



Sheila Dixon

Mayor,
Baltimore

250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2009

CONTACT:

Scott Peterson
(443) 740-5412

Mayor Dixon and Egyptian Ambassador Sameh Shoukry Announce Sister City ‘Images of Egypt’ College and High School Contest

*College winners to win two week, all expenses paid trip to Egypt, High School winners
will receive \$250 savings bond.*

Baltimore, MD (February 4, 2009) –Mayor Sheila Dixon was joined by Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Mr. Sameh Shoukry to announce the ‘Images of Egypt’ contest. The contest is part of Baltimore City’s Black History Month Celebration. College-age winners of this essay, art and multi-media design competition will receive either an all-expenses-paid trips to Egypt. High school students can win one of three \$250 savings bonds.

“Today I am excited because we are going to connect our young people to the history and beauty of our sister cities,” said Mayor Dixon. “We are always looking for new and amazing opportunities to expose the youth of Baltimore City to a world off of their street, outside their block and in another part of the world.” said Mayor Dixon.

The contest seeks entries in three different mediums: Arts (musical, graphic or plastic), Website Design/Multi-media Design, and Literature (essay, short story. For each category, the entrant must choose one aspect of Egyptian culture and/or history, inspired by parts of the “Egyptian Corner” website (www.EgyptianCorner.org). The entry should include personal reflection or response to a portion of Egyptian culture or history. All entries will be judged on originality and the degree to which the entry reflects those elements of Egyptian life. The entry must be easily transportable and must embrace Egyptian Corner’s mission of cultural bridge building.

Eligible college students entrants must be eighteen years of age or older, residents of the United States, matriculated at an accredited Baltimore City or County college or university (two year or otherwise) and may not be related to members of the judging committee. Graduate level students are not eligible. Eligible high school students must be enrolled in a Baltimore City Public High School, residents of the United States, and may not be related to members of the judging committee.

There is no entry fee and no purchase is necessary to enter. One entry per person will be accepted. Submissions must include a cover letter from the entrant's accredited college or university stating enrollment in the school.

The contest is open from February 2 to April 2, 2009. The top prize in each of three contest categories for college students is a two-week, all expenses paid trip to Egypt. The three top prizes for high school students is a \$250 savings bond. Other prizes are also included.

Detailed contest rules and how to enter can be found at www.EgyptianCorner.org.

The Egyptian Corner website provides current access to reliable information about the political, economic, cultural, educational, and social life of Egypt to the American public, through book collections, Internet resources, and local programming. The contest and Egyptian Corner website are sponsored by: Information Technology Industry Development Agency, Egypt Air, Egyptian American Technology Association, PADCO/AECOM, and the Egyptian Tourist Authority. The prizes received by winners are at no-cost to the City of Baltimore.

The 'Images of Egypt' contest is a result of the fruitful Sister-City relationship with the Egyptian cities of Luxor and Egypt. Luxor became a Sister City in 1982, and Alexandria in 1992. Since then, the committee has sponsored internships and exchanges between Baltimore and Egypt in the culinary arts, library sciences, medicine and education; hosted business seminars, musical programs and artistic displays through the city of Baltimore; organized annual cultural tours to Egypt open to the public; and taught courses in Arabic and modern Egyptian culture. You can learn more about the Baltimore-Luxor-Alexandria Committee at www.BaltimoreEgypt.org.

Today's announcement represents a continuation of the relationship developed last year when Mayor Dixon went on a four-day trip to visit business, government and educational resources in Egypt. She and other representatives from Baltimore City met with government, business and education leaders. In addition to this contest, the Sister-city relationship is opening up opportunities for Baltimore City residents and institutions, including an exchange program between the historic Library in Alexandria and Baltimore's own Enoch Pratt Free Library.

The contest is sponsored by: Information Technology Industry Development Agency, Egypt Air, Egyptian American Technology Association, PADCO/AECOM, and the Egyptian Tourist Authority.

"I am grateful for Ambassador Shoukry for his understanding that we need private-public partnerships like this to expand education for the City's youth," added Mayor Dixon.

###

Please visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov