



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD

March 18, 2016

To the Honorable Mayor Faulconer,

The following Annual Report of the activities and accomplishments of the International Affairs Board of the City of San Diego over the 2015 calendar year is submitted for your review.

The number one priority of the International Affairs Board during 2015 was to re-image the identity, purpose, and future of the board. This was accomplished by securing a fully-staffed and participatory board, a focus on building professional relationships with other internationally-focused groups citywide, and the development of new projects.

Looking forward to 2016, the board will be searching for ways to deepen and build relationships with the City of San Diego as well as local internationally-minded communities and organizations. The International Affairs Board will be officially launching the new Friendship Cities Program in the near future and expects to dedicate much of its time to the implementation of this exciting endeavor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce M. Abrams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce M. Abrams, Chair
International Affairs Board for the City of San Diego

cc: San Diego City Councilmembers

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Board.....Page 2

Notable Member Activities.....Page 3

Board Achievements.....Page 4

Guest Speakers.....Page 5

Looking Forward.....Page 6

Member Resources: countries/languages.....Appendix A

Friendship Cities Program: PolicyAppendix B





INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD

ABOUT THE BOARD

Members

Bruce Abrams, Chair

Roberto Alcantar
Emiliano Aragon
Kathleen Charla
Deborah Flores
Mark Leo

Rita Lim-Wilby
Jordan Marks
Rebecca Morales
Bob Morris
Patricia Waller

Mission

To foster and promote friendly relations and better understanding between peoples and communities of the United States of America and the peoples and community of foreign nations; further economic cooperation and cultural interchange; develop, compile, and exchange information; plan, develop and carry out mutual economic and cultural activities. The Board shall render an annual report of its work to the Mayor.

Composition and Governance

The International Affairs Board shall consist of eleven members who are residents of the County of San Diego at the time of appointment and during incumbency and shall be qualified by training, experience, or interest in international affairs. Each member is prohibited from engaging in activities which could result in a conflict of interest. Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. Members shall serve two-year terms and shall serve until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified. The International Affairs Board is governed by San Diego Municipal Code Chapter II, Art. 6, Sec. 26, 22, & 26.23.

NOTABLE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

The International Affairs Board consists of eleven residents of San Diego County who are deeply involved in their communities and live consciously as global citizens. Though not all of their yearly accomplishments and international involvements could possibly be included in this annual report, the following is a sampling of some of the outstanding activities and involvements by members throughout 2015.

Additionally, the board has included a list of the countries, cultures and languages with which the board is familiar [Appendix A].

Bruce Abrams, Chair, spoke to the Human Relations Commission (a City of San Diego Commission) to educate delegates from 23 countries with regard to the advancement of human and civil rights for the LGBT community. In addition, Mr. Abrams hosted a dinner in his garden for 100 people of the Bora Bora delegation and Heiva dancers. He also hosted a vehicle tour for the Mayor of Bora Bora and his delegation around San Diego for 6 hours to show them venues for future Heiva events as well as historical locations.

Roberto Alcantar served many times throughout the year as the keynote speaker for discussions in both binational US-Mexico relations and anti-human trafficking task forces. He was recognized as an awardee at San Diego's top 40 under 40 luncheon.

Emiliano Aragon spent a significant amount of time establishing new relationships with the House of Pacific Relations and the Institute of the Americas-- both key international organizations in the City of San Diego. He was later asked to chair the sub-committee tasked with developing protocol for the new Friendship Cities Program.

Kathleen Charla, current Vice Chair, engaged a delegation of Mongolian Educators at a luncheon due to her background in Russian and Central Asian studies. In the last quarter of 2015, Kathleen Charla worked closely with the San Diego Youth Symphony's summer International Music Camp to get applicants from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Music Camp has never had any students from Russia. Kathleen initiated contact with the Rimsky Korsakov Conservatory, did a great deal of follow-up which resulted in two violin students applying and being accepted into the program. She subsequently secured scholarship funding from The Maestro Temirkanov International Foundation for Cultural Initiatives to support one student's participation in the Music Camp, and has been in contact with the American Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia on helping both students to apply for their U.S. Visas from the Consulate.

In July, Deborah Flores served as Head of Delegation from San Diego to our Sister City of Vladivostok and gave a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation on the City of San Diego to a large number of international delegates.

Mark Leo, Secretary, spoke as the featured guest lecturer at San Diego State University regarding contemporary issues in Filipino-American Communities.

Rita Lim-Wilby, former Vice Chair, set up a mailchimp account from which the board can disseminate information to their personal networks in an effort to raise awareness of the IAB. On separate occasions Rita hosted the Inspector General of Police of India, and Consuls General of Israel and Singapore for public lectures. She facilitated mayoral proclamations for the IGP India and CG Israel to support the bilateral relations. The event with the IGP India was broadcast in Indian TV and newspapers. Through the San Diego World Affairs Council, Rita also covered numerous lectures, panel discussions and a high school quiz competition to educate and provide a channel for public discourse on matters of international interest.

Jordan Marks was invited to speak at the performance of the San Diego Youth Orchestra in Balboa Park prior to the Orchestra's departure for a tour of China. This was their first time since 1981.

Rebecca Morales was involved in activities that furthered cross border relations in the areas of economic development and innovation. For her efforts, she was recognized as a Cross Border Leader by San Diego Magazine's 2015 Latino Impact Awards.

Bob Morris spent a meaningful period of time during 2015 working to strengthen binational relations between the United States and Mexico, specifically with regard to the San Diego-Tijuana geographic area.

Patricia Waller devoted an enormous amount of time and energy both this year and last establishing relationships with local educational institutions developing and building a permanent internship program for the International Affairs Board. Subsequently, she was recognized for her service to the IAB in the June newsletter of the Women's National Democratic Club, Washington, DC.

BOARD ACHIEVEMENTS

The IAB Internship Program: established in the fall of 2014 by Patricia Waller, is working well. Interns are recruited from colleges and universities for terms of four to six months. Most have an interest or major related to International Affairs. These are unpaid positions for college credit. Based on guidelines and expectations, interns must commit to being available at least 20 hours a week. Their work involves general research, responding to correspondence, data entry, event planning, attending events, tracking monthly activity reports of IAB members, participating in IAB meetings, taking notes and other routine organizational tasks.

It must be noted that interns do not work for the City of San Diego. Any internship work is solely for the International Affairs Board. Oversight of the program and the ongoing recruitment of new interns require a considerable time commitment from a Board

member. The continued success of the program will depend upon strong support from the Board if this program is to continue.

The Friendship Cities Program: Nearing the close of the 2015 calendar year, the International Affairs Board began developing protocol for a new Friendship Cities Program. As San Diego is an incredibly multicultural city, this program is intended to institutionalize relationships with international cities already well-connected to communities and organizations present in San Diego. The program will function to establish deeper and more effective relations between those cities chosen as Friendship Cities and the City of San Diego.

For more information regarding the Friendship Cities Program, visit the IAB website: www.sandiego.gov/IAB.

Relationship with the Nigerian Progressive Union: Early in 2015, it was brought to the attention of the board chair that the City of San Diego has a substantial, active, and under-represented Nigerian expatriate community. This community, headed by the members of the Nigerian Progressive Union, desired to have a place where they could come together to meet. The IAB, in conjunction with the House of Pacific Relations and the Nigerian Progressive Union, worked for many months to assist the Nigerian community towards this goal, and in time a relationship was developed to place this community on the path to becoming a member of the House of Pacific Relations and laid the groundwork for a potential Nigerian cottage in Balboa Park.

GUEST SPEAKERS

January: Jesus Benayas, President of the Casa de España (House of Spain), Balboa Park, spoke on the history of the Spanish explorers, settlements and influence on the American southwest and particularly the San Diego region. He provided several visual images and historical facts that support and evidence the importance of Spain's relationship with the early development of the United States. In addition, he promoted the case for support of the initiative to erect a statue of Vasco Nunez de Balboa in the city's renowned park that bears his name. Mr. Benayas invited board members to a personalized tour of the 'Casa de Espana.'

February: Ryan Ginard, Manager, Center for Civic Engagement at the San Diego Foundation. Mr. Ginard presented on the importance of civic engagement and our city's ability to be a much more connected community. He argued that civic engagement is the path to integration. He presented on San Diego's low ranking areas of civic engagement. For instance, San Diego is in the top 10 where communities have a trust no-one attitude in their neighborhoods. San Diego also ranks low as a community where neighbors do not talk with one another on issues. Mr. Ginard also presented how San Diego no longer is a transient city, but is more suburbanized. It is through these changes that the city must nurture the communities that they have and civic engagement is one avenue to do such work.

March: Dr. Onygbule, Nigerian Progressive Union, gave a summary of the Nigerian Progressive Union, an organization that promotes Nigerian culture and creates positive images and relationships for the Nigerian community with a goal to be a Village of Elders for new immigrants coming to San Diego

April: Mr. James Clark, Executive Director of the San Diego-Tijuana Smart Border Coalition, spoke on cross border issues such as transportation, job creation, cultural interaction, business innovation and the impact such issues have on the San Diego economy.

May: Nisan Bar Zion, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Adamant Solutions, gave a presentation on cyber security (the protection of digital assets such as financial, personal, and health information). In 2014, 43% of businesses employing approximately 85 persons were breached. On average, 2.8% of customers are lost when a business is breached; furthermore, each breach of information in the United States costs the company more than \$3.5 million. 80% of attacks need an inside man, or someone from inside the business to make a mistake; once the system is accessed, it takes approximately 7 months for anti-threat software to detect the breach.

July: Port Commissioner Rafael Castellanos gave a presentation on how the Port has guided the development of 34 miles of prime waterfront property with a carefully selected portfolio of world-class commercial real estate, maritime and public uses. He covered how important the binational business relationships, cruise ships, sport fishing, and cargo imports and exports are to San Diego. He also discussed the planned real estate development on land around the San Diego Bay and the Port's proposed development of a 50-year vision plan as part of the Port Master Plan Update to help guide land and water uses in the Bay.

August: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director with the City of San Diego, facilitated the board's retreat. How to make effective decisions about priority issues for the board's focus in the coming year and building relationships were covered.

September: Councilmember David Alvarez (Council District 8) spoke about the San Ysidro point of entry and its new \$750 million expansion project, which will include adding a pedestrian crossing.

October: Ed Sweed of Jewish Voices for Peace spoke on the current refugee situation and the prominent role San Diego could play in the resettlement of the 100,000 asylum-seekers headed to the United States.

There was no Guest Speaker for the months of June, November and December.

LOOKING FORWARD

Already, 2016 has brought an incredible amount of interest in the IAB's new Friendship Cities Program (FCP) by international communities living within the City of San Diego. Some international cities have also expressed an interest, notably Bora Bora and Sha'ar HaNegev, in Israel.

The board is energized by the FCP and expects that the implementation of this new program will be a major focus of their activities as they look to engage with the international and cultural communities of San Diego and interested cities around the world.

International Affairs Board
Member Resources: Countries / Languages

APPENDIX A

| Country | Visited | Lived in / Worked |
|---|---|--|
| Afghanistan | Patricia | |
| Andorra | Bruce | |
| Argentina | Bruce, Patricia | |
| Australia | Bruce, Patricia, Emiliano, Rita | Roberto |
| Austria | Bruce, Deborah, Rebecca, Kathleen | |
| Bahamas, The | Bruce, Deborah, Rebecca, Patricia, Kathleen | |
| Belgium | Bruce, Deborah, Jordan | |
| Bermuda | Bruce, Kathleen | |
| Bolivia | | Emiliano |
| Brazil | Rebecca, Kathleen | |
| Brussels | Patricia, Jordan | |
| Canada | Bruce, Patricia, Deborah, Rebecca, Mark, Kathleen, Rita, Jordan | * Jordan was born |
| China | Bruce, Rebecca, Kathleen, Jordan | |
| Chile | Patricia, Rebecca, Kathleen | Rebecca |
| Colombia | Deborah, Rebecca (after April 2016) | |
| Costa Rica | Bruce, Deborah, Kathleen | |
| Cuba | Rebecca, Kathleen | |
| Cyprus | Patricia | |
| Czech Republic | Bruce, Kathleen | |
| Denmark | Bruce, Patricia, Deborah, Kathleen, Rita | |
| Ecuador | Deborah | |
| Egypt | Bruce, Emiliano | Patricia |
| El Salvador | Bob | |
| Estonia | Kathleen | |
| Ethiopia | Patricia | |
| Fiji | Bruce | |
| Finland | Bruce, Deborah, Kathleen | |
| France | Bruce, Patricia, Deborah, Rebecca, Kathleen, Rita, Jordan | Rita |
| Gaza Strip | Bruce, Jordan | |
| Germany | Bruce, Deborah, Rebecca, Kathleen, Rita, Patricia | Deborah (Berlin, southwest Germany in Mosel Valley), Rebecca, Rita |
| Gibraltar | Bruce | |
| Greece | Bruce, Patricia, Rebecca, Rita | |
| Guatemala | Deborah | |
| Holy See (Vatican City) | Bruce, Deborah, Rebecca, Kathleen | |
| Hong Kong | Bruce, Patricia, Emiliano, Rebecca, Rita, Roberto, Jordan | |
| Hungary | Bruce, Patricia, Kathleen | |

International Affairs Board
Member Resources: Countries / Languages

APPENDIX A

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------|
| India | Patricia, Rebecca | |
| Iran | | Patricia |
| Ireland | Bruce, Patricia, Rebecca, Rita | |
| Israel | Bruce, Kathleen, Rita, Jordan | Patricia, Rita, Jordan |
| Italy | Bruce, Patricia (also Sicily), Emiliano, Deborah, Rebecca, Kathleen, Rita | Rita |
| Japan | Bruce, Rebecca, Mark, Rita, Kathleen, Patricia | Rita, Jordan |
| Jordan | Bruce, Kathleen | Patricia |
| Kenya | Bruce, Rebecca | |
| Korea | Kathleen, Rita | Rita |
| Liechtenstein | Bruce, Deborah | |
| Luxembourg | Bruce, Deborah | |
| Malaysia | Patricia, Rita, Roberto | Rita |
| Malta | Patricia | Emiliano |
| Mauritania | | Patricia |
| Mexico | Patricia, Deborah, Emiliano, Rebecca, Kathleen, Rita, Jordan, Bob | Rebecca, Roberto |
| Monaco | Bruce, Rebecca | |
| Mongolia | Kathleen | |
| Morocco | Bruce, Patricia, Kathleen | |
| Nepal | Rebecca | |
| Netherlands | Bruce, Deborah, Kathleen, Rita | |
| New Zealand | Patricia, Roberto | |
| Nicaragua | Deborah, Rebecca | |
| Norway | Deborah, Rita | |
| Pakistan | | Patricia |
| Panama | Deborah | |
| Peru | Rebecca, Deborah | |
| Philippines | Bruce, Mark | Patricia |
| Poland | Bruce, Kathleen | |
| Portugal | Bruce, Rebecca, Kathleen, Rita, Patricia | |
| Puerto Rico | Rebecca, Rita, Patricia | |
| Republic of Kazakhstan | Kathleen | |
| Republic of Uzbekistan | Kathleen | |
| Russia | Bruce, Deborah, Kathleen, Rita | Rita |
| Senegal | Patricia | |
| Singapore | Emiliano, Rita, Roberto | Rita |
| Slovakia | Bruce | |
| South Africa | Bruce | |
| South Korea | Rebecca, Kathleen | |
| Spain | Bruce, Rebecca, Kathleen, Rita | Rita |

International Affairs Board
Member Resources: Countries / Languages

APPENDIX A

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Sri Lanka | Patricia, Rita | |
| Swaziland | Bruce | |
| Sweden | Bruce, Deborah, Rebecca, Kathleen, Rita | Rita |
| Switzerland | Bruce, Deborah, Rebecca, Rita, Kathleen | Rita |
| Syria | | Patricia |
| Thailand | Bruce, Patricia, Rita, Roberto, Jordan | |
| Tibet | Kathleen | |
| Tunisia | Deborah | Patricia |
| Turkey | Rita, Kathleen | Patricia, Rita |
| Ukraine | Kathleen | |
| United Arab Emirates | Emiliano | |
| United Kingdom | Bruce, Patricia (England), Deborah, Emiliano, Rebecca (England), Kathleen, Rita, Jordan | Rita |
| Uruguay | Bruce | |
| West Bank | Bruce, Kathleen | |
| Yugoslavia (former) | Rebecca | |
| Zambia | Bruce | |
| Zimbabwe | Bruce | |

| Languages | Conversational | Fluent |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arabic | Emiliano (basic, Hello, How are you?) | |
| Dutch | Bruce | |
| Hebrew | Jordan | Bruce |
| French | Deborah, Kathleen | Bruce |
| Greek | Deborah (ancient Greek - read/write) | |
| German | Bruce (limited), Deborah, Rebecca | |
| Ilocano | Mark (understands) | |
| Japanese | Jordan | |
| Russian | Deborah | Kathleen |
| Spanish | Emiliano, Bob | Bruce, Rebecca, Roberto |
| Turkish | | Patricia (a bit rusty) |



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD
FRIENDSHIP CITIES PROGRAM
POLICY

International Affairs Board

The International Affairs Board (IAB) is an advisory board to the Mayor. The members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council and serve without compensation.

City of San Diego

With over 1.4 million residents, San Diego is the 8th largest city in the United States. From its strategic position on the Pacific Rim, the City of San Diego is an economic powerhouse, sharing trade, investment, education, social, and cultural interactions with people around the globe. A highly diverse city, residents of San Diego speak over 60 languages and dialects. Through interactions with people from other communities, an appreciation for other lifestyles can be cultivated alongside the establishment of economic, social, cultural, and educational ties. For these reasons, the International Affairs Board (IAB) encourages the formation of Friendship Cities Program Designations as a means to promote relationships with international cities.

Purpose

The Friendship Cities Program is a way for the International Affairs Board to initiate relationships with international cities and foster increased global cooperation and communication.

Policy

The Friendship Cities Program Designation is solely approved by and associated with the IAB and does not create any official association with the City of San Diego. The IAB is able to use this relationship to develop multilateral cooperation and to establish partnerships in trade, culture, education, urban development, environmental protection, and many other fields. Friendship Cities may engage in various types of exchange activities for the purpose of furthering internationalization and development.

The Friendship Cities relationship may include, but is not limited to, the exchange of correspondence between IAB representatives and business leaders with regards to areas of mutual interest. The Friendship Cities Program will provide business opportunities, exchange programs, and social, cultural, and educational opportunities to initiate information interactions and the ability to generate community interest and support.

Procedures

1. The Friendship Cities Program is coordinated and managed through the International Affairs Board (IAB).
2. The relationship between the IAB and a Friendship City will be overseen and directed by the International Affairs Board in order to further mutual social, cultural, economic, educational, and environmental development.
3. A Friendship Cities Program Application for Designation will require sponsorship and recommendation by a member of the IAB, business, community, or organizational leaders.
4. A Proposed Friendship Cities Program relationship must be approved by the IAB.
5. The IAB will track all activities of each Friendship City.
6. The Friendship Cities Program, through the International Affairs Board, will create opportunities for the IAB to establish ongoing communication with international municipal governments for the purpose of learning from one another.
7. The Friendship Cities Program will facilitate economic development by coordinating meetings and assistance of business leaders looking to expand or start a business in a Friendship City or the City of San Diego.
8. The IAB will work with the Friendship Cities to facilitate access to Economic Partners that could provide guidance on economic vitality and community benefit through a balanced approach to the maritime industry, tourism, water and land recreation, environmental stewardship, and public safety.
9. Educational exchanges will provide citizens and youth with the opportunity to explore the culture of an international community by gaining insight into the history and values of the Friendship City. These exchanges may include, but are not limited to, sport and technical exchanges, youth tournaments, delegations of representatives and students, and collaborations in various fields.
10. Notwithstanding any other statement in this policy, there will be no IAB funding for the Friendship Cities Program
11. All Friendship Cities Program relationships must be identified by a Friendship Cities Program Designation between the IAB and the Friendship City. The Friendship Cities Program Designation must be approved by the IAB and signed by the IAB Chair and the relevant official of the Friendship City. Each Friendship Cities Program Designation shall include the following provisions:
 - a. The IAB and interested community members and organizations of the Friendship City may periodically keep in contact for the convenience of discussing topics of mutual interest.
 - b. The Friendship Cities Program Designation may be terminated by either the IAB or the Friendship City, when such termination is deemed to be in its best interest.
12. The sponsoring organization of each Friendship Cities Designation must complete an Annual Report of the exchanges between the Friendship City and the IAB. The Annual Report must be submitted for IAB review as outlined in the “Annual Report” document.