

2016

The International Affairs Board 2016 Annual Report



"Enhancing San Diego's Global Identity"
~City of San Diego Strategic Plan Vision

Welcome Letter from International Affairs Board Chair

The following annual report details the International Affairs Board's activities and accomplishments for the year 2016.

The Board seeks to provide public policy advice on international issues to the Mayor and City Council while forging economic, social and cultural ties between San Diego and the world.

The International Affairs Board's goal is to advocate for and commend institutions, organizations and individuals that build links to the global community and promote connections between San Diego's diverse neighborhoods and the international community.

In doing so, the Board serves our local communities and promotes San Diego's global identity.

Bruce M. Abrams, Esq., Board Chair



About the International Affairs Board

Mission

The International Affairs Board (IAB) seeks to promote San Diego's global identity, encourage cultural connections, cultivate international economic competitiveness, and advise the Mayor and City Council on ways that international issues and policies impact San Diego.

Structure

The IAB consists of 11 members who are residents of San Diego at the time of appointment and during incumbency and shall be qualified by training, experience or interest in international affairs.

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Governance

San Diego Municipal Code, Chapter II, Art. 6 Sec. 26.22 & 26.23 - first adopted 5-26-1966; amended by Ordinance O-10273, N.S., adopted 4-21-1970. Council Policy 000-13. Resolution R-218868, 7-20-1977. Amended by Ordinance O-20179, N.S., adopted 7-5-2012.

Board Members

Bruce Abrams, Chair
Kathleen Charla, Vice Chair
Roberto Alcantar
Deborah Flores
Mark Leo
Jordan Marks
Rebecca Morales
Bob Morris
George Novinger
Patricia Waller
Caroleen Williams

Partner Organizations

San Diego Association of Governments
San Diego Port Commission
San Diego Airport Authority
San Diego Tourism Authority
San Diego World Affairs Council
San Diego World Trade Center
San Diego Diplomacy Council
The Institute of the Americas
North County World Affairs Council
San Diego Refugee Forum
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium



2016 in Recap

Friendship Cities

The International Affairs Board created the program of Friendship Cities to further connect local businesses, organizations, and peoples with other communities based internationally. By connecting San Diego with other communities globally, the IAB seeks to further economic and cultural exchanges to enhance San Diego's position as a leading global city.

The IAB established its first two Friendship Cities in May 2016 with San Borja, Peru, and Sha'ar HaNegev, Israel. IAB's third Friendship City, Huzhou, China, was added in October 2016. Each of these Friendship Cities share a common global identity with San Diego.

The Friendship City of Sha'ar HaNegev, Israel, was established due to the economic, cultural, academic and public policy similarities between the two cities. Economically, there are potential opportunities for business and other partnerships between the two cities as Sha'ar HaNegev is working to promote high-tech and start-up initiatives. Both cities are located on borders, leading to the possibility of a partnership in exchanging solutions to issues that arise as border cities. Future projects might also center on river restoration and environmental collaboration. To strengthen these connections and exchanges, the Jewish Federation of San Diego County was selected to be IAB's local partner organization, as it has been working with Sha'ar HaNegev to connect the two cities' communities for over 15 years.

The Friendship City of San Borja, Peru, was established due to environmental, educational and tourism similarities with San Diego. Environmentally, San Borja and San Diego have been partnered since 2014 to focus on reducing carbon emissions and both cities will benefit from further exchanges of research initiatives and the implementation of innovative environmental policies. Educationally, the partnership between the two cities seeks to increase research and education through potential programs with international students, internships and conferences. A partnership in the field of tourism will be beneficial to both cities as it will create economic opportunities through reciprocal tourism programs and cultural exchanges. To reinforce these exchanges, the International Cottages' House of Peru in Balboa Park was chosen as the local partner organization, as its mission is to promote economic and cultural opportunities between Peru and San Diego.

The Friendship City of Huzhou, China, was established due to environmental and innovation similarities with San Diego. Similar to San Diego's position in the United States, Huzhou has one of the most progressive climate action plans in China and partnering with San Diego will increase the exchange of research and the implementation of environmental policies. Huzhou is a leading city in innovation and science, and partnering with San Diego gives both cities access to local research institutes and stimulate the exchange of ideas and scientific innovations. Dr. Allen Chan acts as the local connection here in San Diego as he works to represent and Preserve Asian Heritage through his restaurant, the San Diego's Lions Club and the Lunar New Year Charity Gala.



Bruce Abrams and Kathy Charla visited the newest friendship city of Huzhou, China.

Visiting Dignitaries

The IAB receives many international visitors from foreign governments and connects delegations with the City. Examples include the following:

- In September, the IAB met with Mayor Schuster of Sha'ar HaNegev, Israel, a Friendship City of San Diego. The Chair and Executive Director presented the Mayor with a plaque of commendation, which was recognized at the annual Jewish Federation Dinner before thousands of San Diegans.
- Through the San Diego World Affairs Council, the IAB connected with the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraq's High Representative to the United States, arranging a meeting with Office of Homeland Security employees who previously served with Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Iraq.
- IAB members also welcomed U.K. Minister of State for Trade, Greg Hands on his tour of San Diego, which was facilitated by the local U.K. Consul David Pasquini.



3 Friendship Cities



16 Sister Cities



Memorandum of Understanding



The International Affairs Board met with UK Minister of Trade. Bruce Abrams (Chair), Minister Greg Hands, Dr. Joel Day, Bob Morris, Dr. Kathleen Charla (Vice Chair).

Speakers

January: Jane Fantel, director of Israel Connections for the Jewish Federation of San Diego

March: Sherri Lightner, City Council President

April: Gordon Summer, an award winning national and international promotional marketing executive, including the annual U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge and Dimensional Art Exposition, and Magic San Diego Holidays

May: Itamar Harari, director of Community Initiatives, Jewish Federation of San Diego, Jane Fantel, and Oscar Urteaga and Gladys Jones from the House of Peru.

June: Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6 and Denice Garcia, Director of Binational Affairs, Office of the Mayor

July: Fabienne Perlov, executive director, San Diego Diplomacy Council

August: Annual retreat facilitated by Dr. Darnell Scarborough – two new IAB members

October: Tiffany Wai Ying Beres, Ed.D, of San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, and Dr. Allen W. Chan, founder of U.S.-China Culture and Economic Collaborative

November: Peter Meisen, founder of GENI and World Resources Sim Center and co-founder of Global San Diego

In October, the IAB hosted a talk for Tiffany Wai-Ying Beres, executive director of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum



Events

Highlights

The International Affairs Board consists of 11 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 2016.

January

- The IAB attended the Mayor's annual State of the City Address.
- Mark Leo attended the Tet Festival by the Little Saigon Foundation.

February

- Deborah Flores attended the Global Poverty Forum at Point Loma Nazarene University.

April

- Mark Leo was a facilitator for the SEIU Ignite Northwest conference in Seattle.
- Deborah Flores attended the House of Peru meeting to secure its partnership in IAB's Friendship Cities Program.
- Chair Bruce Abrams attended the Diplomacy Council's International Women of Courage Award. He gave a presentation of the IAB at the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

- Bob Morris attended the Tianguis Touristico in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico for the annual convention for the tourism industry in Mexico. He organized a meeting of the San Diego Tourism Authority, Secretary of Tourism for the Republic of Mexico, and Secretary of Tourism from the State of Baja Sur on the behalf of the San Diego Tourism Authority. He represented the IAB at the International Advisory Council for Tijuana Innovadora.

May

- Vice Chair Kathleen Charla visited Spain, Germany and Russia, visiting museums and symphonies to further cultural exchanges. In St. Petersburg, Russia, she met with U.S. Ambassador John Tefft and discussed the Russian ban on loaning art to America.

June

- George Novinger attended Tijuana's Independence Day Reception at the American Consulate General in Tijuana.
- Chair Bruce Abrams attend the San Diego LGBT Pride World Forum.
- Kathleen Charla represented the Mayor's Office at Provisional National Government of Vietnam luncheon with Prime Minister Dao Minh Quan. She met with the International Music Season to discuss a possible collaboration with the IAB.



July

- Caroleen Williams hosted U.S. Rep. Scott Peters at Quasar Federal Systems for his two-hour tour of the research facility and briefing on scientists' work for the U.S. Department of Defense projects.

The IAB joined the United Nations Association in welcoming Assistant Secretary-General Lakshmi Puri on October 22, 2016.

August

- Patricia Waller hosted two Egyptians who attended the International Association for Coptic Studies' 11th International Congress of Coptic Studies at Claremont Graduate University. She volunteered with a team from Normal Heights United Methodist Church to coordinate food and other necessities while recruiting French speakers to assist with onward travel arrangements for a large group of Haitian migrants seeking asylum the U.S.
- George Novinger was a guest lecturer on "Syria – Past, Present and Future" for San Diego World Affairs.

September

- George Novinger attended the board meetings for the House of Peru and House of Pacific Relations to continue IAB's active partnership with the House of Peru for Friendship Cities. He met with Martin Krumming, grassroots organizer for international visitors from Mongolia.

November

- Under the leadership of Boardmember George Novinger, IAB participated in the groundbreaking of several new international cottages at Balboa Park. The City Council unanimously approved the expansion, which will include new cottages for Mexico, the Philippines, Peru, Panama, Korea, India, Palestine and Turkey.
- IAB Chair Bruce Abrams hosted a reception at his home to welcome the new General Consul of Mexico. In attendance were City Councilmember Barbara Bry; Canadian Trade Counsel Frederick Fornier; U.K. Consul David Pasquini and Luis Calette, British-Mexican trade office; Regina Bernal, USD School of Business; Gabriel Garzo, board member, San Diego Tijuana Chapter of Urban Land Institute; Daniel Reeves, vice president, Downtown San Diego Partnership; Nicole Murry Ramirez, City of San Diego Human Relations Commission; Larry Baza, chair of City of San Diego Commission of Arts; Carolina Ramos, LGBT Center and former Human Relations Commission member; Sheilla Alvarez, and Vice Chairman Raymond Welch, Barona Tribe; and Canadian Trade Counsel Frederick Fournier
- The IAB Chair and Vice Chair commemorated the newest Friendship City Agreement with Huzhou, China, with a formal visit in the fall of 2016. The two cities exchanged letters of recognition, including a letter from Mayor Kevin Faulconer, and signed a mutual pledge for further bilateral meetings.



On Nov. 20, 2016, the International Affairs Board joined the groundbreaking for the House of Pacific Relation's new international cottages.

Executive Director

Beginning in September, the City of San Diego welcomed Dr. Joel Day as Executive Director of the International Affairs Board. In this capacity, Day leads on “City Diplomacy” efforts, manages and assists the IAB, represents the City to the many global communities that call San Diego home, and advises the City on resilience to extremism and hate crimes, human rights, inclusion, and global engagement. Day has a Ph.D. in International Affairs from the

University of Denver and an M.A. in International Relations from the University of San Diego. He has taught at the University of Denver, Colorado State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Day has conducted field work throughout settlements in the West Bank and with former civil-war combatants in Sierra Leone. His work has been published in the Journal of Peace Research, Perspectives on Terrorism, and Journal of Strategic Security, and he has provided commentary to Congress, the Pentagon, and national news outlets, including The Atlantic, Al Jazeera, the Boston Globe, and the Associated Press.

Dr. Joel Day met with the High Representative from the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraq, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman.



Global Rankings

- No. 2 Most Inventive City in the World – Forbes Magazine
- The only North American city to be selected to National Geographic’s “World Smart Cities”
- Global connections: Direct flights to Tokyo, London and Shanghai
- 80 research institutes
- Home to the world’s largest lithium ion battery-based energy storage installation
- Home to the largest military concentration in the world
- One of “America’s Coolest Cities” – Forbes Magazine
- Best Place to “Hatch Big Ideas” – Sunset Magazine
- The San Diego region has the second highest concentration of millennials in U.S. – JLL research.
- Ranked second, Athletic and Active City – Travel+Leisure
- One of “America’s Best Cities for Foodies” – Travel+Leisure
- A “Best of the World” Destination” – National Geographic Traveler
- No. 1 busiest land border in the Western Hemisphere
- Balboa Park ranked No. 7 among U.S. parks
- Home to the Best Dog Park in America
- “San Diego Zoo Best in the World” -- Trip Advisor

Moving Forward: A Two-Year Strategy

Cities are the hub of 21st century diplomacy. In his recent book, "Why Mayors Should Rule the World," Benjamin Barber argues that cities better bypass political gridlock, innovate faster, and are more directly accountable to the people than any other governing body.

Cities like San Diego are home to over half the world's population and are increasingly leading the pressing issues of our age. Here in San Diego, we have one of the boldest climate action plans in the world. We have the busiest land border crossing in the world. San Diego is home to the largest concentration of military in the world. Our biotech, bluetech, cleantech and over 80 research institutions are leading the world in the number of patents filed per year. Our beaches, breweries and businesses highlight what it means to be a San Diegan: we lead the world in both work and play.

The International Affairs Board is poised to promote San Diego's global identity in three critical ways.

1. We are going to serve as a hub for internationally-minded groups to work with the City of San Diego. From the Diplomacy Council and the World Trade Center to citizen and neighborhood-led initiatives, the IAB can be the "front porch" of San Diego to the global community.
2. We are committed to focusing on San Diego's neighborhoods, which are steeped in rich global presence and heritage. We have 101 neighborhoods in San Diego, and from City Heights to Little Italy, they have character that links our City to the rest of the world. The IAB will seek out connections within our neighborhoods to feature unique stories of San Diego's global identity.
3. We will provide public policy advice to the Mayor and City Council on the impact of international issues in San Diego – from immigrant and refugee support to foreign direct investment and trade.

To accomplish these goals, we are pursuing a series of tactics, programs and outreach plans, each of which have defined targets and outcomes over the next two years. Our 2017-2019 work plan can be found at www.sandiego.gov/IAB.



Executive Director Dr. Joel Day meeting with a Diplomacy Council delegation of Russian young leaders in business.



International Affairs Board

