



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

An Stiúrthóireacht um Forbartha Eacnamaíochta,
Fiontar agus Turasóireacht,
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach.

Economic Development,
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24th October, 2024

TO : THE MAYOR AND EACH MEMBER OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Re : Invitation to Attend the Austin Sister Cities International Passport to the World Festival

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

An invitation was received by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to attend the 2024 Austin Sister Cities International Passport to the World Festival. The event will take place on the 16th of November 2024.

Passport to the World is a family-friendly event that celebrates cultural diversity and fosters global understanding. The event will be followed by a Sister City Sign Unveiling Ceremony at City, which will be attended by City of Austin Mayor Kirk Watson, Council Members representing Austin Districts, and dignitaries representing Sister City relationships in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

In 2019, a deligation from Limerick led by then Mayor Cllr James Collins, travelled to Austin and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between our two cities. This was the first of a three step process towards an official Sister Cities agreement between Austin and Limerick.

Since 2019, a number of objectives and initiatives outlined in the MOU have been achieved and relations between our two cities have progressed. Attendance at the 2023 Passport to the World Festival was an opportunity to progress the relationship further and move to step two of the process, "Friendship City" status. Attendance at the 2024 Passport to the World Festival will underline the Council's committment to building the relationship with Austin, and progress toward an official Sister City Agreement, which will be formally signed by the Mayors of both cities in December 2024.

The costs involved (flights and accommodation) will be approximately **€3,748.00**

In accordance with section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, the approval of the council is hereby sought for the attendance by Councillor Dan McSweeney, Príomh Chomhairleoir of the City and County of Limerick.

Is mise le meas,

Brendan Troy
Head of Trade and Investment
Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate