2018 ANNUAL REPORT
GLOBAL TIES DETROIT

Connecting Detroit with global leaders

globaltiesdetroit.org
WHO WE ARE

Global Ties Detroit is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that hosts international exchange programs on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other governmental organizations, universities, and think tanks that promote global exchange and citizen diplomacy.

2018 STAFF

Marian Reich
Executive Director

Melanie Grund
Special Programs

Marley Ward
Operations

Melissa Wandrei
Programs

Summer Baraka
Programs

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President
PALS INTERNATIONAL

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Automation Alley

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Macomb County

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Invest KOREA (KOTRA)

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DTE Energy

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Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations
Oakland University

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Community Leader

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Law Offices of Ars N. Atisha

Amy Butler
Michigan State University

Chief Ronald Haddad
Dearborn Police Department

Bernadette Lussier, Esq.
ARaymond Network

Peter Provenzano, Jr., CPA, CGMA
Oakland Community College

Lady Susan Willis-Reickert
Cap Ferrat International

Sam Yono
American Iraqi Business Group

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We connect Detroit with global leaders: introducing influential international professionals and changemakers to their Detroit counterparts and forging lasting relationships. These interactions and resulting partnerships become powerful tools to address and solve some of our biggest global challenges.

The organization also promotes Detroit and the metropolitan region as a center of world commerce and culture. We connect internationally minded Detroiters with each other and with global leaders through events, programs, and exchanges.
Dear Friend,

Thank you for your support of Global Ties Detroit and your service as a Citizen Diplomat in 2018. Through person-to-person interactions – conversations, shared meals, homestay experiences, and more – leaders from around the world understand the values, culture, and way of life in our United States and specifically here in southeast Michigan. You and your fellow volunteer Citizen Diplomats make a positive impact on international relations by “building bridges” through the expertise, insights, hospitality, and friendship that you share with visiting delegations. Once more, we thank you.

Global Ties Detroit welcomed nearly 800 established and emerging leaders from more than 120 nations to Detroit in 2018, a record number of visitors. These international dignitaries and delegates included U.S. Department of State-sponsored professional exchange visitors, Fulbright scholars, business leaders and entrepreneurs, government officials, educators and administrators, and civil society Fellows.

And what a year it has been!

● Detroit was selected to host the opening forum of the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI), a fellowship program that brought 250 rising professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean to our city to experience and learn about the impact that entrepreneurship has made in Detroit’s revitalization.

● In the fall we launched a pilot outbound exchange program to Belarus that reunited Detroit and DC-based program staff, professionals, and homestay-hosts with USAID-sponsored Community Connections and U.S. Department of State-sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumni. Our U.S. delegation presented in Minsk (Detroit’s "Sister City") on Detroit’s social enterprises and witnessed the great importance and lasting impact that the exchange experience has had for the program participants.

● Another highlight was our signature event in June, the Annual Silent Auction and Dinner, sponsored by DTE Energy with support from Oakland County and Infinity and Ovation Yacht Charters. It connected more than 200 globally-minded supporters and friends at the Ford Avenue Piquette Plant. It was a wonderful night to celebrate Citizen Diplomacy in Detroit.

We look forward to working with you in 2019 and beyond: building bridges, connecting people, and improving our world together.

Warm regards,
Francine Pegues, President, Board of Directors
Marian Reich, Executive Director

Global Ties Detroit is pleased to acknowledge that this Annual Report is funded in part by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended.

“In an era of bluster and bombs, citizen diplomacy is a builder of bridges.”
- Madeleine Albright, U.S. Secretary of State (1997-2001)
Success by the Numbers

Hotel Revenue: $519,438

Exchange Programs: 58

Hotel Room Nights: 2,868

Volunteer Resource Hours: 5,718

Top 5 Countries

Palestinian Territories: 38
Colombia: 32
China: 25
Russia: 22

Countries: 128

List of Countries and # of Delegates (128):

Afghanistan: 7
Albania: 16
Angola: 1
Antigua and Barbuda: 1
Argentina: 14
Armenia: 1
Aruba: 1
Australia: 10
Austria: 2
Azerbaijan: 5
Bahamas: 3
Bahrain: 1
Bangladesh: 2
Barbados: 4
Belgium: 1
Belize: 6
Benin: 1
Bolivia: 11
Bosnia and Herzegovina: 3
Bhutan: 2
Bolivia: 1
Bosnia and Herzegovina: 5
Bulgaria: 4
Cameroon: 3
Central African Republic: 5
Chile: 12
China: 25
Colombia: 32
Congo: 8
Costa Rica: 13
Côte d’Ivoire: 1
Djibouti: 1
Dominica: 1
Estonia: 12
Ethiopia: 1
Georgia: 6
Germany: 12
Guyana: 3
Haiti: 9
Honduras: 12
Hungary: 2
India: 4
Indonesia: 16
Iraq: 28
Italy: 8
Jamaica: 11
Japan: 1
Jordan: 1
Kazakhstan: 7
Kenya: 1
Kosovo: 1
Lebanon: 4
Lesotho: 1
Lithuania: 1
 Madagascar: 3
Malaysia: 2
Maldives: 3
Mauritania: 1
Mexico: 21
Monaco: 12
Morocco: 1
Mozambique: 2
Myanmar: 1
Nepal: 1
New Zealand: 1
Niger: 1
Nigeria: 3
Norway: 1
Pakistan: 20
Palestinian Territories: 38
Panama: 9
Paraguay: 7
Peru: 16
Philippines: 10
Portugal: 4
Romania: 1
Russia: 2
Rwanda: 1
Saint Kitts and Nevis: 2
Saint Lucia: 5
Saint Maarten: 2
Grenada: 1
Saudi Arabia: 7
Senegal: 1
Serbia: 1
Singapore: 1
Slovakia: 2
Slovenia: 6
South Africa: 6
South Korea: 14
South Sudan: 1
Spain: 3
Sri Lanka: 1
Sweden: 5
Switzerland: 1
Taiwan: 3
Tanzania: 3
Thailand: 1
Trinidad and Tobago: 16
Turkey: 1
Ukraine: 5

Total: 786*

International Delegates and Fellows

American Councils for International Education
Atlas Corps
CDRI Global
Cultural Vistas
FHI 360
Global Ties U.S.
Graduate School USA
Institute of International Education (IIE)
Meridian International Center
CRDF Global
Institute of International Education (IIE)
Kosovo: 1
Lebanon: 4
Lithuania: 1
Macedonia: 1
Malaysia: 2
Maldives: 3
Mauritania: 1
Mexico: 21
Monaco: 12
Morocco: 1
Mozambique: 2
Myanmar: 1
Nepal: 1
New Zealand: 1
Niger: 1
Nigeria: 3
Norway: 1
Pakistan: 20
Palestinian Territories: 38
Panama: 9
Paraguay: 7
Peru: 16
Philippines: 10
Portugal: 4
Romania: 1
Russia: 2
Rwanda: 1
Saint Kitts and Nevis: 2
Saint Lucia: 5
Saint Maarten: 2
Grenada: 1
Saudi Arabia: 7
Senegal: 1
Serbia: 1
Singapore: 1
Slovakia: 2
Slovenia: 1
South Africa: 6
South Korea: 14
South Sudan: 1
Spain: 3
Sri Lanka: 1
Sweden: 5
Switzerland: 1
Taiwan: 3
Tanzania: 3
Thailand: 1
Trinidad and Tobago: 16
Turkey: 1
Ukraine: 5

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Belarus
U.S. Consulate General Lahore, Pakistan
U.S. Department of State
Belarus
U.S. Consulate General Lahor, Pakistan
U.S. Department of State
Belarus
U.S. Consulate General Lahor, Pakistan
U.S. Department of State
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Graduate School USA
Institute of International Education (IIE)
Meridian International Center
CRDF Global
Cultural Vistas
FHI 360
Global Ties U.S.
Graduate School USA
Institute of International Education (IIE)
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FHI 360
Global Ties U.S.
Nearly 350 emerging and established leaders from around the world experienced the richness and diversity of American political, economic, social, and cultural life in metro Detroit in 2018 through the IVLP, concurrently exchanging knowledge and ideas with professional counterparts.

For the third year in a row, Global Ties Detroit stepped up as a City Hub for the State Department’s Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI), but this year we were excited to also be named the Opening City for the entire program. The opening convened 250 social and business entrepreneurs from Latin America and the Caribbean, State Department officials and representatives from other exchange organizations in Detroit for a lively and robust opening summit. Global Ties Detroit was pleased to showcase some of the best and brightest of Detroit such as: Alex Clark of Bon Bon Bon who joined a panel on scaling up your business; Eric Thomas from Saga Marketing who spoke to the group about the importance of storytelling for their brand; Jeff Donofrio from Mayor Duggan’s Workforce Development team who offered insight into the collaboration between entrepreneurs and government.

Twelve Fellows remained in Detroit, representing 11 countries and participated in month long Fellowships with diverse Work Hosts who saw the intrinsic value in being part of such a global program. They helped to make this experience possible because without them YLAI could never accomplish its goal of helping Fellows transform their societies and contribute more fully to economic development and prosperity, security, human rights and good governance in the hemisphere.

These hosts stepped up to practice Citizen Diplomacy and helped to make this experience possible for Global Ties Detroit and the Fellows from the following countries:

- The BTL Group, Inc. | Rory Craig Richard Walker, Jamaica
- Detroit Experience Factory | Rigoberto Martinez, Nicaragua
- DHDC | Charity Cantave, St. Maarten
- Downtown Detroit Partnership | Sofia Zuniga, Costa Rica
- Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses | Monica Hernandez
- Green Light Co | Sirles Torijano, Colombia
- HYPP Athletics | Myas Alfred, St. Lucia
- Innovate 3D | Alex Pineda Malagon, Mexico
- ISM, Inc. | Jose Rivero
- Media Genesis | Kyle Zuniga, Belize
- Ponyride | Carla Levy, El Salvador
- Rebel Refil | Ignacio Nunez, Chile
- The YLAI program also offers the possibility of a reverse exchange with the U.S. based Work Host traveling to the home country of their Fellow to continue their project. Since 2016, six Detroit Work Hosts have been awarded Reverse Exchanges and we look forward to learning which hosts from 2018 will win awards!

THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (IVLP)

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. Since 1940, the IVLP has strengthened U.S. engagement with countries around the world through short-term visits to the United States. Current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience this country firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. Here in Detroit, visitors are afforded the opportunity to network and share best practices with local leading voices in more than 50 fields, centered on topics such as entrepreneurship, innovation, civic engagement, immigration, education, economic development, public health, security, and more.

Interested in meeting amazing emerging leaders? Contact Global Ties Detroit to get involved!

TOP 5 THEMES:
1. Community Resilience
2. Trade and Economic Development
3. [Sustainable] Transportation, Infrastructure and Mobility
4. Global Security and Transnational Crime
5. Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development

TOP 5 RESOURCES
1. Dearborn Police Department
3. TechTown
4. Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
5. ACCESS

“...I was able to see Detroit, a city that had faced economic challenges and problems, and how it began taking those issues for remarkable turnaround.”
- Mohammad Al Fityan, Iraqi International Trade Delegation

348 2018 IVLP DELEGATES
47 2018 IVLP PROGRAMS

30 DAYS IN DETROIT
12 2018 YLAI DELEGATES

11
Global Ties Detroit’s special programs allow for longer-term and intensive professional exchanges which often include homestays, action planning workshops, dinner diplomacy and day hosting. These intensive exchanges offer an opportunity for volunteers and delegates to spend significant time together and get to know one another more deeply; ensuring their new bonds continue long after everyone has returned home.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

For the fourth consecutive year, Global Ties Detroit welcomed a Community Connections cohort from Belarus. Ten community development professionals spent three weeks in Metro Detroit exploring the theme of Civic Involvement in Local Communities. This intensive program includes interactive meetings and workshops, action planning, cultural activities and living with homestay families. A favorite highlight is Belarus Cultural Night when the exchange participants treat their hosts and Global Ties Detroit members to a delightful evening of Belarusian food, culture and traditions. A special thank you to Irina Jesionowski, Irina Burrous and Judy Kebl for their dedication to this project every year.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Four delegates from Chechnya, Russia explored Interfaith Relations and Communities including meetings with religious leaders and academics in Metro Detroit. New this year, the participants presented on the culture and history of their region to Wayne State University’s Russian Culture Class. As powerful as their meetings and cultural excursions were, the greatest impact was from the homestay experience. Yet again, Global Ties Detroit’s dedicated homestay hosts illustrated the meaning of hospitality.

PALESTINE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

In partnership with the University of Michigan and the Arab American Women’s Business Council (AAWBC), Global Ties Detroit welcomed 38 technology students from Palestine Polytechnic University to Ann Arbor and Detroit where they participated in professional development opportunities and several days of job shadowing. They explored Metro Detroit’s extensive entrepreneurial ecosystem and also a rich cultural program involving a Detroit scavenger hunt, museums, start-up visits, and sporting events.

TESOL EXCHANGE

Ten English language educators and administrators from Angola, Botswana, China, Djibouti, Russia, and Rwanda took part in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) exchange programming in southeast Michigan and then traveled to Chicago to attend the TESOL International Conference. There, they met alumni from the Detroit 2017 cohort and shared lessons learned from their respective programs. Global Ties Detroit was pleased to offer support to the returning alumni and inspired to watch the two cohorts exchange insights and best practices.
Year after year, visitors and volunteers find the personal connections made during exchanges to be the most memorable and meaningful parts of their time in Michigan. From sharing your home for an intimate dinner or a longer stay, to accompanying a delegation on a trip to an apple orchard or sporting event, to mentoring a fellow professionally — volunteers make meaningful and rewarding connections with guests in a variety of ways.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

**HOMESTAY HOSTING**

By welcoming a visitor during their stay in Detroit, you can truly bring the world to you. Guests will share their unique perspectives and professional backgrounds while spending time in your home, and are eager to learn about life through your eyes. In sharing your home with a guest, you can bring a global perspective to your door.

**WORKPLACE**

Throughout the year there are many programs that require workplace interactions ranging from a meeting in your office to discuss best practices to a four week Fellowship where you work closely with a Fellow on a specific joint project and hopefully win a prestigious Reverse Exchange to their home country. Your organization will benefit from having a global perspective from an emerging leader.

**CULTURAL HOSTING**

The visiting delegates want to explore the best of what Detroit has to offer — including our sports, art, music, and restaurants. We always welcome volunteers interested in adding a personal touch to the program by attending museums, sporting events or the like with the delegation.

**INTERNSHIP**

The Global Ties Detroit team works year-round with talented undergraduate interns. Interns support the programming and administrative work of the full-time staff, interact with our Board and delegations, and undertake projects of their own design to enrich their professional experience during their months spent with Global Ties Detroit.

**DISSERT DIPLOMACY**

Interested in becoming a Dinner Diplomat? Here’s what you should know:

It’s easy!

Dinner hosts are asked to make space and provide a meal only for as many guests as they can comfortably accommodate. The Global Ties Detroit team will work with you to make sure you are prepared to welcome visitors into your home.

It’s fun!

A meal is a low-pressure way to socialize and share with a new group of people. Guests bring their experiences and appetites to your house.

It’s rewarding!

Hosting a dinner is an easy way to connect with a diverse group of emerging leaders, many of whom have not been to the U.S. before. Having them in your home for a meal is a great opportunity to build connections that can cross borders and last a lifetime.

Our guests are such wonderful representatives of their countries. We always learn more from them than they learn from us!

— Jim & Ivy Wolfe

Want to get involved?

Reach out to our office at mail@globaltiesdetroit.org or (313) 638-1626.

**RUSSIAN BUSINESS LEADERS**

Russian Business Leaders (RBL) was a new fellowship program for Global Ties Detroit this year. Five outstanding Russian entrepreneurs spent three weeks embedded in local organizations learning the latest in best practices in management and business development, while living with globally-minded homestay hosts. They participated in professional development opportunities as well as volunteer and enrichment activities. These young leaders arrived in Detroit during the unique Dream Cruise weekend, for an immediate immersion into Motor City culture.

**PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM (PFP) | YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE (YSEALI)**

Six Fellows from Belarus, Malaysia, Myanmar, Ukraine and Vietnam joined Global Ties Detroit in 2018 through the Professional Fellows and YSEALI programs. These innovative community leaders and entrepreneurs stayed with local families for the duration of their four week program and worked full time at local companies and organizations. They also experienced American culture, celebrating Halloween at a costume party and enjoying much of the best that Detroit has to offer!

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A heartfelt thank you to:

Kim Bertz
Breanna Betancourt
Kathleen Cesarek
Geena George
Susana Hernandez
Luke Hodgson
Sunny Nguyen
Benjamin Olsen
Morgan Rote
Aya Salman
Chelsea Siraji

60 FELLOWSHIP DAYS
110 HOMESTAY NIGHTS
1000s OF CLASSIC CARS
120 FELLOWSHIP DAYS
186 HOMESTAY NIGHTS
200+ TRICK-OR-TREATERS

Our guests are such wonderful representatives of their countries. We always learn more from them than they learn from us!

— Jim & Ivy Wolfe

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CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT

GLOBAL TIES DETROIT

Through engaged Citizen Diplomats, we can build bridges of peace. This year was full of continuing engagement with program alumni, reverse exchanges, speaking and workshop opportunities, and a first ever Global Ties Detroit outbound exchange program. Look for exciting new outbound opportunities in 2019!

BELARUS OUTBOUND

Global Ties Detroit led a pilot outbound exchange program to Belarus that reunited Detroit and DC-based program staff, professionals, and homestay-hosts with USAID-sponsored Community Connections alumni. Our U.S. delegation presented in Minsk (Detroit’s “Sister City”) on Detroit’s social enterprises and witnessed the great importance and lasting impact that the exchange experience has had for the program participants throughout the country, including in Brest, Gomel, and Grodno.

REVERSE EXCHANGES

YLAI REVERSE EXCHANGES

Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Honduras, St. Kitts and Nevis
As part of the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) the Work Host and the Fellow are encouraged to apply for one of 45 Reverse Exchange spots. The winning projects bring the Work Host to the home country of their Fellow where they continue working on their project and growing their relationship. This year Bon Bon Bon (Colombia), Recovery Park (Trinidad and Tobago), Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (Honduras), and The BTL Group (St. Kitts and Nevis) were all awarded Reverse Exchanges by the State Department.

RUSSIAN BUSINESS LEADERS

Global Ties Detroit Executive Director Marian Reich and Lex Zavala from Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC) were awarded reverse exchanges through the Russian Business Leaders program. Marian spent time in Kaliningrad, Moscow and Kazan while Lex stayed busy in Moscow presenting on Detroit’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, as well as on the city’s revitalization through innovation and social enterprise. The exchange provided the opportunity for closer connections and appreciation of Russian culture.

BOARD AND STAFF ENGAGEMENT

TASHKENT

Board Treasurer Faris Alami traveled to Tashkent, Uzbekistan at the invitation of an IVLP alumni where he participated in an entrepreneurship conference and built lasting networks with Uzbek entrepreneurs.

SINGAPORE

Jonathan Quarles, Global Ties Detroit Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board, was invited by Global Ties U.S. to keynote the YSEALI Summit in Singapore. He also served as pitch coach to two winning teams.

BOGOTÁ

Through continued communication and relationships with YLAI alumni in Colombia, Global Ties Detroit Special Projects staff member, Melanie Grund traveled to Bogotá to develop a research project about healing for women of armed conflicts.
Belarus Cultural Night - July
Emerging leaders from Belarus concluded their month-long Community Connections program by gathering at the home of Mel and Nera Chudnof where they graciously shared their cultural traditions in the form of food, crafts, music and more.

Fulbright Dinner - August
As a highlight of the Wayne State University Fulbright Gateway Orientation, more than 80 Fulbright scholars from around the world enjoyed dinner diplomacy at the homes of generous volunteers prior to departing for their two-year academic residencies at universities across the U.S.

YLA Opening - September
This year, Detroit played host to the Opening Summit of the State Department’s Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA). Global Ties Detroit resources and our Executive Director were featured as speakers to the 250 delegates as they began their month-long fellowships in cities across the U.S.

Halloween - October
Executive Director Marian Reich and her husband Daniel hosted a Halloween dinner party for the Professional Fellows from Europe and SE Asia, their host families, and Global Ties Detroit Board. The international visitors were delighted to pass out candy to the trick-or-treaters, a first-time experience for all of them!

Global Ties: Diplomacy Begins Here Summit - November
The Global Ties Detroit team connected in Miami with colleagues from across the country to share best practices on programming, make connections and be inspired to collaborate to expand our impact.

Design Detroit - November
Global Ties Detroit proudly provided sponsorship for the Metropolitan Museum of Design Detroit’s annual Design Dare event.

Holiday Membership Gathering - December
Celebrating a banner year of programming and growth, the Global Ties Detroit staff and Board hosted members, friends and volunteers at Kieving Detroit to mark the accomplishments of 2018 and toast to the year ahead.

"Continents Uncorked" - July
Thanks to Infinity and Ovation Yacht Charters for sponsoring a Global Ties Detroit fundraiser and social event! Volunteers, staff, and visiting delegates danced the night away on a dinner cruise on the Detroit River with an international food and wine theme.

A special thank you to Ms. Nicole Fernandez Gatti for capturing so many great moments in 2018!