

Hermosa Beach Sister City Association

Promoting Peace and
Cultural
Understanding

Since 1967



How it all got started...

April 1966 - Mayor Jack Belasco and City Manager Walter Harris meet with Robert Curry, publisher of the South Bay Daily Breeze to discuss:

1. "The slanted reporting in the Breeze regarding the actions of the Cup of Cold Water Ministry in operating the Biltmore Hotel, and
2. A request to help Hermosa Beach in starting a Sister City Program"



Sister city



Sister cities or twin towns are a form of legal or social agreement between towns, cities, counties, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, regions, states, and even countries in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties. [Wikipedia](#)



The Steering Committee

Mr. Bob Austin	447 Longfellow Ave.
Mr. George Ames	2314 Manhattan Ave
Miss Corky Beard	1531 Monterey Blvd.
Mr. Jack Belasco	1927 Valley Drive
Mr. John deGroot	2412 Park Ave.
Mrs. John C. Dunn	2125 Circle Dr.
Dr. Dale Glick	517-17th St.
Mr. Walter Harris	588 20th St.
Mrs. Mo Linder	32-21st St.
Mr. Frank Sasine	2727 El Oeste Dr
Mr. Quentin Thelen	1224 Strand
Dr. Al Valdes	657 Porter Lane
Mr. Juan Valencia	139 Longfellow Ave.

Word about the new committee reached a number of other citizens and some offered to serve; others who were appointed never came to the meetings.



The Short List of Possible Cities:

- **VERACRUZ** - a large eastern port of entry. Featured many recreational activities familiar to Hermosans, but it was a big cosmopolitan City.
- **MANZANILLO** - a busy Pacific Port about the same population as Hermosa. Many attractions for Hermosans, but hard to get to.
- **ALAMOS** - in Sonora. Small. Government protects the Colonial atmosphere. Not by the tie but a favorite haunt of artists. Historically important.
- **TUXPAN** - in Nayarit. Located on a river not far from Mazatlan. A farming village.
- **ROSARITO** - just below Tijuana. Small beach community and one of the towns picked for final consideration.
- **SAN BLAS** - 90 miles from Mazatlan. 4500 people. Tropical. Good swimming. Jungle nearby.
- **LORETO** - 100 miles above La Paz. Dirt airstrip. Site of the first Mission. Increasingly famous for sport fishing—as was Mulege 20 miles to the north. English pirates left a fair number of Loretanos with “Davis” and “Green” and other unusual last names. They had a Lions Club.

Loreto



**First Mission and First
Capitol of the California's**



A Flying Sportsmen Lodge DC-3, c. 1969, with copilot Guillermo "Memo" Chávez, left, and Bertha and Ed Tabor. Bertha, in stewardess uniform, flew while expecting the Tabor's first daughter, Susan, who also flew along in a bassinet after she was born in 1967. A second daughter, Sonia, would be born in 1978. — COURTESY BERTHA TABOR

The First Visit - August 25, 1967

- Jack and Evelyn Belasco
- Jack and Betty Wise
- Al and Naoma Valdes
- Don and Sheila Miller
- Pat Anderson
- Del Andrews

First Impressions - In Jack Belasco's Own Words:

"Early in the morning we walked the town. We were impressed by the safe drinking water system and even more impressed by the litter-free, neat dirt and black top streets. Oil drums on the corners were used for trash. Imported trees—olive and date palms softened the dry desert atmosphere. The homes were simple; made for living in a tropic clime. They managed on a three inch annual rainfall; plants had to be watered or they died. Grass was scarce."

The Hermosa Beach Sister City Association



**Our Mission:
To Promote peace and
cultural understanding
through a people to people
program**




Of Note:

2000

1967



 **Congressional Record**
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION
WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

House of Representatives

THE HERMOSA BEACH SISTER CITY PROGRAM: 40 YEARS OF GOODWILL AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP

Madam Speaker, to many, Hermosa Beach is a beautiful coastal community blessed by perfect weather, endless sun and surf. But few would know that it is home to one of the oldest and strongest international exchange programs in the United States.

It all started in 1967, when the Hermosa Beach City Council established a "Sister City" program with the citizens of Loreto, Mexico. Back then, Loreto was a small community on the pristine Baja coast of the Sea of Cortez – famous for sport fishing, whales, cave paintings and colonial missions. Its Spanish mission, founded in 1697, was the first in all of the California's.

Over the past 40 years, the Hermosa Beach Sister City Association (HBSCA) has provided funding and other support for educational and humanitarian programs for Loreto. Among the most notable is the middle school student exchange program. Every spring, Hermosa Beach 7th and 8th grade students travel to Loreto – and vice versa – where they gain language skills, opportunities to learn about a different

culture from host families and field trips, and lifetime memories.

The HBSCA also assists the people of Loreto with critical medical care. As recently as 1998, Loreto had no emergency medical treatment facilities. Through a partnership between physicians in Loreto and Hermosa Beach, the HBSCA has been able to provide badly needed medical training and equipment, including paramedic gear and even an ambulance.

Since its inception, Sister City programs have benefited both cities and their citizens. Loreto has become a home away from home for Hermosans, who have in turn helped improve the quality of life for Loretans. One of our nation's oldest sister city programs shines as a stellar example of the impact global exchange can have on our world.

I congratulate the citizens of Hermosa Beach and Loreto on achieving this impressive milestone.

2008



Our Current Capstone Programs:



Student Exchange Program



Paramedic Training Program



Casa Hogar La Esperanza



Student Exchange Program



Started by Joe and Marie Diaz in 1974

Longest running Middle School Student Exchange Program in the Nation

American Students from the Beach Cities visit Loreto and stay with Loreto Families in the Spring. Mexican Students from Loreto visit Hermosa Beach and stay with Beach Cities Families in the Summer.

Paramedic Training Program



1999

- 3 Hermosa Beach Paramedics, Paul Hawkins, Mike Garafano, and Kim Bridges, volunteer to train Loreto Bomberos. They train in Loreto twice a year for the next 20 years.

2019

- After 20 years, 11 Loreto Bomberos have passed the US certification for Paramedic and provide services to the Loreto community. They provide training to other Baja California Bomberos. Our goal is to create a regional training center in Loreto.

Casa Hogar La Esperanza



Group
Foster Care
Home in
Loreto



Building
Improvements



Donations for
the children



Our Sister City: Loreto, Baja CA Sur, Mexico

Loreto

Approximately 830 miles from Los Angeles

Town in Mexico

Loreto is a city on Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, on the Gulf of California. Its colonial buildings include the Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto, a 17th-century church. Off the coast, the islands and waters of Bahía de Loreto National Park are home to dolphins, whales and pelicans. The city is backed by the Sierra de la Giganta mountain range, where trails lead to prehistoric cave paintings.



Things to Do in Loreto:

Whale Watching

Fishing

Snorkeling

Diving

Kayaking

Paddleboarding

Hiking

Biking

Golfing





More about HBSCA:

Non-Profit

- 501c3
- By-Laws
- Raise money through Fundraising Events

Entirely Volunteer

- Board Members serve for 2-year terms: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Monthly Meetings with Members

Community Minded

- Member of HB Chamber of Commerce
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Hermosa Fiestas
- Hermosa Tree Lighting
- City Council Meetings

Visit us at www.hb-sistercity.org and on

