



GLOBALTIESDETROIT.ORG

2021 annual REPORT

GLOBALTIES > DETROIT



content

2021 GLOBAL TIES ANNUAL REPORT

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about GLOBAL TIES

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 to promote global exchange and citizen diplomacy. Through these programs, we showcase Detroit as a center of world commerce and cultures, a destination of choice for global leaders eager to explore a region thriving with enterprising and innovative energy. Global Ties Detroit also organizes international speaker programs, cultural dinners, and networking events to engage Southeast Michigan's diverse and globally minded citizens.

Our goal is to connect Detroit with global leaders, introducing influential international professionals in business, government, education, and NGO sectors to their Detroit counterparts to forge lasting relationships. These interactions and resulting partnerships become powerful tools to address some of our biggest global challenges, such as climate change, equitable economic development, and national security. While facilitating the professional development of visiting delegations, residents of our local communities are connected to a worldwide network of leaders. The exchange experiences provide Detroiters the opportunity to not only become involved on the world stage as citizen diplomats, but also the capacity to cultivate cross-cultural connections, propelling them on a pathway to becoming local, national, and international changemakers.

Global Ties Detroit is pleased to acknowledge that the Annual Report is funded in part by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.





“Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.”

— Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State, 2001-2005

letter FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Truth be told, 2021 was quite a challenging year. Like organizations and businesses throughout our community and all over the world, Global Ties Detroit had to innovate not only to survive, but to fulfill our mission during the on-going pandemic. This meant finding ways to make virtual exchanges and citizen diplomacy events meaningful and engaging in an online, rather than in-person world. With an unwavering commitment to international exchange, Global Ties Detroit not only survived, we have thrived. This year, Global Ties Detroit has engaged more than 600 international delegates and fellows from over 130 nations through 65 programs, connecting emerging and established global leaders with their counterparts here in metro Detroit. Though global travel was not possible, our Board, staff, and supporters managed to gather together safely to reconnect and network at the Summer Soiree at the Mann home in Franklin, the Annual Dinner at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate in Grosse Pointe presented by DTE Energy, and for our Holiday Gathering at the Detroit City Football Club in Detroit.

their support for international exchange. Locally, the Board, supporters, professional resources, hospitality and cultural hosts, program interns, and staff work together to make the exchange experiences both possible and successful. We appreciate our sponsors and donors for their valuable contributions to these diplomacy initiatives in SE Michigan, as we share Detroit with the world. The exchanges that take place serve to highlight our metropolitan region as a center of global commerce and cultures.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of Global Ties Detroit, founded as the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. in 1972, we are optimistic for the future of citizen diplomacy in Detroit and outcomes. Connecting leaders from Detroit with those around the world on such essential issues as economic development, civil rights, education, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, global health, media, national security, rule of law and more is hopeful work. We thank you for being a part of these efforts, increasing the positive impact, serving as a “force multiplier”, and promoting peace and prosperity here at home and abroad.

We are grateful to the U.S. Department of State, Global Ties U.S., and our national program partners in Washington, D.C. for continuing

Sincerely,

Steve Rybicki
Chairman

Marian Reich
President



staff & board

Executive Board



CHAIR
Steven Rybicki
President
Infinity & Ovation Yacht Charters
Senior Vice President
Continental



1ST VICE CHAIR
Faris Alami
Founder & CEO
International Strategic Management, Inc.



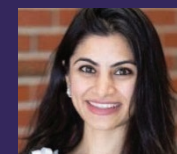
2ND VICE CHAIR
Antoine Dubeauclard
President
Media Genesis



TREASURER
Jonathan Quarles
President & CEO
The BTL Group
Founder
Quartz Water Source



SECRETARY (JANUARY-AUGUST)
Mariana Martinez
Director of Civic Engagement Initiatives
Michigan Nonprofit Association



SECRETARY (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER)
Pranadhi Koradia
Chief Operations Officer
Transphere, Inc.



CHAIR EMERITUS
Francine Pegues
Consultant
JustUs

Directors

Jaclyn Assarian
Associate Director, International Programs
Wayne State University

Fay Beydoun
Executive Director
American Arab Chamber of Commerce

Pam Burneski
Attorney
Morganroth & Morganroth, PLLC

Ed Clemente
Senior Advisor for Trends and Development
Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Tom Cooney
Vice President, Global Public Policy
General Motors

Ann Mandelbaum Mann, PhD
Founder, Hispanic Education for Life-Skills Project
Administrator, George P. Mann & Associates

Staff

Marian Reich
President

Melissa Wandrei
Programs

Caroline Poole
Communications and Operations

Rosemary Max, EdD
Executive Director of Global Engagement
Oakland University

Chris Moyer
Director of Communications
Detroit Regional Chamber

Genevieve Rattray
Director of Environmental Initiatives and Affairs
Belle Isle Conservancy

Sanja Savic
Independent Global Consultant
Motown Consulting, LLC

Jaspreet Singh
Vice President, Corporate Services
DTE Energy

Alexandra Stan
Counsel
Rivian

David Teolis, PhD
Assistant Director of International Economics
General Motors

Interns

Mannat Bedi

Lee Jackson

Bailey Lewis

Hope Ngong

Remembering Irene Spanos

Irene Spanos became involved with Global Ties Detroit in 2014 and joined the Board in 2016. She met with dozens of international delegations and hundreds of global leaders on behalf of Oakland County and Oakland University, sharing her insights and expertise. Her smile, enthusiasm, and optimism were present at every occasion. Irene passed away March 7, 2021. We miss her very much.



speakers & supporters

Ang Adamiak	Joe Davison	Kimberly Johnson	Mary Messana	Lisa Schlesinger-Wagner
John Adams	Alex DeCamp	Nicole Joseph-Chin	Daniel Milan	Kayla Schwartz
Tripp Adams	Raj Dechen	Donna Joseph-Kemp	Wendy Miller Gamer	Lexie Schwarze
Joanne Adams	Mark Denson	Catherine Kelly	Sheryl Mitchell	Tova Shaban
Veronica Adams	Antonia Dillon	Joanne Kenan	Aaron Mondry	Fareed Shalhout
Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine	Deb Drennan	Dujuan Zoe Kennedy	Chris Moyer	Rimma Shidlovskaya
Aamina Ahmed	Antoine Dubeauclard	Fred Ketchem	Martha Moyer	Robert Shimkoski
Consul General Darius Akins	Greg Duenow	Saeed Khan	Rahul Naik	Evelyn Smith
Dr. Aisha Akpabio	Vincent Duffy	Emily Kieliszewski	Dr. Dena Nazer	Susanne Smith
Faris & Lara Alami	Amanda Duffy	Karen Kienbaum	Dr. Martin Nekola	Jennette Smith-Kotila
Barbara Albrecht	Anne Duggan	R.J. King	Jeff Nelson	Ned Staebler
Heyam Alcodray	Rabbi Dorrit Edut	Christie Kloostra	Noel Nevshehir	Jer Staes
Loretta Alexander	Paul Egan	Pranadhi Koradia	Claudia Nickel	Kat Stafford
Jaclyn Assarian	Dr. Abdul El-Sayed	Commissioner Eileen Kowall	Michael Olechwiw	Alex Stan
Erica Battle	Ellington Ellis	Fares Ksebati	Ray Ollie	Natailya Stasiw
John Bedz	M.L. Elrick	Autumn Kyles	Prof. Hayg Oshagan	Prof. Jonathan Stillo
Alecha Benson	Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine	Special Agent Chris Lacarter	Lindsay Ottersen	Dr. James Sunstrum
Janice Berry	Alfred & Barbara Fisher	Luciana Lallaizon	Adam Owens	Sandra Svoboda
Fay Beydoun	Eriola Fishman	Thomas Leeper	Matt Patton	Nate Talbot
Ria Bissman	Monica Flores	Steven & Alice Lepsetz	Trevor Pawl	Madiha Tariq
Prem Bodagala	Mary Forsyth	Eve Lerman	Francine Pegues	David Teolis
State Rep. Kyra Bolden	Stacey Frankovich	Olivia Lewis	Paulina Petoski	Geebee Thimotheose
Barbara Boldt	Mike Galbraith	Monica Lewis-Patrick	Nancy Philippart	Eric Thomas
Pamela Burneski	Leah Goodwin	Joe Licavoli	John Philo	Dr. Mischa Thompson
Michelle Burns	Maria Guadalupe Torres	Chad Livengood	Heidi Prillwitz	Lars-Erik Tindre
State Rep. Darrin Camilleri	Kylee Guenther	Rabbi Asher Lopatin	Jonathan Quarles	Nataly Torres Pinzon
Mark Campbell	Curt Guyette	Daniel Lorca	Genevieve Ratray Nowak	Alyssa Tracey
Kevin Cassidy	Prof. Jennifer Hart	Ray & Ellen Lyle	Eric Raymond	Sandra Turner-Handy
Carolyn Cassin	Alia Harvey Quinn	Deb Macron	Dr. Marlo Rencher	Kayleigh Vandenbussche
William Castro	Sarah Hayosh	Monique Magee	Fabián Rentería Franco	Melissa Vervink
Lisa Catto	Shane Henry	George & Ann Mann	Gerl Rinchler	Clarke Walker
James Chapman	Mona Hijazi	Daniel Mann	Paul Riser	Kyra Wallace
State Rep. Cara Clemente	Carol Hofer	State Rep. Mari Manoogian	Kevin Robinet	Meagan Ward
Ed Clemente	Kim Howard	Ken Marten	Sergio Rodriguez	Sanya Weston
Lynette Clemetson	Jack Hund	Mariana Martinez	Greg Rosenthal	Taylor Weston
Sheila Cockrel	Nusrat Hussain	Michael Maten	Jerry Rubin	Virginia Wilkinson
Drew Coleman	Shana Inofuentes	Dr. Trini Mathew	Nicole L. Russo	Germaine Williams
Steven Collins	James Jackson	Rosemary Max, EdD	Steve Rybicki	Robin Wilson
Chuck Conlen	Luke Jacobi	Bill Mayer	Fayrouz Saad	Jim & Py Wolfe
Tom Cooney	Robert Jamerson	Laura McCourt	Jim Saber	Sara Woodward
Scott Cullinane	Maka Janikashvili	Julie McFarland	Al & Harriet Saperstein	Gary Wozinak
W.E. Da'Cruz	Parker Jensen	Hannah McPeak	Ali Sayed	Robert Yoon
Olena Danylyuk	Irina Jesionowski	Kim Meerheghe	David Schlesinger	Lex Zavala

215 | Citizen Diplomats Involved

124 | Local Organizations Engaged

professional resources

16/50 Project	Detroit Public Television (DPTV)	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)	Skinny Tees
ACCESS	Detroit Regional Chamber	Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)	Society of Professional Journalists -Detroit (SPJ)
ACLU of Michigan	Developing K.I.D.S.	Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)	Southwestern Michigan Urban League
Ann Arbor SPARK	DTE Energy	Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA)	Strategic Staffing Solutions
American Arab Chamber of Commerce	Embassy of Sweden in the United States	Michigan Office of Future Mobility and Electrification	Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
Archimedes	Every Linear Mile	Michigan Public Radio	TechTown Detroit
Arts & Scraps	Export Assistance Center	Michigan Rise	The BTL Group
Associated Press	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	Michigan Women Forward	The Czechoslovak Talks
Automation Alley	Federal Defender's Office, Eastern District of Michigan	Midwest AIDS Education and Training Center	The Quechua Project
Beaumont Health	Femology	Model D Media	ToDoolie
Belle Isle Conservancy	FORCE Detroit	Ms. Braft Limited	Transphere, Inc.
Boldt Global	Fordson High School	MySwimPro	U.S. Consulate in Hamburg
Bridge Detroit	Freedom House Detroit	New American Leaders	U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Bridge Michigan	General Motors (GM)	New Michigan Media	U.S. Department of Justice
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History	Global Battery Solutions	NextEnergy	U.S. Department of State
CitizenDetroit	Global Ties Miami	Nirvana Tea	U.S. Embassy in Paris
City of Detroit	Global Ties U.S.	Oakland County	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute	GM Cares	Oakland University	U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC)
Connecting Dots Globally	Great Lakes Now (DPTV)	Outlier Media	U.S. Senator Gary Peter's Office
Continental	Gulf Coast Diplomacy	Pink Elephant Products and Events, L3C	U.S.-Europe Alliance
Crain's Detroit Business	Hope Against Trafficking	Pivot Materials	University of Michigan
Creatively Flawless, LLC	HYPE Athletics	Plain Sight	University of Michigan Wallace House
CultureSouce	Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)	PLAYGROUND DETROIT	USAID
Daily Detroit	Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit	Político	Village of Bingham Farms
DBusiness	International Labour Organization	Proxie	Wayne County Prosecutor's Office
Detroit Blockchain Center	International Strategic Management, Inc.	Quartz Water Source	Wayne State University
Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC)	Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC	Recovery Park	We the People of Detroit
Detroit Fintech Association	JustLight	Red Cedar Ventures	Your Premier Travel Service
Detroit Free Press	MCCI	Robin Wilson Educational Consulting, LLC	YPT Global Edge
Detroit Future City	Media Genesis	Skillman Foundation	Zero Waste Detroit
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)	Michigan Community Resource		
Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)			

program grantors

American Councils for International Education	Gulf Coast Diplomacy	U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, Office of International Visitors
CRDF Global	Institute for International Education (IIE)	U.S. Department of State Bureau of Global Public Affairs, Foreign Press Center
Congressional Office of International Leadership (COIL)	IREX	U.S. Embassy Jerusalem, Palestinian Affairs Unity
Cultural Vistas	Meridian International Center	U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
FHI 360	Mississippi Consortium for International Development (MCID)	Wayne State University
Global Ties U.S.	Open World Leadership Center	WorldChicago
Graduate School USA	U.S. Consulate General Karachi, Pakistan	

list of countries

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Algeria | Botswana | Colombia | Equatorial Guinea | Honduras | Kenya | Mali | Nigeria | Republic of Korea | South Africa | Thailand | Vietnam |
| Angola | Brazil | Congo | Eritrea | Hong Kong, S.A.R. | Kyrgyz Republic | Malta | Pakistan | Republic of North Macedonia | South Sudan | Togo | Venezuela |
| Argentina | Bulgaria | Costa Rica | Fiji | Hungary | Laos | Mauritania | Palestinian Territories | Romania | Spain | Trinidad and Tobago | Zambia |
| Armenia | Burkina Faso | Cote d'Ivoire | France | India | Latvia | Mauritius | Panama | Russia | Sri Lanka | Tunisia | Zimbabwe |
| Australia | Burma | Croatia | Gabon | Indonesia | Lebanon | Mexico | Papua New Guinea | Rwanda | Sudan | Turkey | |
| Azerbaijan | Burundi | Czech Republic | Germany | Iraq | Lesotho | Moldova | Paraguay | Saudi Arabia | Suriname | Turkmenistan | |
| Bahrain | Cambodia | Dominican Republic | Georgia | Ireland | Libya | Morocco | People's Republic of China | Senegal | Sweden | Ukraine | |
| Bangladesh | Canada | Ecuador | Ghana | Israel | Liberia | Mozambique | Peru | Serbia | Tanzania | United Arab Emirates | |
| Belarus | Cameroon | Egypt | Greece | Italy | Lithuania | Nepal | Philippines | Slovakia | Taiwan | Uganda | |
| Belgium | Central African Republic | El Salvador | Guatemala | Japan | Madagascar | New Zealand | Poland | Slovenia | Tajikistan | Uruguay | |
| Benin | Chad | Eswatini | Guinea | Jordan | Malaysia | Nicaragua | Portugal | Somalia | The Gambia | Uzbekistan | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Chile | Ethiopia | Guinea-Bissau | Kazakhstan | Maldives | Niger | | | | | |



133 | Countries



621 | International Participants



65 | Exchange Programs



virtual talk series

When the needs of our community changed due to the pandemic, we pivoted to meet them. In 2021, we continued our Virtual Talk Series to elevate the important voices of our community and the issues that affect us all. We gave Detroit leaders a platform to discuss critical topics such as environmentalism, the rise of populism, and global cooperation.

The year also brought an extension of our partnership with Gulf Coast Diplomacy. Together, we connected citizen diplomats in the Midwest and Gulf Coast regions with each other and the world. Through informal conversations about current events with International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumni, participants established national and international ties with one another and built upon their passion for diplomacy and global exchange.



national meeting

From March 22-26, 2021, international exchange professionals from around the world gathered online to celebrate 60 years of our Network's collective resilience and dedication to forging connections without boundaries. Throughout the week, Global Ties Detroit Board and staff members networked with embassies, reconnected with partners and colleagues across the country, and participated in professional development and strategic planning sessions. Event highlights included keynote speakers U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry.



1000+
attendees
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Global Ties Detroit President Marian Reich and Board Vice Chair Faris Alami led a National Meeting session with Meg Poole of Meridian International Center on strategies for leveraging entrepreneurial ecosystems in international exchange programs, showcasing Detroit entrepreneurs and the different ways cities across the country can tap into their own entrepreneurial ecosystems to create more meaningful and dynamic exchanges.

The Future of Travel

January 19

<p>Faris Alami Founder & CEO, International Strategic Management, Inc.</p>		<p>Sanya Weston CEO, Your Premier Travel Service, Founder, Young People Travel (YPT) Global Edge</p>	
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Cross-Cultural Communications

February 24

<p>Antoine Dubeauclard President, Media Genesis</p>		<p>Barbara Boldt Principal, Communication Skills & Pitch Coach, Barbara Boldt Global, LLC</p>	
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Conservation Around the World

April 27

<p>Genevieve Rattray Director of Environmental Affairs and Initiatives, Belle Isle Conservancy</p>		<p>Nataly Torres Pinzon Co-founder & COO, Delcampoati ('From Land to You')</p>	
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The Future of Work

May 4

<p>David Teolis, PhD Assistant Director of International Economics, General Motors (GM)</p>		<p>Kevin Cassidy Director and Representative to the Bretton Woods and Multilateral Organizations for the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for the United States</p>	
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: MARCH 23



SAAD ABID
Recipient of the 2021 IVLP Alumni Decade of Social Innovation & Change Award



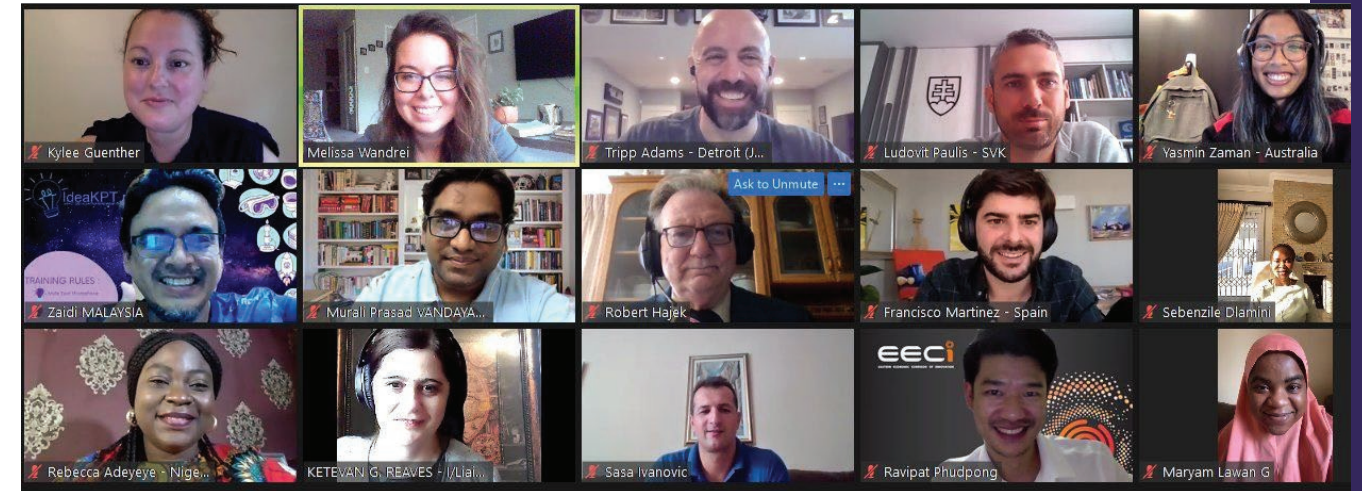
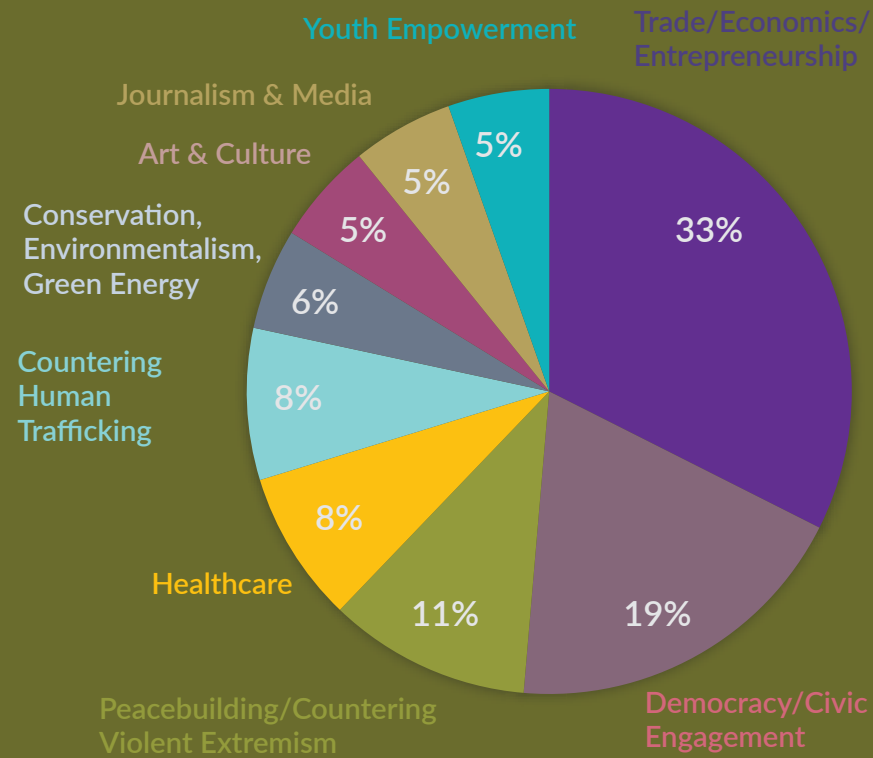
RAISA BANFIELD
Recipient of the 2021 IVLP Alumni Decade of Social Innovation & Change Award



JOHN KERRY
U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
Former U.S. Secretary of State

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's flagship international exchange program. When in-person exchanges paused in 2020, we turned to virtual programming to continue implementing the IVLP to connect Detroiters with the world's emerging leaders, furthering international dialogue and cooperation on local, national, and global challenges. Throughout 2021, we worked to elevate Detroit's status as a global city and promoted citizen diplomacy virtually through dozens of IVLP projects. Detroit leaders including investigative reporters, entrepreneurs, government officials, and activists shared their work and stories with a global audience through the IVLP.



TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SALON SERIES

In April 2021, Global Ties Detroit kicked off the Tech Entrepreneurship Virtual Salon Series for 67 innovators from over 30 countries including Algeria, Bangladesh, Malta, and Panama. The session consisted of a panel discussion highlighting why Detroit is a hub for entrepreneurs, especially tech entrepreneurs, with dynamic speakers. After the opening panel, five Detroit-based entrepreneurs facilitated breakout rooms with tech entrepreneurs from all over the world, including welcome remarks, "pitches," and feedback.



WOMEN & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

From Detroit to Zimbabwe, women entrepreneurs are driving economic development and re-envisioning society with inclusivity, equity, and cooperation at the forefront. In May, Global Ties Detroit connected local women entrepreneurs with their counterparts across Africa to discuss the parallel challenges women face around the world when entering the entrepreneurial space. Twenty three women representing 17 countries shared personal stories of growing as leaders, overcoming societal barriers, and investing in fellow women-owned businesses. While women entrepreneurs face similar disparities around the world, they find inspiration in one another.

W.E. Da'Cruz
 Co-Founder
 The Virtual Global Consultant Group

Carolyn Cassin
 President & CEO
 Michigan Women Forward

Dr. Marlo Rencher
 Director, Technology-Based Programs
 TechTown Detroit

GLOBALTIES > DETROIT | Graduate School USA

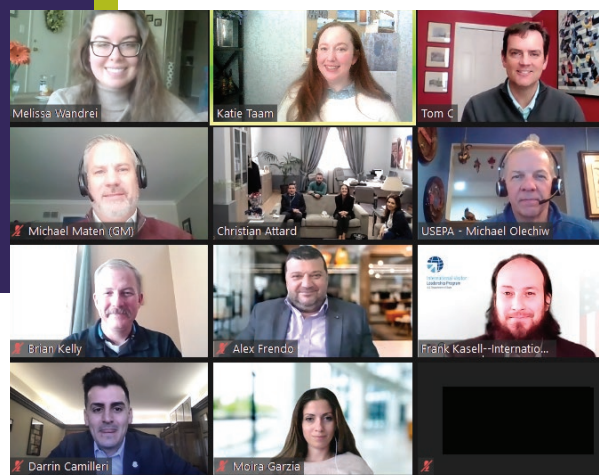
Algeria | Angola | Burkina Faso | Chad | Congo | Cote d'Ivoire | Ghana | Guinea | Liberia | Madagascar | Morocco | Niger | Senegal | Tunisia | Zambia | Zimbabwe

program spotlights:

EMERGING ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND INTELLIGENT SOLUTIONS

General Motors (GM) announced its plans in January 2021 to become carbon neutral by 2040. The automotive giant will sell only zero-emission vehicles by 2035, marking the company as a committed leader in the electric vehicle revolution and in making the world a cleaner, greener, and healthier place.

Ambitious and innovative changemakers like GM make Detroit a leader in energy technology and sustainability. Global Ties Detroit shared Detroit's exciting progress with a global audience. GM experts including Tom Cooney, Vice President of Global Public Policy, spoke with eight officials from the Malta Ministry for Energy, Enterprise, and Sustainable Development about energy technology and promoting electric vehicles in the U.S. and global market.



summer social

Global Ties Detroit Board Member Ann Mandelbaum Mann and her husband George hosted our first in-person event since March 2020. Current and prospective Board Members gathered to reconnect with one another, network, and discuss future programs and efforts to engage with community members in Southeast Michigan. The evening concluded with remarks from Michigan State Representatives Kyra Bolden and Mari Manoogian on the importance of international exchange programs and how the work of Global Ties Detroit builds economic and cultural bridges between Michigan and the world, strengthening our local community's diversity and place on the global stage.



annual dinner

On October 27, 2021 sponsors, supporters, and citizen diplomats joined Global Ties Detroit Board and staff at the Eleanor and Edsel Ford House for an evening of dinner, networking, and global conversations. Presented by DTE Energy, the Global Ties Detroit Annual Dinner is our signature event recognizing international exchange and diversity in Southeast Michigan.

The program featured a warm welcome by DTE Energy's Jas Singh and special remarks from Global Ties Detroit Board Chair Steven Rybicki. In an engaging panel discussion, Meagan Ward, entrepreneur and Owner of branding agency Creatively Flawless, LLC facilitated a discussion with Saad Fayrouz, Director of Public Engagement at USAID and Jeff Nelson, Executive Vice President of Strategic Staffing Solutions (S3) and CEO of Strategic Staffing Solutions International (S3I) on the importance of building global connections from the private and public sector perspectives.



Jeff Nelson

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC STAFFING SOLUTIONS (S3),
CEO, STRATEGIC STAFFING SOLUTIONS INTERNATIONAL (S3I)

Jeff Nelson is the executive point for several S³ customers while leading the S³ team of 250-plus employees and consultants in Richmond and Philadelphia, and S³'s Detroit branch. He also oversees S³'s operations headquartered in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Career inspiration came to Jeff early; while in college he met the leaders of the freedom movement for Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Their work influenced Jeff's studies and his first career, where he built relationships with these countries as they navigated the first years of independence after 50 years of Soviet occupation. While at S³, he has helped global companies establish and grow near-shore centers and has built a reputation in the region as a trusted, well-regarded partner of the government in business development and in creating job and career opportunities for Lithuanian citizens.



Fayrouz Saad

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, USAID

Fayrouz Saad oversees USAID's public events and activities while expanding engagement with key audiences within the U.S. Prior to joining USAID, she served on Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's cabinet as Executive Director of the Office of Global Michigan; where she led economic inclusion programs for immigrant, refugee, limited English proficient, and new American communities.

Fayrouz is a Michigan-native and also served as Detroit's first Director of Immigrant Affairs under Mayor Mike Duggan, where she led efforts to resettle refugees in Detroit, built the Detroit-ID program, and developed a strategy to engage and grow immigrant-owned small businesses.



Meagan Ward

CO-FOUNDER & CEO, FEMOLOGY,
OWNER & BRAND STRATEGIST, CREATIVELY FLAWLESS, LLC

Meagan Ward is the CEO of the branding agency Creatively Flawless, LLC and also founded Detroit's first female-only co-working space, FEMOLOGY. A Detroit native, Meagan serves as an expert speaker on women's empowerment and entrepreneurship.

She has presented in Tbilisi, Georgia, Moscow, Russia, and Trinidad & Tobago through special invitation of the U.S. Department of State.



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& ASSOCIATES
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAWYERS



OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY



Central and Eastern Europe Journalist Fellowship Program (CEEJ)



The goal of the Central and Eastern Europe Journalist Fellowship Program (CEEJ) is to build the capacity of professional journalists and improve the sustainability of citizen-generated media in Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Croatia and Slovenia. Through one-on-one mentorships, virtual conferences, skills building workshops, networking, and informational webinars, the journalists increased professional standards, advanced the credibility and accuracy of their reporting, built cross continental partnerships, and bolstered their independent media sector in the region. In addition to securing mentorships, Global Ties Detroit facilitated enrichment sessions featuring local experts and community leaders on issues of education, healthcare, elections, podcasting and politics.

6

JOURNALISTS FROM EUROPE

11

LOCAL MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

68

HOURS OF ENRICHMENT



fellowships



The Professional Fellows Program



The Professional Fellows Program is a two-way exchange program designed to promote mutual understanding, enhance leadership skills, and build sustainable partnerships with rising leaders around the world. Detroit played host to six Fellows from Europe/Eurasia in a range of fields, including economic development, healthcare, journalism, law, and technology. During their orientation, our staff and fellows shared favorite spots from their home countries and cities, and discussed Detroit's history, revitalization, and culture.

6

COUNTRIES

4

WEEKS



Russian Business Leaders (RBL)



Ten early and mid-career professionals from Russia virtually visited SE Michigan to work in local enterprises through the Russian Business Leaders (RBL) program. RBL is a virtual professional development exchange program for emerging business professionals, entrepreneurs, and innovators, from Russia who are committed to driving economic development through leadership and sound business practices. This program also provided metro Detroit business leaders the opportunity to develop their international networks and expand their businesses globally.

10

BUSINESS LEADERS

35

LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

180

HOURS OF ENRICHMENT



Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Professional Fellows Program (YSEALI PFP)



The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Professional Fellows Program (YSEALI PFP) is a virtual exchange designed to promote mutual understanding, enhance Fellows' leadership and professional skills, and build lasting and sustainable partnerships between emerging leaders in Southeast Asia and the United States. Five community and education advocates were virtually welcomed to Detroit to work at local organizations with mentos from October through November 2021.

4

COUNTIES

8

WEEKS

13

HOURS TIME DIFFERENCE



intensive exchanges

Open World Reunion

Professional resources, homestay hosts, and exchange alumni from Russia who participated in 2018 (Interfaith Relations) and 2019 (Migration) programs reunited virtually through the Open World Virtual Reunion. James Jackson with the Office of Senator Gary Peters warmly welcomed the delegates back to Detroit, as had greeted them in-person when they visited years ago. The alumni shared updates on the impact their time in Detroit had on their outlook and work in their home communities. Host families together with local experts from the respective programs enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with and learn about exchange outcomes.



4 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

6 ALUMNI



Virtual Exchange Program Belarus

A group of sixty 14-17 year-old students from DreamCamp, an organization founded by a 2017 Community Connections Belarus-Detroit alumna, took part in a dynamic and interactive virtual training for self-assessment and community-focused exploration of career and entrepreneurship opportunities. The Careers, Soft Skills, and Entrepreneurship Education for Teens in Belarus program is an intensive, interactive virtual workshop/exchange for Belarusian youth. Three cohorts of teens participated in multi-day workshops that included writing and speaking exercises, Q&A with guest speakers, and a pitch competition with feedback from an expert panel of judges.

60 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

17 ENTREPRENEURSHIP TEAMS



The Pan African Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP)

The Pan African Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP) aims to build young leaders' civic engagement, leadership, and social entrepreneurship skill sets while fostering cross-cultural bonds with American citizens. Global Ties Detroit implemented the 2021 PAYLP Francophone exchange cohort in a highly interactive virtual format. We welcomed young leaders across Africa and facilitated professional development workshops, cultural activities, and meetings with leaders across Detroit and Southeast Michigan. The month-long programming culminated with Community Issues Action Plan Presentations, where participants brainstormed solutions for issues facing their communities.



19 RISING LEADERS

14 WORKSHOPS AND PANELS

4 COUNTRIES



The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) supports young Africans as they spur economic growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across the African continent. Over the summer, Global Ties Detroit partnered with Wayne State University to virtually engage Africa's Public Management and Administration leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities, and local community engagement. Global Ties Detroit facilitated three panel discussions to connect YALI changemakers with their Detroit counterparts, exchange expertise and learn about nonprofit administration, community health initiatives and outreach, and local government.



26 FELLOWS

6 WEEKS

18 COUNTRIES





foreign PRESS CENTER

Nearly 50 journalists from more than 40 countries around the globe visited Detroit online via the Virtual Reporting Tour (VRT). Led by the U.S. Department of State Foreign Press Center and facilitated nationally by Meridian International Center, "Combatting the Climate Change Crisis through U.S. Innovations" was the project focus. Through live video conference meetings and recorded segments, the VRT exposed international journalists to innovative approaches to clean energy

and sustainable technologies and promoted the use of international partnerships in helping combat climate change. The Detroit region was one of only two communities in the United States highlighted for its outstanding efforts in net zero emissions, renewable energy, and research initiatives. The tour resulted in news articles and broadcasts highlighting SE Michigan's leadership in combating climate change from Guyana to Nigeria to Spain and more.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



GET involved

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. Despite the pause of in-person programming, our community of volunteers remained engaged in our mission. Through virtual hospitality hosting, our network of citizen diplomats welcomed guests from around the world into their homes and shared their experiences. Our undergraduate interns assisted in our programming and communications efforts, spreading the word about virtual exchange opportunities and continuing to spread the word about the importance of our work to the metro-Detroit region. Local healthcare, government and social justice leaders never stopped sharing their expertise with their counterparts, adding diverse voices to a global dialogue on strategies for addressing the world's largest problems.

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.

DINNER HOSTING

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.

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.

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.

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. You and your organization will benefit from having a unique perspective from an emerging leader.





GLOBALTIES > DETROIT

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**Connecting Detroit
with global leaders**

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