U.S. Sister Cities Report A Good Year—Predict Better Future

The annual Sister Cities International survey of its membership revealed a sense of real optimism among sister cities with 69 percent stating community support for the program grew during 1982. The survey demonstrated the sister cities program is not only growing, but participating cities are very confident about future growth and development.

Nearly all cities (83 percent) reported they anticipated an increase in program activities over a two-year period (1983-84), with 66 percent stating program activities and projects increased during 1982.

The survey represents a 12 percent return all U.S. sister cities having affiliations with cities in other countries during 1982. Reports are based on activities carried out during the 1982 calendar year. Returns represented all geographic areas of the world and proportionate representation of cities of all population categories throughout the United States.

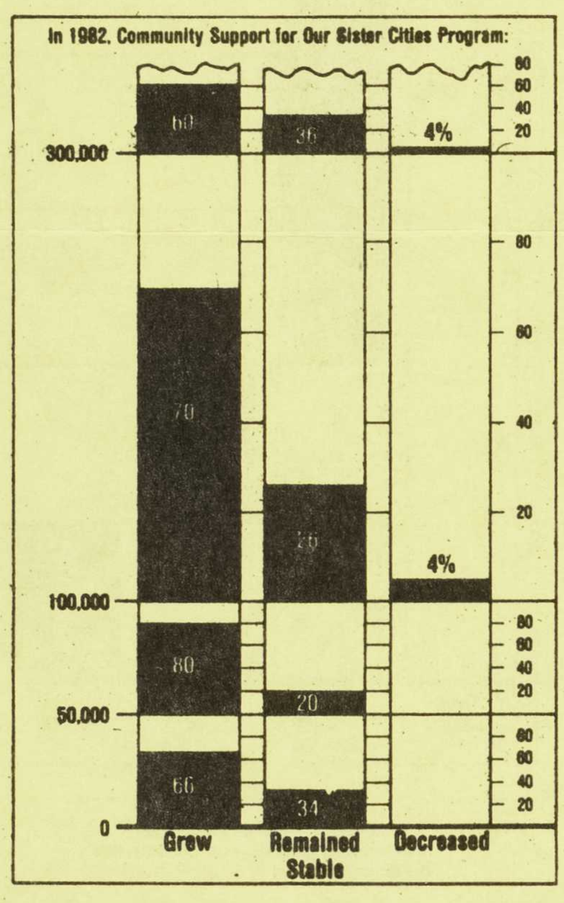
The annual survey forms the basis for the Annual Sister Cities Award sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation. The awards are presented each year at the conclusion of the annual SCI conference. They were presented this year in Phoenix, Ariz. in July. A report of the winning cities was carried in the September 1983 issue of *Sister City News*.

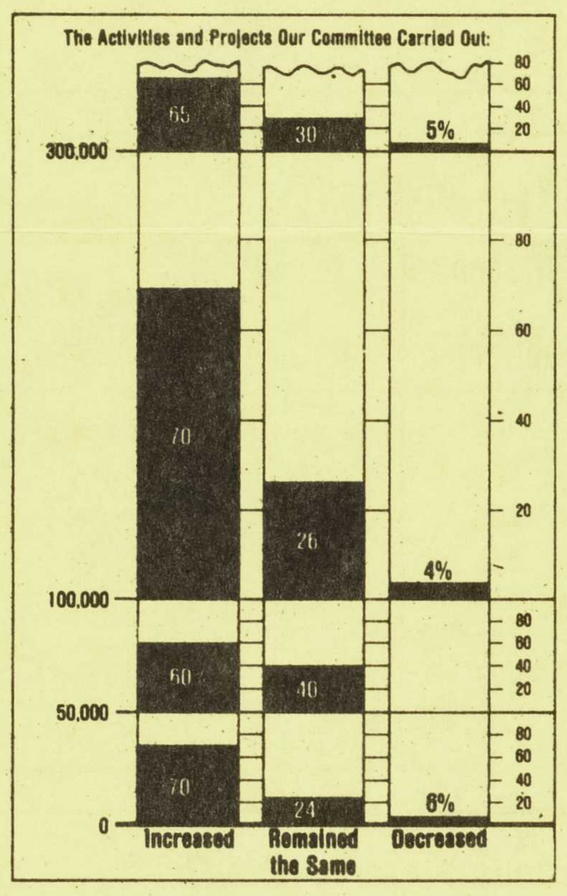
A condensed summary of the responses appearing in this newsletter represent portions of the returns to the 1982 annual survey. While this summary is not meant to be a model guide to a sister cities program, local committees might find parts of the summary helpful in gauging areas or projects they may wish to develop.

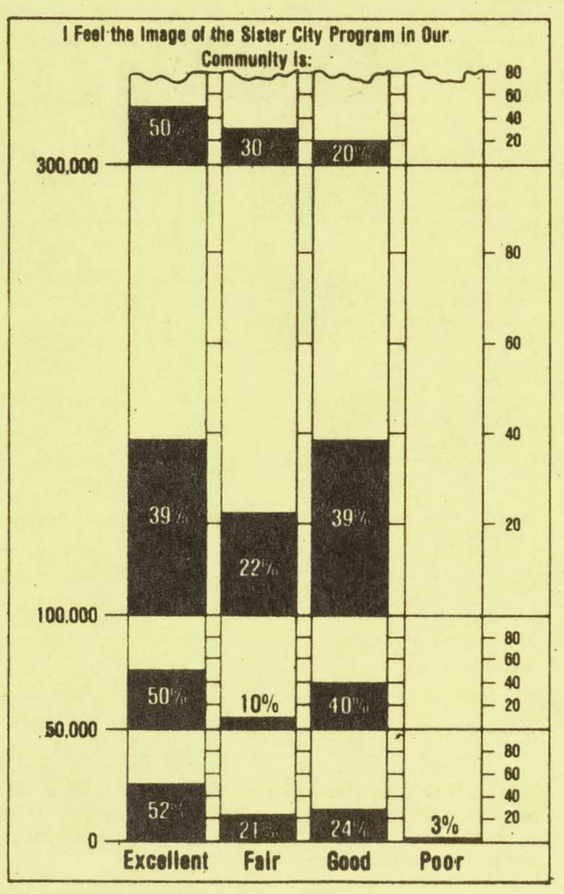
Response Level By Population of U.S. Sister Cities			
Over 300,000	100,000 to 300,000	50,000 to 100,000	Under 50,000
29%	26%	12%	33%

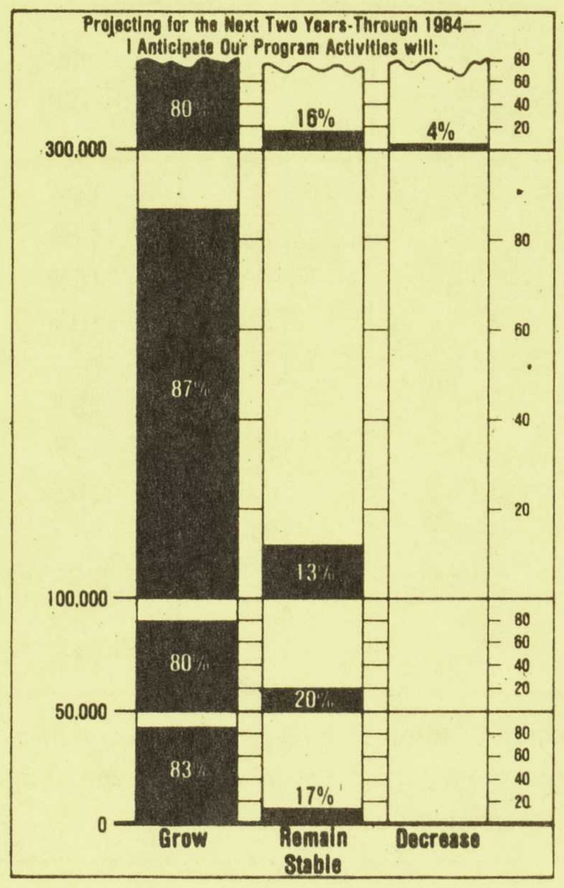
I. Overall Assessment - 1982

The first four questions of the survey dealt with growth patterns and the image of the program in the community. Judging by the responses, 1982 was a very good year for U.S. sister cities. They reported:









II. Sister City Committee Structure/Organization

How is Your Sister City Organization Structured?				
Averages	Incorporation With Tax Exemption Status	Commission Form Appointed By City	Incorporation Within State Not Tax Exempt	Not Incorporated
Over 300,000	57%	39%	—	4%
100,000 to 300,000	57%	30%	—	13%
50,000 to 100,000	56%	33%	—	11%
Under 50,000	38%	41%	10%	11%
Total Average	52%	36%	4%	10%

What are the Annual Membership Dues for Your Local Sister City Organization?						
Population	Individual	Student/ Youth	Family	Business	Organ-ization	Sus-taining
Over 300,000	$17.00	$10.00	$17.00	$340.00	$25.00	$500.00
100,000 to 300,000	9.00	5.00	14.00	41.00	23.00	55.00
50,000 to 100,000	7.00	2.00	8.00	25.00	25.00	100.00
Under 50,000	5.00	2.50	7.00	20.00	20.00	50.00

What Subcommittees Do You Have? (Ranked in descending order)			
Over 300,000	100,000 to 300,000	50,000 to 100,000	Under 50,000
1 Cultural	Cultural	Youth	Youth
2 Education	Youth	Education	Membership
3 Finance	Membership	Membership	Public Relations
4 Membership	PR	Finance	Cultural
5 Trade/Commerce	Education	Organizational Relations	Education
6 PR	Finance	City Gov't	City Gov't
7 Youth	City Gov't	PR	Trade/Commerce
8 City Gov't	Organizational Relations	Cultural	Technical
9 Professional	Trade/Commerce	Technical	Scholarship
10 Technical	Technical	Hospitality	Visitation
11 Organizational Relations	Exchange	Program	Special Events
12 Hospitality	Awards	Planning	Professional

How Many Persons Serve In Your Sister City Organization?			
Averages	Directors	Commissioners	Individual Members
Over 300,000	14	21	216
100,000 to 300,000	13	14	91
50,000 to 100,000	6	10	140
Under 50,000	7	6	96
Total Average	10	13	138

How Often Do You Meet?				
Averages	Monthly	Every Other Month	Quarterly	Other
Over 300,000	44%	10%	14%	"As Needed"
100,000 to 300,000	65%	22%	—	"As Needed"
50,000 to 100,000	80%	—	10%	"As Needed"
Under 50,000	28%	17%	10%	"As Needed"
Total Average	54%	12%	9%	[illegible]