

UZBEKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES: A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP STRENGTHENED THROUGH CITIES

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There are relationships in the world that shorten distances, bring peoples closer together, and unite different cultures around a common purpose. One of the most vivid expressions of such noble relations is sister-city cooperation. Despite being located thousands of kilometers apart, The main forces connecting cities such as Tashkent and Seattle, and Bukhara and Santa Fe, are trust, friendship, and mutual respect. Today, relations between cities are moving beyond the framework of ordinary cultural exchange and are becoming an important area of cooperation in the economy, education, innovation, tourism, and people-to-people diplomacy.

Sister-city relations between the cities of Uzbekistan and the United States are based on long-standing traditions of mutual respect and cooperation. Such ties encompass not only cultural and humanitarian dialogue but also cooperation in the fields of economy, education, tourism, innovation, and modern technology.

City-based diplomacy also occupies a special place in the friendship and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States. Sister-city relations serve as an important bridge for strengthening strategic dialogue between the two countries at the level of their peoples and expanding direct contacts between individuals. Sister-city partnerships between Uzbek and American cities bring together communities with different historical and cultural characteristics around a common goal: friendship, the exchange of experience, and mutually beneficial cooperation. In these relations, the historical heritage, economic potential, innovative capacity, and human capital of cities serve as important connecting factors.

As part of Uzbekistan's efforts to develop people-to-people diplomacy and expand direct ties with cities in foreign countries, particular attention is being paid to intercity cooperation. To this end, the Uzbekistan Brother Cities Alliance, established on May 7, 2025, has been working to bring relations between Uzbek cities and cities in foreign countries to a new level, strengthen existing ties, and enrich them through practical projects.

Tashkent-Seattle: More than Half a Century of Friendship and Cooperation

One of the most vivid examples of sister-city relations between the cities of Uzbekistan and the United States is the partnership between Tashkent and Seattle. These relations have a history spanning more than half a century and have become an important symbol of friendship, mutual trust, and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries.

The sister-city relationship between Tashkent and Seattle was established in 1973. Since then, cultural and humanitarian exchanges, friendship initiatives, educational programs, and cooperation in various fields have developed consistently between the two cities.

The similarities between Tashkent and Seattle have also contributed to strengthening these relations. Both cities are among the major economic, scientific, and cultural centers of their respective countries. Tashkent, as one of the largest cities in Central Asia, occupies a leading position in science, education, industry, and culture, while Seattle is known as one of the United States' leading centers of innovation, advanced technology, and modern industry.

Seattle's global reputation is primarily associated with its potential in technology and aviation. Boeing, which is closely associated with the city, is one of the world's leading aerospace companies and possesses extensive experience in engineering, scientific and technological progress, and innovation. In this regard, Seattle's experience in technological development is of great importance to rapidly developing cities such as Tashkent.

Tashkent, in turn, continues to develop as a major transportation, economic, and educational center in Central Asia, making progress in modern urban planning, digitalization, innovation, and international cooperation. Therefore, relations between the two cities are based not only on historical friendship but also on significant opportunities for future technological and economic cooperation.

In particular, cooperation in education, innovation, technology, culture, and youth affairs remains one of the key areas of relations between the two cities. Such ties promote not only cooperation between organizations and

institutions but also friendship and mutual understanding between the residents of both cities.

In 2026, the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Compatriots Abroad of the Republic of Uzbekistan organized a roundtable discussion dedicated to relations between the sister cities of Tashkent and Seattle. The event contributed to bringing this long-standing friendship to a new stage. During the discussion, participants considered ways to expand cultural ties between the two cities, develop youth diplomacy, and identify new areas of innovative and economic cooperation.

Today, Tashkent–Seattle relations represent an effective example of city diplomacy. This cooperation, which has continued for more than half a century, demonstrates that sister-city relations are not merely formal agreements but important instruments that bring peoples closer together, unite experience and opportunities, and create lasting bridges of friendship for future generations.

Sister-City Relations Between Other Cities of Uzbekistan and the United States: History and New Opportunities

The sister-city relationship established in 1987 between Bukhara, one of Uzbekistan's ancient cultural centers, and Santa Fe, located in the US state of New Mexico, is a vivid example of the two peoples' respect for their rich historical heritage and their aspiration for cultural exchange.

Both cities are distinguished by their unique architectural character, historical monuments, and rich cultural traditions. Bukhara is an ancient center of learning and enlightenment that developed at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, while Santa Fe, one of the oldest cities in North America, is known for its historic districts, art, and cultural heritage. These shared characteristics contribute to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two cities.

Likewise, the sister-city relationship established in 2019 between Zarafshan and Clinton, located in the US state of Mississippi, was an important step toward developing mutually beneficial cooperation between the two communities. Through these ties, new opportunities have been created for the cities to exchange experience, cooperate in the social sphere, and expand communication between their residents.

Conclusion

Today, partnerships such as Tashkent–Seattle, Bukhara–Santa Fe, and Zarafshan–Clinton clearly demonstrate the practical importance of sister-city diplomacy. Along with bringing together the economic and cultural potential of cities, these ties further strengthen friendship and mutual trust between people.

In particular, the Tashkent–Seattle relationship, with a history spanning more than half a century, reflects the true meaning of the sister-city concept. Genuine partnership is manifested not only in signed agreements but also in the trust developed over the years, mutual support, and the new opportunities being created for future generations.

Today, cities are becoming one of the key driving forces of global development. Therefore, cooperation between the cities of Uzbekistan and the United States not only enriches relations between the two countries but also demonstrates the power of people-to-people diplomacy and the boundless nature of friendship and solidarity.

Indeed, sister cities are not simply about geographical proximity. They are bridges of friendship that bring hearts closer together, unite experience, and create a strong foundation for future development.