

Photo: Wayne State University



**GLOBALTIES > DETROIT**

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# ABOUT GLOBAL TIES DETROIT

**Founded in 1972, Global Ties Detroit is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that hosts international exchange programs on behalf of the U.S. Department of State and other government agencies, universities, and think tanks to promote global exchange and citizen diplomacy. Through these programs, we present Detroit and the metropolitan region as a center of world commerce and cultures. Global Ties Detroit organizes professional exchange programs, fellowship experiences, 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 to their SE Michigan counterparts to forge lasting relationships. These connections are powerful tools to address global and local challenges including economic development, environmental sustainability, and national security. Additionally, through citizen diplomacy initiatives, we are building trust, increasing understanding, and promoting a more peaceful and prosperous world.

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.



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**“THERE IS NO PROBLEM OF HUMAN NATURE WHICH IS INSOLUBLE.”**

— Ralph Bunche, Detroit-born Diplomat and Nobel Peace Prize Winner

WHAT CAN WE, AS A  
**COMMUNITY,**  
DO TO CREATE A MORE  
**EQUITABLE DETROIT?**



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN & THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Friends,*

In the face of today’s global challenges, Global Ties Detroit is committed to cultivating understanding, peace, and prosperity through **international exchange**.

We firmly believe that in an increasingly interconnected global landscape, fostering **genuine connections** among individuals from diverse backgrounds is not just beneficial but imperative. It is through these personal interactions that prejudices are dismantled, stereotypes shattered, and the groundwork for enduring peace and prosperity is laid.

As we confront injustices and suffering experienced worldwide, the urgency of our mission becomes ever more apparent. **Diplomacy is a potent force for positive change**, offering a platform for dialogue and collective action.

Our success depends on you: **your time, your expertise, your resources, and your engagement**. You open your homes, businesses, hearts, and minds to support our mission here in Detroit. Your support sustains the vital bridge between Detroit and the global community, enabling us to foster meaningful connections, build trust, and resolve local and global challenges.

Looking ahead to the coming year, Global Ties Detroit remains dedicated to advancing **citizen diplomacy**. The path toward global harmony begins with individuals forging bonds of friendship and cooperation. Through our international exchange programs and events, we endeavor to transcend borders and nurture a world of mutual respect and collaboration. We are grateful for your continued support: when you mentor a fellow, host a dinner, make a donation, or attend a networking event, you contribute to making our mission of citizen diplomacy a success.

*Sincerely,*

**FARIS ALAMI**  
Chair, Global Ties Detroit  
Board of Directors

**MARIAN REICH**  
President,  
Global Ties Detroit



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- MARGARET MEAD, PHD, ANTHROPOLOGIST



# OUR BOARD AND STAFF



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**HADI NASSERDINE**

**DANIELLE RAYFORD**  
**FATIMA YAHYA**

**THANK YOU**

**NUSRAT CHOWDHURY**  
Program Coordinator

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DTE Energy

# HOME HOSPITALITY 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 2023.

Bill and Susan Ahlstrom  
 Faris and Lara Alami  
 Fay Beydoun  
 Robert and Marilyn Bilotti  
 James and Vickie Clevenger  
 Kevin Deegan-Krause, PhD  
 Geoff and Jamie Dickinson  
 Cristen Dokic and Family  
 Sarah Haloostock  
 Steven and Teresa Holderer

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 Joel and Imelda Scott  
 Fared Shalhout  
 Jas Singh and Ash Kaur  
 Linda Schlesinger-Wagner  
 Ronald and Jane Stockton  
 Alan and Leslie Wagner, PhD  
 Jim and Py Wolfe



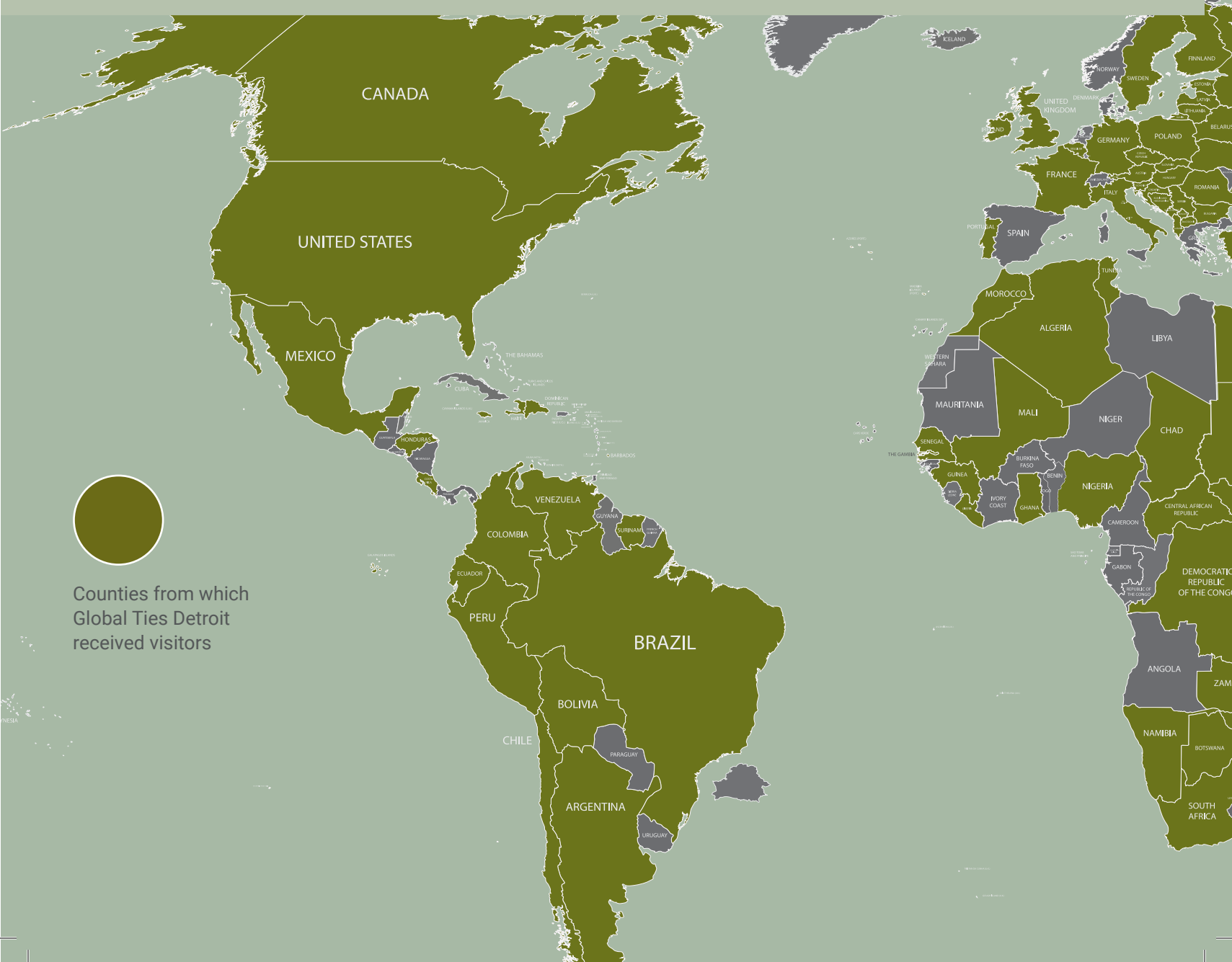
# MEETING RESOURCES

Local business, government and community leaders share their time, expertise, and insights with visiting international counterparts. Many thanks to the following professional resources and fellowship host

313 Strong	Detroit City Council Member Scott Benson	Henry Ford Hospital	Michigan RoundTable for Diversity and Inclusion	U.S. Commercial Service: Michigan Export Services
AccelerateKID	Detroit Downtown Partnership	Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation	Michigan State Police	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Advantage Oakland	Detroit Economic Growth Corporation	Hill Street Group	Michigan State University	U.S. Diplomat in Residence
American Arab Chamber of Commerce	Detroit Food Commons	HYPE Athletics	Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center	U.S. Diplomatic Security Service
American Indian Health and Family Services	Detroit Food Policy Council	IACMI- The Composies Institute	Michigan Urban Farming Initiative	U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur
Anti-Defamation League Michigan Regional Office	Detroit Free Press	IBS Global Consulting, Inc.	Michigan Women's Commission	Ukrainian Archives & Museum
Apple Developer Academy	Detroit Future City	Inclusivity Fit	MILO Detroit	Ukrainian National Women's League
Arab American Women's Business Council	Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)	Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)	Morganroth & Morganroth PLLC	United Auto Workers (UAW)
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services	Detroit Institute of Arts	Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit	MOSAIC Youth Theatre	University of Michigan Center for Russian and East European Studies
Artist Village	Detroit Manufacturing Systems	International Strategic Management, Inc.	Motown Museum	University of Michigan Dearborn
Attorney General of Michigan	Detroit Means Business	Invest Detroit	Multilingual Detroit Tour Company	University of Michigan Nam Center
Automation Alley	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport TSA	Islamic Center for America	Mushroom Angel Company	University of Michigan Ross School of Business
Avalon Healing Center	Detroit News	Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC	Neutral Zone	University of Michigan Weiser Center for Diplomacy
Bamboo Detroit	Detroit Office of Immigrant Affairs	Judge & Associates	New Economy Initiative	University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women (CEW)
Bamboo Royal Oak	Detroit PAL	Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett	NewLab	US Center for Advanced Manufacturing
Bees in the D	Detroit People's Food Co-op	Judge Mariam Bazzi	Next Energy	Visit Detroit
Boldt Global	Detroit Pistons	Keep Growing Detroit	Novi Police Department	Vista Maria
Border Enforcement Security Task Force	Detroit Police Department	Kresge Foundation	NPower	Wallace House Center for Journalists
Bridge Michigan	Detroit Public Community District Office of Bilingual Education	Lawrence Technological University College of Business and Information Technology	Oakland County Economic Development and Community Affairs	Warriors on Wheels of Metropolitan Detroit
BTL Group	Detroit Public Library	Lawrence Technological University Office of the President	Oakland County Republican Party	Waymo
Build Institute	Detroit Public Theater	League of Women Voters of Michigan	Oakland University Global Engagement	Wayne County Commissioner Cara Clemente
Caribbean Community Service Center	Detroit Red Wings	League of Women Voters of Michigan	Oakland University Political Science	Wayne County Prosecutor's Office
Carr Center	Detroit Regional Chamber	LGBT Detroit	Our Next Energy	Wayne County Sheriff Department
Children's Hospital of Michigan	Detroit Regional Partnership	Little Caesars	Outlier Media	Wayne State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies
CitizenDetroit	Detroit River Coalition	Living Arts	PeoplePlus Software	Wayne State University Center for the Study of Citizenship
City Institute	Detroit Tigers	Lucky Penny Farm	Pingree	Wayne State University Global Health Alliance
City of Dearborn Heights	Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice	Mai Family Services	Progressive Art Studio Collective	Wayne State University Illitch School of Business
City of Detroit Office of Immigrant Affairs and Economic Inclusion	Developing K.I.D.S.	Matrix Theatre Company	ProLiteracy Detroit	Wayne State University Office of International Programs
Coaching Detroit Forward	Downtown Detroit Partnership (DDP)	Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, City of Dearborn	Propeller	Wayne State University Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education
Community Development Advocates of Detroit (CDAD)	DTE Energy	Mayor Bill Bazzi, City of Dearborn Heights	ProsperUs	Wayne State University School of Medicine
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	Earthworks Urban Farming	Mayor's Office of Detroit	Refuge for Nations	Wayne Women Lead
Consulate General of Canada in Detroit	EasterSeals MORC	Media Genesis	Rock Ventures	WDET Detroit Public Radio
Consulate General of Italy in Detroit	Empowered Flower Girls	Mervenne & Company	Ruth Ellis Center	WJBK FOX 2 Detroit
Consulate General of Japan in Detroit	Engage Michigan	Mexicantown Community Development Corporation	Schoolcraft College	Women's Bar Association, Oakland Region Women Lawyers Association of Michigan
Consulate General of Mexico in Detroit	Excelerate America	Mi Work Matters!	Senator Stephanie Chang	Women's Manufacturing Southeast Michigan Chapter
Cornerstone Design	Exlterra	MICHauto	Ser Metro	Women's Official's Network (WON) Foundation
Covenant House	Featherstone Moments	Michigan Accessible Homes	Skillman Foundation	WXYZ 7 Detroit
Cranbrook Art Museum	Focus:HOPE	Michigan Association for Female Entrepreneurs (MAFE)	SkinnyTees	Young Democrats of Michigan
CRIMSON Agency	Ford Motor Company	Michigan Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus	Soufan Group	Zaman International
Cross Border Institute	Ford River Rouge Factory	Michigan Civil Rights Commission	Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments	
CultureSource	Fordson High School	Michigan Community Resources (MCR)	Southeastern Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area	
CUSBA	Forgotten Harvest	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)	Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision	
DCFC	General Motors (GM)	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	St. Patrick's Senior Center Inc.	
Dearborn Police Department	Gesher Social Services	Michigan Department of Development Corporation (MEDC)	STEMM-Up	
Denson Construction Services	Gleaners	Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council	Strategic Staffing Solutions	
Design Core	Global Link International	Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)	TechStars	
Detroit Action	Global Michigan		TechTown Detroit	
Detroit Area Agency on Aging	Goldman Sachs 10K Small Businesses		Tenera Grains Products	
Detroit City Council Green Task Force	Great Lakes Water Authority		Toledo Museum of Art	
Detroit City Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero	Greater Detroit Foreign-Trade Zone		Toledo Zoo	
	Greenfield Village		Transphere Inc.	
	Grow Detroit's Young Talent		U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Michigan	
	Hadrot Design for Business			
	Henry Ford Health Services			

# LIST OF COUNTRIES

- |            |                        |                                  |                    |            |            |
|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| Albania    | Belgium                | Canada                           | Dominican Republic | France     | Iraq       |
| Algeria    | Bolivia                | Chile                            | Ecuador            | The Gambia | Ireland    |
| Argentina  | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Columbia                         | Egypt              | Germany    | Israel     |
| Australia  | Botswana               | Comoros                          | Estonia            | Ghana      | Italy      |
| Austria    | Brazil                 | Costa Rica                       | Eswatini           | Guinea     | Jamaica    |
| Azerbaijan | Brunei                 | Croatia                          | Ethiopia           | Haiti      | Japan      |
| Bahrain    | Bulgaria               | Czechia                          | European Union     | Honduras   | Jordan     |
| Bangladesh | Burma                  | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Finland            | Hungary    | Kazakhstan |
| Barbados   | Cambodia               |                                  |                    | India      | Kenya      |
| Belarus    |                        |                                  |                    | Indonesia  | Kosovo     |



Kyrgyz Republic	Morocco	Portugal	Slovenia	Tanzania	United Kingdom
Laos	Myanmar	Qatar	South Africa	Thailand	United States
Latvia	Namibia	North Macedonia	South Korea	Timor-Leste	Uzbekistan
Lebanon	Nepal	Romania	South Sudan	Tunisia	Zambia
Liberia	Nigeria	Russia	Sri Lanka	Turkiye	Zimbabwe
Lithuania	Palestinian Territories	Saudi Arabia	Sudan	Turkmenistan	
Malaysia	Pakistan	Serbia	Suriname	Venezuela	
Mali	Peru	Senegal	Sweden	Vietnam	
Mexico	Philippines	Singapore	Syria	Uganda	
Montenegro	Poland	Slovakia	Tajikistan	Ukraine	



**110**  
COUNTRIES



**680**  
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS



**67**  
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS



NEW ZEALAND

# 2023 Annual Dinner

To honor the international connections we've built in Detroit since our founding more than 50 years ago, Global Ties Detroit supporters and friends celebrated our work and achievements over drinks, dinner, and music at the Port of Detroit. Special thanks to keynote speaker Ambassador Susan Page and to our generous sponsors and donors. Here's to continuing our century of Diplomacy in Detroit!



## SILENT AUCTION DONORS

- |                                      |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM        | CONTINENTAL SERVICES                    | HAMPTON INN DEARBORN                      | SILVER SPOON RISTORANTE                                 |
| ALOFT AT THE DAVID WHITNEY           | CORPUS ART INC.                         | THE HENRY FORD                            | SKINNYTEES  |
| ATHENEUM SUITES                      | DETROIT CITY FOOTBALL CLUB              | HILTON GARDEN INN DETROIT                 | SPIEKERMANN TRAVEL SERVICES                             |
| BLUE NILE                            | DETROIT CITY DISTILLERY                 | HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL REPUBLIC OF KOREA | TABLE NO. 2   |
| BON BON BON                          | DETROIT PISTONS                         | MAJESTIC THEATRE CO.                      | TILIANI'S   |
| CITIZEN YOGA                         | DETROIT PUBLIC THEATRE                  | MARGOT'S EUROPEAN SPA                     | TURKISH RESOURCE CENTER                                 |
| CITY BIRD                            | DETROIT ZOO                             | MEDIA GENESIS                             | UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY ANN ARBOR                    |
| CITY INSTITUTE                       | DOUBLETREE DETROIT DOWNTOWN FORT SHELBY | MULTILINGUAL DETROIT TOUR                 | WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS |
| COMMON PUB                           | THE EARLE                               | THE MUSIC HALL                            | WORKCO.   |
| CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA          | ED CLEMENTE                             | OUR WHOLE VILLAGE                         | YOUR PREMIER TRAVEL SERVICE                             |
| CONSULATE GENERAL OF NORTH MACEDONIA | FARIS ALAMI                             | PRESERVATION DETROIT                      |   |
| CONSULATE OF ITALY                   | GENEVIEVE RATTRAY                       | REBEL NELL                                |   |
| CONSULATE OF MEXICO                  | GREAT LAKES CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL      | REDFORD THEATER                           |   |
|                                      | GRSY HOLDINGS/YONO FAMILY               | ROCKSTARZ                                 |   |



# DIPLOMACY & NETWORKING EVENTS

Bringing together internationally-minded Detroiters with each other and with global emerging leaders is one of our favorite activities! Global Ties Detroit supporters connected with distinguished diplomats, global delegates and local, national, and international partners. Informational roundtables, educational panels, friendly parties, and outdoor picnics provided diverse opportunities for Detroiters to network, share their stories, and hear others from around the world.





In addition to events, Global Ties Detroit launched its Diplomatic Seminar Series with outstanding speakers and engaging activities. Special thanks to Fay Beydoun, Ed Clemente, Linda Schlesinger-Wagner, Nurten Ural, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Consular Corps of Michigan, The Henry Ford, Wayne State University, and the WON Foundation for their sponsorship and support of these cross-cultural events.



# IVLP PROGRAMS & SPECIAL PROJECTS



## ADVANCING INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC POLICYMAKING

Through Meridian International Center, six (6) political and legal officials from Bangladesh connected with important leaders in Michigan's policy making landscape, including the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). Their visit also featured a tour of Detroit's Banglatown neighborhood.



## FOSTERING INCLUSION AND RESPECT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

International Institute of Education, we welcomed eight (8) teachers from Poland who received the Irena Sendler Award for their work in promoting acceptance of minority groups. The award recipients met with equal rights-focused NGOs and local leaders, sharing strategies to further their work with youth populations.



## PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE AND LEADERSHIP

Facilitated by Meridian International Center, six (6) inclusion and human resource managers from Japan visited Detroit to learn techniques for expanding workforce diversity. Both public and private-sector groups shared their efforts for empowering minority groups in their professions to take on leadership roles.



### THANKS TO OUR NATIONAL PROGRAM AGENCY PARTNERS:

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

FHI 360  
GLOBAL TIES US

CULTURAL VISTAS

IIE

CRDF GLOBAL

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LEGACY INTERNATIONAL  
MCID

MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

US MISSION IN PAKISTAN

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
WORLDCHICAGO

WORLD LEARNING

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's flagship international exchange program, introducing emerging leaders selected by U.S. Embassy diplomats to meet with local counterparts. Southeast Michigan's leading voices, including business professionals, entrepreneurs, government representatives, and community activists share their work and stories with a global audience through the IVLP. These exchanges promote Detroit as a center of global commerce and cultures.

## GLOBAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Through partnership with World Learning, we hosted seventeen (17) financial experts in a variety of fields from around the world to examine the U.S.'s role in international economic cooperation. In Detroit, they observed economic development efforts and international trade links between the Detroit-Canada proximity.



## INNOVATIONS IN TECH POLICY AND NAVIGATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN REPORTING TOUR

On behalf of the Foreign Press Center, (15) fifteen media professionals nominated by US Embassies in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America convened in Detroit to attend meetings on AI and tech policy-relevant issues. They also met with subject matter experts on facilitating interactions with foreign journalists and policymakers.



## U.S. FOREIGN POLICY-GLOBAL CHALLENGES

In collaboration with Meridian International Center, we welcomed twelve (12) government officials, politicians, NGO leaders, and journalists from Europe to examine U.S. economic, political, and security goals and expose participants to the complex U.S. foreign policy decision-making process. Exciting exchange highlight was our feature on CBS News Detroit!



# 5

TOP FIVE THEMES

1

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

2

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

3

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

4

COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

5

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

## OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, INCLUSIVITY AND TOLERANCE LATVIA

Community leaders from Latvia visited Detroit eager to gain a better understanding of diversity in our country. During their week-long stay with local volunteer homestay hosts and their site visits across SE Michigan, they focused on themes of inclusivity and tolerance. The delegates attended group meetings, seminars, roundtable discussions, and enhanced their knowledge of life and culture in the US.



## PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM EUROPE

The Professional Fellows Program aims to empower Eurasian business and social entrepreneurs and to encourage them to build linkages with their counterparts. In Spring and Fall, Global Ties Detroit welcomed multiple fellows from Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine for a month-long program. These young leaders are working to improve the quality of their life in their respective countries, seeking to promote accountability, transparency, and efficiency in government services from lessons learned in Detroit.



## MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM (PFP MENA)

Global Ties Detroit hosted 13 dynamic MENA fellows for four-weeks in Detroit, in Summer and Fall. These innovative leaders came from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. During their month-long stay in Detroit, they worked in intensive fellowships with their counterparts in incubators, accelerators, and organizations supporting Detroit's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem to share best practices and enhance their networks.



## U.S. JORDAN LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE (UJLEP)

Nine fellows from Jordan spent a month in Detroit to take part in a pilot program connecting communities and leaders. They experienced intensive cultural exchange, home hospitality, and professional development. The intensive experience provided fellows the opportunity to build upon their designated career paths and interests.



**"The essence of diplomacy is to understand the viewpoint of the other side."**

*— Madeleine Albright*

## YOUNG LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE (YLAI)

Global Ties Detroit was selected as a cohort ambassador for the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative, a US Department of State-sponsored program. Our team welcomed 13 fellows from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, and Mexico who explored US culture and worked with their Detroit counterparts during the month-long fellowship program. This program provided the fellows with partnerships, networking, and cultural exchange that enriched their communities as well as ours.



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

Global Ties Detroit hosted the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Professional Fellows Program (YSEALI PFP) as well as the YSEALI PFP Study Tour, welcoming emerging leaders from Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. These fellows worked to improve their professional skills, strengthen leadership development, network, and build lasting and sustainable relationships in Southeast Asia and the US while experiencing Detroit's unique culture.



## YOUNG TRANSATLANTIC INNOVATION LEADERS INITIATIVE (YTILI)

Global Ties Detroit welcomed seven fellows from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, and Slovenia on the US Department of State flagship program for emerging entrepreneurs from Europe. During their time in Detroit, the fellows participated in a four-week fellowship with local businesses and organizations, home hospitality, site visits, and cultural outings.



## RUSSIAN BUSINESS LEADERS (RBL)

Five Russian professionals from the private sector, including start-ups and social entrepreneurs, visited Detroit to meet their US counterparts to exchange best practices to better their professional skills. During their three-week program in Detroit, the fellows worked with local businesses and organizations and experienced US daily life with business mentors and homestay volunteers.



“The essence of diplomacy is to understand the viewpoint of the other side.”

— Madeleine Albright

# UNIVERSITY EXCHANGES



## EPSEA: PAKISTANI TEACHERS EXCHANGE

Partnering with Oakland University, Global Ties provided social, cultural, and professional enrichment for 20 teachers from Punjab Province sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. During their stay, the educators attended meetings that helped build their classroom skills, they also had the opportunity to visit Mackinac Island!



## MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

Working with the Wayne State University Office of International Programming, our team supported the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) exchange. The YALI Mandela Washington Fellowship brought 24 fellows from Sub-Saharan Africa in Public Management and Administration to Detroit for six weeks to build leadership skills, enhance networking skills, explore professional opportunities, and experience local community engagement.



## MICHPAKVERSITY

Sponsored by the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, this 18-month program began in 2022 with 50 Pakistani professors and administrators taking part in virtual enrichment sessions. The exciting and fast-paced in-person exchange component provided the opportunity for 13 Sindh Province university educators to visit Michigan's world class universities for 10 days of intensive professional, educational, and cultural programming.



# YOUTH EXCHANGES

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS BELARUS

### Educational Virtual Program: Do Well by Doing Good: Youth Leaders in the Community

Global Ties Detroit was honored to support Belarus youth through two month-long virtual exchange programs sponsored by World Learning. The Belarusian high school students explored ways that young people can change the world through community initiatives. These teenagers met with inspiring changemakers, entrepreneurs, and high school students from SE Michigan and NW Florida. Throughout the month-long program, the participants attended virtual panels, workshops, and presentations to build their leadership skills.

## ALEX UKRAINE

Ten young leaders from Ukraine traveled to SE Michigan as part of the American Leadership Experience Program (ALEX) which focused on civic education, leadership, and community service. These dynamic university students met with business, community, and government leaders from the Midwest, and also discovered Detroit's fun side!

## TECHGIRLS

Our team was thrilled to work with Legacy International to welcome 21 STEM-interested students from Latin America! 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 DTE, Detroit Manufacturing Systems, Henry Ford, Strategic Staffing Solutions, and so many more!



# REVERSE EXCHANGES



## CHRIS MOYER SELECTED FOR YTILI RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Board Member Chris Moyer, Senior Communications Director of Visit Detroit, enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the YTILI Reciprocal Exchange program, traveling to Croatia and Slovenia after hosting Spring 2023 YTILI Fellow, Filipa Marusic at Visit Detroit. "Being a part of the YTILI program was a fantastic experience for me and my organization. Not only did I get to work with a talented, inquisitive, and hard-working fellow when she came to Detroit, I also participated in a profoundly informative reciprocal exchange."

## JONATHAN QUARLES KEYNOTES TBILISI, GEORGIA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ALUMNI CONFERENCE

Jonathan Quarles (JQ), Board Officer for Global Ties Detroit and Founder of the BTL Group, is an alumni of US Department of State-sponsored exchange programs. JQ was invited to Tbilisi, Georgia to be a featured speaker for a professional exchange alumni conference, Community Connections, for participants from Belarus. He shared his thoughts of motivation and insights from his experiences and opportunities he has received being part of reverse exchanges. "I left Tbilisi feeling like my cup runneth over...I'll definitely be back."



## BEEES IN THE D'S BRIAN PETERSON TRAVELS TO ARGENTINA IN YLAI RECIPROCAL EXCHANGEM

Brian Peterson from local Detroit business Bees in the D has served as a mentor to Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) fellows repeatedly, including 2022 fellow Ana Laura Sayago from a beekeeping cooperative in Argentina. As a direct result of the fellowship, Brian traveled to Argentina to take part in the YLAI Reciprocal Exchange program. "Despite being in different areas of the globe we share the same joys and hardships in the world of beekeeping."



# 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. From sharing your home and hospitality for an intimate dinner or a longer stay, to mentoring a fellow professionally in your workplace – volunteers make meaningful and rewarding connections with guests in a variety of ways. We look forward to expanding the number of ways you can get involved in citizen diplomacy. Subscribe to our mailing list at [globaltiesdetroit.org](http://globaltiesdetroit.org) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn to stay up-to-date on the latest volunteer opportunities!



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

### DINNER DIPLOMACY

Interested in becoming a Dinner Diplomat? Here's what you should know: It's easy! Dinner hosts are asked to make space and share a meal only for as many guests as they can comfortably accommodate. It's fun! A meal is a low-pressure way to socialize and share with a new group of people. 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.

### WORKPLACE

Throughout the year there are many programs that require workplace interactions ranging from a short meeting in your office to discuss best practices and network with global counterparts, to a four week Fellowship where you work with an international young professional on a specific project. As a Fellowship host, you have a chance to receive a prestigious all-expense paid Reverse Exchange to their home country. You and your organization will benefit from having a unique perspective from an emerging leader.

### HOMESTAY HOSTING

By welcoming an international fellow during their stay in metro Detroit, you can truly bring the world to you. Homestay hosts take on the role of inviting international visitors into their home for a short term stay, providing guest rooms, most breakfasts and some dinners. Global fellows will share their unique perspectives, culture, and cuisine while spending time in your home, and are eager to learn about life through your eyes. Travel the world in your own home and make a lifelong friend in the process.

### INTERNSHIP

The Global Ties Detroit team works year-round with talented high school and university interns. Interns support the programming, communications, 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.



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