

# San Francisco

Population 883,305

Located on West Coast of America - Silicon Valley

Mayor London Breed

Website: [www.sfgov.org.cityhall](http://www.sfgov.org.cityhall)

The San Francisco/Cork sister city relationship was formed in May 1984. The visit to Cork of Mayor Feinstein and a party of 200 San Franciscans in July 1985 was one of the highlights of the Cork 800 year. Since that time links have continued to develop. Some of the recent visits/exchanges include the following:

- The Lord Mayor led the largest ever delegation from Cork to San Francisco- 62 people in total in April 2018. The delegation comprised of representatives from all areas of Cork City- Cork City Council, UCC, CIT, ETB, Cork Chamber, Rainbow Cities, Port of Cork, An Garda Siochana, Leo Companies, Economic Development Companies, Developers, Cork Chamber and affiliated companies, San Francisco Committee members, English Market, and It@Cork.
- Mayor Farrell and family visited Cork on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and attended the Defence Forces Open Day in Fitzgerald's Park with the Lord Mayor. San Francisco sub-committee members and members of agencies in the city attended a lunch hosted by the Council for Mayor Farrell in the Park. Mayor Farrell returned to City Hall to sign the visitors book. This was his final overseas visit before he left office.
- The San Francisco Chief Fire Officer, Mrs. Hayes White visited Cork in July. She paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor and met with several members of Council and the San Francisco committee.
- As part of O'Bheal's Cork, San Francisco sister cities partnership, a group of 16 students and 2 professors from St. Mary's College came to Cork for a three week general arts course, employing a number of Cork artists and venues from all over the city to give workshops to students.
- Mayor Lee led a delegation from San Francisco comprising over 90 people who travelled to Cork in September 2017. This was the largest single delegation ever to visit from San Francisco and shows the extent of the strength of the relationship between both cities. The delegation comprised Supervisors (Councillors), officials from the city and county of San Francisco, representatives from the Port of San Francisco and the San Francisco Police Department, Members of the RBA( Residential Builders Assoc), Business leaders and Members of the San Francisco – Cork sister committee. The programme for the visit included:
  - A welcome dinner hosted by Cork City Council.
  - A reception for the delegation in Pairc Ui Chaoimh hosted by Pairc Ui Chaoimh and Cork GAA.

- The signing of two Memorandum of Understanding (MOU'S), one of which was an understanding to carry out Sister City exchanges focused on the principles of UNESCO Global City Learning and promote collaboration in both cities in the area of lifelong
  - Mayor Lee attended the opening ceremony of the UNESCO Learning Cities Conference in City Hall.
  - Best of Cork & Ireland Food and Craft Exhibition held in UCC. This gave everyone the opportunity to see what the Cork region has to offer in terms of tourism, culture and food produce.
  - A shark tank event in UCC
  - Walking tour of pedestrianised streets facilitated by staff from the Roads and Strategic Planning & Economic Development and Enterprise Directorates.
  - Presentation in City Hall on Social Housing projects and the operation of the RAS and HAP Schemes from Mark Birch and Tadhg Keating of the Housing & Community Directorate.
  - Site visit to the new Capitol development on Grand Parade.
  - That evening the delegation had dinner in the Aula Maxima, UCC.
  - Cork Chamber hosted an early morning breakfast meeting in The Kingsley Hotel to welcome Mayor Lee and the delegation. The breakfast, sponsored by NGINX highlighted the business links between Cork and San Francisco and provided an excellent opportunity to network and build relationships.
  - Members of the RBA, city planners and other delegation members went on a City walking tour led by the Conservation Officer and the Heritage Officer, Cork City Council.
  - In parallel, meetings also took place in the Port of Cork offices with the Director of the Port of San Francisco.
  - Members of An Garda Siochana met with delegation members in the Garda Headquarters in Anglesea St
  - Various members of Corks arts groups held a very constructive meeting with interested persons from San Francisco.
  - Discussions took place between members of Cork LGBT committee and San Francisco centred on rainbow city status.
  - Delegation visited VOXPRO offices
  - Visit to Cobh Heritage Centre.
  - Mayor Lee attended the closing ceremony of the Conference.
  - Reception hosted by Johnson Controls at their global headquarters, 1 Albert Quay
  - Breakfast hosted by Bord Bia in The Farmgate Restaurant, English Market, followed by a signing between both cities of a Memorandum of Understanding to engage Cork's English Market and San Francisco's Ferry Building Market Place to promote co operation between the artisan food communities in both cities.
  - Visit to Apple offices in Hollyhill
  - Lunch hosted by IDA Ireland
- Cork poet Kathy D'Arcy represented Cork in San Francisco for a 10 day programme, (5<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October), including the Los Gatos Irish writers panel. The programme included readings, seminars and workshops. The programme also included a poetry reading by Ms. D'arcy at Saint Mary's college of California. It is hoped that St. Mary's will send a group of students to Cork for a series of art workshops and cultural

excursions. This twinned city poetry exchange enriches O’Bheal’s annual programme of events and is supported by the council’s Twinning Grant programme.

- Lia Cook, eminent San Francisco based textile artist gave a key note speech at the CIT Crawford College of Art and Design Annual Make Symposium (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> March). Strong connections between Lia and academic staff at CIT CCAD were formed, leading to the potential for future collaboration between CIT and the California College of the Arts.
- Mr. Chris Mocko, athlete from San Francisco travelled to Cork for the Cork City Marathon. He won the marathon completing the 26.2 mile course in 2 hours, 26 minutes and 42 seconds. San Francisco Mayor Lee took to Twitter to congratulate Chris on his victory. The Examiner featured an article on Chris Mocko on the Friday before race day. Chris represented the Olympic Club in San Francisco and has competed in marathons since 2010.
- Cities and Counties from the USA and Ireland gathered in Dublin as part of the All Ireland – US Sister Cities Mayor’s Summit in April 2016. The Summit, the first of its kind in the world, identified projects and actions that cities can take together to improve business, education and social justice. The event was attended by some 200 US city mayors, business, education and youth leaders from many of the sixty United States cities that are twinned with Irish local authorities. The Summit marked the centenary of 1916 and also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Sister Cities International by President Eisenhower. Corks sister city of San Francisco was represented at the summit by Jim Herlihy, Chairperson of the San Francisco/Cork sister city committee.
- INUSA Conference – September 2016. A Cork delegation visited San Francisco in September. The delegation comprised the Lord Mayor of Cork, and senior officials from the City Council, Cork Chamber CorkBIC, Cork Convention Bureau and representatives from O’Callaghan Properties and John Cleary developments. The delegation promoted Cork in San Francisco, meet with Mayor Lee and officials in City Hall, met with representatives of the San Francisco/Cork twinning committee, met with Tech companies based in Silicon Valley including Apple, investigated Coworking spaces in San Francisco and attended the INUSA Conference taking place in San Francisco from September 15<sup>th</sup> to September 18<sup>th</sup>. The mission of INUSA is to connect Irish, Irish Americans and Friends of Ireland through business, culture, education and sport.
- Twelve members of the City Fire Brigade travelled to San Francisco in March, 2015 to take part in the City’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The group met and marched with the San Francisco fire Service in the Parade. The group also met with Mayor Lee of San Francisco and Kathleen Manning, Parade Co-ordinator. The group also met with the San Francisco Chief Fire Officer Joanne Hayes-White.
- In May 2015, a delegation from Cork including the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Mary Shields, Ms. Ann Doherty, Chief Executive, Cork City Council, Mr. Barrie O’Connell, President Cork Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Adrienne Rodgers, Head of enterprise, Local enterprise Office, Cork city visited San Francisco from 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for a series of business meetings. The delegation also paid a courtesy visit to Mayor Lee.

- Project Tara continues to develop and build upon the resources for the TARA project which was announced by Mayor Lee on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Project Tara is described as an education effort aimed to inspire and reach students in Ireland and California about astronomy, technology, engineering, culture and collaboration. BCO has a Memorandum of Understanding with UC Berkeley for teacher CPD in California with project Tara & through development of the relationship with University of California hopes to soon bring LICK Observatory into the Tara array of telescopes. The project was assisted under the Twinning Grant Scheme.
- In 2014, Mayor Lee of San Francisco invited 5 Coder Dojo students from Cork to come to San Francisco to share their skills with their transatlantic peers and encourage CoderDojo classes in San Francisco. The invitation was then linked in to coincide with the inaugural Aer Lingus flight from Dublin to San Francisco on 02<sup>nd</sup> April. Students Áine Ellen O'Neill, Ruth Whelan, Emily Mary Ray, and Andrew Barrett, all aged 13 and Matthew Mallen, 12, were selected to give Mayor Ed Lee of San Francisco a lesson in coding as part of the five-day trip. The group that travelled with the students to San Francisco included the Deputy Lord Mayor, an official from City Hall and representatives from CIT BCO and Cork Chamber. A fantastic programme of events was put together by Mayor Lee's office with assistance from the twinning committees in both Cork and San Francisco, staff at CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory and Aer Lingus who kindly sponsored the flights for the children and their chaperones making this whole project a unique first. The 3 day programme was packed and included exchanges with students from the San Francisco Unified School District, CoderDojo sessions at the California Academy of Sciences and GitHub as well as a visit to up-and-coming tech company TinyCo. The trip encouraged global thinking, collaboration and sharing of knowledge and experiences in technology.
- A Schools project as organised where students in schools around the city were asked to make a model of the Golden Gate Bridge and submit their entries for adjudication. The models were displayed in City Hall and a prize-giving ceremony was held.
- Chanticleer, the San Francisco based Grammy award winning ensemble visited Cork for a Workshop and concert performance in Cork Opera House as part of their Winter Tour 2013/2014. The Choral Workshop took place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 and their concert "He Said-She Said" took place the following evening. The group paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor where they performed a song. Members of the Cork-San Francisco Twinning Committee were also in attendance. This visit was assisted under the Twinning Grant Scheme.
- Cork Printmakers participated in a collaboration to make an exhibition of 26 Fine Art Prints which were exhibited as part of the Southern Graphics Council International Conference in San Francisco 26-30 March and then later returned to Cork where the exhibition was shown at CIT Wandesford Quay Gallery from 8<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May. Cork Printmakers were the only Irish organisation participating in the event. Many dignitaries from San Francisco were at the launch of the exhibition including the Maritime Marketing Manager, Port of San Francisco, the Executive Advisor – San Francisco Coalition for Responsible Growth and members of the San Francisco-Cork Twinning Committee. This visit was assisted under the Twinning Grant Scheme.