



## Sacred Sites Quest: International Exchange

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### **What Is the Sacred Sites Quest: International Exchange?**

The Sacred Sites Quest: International Exchange (SSQ.IE) engages, empowers and inspires youth through hands-on service projects locally and in foreign countries. SSQ.IE allows students from other countries to share their cultural awareness, social consciousness and creative abilities with the city of Houston and Houston youth to share their talents with foreign nations. The brainchild of master artist Reginald C. Adams, a long term partner with SSQ, the seeds for the international exchange were planted when Adams traveled to France in 2012 to execute a public art project with a children's hospital in Lyon, France. Witnessing first-hand the richness that the unique, distinct culture of the country could potentially contribute to the Houston community, the idea for the international exchange was born.

More than just an outreach program, this collaborative is a multi-disciplinary approach to cultural and social awareness that builds bridges between international communities to address issues of education, environment, urban revitalization, creative place-making and cultural tolerance. The program will primarily seek to work with the Texas French Alliance for the Arts in order to build upon and strengthen the pre-existing relationships between France and Houston. Each year, a different exchange country and new students will be featured as the program grows.

The first of its kind in the city of Houston, Sacred Sites Quest: International Exchange is an annual signature community outreach event designed to foster collaborations between foreign countries, the local youth community, artists and cultural/educational institutions.

### **How Does the SSQ.IE Work?**

Each year, a team of approximately 15-20 students from the Houston area will travel to a different country with the objective of designing and producing a site-specific capstone and service project over a 9-day period. During this 9-day period, the youth participants will engage with their international counterparts through various community forums and design/development workshops. Following the SSQ5 in Houston, a team of youth participants will visit Lyon France during spring 2016 to engage in a similar type of service project to produce a similar work on foreign soil.

After the official unveiling of the completed work, the capstone project, which will be strategically located in a highly-visible location, will be a featured attraction and a highlight for the surrounding community for years to come.

### **Key Logistics:**

- The SSQ.IE is being scheduled for June 7-June 17, 2015.
- The tentative location for the SSQ.IE capstone project is To Be Determined
- Student participants: 15-20
- Adult chaperones: 8

## **What Types of Events Surround the SSQ.IE?**

### **“Peer to Peer” Public & Private Receptions**

These private and public receptions will allow the local host community to meet and greet the international peers in intimate settings to exchange learning about culture, community and the arts. Featured hosts of these receptions will include general consuls, chambers of commerce affiliated with the exchange country, local museums, schools/universities and various international arts organizations throughout the city.

### **“Traveling with STEAM” Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics**

Through a Research in Service to Practice experience the SSQ.IE students will learn about what connects Houston to Lyon, France collaboratively, geographically, culturally and thematically; integrate pre-existing STEM landscapes in Lyon, France (real authentic contexts); explore labyrinth locations past, present, and future; bring to life innovation through STEM and the Arts using project based learning (Sacred Geometry); and integrate a vehicle to socially share the application of STEM and the Arts in the creation of the Labyrinth to support reflective thinking and inquiry through social media.

### **“Our Voice” Events at Local Universities**

Local universities will have the opportunity to host exchange students for symposiums for undergraduate and graduate students studying the arts/design, providing an opportunity for students to ask questions about culture, design, technique, etc. and for the artists to discuss the importance of international collaborations and art exchanges.

### **“Community Building through the Arts”**

SSQ.IE students will work alongside community members and students from the host country to build a site specific capstone project in the form a labyrinth. During the weeklong exchange the students and their peers will collaborate on a design and the construction strategy for a public labyrinth. Working in teams and collaborating with counterparts from a different culture will enable the students to enhance their communication abilities and team working skills.

### **“Visions from the Path” Exhibition of the Student’s Work**

An exclusive exhibition of photography, video, designs, and artwork developed throughout the scope of the SSQ.IE will be featured in a gallery in Houston and at a designated institution in the host country. Gallery talks will allow audiences of patrons, sponsors, community members, business leaders, students, family and friends an up close and personal experience with the students to learn more about their experience, context and cultural development.

### **“Capturing the Quest” Video Streaming & Documentary Film**

Daily live video footage will be streamed online from a dedicated program website so that thousands of culture seekers from Houston, throughout the U.S. and from international shores will be able to witness the moment-by-moment progress of the capstone project. Viewers will get an inside perspective from the participants point of view as they meet the challenges of the SSQ.IE. Video footage and photography captured from the SSQ.IE will be edited and formatted for a 30, 5 and 1 minute documentary. Also featured on the website will be digital archives of the student’s work-in-progress on the project.

### **“Community Commemoration Ceremonies” for Groundbreaking & Unveiling**

At the inception of the capstone project, once the official art site is solidified, members of the immediate and greater Houston communities, public officials, key program sponsors, and community VIPs will be invited to an official groundbreaking for the start of the artwork. The same type of gathering will be held to unveil and dedicate the final completed capstone project.

### **“Youth Building Bridges” Youth Exchange (tentative)**

Resources permitting, a group of youth from the host country will visit Houston to assist with the development of a similar capstone project. Throughout their time in Houston, this small team of youth will enjoy tours of sacred spaces, cultural destinations, past SSQ capstone projects and experiencing Houston’s culture.

## SSQ: International Exchange-France

### Daily Itinerary

The itinerary for the SSQ:IE has been carefully developed to offer the students and chaperones an opportunity to visit historical landmarks and sacred spaces throughout Paris, Amiens, Chartres and Lyon, France. Each day is planned with the intent to offer a rich and in depth experience for our travel group.

The student travelers who explore the France through SSQ:IE are destined to become global citizens. Their extraordinary journey will be accomplished with a dedicated team of chaperones, which consists of educators, parents, project managers and artists. We also look forward to receiving feedback and recommendations from the host team to ensure that we are not missing a beat.

SSQ:International Exchange-France: Itinerary	
06/07/15	IAH-Houston Texas to CDG-Paris France
06/08/15	Paris to Lodging
	Lodging to Site seeing
	Site seeing to Lodging
06/09/15	Paris to Amiens: Visit Amien Cathedral and labyrinth
	Amiens to Paris Lodging
06/10/15	Paris site seeing
06/11/15	Paris to Chartres: Visit Chartres Cathedral and labyrinth
	Chartres to Lyon Lodging
06/12/15	Lyon Lodging to Worksite: Introduction to host team and review workplan. 2-3 hours
	Worksite to site seeing
06/13/15	Lyon Lodging to Worksite: Begin labyrinth installation with host team. 4-6 hours
	Worksite to site seeing
	Site seeing to Lodging
06/14/15	Lyon lodging to Site seeing
	Site seeing to Lodging
06/15/15	Lyon lodging to Worksite: Complete labyrinth installation with host team. 4-6 hours
	Worksite to site seeing
	Site seeing to Lodging
06/16/15	Lyon lodging to Worksite: Dedication ceremony with host team 2 hours
	Worksite to site seeing
	Site seeing to Lodging
06/17/15	Lodging to Train Station
	Train from Lyon to CDG-Paris
	CDG-Paris to IAH-Houston

## SSQ: International Exchange-France Labyrinth Design/Build Workplan

We would like to extend this proposal to build a labyrinth in Lyon, France in collaboration EM Lyon Business School and the local community. It would be preferable if we build the labyrinth in June of 2015, as it will be the time that a team of students and adults from Houston, Texas will be visiting France as part of an international exchange program. This program is being generously sponsored by Schlumberger and the Texan French Alliance for the Arts (TFAA).

The labyrinth has a long history in France. The best known labyrinth of its type, the 11 circuit labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral, France, was constructed over 800 years ago. There is also a very historic labyrinth in Amiens which we plan to see while in France. We plan to study and experience these labyrinths first hand as we embark on a journey to celebrate the legacy of the labyrinth and create a labyrinth in conjunction with students and community members in Lyon.

### **Description:**

The proposed labyrinth is a 7 Circuit Classical Labyrinth, with an approximate diameter of approximately 11 meters. We plan to use materials that require low to no maintenance and can be installed with 3-4 days of work. A team of labyrinth builders will accompany the students from Houston to assist in the design and construction of the labyrinth project.

We estimate that the labyrinth construction will require approximately 16-20 hours of time depending on the size and materials used in the construction process.

Below are examples of labyrinths that can be constructed within this timeframe using materials that are indigenous to the area and require very minimal maintenance and preparation.



For questions regarding this overview please contact Reginald C. Adams at [reginaldadams.com](http://reginaldadams.com) or call 832-208-1549. Visit [www.reginaldadams.com](http://www.reginaldadams.com) to learn more about the SSQ: Exchange.

The project is sponsored in part by Schlumberger and the Texan French Alliance for the Arts.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reginald C. Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Public Artist/Project Manager