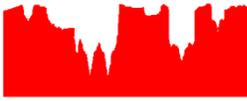


**INDIANAPOLIS**



**COLOGNE  
SISTER CITY  
PARTNERSHIP**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Indianapolis - Cologne Sister City Partnership Committee Celebrates 25 Years!**

Since 1988, Indianapolis and Cologne, Germany have been connected through an active and lively sister city relationship. The mission of this partnership is to foster international understanding at all levels by forging person-to-person bonds between the people of Indianapolis and Cologne.

The Indianapolis - Cologne partnership is one of the most active of the city's eight sister city relationships and in the past twenty five years the committee has hosted cultural, educational and economic exchanges between the two cities. Notable among these are the exchanges between the two fire departments, where a member of one organization would spend three weeks living and working with their counterparts. More recently, we have just completed the first exchange of librarians between the Indianapolis Public Library and the Cologne City Library. Some of our city's most revered institutions have been part of these exchange programs, such as the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Athenaeum, IUPUI, IVY Tech, and more. Former Indianapolis Mayors Bill Hudnut, Stephen Goldsmith, Bart Peterson and current Mayor Greg Ballard have supported our local sister city relationship and all of them visited Cologne while they were in office.

During the first week of October, Indianapolis will receive two separate delegations from Cologne in celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the award winning musician Andre Nendza, four young jazz musicians from the Open Jazz house School in Cologne and German-American Society of Cologne chairman Hartwig Prüßmann will arrive in Indianapolis. This group will tour the city; hook up with Monika Herzig from Indiana University to study and perform with their counterparts in Bloomington, join in the Light of the World Christian Church's Sunday service and perform at six different venues around central Indiana.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the second delegation from Cologne arrives. This one consists of Cologne Vice-Mayor Angela Spizig, Volkmar Schultz, the Chairman of the *Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis* committee, Lydia Kluetsch from the Office of International Affairs for the City of Cologne and Claudia Burger, widow of the late Lord Mayor Norbert Burger who signed the original sister city agreement with Indianapolis Mayor Bill Hudnut in 1988.

Events planned for the visitors include a tour of the Speedway, stops at the Eiteljorg and Vonnegut Library, and free public performances by Nendza and the musicians at the Indiana State Library and the Indianapolis public library. The performance at the State Library will be preceded by a presentation on Jazz in Indiana by Jazz great David Baker and Jazz historian and photographer, Duncan Schiedt.

The following events are open to the public:

Thursday, October 3	5:30-7:30 pm	Bear's Place, Bloomington
Saturday, October 5	2-4:30 pm	Indiana State Library
	10.30pm – 1.30am	Chatterbox
Monday, October 7	6-7 pm	Indianapolis Public Library, Central branch

The Indianapolis-Cologne Sister City Partnership Committee is part of Sister Cities International, a tax-exempt, non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to foster international understanding at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. Since its founding in 1988, the focus of the local committee has remained the same -- to forge lasting person-to-person bonds between Indianapolis and Cologne. The sister city relationship grew out of the "people-to-people" exchanges initiated by President Eisenhower in response to the tragedies of World War II. Today more than three hundred American cities have one or more sister city relationships. Local level citizen's diplomacy, social service missions and government relationships have become additional strategies of sister city activities.

The committee meets once a month at the Athenaeum to discuss various activities concerning the ongoing relationship between Indianapolis and Cologne. Anyone interested is invited to attend meetings and events! Opportunities for volunteering include event planning and implementation, fundraising and outreach.

Martin Baier  
President  
Indianapolis-Cologne Sister-City Partnership Committee  
[baier\\_martin@yahoo.com](mailto:baier_martin@yahoo.com)

For more information, contact Steven J. Schmidt, [schmidt@iupui.edu](mailto:schmidt@iupui.edu)