

The City of San Diego ~ International Affairs Board Annual Report 2014

Section One: IAB meeting Guest Speakers

February 13, 2014 Meeting Guest Speakers:

Jim Wynn, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, San Diego County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures

Presentation on the role & function of his department. The scope of agriculture in San Diego, its unique nature & challenges, including pest issues, plus international markets & the value of exports to our local economy.

Karen Melvin, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, San Diego County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures

Discussed local food issues, farmers markets and the San Diego Food System Alliance (SDFSA) established in 2012 as a voluntary, multi-stakeholder coalition of individuals and organizations working to create a better food system for everyone in San Diego County.

April 10, 2014 Meeting Guest Speaker:

Dr. Ina von Ber, President & CEO, The Ambassadorial Roundtable

*Shared a PowerPoint presentation & described the history, mission and activities of the organization. Discussed **The World Diplomatic Forum 2014** being held at UCSD Rady School of Management, May 8-9, 2014.*

June 12, 2014 Informational Meeting (no quorum) Guest Speaker:

Michael Ruiz, Balboa Park 2015 District Manager - Update on Centennial

Goal of Centennial Celebration is to elevate, celebrate and promote Balboa Park. December nights 2014 will serve as kick-off month & will run through the end of 2015.

The City of San Diego is looking to partner with various community groups and volunteers to enhance Balboa Park for Centennial Celebration and beyond. City of San Diego has received a grant from SDG&E, the City will complete funding with remaining transferred funds from centennial group to change lighting in Balboa Park to reduce maintenance costs.

July 10, 2014 Meeting Guest Speaker:

Monica Bauer, Associate Director / Coordinator of Latino Relations for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

The nation's premier civil rights/human relations agency

The ADL fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defends democratic ideals

And protects civil rights for all

Presentation included comprehensive information on the League's work related to fighting hate, building a better world & protecting individual rights and freedoms.

Section One: IAB meeting Guest Speakers continued:

August 14, 2014 Meeting Guest Speakers:

Bettina Hausmann, President, United Nations Association, San Diego Chapter
Outlined the work performed by the U.N. Association.

Heikki Gronlund, First Vice President, Houses of Pacific Relations
*Asked the board to **support the HPR initiative** to build 10 new houses for countries that lack representation via cottages. The HPR initiative must be approved by the Balboa Park Committee.*

David Edick, Jr., President of the San Diego World Affairs Council and the San Diego International Sister Cities Association
*Stated he would like the **IAB to collaborate** when high profile foreign nationals visit, and in academic programs as well.*

September 18, 2014 Meeting Distinguished Guest Speaker:

Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City of San Diego
*Expressed his **support for the IAB** in its endeavors to do what is needed to help move the City forward and build relationships with international groups & other organizations.*
*Mayor Faulconer confirmed his expectation that the **IAB operate independently** as experts in topics of **international interest to the Mayor's office**. Reporting and advising on the topics of interest. (Don Giaquinto - Mayoral Staff member assigned to the IAB had communicated this message to the Board during their July meeting.)*
*He discussed the **Balboa Park Centennial Celebration** and efforts being made to insure the celebration is done well and is **truly international** in scope and content.*

October 9, 2014 Meeting Guest Speakers:

Peter Meisen, founder of GENI and the World Resources SimCenter, and co-founder of Global San Diego
*Discussed linking up **renewable energy** across the planet, ensuring **clean energy for all**.*
*Discussed renewable energy reports. Gave a presentation on **Global San Diego**.*

Kathrin S. Mautino, Hon. Consul, Republic of Finland
*Discussed the Consular Corps, how to get involved and **asked IAB to help promote the Corps**.*

November 13, 2014 Meeting Guest Speakers:

Roxanne Nuhaily, Executive Director, International Programs, Assistant Dean for International Affairs, University of California, San Diego, UCSD Extension International Programs *Discussed university program, and its ability to bring revenue (tourist dollars) to the city due to a constant **stream of international students** coming in yearly.*
*The English Language Institute is one of the top draws in the country. Some students also choose to extend a year of their time through the **Optional Practice Training** program.*
Rodolfo Fernandez, Deloitte Retired-Audit Partner- Founding Partner, Tijuana Office
*Related his life experiences & previous employment history, including his political connections with the Cities of San Diego and Sacramento. Commented on the **"Two Countries, One Region"** proposal launched in the 1990's and his hopes to rekindle border business relations via the new IAB board.*

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Section Two: I A B Activities

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Sister City Signage replaced by **new signage with City emblem** added. The effort was supported by the Board & successfully completed

Recognition Award Revised to include 'Global Spirit' in the name and given annually to one recipient in each of the individual & organization categories.

At April meeting further discussion was **tabled, to a date to be determined**, upon receiving directions from Mayor Faulconer's new administration.

Thank You Letter Template was created by Emiliano Aragon & approved by the Board for use of Members. Thank You Letters written would then be sent to the Mayor's office for approval prior to mailing

IAB Member Designated Country Program discontinued unanimously by the Board in favor of creating a **more local involvement**, allowing members to be active in various communities with **broad international diversity** that would translate into a **more global outreach**. No new program created.

IAB Speaker Series to be created to formalize the **objectives of Speaker Presentations**. Speaker Series not yet facilitated. Discussion on Speaker Presentations ongoing in an effort to make them more **focused & productive to Board objectives**. Inspiring involvement, action & results relevant to the IAB Mission.

IAB Web Page on City Website Reviewed Action to **add content to enhance effectiveness of community outreach** initiated plus promote the **international activities of San Diego**. Each Board Member to submit a photo & profile to post on the IAB web page. Board members to submit other content to be added to the site to city staff.

Collaborative Partnerships Board cited **need to develop collaborative partnerships**, with IAB serving as Host/Sponsor to vetted partner events.

Section Two: I A B Activities continued:

International Affairs Board Restructuring

Mission, Duties, Objectives & Strategic Planning

*In the early months of 2014 and upon review of the Annual Report 2013, the **need for recommitting, revitalizing, and restructuring the Board Membership was recognized & addressed.** During this restructuring the Mission & Duties of the IAB were reaffirmed and the Board Membership committed to upholding them.*

*Additionally, **development of objectives & strategic planning** to support the Mission Statement of the IAB as well as to more effectively fulfill the **duty of the IAB to serve as an advisory board to Mayor Faulconer** were initiated.*

*Action on these items was implemented with the **support & cooperation of Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Don Giaquinto, Mayoral Staff** assigned to the IAB, as outlined in **“Section Four: Board Restructuring and Recommitment to International Affairs Board Mission Statement and Duties.”***

*Statement Regarding the Abduction of Nigerian School Girls was drafted and approved unanimously. A presentation to the **San Diego City Council** was facilitated. Deborah Flores to contact Walter Lam for community support from the **Alliance for African Assistance.** Chair Bruce M. Abrams and Mercy Okenwa, a local resident who was born in Nigeria, spoke at **City Hall** on the advent of the **100th day of the abduction of the 200 schoolgirls.***

Border Angels Non-Profit Organization fundraiser

in honor of Chair Bruce M. Abrams’ birthday. IAB Members were invited to attend. Border Angels work to transcend the border barrier between the U.S. & Mexico with a humanitarian philosophy. Attendees included Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, Council President Todd Gloria, Councilwoman Marti Emerald, IAB Members Patricia Waller, Rebecca Morales, Emiliano Aragon, and former Councilmember Valerie Stallings.

*IAB Internships Interns to assist the IAB with its work & visibility was discussed. An **Intern Application & Intern Guidelines and Expectations** documents were drafted by Patricia Waller and Roberto Alcantar & approved by Board. Interns to be **recruited from SDSU & UCSD** with the arrangement to allowing receipt of academic credit for their civic service as interns.*

*Houses of Pacific Relations (HPR) in response to presentations from **Heikki Gronlund, First Vice President, HPR** and his **request for support of initiative** to build 5 new Houses in Balboa Park to accommodate **10 international member facilities;** the Board drafted & approved a **Letter of Support** to be delivered to the **Balboa Park Committee** to encourage approval of the HPR project.*

Section Two: I A B Activities continued:

Innovation Challenge/Centennial Innovation Prize proposal to IAB created by Rebecca Morales. A **sub-committee** lead by Roberto Alcantar, Mark Leo & Rebecca Morales was **formed**. Rebecca Morales is **creating a non-profit** which will have its **own Board & operate independently of IAB**, The mission will be the implementation of a **Centennial Innovation Prize** and the non-profit was formally named **The San Diego Foundation for Change**.

The Tijuana Innovadora (TI) Members were informed by **Don Giaquinto, Mayoral Staff**, that it would be worthwhile to attend the Tijuana Innovadora being held at the **Tijuana Cultural Center** in October. The 2014 event will celebrate Tijuana's potential in fields ranging from cuisine to technology to fashion. Members were directed to the Tijuana Innovadora website for information on the event. No members were able to attend.

San Diego Regional EDC **Don Giaquinto, Mayoral Staff**, suggested on behalf of Mayor **Faulconer**, that the IAB contact **Sean Barr** of the **San Diego Regional EDC** to request a **speaker** attend a meeting to discuss **economic development issues**. Subsequently the Chair **Bruce M. Abrams** asked **Don Giaquinto, Mayoral Staff**, to reach out to **Mark Cafferty** at the EDC to try and schedule a future speaker from that organization.

City to City Agreement/MOU Economic Development Recommendation for the City to investigate involvement in a **Global City Partnership** discussed, with a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** used for establishing a partnership. Cited **Chicago / Mexico City Partnership & MOU** as an example. **Don Giaquinto, Mayoral Staff**, informed the board that San Diego is already on the path to entering a partnership with the City of Tijuana.

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Section Three: I A B ❖ Restructuring & Recommitment

1. In May, Mayor Faulconer made Board Member Appointments
 - a. to fill vacancies
 - b. to replace non-active/non-participating Members
2. Consideration was given to appoint members that would
 - a. add diversity to the Board
 - b. better reflect the diversity of cultures & interests of the City of San Diego
3. In May, Bruce M. Abrams was unanimously elected as Chair by the Board
4. The Chair subsequently formed an Executive Committee, as required by the Bylaws of the Board:
 - a. Chair, Bruce M. Abrams
 - b. Vice-Chair, Rita Lim-Wilby
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Leo
5. Board Meeting schedule reviewed & appropriate changes made
 - a. meeting time lengthened from 60 to 90 minutes to increase efficiency & productivity
6. IAB Bylaws were formally reviewed
 - a. agreement to maintain them as written was confirmed
 - b. with specific attention to Bylaw requirements that Members
 1. attend & participate at Board meetings
 2. file Member activity reports monthly with the City Economic Development Staff assigned to the IAB
 - a. monthly Member Activity Report forms initiated
7. Brown Act presentation to the Board by the City Attorney's office
8. Robert's Rules of Order reviewed by the Board
 - a. calling attention to procedure for the public to address the Board at meetings
9. A Board Retreat, facilitated by the Chair - Bruce M. Abrams, was held in August to
 - a. identify and inform Member skill sets
 - b. create a strategic plan
 - c. find common ground for goals & projects
 - d. emphasize greater participation with visiting foreign delegations
 - e. identify procedure, frequency and to whom the Board is responsible to report to
 - f. define duties and role of the Board to the Mayor and City Council

Section Three: I A B ❖ Restructuring & Recommitment continued:

10. Attorney Sharon Spivak from the City Attorney's office attended the September meeting to discuss Board's Mission & answer Member questions.
11. In September the Board met with Mayor Faulconer and he expressed:
 - a. support for the IAB in its endeavors
 - b. desire for the IAB to operate independently as experts in topics of international interest to the Mayor's office
 - c. the efforts being made for the Balboa Park 2015 Centennial to insure the celebration is
 - i. well done
 - ii. truly an international event

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Section Four: member **(OUTREACH)** activities

May: Patricia Waller attended the **Maritime Museum - Spanish Landing Award Ceremony / Reception.** . *Spanish Ambassador to the United States presented, on behalf of the King of Spain, a medal to the architect* of the replica *Spanish Galleon, San Salvador*

May: Bob Morris attended a conference with the **Institute of the Americas in La Jolla.**

May: Bob Morris flew to and stayed on **USS Ronald Reagan**

May: Roberto Alcantar met with **Japanese Health & Labor Minister**

May: Roberto Alcantar met with the **Jordanian Youth Leaders' delegation**

May: John Galt - awarded by Boeing - to be **Cyber solutions provider** for “mobile wallet” in **Africa and other countries.**

June: Deborah Flores attended the 20th Anniversary ceremony for Pacific Rim Parks, <http://www.pacificrimpark.org/> which was co-hosted by the San Diego – Vladivostok Sister City Society. The Pacific Rim Parks Project is a nonprofit organization that has as its mission the creation of friendship parks around the Pacific Rim as a means of fostering understanding and goodwill.

July: Patricia Waller in response to a referral from **Councilman Sherman**, facilitated a **teleconference** with the Executive Committee of the **Morris Cerullo World Evangelism, Legacy Center Foundation.** The Executive Director of the Foundation reported the purchase of the Mission Valley Resort in 2011, with plans to break ground in **Spring 2015** to build training center for lay ministers from around the world.

The Foundation is interested to establish a relationship with the IAB

July: Deborah Flores attended the dedication of Sister City signs in the Civic Center Concourse Plaza

Section Four: member (OUTREACH) activities continued:

August: John Galt attended the first ever **U.S.- Africa Leaders Summit** in Washington D.C. hosted by **President Barack Obama** who invited the leaders of **nearly 50 African nations** to gather and engage in discussions on **trade, security and governance**. This summit served as a follow-up to President Obama's visit to Africa last summer. The goal of the summit was 'to send a very clear signal that we (the U.S.) are **elevating our engagement with Africa**'. Trade & economic development were the focus of the summit with attendant security concerns also addressed.'

August: Patricia Waller & Deborah Flores attended, as guests, the **Fulbright Scholars Reception/Dinner** hosted by the **Extension International Programs, UCSD**. This *marks the first time* that training will be held *in San Diego* for the 78 scholars who represent **more than 40 countries** from around the world.

The Assistant Dean at UCSD expressed interest in continuing a relationship with the IAB

August: Chair Bruce M. Abrams presented **Honorary Citizen** certificates to the **Mayor of Bora Bora** and her **Tahitian guests** on behalf of **Mayor Faulconer** plus he participated in the exchange of ceremonial gifts. Don Giaquinto, City of San Diego Director of Protocol, and Rebecca Morales were present.

The next day the **Heiva Polynesian Dance Competition** was attended by Chair Bruce M. Abrams and Rebecca Morales.

Chair Bruce M. Abrams escorted the **Bora Bora Mayor & her delegation on a tour** of San Diego, including visits to **Balboa Park, Hotel Del Coronado & Avenida Americanas Premier Outlet Mall**

September: Emiliano Aragon attended the **SPAWAR Town Hall, Mayoral Visit** to learn about SPAWAR org & activities. Emiliano addressed the question on how the City planned to exploit federal technology development (from federal labs) for local economic growth. **Mayor Faulconer** commented on several technology incubators & start up support entities (e.g. commNexus) that the city supports.

October: Deborah Flores attended a panel discussion on unaccompanied immigrant children. The speakers came from local nonprofits who work with immigrants, including Casa Cornelia. *Deborah has handled several pro bono asylum cases in conjunction with Casa Cornelia. In November 2013 Deborah also attended their two day training on representing victims of human trafficking.*

October: Rebecca Morales attended, as a member of the organization, two meetings of the **Kiwanis Club La Joya de Tijuana**.

Section Four: member (OUTREACH) activities continued:

October: Chair Bruce M. Abrams attended a party celebrating the **54th Anniversary of Nigerian Independence**. Nigerian community expressed an interest to meet with Mayor Faulconer.

October: Rebecca Morales attended 5 meetings of the **San Diego Foundation for Innovation**, at which time it was operating as a Sub-committee of the IAB. The meetings were dedicated to developing the **Centennial Innovation Prize**.

October: Rita Lim-Wilby attended a Flashpoint Discussion entitled *Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever* held by the **San Diego World Affairs Council** in the capacity of Program Chair

October: Rita Lim-Wilby attended an unlisted, although public event, **Voices Rising, Arab Community**. There was a program which included stories from Palestinians, both born there & through marriage.

October: Rita Lim-Wilby attended **Diwali, the "Festival of Lights"** or "Lighting of Lamps" ceremony in Balboa Park. A multinational ancient **Hindu festival** celebrated in the autumn of every year. The festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness.

October: Emiliano Aragon attended **NDIA (National Defense Industrial Association)** October lunch & meeting - training: International Trade and Export Compliance Considerations for U.S. companies. Presentation given by the **San Diego office of the U.S. Commercial Service**; provided overview of the services provided by the **U.S. Commercial Service for U.S. Companies** looking to do business overseas, and an overview of **U.S. export control regulations & compliance procedures**.

November: Emiliano Aragon attended the **NDIA (National Defense Industrial Association)** November Lunch & Meeting. **Speaker Mayor Kevin Faulconer**, addressing participants from the local defense industry, about his focus on economic development & willingness to help meet the needs of business when able.

November: Chair Bruce M. Abrams, Rita Lim-Wilby & Roberto Alcantar hosted, **on behalf of Mayor Faulconer, Nasimi Aghavyev, the Consul General of Azerbaijan** and a delegation of economic & cultural leaders from Azerbaijan, attending the **U.S. premier performance** of the culturally significant **Azeri ballet "The Seven Beauties" at the San Diego Civic Center**.

Bruce M. Abrams presented the General Consul of Azerbaijan a **Proclamation: "Seven Beauties Ballet Day"** and **Certificates of Friendship** on behalf of Mayor Faulconer.

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Section Five: Interaction with Elected Officials

July: Bruce Abrams presented to the **San Diego City Council** a *Statement*, prepared & approved by the IAB, on the plight of the **200 kidnapped school girls in Nigeria**. The **Statement presentation date marked the 100th day of their abduction**.

August: Patricia Waller met with **Council Member Scott Sherman** at his office; also in attendance: **Barrett Tutlow, Scott Sherman's Chief of Staff (COS)**; to discuss **visions for IAB** with respect to the City by:

- *promoting City to bring in businesses and trade groups*
- ❖
- *acting as liaison with international NGO's (Non-Government Organizations)*
- ❖
- *developing/continuing relationships with universities & colleges that have international programs & student centers*
- ❖
- *liaison with the various ethnic communities in San Diego*
- ❖
- *establishing relationships with San Diego museums that have an ethnic art council for a possibility of exchange programs*

October: Rebecca Morales conferred with **Michael Ruiz, at the City of San Diego Office of Special Events**, via Email & phone to discuss issues related to the **Centennial Innovation Prize**.

October: Rebecca Morales conferred with **Kristin Tillquist, Director of State Government Affairs & Innovation Policy**, via Email to discuss issues related to the **Centennial Innovation Prize**.

October: Rita Lim-Wilby attended a meeting with **Mayor Faulconer and Don Giaquinto - Mayoral Staff / City of San Diego Protocol Officer** - along with the other members of the **San Diego Sister Cities Board** to give an introduction of Sister Cities to Mayor Faulconer and to discuss Board Election.