. Meetings are open to the public. Check the PKSCA website www.pkscas.org/monthly-meetings for meeting and event venues as well as for Zoom links facilitating virtual participation.

OFFICERS

Thomas Benke, President
Shireen Farrahi, Vice President
Martha Hickey, Secretary
Patti Pulliam, Treasurer

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Alan Ellis

2024 EVENT SCHEDULE

January

- 25 Book Club 7:00 pm –Zoom***
- 30 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**

February

- 27 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**

March

- 8 International Women’s Day *time and venue TBA*
- 26 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**
- 28 Book Club 7:00 pm –Zoom***

April

- 25 Elbe Day celebration *time and venue TBA*
- 30 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**

May

- 28 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**
- 30 Book Club 7:00 pm –Zoom***

June

- 25 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**

July

- 25 Book Club 7:00 pm – Zoom**

August

- 27 Board Meeting 6:30 pm— City Hall* / Zoom**

September

- 24 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**
- 26 Book Club 7:00 pm – Zoom**

October

- 29 Board Meeting 6:30 pm – City Hall* / Zoom**

November

- 10 Bridge to Russia *time and venue TBA*
- 19 Board Meeting 6:30 pm— City Hall* / Zoom**
- 21 Book Club 7:00 pm – Zoom***

* If permitted by pandemic protocols
** pkscas.org/monthly-meetings/
*** pkscas.org/book-club/

2024 PKSCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please check here if you would NOT like to be included on PKSCA’s email list to receive information and reminders for PKSCA activities. Address information is for PKSCA internal organizational use only and will NOT be given to any third party.

Membership Category:

Corporate (\$250) _____

Sustaining (\$100) _____

Family (\$50) _____

Individual (\$30) _____

Student (\$15) _____

**PKSCA membership is on a calendar-year basis. Please make check payable to PKSCA and mail, with form, to:
PO Box 80651, Portland OR 97280-1651**

The Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association (PKSCA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering international friendship and understanding through cultural, educational and professional-technical exchanges. We are governed by an all-volunteer board operating under a city ordinance which requires us to be both financially independent of and accountable to the Mayor of Portland. All of our programs are funded by donors and grants, not by the City of Portland.

**Portland-Khabarovsk
Sister City Association
PLATFORM FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE**

PREAMBLE

With deep respect for the Russian people, and acting in accordance with the purpose for which the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association (hereinafter “the Association”) was organized thirty-six years ago, to wit:

to foster and promote cultural, social, educational, and economic relations and to further international understanding, friendship, and goodwill between Portland, Oregon and Khabarovsk, Russia, and to promote the well-being of the public at-large

the Board of Directors of the Association declaims this Platform for Peace to articulate a basis for the end of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine that is consistent with international law, that recognizes the preeminence of human rights over the juridical rights of nation-states, that is culturally equitable, and which ensures the well-being of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples in perpetuity.

The Board of Directors of the Association hereby recommends to its Members and to all others who may wish to endorse this Platform for Peace the following Articles.

ARTICLES

Art. 1. We understand the history of the region in which Russia and Ukraine coexist but believe that present-day circumstances require adherence to, and mutual respect for, their shared international boundary in the interests of peace and prosperity.

Art. 2. We recognize Russia and Ukraine, individually and equally, as nation-states with all rights afforded under international law, including but not limited to the inviolability of their territorial limits as declared in the Belovezha Accords and as later affirmed by acts of lawfully authorized representatives of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 3. We believe that militarily imposed “spheres of influence” are antithetical to the sovereignty of modern nation-states and that in an age of long-range missiles, satellites and nuclear armaments that such attempts at hegemony are counterproductive. Fair competition for the affinity and cooperation of neighboring nation-states should be encouraged.

**Ассоциация городов-побратимов
Портленд-Хабаровск
ПЛАТФОРМА ЗА МИР В УКРАИНЕ**

ПРЕАМБУЛА

Испытывая глубокое уважение к российскому народу и действуя в соответствии с целью, ради которой тридцать шесть лет назад была учреждена Ассоциация городов-побратимов Портленд-Хабаровск (далее «Ассоциация»), а именно:

развивать и поощрять культурные, социальные, образовательные и экономические отношения, а также способствовать международному взаимопониманию, дружбе и доброй воле между Портлендом, штат Орегон, и Хабаровском, Россия, и содействовать благополучию общества в целом

Совет директоров Ассоциации представляет настоящую Платформу за мир, целью которой является определение основы для прекращения военных действий между Россией и Украиной, соответствующей нормам международного права, признающей приоритет прав человека над юридическими правами национальных государств, а также обеспечивающей культурное равноправие и благосостояние российского и украинского народов на неограниченный срок.

Совет директоров Ассоциации настоящим рекомендует своим членам и другим лицам, которые могут изъявить желание поддержать данную Платформу мира, следующие статьи.

СТАТЬИ

Ст. 1. Мы понимаем историю региона, в котором сосуществуют Россия и Украина, но считаем, что текущие обстоятельства требуют соблюдения и взаимного уважения их общих международных границ в интересах мира и процветания.

Ст. 2. Мы признаем Россию и Украину, по отдельности и в равной степени, как национальные государства, обладающие всеми правами, предоставляемыми международным правом, включая, помимо прочего, право на территориальную целостность, провозглашенное в Беловежских соглашениях и в дальнейшем подтвержденное актами законно уполномоченных представителей бывшего СССР.

Ст. 3. Мы считаем, что навязанные военным путем «сферы влияния» противоречат суверенитету современных национальных государств и что в эпоху ракет дальнего радиуса действия, спутников и ядерных вооружений подобные попытки гегемонии приводят к обратным результатам. Необходимо поощрять честную конкуренцию за сближение и сотрудничество соседних национальных государств.

Art. 4. We oppose any aggression that imperils the Russian people or Russia's sovereignty. We oppose any aggression that imperils the Ukrainian people or Ukraine's sovereignty. We understand that some Russian people (or "peoples") live in Ukraine and that some Ukrainian people (or "peoples") live in Russia. Nevertheless, we reject irredentism as irreconcilable with the concept of a modern nation-state. Likewise, we call on both Russia and Ukraine to protect all peoples living within their territorial limits without discrimination and irrespective of their claimed nationality, heritage or cultural affinity. Cultural norms and practices, so long as they do not infringe upon basic human rights or substantially impair the rights of nation-states, must be protected wherever they exist.

Art. 5. As a corollary to the rights of nation-states as juridical persons (e.g., as a practical legal construct dating back to the Peace of Westphalia), we believe that emigration and immigration across territorial boundaries must be recognized as a basic human right subject only to balancing against the territorial rights of nation-states.

Art. 6. We understand that the military power of nation-states can be usurped by individual and/or corporate actors to advance their private interests. We urge all nation-states to enact and enforce such statutes as necessary to ensure that private interests falsely purported to be national interests are not advanced by the military power of nation-states.

Art. 7. We understand that some defensive postures can be fairly perceived as aggression and urge all nations to mutually and cooperatively disarm and stand down as necessary to assure peace among all nation-states.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommended to the Members of the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association by consent of its Board of Directors by action at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 24, 2023.

Comment @

<https://pkzca.org/platform-for-peace/>

Support @

<https://pkzca.org/membership/>

Share on Telegram @

<https://t.me/PlatformForPeace>

Ст. 4. Мы выступаем против любой агрессии, угрожающей российскому народу или суверенитету России. Мы выступаем против любой агрессии, угрожающей украинскому народу или суверенитету Украины. Мы понимаем, что некоторые россияне (или «народы») живут в Украине, а некоторые украинцы (или «народы») – в России. Тем не менее, мы не приемлем ирредентизм как нечто несовместимое с представлением о современном национальном государстве. Мы также призываем и Россию, и Украину защищать все народы, проживающие в их территориальных пределах, не допуская дискриминации и независимо от их заявленной национальности, исторического наследия или культурной близости. Если культурные нормы и обычаи не ущемляют основных прав человека и не наносят существенного ущерба правам национальных государств, они должны защищаться независимо от того, где существуют.

Ст. 5. Исходя из прав национальных государств как юридических лиц (например, практическая правовая конструкция, заложенная еще во времена Вестфальского мира), мы считаем, что эмиграция и иммиграция через территориальные границы должны быть признаны одними из основных прав человека только при условии их уравнивания с территориальными правами национальных государств.

Ст. 6. Мы отдаем себе отчет в том, что военная мощь национальных государств может быть узурпирована физическими лицами и/или корпорациями для продвижения своих частных интересов. Мы призываем все национальные государства принять такие законы и обеспечить их соблюдение, что исключит возможность продвижения частных целей, ложно выдаваемых за «национальные интересы», с помощью военных сил этих государств.

Ст. 7. Мы понимаем, что некоторые оборонительные меры могут вполне обоснованно восприниматься как агрессия, и призываем все страны к взаимному и совместному разоружению и отступлению, если это необходимо для обеспечения мира между всеми национальными государствами.

РЕКОММЕНДАЦИЯ

Рекомендовано к утверждению членам Ассоциации городов-побратимов Портленд-Хабаровск с согласия Совета директоров путем принятия решения на очередном заседании 24 октября 2023 г.