

# 2022

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# ANNUAL REPORT



**San Antonio Council**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SACIV Members & Friends,

Thank you for your support of the San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) which allows us to continue our important work of cultivating valuable global relationships and providing opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue!

For over thirty years, the San Antonio Council for International Visitors (SACIV) has partnered with the U.S. Department of State to arrange short-term professional exchange programs for distinguished international leaders. SACIV is unique among other local nonprofits as the only organization in the city that works directly with the Department of State to facilitate public diplomacy initiatives aimed at increasing mutual understanding and the exchange of ideas between members of our community and their counterparts around the world. These delegations have engaged with hundreds of local experts and professionals across dozens of sectors within our city, including government, education, tourism, cyber security, law enforcement, academia, economic development, community development, and the arts. Since 2018, SACIV has coordinated over 170 programs, such as the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), which have welcomed more than 1,500 visitors representing almost 150 countries to San Antonio.

In early 2022, we welcomed our first in-person IVLP delegation back to San Antonio after an almost two-year hiatus due to the global pandemic. While we were still able to continue our work virtually during that time, we were very pleased to finally be able to share San Antonio with our international visitors in-person and engage in ways that are not possible in the virtual space.

The year brought many other successes to celebrate, which I am pleased to share with you through this Annual Report.

We couldn't do this work without a network of citizen diplomats like you, and we are grateful that you – our members and community partners – know the value of international connectivity and the importance of building connections to the people, ideas, and issues shaping our shared future.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of SACIV as we work to facilitate the exchange of ideas and build global connections. We look forward to continuing to build international friendships, foster cultural understanding, and promote San Antonio as an international city!

All my best,

*Cecilia Cross*

Executive Director  
San Antonio Council for International Visitors

## ABOUT US



### SAN ANTONIO COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

SACIV is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), founded in 1989, that facilitates short term professional exchanges for emerging distinguished international leaders, selected by the US Department of State for the purpose of advancing US foreign policy goals and increasing mutual understanding. Hundreds of these international visitors come to San Antonio each year, providing opportunities to the community for fostering economic development and cross-cultural understanding. In addition to meeting with area professionals in their fields and exploring the local culture of San Antonio, international visitors are invited into the homes of SACIV members or hosted for meals or special excursions, giving them invaluable first-hand experience with everyday Americans.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (IVLP)

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is an official U.S. government exchange program administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The objective of the program is to advance U.S. foreign policy goals by increasing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries.

The IVLP is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. The International Visitor Program brings almost 5,000 foreign visitors to the U.S. each year to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience the United States firsthand. The visitors, who are current or potential leaders in government, politics, the media, education, and other fields, are carefully selected by American embassy officials overseas.



**International Visitor  
Leadership Program**  
U.S. Department of State

## OUR PARTNERS

GLOBAL TIES US

GLOBALTIES > U.S.

Global Ties U.S. is a nonprofit that makes international exchange programs more effective. They work with members and the U.S. Department of State to bring current and future leaders from around the world to communities across the United States. Through this network, they build deep connections among people from many countries, resulting in a more peaceful, prosperous world.



## DINNER HOSPITALITY

Dinner hospitality is one of the most important components of our visitors' program in San Antonio. It is also a fulfilling experience for our volunteers, offering an opportunity to forge international friendships and build important bridges while sharing a meal.

After a few days of appointments, our visiting delegates truly enjoy relaxing and having dinner in the homes of American citizens. This is where they learn what the true American is all about - how they live. Home hospitality or even hosting a dinner out a favorite local restaurant is a great opportunity for meaningful dialogue and person-to-person cultural exchange.



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# 2022 AT A GLANCE



"U.S. Community Colleges" program for visitors from Peru  
Meeting with Alamo Colleges on May 2, 2022



**132**  
In-Person  
Professional Meetings

**22**  
Dinner Hospitality  
Hosts



Dinner with hosts on June 17, 2022  
"Cybersecurity" program for visitors from Jordan

Virtual Meeting with media & journalists on March 28, 2022



**8**  
Virtual Professional  
Meetings

DATE	PROGRAM	COUNTRIES
January 31 - February 2	Rule of Law and U.S. Judicial System	Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay
February 5-7	Promoting Cybersecurity	Armenia, Costa Rica, Czech Rep., Ecuador, Georgia, Kosovo, Kuwait, Malta, Norway, Poland, Nth. Macedonia, South Africa, Spain, UAE
March 14-21	U.S. Foreign Policy Decision Making	Bangladesh, Fiji, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, China, Timor-Leste, UAE
March 23	Enriching the Cultural and Creative Sector in Dubai	UAE
April 5 - 14	Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists - Media Responsibility in an Age of Disinformation	Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, South Africa, Zambia
April 6 - 9	Government Transparency	Mexico
April 13 - 16	Law Enforcement - Community Policing	Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela
April 28 -May 3	U.S. Community Colleges	Peru
May 3-7	21st Century Change Makers: Bolstering Religious Freedom	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan
May 11 - 17	Global Economic Cooperation II	Angola, Austria, Colombia, Egypt, E.U., Guyana, Haiti, Israel, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka
May 18 - 24	Minority Participation in the Democratic Process	Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras





DATE	PROGRAM	COUNTRIES
May 21 - 25	Cybersecurity	Jordan
May 31 - June 4	WEAmericas Program: Supporting Women Entrepreneurs	Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Venezuela
June 12-18	Promoting Cybersecurity	Bulgaria, Norway, Slovakia, Spain
June 22-28	Minority Community Advocacy	Hungaria
July 3-9	U.S. European Security Challenges	Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden
July 10-13	Not Too Young To Run	Argentina, Kenya, Mauritania, Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe
August 18-23	Entrepreneurship as the Engine of Prosperity & Stability	Croatia, Finland, France, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, UK
September 20	Promoting Cybersecurity	Bangladesh, Brazil, Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Taiwan, Tunisia, Uruguay, Uzbekistan
September 22-28	Combating and Prosecuting Complex Cybercrime	Kazakhstan
September 28 -October 4	Sustainable Landscapes: Promoting Economic Growth and Environmental Security	Saudi Arabia
November 7-12	Promoting a Prosperous, Safe, and Democratic Future	Brazil
December 6	Advancing Labor Rights through Effective Labor Inspection	Georgia



In partnership with Students of Service (SOS) and Kitchen Campus, we launched a series of three **Culture & Cuisine** events, which each featured an introduction to international cuisine: from Peru, Italy, and Costa Rica. SACIV members joined students in the SOS program for a live cooking demonstration and the opportunity to make dishes from each of these countries. Alumni of some of the IVLP delegations who had recently visited San Antonio joined each of these events virtually for presentations and discussions on the culture and culinary traditions of each of their countries.



January 29th, 2022 - Peruvian Fusion Dishes



April 9th, 2022 - Italian Pasting Making



May 14th, 2022 – Costa Rican Cuisine

On June 22, 2022, SACIV hosted an Expo Community Conversation event at the UNAM San Antonio campus in Hemisfair Park, featuring a discussion on the history of Expos (also known as World's Fairs) held on U.S. soil and the socio-cultural impact of Expos on the U.S. cities that hosted them, including San Antonio for the '68 World's Fair. Oral historian Dr. Anna Kaplan and Ms. Kara Sneko of the US Department of State shared their findings from interviews with local organizers and participants, which was followed by a discussion moderated by Anne Krause, Executive Director of the Hemisfair Conservancy, on the future of Expos and the United States' role in bringing Expos back in a more inclusive way by highlighting our country's diversity as a strength of our democracy.



SACIV celebrated the season with members and friends at our Holiday Reception on December 11, 2022. We shared our gratitude to the incredible community of citizen diplomats for their constant support of our work year-round.



Mayor Ron Nirenberg received Honorable Mention for the 2022 Global Ties US “Citizen Diplomat Award”, presented at the Global Ties US “National Meeting” in Washington, DC on March 17, 2022. SACIV nominated Mayor Nirenberg for the award, which honors an individual or institution in the United States or abroad who, motivated by a deep understanding of world issues and a commitment to the exchange of persons and ideas, has achieved a recognized standard of excellence in furthering the cause of international and mutual understanding.



SACIV was honored to be recognized by the Alamo Colleges District’s Office of International Programs with the Community Impact Award, presented in recognition of our internationalization efforts and accomplishments in the community, during the 2022 International Education Week.



# Board of Directors



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# Staff



**CECILIA CROSS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**LAURA ZELIC**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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facilitates the exchange of ideas,  
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**[WWW.SACIVTX.ORG](http://WWW.SACIVTX.ORG)**