



2007 Annual Report

Film Festival – Our primary activity each year is the Seattle Polish Film Festival. The Festival in 2007 will begin April 27 and end May 4. There are two goals to the Film Festival. The first is to provide a service to the local Polish community by bringing contemporary Polish cinema and Polish filmmakers to Seattle. The second goal is to share Polish culture, as portrayed in Polish cinema, with the greater Seattle community.

Our operational objective for the Festival for the next three years is to broaden its appeal to the non-Polish speaking cinema community. One of our most important steps to accomplishing this objective is to develop a formal cooperative agreement with the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF).

Beginning this year, the Festival will be held at SIFF's new home, the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at Seattle Center's McCaw Hall. In addition, SIFF will help market our Festival to their membership and patrons. We are very excited with our new relationship with SIFF, and look forward to growing with them.

We are also expanding our marketing efforts to several periodicals, which together with our Festival Program, will cost us well over \$2,000 this year.

We hope to have a delegation of our membership attend the Gdynia Film Festival in September. Our delegation would participate in judging new Polish films for various awards including the "Seattle Award" which will be given to the best independent film shown at the Festival.

Student Exchanges – SGSCA members will host six high school students from Gdynia this summer. These students will attend the Summer Washington Business Week Program. This program provides high school-aged students a curriculum on small-business development and management. We have sponsored four students over the past three summers, but as a result of popular demand in Gdynia, are expanding our participation in this program beginning in this summer.

In addition, we will continue to investigate the possibility of having Washington Business Week instructors provide courses in Gdynia. The Summer Program managers currently are attempting to offer one or two programs abroad by the end of the decade, and we believe that Gdynia is ideally suited for hosting the program.

Naming of LOT Boeing Dreamliner – At the instigation of the U.S. Ambassador’s staff in Warsaw, we are working with the City of Gdynia and the Ambassador’s assistant to encourage executives of LOT, Poland’s national airlines, to name one of their new Boeing 787s “The City of Gdynia”.

LOT officials typically have named their inter-continental aircraft after major Polish cities. The Ambassador’s staff suggested that LOT name an aircraft “Gdynia” to honor the strong Sister City relationship between Gdynia and Seattle, the home of Boeing’s civilian aircraft manufacturing. We are working with top aids from Mayor’s of both cities as well as the Ambassador’s office to lobby LOT for this honor on Gdynia.

Delivery Flight – SGSCA members are in the initial stages of planning for a large group of Seattle-area dignitaries to travel to Poland on the first 787 dreamliner delivered to LOT. We anticipate that this first dreamliners will be delivered in the fall of 2008.

SGSCA sponsored a similar trip in the mid-1990s. On that trip, nearly 60 political, business, and labor leaders flew to Poland on a flight that delivered to LOT one of its first Boeing 767 airliners. Such exchanges are commonly referred to as “delivery flights”. The delivery flight in 1994 proved to be a very successful activity for SGSCA and local businesses.

Ideally, SGSCA can work with LOT to ensure that the “delivery flight” exchange will be aboard an aircraft named “The City of Gdynia”.

Visit of Mayor Szczurek – SGSCA has invited Gdynia’s Mayor to visit Seattle in 2007. Mayor Szczurek and his staff are attempting to clear his calendar for a trip this fall, after the Gdynia Film Festival. If the Mayor is able to come to Seattle, we will seek Mayor Nickels’ agreement to co-sponsor Mayor Szczurek’s visit.

Dar Mlodziezy – The Gdynia Maritime University is seeking support from the government of Poland and various U.S groups to sail its training ship “Dar Mlodziezy” to the west coast of North America in 2008. The Maritime University staff has asked SGSCA to coordinate fundraising and logistical planning events here in the Puget Sound area. It is unclear how much energy SGSCA members will apply to this effort.

Ambassador Visit – SGSCA is co-sponsoring the visit of Janusz Reiter, Ambassador to the United States from the Republic of Poland. Ambassador Reiter will visit Seattle during the third week of April and will meet with Seattle business leaders, Mayor Nickels, and leaders of Seattle’s Polish community.

Business – SGSCA will continue to work with Seattle-area based companies who are interested in expanding their operations into Poland. A major local firm has asked SGSA members to accompany its staff on a tour of the Gdynia area sometime during the summer or fall of 2007.

Public Outreach – SGSCA will continue to improve its marketing and outreach capacities in 2007. This purpose of this effort is twofold: first and foremost is to more effectively promote our activities; and second is to increase our membership.

One task is to expand further our presence on the World Wide Web. Our goal is to have our site provide up-to-the-minute information about SGSCA activities, events in Seattle’s Polish community, as well as news from Gdynia and Poland.

Another is to increase our outreach for new members. We do this by participating in Polish community events and expanding the scope of our activities.