

Hello Members and Friends of SACIV,

The weather is getting cooler and change is in the air, and we continue to value our International Visitors, and the relationships that we foster through our participation with the San Antonio Council for International Visitors. What an honor and privilege it is to interact with the IVLP visitors from all over the world. We get to know them at a personal level, and not only learn about their community, country, and jobs, but also about their families, friends, and beliefs. This is truly citizen diplomacy. Furthermore, the visitors learn about us – our work, families, friends, and food. We surely enjoy the opportunity.



Again, thank you for your participation and support of this organization. Our hope is that these exchanges are the seed for future friendships and engagements in the various sectors of our city and economy.

I wish you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous year 2017!

Sincerely,

Betsy I. Cameron
Chair, SACIV Board of Directors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Message from the Chair
2	Announcements
3	2016 Programs
4	German Delegation Learns About Current US Political, Economic, & Social Issues
5	“Inspiring Leadership and Civic Participation” as Kazakhstani Delegation Comes to San Antonio
6-7	Visitor Quotes
8	Members’ Corner: Angelika Jansen
9	Indonesians Explore “Trafficking in Persons”
10	Thank You to our Corporate Members
11	SACIV Welcomes “WEAmericas Program for Women Entrepreneurs” in August
12	Sister Cities International Celebrates 60 Years
13	Members’ Corner: Betsy Cameron
14-15	Fall Program Highlights, Resource Spotlight
16-17	Event Highlights, Resource Spotlight (Continued)
18-19	Interpreter Evaluations
20	Board of Directors & Staff



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invoices are being sent out for membership dues!

Membership Levels

Student.....\$15
Individual.....\$30
Family.....\$50
Sustaining.....\$100
Corporate.....\$500

Please send checks to:

PO Box 6088
San Antonio, TX 78209

OR

Renew online at www.sacivtx.org/join

PLEASE RENEW BY December 16, 2016!

Join us for a **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

As we welcome our international visitors
AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, MALDIVES, NEPAL, & PAKISTAN
participating in a program on
"Women Leaders: Promoting Peace & Prosperity"

*Please bring your favorite
hor d'oeuvre, sweet, or
drink of choice!*

Water, tea, & coffee will be provided.

RSVP by December 2, 2016

at www.conta.cc/2gdc963
or to Cecilia Cross at ccross.saciv@gmail.com

December 11, 2016

5.30pm-7.30pm

At the home of
Diana Carroll-Wirth & Ralph Wirth
13203 Creek Mist
San Antonio, TX 78230

2016 Programs

February 6th – 11th: *Combating Human Trafficking and Developing Major Criminal Cases*
Armenia

February 7th – 10th: *Regional Economic Connectivity: The NAFTA Experience*
India

March 7th: *American Youth: Inspiring Leadership & Civic Participation*
Azerbaijan

March 15th – 19th: *Vulnerable Populations and Victims' Assistance*
Colombia

March 23rd – 26th: *Women Leaders: Agents of Social Change*
Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Spain, Venezuela

April 14th – 19th: *Prosecution Matters in Combatting Trafficking in Persons*
South Korea

April 17th – May 3rd: *Towards a More Safe and Secure World: Combatting International Crime*
Bangladesh

May 25th – 30th: *American Youth: Inspiring Leadership & Civic Participation*
Kazakhstan

July 28th – August 2nd: *Trafficking in Persons*
Indonesia

August 11th – 16th: *Current US Political, Economic, & Social Issues*
Germany

August 16th – 20th: *WEAmericas Program for Women Entrepreneurs*
Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela

August 31st – September 5th: *Free Trade Agreement Implementation*
South Korea

September 7th – 11th: *Economic Development, Tourism, & Environmental Protection in the US*
Indonesia

September 25th – 28th: *Engaging Youth Through Music*
Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco

October 27th – November 2nd: *Civil Society Activism*
Mozambique

November 2nd – 6th: *Political Activism, Community Organizing, Lobbying, & Campaigns*
Indonesia

December 10th – 14th: *Women Leaders: Promoting Peace & Prosperity*
Afghanistan, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan

German Delegation Learns About Current U.S. Political, Economic, and Social Issues

By John Wingert, SACIV Summer Intern

On August 11th, a delegation of visitors from various parts of Germany arrived in San Antonio to learn about myriad issues currently engaging public debate in the United States. Staffers and a member of the German Parliament, the Bundestag, as well as a European Parliament member and a member of the German press were all in attendance. Through nine separate appointments and countless professionals who volunteered their time, the delegation gained a better understanding of how various problems effect South Texas and what local groups are doing about them.

One issue that the State Department and their International Visitor Leadership Program outlined for the program was homeland security. St. Mary's University School of Law has a Center for Terrorism Law which delves into the legality and methods of terrorism investigations and prosecutions. Senior Research Fellow, Paul Cooper, explained the delicate balance between civil liberties and effective counterterrorism measures in modern law enforcement.

Given the millions of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa that have come to Germany in recent years, there was a particular interest among our visitors with regard to issues of immigration and integration. Paula Walker, Director of Refugee and Immigrant Services for Catholic Charities of San Antonio, along with their President and CEO, Antonio Fernandez, met with our delegation to discuss their efforts to provide necessities for refugees that come to the United States like housing, food, education, and jobs, while comparing the differing experiences of Germany and the United States.

In discussing economic development as well as health and social services, the meetings the German visitors had with Councilman Nirenberg and Congressman Castro were invaluable. They were able to learn about Councilman Nirenberg's efforts to keep coal tar sealants from San Antonio's drinking water, while also fostering a transition to a city of twenty-first century education and jobs. Congressman Castro was able to talk with the visitors about foreign policy, but he also explained his goals to create a fairer economy and a more welcoming society.

Another important topic was the environment, especially as it related to

energy production and consumption.

Southwest Workers' Union showed their efforts to prevent the formation of "food deserts" in San Antonio by

providing fresh produce from their urban garden. CPS Energy, the largest municipally-owned electric utility in the country, was an ideal fit to talk about energy use in South Texas and the United States. Kim Stoker, Senior Director of Environmental Planning, Compliance and Sustainability spoke about their efforts to improve efficiency in fossil fuel plants, increase use of renewable and clean energy sources, and decrease consumer electricity consumption.

Along with immigration and refugee services, another theme that particularly interested the German delegation was the role of religious and cultural diversity in the United States. As part of this complex discussion, SACIV hosted an Interfaith Roundtable to discuss the role of religious diversity in San Antonio. Jacqueline Walter, Director of Women in Church and Society for Our Lady of the Lake University; Sarwat Husain, Founder of the Council on American Islamic Relations of San Antonio and National Board member for CAIR; as well as Ellen Ollervidez and Pat Calmans of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. Together this group held an engaging dialogue with the German delegation about the boundaries of church and state in the United States as well as the role of assimilation and civil rights in religious preservation.

Lastly, the German visitors were able to learn about the challenges of modern policing especially with regard to race relations and community policing. Dr. Sonja Lanehart at the University of Texas San Antonio explained the origin of recent tensions between minority communities and police officers and her take on the Black Lives Matter movement. The San Antonio Police Department then explained what they are doing to ensure they are making inroads in the community they serve and treating all citizens with respect routinely.

Throughout all of these appointments, the delegation from Germany learned about the current issues facing the United States and what engaged citizens throughout the San Antonio community are doing to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.



“Inspiring Leadership and Civic Participation” as Kazakhstani Delegation Comes to San Antonio

By John Wingert, SACIV Summer Intern

This May, SACIV was thrilled to host a delegation from Kazakhstan. From May 25th – May 30th, SACIV hosted three Kazakhstani delegates as they engaged with leaders in San Antonio’s civil society as part of the IVLP initiative “American Youth: Inspiring Leadership & Civic Participation.”

Through appointments across the city, these delegates learned about education, voter participation, community service, social justice, and professional development in the San Antonio area by talking with community leaders at places like MOVE San Antonio, Headstart, VentureLab, the Ettling Center for Civic Leadership, and Claude and ZerNona Black Foundation.

The State Department outlined several key goals of this project for the delegation. The first was to “examine youth engagement and leadership in the United States as a means of developing an engaged citizenry.” The delegation from Kazakhstan met with students from the International School of the Americas to learn more about how they were becoming engaged global citizens and leaders through research and community service projects at their school. The Ettling Center for Civic Leadership at the University of the Incarnate Word also provided information on service learning projects and voter participation efforts for university students.



The Kazakhstani delegation also came to “learn about youth policies at the federal, state and local levels.” Knox Early Childhood Education Center was an invaluable resource in providing more information for our international visitors about national policies and programs for the youth of the United States. MOVE San Antonio also provided an in-depth break-down of youth voting patterns and ways to motivate millennials to vote in federal, state, and local elections. San Antonio’s VentureLab explained the regulatory policies and legal framework for business owners in San Antonio that they have navigated whilst helping local youth to learn entrepreneurship and business skills.

While meeting with leaders of “community organizations and grassroots advocacy groups that foster youth leadership skills and engage young people through education, economic opportunity and civic participation,” participants witnessed the dramatic effect of organizations like

Café College, which works through the City of San Antonio government to encourage high school students to continue on to higher education by providing resources on application processes, financial aid programs, scholarships, academic aid, and more. In meeting with the San Antonio Area Foundation and their City Year program leaders, the delegation learned more about keeping students at the university level engaged in their community by helping underprivileged students in local schools through AmeriCorps volunteers.

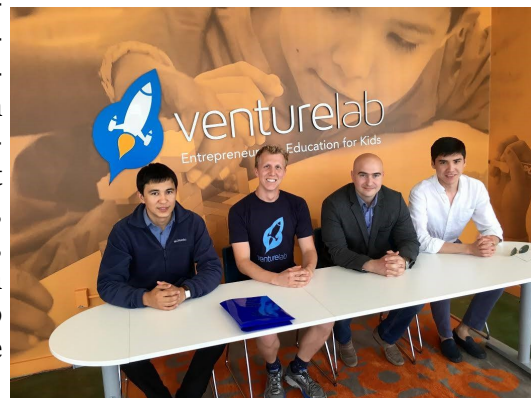


The State Department also outlined that this IVLP initiative should “examine the impact of youth leadership programs on at-risk youth.”

In addition to organizations like Café College and City Year, Taj Matthews and his incredible organization, the Claude and ZerNona Black Developmental Leadership Foundation, exemplify the struggles and triumphs of providing a new path forward for underprivileged youth. Mr. Matthews explained his successes in aiding 1,100 at-risk youth by providing a positive image for them to aspire to and engaging them with strict academic expectations, community service programs, and etiquette training.

To “discuss innovative ways to use social media to establish networks that engage youth as agents of social and political change in the community,” MOVE San Antonio was a tremendous resource that allowed participants to learn more about the social media trends of youth in the United States and the difficulty of encouraging political engagement in an ever-changing landscape of new social media platforms. New social media outlets like Snapchat have been changing the type of discourse necessary to get youth in the San Antonio area and across the United States to get out and vote.

By examining each of these areas and learning from innovative practices in San Antonio, the Kazakhstani delegation came away learning more about civil society, youth leadership, and education in the San Antonio area and the United States.



“ Visitor Quotes ”

American Youth: Inspiring Leadership & Civic Participation

“The appointments met my professional objectives and were very useful. I learned a lot of important information that will be useful for my NGO and other work... I didn’t know much about San Antonio but after my visit, the city is one of my favorite places.”

- Zhassulan Serikov (Kazakhstan)

“Great organization, people, and state. Thank you!”

- Alexandr Verstanov (Kazakhstan)

Trafficking in Persons

“The appointments perfectly met my professional objectives... I didn’t have any ideas about Texas or San Antonio before my arrival but now my perspective is so positive and I feel the kindness and hospitality of the community.”

- Harismen (Indonesia)

“I enjoyed the home hospitality component of the program. I could share many things with the host, especially the ongoing issues in each respective country, and also other interesting topics.”

- Ahmad Khumaidi Muhammad Jahdi (Indonesia)

“I really enjoyed home hospitality. It was very interesting and memorable and the host was friendly, polite, and communicative.”

- Tria Rosalina Budi Rahayu (Indonesia)

Current US Political, Economic, and Social Issues

“The appointments met my professional objectives, which was to get an overview in various fields. This was clearly achieved through the program... I had lots of clichés in my head about San Antonio and Texas before my arrival. Some of them I found confirmed but I also got to learn a lot about the wonderful state and it’s people.”

- Alex Schiemann (Germany)

Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Protection in the US

“The appointments met the professional objectives of the visitors. There was lots of great information for the visitors to take back to Indonesia and it was very eye-opening for them.”

- Shawn Callanen (Interpreter)

Free Trade Agreement Implementation

“Home hospitality was fantastic, the host was so kind!”

- Tae Hyoung Kim (South Korea)

“Home hospitality was wonderful! The host was so very kind and carefully listened to what I said. The food was excellent.”

- Kwan Woo Kim (South Korea)

“I was surprised by the kindness of my home hospitality host and her care and through her, I am pleased to understand the culture, history, and art of San Antonio.”

- Kwan Il Lee (South Korea)

“Honestly, I didn’t have any special ideas about Texas before, but now, I see how attractive and historic San Antonio is.

- Jihye Yoon (South Korea)

Engaging Youth Through Music

“I didn’t have any ideas about Texas or San Antonio before, but I was pleasantly surprised by the culture.”

- Aida Oulmou (Algeria)

“I didn’t expect such an active art & music scene in Texas, at least not to this extent, but I am so glad to have a new perspective on that. Thank you so much for all the effort and the great opportunities you made happen!”

- Ahmed Mohamed Zeidan (Egypt)

Political Activism, Community Organizing, Lobbying, & Campaigns

“Everyone in Texas is so kind and their hospitality is so warm!”

- Khoirunnisa Nur Agustyati (Indonesia)

“I enjoyed the dinner with SACIV and met some people from various backgrounds and was able to discuss lots of things with them. I learned about American culture, politics, and democracy.”

- Ilham Saputra (Indonesia)

WEAmericas Program for Women Entrepreneurs

“I really enjoyed the dynamics of the meetings and everyone I met! We participated in the mixer and it was fun to meet a bunch of people on the same day. Everyone was open and reached out to talk to us.”

- Belen Alvarez Toledo (Argentina)

“I discovered an amazing city and most of all amazing and lovely people in San Antonio!”

- Romina Gleria (Argentina)

“San Antonio was really great. The agenda was prepared in a way that allowed us to discover and meet good contacts for future plans. Sessions were planned in a better way compared to other cities.”

- Fatima Rocha (Mexico)

“I enjoyed the mixer at La Fonda on Main. I truly loved the opportunity to converse with many people in the community and get to know a little more about the culture and customs of Texas.”

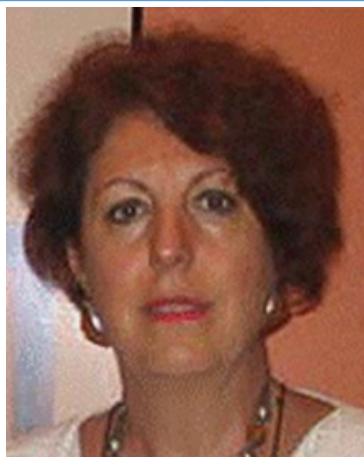
- Laura Garcia (Cuba)

“Thank you for the amazing experience!”

- Karen Gonzalez Hernandez (Guatemala)

“Congratulations on program, it was a total success, so thank you very much!”

- Nibeth Mena Mamani (Bolivia)



Members' Corner

By Angelika Jansen
SACIV Board Member

I have been on the Board of SACIV for many years, and time and again, when I am involved with any of our visitor groups, it opens a new window in understanding different cultures and creates joyous moments in getting close to interesting people.



One of these wondrous opportunities for me presented itself when I recently had the pleasure of accompanying 8 musicians and officials promoting music in their countries. Since they were from the Middle East and North Africa (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco) I expected at least some tense moments due to our current global frictions. But to the contrary – theirs and our music proved to be the “ice breaker” and a fabulous tool for reaching out to each other. As they interacted with several musical organizations and groups here in San Antonio they created instant jamming sessions wherever they went. As they started their investigative tour the first morning, everybody looked bone tired. This changed visibly when they got comfortable at the dance and music school of Urban 15.

When the director brought out drums and other instruments, they started feeling at home.



First, the Jordanian music teacher could not resist a try at one of our indigenous drums, and all of the sudden the entire group made music, including some amazing singing by the vocalist from Algeria. The Urban 15 musicians just joined in and a musical dialog ensued.



This happened in different ways at the other six venues in town as well. For example, when the group met with the Children's Chorus of SA, the director was so intrigued that she immediately managed to have them tour the Tobin Center between rehearsals. I felt so proud of our city and the warm and inviting nature of our citizens and organizations. Half of the group did not speak any or much English, but everybody made sure to communicate.

They came here for a short three days to see and learn about our ways of weaving music into our daily ways. This was not enough time, but it allowed curiosity to grow, to have a glimpse into our perspective cultures and to get to know each other a little bit. To be able to forge international relationships on an individual basis makes our council so very special. It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the board of SACIV and get the opportunity to help a little in unifying our seemingly discordant world.



Indonesian Visitors Explore “Trafficking in Persons”

By John Wingert, SACIV Summer Intern

This summer, visitors from Indonesia came to San Antonio to participate in the State Department International Visitors Leadership Program initiative “Trafficking in Persons.” From July 28th to August 2nd, they visited our city to explore the many aspects of investigating, prosecuting, and preventing human trafficking while also learning about the services necessary to care for the victims & survivors of human trafficking.

The appointments they attended to learn more about these issues included a meeting with Guillermo Contreras of the San Antonio Express-News to discuss his investigations into human trafficking, Department of Homeland Security Investigations, Bexar County District Attorney’s Office, the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking, the RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services), and the San Antonio Police Department.



The State Department sponsored program helped participants learn more about inter-agency cooperation in bat-

tling human trafficking, civil society’s role in the fight, creating public awareness campaigns, and expanding the networks necessary to support survivors.

Guillermo Contreras was able to introduce our visitors to the unique landscape of crime and human trafficking in San Antonio with his years of experience in covering nationally-recognized stories on cartels, labor abuse, and trafficking in persons. Going into detail on his specific reports helped to outline the causes and effects of human trafficking in San Antonio that provided a foundation for future appointments to build upon.

Almost all of the appointments emphasized the necessity of inter-agency cooperation. The San Antonio Police Department emphasized their cooperation with the county and its District Attorney’s Office as well as



state troopers and federal resources like the Department of Homeland Security to bring down human trafficking offenders. The Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking unites different stakeholders in non-profits, religious groups, schools, and government organizations to fight human trafficking.

Civil society is vital in combatting human trafficking. The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and

Legal Services (RAICES) exemplified the importance of non-governmental organizations in caring for immigrants and displaced persons who may not have housing or food without their help. RAICES takes in immigrant families and prevents them from remaining prone to exploitation, abduction, or trafficking on the streets.

Another important objective of the program was to help participants learn about ways to raise awareness and engage people in the struggle to end human trafficking. Saul Castellanos, President and CEO of the Freedom Youth Project Foundation and member of the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking, explained the importance of introducing their educational initiatives into schools, churches, and youth groups to help teach children about deceptive and dangerous behaviors. He also impressed upon the visitors the importance of educating the parents as well about potential hazards.



Lastly, visitors learned about expanding networks to support survivors of human trafficking and help bring necessary medical, financial, or legal resources between multiple organizations to their aid. Groups like RAICES and AACAT specialize in mobilizing non-profits to the aid of such survivors. Meanwhile, the San Antonio Police Department alongside the Bexar County District Attorney’s Office and Department of Homeland Security mobilize local, county, and federal groups in unison to investigate and prosecute these cases of human trafficking.

Together, these appointments helped to cover all objectives set by the State Department’s IVLP project “Trafficking in Persons” and allowed our visitors insight into the problems the San Antonio community has faced while still shining light on the tremendous successes that have been accomplished.



Thank you to our CORPORATE MEMBERS



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

UTSA INSTITUTE OF
TEXAN CULTURES
 Smithsonian Affiliate

 SA Scientific™




El Tropicano
Riverwalk Hotel



GBM
WORLDWIDE, EST. 1983



Mr. James Lifshutz



Mr. Bernard Buecker


Holiday Inn



UNAM
SAN ANTONIO

SACIV Welcomes “WEAmericas Program for Women Entrepreneurs” in August

In August, SACIV hosted nineteen visitors from eleven Latin American countries to examine women as entrepreneurs on a local level. The program was designed to illustrate the essential role on of non-governmental and grassroots organizations in supporting and empowering the development of women-owned businesses; explore the role of women-owned businesses in driving economic development, democratization, and stability around the world; and highlight the social, economic, and political factors that influence and encourage the development of private enterprise in the US.

Visitors participated in several appointments and activities over their five day program. One highlight for many of the visitors was an interactive meeting at VentureLab, where they were inspired by the program’s work with youth and hoped to carry this idea home with them. They also met with representatives of La Fuerza Unida, where they enjoyed a dialogue on efforts to empower women and build a community of support.

A roundtable discussion and “speed mentoring” session with representatives from various business associations was a resounding success. Representatives from the Free Trade Alliance San Antonio, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Women Business Owners – San Antonio, and the San Antonio Women’s Chamber of Commerce provided an overview of their work and participated in practical discussions on strategies for building a membership, holding membership events & programs, and conducting educational series. Following this, the entire group broke out into smaller more personized

mentorship discussions that allowed for exchanging of experiences, brainstorming, and networking. Though the format was somewhat unconventional, the visitors were enthusiastic about the opportunity to have conversations with so many prominent women leaders. They also felt that the session highlighted the power of networks and connections.

A closing workshop provided an opportunity for synthesis and action planning. The visitors were enthusiastic participants led by an engaged local facilitator Mr. Jim Eskin, who guided them through the session that provided

an opportunity to reflect on their three week program. Visitors were able to synthesize their thoughts & experiences, draw on resources & connections, and consider how to

overcome obstacles & challenges that may arise, and were also guided on planning the next steps in their professional lives upon their return to their home countries. Together, they exchanged practical ideas and shared best thinking on how women entrepreneurs can seize their maximum potential. They commented afterwards that this session was well-prepared and gave them an opportunity to begin asking themselves questions, thinking through answers, analyzing their experience, and preparing for the evaluation process.

The visitors described a “metamorphosis” that occurred during their program as they gained role models, shared knowledge, exchanged ideas, and

planned for the future. They also expressed the importance they saw of serving as multipliers to share their experiences with other women and entrepreneurs in their communities.

An important take-away described by several visitors, including those from Cuba and Bolivia, was the realization that entrepreneurs play an important role in their countries by contributing to economic development and community growth. They also expressed an appreciation for the concept that work gives women power. Where they had seen themselves as working for more narrow purposes before the program, they then realized they are in a position to effect real change.

The visitors expressed appreciation for their time spent in San Antonio for a variety of reasons, including the engaged meeting hosts, the interactive sessions planned by SACIV, the opportunity to meet a plethora of local women entrepreneurs, and the warm hospitality. A visitor from Mexico pointed out the importance of visiting a city with a large Latino population as a “bridge” to the United States, particularly for those wishing to work with US markets.



Sister Cities International Celebrates 60 Years

When a community of any size or character joins with a community in another nation to learn more about each other and develop friendly and meaningful exchanges, the two may propose a formal affiliation leading to the official designation as “sister cities”. This interchange helps to further international understanding at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. It enables the citizens of both communities to become directly involved in international relations in unique and rewarding exchanges.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the launch of Sister Cities International (SCI), a major presidential initiative by President Dwight Eisenhower which would eventually become one of the largest networks of citizen diplomats in the world. Conceived at a White House conference on Citizen Diplomacy, SCI was founded on the idea that by forming community-led relationships, people of different cultures could appreciate their differences and build new partnerships to lessen the chance of new national conflicts.



“Originating as a post-WWII initiative, SCI was founded with a mission to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time,” says Mary Kane, President & CEO of Sister Cities International. “The intention was that sister city partnerships, largely driven by local communities, would cultivate more mutual understanding and cooperation between people all over the

globe through planned programming such as cultural, educational, business, and community development exchanges.”

Over the past 60 years SCI has grown dramatically, with 570 member countries forming 2,300 partnerships in 150 countries on six continents. And on June 9th, 2016, Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL) and our very own Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX) introduced legislation to recognize Sister Cities International Day.

San Antonio has been a very active member of the sister cities network for decades and even hosted the SCI annual conference in 2013. We have a robust youth program and most recently assisted our sister city Kumamoto, Japan in its earthquake recovery efforts. “San Antonio’s international profile is on the rise, and our sister city relationships have helped make that possible,” said Representative Castro. “Through these partnerships, San Antonio has been able to build strong cultural, educational, and economic ties with communities around the world. This engagement has led to student exchanges, non-profit collaboration, and foreign direct investment that benefit our city’s economy. In today’s tumultuous world, the mutual understanding and respect that SCI fosters is particularly valuable and worthy of special recognition.”

So it was aptly fitting that on June 14th, 2016, the City of San Antonio’s International Relations Office hosted the “San Antonio Sister Cities International 60th Anniversary Celebration & Reception” at the International Center downtown. The event was attended by any array of individuals who value the importance of citizen diplomacy, from young people and students of local high schools to elected officials and community leaders.

Mayor Ivy Taylor gave opening remarks and introduced a city proclamation. She discussed the vital role our sister cities play in cultivating strong international economic relationships and fostering peace and understanding around the globe.

San Antonio currently has nine Sister City relationships:

Monterrey, Mexico (1953), the first Mexican city to have a US Sister City; Guadalajara, Mexico (1974); Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Spain (1975), recently visited by the Mayor; Gwangju, South Korea (1981); Kaohsiung, Taiwan (1981); Santa Cruz, Canary Islands, Spain (1983); Kumamoto, Japan (1987); Chennai, India (2008); and Wuxi, China (2012). Our city also has four Friendship Cities: Suzhou, China (2010); Tel Aviv, Israel (2011); Windhoek, Namibia (2015); and most recently, Darmstadt, Germany (2016).

Councilman Ron Nirenberg added to the Mayor’s endorsement of Sister Cities International. “Since its inception, SCI has played a critical role in sustaining global relationships by connecting cities through civic, educational, and cultural exchanges. We know that when citizens create diplomatic relationships that cross borders, conflict is replaced by understanding and paths toward economic partnerships,” said the Councilman. “When cities work together and when communication among business and civic leaders is active and collaborative, opportunity among nations is born.”

As a Board Member of SCI, Councilman Nirenberg also discussed how “facilitating these and new relationships among global cities is an ongoing effort because cultural understanding, quite simply, creates the bridges between communities that we cross in order to make partnerships possible. In an increasingly connected world, relationships like these are critical to the health and prosperity of local communities, and each one is a measure of peace among nations. Sister city partnerships across the country have translated into opportunities for the next generation. They inherit a world where communities are connected in real-time with a simple keystroke, so citizen diplomacy must be a shared priority.”

Mary Kane followed his remarks, adding that “the concept of citizen diplomacy – that citizens have the right, if not the responsibility, to help shape foreign relations – is a helpful reminder that diplomacy does not begin and end at the federal level. People-to-people exchange has always been an essential first step to building mutual understanding and respect between nations and their citizens. As we’ve seen time and again in the years since Sister Cities International was founded, governments (and even countries) come and go, but cities and their people remain.”

In an article for *Cities Today* in April 2014, Jonathan Ballantine discusses how the concept of sister cities was born from the need to rebuild diplomatic relationships and reconcile citizens through cultural and educational exchanges in the aftermath of the Second World War, but is now being increasingly used to forge strategic trade and economic ties. “The sister city relationship sets the foundation for diverse participants form each city to come together to promote engagement and mutual understanding,” he says. This is important in the modern area of globalizations, as cities are driving the world economy. In fact, by 2030, it is projected that the global urban population will reach 75 percent and over 90 percent of global GDP will result from urban activity with one-third of the world’s GDP coming from just 100 cities.

“Global economic factors such as globalization and urbanization are opening up new markets, intensifying competition, and adding new layers of complexity to global supply chains,” Ballantine explains. “Therefore, it is critical for city leaders to understand how global economic factors can affect the competitiveness of their city and determine how their unique assets can service the impacts of globalization so that they can become beneficiaries of new trade flows, direct investment, job creation, and innovation and remain an attractive proposition in a world economy.”

Inspired by the remarks of various leaders and youth, who shared words of wisdom about the benefit of sister city relationships, the event instilled in the attendees that we must connect globally in order to thrive locally.



[Members' Corner]

By Betsy Cameron
SACIV Board Chair

A group of five Customs Officials from South Korea visited San Antonio early September, focused on the Free Trade Agreement Implementation. With only two days for professional meetings, their schedule was very



tight. The meetings included the San Antonio Wholesale Produce Market, Port San Antonio, the City of San Antonio Economic Development Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Specialty Crops Program. Furthermore, they experienced a community service activity at the Guadalupe Community

Center; they were very thrilled for the opportunity. Since their stay included the weekend, the visitors enjoyed the cultural activities of downtown, in addition to engaging with some of our members during their home hospitality. Thank you to you organizations and members who made this visit possible.



FALL Program » HIGHLIGHTS→



In **September**, three visitors from **INDONESIA** examined our sustainable and livable city as part of their program on ***“Economic Development, Tourism, & Environmental Protection in the US”***. The program focused on *tourism development, historic landmark preservation, repurposing land, maintaining green spaces, and developing a vibrant & sustainable urban downtown* through meetings with:

- City of San Antonio’s Office of Historic Preservation
- The Pearl Brewery
- Hemisfair Park Area Development Corporation (HPARC)
- San Antonio River Authority (SARA)
- Paseo del Rio Association
- City of San Antonio’s Center City Development & Operations Department

Visitors also had the opportunity to explore downtown & the Riverwalk, take part in the “World Heritage Festival” events such as the “San Pedro Creek Ground-breaking Ceremony & Opera” & the “Restored by Light” celebration at Mission San Jose, and share dinner with SACIV members during home hospitality.



In **October**, eight participants from **MOZAMBIQUE** studied ***“Civil Society Activism”*** in San Antonio. The program focused on *youth-led organizations & service learning, grassroots coalitions, defending minority & civil rights, and lobbying local & state government* through meetings with:

- MOVE San Antonio
- COPS/Metro Alliance
- San Antonio Police Department
- Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- Haven for Hope
- International School of the Americas (ISA)
- Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

Visitors also had the opportunity to volunteer with a community service activity, observe Halloween & Dia de los Muertos celebrations around the city, explore downtown & the Riverwalk, take a day trip to Austin, attend weekend mass, meet SACIV members through home hospitality dinners, and participate in a tour of the San Antonio Missions guided by the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions (AIT-SCM).



In **November**, a delegation of six visitors from **INDONESIA** learned about the November elections through their program on **“Political Activism, Community Organizing, Lobbying, & Campaigns”**. The program focused on *Election Day management, voter rights & education, women as political leaders, and local campaign observations* through meetings with:

- Bexar County Elections Department
- MOVE San Antonio
- Sheriff Susan Pamerleau’s Re-Election Campaign
- Mayor Mike Shultz & Elected Officials of the City of Boerne
- COPS/Metro Alliance
- Bexar County Democratic Women
- Councilman Alan Warrick (District 2)

Visitors also had the opportunity to observe early voting at a local polling site, speak with volunteers at the Hillary Clinton Campaign Headquarters, explore downtown & the Riverwalk, go to Friday prayers at a local mosque, watch a high school football game & a Spurs game, and take part as the guests of honor at SACIV’s “Annual Dinner” event.



Resource SPOTLIGHT:

Stepping Stones Pediatric Clinic

In August 2014, four women from South Korea visited San Antonio to participate in a program on “Promoting Women Business Leaders”. During their visit, they met with representatives of LiftFund (formerly Accion Texas) to learn about the microloans and services they provide to women business owners. After expressing the desire to visit a small business and meet with a business

owner who had benefited from their services & programs, the visitors were afforded the opportunity to meet with Ms. Yadira Medina Torres, founder and owner of the Stepping Stones Pediatric Feeding & Speech Therapy Clinic, to learn about her success story.

Stepping Stones Pediatric Feeding & Speech Therapy Clinic is a rehabilitation facility for children facing feeding challenges and speech & language difficulties. They take a unique and innovative approach to therapy, which has proven highly successful, through programs that include sensory techniques, such as calming music & neurologically stimulating art aids, to make treatment a positive experience for the children & families they serve.

Each treatment room is themed and decorated with murals designed to stimulate the neurological changes that increase appetite, language, and sensory integration and also provide a warm and welcoming environment for families and children. From the Jungle Room and the Under the Sea Room to the Candyland Room and the Cave Room, they create an enjoyable and positive atmosphere with scientific research given proven benefits, providing an overall fun and colorful experience for the young patients.

EVENT » HIGHLIGHTS →

On **August 18th, 2016**, we hosted our **“Summer Membership Mixer”** at La Fonda on Main. SACIV Members and the community gathered to welcome nineteen international visitors from Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, & Venezuela, participating in the **“WEAmericas Program for Women Entrepreneurs”**. We also used the occasion to honor our professional resources and thank them for their commitment to our mission. Attendees mixed & mingled and enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends & connections.



On **September 22nd, 2016**, in collaboration with the World Affairs Council of San Antonio and the City of San Antonio’s International Relations Office, we hosted the **Israel Public Diplomacy Forum** for a lecture on **“The US in the Middle East: Interests & Dilemmas”**. The presentation by Dr. Eytan Gilboa, a Professor of Political Science & Communication and Founding Director of both the School of Communication & the Center for International Communication at Bar-Ilan University, examined various definitions of current American interests in the Middle East and described strategies & policies to achieve them, which was followed by a Q&A discussion.



On **November 3rd, 2016**, we hosted our **“Annual Dinner”** at the University of the Incarnate Word’s Rosenberg Skyroom. The event was held to celebrate our 27th Anniversary; welcome our international guests, visiting from Indonesia for their program on *“Political Activism, Community Organizing, Lobbying, & Campaigns”*; and honor our *“International Leadership Award”* recipient, Ms. JoAnn Andera, Director of Special Events at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The Keynote Speaker was Ambassador Juan B. Sosa, Consul General of Panama in Houston & former Ambassador to the US, and the Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Richard Perez, President & CEO of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The Korean visitors enjoyed touring the clinic and were especially inspired by Yadira Medina Torres’ empowering story about its beginnings. Having witnessed her son going through severe medical complications that jeopardized his life, Yadira explained how she vowed to dedicate herself to helping children. After getting a degree in speech pathology, she worked in a variety of different settings in the San Antonio area. She took classes with Accion Texas (now LiftFund), quit her job, and with



only \$500 in her pocket, she founded the independently sustained clinic out of a small office, despite initially have little knowledge and experience about owning a business.



Not only did Yadira’s story about the success of her business and entrepreneurial spirit impress and inspire the visitors, but her passionate quest to be a fountain of hope in improving the quality of life of children with severe disabling syndromes deeply touched and moved the Korean vis-

itors, so much so that it brought several of them to tears. The women are still in contact with Yadira to this day, a testament to the power of exchanges.



Interpreter Evaluation on “Going Global to Foster Local Economic Prosperity” Program for Brazil in November 2015

Report prepared by: Ms. Nattalia Paterson, Interpreter

Perceptual Changes

The Brazilian international visitors came to the United States to learn how cities promote economic development, particularly in marginalized community, the role of small and medium sized businesses in driving such development, as well as how public and public efforts have become agents of economic change and prosperity. They visited five cities, namely, Washington, DC, Sacramento, CA, San Antonio, TX, Detroit, MI, and Tampa, FL. Everywhere they went the visitors were impressed by richness and diversity of organizations and programs support local economic development. The level of collaboration among local organizations, both private and public, was also very impressive to them, in particular in San Antonio and Detroit. The visitors attributed the level of success that those cities are achieving to this specific factor. “It really works, this level of collaboration. That is very rare in Brazil”, said one of the visitors. “We need to import that, we need to take it home with us”, complemented another.

The importance of networking was also very striking to the Brazilian visitors. They were impressed by how ingrained the practice is in the United State and by how much Americans rely on it for every aspect of both their professional and personal lives. In Brazil we are only just beginning to think about networking as an important tool. “Americans are very ‘associative’, they come together for everything, they are very community-oriented. In some ways, this is the opposite of what I expected” stated one of the IVs, “I always expected them to be incredibly individualistic because of the strong focus on capitalism and free market. We Brazilians are solidary, but we are way more individualistic than they are. We don’t share much.”

Another important aspect of American culture had a great impact on the visitors: citizenship engagement and responsibility. In Detroit, specifically, they were flabbergasted by the community-run initiatives to improve their neighborhood. “That was unbelievable. It brought tears to my eyes”, said one IV, “We need to take this experience to Brazil. We need to stop waiting on the government to do everything for us and become the agents of the changes we want and need to help our communities”.

The international visitors reported that that they had an amazing time in the United States. They think that this program has changed their lives entirely. They all mentioned how they were going to approach their jobs in an entirely different way now, focusing on promoting awareness of all the practices they learning in the U.S. not only at work, among their colleagues, but also in their entire community. “We know there is a better way to do things now. All we need to do is work hard to make it happen”, commented one IV. This result alone makes this a truly successful program.

San Antonio, Texas

The international visitors were positively surprised by the richness and diversity of organizations and programs supporting economic development in San Antonio. In particular, they were impressed by the extent of collaboration and partnerships they observed among these institutions.

The different institutions often referred to one another in their meetings and their collaboration seemed very harmonious and complementary, which seemed crucial for the success of the city’s economic development plan. The visitors were also amazed with the continuity of projects, particularly in government institutions. According to them, in Brazil, once a new

mayor or governor is elected, many of the projects started by the previous administration are abandoned.

In San Antonio, they observed how sustainable it is to be able to put together a multi-year strategic plan and see it develop regardless of who might be in power at any particular time. This aspect revealed to them that the purpose of those programs and the priority of those involved in their implementation was the welfare of their community, not their personal or institutional goals. This was an important lesson that they hope to take back to Brazil and instill in their own institutions/ecosystems.

The international visitors’ top three favorite meetings in San Antonio were at the City of San Antonio’s Economic Development Department (EDD), at the Free Trade Alliance, and at the Bexar County Office.

At the EDD, the visitors met with Mr. Adrian Perez, Assistant Director of Economic Development, and with Ms. Ketly Hinojos, Economic Development Coordinator. They discussed

Report Job Number O-2016-000080-AUS-001 from November 23rd, 2015 8 the city’s efforts to support economic development through investments in infrastructure, in workforce training, and fiscal incentives, including a foreign trade zone. Both speakers were very well prepared, accessible, and friendly. They expertly answered all questions asked with lots of details and examples. The visitors were impressed by the city’s master strategic plan of economic development and, in particular, with its continuity and sustainability across administrations.

At the Free Trade Alliance of San Antonio, the visitors learned about the institution’s efforts to position San Antonio as a hub for international business in the region. Ms. Melina Gomez and

Ms. Kelsee McVey discussed how their institution is structured, how membership works, and their members’ profile, both mentors and clients. They also discussed how they are funded and their goal of bringing together both public and private entities to promote foreign direct investment, export development, and advocacy. The international visitors were impressed by the organization’s richness of programs and services. They were particularly thankful for the very thorough printed materials that were distributed to them with additional/more detailed information on each of those programs. They thought the two speakers were incredibly professional and “on top of their game”. They look forward to continuing their conversation with them when they return to Brazil.

At the Bexar County Office, the international visitors met with Ms. Renee Watson to discuss the County’s Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (SMWBE) Program. The visitors learned about the different programs and services offered through the program and the program’s role in increasing the number of business participation projects and procurements in Bexar County through the integration of public, non-profit, and private sector efforts and resources. According to the visitors, this was a “fantastic meeting”. It helped them to better understand how support to small business is funded in the United States as well as the role played by the SBA, the SBDC and private financial institution. They very much wished they had had more time to spend with Ms. Watson and she clearly had an absolute wealth of interesting and relevant information to share with them.

Interpreter Evaluation on “The US Experience in Supporting Military Veterans” Program for Ukraine in November 2015

Report prepared by: Peter Fedynsky, Interpreter

Perpetual Changes

It seems that members of the group did not so much change their perceptions as substantially broaden them. The group of professionals in their respective fields arrived well aware of the ravages inflicted by war, and they expected that the United States would be able to share its experience about the ways injured combat soldiers are treated here. The guests were not disappointed. Every host in each city was prepared, forthcoming and willing to respond to further inquiries by email or Skype. Though the program lasted a full three weeks, there was little duplication, which attested not only to the scope of veteran needs, but also to the commitment of many dedicated public and private institutions to helping them. This, in turn, prompted a sense of urgency among members of the delegation to create an effective system to treat thousands of combat veterans who have been seriously injured by the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine.

San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio's Brooke Army Medical Center is impressive for its sheer size. Even more impressive are the facilities and committed staff. The center even includes a garden designed to attract butterflies, because they are known to help patients with PTSD relax. Though such a garden appears out of reach for an impoverished nation like Ukraine, it nonetheless made an intangible point about *empathy* as an important component of rehabilitation.

Visits to the San Antonio Area Foundation, the Wounded Warrior Project, Bexar County Veterans Service Office and Texas A&M University showed empathy on the local and private levels. The point here was, again, the myriad specialized needs of wounded veterans and also the willingness of local and private organizations to help. Of particular interest were lectures and Q&As at the San Antonio Foundation by Harry Croft, Chrys Parker and Gilbert Gonzales who shared their research and hands-on experience with wounded veterans. If anyone drove home the point about the awful traumas of war, it was they.

Diversity Goals

The group met a representative cross-section of American society in terms of race, gender and disabilities. Awareness of this issue was displayed in a moment of levity at the Wounded Warrior Project, which gives veterans a backpack with personal care items inside. A female amputee who received such a backpack was quoted as saying that the items were fine ... except for the men's boxer shorts. Subsequently, the organization has given men and women gender-appropriate underwear. A member of the delegation also noted the extent to which America helps ease movement for handicapped individuals, such as wheelchair ramps on street corners and building entrances, beeping crosswalks, and bumpy tiles for the blind on subway platforms.

Interpreter Comments

Volunteerism was not an explicit part of the program, but it struck me as the single most important component of the “U.S. Experience in Supporting Military Veterans” project for Ukraine. Without volunteers, American veterans would not receive as much care as they do now, because government alone cannot foresee and administer all the help that is needed to treat the myriad ravages of war.

The work of volunteers was evident in every city and most institutions - government and private - visited by the Ukrainian delegation. Initially, volunteerism seemed to confuse some members of the delegation, because they did not understand what motivates volunteers and how their efforts are financed, even if they work *pro bono*. Ultimately, volunteerism may have been the most daunting aspect of the entire three weeks, because members of the delegation were at a loss about ways to engage volunteers in their society. One of the reasons is a legacy of Soviet totalitarian rule that has conflated communal effort with communism. As a result, people remain skeptical about the common good and stay away from collective efforts.

The head of Medical Department of the Ukrainian National Guard, Colonel Oleh Mykhailiyk, told me at the end of the first week that explanations of NGO and volunteer financing and involvement swirled around his head in what he called “a confusing mishmash.” He could not wrap his head around the notion of people donating their time and money to make something happen without expectation of any material reward. By the end of the project, he lamented the absence of volunteerism in his country, noting that it is evident in the Christian West and in Muslim countries, but not in the Eastern Orthodox world.

This is not to say that volunteerism makes the American system perfect. Indeed, frank discussions about homeless veterans and their obvious presence on the streets of cities we visited attest to a bottomless pit of physical, emotional, bureaucratic, legal, family, and other issues created by war and suffered by many who have seen its indiscriminate slaughter. Volunteerism, however, serves as a bridge, albeit imperfect, between the needs of veterans and the ability of government to provide for them.

“WORLD VIEW”

Editor & Contributor

Cecilia Cross

ccross.saciv@gmail.com



San Antonio Council
FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

P.O. Box 6088 San Antonio, TX 78209

Board of Directors & Staff

Betsy Cameron, Chair
Bcameron.saciv@gmail.com
210.663.8055

**Dr. Bernard “Ben” Buecker,
Immediate Past Chair**
mastholte@aol.com
210.454.7742

Dr. Angelika Jansen-Brown
angelikajansen@yahoo.com
210.224.6011

Sarwat Husain
shusain@cair.com
210.378.9528

Marcos Fragoso, Vice Chair
fragoso@uiwtx.edu
210.805.3014

**Irma Reyes,
Founder & Chair Emeritus**
sacivtx@sbcglobal.net
210.380.0377

Jose Luis Garcia
Jlgarcia78205@sbcglobal.net
210.827.7863

Mary Walsh
marysapple@gmail.com
210.497.3894

Justin Rice, Secretary
justrice@yahoo.com
210.738.8772

Franco Cristadoro, Treasurer
cardigno@sbcglobal.com
210.735.7232

JoAnn Andera
Joann.andera@utsa.edu
210.865.9984

**Cecilia Cross,
Executive Director**
ccross.saciv@gmail.com
210.287.6328

San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) was founded in 1989 as a non-profit, volunteer-based organization aimed at encouraging understanding and friendship between the community and visitors from abroad. SACIV provides information, hospitality, and assistance in making business and professional contacts for these visitors. SACIV is a member of Global Ties US in Washington, DC. This publication is funded by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961.

San Antonio Council for International Visitors

P.O. Box 6088 | San Antonio, TX 78209 | 210.832.3259 | www.sacivtx.org
Facebook.com/SACIVTX | Twitter.com/SACIVTX