



**SAN DIEGO
INTERNATIONAL
SISTER CITIES
ASSOCIATION**



PRESS RELEASE

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Join us to Celebrate Global Changemakers at Presidential Awards Ceremony Recognizing San Diego Students for Maasai Education Center Launch

San Diego CA— The accomplishments of San Diego's exceptional students will take center stage as we gather to commemorate their outstanding achievements at the upcoming Global Changemakers Presidential Awards Ceremony. This distinguished event will honor the remarkable leadership of the San Diego students who undertook a service-learning journey to Amboseli, Kenya, where they spearheaded the launch of the Maasai Education Center. Their dedicated efforts will be celebrated with the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award provided by the White House, symbolizing their commitment to a more interconnected world and sustainable future for all.

The celebration is set to offer a harmonious fusion of Kenyan heritage highlighted by the captivating "Flavors of East Africa" culinary delights and the captivating rhythm of Kenyan drumming. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the upcoming service-learning cultural tours to Kenya firsthand from San Diego students and their families. A special highlight of the evening will be the distinguished guest speaker Ambassador Thomas Kwaka Omollo, the Consul General of Kenya who will amplify the endorsement from the Kenyan government to strengthen the partnership between San Diego and Amboseli, Kenya.

Join us in recognizing the contributions of San Diego students who have left a lasting impact on the Maasai community by establishing a multimedia classroom, complete with essential resources such as electricity, Wi-Fi, cameras, and laptops. This technology center allows the Maasai to share their cultural heritage with our community in San Diego, fostering a deeper cross-cultural understanding. This remarkable collaboration extended globally and was showcased at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues where students advocated for a sustainable future utilizing indigenous traditional knowledge on an international scale.

The Presidential Awards Ceremony is scheduled for September 1, 2023, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at the Canyon Crest Academy's Proscenium Theater, located at 5951 Village Center Loop Rd, San Diego, CA 92130. We encourage all those eager to celebrate and recognize these global changemakers to join us in honoring their outstanding achievements.

Additional Information about Maasai Education Center

The Maasai Education Center is a realization of San Diego Sister Cities' dedication to student-led diplomacy and the visionary ideals of former US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who founded Sister Cities in 1956 to unite communities worldwide in the pursuit of global peace. In the City of San Diego, a network of 24 Sister City and Friendship City partnerships spans 23 countries, notably including the San Diego-Amboseli, Kenya Friendship City, which collaborates with My Chosen Vessels (MCV). Over 15 impactful years, MCV has passionately supported the Maasai indigenous people, providing clean water, education, and cultural preservation, earning Special Consultative Status with the United Nations. A key initiative of this collaboration is the Maasai Education Center focused on promoting indigenous knowledge to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Further information can be found at MyChosenVessels.org.