

Council Meeting of  
February 28, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR GRANT AWARD TO TORRANCE  
SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION FOR 2006**

**Expenditure: \$1,500**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Community Services Director recommends that the City Council award the Torrance Sister City Association a grant in the amount of \$1,500 for the services specified in the attached application.

Funding

Funding is available in the Sister City Activities budget (Fund 1001, Organization 6204040000, Account 4722).

**BACKGROUND**

Kashiwa, Japan and the City of Torrance have been sister cities since 1973. During this time, there have been student exchanges each year, exchange visits of city officials, Torrance teachers who have taught in Kashiwa, and various other cultural exchanges and programs. Lasting friendships have formed between residents of the two cities and the Torrance Sister City Association has developed and fostered these relationships. Activities of the Association such as the annual Bunka-Sai Festival share with the community some of the Japanese culture and raise money for the Student Exchange Program. Through the Association's efforts, Torrance has a program that has received numerous awards from Sister Cities International.

**ANALYSIS**

As required by the City Council, the Association has submitted their narrative and financial reports for 2005.

Officers who served from January through December, 2005 were:

President:	Gary Yoshida
Vice President:	Samir Mehta
Secretary:	Pam Miike
Treasurer:	Ron Kimmel

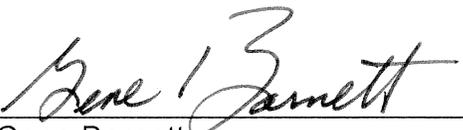
Staff in the Community Services Department have reviewed the Torrance Sister City Association's Grant Application including their Annual Report and find the information to be complete and in accordance with the City's requirements.

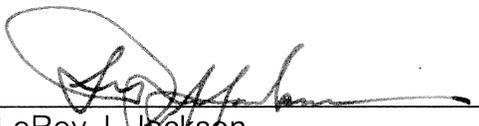
Respectfully submitted,

GENE BARNETT  
Community Services Director

By   
Suzie Wand  
Senior Recreation Supervisor

CONCUR:

  
Gene Barnett  
Community Services Director

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

- Attachments:
- A. Grant Application
  - B. 2005 TSCA Annual Report
  - C. 2005 TSCA Financial Statement

**NON-PROFIT AGENCY GRANT APPLICATION**

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**A. AGENCY APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Agency Legal Name Torrance Sister-City Association Phone Number 310-618-2930  
Street Address 3031 Torrance Blvd City Torrance Zip 90503  
Name of Presenter Gary Yoshida  
Title of Presenter 2005 President Phone Number 310-739-3154

**B. GENERAL CATEGORY UNDER WHICH SUPPORT IS REQUESTED:**

Child Care \_\_\_\_\_ Health \_\_\_\_\_ Human Services X

**C. PROGRAM/PROJECT TITLE** Torrance - Kashimi Sister-City Program

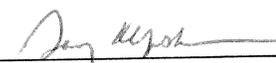
**D. DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE REQUESTED FUNDS ARE TO BE USED.  
(Please limit to space provided; NO ATTACHMENTS.)**

To promote the official sister city relationship between the cities of Torrance, USA and Kashimi, Japan through the sponsorship of the Student Cultural Exchange Program, now in its 33rd year, city official delegation trips, and many other activities organized by volunteers in Torrance and Kashimi

**E. TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM CITY OF TORRANCE (not to exceed \$5,000)** \$ 1,500

**F. TYPE OR PRINT NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL:**

Gary K. Yoshida, 2005 President, Torrance Sister-City Association

  
Signature of Authorizing Official

2/14/06  
Date





**TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2005

The Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA) in 2005 marked the 33rd year of official sister city relations between the cities of Torrance, USA, and Kashiwa, Japan. With the generous support of the City of Torrance and many dedicated Torrance volunteers, TSCA enjoyed another successful year of promoting good will and cultural understanding through programs such as the Student Ambassador Exchange Program, the Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival, the English Teacher Program, and many other activities.

### Student Exchange Program

Eight Torrance student ambassadors were selected from seventeen applicants to represent the City of Torrance and spend three weeks in Japan in July 2005. These students, forming the 32nd class of student ambassadors since the program's inception, were:

Kriszta Farkas, junior, South High  
Michelle Broun, senior, North High  
Alyssa Yamauchi, sophomore, North High  
Alisha Chan, junior, South High  
Jenny Tanaka, junior, North High  
Mark Tomaier, sophomore, Torrance High  
Derek Kuwahara, senior, South High  
Todd Yorizane, junior, North High

With adult leader and board member Jill Maroney, chaperoning the students, their wonderful Japan tour included the following:

- ❖ "Official" visits to the Kashiwa City Hall to meet the Mayor and City Council, and two schools Daiichi Elementary and Kashiwa Municipal High to spend time with many enthusiastic students;
- ❖ Cultural lessons on tea ceremony, calligraphy, soba noodles, ikebana (flower arrangement), taiko (Japanese drums), and kimono dressing;
- ❖ Being special guests and dancing in the Kashiwa Summer Festival.
- ❖ Activities sponsored by the Kashiwa, Oak and Chuo Lions Clubs; Kashiwa Boy and Girl Scouts; and the Kashiwa fire department;
- ❖ Staying with Kashiwa host families for three weeks ; and
- ❖ Visits to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima

Following the return of the Torrance students, in August 2005, eight high school and university students from Kashiwa arrived for an exciting three week stay in Torrance. The highlights were:

- ❖ A Welcome Reception well attended by Torrance city officials, host families, TSCA members, and the 2005 Torrance student delegation.
- ❖ A visit to the Mayor's Office and introductions at the City Council Meeting

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- ❖ Torrance tours, including Torrance Beach, Torrance Historical Society, Madrona Marsh, Torrance Police & Fire Departments, Farmer's Market, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, and a representative of Torrance's commerce- Oriental Motor of USA.
- ❖ They then enjoyed the Southern California tourist highlights, including Disneyland, Universal Studios, Getty Museum, L.A. City tour, Science Center, Palos Verdes Peninsula and the Huntington Library. They also visited the UCLA and USC campuses, had fun at a Dodgers baseball game, and listened to music under the stars at the Hollywood Bowl.
- ❖ They were delighted with the square dancing with the Boots 'n Bows Square Dance Club at the Ken Miller Recreation Center and the ice cream social sponsored by the Torrance Y's Men's Club
- ❖ A two day trip to San Diego.

The Kashiwa student will always remember the warm hospitality of our gracious Torrance host families. This year's Torrance host families were:

Mark and Jill Maroney  
 Joanne and Gary Yoshida  
 Frank and Patricia Diaz  
 Gary and Teri Kuwahara  
 Paul and Nancy Broun  
 Maria and Randy Fitzgerald  
 Bruce and Cheryl Yamauchi  
 Donna Dunlap and Butch Ihde  
 Lubomir and Ivana Tomaier  
 Jim and Mariko Namimoto  
 Kenneth and Janice Chan  
 James and Rumi Radomski  
 Tivadar and Kati Farkas  
 Eddie and Eileen Yorizane  
 Bruce and Kerri Mattson  
 Keith and Shirley Tanaka  
 Nancy Hartig

Dedicated Torrance volunteers organize the entire Student Exchange Program. Chaired by Tracy Sprague, the Student Selection Committee consisted of Al Muratsuchi, Tiffany Yoshida, Keri Namimoto, Earl Mealins, Cheng Leong, Jordon Thompson, and Gary Yoshida.

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The Host Family Recruitment Committee consisted of chair Richard Tingey  
 The Kashiwa Student Activities Committee, chaired by Stephanie Ewing-Warner,  
 included Tiffany Yoshida, Keri Namimoto, Lori Chong Eurich, Jordan Thompson, Jill  
 Maroney, and Gary Yoshida.

### **Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival**

The 33rd Annual Bunka-Sai Festival was held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center on April 16 and 17, 2005. This annual festival features Japanese cultural performances & exhibits, food, craft, art and gift booths, and children's activities. The festival also serves as TSCA's main fundraiser every year, with all proceeds going to support the Student Exchange Program. The festival was very well supported by the community and a huge success, netting \$12,498.

Cultural performances included the Isami Taiko from the Gardena Buddhist Church, Japanese dances performed by the Bando Mitsuhiro-kai, a tea ceremony demonstration by the Omote Senke Showa-kai, a calligraphy demonstration by the Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu-kai, a koto and shakuhachi performance by Saeko Kujiraoka and Yuzan Shirai, a Japanese dance with poem recitation by the Hogetsu-ryu Ginbu Shodo-kai, and a traditional Japanese choral performance by Choral Arts South Bay.

The South Bay Judo Club, the Torrance Aikido Club, the Southern California Naginata Federation, and the Torrance Kendo Club conducted martial arts demonstrations.

Children's activities included a game booth sponsored by the TSCA Student Club, a children's art class conducted by the Saga Children's Arts and Crafts Center, and origami by Cooper's Creasers.

The festival also featured beautiful exhibits of Japanese dolls sponsored by Kimekomi Ningyo, an ikebana flower arrangement exhibition sponsored by the Sensha Ikenobo-kai, a bonsai exhibition sponsored by the Bonsai Koyu-kai, and a Japanese calligraphy exhibition sponsored by the Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu-kai.

Like all TSCA programs, the Bunka-Sai festival was organized and run entirely by Torrance volunteers. These volunteers included: children's activities chair Lori Chong-Eurich, food concessions chair Joh Sekiguchi, gift booth chair Gudy Kimmel, drawing prize chair Gary Yoshida, hourly drawing chair Louise Kilburn, produce pickup chair Ron Kimmel, program booklet chair Pam Miike, program booklet ads chair Hazel Taniguchi, raffle ticket chair Ray & Gail Roulette, TSCA student club president Keri Namimoto and advisor Mariko Namimoto, yakisoba booth chair Pam Miike, and many others. Gary Yoshida served as the festival chair.

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### **English Teacher Program**

Since 1979, TSCA has been recruiting and selecting American teachers to teach English for at least one year at the Kashiwa Municipal High School. Jefferson Middle School teacher David Brown served his second year as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in Kashiwa. Ryan Okerblom is serving his third year as an ALT.

The English Teacher Selection Committee was chaired by Lori Chong Eurich and included Dai Sup Han, Ray Roulette, and Hazel Taniguchi.

### **Other TSCA activities**

Many other noteworthy events and accomplishments took place in 2005. Among them, in no particular order:

1. TSCA's annual Alumni Reunion was held on January 29, 2005 at the Katy Geissert Main Library Meeting Room. This wonderful event was chaired by Pamela Miike.
2. The Adult Leader Selection Committee, chaired by Gary Yoshida, selected Pam Miike to be the 2006 Adult Leader and Eileen Yorizane to be the 2007 Adult Leader.
3. The TSCA Historical Committee, chaired by Dr. Amy Coury, worked hard to compile documents and artifacts to preserve TSCA's history and institutional memory.
4. TSCA produced monthly newsletters for its members, thanks to the outstanding work of editors Hazel Taniguchi and Teri Kuwahara.
5. TSCA gave a heartfelt "sayonara" to the departing Kashiwa students at its annual Sayonara Banquet on August 22, 2005 at the South Bay Grill. This wonderful event was chaired by Gail and Ray Roulette.
6. The TSCA Student Club was very active in 2005, thanks to the outstanding leadership of club president and Torrance High junior Keri Namimoto and adult liaison Mariko Namimoto.

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7. TSCA is a member organization of Sister Cities International. Keri Namimoto represented TSCA well at SCI conferences and meetings.
8. Sister Schools Committee chair Gail Roulette promoted good will and correspondence between several schools in Torrance and Kashiwa.

### **2005 Officers and Directors**

The TSCA board of directors and friends met every second Monday of the month except in August and December 2005. The 2005 officers and directors were:

President: Gary Yoshida  
 Vice President: Samir Mehta  
 Treasurer: Ron Kimmel  
 Secretary: Pam Miike

Board of Directors: Aki Tsurukame  
 Tracy Spraque  
 Jordan Thompson  
 Gary Yoshida  
 Jill Maroney  
 Al Muratsuchi  
 Cheng Leong  
 Samir Mehta  
 Pamela Miike  
 Joseph Millman  
 Pamela Mallowney  
 Joh Sekiguchi  
 Hazel Taniguchi  
 Teri Kuwahara

Student Directors: Eric Matarrese  
 Tiffany Yoshida

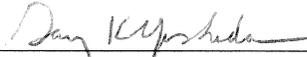
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### **Conclusion**

The Torrance Sister City Association greatly appreciates the \$1,500 grant and the numerous in-kind services that it receives from the City of Torrance each year. We thank Mayor Dan Walker and the City Council, Council liaison Pat McIntyre, the Parks and Recreation Department, City Parks & Recreation Dept liaison Suzie Wand, and many others for their longtime support for our programs. In addition, we wish to thank Torrance CitiCable 3 for their outstanding support and coverage of our program.

We look forward to many more years of working with the City of Torrance to promote good will and cultural understanding between the citizens of Torrance and its sister city of Kashiwa, Japan.

Respectfully submitted,



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GARY K. YOSHIDA  
2005 PRESIDENT

Attachment: TSCA Annual Financial Statement for Year 2005

TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005  
SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

ATTACHMENT C

	Jan 1 2005	Dec 31 2005
ASSETS Cash: California Bank & Trust Checking Account	\$8,458.07	\$4,181.41
Petty Cash Account	\$13.60	\$13.48
Certificates of Deposit:		
Fremont Investment & Loan	\$10,464.05	\$10,935.45
Fremont Investment & Loan	\$10,386.82	\$10,789.24
California National Bank	\$10,732.23	\$11,033.79
Fremont Investment & Loan	\$10,105.91	\$10,514.86
U. S. Postal Service Bulk Mail Account	\$254.91	\$142.25
LIABILITIES	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE	\$50,415.59	\$43,415.59

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
REVENUES		
Membership	\$6,000.00	\$6,195.00
Bunka-Sai Gross Income	\$17,529.00	\$16,906.86
Sale of Items (Inventory & Others)	\$50.00	\$196.00
Fund Raisers	\$1,500.00	\$696.26
Interest	\$600.00	\$1,595.27
City Grant	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Donations	\$200.00	\$727.00
	\$27,379.00	\$27,816.39
EXPENDITURES		
Bunka-Sai Operating Expenses	\$4,000.00	\$4,407.96
Postage & Repro	\$1,400.00	\$1,143.00
English Teacher Selection Committee	\$40.00	\$0.00
President's Expenses	\$200.00	\$89.52
Exchange Program -Torrance Students	\$8,500.00	\$9,657.00
Exchange Program - Kashiwa Students	\$6,500.00	\$7,696.92
Hospitality (Cards, Flowers, etc.)	\$150.00	\$300.30
Equipment, Supplies, Etc.	\$1,000.00	\$943.52
Conferences	\$200.00	\$35.00
Storage	\$2,564.00	\$2,412.00
Gifts & Donations	\$200.00	\$1,500.00
Publicity	\$100.00	\$0.00
Kashiwa Day	\$0.00	\$0.00
SCI Membership	\$775.00	\$775.00
Inventory for Resale (T-shirts, Pins, etc.)	\$50.00	\$408.67
Torrance Chamber of Commerce	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$103.76
Alumni Reunion	\$100.00	\$120.31
Historical Committee	\$50.00	\$11.80
Insurance	\$1,500.00	\$1,285.14
	\$27,379.00	\$30,889.90
Overexpenditure		\$3,510.90
Deficit		\$3,073.51