

GLOBALTIES > DETROIT ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Connecting Detroit
With Global Leaders



www.globaltiesdetroit.com



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Global Ties Detroit is grateful for the support of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, which helps fund our Annual Report and our ongoing programs.



ABOUT US



Founded in 1972, Global Ties Detroit is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering global exchange and citizen diplomacy. We host international exchange programs on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, along with other government agencies, universities, and think tanks.

Our mission is to present Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan region as a vibrant hub for global commerce, culture, and collaboration. We organize professional exchange programs, fellowship opportunities, and networking events that engage Southeast Michigan's globally minded citizens.

Through these initiatives, we connect Detroit with influential leaders from around the world, facilitating meaningful exchanges between international professionals and their local counterparts. The resulting connections foster long-lasting relationships and serve as powerful tools to address both global and local challenges—such as economic development, energy resilience, and national security.

Our citizen diplomacy efforts are building trust, deepening understanding, and contributing to a more peaceful, prosperous world.



LETTER

from The Chair and The President

Dear Friends of Global Ties Detroit,

We're thrilled to share the incredible impact we've made together with you, right here in Detroit and across the globe! Thanks to you, we're building bridges and fostering global collaboration and linkages that spark change in areas including economic development and entrepreneurship, education, mobility, and resilience. Here's a snapshot of what we accomplished in 2024:

- Welcomed 630+ Visitors: Leaders and changemakers from 120+ countries came to Metro Detroit for short-term US Department of State exchanges, bringing skills, experience, and global cultures to our region.
- Coordinated 50+ Dynamic Programs: From exchange initiatives to fellowships and virtual collaborations, our programs fostered collaboration and innovation, while highlighting Detroit as a thriving hub of international business and culture.
- Engaged 667 Local Volunteers and 258 Area Organizations: Dedicated Detroiters and Southeast Michigan partners engaged directly with our exchange participants, creating meaningful connections and impactful partnerships.
- Hosted 6 International Networking Events: We brought together Detroit's business, community, and government leaders with international delegates, fellows, and dignitaries to exchange ideas and build relationships.
- Showcased Detroit's Strengths: From innovation to community spirit, our programs shine a light on what makes our region extraordinary.

Together, we're creating meaningful connections, building trust, and amplifying Metro Detroit's role on the global stage. Your support makes all of this possible!

Let's keep the momentum going in 2025—Bringing the World to Detroit and Detroit to the World!

Rosemary Max EdD
Chair, Board of Directors



Marian Reich
President



Rosemary Max

Rosemary Max EdD
Chair, Board of Directors

Marian Reich

Marian Reich
President

OUR BOARD AND STAFF



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Henry Ford Health

Thank you

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REBECCA MOSES
BRIANNA RAMSEY

Thank you

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RANIA SUNDAL
KATE VAUGHN

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MERCER GATHERS
ISSA HOSARI
OSCAR SHELTON

Office Helpers

ELLIS DALTON
JACOB MOSES

DINNER DIPLOMATS AND HOMESTAY HOSTS

Dinner Diplomats and Homestay Hosts welcome international guests into their homes to share meals, stories, and friendship. We are grateful for the volunteers who graciously hosted global delegations in 2024.

Bill and Susan Ahlstrom

Faris and Lara Alami

Jana Albonis

Jerone Anderson and Stine Eckert, PhD

Fay Beydoun

Robert and Marilyn Bilotti

Matt, Sarah, and Ellis Dalton

Geoff and Jamie Dickinson

Cris Doby

Cristen Dokic and Family

Antoine Dubeauclard

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Chris and Marta Girdwood

Steven and Teresa Holderer

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Sharon McWhorter

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Aaron and Elisheva Newman, MD

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Jeff Orzechowski and N. Sara Merchawi

Kevin and Susan Parliament

Dan and Jill Pavlat

Dr. Glenda Price

Ram and Lakshmi Ramanujam

Genevieve Rattray

Steven Rybicki

Maha Saker

Anita Salustro

Alvin and Harriet Saperstein

Linda Schlesinger-Wagner

Fareed Shalhout and Family

Luis and Maria Watts

Jim and Py Wolfe

Ed and Mary Wolking

John and Michelle Yurcak

667
Citizen
Diplomats
Involved



258
Local
Organizations
Connected



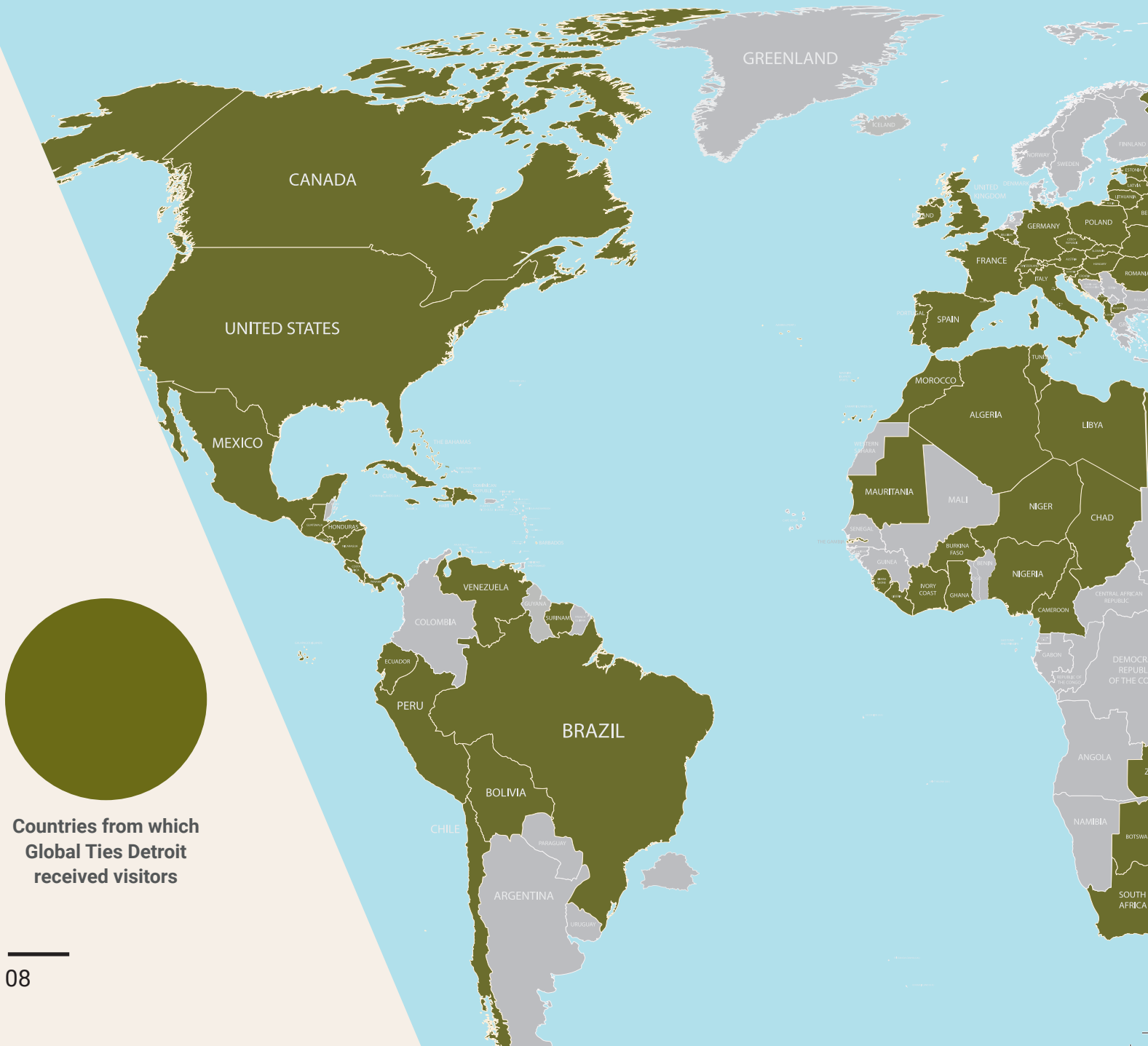
MEETING RESOURCES

Local business, government, and community leaders generously contribute their time, knowledge, and expertise to support visiting international professionals. Many thanks to the following organizations that provide invaluable insights to the delegates and fellows:

- 313 Presents
- 482 Forward
- Academy of the Americas
- AccelerateKID
- ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services)
- Affirmations LGBTQ + Community Center
- African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs (ABISA)
- AI BuildHER Academy
- Alternative for Girls
- American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan (ALCU)
- American Human Rights Council
- American Marketing Association At Oakland University
- AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program Detroit
- Anti-Defamation League Michigan Regional Office (ADL)
- Arab American National Museum
- Arab American Women's Business Council (AAWBC)
- Artist Village/Blight Busters
- Arts and Scraps
- Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce (APACC)
- AutoHarvest
- Automation Alley
- Avalon Healing Center
- Bamboo Detroit
- Bamboo Royal Oak
- BasBlue
- Be Reworn
- Bees in the D
- Belle Isle Conservancy
- Blight Busters
- Boldt Global
- Bosch USA
- Bridge Detroit
- Brilliant Detroit
- BTL Group
- Build Institute
- Caribbean Community Service Center (CCSC)
- Centro Multicultural La Familia
- Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
- Chef Omar Mitchell
- City Institute Detroit
- City of Dearborn
- City of Dearborn Heights
- City of Detroit Office of Digital Equity and Inclusion
- City of Detroit Office of Immigrant Affairs and Economic Inclusion
- Clearly Female
- Consulate General of Canada to Detroit
- Consulate General of Italy Detroit
- Consulate General of Mexico
- Consulate General of North Macedonia
- Continental Services
- Crain's Business Detroit
- Cranbrook Educational Community
- Creatively Flawless
- Crimson Agency
- Cross Border Institute
- CultureSource
- Daily Detroit
- Data Driven Detroit
- Dearborn Police Department
- Dearborn Public Schools
- Department of Natural Resources: Outdoor Adventure Center
- Design Core
- Design Think Tank
- Detroit Action
- Detroit Artists Market
- Detroit Arts, Culture, and Entrepreneurship (ACE)
- Detroit Black Chamber of Commerce
- Detroit Black Deaf Advocates
- Detroit City Council
- Detroit City Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero's Office
- Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC)
- Detroit Equity Action Lab (DEAL)
- Detroit Future City
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)
- Detroit Historical Museum
- Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)
- Detroit Interfaith Outreach Network (DION)
- Detroit Manufacturing Systems
- Detroit News
- Detroit People's Partnership
- Detroit People's Platform
- Detroit Pistons Basketball
- Detroit Police Department
- Detroit Public Schools Office of Exceptional Student Education
- Detroit Regional LGBT + Chamber of Commerce
- Detroit Regional Partnership Foundation
- Detroit River Coalition
- Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
- Detroit Tigers Baseball
- Detroit U.S. Export Assistance Center
- Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Developing K.I.D.S.
- Disability Rights Michigan
- Divine Providence Lithuanian Church
- Downtown Detroit Partnership
- DTE Energy
- East Michigan District Export Council
- El Central Hispanic News
- Emgage Michigan
- Energy Security Partners
- Excelerate America
- Featherstone LLC
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Federal Community Defender's Office
- Ferndale Public Schools
- First Step
- Focus for Growth
- Fordson High School
- Fox 2 Detroit News
- Freedom House Detroit
- General Motors (GM)
- Global African Business Association (GABA)
- Great Lakes Now
- Greater Flint Health Coalition
- Green Door Initiative
- Green Garage
- Henry Ford Community College
- Henry Ford Health Services
- Henry Ford Museum
- Hill Street Group
- Huntington Place
- Hurley Medical Center
- HYPE Athletics
- Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)
- InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit (IFLC)
- International Strategic Management, Inc. (ISM)
- International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA)
- Islamic Center of Detroit
- Islamic House of Wisdom
- Islamic Institute of Knowledge
- Lawrence Technological University
- Lean and Green Michigan
- Learning To Give Teacher In Residence
- Living Arts
- Mai Family Services
- Maumee Valley Country Day School
- Media Genesis
- Mexicantown Community Development Corporation
- Michigan Association of State Universities
- Michigan AFL-CIO Labor Foundation
- Michigan Central
- Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation
- Michigan Department of Attorney General
- Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR)
- Michigan Department of Corrections
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
- Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP)
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)
- Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
- Michigan House of Representatives
- Michigan Israel Business Accelerator
- Michigan Music Education Association
- Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
- Michigan Social Emotional Learning Alliance
- Michigan State University Apple Developer Academy
- Michigan Women Forward
- Michigan Women's Commission
- Middle Eastern Law Enforcement Officers Association
- Morganroth & Morganroth PLLC
- Mosaic Youth Theatre
- Motown Museum
- MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center
- Multilingual Tours of Detroit
- Mushroom Angel Co.
- Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts
- National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)
- Neutral Zone
- New American Leaders
- New Detroit
- New Economy Initiative
- New Michigan Media
- NewLab Detroit
- NextEnergy
- Novi Police Department
- Npower
- Oakland Business Women's Leadership Program
- Oakland County Government
- Oakland County Republic Party
- Oakland University Barry M. Klein Center for Culture and Globalization
- Oakland University ESL Institute
- Oakland University Office of Global Engagement
- Oakland University Center for Civic Engagement
- OnMyDetroitEverything
- Outlier Media
- Planet Detroit
- Plug and Play
- ProsperUs Detroit
- Public Sector Consultants
- Rebel Nell
- Rebrand Cities
- Rock Ventures
- Roy Public Affairs
- Ruth Ellis Center
- Samaritas
- Schoolcraft College
- Shophand
- Skinny Tees
- Society of Professional Journalists
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- Southeastern Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
- Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision (SDEV)
- Southwest Solutions Inc
- State of Michigan Office of Future Mobility and Electrification
- State of Michigan Office of Global Michigan
- State Senator Stephanie Chang
- Stellantis Mack Assembly Plant
- Strategic Staffing Solutions
- Sustainabilid
- Tech Town Detroit
- Techstars
- Toledo Mud Hens Baseball
- Transphere Inc.
- Truscott Rossman
- U.S. Arab Radio
- U.S. Center for Advanced Manufacturing
- US Congresswoman Haley Stevens 11th District Office
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- U.S. District Attorney's Office Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. EPA Region 5
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- UAW
- Ukrainian National Women's League of America
- Ukrainian-American Crisis Response Committee of Michigan
- University of Detroit Mercy
- University of Michigan Center for Entrepreneurship
- University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching
- University of Michigan Deaf Health Clinic at Dexter Health Center
- University of Michigan Dearborn Center for Arab American Studies
- University of Michigan Flint Campus
- University of Michigan Marsal Family School of Education
- University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Research
- University of Michigan Research Ethics and Compliance Office
- University of Michigan Weiser Center
- University Research Corridor (URC)
- US Center for Advanced Manufacturing
- Virtual Global Consultant (VGC) Group
- Visit Detroit
- Warriors on Wheels
- Wayne County Community College District
- Wayne County Government
- Wayne County Prosecutor's Office
- Wayne County Sheriff's Office
- Wayne State University Warrior Life
- WDET-FM Detroit Public Radio 101.9
- WGPR Historical Society (WGPR Studios)
- William Davidson Foundation
- Wayne State University Detroit AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program
- Wayne State University Center for the Study of Citizenship
- Wayne State University College of Education
- Wayne State University College of Engineering
- Wayne State University Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- Wayne State University Department of Communications
- Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business
- Wayne State University Student Disability Services (SDS)
- Wayne State University Labor Studies Center and Peace and Conflicts Studies
- WXYZ Detroit Channel 7
- Zaman International
- ZF

LIST OF COUNTRIES

Albania	Bolivia	Chad	Ecuador	Guatemala	Italy	Latvia
Algeria	Botswana	Chile	Egypt	Haiti	Jamaica	Lebanon
Armenia	Brazil	Costa Rica	Estonia	Honduras	Japan	Lesotho
Australia	Brunei	Cote d'Ivoire	Ethiopia	Hong Kong	Jordan	Liberia
Azerbaijan	Burkina Faso	Croatia	Fiji	Hungary	Kazakhstan	Libya
Bahamas	Burundi	Cuba	France	India	Kenya	Lithuania
Bangladesh	Cambodia	Czech Republic	Gambia	Indonesia	South Korea	Malawi
Barbados	Cameroon	Djibouti	Georgia	Iraq	Kuwait	Malaysia
Belarus	Canada	Dominican Republic	Germany	Ireland	Kyrgyzstan	Mauritania
Belgium			Ghana	Israel	Laos	Mexico



Moldova
 Mongolia
 Montenegro
 Morocco
 Myanmar
 (Burma)
 Nepal
 Netherlands
 Nicaragua
 Niger
 Nigeria

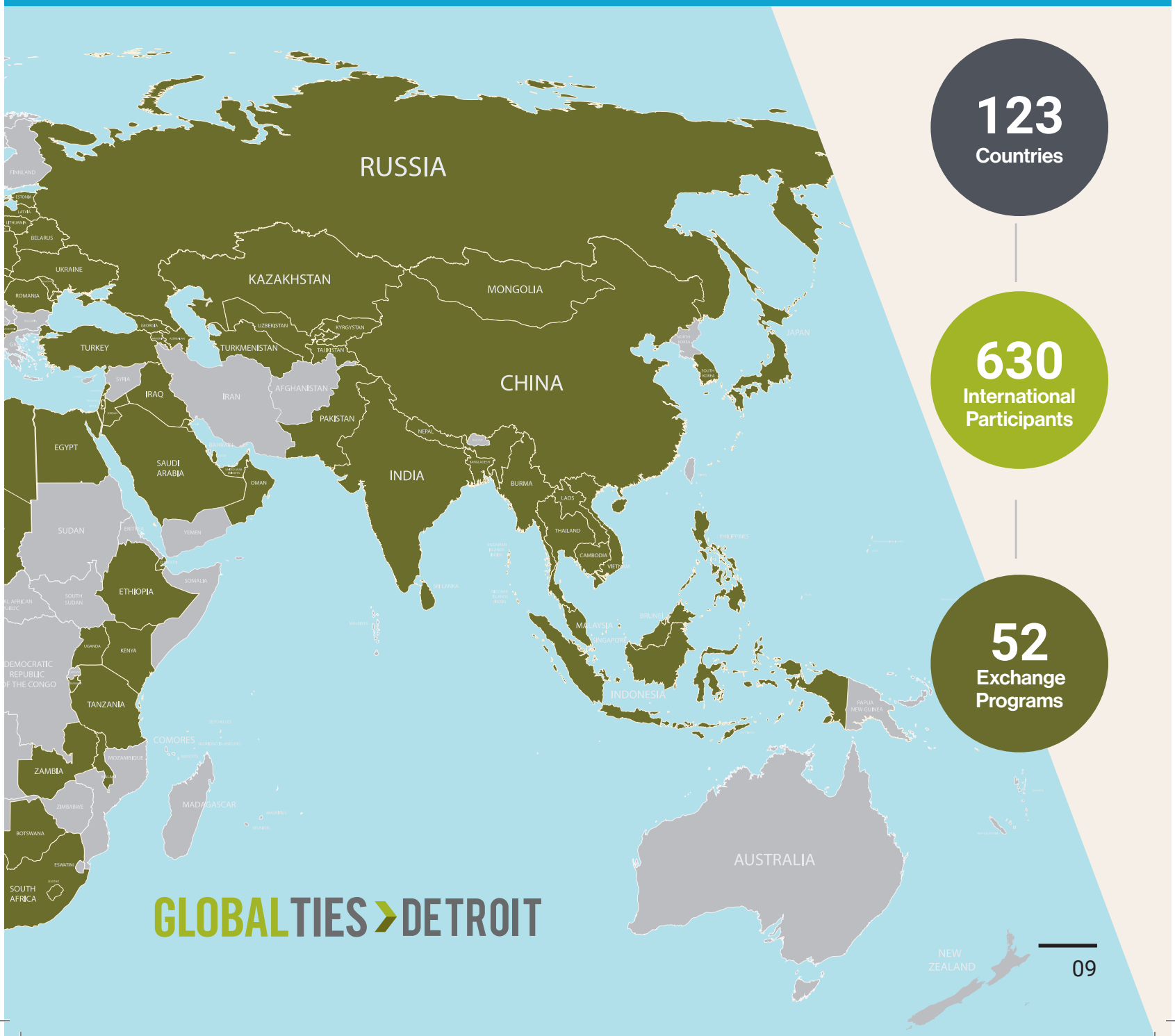
Oman
 Pakistan
 Panama
 People's
 Republic of
 China
 Peru
 Philippines
 Poland
 Portugal
 Qatar
 Republic

of North
 Macedonia
 Republic of
 Turkiye
 Romania
 Russia
 Sao Tome and
 Principe
 Saudi Arabia
 Sierra Leone
 Singapore
 Slovakia

Slovenia
 Solomon
 Islands
 South Africa
 Spain
 Sri Lanka
 Suriname
 Switzerland
 Tajikistan
 Tanzania
 Thailand

Timor-Leste
 Tunisia
 Turkmenistan
 Uganda
 Ukraine
 United Arab
 Emirates
 United
 Kingdom
 United States
 of America
 Uzbekistan

Venezuela
 Vietnam
 West Bank
 Zambia



123
 Countries

630
 International
 Participants

52
 Exchange
 Programs

2024 ANNUAL DINNER

Global Ties Detroit's Annual Dinner at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House was an unforgettable evening of drinks, dinner, and a silent auction. We proudly celebrated our incredible supporters, friends, and awardees for their outstanding contributions to our mission. Thank you for your generosity—here's to many more years of diplomacy and connection in Detroit!



2024 Annual Dinner Awardees:

Global Trailblazer: Detroit Manufacturing Systems

SE Michigan business recognized for its outstanding support of international exchange programs and citizen diplomacy events.



Cultural Diplomat: The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation

Metro Detroit cultural institution that provides international delegations with a better and nuanced understanding of American arts, heritage, traditions, and lifestyle.



Community Connector: Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation

Organization connecting Metro Detroiters with global delegations for impactful engagement.



Home Hospitality Hero: Bill & Sue Ahlstrom

Individual or family who provides extraordinary hospitality to visiting delegations through service as a homestay and/or dinner diplomacy host.



Pioneering Partner: BasBlue

Organization or individual demonstrating excellence in supporting Global Ties Detroit programs, delegations, and/or events for the first time this year.

Silent Auction Donors

- | | |
|--|--|
| About Face Spa | Eastern Market Partnership |
| AC Hotels | Element Detroit at the Metropolitan |
| Arab American National Museum | Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation |
| Atomy | Hilton Garden Inn Detroit Downtown |
| Azul Hospitality | Honorary Consul of Belgium |
| Baobab Fare | Honorary Consul of South Korea |
| Blue Nile | Honorary Consul of Romania |
| Bon Bon Bon | Margot European Spa |
| Chartreuse Detroit | Marriott Courtyard Detroit Downtown |
| Citizen Yoga | Music Hall |
| City Bird | Rebel Nell |
| City Institute | SkinnyTees |
| Common Pub | Tallulah Wine Bar and Bistro |
| Consulate General of Mexico | |
| Detroit City Football Club | |
| Detroit Historical Society | |
| Detroit Institute of Arts | |
| Doubletree Suites by Hilton Detroit Downtown - Fort Shelby | |



DINNER SPONSORS



John Zervos

Donna and John Kemp

Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine

Jo Adams

BOLLINGER MOTORS

Pamela Burneski

DIPLMACY AND NETWORKING EVENTS



Through our Global Gathering, Global Get-Together, World Trivia Holiday Party, and more, Global Ties Detroit supporters engaged with distinguished diplomats, international delegates, and program partners –creating dynamic opportunities to connect, share stories, and exchange perspectives.



6
Events



843
Total Attendees



1000s
Connections Made





In addition, we hosted a two-day Career Connections seminar, bringing together exchange alumni from across the globe for networking, professional development, and meaningful programming. A special thank you to the Belle Isle Conservancy, Detroit Historical Society, Techtown Detroit, Rocket Mortgage, and all our sponsors for their invaluable support in making these cross-cultural exchanges possible.



IVLP PROGRAMS & SPECIAL PROJECTS



AMERICAN LANGUAGE

In partnership with American Councils for International Education, ten English teachers and administrators of grade schools and universities from countries across the globe, including Egypt, Nepal, and Slovakia, visited Detroit to explore English program best practices. The educators visited schools and colleges in Southeast Michigan, including Fordson High School and Oakland University, where they discussed key strategies for promoting English instruction for multicultural and multilingual learners.



PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

Coordinated with Meridian International Center, we welcomed six religious leaders and community advocates from India to learn about laws and programs protecting religious freedom in our nation. The delegates connected with Detroit-area counterparts at the community, state, and federal levels. These professionals shed light on legal enforcements to ensure that religious liberties are protected and 1st Amendment laws are respected.



DIGITAL DIPLOMACY FOR INFLUENCERS: STORYTELLING FOR CHANGE

The U.S. Department of State Office of International Visitors sponsored five content creators and multimedia journalists from Malaysia for their exchange to Detroit. Through meetings with digital media outlets and thinktank leaders, the Malaysians dove into conversations about trends in content creation, coordinating social campaigns through media, and combating online disinformation with their digital expertise counterparts.

THANKS TO OUR NATIONAL PROGRAM AGENCY PARTNERS:

American Councils
for International
Education

COIL

Cultural Vistas

CRDF Global
FHI 360
Global Ties US
Gulf Coast Diplomacy

IIE
IREX
Legacy International
MCID

Meridian
International Center
USAID
US Department of
State

Wayne State
University
WorldChicago
World Learning

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the U.S. Department of State’s premier international exchange initiative, brings emerging leaders selected by U.S. embassy diplomats to meet with local counterparts across the country. Global Ties Detroit hosts over 50 IVLP and special projects annually, offering Southeast Michigan’s top business professionals, entrepreneurs, government officials, and community leaders a platform to share their expertise with a global audience. These exchanges not only foster meaningful international connections but also elevate Metro Detroit as a dynamic hub for global commerce and culture.

PROMOTING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH MUSIC

Working with Cultural Vistas, we hosted 13 musicians and music educators from around the world, including Belgium, Bolivia, Nigeria, and Qatar to meet with leaders of Detroit’s top-ranking music venues and local artists to understand the city’s rich music culture. An especially memorable moment for the delegation was their private tour of the historic Music Hall and standing on the same stage where Aretha Franklin performed!



EDWARD R. MURROW PROGRAM FOR JOURNALISTS: MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY IN AN AGE OF DISINFORMATION I

We were honored to welcome 24 Edward Murrow Fellows to Detroit to examine the role of the media during the run up to the general election. From a wide range of countries, including Canada, Chile, Iraq, and Jamaica, the global journalism professionals met with local media experts, including WDET and New Michigan Media, to discuss skills they can use in their work to share credible and relevant news.



DIGITAL INNOVATION IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

For our final IVLP of 2024, Meridian International Center sponsored a group of 12 researchers, finance specialists, and entrepreneurs with climate-focused work to come to Detroit. The professionals from 12 different nations, including Australia, Japan, and Timor-Leste, observed how sustainability and technology intertwine in various areas of innovation, such as at the newly renovated Michigan Central Station with a private tour of the hub. This important project was a great way to conclude another successful year of programming!



1. *Economic Security and Development*
2. *Education*
3. *Religious Freedom and Tolerance*
4. *Innovation, Mobility, and Entrepreneurship*
5. *Digital Diplomacy and Media*

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM EURASIA (PFP EUR)

Working with American Councils for International Education, our team once again welcomed Fellows through the PFP Europe/Eurasia program. We welcomed civil society professionals from Turkiye and Ukraine who took part in through month-long fellowships focused on policymaking and academic, NGO, and government partnerships. The fellows gained experience in governance, collaboration, and leadership, developing tools to drive change and strengthen international partnerships.



MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM (PFP MENA)

In partnership with Legacy International, we had the privilege of hosting 10 enterprising business professionals and entrepreneurs from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. Over their month-long fellowship, they dove into Detroit's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, gaining hands-on experience at local businesses. Through exchanging best practices and building connections, the fellows boosted their leadership skills and gained fresh insights to adapt for further innovation in their home countries.



YOUNG LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE (YLAI)

Fourteen entrepreneurs and community leaders from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, and Venezuela came to Detroit for the YLAI Fellowship. Administered by IREX, this month-long program immersed fellows in a rich experience of cultural exchange, leadership development, and networking. During their time in Detroit, fellows collaborated with local businesses, engaged with community leaders, and explored American culture. By the end of their fellowship, they were equipped with new skills, insights, and connections.



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

As part of the YSEALI program, we hosted 26 emerging leaders from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam on a transformative Study Tour. Additionally, two cohorts of YSEALI fellows from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam participated in fellowships focused on economic empowerment. During their time in Detroit, the fellows collaborated with local professionals, exchanged insights, and honed key leadership skills. By building lasting partnerships and experiencing Metro Detroit's unique economic and cultural landscape, they are empowered to advance sustainable development and strengthen ties between Southeast Asia and the United States.





YOUNG TRANSATLANTIC INNOVATION LEADERS INITIATIVE (YTILI)

YTILI brought two dynamic cohorts of emerging entrepreneurs from across Europe to Metro Detroit. Fellows from Georgia, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain took part in month-long fellowships where they engaged with local businesses, participated in site visits, and immersed themselves in Detroit's vibrant innovation ecosystem. Throughout their experience, these entrepreneurs enhanced their business skills, forged valuable international connections, and laid the foundation for their future leadership in the global marketplace.



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP (COIL)

Our team welcomed two delegations from the Baltic region to exchange ideas on critical issues and identify future collaboration opportunities. Six professionals from Latvia visited Southeast Michigan for a program focused on Green Solutions, where they explored best practices for improving energy efficiency through conservation and energy-saving initiatives. We also hosted six media professionals from Lithuania to discuss regional journalism and combating disinformation. In addition to the professional program, delegates participated in homestays, dinner diplomacy, and cultural activities across metro Detroit.



YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE (YALI)

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is designed to empower young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, and networking. Hosted at Wayne State University, the accomplished professionals from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia took part in home hospitality dinners, community service, social, and cultural events throughout Detroit.



TESOL: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

In partnership with FHI 360, Global Ties Detroit welcomed a delegation of 12 energetic English language educators from 11 countries: Cambodia, Cameroon, Jordan, Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan to learn best practices in SEL at the K-12 and higher education levels. During their 10-day visit to SE Michigan, the delegation participated in site visits to schools, universities, and youth centers. They also took part in home hospitality and explored museums, stadiums, and the Detroit Zoo. The delegation gained valuable cultural and professional insights, returning home with new ideas and tools to implement in their communities.



YOUTH EXCHANGES

TECHGIRLS

It was a joy to welcome 21 TechGirls from Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Suriname, and the U.S. to Detroit for a 5-day exchange. The TechGirls program is focused on empowering and inspiring teenage girls from around the world to pursue careers in science and technology. In Detroit, they stayed with volunteer host families, attended inspiring panels by women leaders working in the STEM fields, and took part in job shadow experiences at companies including Bosch, Detroit Manufacturing Systems, Henry Ford Hospital, Plug and Play, the River Rouge Ford Plant, and Stellantis.



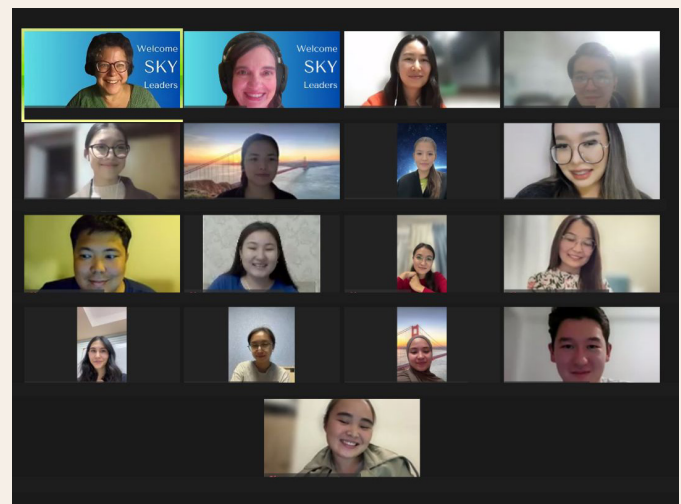
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Global Ties Detroit, in partnership with Gulf Coast Diplomacy, offered an engaging 6-session virtual program on leadership skills for personal and professional growth to high school students in Belarus. The program covered exciting topics like Emotional Intelligence, Community Service, and the favorite "A Day in the Life" session, where students from both the U.S. and Belarus shared their daily school and home experiences. It was a rewarding exchange that fostered meaningful connections and new insights.



SKY LEADERS: SOUTHERN KAZAKHSTAN YOUTH LEADERS

As a result of an IVLP Exchange, we were pleased to partner again with our friends in Pensacola to offer a two-session virtual leadership program for youth in Kazakhstan. The sessions focused on community engagement through service and professional development through networking and public speaking. SKY Leaders, fluent in English, are excited to continue their education and careers and are well-positioned to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.





ADVANCING DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

In 2024, Global Ties Detroit proudly hosted significant diplomatic engagements, reinforcing our mission to foster international collaboration:

- Hon. Mark Toner, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, explored opportunities for global partnerships.
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Rafik Mansour, US Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs emphasized the importance of soft power and the transformative impact of global exchange programs.
- Deputy Principal Officer Michael Schreuder, U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai, shared insights on strengthening Michigan-India ties through business and cultural initiatives.

Additionally, our collaboration with the Consular Corps of Michigan celebrated the vibrant international culture and commerce that define our region.

These engagements reflect Detroit's growing role in fostering meaningful international connections.





REVERSE EXCHANGES

KERRY DUGGAN TRAVELS TO MOROCCO AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Kerry Duggan, CEO of Energy Security Partners, visited Morocco after hosting Professional Fellow Asmahan, a green tech engineer from the country. Kerry described the reverse exchange experience as enriching, noting insights into Morocco’s culture, innovation, and the strength of its people, particularly women’s leadership in community-driven solutions. Through the U.S. Speakers Program, Kerry traveled to the United Arab Emirates and spoke on “Broadening Horizons,” emphasizing the importance of global leadership, storytelling, and cross-cultural collaboration.

HEATHER ANDERSON SELECTED FOR YTILI RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Heather Anderson, Director of Marketing and Communications at Huntington Place, took part in the Young TransAtlantic International Leadership Reciprocal Exchange Program, traveling to Slovenia after hosting YTILI fellow Ana, CFO of Optiweb. Heather shared, “Being selected for YTILI was an incredible honor, and I’m grateful to have learned from Ana and her team. Despite our differences, we shared a drive for excellence, and the experience gave me valuable tools to grow as a leader and enhance my marketing program.”

NISHANT DIXIT TRAVELS TO MOROCCO FOR PFP MENA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Nishant Dixit from Plug and Play Tech Center traveled to Morocco for 10 days as part of the Reciprocal Exchange Program. He noted, “I witnessed a strong desire among Moroccan youth, especially women, to be change-makers and entrepreneurs.” Nishant was hosted by his former fellow Yassine, who worked with him at Plug and Play earlier in the year. He added, “Moroccan youth, especially women, are eager to leave their mark and show the world that Morocco can compete globally.”

GET INVOLVED

Each year, visitors and volunteers alike find that the personal connections formed through exchanges are the most impactful and memorable aspects of their experience in Michigan. Whether you're sharing a meal in your home, hosting a guest for a longer stay, or mentoring a professional in your workplace, volunteers play a vital role in creating meaningful relationships. We're excited to offer even more opportunities to get involved in citizen diplomacy. To stay updated on the latest volunteer opportunities, subscribe to our mailing list at globaltiesdetroit.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

DINNER DIPLOMACY

Interested in becoming a Dinner Diplomat? Here's why you should consider it:

It's easy! As a dinner host, you simply provide space and a meal for as many guests as you can comfortably accommodate. It's fun! Sharing a meal is a low-pressure, engaging way to socialize with people from different cultures. It's rewarding! Hosting a dinner creates lasting connections with emerging leaders from around the world, many of whom are visiting the U.S. for the first time. This is a chance to form bonds that transcend borders and can last a lifetime.

WORKPLACE ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, we offer opportunities for workplace interactions that range from short meetings to discuss best practices and network with global counterparts, to more in-depth, multi-week Fellowships where you collaborate with an international young professional on a specific project. As a Fellowship host, you'll also have the unique opportunity to receive an all-expense-paid Reverse Exchange trip to your guest's home country. Hosting a fellow provides you and your organization with fresh, global perspectives from a rising leader.

HOMESTAY HOSTING

By opening your home to international visitors, you bring the world to your doorstep. Homestay hosts provide short-term accommodations for global delegates, inviting them into their homes and sharing everyday life. Guests, in turn, share their diverse backgrounds and experiences, offering a rich cultural exchange. Hosting allows you to build connections and broaden your worldview—all from your own home.

INTERNSHIPS

Global Ties Detroit also works with talented high school and university interns year-round. These interns support our programming, communications, and administrative efforts, while also interacting with our board, delegations, and undertaking projects that enrich their professional experience. Interning with us provides valuable hands-on exposure to citizen diplomacy and international relations.

GLOBALTIES > DETROIT



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