



February 26, 2007

2006 Annual Report

This document describes the most important activities for the Seattle-Gdynia Sister City Association in 2006.

Seattle Polish Film Festival held in April. The Association (SGSCA) sponsored another successful “Seattle Polish Film Festival” at the end of April. The Festival was held at the Museum of History & Industry. The Festival featured the most commercially successful polish-language films in 2006 as well as personal appearances by leading Polish actors and directors. Our Festival Gala also included a presentation by **Krystyna Tokarska-Biernacik**, Consul General of the Republic of Poland.

The Festival’s revenues (including grants, donations, sponsorships, and admission fees) just covered our expenses. However, the attendance for Festival was below expectations.

As a result, we initiated discussions that has led to an agreement with the managers of the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) for SIFF to support our Film Festival beginning in 2007. Specifically, the Polish Film Festival will be held in SIFF’s new home theater at McCaw Hall in Seattle Center. In addition, SIFF will permit us to market the Polish Film Festival to the SIFF membership. Finally, SGSCA and SIFF will co-sponsor a polish-language film at this year’s SIFF in May.

We hope that our new relationship with SIFF, together with our access to top-level films and filmmakers from Poland, will result in substancially higher attendance at the Polish Film Festival.

In September a delegation of our film buffs went to the 31st annual in Gdynia Film Festival, the leading polish-language film festival. Our successful relationship with Gdynia film festival directors allows our delegation to preview films and potential guests for our Seattle Festival.

Gdynia students attend WBW program. SGSCA sponsored three high school students from Gdynia High School Number 3 to attend the Washington Business Week (WBW) program. The WBW is sponsored by the Association of Washington Business and provides high school students a hands-on learning experience about the free enterprise economic system. The Gdynia students attended the June 25 program and stayed in Seattle with three member families through the middle of July.

Gdynia School 3 features the **International Baccalaureate** curriculum. Its headmaster (principal) is very pleased with the WBW curriculum and wants to continue to have his students participate. SGSCA will sponsor up to six students from this High School to attend the WBW program in 2007.

SGSCA delegation attends 80th Anniversary celebration. In February, SGSCA sent a delegation to Gdynia to participate in the City's celebration of its 80th anniversary. It was an honor for SGSCA to be part of the festivities.

SGSCA Delegation attends Port of Gdynia security conference. SGSCA member Mike Waske attended the maritime security conference held at the Port of Gdynia in late September. The conference was sponsored by the Polish Port Districts, the national transportation agency for Poland, international maritime associations, and NATO.

In 2005 the senior management group of the Port of Gdynia spent a week in Seattle learning about Seattle's port-related security and anti-terror programs. While our security technologies are similar, Polish ports do not have as much access to these technologies as exists in Seattle. In addition, Polish officials were impressed with the level of cooperation between security agencies in Seattle. Port officials have requested that officials from the Seattle Police Department meet with security officials at the Ports of Gdynia and Gdansk to describe the Seattle area's approach to inter-jurisdictional cooperation strategies.

Stellar Corporation visits Gdynia. Officials from the Seattle-based Stellar Corporation met with leading business and government officials in Gdynia in October. Stellar is a land development company with large projects in the Pacific northwest and western Europe. SGSCA members organized the meeting in Gdynia for the purpose of introducing Stellar to development opportunities in the Gdynia-area.

Dar Mlodziezy may participate in Tacoma event. A few of our members continue to participate in efforts to sponsor the participation of The Polish Maritime University's tall ship Dar Mlodziezy in Tacoma's Tall Ships event. The event will be held in 2008 and is part of an international sailing tour of central and North America. The Maritime University is in Gdynia. It is a very difficult challenge to sponsor a ship in this type of event. We'll see.

Naming of LOT 787 for City of Gdynia. SGSCA, the City of Gdynia, and the U.S. Embassy in Poland are trying to persuade LOT, the primary airline of Poland, to name one of its new Boeing 787 aircraft "The City of Gdynia". It is a tradition for LOT to name its large aircraft after Polish cities, and the Embassy staff wants to recognize the sister city relationship between Seattle, the home of Boeing, and Gdynia with this honor.

Letters from both Mayors and the U.S. Ambassador will be sent to LOT officials in early 2007.

Special recognition for SGSCA members. SGSCA members Ron and Martha Golubiec were awarded the **Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland** in honor of their efforts to promote Polish culture abroad! This is an incredible honor given to foreigners or polish civilians by the Polish government. Congratulations, Ron and Martha!