

# 2019 Annual Report



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**San Antonio Council**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

# Letter from the Executive Director

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Dear SACIV Members & Friends,

Thank you for your support of SACIV and your role in acting as citizen diplomats and global ambassadors throughout San Antonio this past year!

It's certainly been an exciting year of impact and cross-cultural engagement, as we have increased the volume of US Department of State funded programs welcomed to San Antonio by a large margin from 2018. This past year, we hosted 42 programs, welcoming 338 visitors from as many as 102 countries to our city. Our programs focused on themes such as civic activism, cyber security, human trafficking, media, refugee & immigration issues, economic development & entrepreneurship, energy, law enforcement, and more. In addition to hosting many successful "International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)" delegations, we expanded our portfolio by continuing to partner with Global Ties US to host training academies for three groups of Mexican police officers as part of the "Police Professionalization Exchange Program". We also collaborated on new initiatives such as the "Open World" program, which brought policy makers and government officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to meet with their counterparts and discuss trends in economic development this past April.

You - our members & the community - have been vital in guaranteeing that San Antonio has provided a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our visitors. You have volunteered more than 600 hours of your time to ensure that our visitors felt welcome in our community and that our events were a tremendous success. Furthermore, our home hospitality hosts have provided over 160 meals to our visitors, opening their homes to strangers and taken the time to ensure that these guests all left as friends. They have navigated the often-confusing waters of cross-cultural communication and in doing so, graciously welcomed SACIV visitors to San Antonio. I know first-hand that the generosity they have shown has greatly touched our guests and will be a memory they carry with them for a lifetime. And in doing so, they have all acted as the citizen diplomats that are the backbone of our organization!

This year, we celebrated three decades with our "30th Anniversary Dinner". At this milestone event, hundreds of guests gathered to listen to remarks from our Keynote Speaker, Mayor Ron Nirenberg, on the importance of citizen diplomacy and the value of our work in the community, as well as honor our 2019 "International Leadership Award" recipient, Ms. Betsy Erne Cameron, for her contribution to SACIV. They enjoyed the international entertainment, which included several performances by local cultural groups, while sampling a variety of global cuisines. Additionally, the SACIV Board of Directors was delighted to announce the creation of the Irma Reyes Citizen Diplomacy Scholarship.

It's been an exciting year of building connections to the people, ideas, and issues shaping our global future. And your support has made a world of difference - thank you! I look forward to our work together in the future in furthering our goals to connect San Antonio to the world and create a more global community.

All the best,

Cecilia Cross

## About SACIV

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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.

***SACIV aims to build international friendships, facilitate the exchange of ideas, foster cultural understanding, and promote San Antonio as an international city.***

2019

# BY THE NUMBERS



# 2019 AT A GLANCE



## Programs

Hosted  
by SACIV



## Visitors

Welcomed to  
San Antonio



## Countries

Represented  
by Visitors



## Members

of SACIV



## Hours

Volunteered



## Home Hospitality

Meals Provided



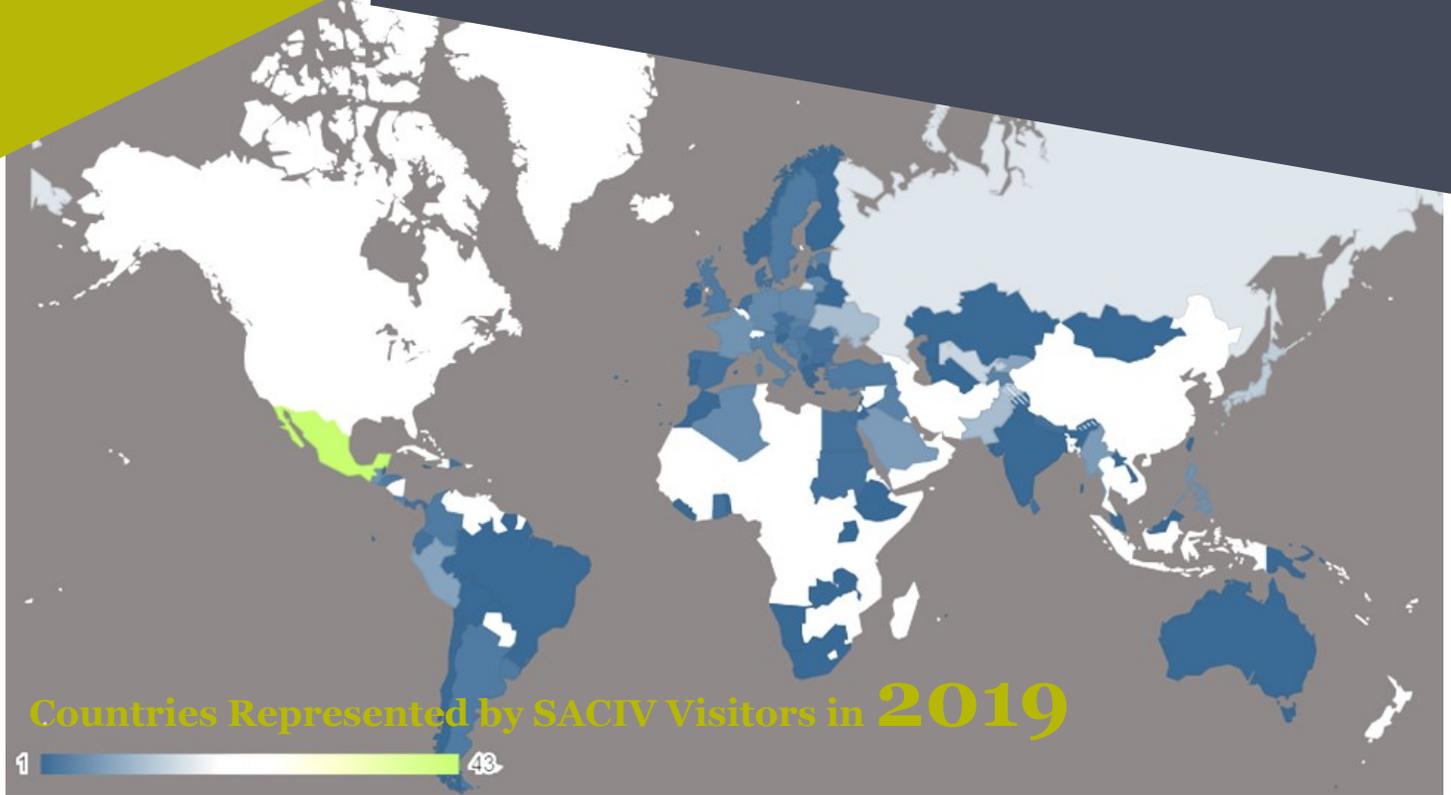
## Professional Resources

Visited Locally



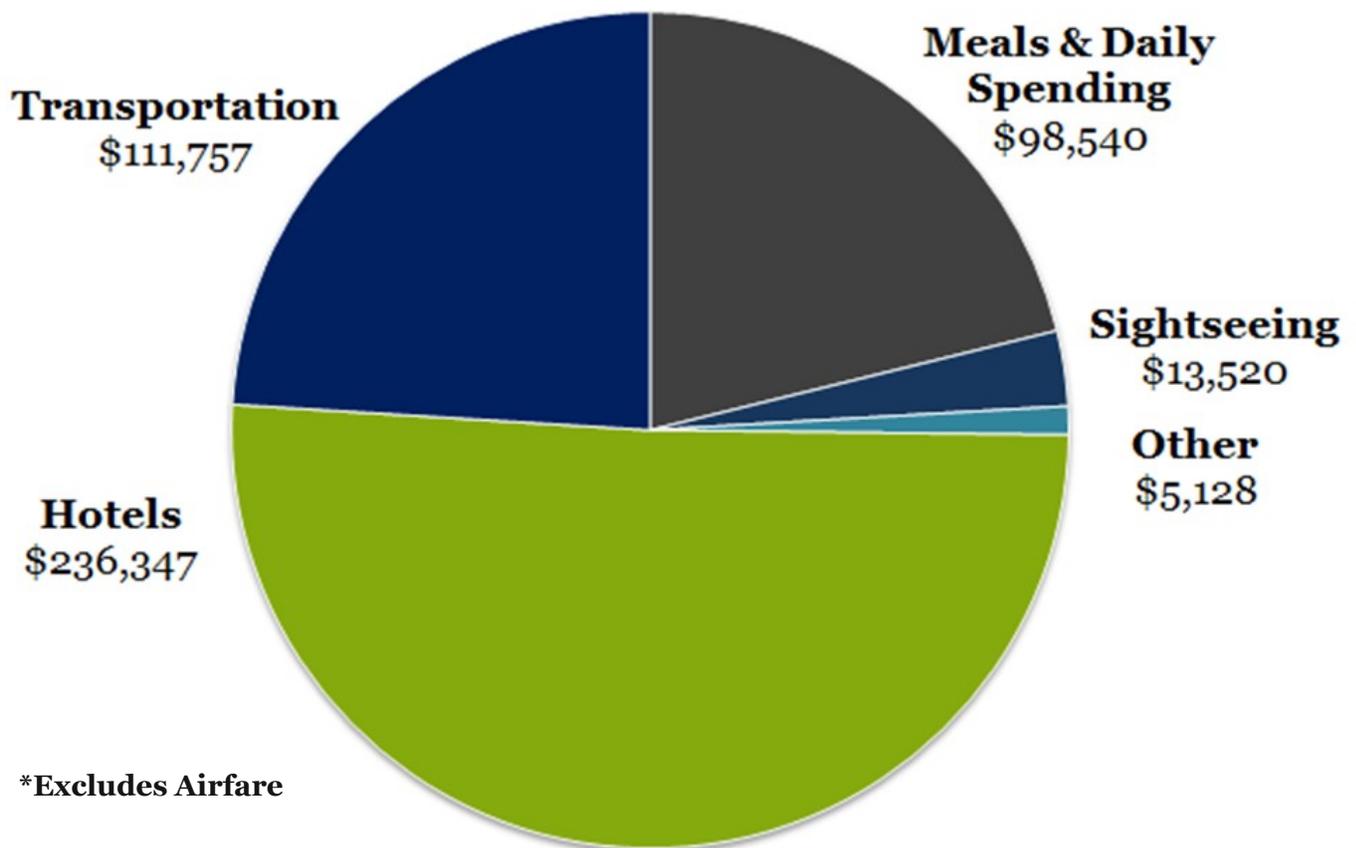
## Meetings Attended

By Visitors



## LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Programs administered by SACIV contributes to **over \$465,000 to the San Antonio area economy annually** through the use of hotels, transportation companies, and other vendors.



# 2019 Programs

**January 16 – January 19**  
**Support & Advocacy for Disabled Youth**  
Uzbekistan

**March 12 – March 16**  
**Women & Entrepreneurship**

Bosnia & Herzegovina, Iraq, Japan, Mauritius, The Netherlands, South Africa, Taiwan

**March 12 – March 18**  
**Interfaith Dialogue & Religious Freedom**  
Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Morocco

**March 26 – March 30**  
**Economic Revitalization through Public-Private Partnerships**  
Croatia, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Poland, Italy

**March 28 – April 2**  
**US State & Local Government**  
Albania, Argentina, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Israel, Jordan, Macau, Moldova, Nepal, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Tanzania, Australia, Papua New Guinea

**March 30 – April 2**  
**Entrepreneurship as the Engine of Prosperity & Stability**  
Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Serbia, Ireland, Poland, Italy

**April 3 – April 9**  
**Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists**  
Algeria, Brazil, Ghana, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Sierra Leon

**April 6 – April 10**  
**Small Business & Entrepreneurship Development**  
Mexico

**April 7 – April 13**  
**Police Professionalization Exchange Program I**  
Mexico

**April 8 – April 13**  
**Regional Responses to Inter-American Migration Issues**  
Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Mexico

**April 9 – April 13**  
**21st Century Change Makers**  
Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan

**April 20 – April 24**  
**Towards a More Safe & Secure World**  
Argentina, Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Sao Tome Principe, Guatemala, Panama, Peru

**April 20 – April 24**  
**Open World Rumsfeld Fellows: Economic Development**  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

**May 15 – May 21**  
**Regional Responses to Refugee & Migration Issues**  
Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Turkey

**May 24**  
**Inclusive Education in the US**  
Russia

**May 30 – June 4**  
**The Contemporary US Economy**  
Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

**June 16 – June 19**  
**Promoting National Dialogue through Civic Engagement**  
Ukraine

**June 18 – June 22**  
**Where Government Meets the People**  
Burma

**June 18 – June 22**  
**Combatting Trafficking in Persons**  
Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Belize, Bolivia, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Uruguay

**June 19 – June 23**  
**Sustaining Cybersecurity**  
Philippines

**June 22 – June 26**  
**US Foreign Policy: Global Challenges**  
Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom

**June 23 – June 29**  
**Police Professionalization Exchange Program II**  
Mexico

**July 17 – July 23**  
**Combatting Trafficking in Persons**  
Bulgaria, Ghana, Grenada, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Uganda, Zambia

**July 21 – July 24**  
**Promoting Cyber Security**  
Algeria

**July 25 – July 30**  
**Responsible Municipal Management**  
Pakistan

**July 26**  
**Women's Leadership in STEM**  
Japan

**July 27 – July 31**  
**Community Leadership for Women**  
Palestine

**August 6 – August 10**  
**Addressing the Needs of Underserved & At-Risk Youth**  
Mexico

**August 17 – August 22**  
**US Trade Policy**  
Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Colombia, Djibouti, Israel, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Palestinian Territories

**August 28 – September 1**  
**Energy Security**  
Japan

**September 8 – September 14**  
**Police Professionalization Exchange Program III**  
Mexico

**September 11 – September 14**  
**Combatting Smuggling & Trafficking in Persons**  
El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico

**September 18 – September 24**  
**21st Century Change Makers**  
Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, Tajikistan

**September 19 – September 24**  
**US Judicial System & Criminal Justice**  
Uzbekistan

**September 26 – October 2**  
**Strengthening the Capacity of Government Press Corps**  
Kyrgyz Republic

**October 30 – November 2**  
**Next Generation Energy Technologies & Efficient Resource**  
France

**November 2 – November 6**  
**Entrepreneurship 101**  
Russia

**November 2 – November 6**  
**US Foreign Policy Decision Making**  
Saudi Arabia

**November 6 – November 9**  
**Digital Influencers Inspiring Youth Engagement**  
Peru

**November 9 – November 13**  
**Integration of Immigrants & Refugees**  
France

**November 13 – November 19**  
**Military Veteran Support & Advocacy**  
Ukraine

**November 20 – November 23**  
**Administering an Immigration System & Adjudicating Requests for Immigration Benefits**  
Lithuania

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# Board of Directors

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**JoAnn Andera**  
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**Marcos Fragoso**  
*Vice Chair*

**Chuck Rose**  
*Treasurer*

**Justin Rice**  
*Secretary*

**Betsy Cameron**  
*Immediate Past Chair*

**Irma Reyes**  
*Founder & Chair Emeritus*

**Angelika Jansen-Brown**

**Patricia O'Connell**

**Christopher Herring**

**Sandra Torres Richardson**

**Louise Mandel**

**Sherry Dowlatshahi**

**Ann Nguyen**

**Patricia Stout**

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## Staff

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**Cecilia Cross**  
*Executive Director*  
ccross@sacivtx.org

**Tania Kayumova**  
*Program Coordinator*  
tkayumova@sacivtx.org

## 2019 Home Hospitality Hosts

Mary Lou & Don Wilson

Betty Berchelmann

Doug Smith & Rebecca Gonzalez

Lawrence & Brigit Romo

Louise Mandel & Brant Mittler

Angelika Jansen-Brown

Steffanie Gibbons

Leanna Khrystyuk

Raymond Pfang

Janet & Sam Scott

James Schellenberg

Stephen Shanfield

Arlis Olson & Louis Viggiano

Gloria Almaraz

Gabriela Cadena

Ellen Remenchik

Armen Babajanian

Jennifer Wittman

Kay Grosinske

Barbara & John Greene

John Seffel

Rita & Thomas Heck

Terry Camacho

Monica Gonzalez

Michael Millar

Aamir Ehsan

Nanette LeCoat & Stephen Cross

Dudley Harris & Cindy Vondrak

Amy Contreras

Patricia O'Connell

Margaret Leeds

Chuck Rose

Robert Ramirez

Betsy & Stuart Cameron

Ann & Jim McMullan

Sandra Torres Richardson

Homa & James Honea

Anne-Marie Grube

Alba De Leon

*Thank you!*



## International Visitor Leadership Program

U.S. Department of State

*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.*

*Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience this country firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. Professional meetings reflect the participants' professional interests and support the foreign policy goals of the United States. Current and emerging leaders from across the world come to the United States on the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) to meet with professional counterparts and visit U.S. public and private sector organizations related to their field of interest.*

*International Visitors also share their culture and offer insight on best practices and perspectives with their hosts in the United States. International Visitors are accompanied by either foreign language interpreters or English language officers, contractors through the State Department's Office of Language Services, who also facilitate travel and help explain American society, history, and culture.*

*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. Over 335 current and former heads of state, thousands of cabinet-level ministers, and many other distinguished world leaders in government and the private sector have participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program over the past 75 years.*

## 2019 Professional Resources

Morgan's Wonderland • South Texas Regional Adaptive and Para Sports (STRAPS) • Children's Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP) • UTSA: Dreamers Center • UTSA: Global Initiatives Office and Veterans and Military Affairs Office • UTSA: Department of Information Systems and CyberSecurity • UTSA: Department of Criminal Justice • UTSA: Institute for Economic Development • UTSA's Center for Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (CITE) • UTSA: Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute • UTSA: Student Disability Services • Disability Rights Texas • Maestro Entrepreneur Center (MEC) • Alamo Travel Group (ATG) • La Fuerza Unida • Build Sec. Foundry (Geekdom) • Open Cloud Academy (Geekdom) • Techstars (Geekdom) • LiftFund • Hustle and Socialize • City of San Antonio's Community Faith-Based Liaison • San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries • peaceCenter • Interreligious Council of San Antonio • Habitat for Humanity - Build Site • Catholic Charities - Archdiocese of San Antonio • Dialogue Institute of the Southwest • Hindu Temple of San Antonio • City of San Antonio - Planning Department • HemisFair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC) • San Antonio Economic Development Foundation (SAEDF) • North American Development Bank • Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization • Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce • Haven for Hope • Brooke City-Base • Texas Department of Transportation - San Antonio District • CPS Energy • Representative Joaquin Castro • Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) • Comal County Courthouse • Velocity TX • Bexar County Economic Development • US Commercial Service - US Department of Commerce • San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce • Asociacion de Emesarios Mexicanos (AEM) • Texas Public Radio (TPR) • KENS5 • San Antonio College: Radio/TV Broadcasting Program • La Prensa • J.Canavati & Co.LLC • Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy • Shavano Park Police Department • San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) • Texas Commission on Law Enforcement • Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) - San Antonio Field Office • Mexicans & Americans Thinking Together (MATT) • US Department of Homeland Security, ICE, Rio Grande Detention Center • US Department of Homeland Security, ICE, HIS • Texas RioGrande Legal Aid • Move Texas • SA Youth • Girls Incorporate San Antonio (Girls Inc.) • SAY Si • San Antonio Food Bank • Texas A&M International University • Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT): Freedom Youth Project Foundation • BSFS • COSA: International Relations Office • COSA: Transportation & Capital Improvement (TCI) Department • COSA: Economic Development Department • Bexar County District Attorney's Office • Colonies North Elementary School • Eva's Heroes • The Arc of San Antonio • Frost Bank • UT Health San Antonio's Long School of Medicine • Bexar County SMWBE Program • MightyGroup • Institute of Texan Cultures • State Representative Steve Allison • Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) • COSA: Office of Municipal Integrity • Communities Organized for Public Service and the Metro Alliance (COPS/Metro) • San Antonio Water System (SAWS) • American Association of University of Woman (AAUW) • San Antonio Express-News • COSA: City Attorney's Office • COSA: Office of Sustainability • COSA: Migrant Resource Center • Casa de Misericordia • Rackspace • Office of Congressman Will Hurd • Texas A&M University San Antonio: Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security • Digital Defense, INC • St. Mary's University School of Law • Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) • The Pearl Stable • Edwards Aquifer Authority • San Antonio Women in Technology • BioMed SA • Young Women's Leadership Academy • Bexar County Family Justice Center • Alamo City Republican Women • Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio • Roy Maas Youth Alternatives (RMYA) • City Year San Antonio • Big Brothers Big Sisters • AVANCE • US Department of Agriculture - Agriculture Marketing Service • Communication Arts High School • The Rivard Report • Southwest Research Institute • CyberTexas Foundation • International School of Americas • Bexar County Sheriff's Office • FBI Headquarters in San Antonio • Texas State Representative - Diego Bernal • OCI Solar Power • Rangel Renewables • Texas Energy Advocates Coalition: The Energy Chamber • Stepping Stones Pediatric Feeding & Speech Therapy Clinic • EHCU Public Relations • RAICES • Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU): Mass communication Department • Mexican American Unity Council (MAUC) • Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 76 • COSA: Office of Military • San Antonio College: Victory Center • Brooke Army Medical Center • Wounded Warrior Project • Bexar County Veterans Service Office • US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) • De Mott, McChesney, Curtright and Armendariz, LLP

# Corporate Members



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE**



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