



LODI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE EST. 1961

KOFU, JAPAN LODI, ITALY



December 15, 2025

Ms. Olivia Nashed, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
P. O. Box 3006
Lodi, CA 95241-1910

Dear Ms. Nashed:

Attached is the Sister City Committee's Proposal Letter for funding request under the City Council Non-Profit Fund for the Lodi Lake Park Peace Garden Project for your review and recommendation for allocation to the City Council.

We are delighted to submit this document under the auspices of Council Member Dr. Alan Nakanishi who requested that we submit the Proposal Letter directly to you at his request. It is Councilman's Nakanishi's wish that the Sister City Committee submit this Proposal Letter.

The City Council Non-Profit Fund represents a wonderful opportunity for the Sister City Committee to achieve its goal of reconstructing the Japanese Garden at Lodi Lake Park for the benefit of the City of Lodi residents, park visitors, and the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department.

Sincerely,


Bill Hinke, President
Lodi Sister City Committee



ZINFANDEL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

LODI SISTER COMMITTEE • P.O. BOX 3006 • LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241 • (209) 333-6702



LODI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE EST. 1961

KOFU, JAPAN Lodi, ITALY



PROPOSAL LETTER CITY OF LODI CITY COUNCIL NON -PROFIT FUND

Contact name, phone, and email:

Bill Hinkle, President, 209-986-7535, bhinkle41@gmail.com

Full legal name of organization:

Lodi Sister - City Committee, Inc.

Complete address of the organization:

Lodi Sister City Committee, Office of City Clerk, 221 W. Pine Street, P. O. Box 3006, Lodi, CA 95241-1910.

Description of Organization:

The Lodi Sister City Committee was established in 1961. Although a brief school scrapbook exchange took place with Lodi, Italy in 1958 on the occasion of the Italian city's 800th year, a more active relationship with Kofu, Japan began in 1964 when Lodi representatives went to Kofu for the City's 75th Anniversary.

Since then, gifts of Tokay grapevines to Kofu; of a miniature shrine and a granite marker and cherry trees for Lodi's Kofu Park; a student art exchange with Lodi Italy; and numerous visits and letters between both cities have marked over 60 years of sister city relationships between Lodi, Italy and Kofu, Japan. The Lodi Sister City Committee meets bimonthly at the Lodi Japanese Community Hall, 210E. Elm St.

The Lodi Sister City Committee is a non-profit, all volunteer civic organization affiliated with Sister Cities International and the City of Lodi. A vital part of the Lodi community since 1961, we've spent more than 60 years building global friendships and fostering cross-cultural understanding.



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We leverage San Joaquin County's diversity and resources to cultivate partnerships with two international Sister Cities. We invite residents of Lodi and surrounding communities to join us in our mission to promote connections and celebrate differences through our programs. We focus primarily on exchange programs, cultural enrichment, service projects, and sustainability initiatives such as our Annual Crab Feed. We also coordinate official visits to and from our sister cities, and when our local leaders travel abroad to strengthen our global relationships.

A sister city is a broad-based, officially approved, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A sister city becomes official with a signing ceremony of the top-elected officials of the two local jurisdictions, following approval by the local city councils. Sister city partnerships have the potential to carry out the widest possible diversity of activities of any international program, including every type of municipal, business, professional, educational, and cultural exchange or project.

Mission Statement:

“The Lodi Sister City Committee was established in 1961 to promote the ideals of offering exciting opportunities for involvement in international relations through exchanges of persons, products, and ideas through cultural, educational, technical, professional, municipal, youth, and sports exchanges. Lodi's Sister Cities are Kofu, Japan and Lodi, Italy.”

Federal Tax Status: 501 (c) (3) or other:

Lodi Sister City Committee, Inc is a non-political, tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization promoting peace through people to people diplomacy as a charitable and educational organization exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in February 1968. Its Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) is 94-6174007.

List of current Board members and officers, if any:

1. Officers:

President, Bill Hinkle; Vice President, Julie Myrah; Recording Secretary, Michiko Oye; Treasurer, Jeanne Stoller.

2. Board Members, Honorary Members, Supporting

Organization/Business Members:

Lynn & Susanne Benbrook; Dr. Pete Hetzner; Susan Ferrero; Hugh Metcalf; Dr. Ron & Michiko Oye; Bill Hinkle; Jeanne Stoller; Yoshiko Kim; Judy Mazza; Steve & Janet Manildi; Dr. Alan & Susan Nakanishi; Kenney Okumura; Michael & Helen Spencer; David Phillips, Michael David Winery, Supporting Organization/Business; Julie Myrah, Supporting Organization/Business; Visit Lodi California , Supporting Organization/Business; Kirk Smith, Velvet Grill & Creamery, Honorary Member/ Supporting Organization/Business; Vicki Fujii, Honorary Member; Mayor, City of Lodi, ex-officio, Honorary President/Member.

Brief description of the project/program and how it relates to the City Council's Strategic Vision and one or more of Council's Goal:

1. Project/Program Description:

The Lodi Sister City Committee's community project is to rebuild or "revitalize" the Japanese Garden located at Lodi Lake Park, 1101 West Turner Road, that was removed with the construction of a rock swale pond between Lodi Lake, and the Mokelumne River. The project site is adjacent to and between the north restroom building, and the large redwood tree located on the north side of Lodi Lake Park south of the parking lot across from the Ron Williamson Youth Area.

The Committee retained a Japanese Garden landscape architect to develop a comprehensive Japanese Garden Lodi Lake Park Master Plan. The Sister City Committee chose to name the garden "**The Lodi Peace Garden that bridges Kofu, Japan with Lodi, California.**"

The project plan includes a Japanese style bridge, a 245 foot long, 4 feet wide, 4 inch deep pathway leading from the redwood tree around next to the rock swale pond over the bridge across the park to the parking lot curb next to the fire hydrant. The Peace Garden Master Plan requires 108 trees and

plants to include (12) Japanese Maples and (3) Black Pine trees; 74 rocks to include moss rock, flagstone, stepping stones, grey smooth stones, and black rock in a variety of sizes and shapes; a large etched Stonehenge rock park sign ; 2 benches; and 3 Japanese stone garden lanterns. The park’s rock swale pond is incorporated into the plan with water certain times of the year.

2. How it relates to the City Council’s Strategic Vision and one or more of Council’s goal:

The Sister City Committee’s decision to construct the Lodi Lake Peace Garden project will serve to advance the Council’s achievement of its Strategic Vision within four (4) of its eight strategic priorities, and is directly aligned with the City Council’s Strategic Vision in the following (4) four strategic priorities and related milestones:

Strategic Priorities

Milestones

#2) Economic Development: (F) Repurpose and revitalize existing assets.

#5) Infrastructure: (B) Promote adaptive reuse of existing properties.

#6) Parks: (B) Expand, develop and maintain Lodi Lake to meet or exceed industry standards.

8)Public Well-Being: (A) Increase opportunities for physical, recreational, and cultural activities.

Since the placement of the Japanese style bridge at the project site in October 2021, it has been observed that citizens of Lodi, and visitors outside of Lodi, have repeatedly used the bridge for portrait photography often taken by professional photographers. Furthermore, the bridge has become a special visual attraction.

Together, the Peace Garden project will serve to revitalize and enhance the Park Department’s rock swale pond as well as Lodi Lake Park itself; thereby, restoring the original Japanese Garden constructed at the site, by Mr. Jiro Sasaki, a Sister City Committee founder, prior to the construction of the

rock swale pond. The site will be symbolic of a Japanese style garden known as a “Stroll Style” which is walked through and appreciated from many different vantage points. It will also represent a “Courtyard Style” to include the use of vertical rocks, dry landscape constructed streams, stepping stones, bridges, trees, stone lanterns and other functional elements.

The Japanese Garden site will be designed as a low maintenance project as much as possible for the Parks Department’s maintenance crews. The Committee’s funding request will facilitate its start-up funds needed to assure the project’s successful completion as a public benefit for the City of Lodi and its residents.

Funding amount requested and how it relates to overall project/program financial plan:

1.Funding Amount Requested:

Plants/Trees & Miscellaneous Garden Items: \$14,660
California Sales Tax @8.25 % 1,210
Grand Total Non-Profit Fund Request : \$15,870

2.How It Relates to overall Project/Program Financial Plan:

The following two categories of items: Plants/Trees and Miscellaneous Garden Items, represent the funds requested and how they relate to the overall project’s financial plan:

<u>PLANTS/TREES: TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>SIZE(gal)</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>COST</u>
Prunus Subhirtella “pendull”	1	15	\$125	\$ 125
Pinus Thumbergii (black pine)	3	15	350	1,050
Cycas Revoluta Sago Palm	2	15	90	180
Acer Palmgtum Dissectum	2	5	90	180
Camella Sasanqua	7	5	38	266
Azalea	18	2	24	432
Pittosporum Tobira creamdemt	18	1	12	216
Pittosporum Tenulfolum diamond	19	2	40	760
Pinus Mugo Valley Cushion	2	2	25	50
Acer Palmatum “Bloodgood”	3	15	215	645

<u>PLANTS/TREES: TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>SIZE (gal)</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>COST</u>
Juniperus Procumbens "Nana"	5	1	\$30	\$ 150
Hakonechloa Macra "Aureola"	6	1	13	78
Pryopteris Erythosor "autum fern"	9	1	15	135
Acer Palmelum "greenlaceleaf"	1	15	140	140
Iris Ensata "Japanese Iris"	5	1	not available	
Acer Palmatum "Viridis" lace leaf	1	5	180	180
Acer Palmatum-Seiryu" green	5	15	275	1,375
Juniperus Chinensis bonsai	1	5	33	33
Total: Plants & Trees:	108			\$5,995

<u>MISCELLANEOUS GARDEN ITEMS</u>	<u>COST</u>
(1) Lodi Peace Garden Stonehenge Etched Rock Park Sign	\$7,000
(2) Rustic Wood Textured Concrete Bench w/metal legs	490
(1) Japanese Granite Pagoda Lantern 25"x 10"	458
(1) Japanese Granite Pagoda Lantern 18"x 14"	357
(1) Japanese Concrete Pagoda Lantern 26" x 11"	360
Total Miscellaneous Garden Items: 6	\$8,665

The Plants/Trees category represents the most significant direct cost category for expenses not withstanding the Garden Rock Engraved Sign. We have been told that the rocks, pathway, and bender board will be donated items such that they are not included in this Proposal Letter. The Miscellaneous Garden items remain as critical direct cost expense items. The Council Non-Profit Fund Request For Funds is a critical feature for the overall construction of the project and for its ultimate success.

Objectives for the requested funding:

The Lodi Sister City Committee was encouraged to submit a funding request as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization for the City Council Non-Profit Funds to facilitate the achievement of the Sister City Committee's Lodi Lake Peace Garden project, as well as contributing to the Lodi Parks Department's Lodi Lake Park redevelopment program.

Project objectives are to utilize the funds for the initiation, development, and replacement of the original Japanese garden with a symbolic Peace Garden as well as to “enhance” and “revitalize” the park’s rock swale pond, and Lodi Lake Park for the benefit of the citizens of the city.

Performance indicators/Measurement of success:

1. Performance Indicators:

The Sister City Committee will provide progress and expenditure reports by program category to the City Clerk on the achievements selected in the proposal in addition to the required quarterly status reports to include the activity of the funds and available balances.

It is understood and agreed that the receipt of funds from the Non-Profit Fund will require the Committee to agree to be audited or present progress reports, and or quarterly status reports for the life of the project to the City Clerk, and will attest that funds will not be used for political, discriminatory, or any unlawful purposes.

2. Measurement of success:

The Sister City Committee currently retains the Lindstrom Accountancy Corporation, 2291 W. March Lane, Stockton, California for purposes of Federal and State of California Financial Reports. It would be the intent of the Committee to utilize the services of Lindstrom Accountancy Corporation where deemed necessary for full and accurate disclosure of financial and progress reports, and to assist with related measurements necessary for the project’s successful completion.

Communities that will benefit from use of the requested funds:

Sister City programs/projects are unique in that they inherently involve three main sectors in a community: local government, business, and a wide variety of citizen volunteers.

The Sister City Committee collaborated with Mr. Steve Virrey, Parks & Properties Superintendent, Department of Parks and Recreation, with the

installation of the Japanese style bridge in 2021; with assembly of a few of the original lava rocks; with the preservation of some of the original garden artifacts; and with the development of the Committee's Master Plan for the Peace Garden. The City Parks Department will benefit in terms of the Department's Strategic Vision - Park Priorities, and the selected milestones associated with the completion of this project.

Lodi Lake Park, perhaps the most heavily visited city park within the city's park system by Lodi's citizens, will significantly benefit from the development of the Peace Garden. Many of the park's visitors who now frequently visit the park, and outside visitors to the park, have already been attracted to the Japanese Style bridge.

Mayor Yuichi Higuchi of Kofu, Japan and city staff are very excited about the Japanese Peace Garden project, and are thrilled to learn that it is now well underway. They want the Committee to keep them updated on its future development.

On September 2, 2025, the Sister City Committee representatives presented the Master Plan for the Peace Garden at the Parks and Recreation Commission's Board Meeting. The commissioners gave the Committee their approval and full support for The Lodi Peace Garden project.

The Committee has received support for the project with assurance of assistance from Friends of Lodi Lake Interest Group, and Tree Lodi indicated they would be willing to assist the Committee with planting of the trees at the Lodi Lake Peace Garden. Tree Lodi has worked with the Sister City Committee in the past with the planting of cherry trees at Kofu Park.

The Lodi Youth Commission is in the process of setting priorities for spring service projects, and events in which there is some interest for lake cleanup and/or community garden projects. The Japanese Garden project was presented at the Commission's meeting as a future service project in 2026 for their member youths.