



**Memorandum of Understanding
Between The Sister States of Maryland, Inc.
and Société des Amis de Versailles, France**

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to provide a cooperative framework for the Sister States of Maryland, Inc. (SSM) and Société des Amis de Versailles (SAV) for a period of three years following the signature of this MoU.

II. Parties

The parties to this MOU are SSM and SAV. Nothing in this MoU shall obligate either party to the commitment of any funds.

III. Overview

A. Overview of the Maryland Sister States Program

The Sister States of Maryland, Inc., a private, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of Maryland, partners with the Maryland Sister States Program, a program of Maryland's Office of the Secretary of State. The Program was established to provide a government-to-government forum for the promotion of international cooperation and understanding. Through broad-based citizen participation in a wide variety of exchanges in areas of mutual interest, the Program offers countless opportunities to develop partnerships around the world. The Program was established in 1980 and currently includes 20 relationships in 17 countries.

The Maryland Sister States Program relies on the Sister States of Maryland, Inc.'s extensive network of representative volunteer committees for development of Maryland's Sister State relationships. Together with the Sister States of Maryland, Inc., the Maryland Sister States Program draws upon the expertise and experience of individuals from institutions, businesses, and organizations across Maryland to support these important subnational partnerships. When added to their overseas counterparts, these committees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S" or "B" with a flourish, and a small mark resembling a "7" or "G" to its right.

form a powerful network both at home and abroad for fostering public/private cross-fertilization and social and economic growth.

Sister States relationships are significant in an age in which state and regional governments have an increasingly greater role in events. By giving access to policy makers, the people-to-people contacts of the Maryland Sister States Program add a human dimension to governmental interaction. They help to create a friendly and receptive climate for developing multi-faceted ties in today's closely integrated but highly competitive environment.

SSM is delighted to partner with SAV, thus joining an extraordinary international endeavor to preserve one of the largest museums in the world with great historical ties to the United States.

B. Overview of SAV

Founded in 1907 to address the alarming deterioration of the Château de Versailles and its grounds, SAV is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, private organization. Preserving for future generations this outstanding architectural and cultural legacy, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1979, lies at the core of SAV mission.

SAV is independent since its foundation and has funded more than 300 projects for the restoration of the Château and the enrichment of its collections. To enable these remarkable accomplishments, SAV is actively supported by more than 5,000 members from all around the world. The organization also raises funds among individual donors and partners with French and international corporations. Donations to SAV may be eligible for tax deductions in many countries, including 29 European countries and the United States of America.

Over the past three years, young people's education has also become a strategic focus. It is our responsibility to encourage children and students to visit the Château, to raise awareness of preservation issues and to ensure that future generations understand the significance of preserving this wonderful cultural heritage.

More than any other monument, the Château de Versailles has a direct historical, political and artistic link to the United States. Thanks to the invaluable support of its "sister" organization, the *American Friends of Versailles* the Society extends its reach abroad, continuing a long legacy of international collaboration at the Château. SAV is delighted to partner with SSM, such a successful forum for international cooperation and understanding, promoting a balance of business, educational and cultural interests.



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IV. Goals and Objectives

The goal of the MoU is to establish a strong collaborative working partnership that fosters collaboration, between SSM and SAV to the extent that such coordination, collaboration and resource sharing is consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and policies, to develop cultural and educational exchanges, and foster business.

To accomplish these objectives, the parties will engage in activities that serve to:

- A. Increase awareness of the parties' programs
- B. Provide outreach to support each other's developmental initiatives.
- C. Provide mutual assistance to organize events in Maryland or in Château de Versailles

V. Responsibilities of the Parties



Per availability of resources, both parties shall be responsible for the goals and activities cited in this Agreement, and shall contribute to this partnership, as appropriate.

A. SSM Responsibilities

1. Advise Administrations, Staff Offices, and other SSM organizations of this MoU.
2. Provide Administrations, SSM Staff Offices, and other SSM organizations with information on SAV's activities and services.
3. Organize events to promote the Château de Versailles and develop awareness of SAV missions and services.
4. Help establish contacts with organizations or individuals involved in the preservation of this historical heritage

B. SAV Responsibilities

1. Advise the Château de Versailles and other organizations of SAV network - if relevant, of this MoU.
2. Provide information on SAV's activities and services.

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3. Assist SSM stake-holders in the organization of events and private visits at the Château de Versailles, with the possibility to benefit from the use of SAV reception rooms*, especially:
 - companies or corporation developing business in France
 - educational or cultural organizations planning a trip to France**according to the current financial and logistical terms of use.*
4. Help establish contacts between the members of Société des Amis de Versailles, CEO or shareholders of companies, and the Maryland companies

C. Both SSM and SAV will:



1. Meet or correspond periodically to review the status and progress of this MoU.
2. Notify designated SSM/SAV MoU Points of Contact (PoC) regarding upcoming MOU meetings, MOU status updates, and requests related to the terms of the MOU.
3. Track outcomes of SSM/SAV MoU activities to the extent practicable to report on areas of achievement and enhancement.
4. Identify opportunities and programs where professionals from SSM and members from SAV can participate in outreach and exchange programs.

VI. Points of Contact

SSM and SAV will designate PoCs within their respective organizations to implement the MoU. The PoCs will direct and coordinate partnership activities to ensure that mutual benefits and interests are served. The respective offices responsible for implementation and maintenance will effectively communicate and keep all parties up-to-date on identified responsible parties.

VII. Brand Protection

Neither party will use the name, trade name, trademark, logo or other designation of the other party in connection with any products, promotion, advertising, press release, or publicity without the prior written permission of the other party.

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VIII. Periodic Review

Representatives of SSM and SAV will annually review, on or around the anniversary date of this MoU, the progress in the implementation of the MoU. This MoU shall remain in effect unless amended, or terminated by the parties. Amendments must be agreed to by both parties. This MoU may be terminated at any time by either party upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other party.

IX. Effective Date

The terms of this MoU will become effective on the date of the last signature by the parties and will remain in effect until terminated by either party as specified in Section VII.

X. Modification

Amendments must be bilaterally executed in writing, signed by authorized representatives of both parties. No oral or unilateral amendments will be effective. Only terminations done in accordance with the terms of this agreement may be done unilaterally.

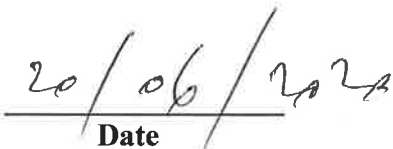
XI. Other Provisions

This MoU does not create a partnership or a joint venture and neither party has the authority to bind the other.


This MoU shall become effective on behalf of the parties by signature of the undersigned:



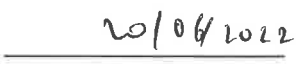
Patrick CAPURRO
Co-chair, Maryland/Hauts-de-France Sister State
Committee, Sister States of Maryland, Inc.



Date



Thierry ORTMANS
Président of Société des Amis de Versailles



Date