



# Seattle-Gdynia Sister City Association

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## 2004 Report

The Seattle-Gdynia Sister City Association (SGSCA) is a Seattle-based organization established in 1993. The purpose of the Association is to create and strengthen relationships between citizens of Seattle and the northern Polish city of Gdynia.

The Association sponsors exchanges of government and business officials, artists, and students. In addition, the Association provides financial support to social service and cultural programs in Gdynia. SGSCA is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.

The most important activities of SGSCA were two trips to Gdynia for the purpose of developing several new, on-going programs. In May, SGSCA president Glen Lee traveled to Gdynia and was followed in September by a delegation led by SGSCA vice president Cindy Okinczyc.

Our primary objective with these two trips was to develop a formal relationship with the managers of the Gdynia Film Festival, the premier Polish language film festival in the world. In addition, we wanted to begin developing exchanges for students and business officials. We also wanted to identify additional human service organizations to support.

We are very pleased with the results of these efforts. Most importantly, we were able to establish a formal relationship with the Gdynia Film Festival. Beginning in 2005, Gdynia Festival organizers will give the "Seattle Award" to the best independent film shown at the Festival. We will feature the Seattle Award winning film and its director at the following Seattle Polish Film Festival. In addition, we established relationships with several new film distributors, which will allow us to improve the quality and quantity of our featured films. As a result of these developments, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Seattle Polish Film Festival was delayed from November 2004 until April of 2005.

Mr. Lee, Ms. Okinczyc and Gdynia officials began planning several more activities, including:

- (1) a study mission of Seattle-based business and government officials to Gdynia in 2005,
- (2) an exchange program between the Gdynia Art Institute and a similar institution in Seattle, and
- (3) a visit of the tall sailing ship Dar Młodzieży to Seattle.

In addition to these trips, SGSCA members were engaged in four other activities in 2004.

**Student Exchange** – SGSCA obtained a scholarship for a Gdynia student to participate in the Summer Washington Business Week Program. This program provides high school-aged students a curriculum on small-business development and management. Our student, Alicja Gluchowska, was in Seattle in late July and August. SGSCA paid for several of Alicja's expenses, including portion of her travel costs.

Sculpture – SGSCA member and artist Louise McDowell crafted a large bronze sculpture for the City of Gdynia. The sculpture depicts native coho salmon jumping over obstacles in a stream. SGSCA received this sculpture in December and will ship it to Gdynia in early 2005. City of Gdynia staff will permanently mount the sculpture in a park located in the City’s Orlowo neighborhood. Gdynia officials will rename the park to “Park Seattle” in our honor. The costs to SGSCA to produce the sculpture exceed \$2,000.

Hospice – SGSCA members raised money to support the Gdynia Hospice. The Hospice director is increasing the Hospice’s day care services for terminally ill Gdynia residents who live at home. Services would include physical care, food, and recreation. Hospice staff will use SGSCA resources to acquire a vehicle that will transport clients from their home to the facility.

Public Outreach – SGSCA dramatically improved its presence on the worldwide web with a newly designed website, [seattlegdynia.org](http://seattlegdynia.org). SGSCA members also developed a new marketing brochure and a press distribution list. We intend to use the distribution list to publicize our 2005 Seattle-based activities.

Please contact Glen Lee at (206) 684-8079 for more information about 2004 SGSCA activities.