



## Kansas City Officials Announce “Marathon Exchange Program” with Xi’an, China

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KANSAS CITY, June 7, 2013 – From Arusha, Tanzania, to Xi’an, China, 13 sister-city relationships serve an integral role in Kansas City’s cultural and economic advancement. Spanning the globe, each affiliation presents a distinct opportunity for exchanging awareness and interest in many areas, even in the world of sport.

In the spirit of building upon Kansas City’s relationship with Xi’an, the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation is pleased to announce a “marathon exchange program” between the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds and the Xi’an City Wall International Marathon. A cooperative agreement beginning this year, the top local male and female finishers at the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds will earn a chance to compete in the Xi’an City Wall International Marathon in the following year. The same arrangement applies to the top local finishers at the Xi’an event this November, with their top male and female runners invited to compete in Kansas City.

“We’re confident this is a top local prize unlike any other in the United States,” said Kathy Nelson, President and CEO, Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. “For two area runners, it’s not only a rare chance to experience an overseas marathon; it also represents an opportunity to immerse oneself in a whole new culture.”

This unique undertaking is the result of collaborative discussions among the City of Kansas City, Missouri; the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation; Waddell & Reed Financial Inc. and Ivy Funds; the Kansas City-Xi’an Sister City Committee; and the Society for Friendship with China.

“As with our other sister cities, Kansas City greatly values its relationship with Xi’an,” said Scott Wagner, Councilman, City of Kansas City, Missouri. “Effectively nurturing this dynamic relationship requires exploring innovative and engaging mutual pursuits, which we feel we’ve accomplished here.”

Now in its ninth year, the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds has enjoyed exponential growth as one of the premier running events in the Midwestern region. As the race looks to broaden its community reach, this joint running venture with Xi’an is a fitting step.

“What an extraordinary means for extending Kansas City goodwill well beyond our city limits,” said Tom Butch, President of Waddell & Reed, Inc. and Ivy Funds Distributor, Inc./Chairman of the Board, Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. “As title sponsor for the marathon, we are deeply privileged to be a part of something so profoundly special.”

Despite being half a world apart, with population densities of equally disparate proportions, Kansas City and Xi’an do share common ground as communities that strongly support economic and cultural growth.

“We have much we can learn from one another, and this program represents one more tremendous way for sharing and understanding our mutual interests,” said Bob Chien, President of the Kansas City-Xi’an Sister City Committee.

To learn more about the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds, visit [www.kcmarathon.org](http://www.kcmarathon.org). To learn more about the Xi’an City Wall International Marathon, visit [www.xianmarathon.com](http://www.xianmarathon.com).

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