

Dear Members & Friends of SACIV,

We are in the middle of summer and our international visitors keep on coming. We are so fortunate that our doors are open year round and our activities don't stop. We started the summer with our "Member Luncheon" on June 1st with a very special keynote speaker, Ms. Stacy White, Director of the Office of International Visitors at the U.S. Department of State. She shared with us how important the partnership is with the community of San Antonio for the success of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP); furthermore, San Antonio benefits from these distinguished, emerging international leaders. SACIV brings opportunities for international connections and engagement to our San Antonio citizens - at the business, professional, and personal level.



July gives us the opportunity to engage with two very diverse groups at the "Summer Member Mixer". One group representing seven countries is focused on "Global Economic Cooperation" and the other group representing six other countries focuses on "Youth and Civic Activism".

As individual members, we also have the honor to meet distinguished visitors and have one-on-one time with them during meal hospitality. What a pleasure to have representatives from Azerbaijan come to our homes to break bread later this month.

I hope you continue to connect with such diverse groups and make a difference in our relationships with the world as a citizen diplomat.

Sincerely,

Betsy I. Cameron  
Chair, Board of  
Directors



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Message from the Chair
- 2 Announcements & Upcoming Programs
- 3 Past 2018 Programs
- 4 Director of the Office of International Visitors Gives SACIV Keynote Address; Citizen Diplomacy Takes Center Stage on Texas Public Radio
- 5 SACIV Honors "International Women of Courage (IWOC)" Awardee from Iraq
- 6 Indian Journalists Dive into US Foreign Policy
- 7 Exploring News Media With Kazakhstan Delegation
- 8 Kosovo Group Learns About Energy & Sustainability
- 9 Visitors from Latin America Fighting Human Trafficking
- 10 Visitor Quotes
- 11 Thank You to our Corporate Members
- 12 Examining Urban Sustainability Through a Resilient City
- 13 Exploring Sustainable Development Through Tourism & Economics
- 14 Foreign Policy & Promoting Human Rights; Latin Americans Explore Community Policing
- 15 Highlighting Diversity & Inclusion in the Workplace
- 16 Emerging African Leaders Study US State & Local Government; Global & Regional Responses to Refugee & Migration Issues
- 17 SACIV Hosts Two Successful "Police Professionalization Exchange Programs"
- 18 Georgians Combatting Gender-Based Violence; SACIV Helps Host ACYPL's YSEALI Fellows
- 19 Global Economic Cooperation; Women Leaders
- 20 Board of Directors & Staff

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**July 12<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Global Economic Cooperation***

Mexico, Tunisia, Nepal, Ghana, Nigeria

**July 15<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Youth & Civic Activism***

Brazil, Malaysia, Nepal, Paraguay, Lebanon, Burkina Faso

**July 18<sup>th</sup>—24<sup>th</sup>**

### ***NGO Administration***

Iraq

**July 19<sup>th</sup>—25<sup>th</sup>**

### ***The Role of Youth Centers in Youth Engagement & Community Building***

Azerbaijan

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### ***Digital Media: Promoting & Modernizing Local Content***

Brazil, Malaysia, Nepal, Paraguay, Lebanon, Burkina Faso

**September 9<sup>th</sup>—15<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Police Professionalization Exchange Program III***

Mexico

***Stay posted on our upcoming programs, as well as events!***

**Visit us online at:**

[www.sacivtx.org/program-and-events](http://www.sacivtx.org/program-and-events)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's not too late to **RENEW** your SACIV membership!

### **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:**

[sacivtx.z2systems.com](http://sacivtx.z2systems.com)

*Support a worthy cause...*

**RENEW TODAY!**

## **Welcome to John Wingert, our new Program Coordinator!**



John graduated in May 2017 from Drake University with a Bachelor of Arts covering the three majors of International Relations, Political Science, and History. At Drake University, John not only excelled in class graduating magna cum laude with honors and departmental honors, but he also had the chance to interview campaign surrogates in a Presidential debate, captain a nationally-ranked Mock Trial team, and publish an article in the peer-reviewed Drake University Social Science Journal. In addition, John has worked throughout the San Antonio area with Mayor Ron Nirenberg and the Free Trade Alliance on various research and administration projects. Internationally, John has also had the chance to work abroad and practice his German language skills and intercultural communication at the CEPA Foundation in Ingersheim, Germany and through a German-American Partnership Program exchange in Hamburg. After having a wonderful and enriching internship with SACIV, John was hired as a Program Coordinator to help orchestrate IVLP programming and assist with non-profit development.

# Past 2018 Programs

February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

***Police Professionalization Exchange Program I***

Mexico

February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>

***Global & Regional Responses to Refugee & Migration Issues***

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, Honduras, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan, Korea, South Sudan, Turkey

March 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

***Global Economic Cooperation***

Austria, Venezuela, Egypt, Turkey, Guinea, Malaysia, Jordan

March 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

***Women Leaders: Drivers of Economic & Social Change***

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela

March 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

***International Women of Courage***

Iraq

April 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

***US State & Local Government for Emerging African Leaders***

Malawi, Mali, Uganda, Zimbabwe

April 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

***Community Policing in Latin America***

Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala

April 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

***Promoting Workplace Diversity & Inclusion***

Japan

April 26<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>

***Combatting Gender Based Violence***

Georgia

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

***Foreign Policy & Human Rights***

Algeria, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Chile, Egypt, Georgia, India

May 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

***Resilient Cities: Urban Sustainability***

Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Romania

May 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

***ACYPL YSEALI Fellows***

Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam

May 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

***Sustainable Development: Tourism & Economics***

Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burma, Chile, Egypt, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Nepal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Taiwan

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

***Police Professionalization Exchange Program II***

Mexico

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

***Youth Basketball Conflict Resolution & Tolerance Camp***

Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania

June 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

***Combatting International & Domestic Human Trafficking***

Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Peru, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Uruguay

June 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>

***Energy Security & Its Role in Economic Development***

Kosovo

June 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

***New Broadcasting: Creating Media Content***

Kazakhstan

June 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

***US Foreign Policy for Journalists***

India



## Director of the Office of International Visitors Gives SACIV Keynote Address

The San Antonio Council for International Visitors was honored to host the Director of the Office of International Visitors with the State Department, Stacy White, at our membership luncheon. She was introduced by Ambassador James Creagan who advocated vociferously for the continued presence and work of public diplomacy groups. After a warm introduction by Ambassador Creagan at the San Antonio Country Club, Ms. White enraptured the audience with her perspective on US foreign policy from a storied career in the State Department.

“Every foreign service officer,” Stacy White said, speaking from experience, “will have some story to tell about the effect of exchanges.” Over the course of her presentation, she was able to share some of those stories with attendees to our luncheon and let them know the impact of IVLP, whether it was an irrigation technique that was premised on the study of waterways in Florida or women’s rights legislation that was inspired by a program on US activism and civil rights.

However, the benefits were manifold not just for the delegates taking part in IVLP, but for the country and community who sponsored them. Nationally, “every ambassador consistently names this as their most important public diplomacy tool,” Ms. White said, “No one leaves the United States without a better opinion of us.” The importance of person-to-person and community-to-community diplomacy cannot be overstated, she reckons. It provides an unfiltered, positive view of American life in a memorable way that visitors feel immediately compelled to share with friends, family, and colleagues in their home countries. Given that over 560 heads of state have taken part in IVLP, it is all the better for US international relations that they have the chance to develop a nuanced and friendly view of our country.

Individual communities in the United States have also seen the beneficial impact of IVLP. Ms. White was able to share a story of a businessman in Arizona who has been able to resolve a distribution problem he had in exports through a contact he had made through a recent IVLP delegation. Additionally, 97% of all funds that go to the International Visitor Leadership Program are redirected right back to the communities and taxpayers that contributed the funds in the first place through the sponsorship of community-based groups, events, and initiatives.

Ms. White also recognized the importance of local organizations like SACIV. “Everyone is especially impressed by this grassroots citizen network.” “You are not an important partner,” she explained, “you are the essential partner . . . Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

At the lunch, we were also glad to be able to recognize Board Member José Luis García as he retires from the Board of SACIV. His work for our organization has not gone unnoticed, and we all wanted on this occasion to recognize his tireless efforts with a plaque. Let us also say it here: thank you José Luis for your years of work on behalf of SACIV.

In addressing the crowd at the luncheon, Mr. García was able to recall a delegation from Russia he had hosted for dinner hospitality many years ago. An avid cook book collector and gourmet, he recounted his preparation of traditional Tex Mex for them. “To this day, that Russian delegation still emails me about my papadzules.”

Overall, the luncheon was an incredible success. We were so glad to have Stacy White provide her engaging insights, and we were also thankful to be able to thank José Luis García for his tireless work on behalf of SACIV.



## Citizen Diplomacy Takes Center Stage on Texas Public Radio

A recent report by Texas Public Radio’s The Source affirmed the work that SACIV and the San Antonio community are doing to engage internationally. Mayor Nirenberg, Sherry Dowlatshahi of the City’s International Relations Office, Carlos Jarquin of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, and Richard Perez of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce all contributed to a discussion about the virtues of international exchanges and citizen diplomacy. They were joined during the broadcast by SACIV’s own Cecilia Cross who was able to add to the conversation by explaining more about the State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program and San Antonio’s leading international role in that program.

“Especially during times when there is a push among politicians to isolate our community from others around the world, it is important that city-to-city and citizen-to-citizen partnerships are formed,” Mayor Nirenberg said. “We talk all the time about the importance of building infrastructure and building bridges. There is no more important infrastructure than that created by diplomacy between people in one country and another.” We certainly appreciate the prominent place international cooperation has been given in city priorities, but Mayor Nirenberg also made clear the importance of those outside City infrastructure in building person-to-person diplomacy. “There is a role for anyone who is interested in expanding their horizons and getting to know their fellow citizens across the world.”

We also truly appreciate the words of Sherry Dowlatshahi, Chief of Protocol and Head of the City of San Antonio’s International Relations Office. In her view, citizen diplomacy serves a special role in the San Antonio community. “It allows us to open San Antonio to the world, to bring the world to San Antonio, and to expose our citizens to opportunities to learn about other cultures and other countries.” While describing all of the powerful work the City is engaged in to advance San Antonio’s position as a global city, Ms. Dowlatshahi did not claim that the City alone deserved credit. “The actual activities that are executed, what happens, doesn’t really come out of us, it comes out of the work that is done by community organizations . . . the San Antonio Council for International Visitors, a wonderful organization, really works very well in that space of developing dialogue at the citizen level.”

SACIV was glad to have a platform to share the triumphs of international relations at the local level, and we at SACIV were all heartened by the encouraging words of the other panelists about the work that we do.



# SACIV Honors “International Women of Courage (IWOC)” Awardee from Iraq

In March, the San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) welcomed “International Woman of Courage” awardee Ms. Aliyah Khalaf Saleh of Iraq to our city. Affectionately, known as “Umm Qusay” in her home country, she is considered a national hero in Iraq, where she was brought to national attention after rescuing dozens of military cadets from a fate at the hands of ISIS. It was a humbling experience to be in the presence of someone who acted so selflessly to save strangers, without prejudice against faith or ethnicity, despite endangering her own life. Umm Qusay truly personifies what it means to act altruistically: she grew up enduring the many hardships facing Iraq over the decades, in addition to more recently suffering the tragic loss of her son and husband to ISIS militants, yet still maintained the clarity of mind to act in the face of evil.

We had the chance to introduce her to various entities serving veterans and their families San Antonio, known as “Military City, USA”, where she was encouraged by new ideas that she hoped to share with her countrymen in Iraq. Not only did she take home with her some tools to implement upon her return, but inspired all she met with her incredible story.

SACIV also hosted an event in her honor, where community members were able to listen to her share her moving story of bravery. When asked about what she foresees as the future and hope for her country, she answered that the success will rely on the strength and triumphs of women. “If women are empowered,” she stated, “there is hope for our country.”

It was a true honor to spend time with such a remarkable woman, who has prevailed through her strength, despite all the odds against her, exemplifying courage in her every action.

---

The International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award was established by the US Department of State in 2007 to honor women who are making a substantial difference in the lives of women around the globe. Nominated by US embassies and NGOs, the candidates are selected by the State Department for their courageous and selfless efforts advocating for human rights, women’s equality, and social progress, often in the face of great personal risk. Honorees travel to the US for an award ceremony at the State Department and an opportunity for cultural exchange across the country. The award recognizes women around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and women’s empowerment, and since its inception, has honored over 100 women from more than 60 different countries.

SACIV’s award recipient was a volunteer humanitarian who works to resist sectarian and radical ideology. During a terrorist ambush of a military academy, she hid cadets in her home and prepared them for safe transport. She regularly cooks for soldiers and visits wounded soldiers in hospitals. She also meets with tribal leaders, military officials, and interfaith leaders to foster dialogue on interfaith and ethnic diversity.



*Umm Qusay faced much culture shock during her travels throughout the US, having never flown on a plane, let alone left her country, before her visit here. But at the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) Warrior & Family Support Center, she felt elated and excited when she found a pomegranate tree in their “Healing Garden”. She explained to us that the tree, which she also grows on her farm in her Iraqi village, made her feel at home.*



*Ms. Paula Johnson (of BAMC’s Warrior & Family Support and the wife of the one of the base’s commanding Generals) was very moved by Umm Qusay’s story. They shared a touching bonding moment when she shared with our visitor she also lost her son to war. Paula presented Umm Qusay with a special medal, which she had handmade, which received much appreciation from our visitor.*



*Umm Qusay was thrilled to know that “No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor” signs, written in English, Spanish, & Arabic, are making a presence across San Antonio residents’ front yards, after meeting with the founders of peace-CENTER, a local organization promoting tolerance & non-violence.*



*Speaking at our event and posing with new friends after the event.*



## Indian Journalists Dive into US Foreign Policy

We were very glad to be able to welcome a delegation from India in June. SACIV hosted Indian journalists who were participating in an IVLP program to examine the causes, impacts, and actors involved in U.S. foreign policy through the lens of those in the United States. It afforded these reporters, editors, and researchers the chance to deepen their understanding of international relations as it relates to the United States.

The group began by touring the WOAI/KABB newsroom where they were able to see what an American journalistic outlet looks like. They were also able to ask questions of the reporters and staff who worked there to compare news media practices across hemispheres. Additionally, the group had a good time experimenting with the green screen and posing at the Fox 29 news desk.

As they began diving into U.S. foreign policy, they began by speaking with the City of San Antonio Office of International Relations and the Head of Protocol there, Sherry Dowlathshahi, who leads the International Relations Office. Together, they learned about San Antonio's efforts to cultivate person-to-person and city-to-city diplomacy through IVLP, Sister City, and delegation projects. In this way, a community can bypass larger geopolitical quandaries and forge transnational connections on its own.



The next day, visitors met with several groups interested in border-related issues. To begin with, they met with representatives of the Bexar County Sheriff's Office to discuss how they deal with border-related crime. Given that the international border between Mexico and the United States is only a few hours from San Antonio, the Sheriff's office often encounters situations that involve border crossings.

After being heavily publicized in the news of late, our visitors from India were lucky to get a meeting with Refugee And Immigrant Center for Education and legal Services, RAICES. There they learned about their efforts to provide support for



migrant families and ensure oversight of detention processes.

On the other hand, Mexicans and American Thinking Together works to transcend the international border to ensure the success of joint economic and cultural projects between citizens of Mexico and citizens of the United States. These projects span a variety of topics, but they help to strengthen bilateral ties between the two North American countries. Our visitors were very interested in the work they do to foster fruitful international relations.

As an extra cultural activity, the visitors met with members of Anuja San Antonio who sponsor San Antonio's Diwali events and who are active participants in San Antonio's Sister City relationship with Chennai, India. The meeting was a great opportunity for interested people from the U.S. to talk to our Indian IVLP visitors about their experience in the United States and cross-cultural differences.

Overall, the delegation was an incredible success. All of the visitors were very happy with the information they were able to learn about U.S.-Mexico relations and the role of local communities in shaping U.S. foreign policy.





## Exploring News Media with Kazakhstan Delegation

On June 18th and June 19th, SACIV was happy to arrange appointments for a delegation of IVLP visitors from Kazakhstan. These visitors had come to the United States to learn more about the rights, responsibilities, successes, and challenges of a free press. Once here, they were able to travel to a variety of journalistic media and speak with professionals in every area of news provision.

They began by speaking to the veteran local journalist, Rick Casey. Mr. Casey was able to share with our visitors stories of his experience working across the United States in cities like Seattle, Houston, and San Antonio. His years of journalistic experience covering local politics in addition to the compelling anecdotes he was able to share enthralled our guests. Mr. Casey was also able to tell the visitors about his news program, “Texas Week,” that was broadcast on public television and afforded him a half hour to explore topics with panelists.



Later, the visitors met with Texas Public Radio and learned about how they prepare broadcast news programs in a non-profit environment. TPR shows like “The Source” frequently engage in conversations with community leaders to clarify important local issues. The delegation participants were able to explore their studios and ask questions about how they plan and provide such programming.

On Tuesday, WOAI/KABB opened its doors to our visitors for an exciting look at a U.S. television studio. In addition to a tour of the news desk, research desks, and green screen set-up, our visitors learned a lot about having several stations operating out of a single building all while keeping separate styles and meeting national broadcasting standards set by their parent company, Sinclair Broadcasting. The newsroom tour was definitely a fascinating stop for the visitors.



After getting some experience with radio and TV broadcasters, the group from Kazakhstan then met with journalists at two different kinds of newspapers. Robert Rivard, founder of the Rivard Report, had a lengthy conversation with the delegation over lunch to discuss what it is like operating a non-profit local newspaper that is publicly available with donor support. At the Express-News, visitors were able to see inside the offices of a national newspaper that is run in cooperation with the Hearst Corporation and reports more on topics of national or international interest.

All of these experiences, provided the participants insight into standards and institutions in the U.S. journalistic community. It also allowed everyone to interface about creating new content for a changing media landscape and determine how decisions should be made in news outlets whether they are non-profit or for-profit, large or small, print or televised.





# Kosovo Group Learns About Energy & Sustainability

In June, a group of energy policy specialists from Kosovo engaged in a series of appointments in San Antonio to learn about everything our city is doing to supply power for a growing population in a sustainable fashion. The professional resources they engaged with were able to tackle the issues from multiple angles and provide a well-rounded view of the local energy landscape.

Our four international visitors began with a fruitful and intensive discussion at CPS Energy where CPS team members Tre Valladez, Wayne Callender,

and Simon Castillo were able to answer their questions about the local power environment. Together, everyone discussed increasing renewable energy use, solar shifting, load shifting, and CPS' new program like STEP and the New Energy Economy. The technical discussion all of them were able to have proved very useful for our IVLP participants.

Next, they were treated to a trip to the Alamo One Solar Farm on the south side of San Antonio. Touring the facility, the group could continue asking CPS their questions while also learning more about the solar panel production, facility maintenance, and power distribution that is required in managing a plant like Alamo One.

Then the visitors got a new view of the local energy situation through the lens of a local non-profit,

Build San Antonio Green. Build SA Green works with builders and developers to create housing with a smaller carbon footprint and less of an environmental impact. Their certification process for building projects help ensure San Antonio is engaging in sustainable practices. The visitors appreciated the new perspective that Build SA Green provided.

Lastly, they were given yet another take on energy issues. Sergio Chapa with the San Antonio Business Journal met with the IVLP delegation members to discuss his work reporting on energy issues for South Tex-

as. Providing his journalistic perspective, he and the visitors discussed not only the problems and opportunities faced by San Antonio in the energy market, but they also discussed how these issues might translate to the Kosovar system.

Through these appointments, the delegation members

were able to meet their goals. They learned about inter-agency collaboration in energy policy through CPS; Build San Antonio Green addressed relevant social and ecological issues in their conversation; and Sergio Chapa made clear the latest in energy and economic developments. Overall, the visitors left immensely satisfied with their time in San Antonio. As Burim Gerguri, a delegation member, informed us, "I had the idea of a beautiful city, but I met and enjoyed a miracle. A wonderful city and wonderful citizens with a lot of good foods. Goodbye San Antonio!"





# Visitors From Latin America Fighting Human Trafficking

Seventeen visitors from across Latin America came to San Antonio this week to learn more about what our community is doing to combat human trafficking both across borders and at home. The delegation was very impressed with the resources they were able to visit and found the whole trip enhanced their understanding of current efforts in the U.S. to end trafficking in persons.

They began with a roundtable discussion with the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT). Saul and Nilda Castellanos from the Freedom Youth Project Foundation gave an in-depth presentation about the nature, patterns, tactics, effects, and useful countermeasures they have discovered in their work to end human trafficking. Also in attendance from AACAT were representatives of Centro Seguro who explained their necessary work in providing a shelter for children with nowhere else to turn. These resources allowed the visitors to understand a wide array of methods used in the San Antonio community to fight human trafficking.

The exchange was a great success on both sides. The visitors learned more from the “Liars and Posers” presentation about how exactly the correct lies are used to lure children into being trafficked and how “Stranger Danger” is no longer sufficient advice to protect those who might be trafficked by trusted coaches, family friends, neighbors, or even teachers. On the other hand, Saul Castellanos commented that he always finds the IVLP delegations he participates in tremendously helpful. In one case where a delegation from Indonesia was discussing human trafficking with AACAT, he learned about the phenomenon of children entrapping their friends into being trafficked. This knowledge has allowed AACAT to pursue and prevent another mode of trafficking in persons.

Later, the group met with the staff of the Equal Justice Center to discuss their work in providing legal representation especially in immigrant communities. Their work in fighting labor trafficking in these communities was of particular interest to the Latin Ameri-

can visitors. It even allowed an interesting back-and-forth about the logistics of labor trafficking out of Peru and to the United States with representatives of both countries.



The Refugee And Immigrant Center for Education and legal Services (RAICES) was also able to shed light on broader border-related issues with renowned international human rights lawyer, Curtis Doebbler. He provided his first-hand accounts of fighting for underserved populations in tough circumstances. His knowledge of atrocious human smuggling conditions also provided the delegation with a new perspective on human trafficking and its effects.

On their day trip to Laredo, IVLP visitors were able to get a better understanding for the role of law enforcement by visiting the Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices at the Rio Grande Detention Center. Here, visitors asked many questions about ICE's measures to fight international human trafficking at the border and the role of that goal in their broader mission. Immediately following this, they met with Texas Riogrande Legal Aid (TRLA) to hear about their work fighting for immigrants' rights including their human rights against those who would traffick them. In fact, their appointment at TRLA was some productive that the visitors lobbied to stay an additional hour since it was their last appointment of the day.

Overall, the program was a phenomenal success and each participant came away knowing so much more about how to identify, prevent, combat, and prosecute trafficking in persons. We also have seen that the exchange has built transnational partnerships and connections that will continue to enrich their efforts long into the future.



# “Visitor Quotes”

## **Global and Regional Responses to Refugee & Migration Issues**

*“All of the appointments were really helpful and interesting to me, especially cross-border and border patrol activities... I found a deep understanding of a range of issues, especially migration issues.”*

-Sayed Rohullah Hashimi (Afghanistan)

*“All appointments met my professional objectives from various perspectives. Not only reflecting local people’s point of view on immigration but also meeting the theme of our program... I have realized that Texan people have an open mind to others and know how to live together with others.”*

- Ara Moon (South Korea)

*“The diversity in San Antonio and in Texas gives an example of how to manage complex situations and make the community very active.”*

-Ziad El Sayegh (Lebanon)

## **Global Economic Cooperation**

*“The appointments definitely helped strengthen my understanding of American business growth.”*

-Nik Azan Shah Reza Nik Abdul Rashid (Malaysia)

## **US State and Local Governments for Emerging African Leaders**

*“The home hospitality was very interesting. I discussed with them about the political and social situations in my country.”*

-Sekou Bah (Mali)

*“I noted that San Antonio is an old city undergoing urban regeneration and transformation.”*

-Atwine Kanuniira Moses (Uganda)

*“All appointments enabled me to have deeper insight into how local governance systems can be better managed.”*

-Jack Zaba (Zimbabwe)

## **Foreign Policy and Human Rights**

*“We went to Steffanie Gibbon’s house, and she was an amazing host. She prepared a nice homemade meal and let us know more about her life.”*

-Emilio Maldonado (Chile)

*“My home hospitality family was nice, and I had an opportunity to see people who have a very different viewpoint from mine and from the majority of those we had met so far.”*

-Natalia Jaliashvili (Georgia)

*“Home hospitality was very nice and pleasant. Rita and Thomas Heck were very good hosts. I love the dinner they prepared as well as their company.”*

-Nina Miskovic (Bosnia & Herzegovina)

## **Resilient Cities: Urban Sustainability**

*“When it comes to San Antonio, I didn’t know much about the city. I loved it. Right from the people, to the interesting initiatives, to tourism as well as the culture.”*

- Kamlakak Rao Dabburi (India)

*“I expected San Antonio to have real water issues and not much culture. I was wrong on both accounts.”*

-Murali Ramakrishnan (Malaysia)

## **Sustainable Development: Tourism and Economics**

*“This program was very important especially to more developing countries because we are learning different things that can help us to develop our country as tourist destinations.”*

-Gabainele Modirapula (Botswana)

*“I could learn how communities are organized and involved in culture and tourism promotion. I do appreciate the way the city council is organized in the promotion of the city.”*

-Wilfried Zango (Burkina Faso)

*“It was a very nice time we had in San Antonio. Very pleasant people and a beautiful city.”*

-Aytan Aliyeva (Azerbaijan)

## **Energy Security and its Role in Economic Development**

*“I had an idea of a beautiful city, but I met and enjoyed a miracle: wonderful city and wonderful citizens with a lot of good foods.”*

- Burim Gerguri (Kosovo)

## **New Broadcasting: Creating Media Content**

*“I had never been to San Antonio before. It’s an amazing city. I’ll try to visit with my family again!”*

-Aliya Babayeva (Kazakhstan)

## **US Foreign Policy for Journalists**

*“Home hospitality was the best experience of the program. Ms. Louise Mandel and Mr. Brant Mittler were amazing people.”*

-Dinesh Akula (India)

*“I got an in-depth perspective on the city’s initiatives for investment and progress, illegal immigration problems and solutions, policing, and media’s role in all of this. It will be useful for reporting and analysis in the future.”*

-Kadambini Bhangu (India)

*“I had a rough idea about Texas but not San Antonio. Now that I have been here, it seems to be a lively place full of warm people.”*

-Kadambini Bhangu (India)

*“I enjoyed home hospitality very much. Hosts had gone through a lot of effort to welcome us. They were very polite and interactive. Our discussion covered a range of issues.”*

-Ramesh Tiwari (India)



# Thank you to our CORPORATE members



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE**

UTSA INSTITUTE OF  
**TEXAN CULTURES**



Smithsonian Affiliate



**SAN ANTONIO  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**



**WYNDHAM GARDEN<sup>®</sup>**

San Antonio  
Riverwalk Museum Reach

Mr. James Lifshutz

# Examining Urban Sustainability Through a Resilient City

SACIV was glad to welcome seven visitors from seven countries (Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, and Romania) to San Antonio to participate in an IVLP program about building "Resilient Cities" and increasing urban sustainability. To explore that topic, visitors met with representatives of eight different San Antonio organizations from May 10-16.



Meeting with IDEA Public Schools, international visitors got their hands dirty in helping with the community gardens and urban farms program administered by IDEA Public Schools. These efforts help to provide nutritional foodstuffs for disadvantaged populations in an urban environment. Similarly, the Green Spaces Alliance works to cultivate urban green spaces while protecting natural land and water resources. These efforts help ensure the environmental sustainability and communal health of San Antonio.



After a weekend of fun and engaging cultural activities, our visitors learned more about maintaining the water resources of a big city with the San Antonio Water System and their presentation on encouraging water-friendly practices, managing construction projects, and water management planning. The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance also extolled the importance of maintaining sustainable water systems. The aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for 1.5 million Central Texans and must be nurtured through



sustainable water resources management. Likewise, the Paseo del Rio Association made clear how important San Antonio's river and the Riverwalk area are. Maintaining this public

space requires assessments of flood management while also ensuring the public can enjoy this treasured landmark.

The Nature Conservancy of San Antonio was able to go into detail about how they engage the public to defend their local environment. Through the work of both citizens and ecologists, the Nature Conservancy works to ensure these urban environments can minimize any harmful impact and remain viable for years to come.



To reduce carbon dioxide emissions and grow San Antonio responsibly, Imagine Homes and Build San Antonio Green take charge on low-impact building. Bronson Ketchum at Imagine Homes described the many ways homebuilders are innovating to reduce energy use, water consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and solid waste generation. Build San Antonio Green approached the issue from the perspective of a non-profit and explained how they not only educate builders and home owners on environmentally-sound practices but how they also work to make necessary green technologies more affordable.

Meetings with Imagine Homes and Build San Antonio Green let the visitors know what our community was doing to lower emissions and pollution while also fostering a growing urban area. SAWS, the Edward Aquifer Alliance, and the Paseo del Rio Association gave a complete picture of everything being done to increase the adaptive capacity of urban populations and create sustainable water resources. Through all of these appointments, our guests were able to meet their State Department goals and experience so many of the valuable resources San Antonio has to contribute.



# Exploring Sustainable Development Through Tourism & Economics

Whether they were from Russia, Egypt, or Burkina Faso to name only a few, the seventeen visitors SACIV hosted from as many countries found their experiences learning about the San Antonio tourism industry fascinating.

Their program began with quite a few hiccups in getting into San Antonio, but once they were here,

all of the IVLP participants were eager to learn from the resources available to them. A tour of the San Antonio Missions, now a UNESCO



World Heritage Site, was a fantastic start in learning about cultural and historical preservation efforts. SA300 shared how they are working to publicize San Antonio's long and rich history.

St. Philip's College was able to explain how they formed curricula for students preparing to enter the tourism or hospitality industries. They were also treated to a unique experience at Morgan's Wonderland which allowed them to learn more about designing and maintaining accessible and inclusive attractions while still running a successful business.

Later, the seventeen of them met up with Marco Barros of the San Antonio Tourism Council to discuss all that they do to advocate for San Antonio's visitor and hospitality industries while also getting an overview

perspective on the state of San Antonio's visitor-based economy. They were especially impressed by his experiences cooperating with local police



on tourism-related issues and guest security as well as subtle innovations to improve visitor experience like cell phone waiting lots near the airport.

The next day, the group was able to share experiences with JoAnn Andera at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Everyone was able to discuss successes



and strategies in highlighting cultural diversity, folk-life, and parochial traditions. Although they may have come from many cultures, they all shared in the effort to showcase their own cultural traditions.

At the Pearl Brewery, the visitors saw how a once-abandoned industrial area had been revived into a spectacularly successful commercial area. Not only that, but they saw how the introduction of enticing retail combined with well thought-out development had created an entirely new space where the city could come together.



All of these resources helped enhance our visitors' understanding of best practices in tourism and hospitality and provided

new strategies that they are now determined to share with their counterparts back home. Whether home is Egypt, Chile, or Azerbaijan, these IVLP guests certainly learned a lot about the visitor industry and its economic impact in San Antonio.





## Foreign Policy & Promoting Human Rights Latin Americans Explore Community Policing

In a program focusing on the efforts of the United States to promote human rights, ten visitors from as many countries (Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, and India) came to San Antonio to investigate what grassroots organizations here are doing to promote human dignity around the world.

At Texas Riogrande Legal Aid, visitors enhanced their understanding of providing legal services to low-income and disadvantaged communities. Rule of Law being among the most basic and treasured human rights, Texas Riogrande Legal Aid was able to share what they do to provide that right to all on issues like civil rights, environmental justice, employment, human trafficking, and international child abduction. Similarly, the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) shared their experiences in providing legal services for disadvantaged immigrant populations to ensure that they experienced fairness under the law as well. RAICES was also able to explain the complexity of human rights issues at play in their work. Not only are they concerned about the status of DACA regulations, but they are also invested in ensuring the well-being of detainees currently under federal custody.

Later, members of the Freedom Youth Project Foundation and the Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking spoke to our visitors about how they work with regional partners to prevent and fight modern slavery. These partnerships across many levels of government and many disciplines are essential for fighting for the human rights of those being trafficked.

These appointments around San Antonio introduced our visitors to the work of U.S. organizations that monitor and advocate on human rights issues. They also discussed how grassroots organizations seek to influence human rights policy. Being able to participate in these discussions helped our visitors meet their State Department goals in learning about "Foreign Policy and Human Rights."



Twelve visitors came to San Antonio from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to take part in a program titled "Law Enforcement: Community Policing." The program covered several areas of public safety in San Antonio and it was able to provide the visitors with some hands-on experience as well.



They began by visiting the San Antonio Police Training Academy. Here, the visitors were able to learn about several innovative programs championed by the SAPD. These included the San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) which is designed to encourage community cooperation in solving crimes, Volunteers in Policing (VIP) which enlists citizen volunteers in police efforts, and the Citizen Police Academy which trains for civilian participation in public safety. A stop at the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy provided more information on creative conflict resolution for first responders with new tactics for defusing tense situations encountered regularly by police officers.

Learning about law enforcement and public safety from a new perspective, the visitors traveled to the SAPD Command Center and its Public Safety Answering Point where emergency calls are answered and directed to ensure swift response by appropriate emergency services.

Later, the group was divided to allow them to participate in police ride-alongs. The visitors appreciated the experiential quality of the ride-along experience and found it very useful in understanding law enforcement methods in San Antonio.

These appointments enhanced the visitors understanding of community policing programs in an urban environment and addressed respectful ways of dealing with the public and assuring the preservation of their civil rights. Ride-alongs with police officers gave a tangible understanding of San Antonio's methods for assessing the security needs of the public.

## Highlighting Diversity & Inclusion in the Workplace

San Antonio was fortunate to receive four visitors differing populations faced whether they be due to disability, race, or sexual orientation.

They first met with a Texas Diversity Council DiversityFirst Awardee, Mr. Otis Scott, to talk to him about his work promoting diversity and inclusion at a variety of organizations including the Air Force, CPS Energy, and most recently UTSA. Meeting at UTSA, the visitors were able to learn about a full range of diversity and inclusion policies from decades of experience.

Later, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce provided more insight into the challenges the Hispanic community can face in workforce discrimination. They especially highlighted the challenges facing Hispanic women. However, this was an area that Rackspace, an appointment the following day, has excelled at. Ranked as one of the 50 best companies for Latinas by LATINA Style Magazine, Rackspace and its Global Engagement and Inclusion Manager, PJ Lovejoy, shared their experiences in creating a diverse workspace and extolled their Rackspace Pride initiative which has been an important resource group for LGBTQ employees since 2015.

Learning from other companies, USAA and CPS Energy were able to share their employment policies and unique traits of their human resources departments that made them well equipped to promote diverse and inclusive spaces.

For a different take, visitors met with Haven for Hope. Working tirelessly to help homeless or disadvantaged populations find necessary social services, Haven for Hope explained their efforts to help introduce those who faced substantial setbacks back into the workforce. Staff members there also explained the specific difficulties

Lastly, a visit with Chris Dial, Founder

and President of The Basketball Embassy, allowed the delegation a more personal exchange of ideas on full-time care-giving. This role can often strain employment arrangements or force families into trying situations, but Mr. Dial was able to explain how his family worked to make sense of the situation.

Throughout these appointments, the visitors from Japan were able to learn about the full range of diversity and inclusion policies San Antonio's workplaces have built. Across many different business and organization types and sizes, our guests were introduced to many tactics for promoting a diverse work environment. Not only that, but they learned how those policies make local groups more innovative and competitive. Other individuals had the chance to share their stories about childcare support, flexible work policies, career on and off-ramping, and addressing unconscious bias. All of the resources in San Antonio who contributed this background made "Promoting Workplace Diversity and Inclusion" a successful program.





## Emerging African Leaders Study US State & Local Government

From April 4th - April 8th SACIV welcomed four International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) visitors from Africa to interact with local elected officials and learn about political integrity, immigration, ethnic diversity, and local election systems. Throughout their visit, the visitors were exposed to a wide variety of current U.S. social, political, and economic issues as well as the solutions that are being devised in San Antonio.

Discussions began by meeting with the City of San Antonio and CPS Energy managers and directors for sustainability programs, Eloisa Portillo-Morales and Kim Stoker. The two of them were able to describe the collaboration between local utilities and municipal government on issues related to energy policy and environmentalism.

Next, the four were able to meet with former mayor Ivy Taylor. They learned about how she got into public office and the issues she tackled once there. Her leadership experience was very valuable in outlining many of the issues encountered by local government. For higher levels of government, the visitors met with Senator John Cornyn's Regional Director, Jonathan Huhn, to talk about political, social, and economic issues writ larger at the national level.

The next day, visitors met with more representatives of local government. Laticia Vasek from the Office of the City Clerk and Richard Hernandez from the Office of Municipal Integrity spoke about the importance of accountability and integrity. They shared their experiences and best practices in promoting ethical local government through prevention, detection, and correction of employee misconduct in City departments. Later, Jacquelyn Callanen with the Bexar County Elections Department described in detail how tampering and unethical interference are successfully prevented in national, state, and local elections administered in Bexar County.

Talking with representatives from the Office of the City Clerk, the Office of Municipal Integrity, and the Bexar County Elections Department afforded members of this delegation insight into citizen and government accountability in a democracy. Sustainability specialists from CPS Energy and the City of San Antonio were able to talk about practical, economical methods for addressing global warming and human impact on the environment. Meanwhile speaking to Ivy Taylor and a staffer for Senator Cornyn approached democracy

and government from a new perspective in which numerous issues relating to public safety, the peaceful transition of power, diversity, and social affairs could be addressed.



## Global & Regional Responses to Refugee & Migration Issues

On February 28, 2018-March 6, 2018, we welcomed fourteen international visitors from around the world for an IVLP program on "Global and Regional Responses to Refugee & Migration Issues." With each visitor coming from a different country, they all brought a unique perspective to the program and contributed in fruitful conversations with each other and the resources with whom they engaged.

To learn more about international and interagency cooperation on refugee and migration issues, our visitors first began with a sharing session that covered their experiences in previous cities. Unlike many IVLP programs, these visitors were divided into three groups for their second city and were reunited in San Antonio to discuss their experiences from Boise, Idaho; Iowa City, Iowa; and Lincoln, Nebraska.

After learning from each other, they began meeting with community members. Beginning at St. Mary's University and its Center for Legal and Social Justice, our visitors learned about their work in representing underserved communities and fighting discrimination. They also met with Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together (MATT) which works to promote transnational cultural and economic links between Mexico and the United States. Jason Buch, a reporter for the San Antonio Express-News, contributed his perspective on current issues in border affairs while also answering queries in a lively Q&A session with the visitors.

On Friday, our visitors made a trip to Laredo to see one of the busiest border crossings in the United States and visit the US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership, a bi-national organization working on solving many issues related to the border.

When programming resumed the next week, visitors were able to meet with the San Antonio police department to discuss working with immigrant communities to reduce crime. After that meeting, the Refugee And Immigrant Center for Education and legal Services (RAICES). RAICES provides free or low-cost legal services for immigrant communities who may not understand their rights. Meeting with members of SACIV for lunch, the visitors concluded their appointments by meeting with Homeland Security Investigations to discuss Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and their efforts to fight cross-border criminal activities.

The program was intensive and was able to cover a wide array of diverse appointments across San Antonio and South Texas. DHS, ICE, and the SAPD discussed the role of different levels of government in maintaining secure and orderly borders. St. Mary's University and RAICES delved into private sector efforts to combat discrimination and integrate immigrant and minority communities. Visiting groups like MATT and the US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership gave visitors the opportunity to learn more about fostering transnational connections and broadening immigrants' and minorities' employment opportunities and civic participation.





## SACIV Hosts Two Successful "Police Professionalization Exchange Programs (PPEP)"

For a week in late February and early March, we welcomed 10 Mexican law enforcement officials to participate in training at A.A.C.O.G. Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy as part of the "Police Professionalization Exchange Program (PPEP)." The program which is sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is designed to share best practices between US and Mexican police forces to help fight crime and strengthen bilateral security partnerships.

On Monday, our visitors began by touring the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy and then engaging in a discussion and training program led by Assistant Chief Bobby Lane about recruitment and retention of public safety personnel. After keeping busy with that in the morning, the delegation heard an insightful keynote address from Dr. Megan Augstyn about the current landscape of "Policing and Law Enforcement in the United States."

Over the next few days, instructors and resources from across San Antonio contributed their expertise. These sessions included information on "Ethics Based Leadership in Policing," "Inclusive Leadership and Physiological Resilience," "Professional Development of Police Personnel," "Utilization of Body Worn Camera Systems," "Academy Administration and Peace Officer Recruitment," "Criminal Investigation Training," and "Interview and Interrogation Training." These sessions covered a wide range of topics and were able to give the visitors a chance to experience the expertise that San Antonio and the United States were able to provide on best practices in public safety while our visitors were able to share their own experiences and engage in a dialogue with the presenters.

Additionally, the police and public safety professionals from Mexico who participated in the program were able to experience first-hand the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy's Reality Based Training (RBT) programs. The RBT programs cover a variety of simulated situations law enforcement may encounter in the real world. In a virtual reality simulator, the visitors encountered active shooters in office buildings or movie theaters. On a fully furnished set constructed by the Academy, the visitors handled a domestic violence situation in a two-bedroom apartment.

This week of training, conversations, and simulations allowed the visitors the chance to share best practices; develop through classroom and experiential learning; reinforce leadership and accountability mechanisms; learn new ways to effectively combat transnational crime, gangs, and corruption; and strengthen partnerships across the border.



From June 3rd through June 9th, San Antonio hosted another delegation of police officers and law enforcement officials from Mexico as part of their Police Professionalization and Exchange Program. They learned so much from the Alamo Area Coalition of Governments and their Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy about best practices in law enforcement and the differences in the criminal justice systems between Mexico and the United States.

Before all of that training was to begin, they listened to a keynote address by Dr. Megan Augstyn from UTSA. She was able to outline the major components of the US criminal justice system and the operational practices of law enforcement in the United States.



Once their training began in earnest at AARLEA, they were able to experience a variety of break-out sessions on topics like ethical leadership, use of force, de-escalation, patrol procedures, and advanced crime scene processing. They were even able to take advantage of the virtual reality simulators that have been installed by AACOG to enhance the training of police officers.

Upon concluding their program, the members of Mexican law enforcement shared what they found helpful, what they had learned, and what they intended to take back with them. "I'm surprised by how such small things are done in such a heartfelt way," said Alvaro Chávez Flores.

"Our most important tool is knowledge: knowledge that we have acquired in Mexico and knowledge that we have acquired in our work with you," Miguel Angel Vera Alcántara added.

"It's been very, very good. It has introduced us to both personal and professional changes to implement when we get home," said Luis Edgar Rosales Rodríguez.

These comments and the intensive training they received over the course of a week make clear the impact these sorts of exchanges have in professionalizing police work and sharing best practices across borders. However, these exchanges also provide a valuable opportunity to spread good will and create friendships. This was brought home by the words of Ramón García: "Thank you very much for the hospitality I have received in the United States and particularly in Texas."

## Georgians Combatting Gender-Based Violence

Five visitors from Georgia visited San Antonio from April 23 to May 11 to learn more about combating gender-based violence. This included interfacing with specialized units of law enforcement, dedicated NGOs, and social service groups to learn more about the work they are doing to prevent and address violence against women.

On Friday, they spoke with Lieutenant Bill Grayson who works at the Special Victims Unit of the San Antonio Police Department. He was able to give a breakdown of tactics used by the SAPD to investigate and prosecute in cases of domestic violence. Representatives of Victim Advocacy and the Sex Crimes Division were also able to shed light on the support provided to victims of abuse, coordination efforts with federal agencies, and efforts to end human trafficking.

However, other groups were able to shed more light on social services being provided to those affected by gender-based violence. The Methodist Transplant and Specialty Hospital was able to provide information about how they collect evidence in cases of rape or domestic abuse for victims arriving at the hospital. Family Violence and Prevention Services discussed breaking the cycle of violence and providing necessary relief for victims through emergency shelter, education, and early child intervention. At the Bexar Family Justice Center, visitors got to see a "one-stop shop" of multidisciplinary professionals aimed at providing both legal and social services for victims of abuse and family violence. Later, at the Children's Shelter, our guests learned more about what they are doing to intervene on the part of children in households, particularly in underserved areas, with a history of domestic violence. These non-profits were able to explain a wide range of tactics used at combating gender-based violence.

Lastly, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office gave detail on all that they do to build cases against defendants and then help victims find victim advocacy services, protective order filing,

and perpetrator accountability. All of these efforts have been aided by the recent establishment of the Child Abuse Unit, Domestic Violence Task Force, and Conviction Integrity Unit.

Through these appointments, our visitors were able to meet State Department goals of encountering specialized units within the police departments and prosecutors' offices of San Antonio that focus on sexual assault and domestic violence. They were also able to explore how various social service agencies and NGOs were involved in the prevention of sexual violence and the treatment of the survivors.

## SACIV Helps Host ACYPL's YSEALI Fellows

In May, San Antonio welcomed four visitors from Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam to interface with city leaders about modern political issues as part of the American Council of Young Political Leaders' (ACYPL) Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). Last Friday, May 18th, these leaders from a variety of backgrounds were able to exchange ideas and best practices with many figures from around San Antonio before getting a chance to see all of the wonderful cultural attractions San Antonio had to offer on Saturday.

Although they were not here long, the visitors were able to meet with many organizations. They

began by visiting representatives of the City of San Antonio. In addition to members of the International Relations Office, City Attorney's Office, Economic Development Department, and Public Information Office, the visitors were also able to learn from Councilman Rey Saldaña. These meetings with many members of city government allowed an impressive exchange of policy solutions and perspectives across a wide array of topics, including ethics, transparency, community engagement, small business advocacy, and economic incentivization.

Next, they were able to meet with Lauren Browning, Executive Director of Growing Empowered Together (GET), who explained GET's mission to empower young people and get them involved in their communities and societies. MOVE San Antonio, who our visitors also met with, similarly works to engage young people in the political system and ensure that their voices are heard at the ballot box. On the other hand, the New Leaders Council was able to showcase their Institute program which allows emerging progressive leaders the opportunity to develop fundraising, advocacy, and organization skills through a rigorous five month training program.

Our visitors also engaged with other civil society fora in the form of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation (SAEDF). SAEDF aims to develop and diversify the regional economy around San Antonio. Their efforts have afforded SAEDF with a unique perspective on the local business community as well as the effects of international trade on San Antonio. These insights were very much appreciated by the four visitors.

Overall, the delegation of YSEALI fellows was a tremendous success, and the exchange of policy ideas proved fruitful and engaging for all.





## Global Economic Cooperation

On March 8th - 13th, 2018, we welcomed seven visitors from as many countries (Austria, Venezuela, Palestine, Egypt, Malaysia, Turkey, and Guinea) for a program examining "Global Economic Cooperation." They came to examine international economic cooperation, international financial institutions, integrating emerging markets, and the influence of global connections on local businesses.

Javier Lopez and the San Antonio chapter of the Asociacion de Empresarios Mexicanos met with our visitors to discuss their goal of generating business opportunities for Mexican entrepreneurs in the United States by helping them get established, advising on rules, and assisting in legal matters. Our visitors also met with the City of San Antonio's Economic Development Department and the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to discuss their work in fostering growth and bringing business development to San Antonio. Through partnerships with local business, different levels of government, and other non-profits, they were able to show our visitors the results they have achieved for San Antonio.

The Department of Commerce and its Commercial Service in addition to the Free Trade Alliance talked about their work in helping small or medium sized businesses export internationally. The insights of Daniel Rodriguez, Director of the Export Assistance Center, and Carlos Jarquin, President and CEO of the the Free Trade Alliance, into identifying international partners, navigating clients through documentation challenges, creating market entry plans, and much more were particularly valuable.

Dwain Parrish at the US Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Marketing Services explained the specific challenges of marketing domestic agricultural produce internationally and expanding the export markets for food, fiber, and specialty crops. Later, at the UTSA's International Trade Center, visitors learned about their work in providing comprehensive market research and helping small businesses reach the international market. Port San Antonio provided a different perspective through their work in connecting many business from around the world in one specialized Foreign Trade Zone.

These appointments helped learn about the importance of international economic cooperation through the perspectives of many different groups. All of the appointments were also able to stress the significance of the global economy to local businesses and communities through real-world success stories and best practices.



## Women Leaders

On March 15th - 20th, 2018, we welcomed 12 visitors from eight countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela) for a program examining "Women Leaders: Drivers of Economic & Social Change".

To kick off their visit, the delegation began their first day of meetings with a tour and service activity at Haven for Hope. Led by Melody McCrea, Haven for Hope works to provide opportunities for individuals transitioning to self-sufficiency. Thereafter, they met with influential women including former Sheriff Susan Pamerleau and Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran. Pamerleau as the first woman elected to the position of sheriff shared her experiences as a woman in the traditionally "male" fields of the military and law enforcement. Councilwoman Viagran was able to share the status of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women which works to ensure educational, civil, social, and political participation by women throughout the city.

Visiting the Bexar County Family Justice Center allowed the program participants to share a roundtable discussion with community members about what the organization is doing to stand up for victims of domestic violence and provide the legal and social service support that they need. Next, the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition provided an understanding of San Antonio's advancements of community health programs for women and children.

Additionally, in their short visit, the visitors participated in home hospitality, attended a Missions Tour, and had the opportunity to witness our St. Patrick's Day River parade.

Susan Pamerleau and Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran allowed our visitors to learn more about the role of women leaders whether that is in public service, civil society, politics, government, community organizations, or the private sector. Groups like Haven for Hope, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition, and the Bexar County Family Justice Center allowed visitors the chance to learn more about providing women the resources to promote and effect social change.

## "WORLD VIEW"

*Editor*

**Cecilia Cross**

*Contributor*

**John Wingert**



**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

**Chuck Rose**  
**Treasurer**

chuckrose@gvtc.com  
210.854.4131

**Dr. Angelika Jansen-Brown**

angelikajansen@yahoo.com  
210.224.6011

**Sarwat Husain**

shusain@cair.com  
210.378.9528

**Dr. Bernard “Ben” Buecker**

mastholte@aol.com  
210.454.7742

**Marcos Fragoso**  
**Vice Chair**

fragoso@uiwtx.edu  
210.805.3014

**Irma Reyes**  
**Founder & Chair Emeritus**

sacivtx@sbcglobal.net  
210.380.0377

**Mary Walsh**

marysapples@gmail.com  
210.452.3111

**Patricia O’Connell**

ploconnell@aol.com  
210.854.9646

**Franco Cristadoro**

cardigno@sbcglobal.com  
210.735.7232

**Justin Rice**  
**Secretary**

justrice@yahoo.com  
210.269.5033

**JoAnn Andera**

joann.andera@utsa.edu  
210.865.9984

**Sandra Torres Richardson**

w2wempowerment1@outlook.com  
678.315.8210

**Cecilia Cross**

**Executive Director**  
ccross.saciv@gmail.com  
210.287.6328

**John Wingert**

**Program Coordinator**  
jwingert.saciv@gmail.com  
314.448.2687

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](http://www.sacivtx.org)  
[Facebook.com/SACIVTX](https://Facebook.com/SACIVTX) | [Twitter.com/SACIVTX](https://Twitter.com/SACIVTX)