

**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



# "Parque Holland"

## Holland's Gift to Santiago de Querétaro

Installed and dedicated September 15, 2000



# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 475<sup>th</sup> 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 "4<sup>th</sup> 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, performs 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 professional 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. 16<sup>th</sup> 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 475<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

# International Relations Commission

## Other Notable Exchanges & Activities

---

- 2009 - IRC and South Shore Village Merchants sponsored 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Celebration of Multicultural Connections
- 2010- IRC and South Shore Village Merchants sponsored 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration of Multicultural Connections
- 2010: IRC sponsored 1<sup>st</sup> 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