

KALMAR	FULDA	OSOGBO	OLEVANO	NEMOURS
SWEDEN	GERMANY	NIGERIA	ITALY	FRANCE
Est. 1963	Est. 1997	Est. 2002	Est. 2004	Est 2011

Who We Are



Sister Cities of Wilmington's mission is to promote peaceful relations between the people of Wilmington and our Sister Cities through educational, cultural, artistic, and other appropriate exchanges

We are a member of the Sister Cities International, founded by President Eisenhower

We are an auspice of the Wilmington Cultural Affairs Department of the Mayor's Office



Student Exchanges

Experiencing the Education of Friendships

- Biannually, St. Anthony’s grade school students with Leonardo da Vinci Scuola students in Olevano
- Biannually, Wilmington Children's Choir with Fulda Youth Orchestra
- Biannually, Wilmington Friends School upper school students with Kalmar International School
- Annually, University of Delaware German language students to Fulda to study at the International Summer School at Fulda University



VISUAL ARTS EXCHANGES

Adding Color to Our World

- Wilmington Friday Art Loop with works from Osogbo artist
- Paintings and sculptures from the SYNE project showed at multiple venues on Market Street, Wilmington then traveled to Kalmar, Watford, and Fulda
- Pottery made in Olevano sold at the St. Anthony's Festival in Wilmington by the artists



PERFORMANCE ART EXCHANGES

We Like to Teach the World to Sing

- “Cleo” Nathalie Missaoui hip-hop artists from Sweden performed in Wilmington
- Singers from Olevano to entertain at St. Anthony’s Festival in Wilmington
- Wilmington trumpeter, Gerald Chavez performed at Olevano Music and Arts Festival
- Tina Betz performed in Fulda
- The Wilmington Children's Choir played with the Fulda Youth Orchestra in Fulda and in Wilmington, annual exchange
- Emily Tepe and Julie Nishimura conducted a musical tour to Fulda, Kalmar, and Prudnik



CULTURAL EXCHANGES

New Things Inspire Us to be Greater

- Chocolatiers from Nemours participated in Mid-Atlantic Wine and Food Festival
- Chefs from Olevano, Kalmar, Watford, and Fulda cooked for Meals on Wheels fundraiser Meals with the Masters
- Royal visit from Osogbo by the Ataoja of Osogboland
- Osun festival from Osogbo recreated at the Brandywine River
- Julian Critchlow from Watford won the Caesar Rodney half-marathon, three times, 1997-9

SPECIAL PROJECTS



Connect globally. Thrive locally.

- Plant Sister City Gardens in Brandywine Park for each city with flowers of their country's flag
- Co-sponsor US Global Leadership Coalition conference hosted by Senator Chris Coons in Wilmington
- Co-sponsored the Kalmar Room in the Kalmar Nyckel Maritime Center
- Co-sponsored the Borehole project in Nigeria with the Gates Foundation and others
- Co-sponsored movie productions for Olevano film makers

SCHOLARSHIPS



The journey begins with a single step.

- Yearly award scholarships from the Peter A. Larson Fund to University of Delaware, Goldey-Beacom College, Wilmington University, and Delaware State University students in International Studies
- Yearly, co-sponsor with University of Delaware and Delaware Saengerbund, three students from University of Delaware German language program to study at International Summer School at Fulda University


St. Ann’s, Jamaica
Edition

Sister Cities Wilmington invited Mayor Belnavis of St. Ann’s to Wilmington August 27th-31st, 2026



We started with a visit to Mayor Carney’s Office!



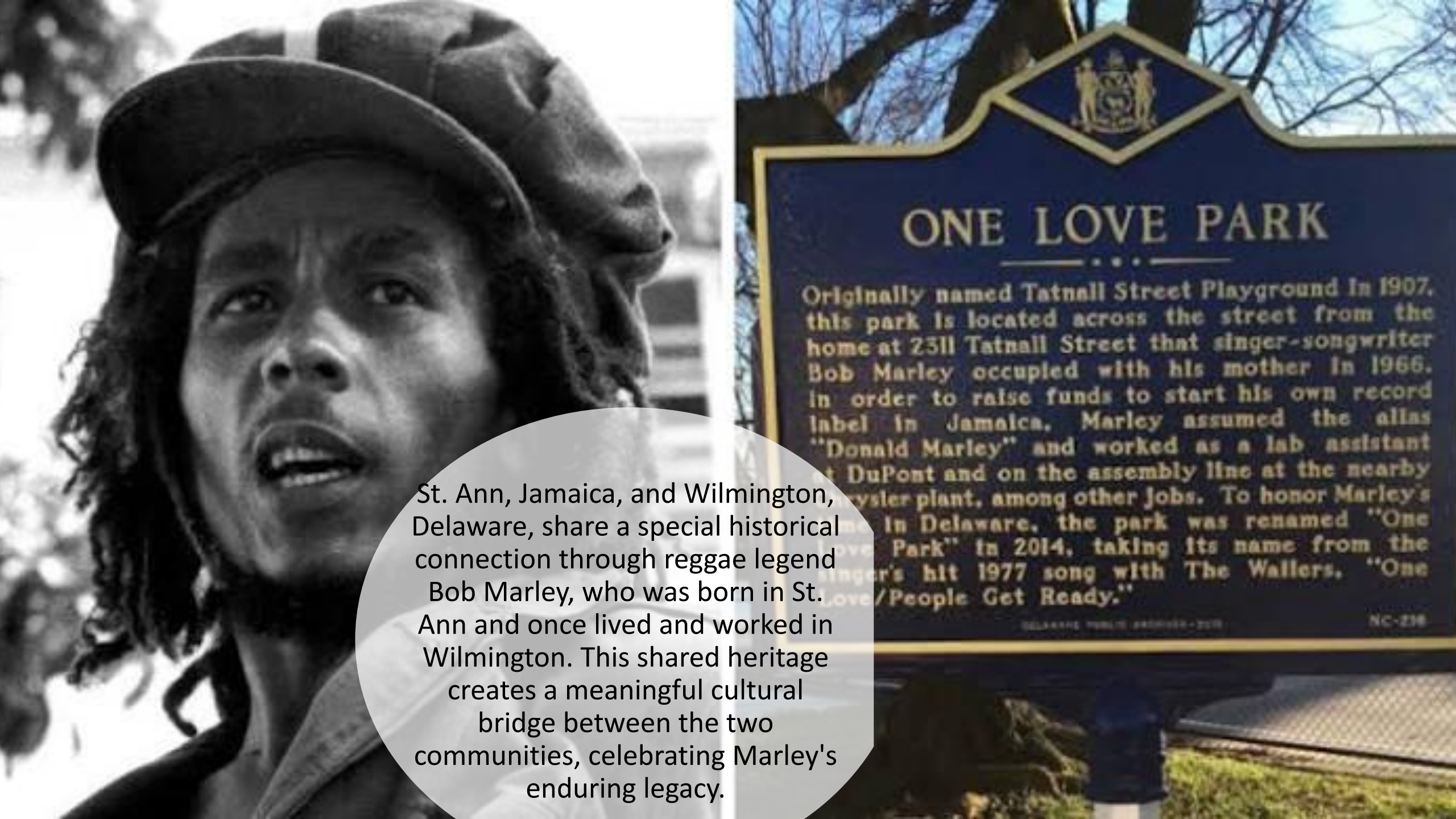


Winterthur Museum Visit

Mayor Michael Belnavis of St. Ann, Jamaica, enjoyed a special visit to Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in Delaware, experiencing its rich history, beautiful gardens as part of his official visit.

The evening was followed by a dinner at the Chancery before the movie screening of “Threads of Us” a movie by Bob Marley’s Granddaughter Donisha Prendergrast





St. Ann, Jamaica, and Wilmington, Delaware, share a special historical connection through reggae legend Bob Marley, who was born in St. Ann and once lived and worked in Wilmington. This shared heritage creates a meaningful cultural bridge between the two communities, celebrating Marley's enduring legacy.





Mayor Michael Belnavis of St. Ann, Jamaica, attended a special screening of Threads of Us, a film celebrating Caribbean heritage, identity, and the stories that connect our communities. His presence highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and strengthening the bonds between Jamaica and Wilmington, Delaware, through film and storytelling.

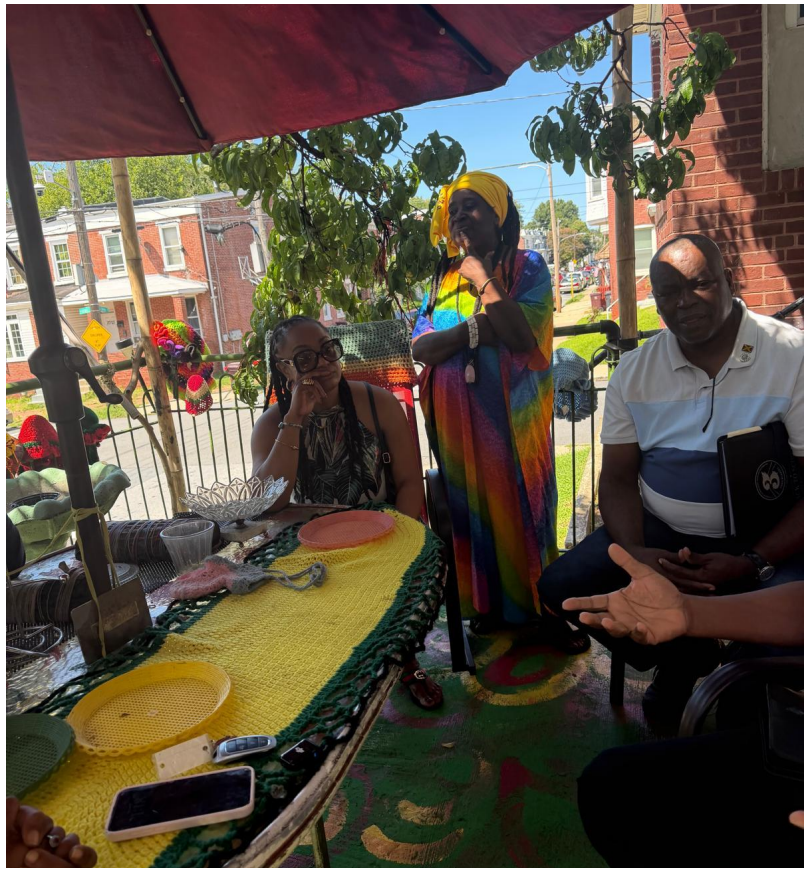








Day One of Mayor Michael Belnavis' official Sister Cities visit was a tremendous success! From meeting with Wilmington Mayor John Carney and touring Winterthur to a special Jamaican Independence dinner and screening of *Threads of Us* with Donisha Prendergast, the day beautifully celebrated culture, diplomacy, and the bond between St. Ann and Wilmington.











Day Two of Mayor Michael Belnavis' official Sister Cities visit began with an unexpected and memorable encounter with U.S. Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester over breakfast! The day continued at One Love Park, where the delegation commemorated the historic Jamaican connection to Wilmington, celebrating shared heritage, cultural pride, and the enduring legacy of Bob Marley.









LAFATE GALLERY VISIT!

We then enjoyed a lovely stroll to the LaFate Gallery for a special Jamaican-catered luncheon hosted by Eunice LaFate, a proud St. Ann native! We were honored to welcome Colin Garvey, grandson of Jamaican national hero Marcus Garvey, who also hailed from St. Ann. The celebration included proclamations presented by Councilwoman Maria Cabrera and Council Member Michelle Harlee. What a pleasure celebrating our shared heritage and the special bond between St. Ann and Wilmington!

Jamaica Independence Day Celebration



We concluded the evening with the 5th Annual Jamaican Independence Day Celebration in Delaware, proudly hosted by Commissioner Lorraine Badley! It was a wonderful night filled with Jamaican pride, culture, music, and community spirit as we celebrated our nation's independence and the lasting connections between Jamaica and Delaware. What a memorable way to close out an incredible day!



We brought the visit to a wonderful close with a farewell dinner at Iron Hill Brewery alongside our Sister Cities partners. We were especially honored to have the late Ciro Poppiti join us, sharing in the laughter, fellowship, and celebration. It was a memorable evening filled with meaningful connections and a beautiful way to conclude Mayor Belnavis' visit to Delaware.











Saying goodbye was bittersweet as we wished Mayor Michael Belnavis and the St. Ann delegation a heartfelt farewell! We look forward to visiting St. Ann, Jamaica, and continuing the friendships and cultural connections established during this memorable visit. We are now excited to take the next steps toward formally establishing a Sister Cities relationship between Wilmington and St. Ann, building a lasting bridge of friendship, culture, and collaboration!

What will this partnership entail?

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One of the exciting visions for the Wilmington–St. Ann Sister Cities partnership is to develop a sports tourism and youth exchange initiative, inviting high school teams from St. Ann, Jamaica, to Delaware for friendly tournaments against local high school teams. Beyond fostering cultural exchange and international friendships through sports, we hope to create opportunities for talented Jamaican student-athletes to gain exposure to Delaware universities, connect with college recruiters, and potentially secure athletic scholarships, including full scholarships that would allow them to pursue higher education in the United States.

