




THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 7, 2021

TO: Honorable Council President Jennifer Campbell
Honorable Councilmembers

FROM: Mayor Todd Gloria 

SUBJECT: Appointments and Re-appointments to the International Affairs Board

It is my pleasure to appoint Victoria Phillips, Brian D'Amico, William Geibel, Nathan Williams, Dennis-Michael Broussard, Gustavo De La Fuente, and Richard Bainter to the International Affairs Board (IAB), each to two-year terms expiring March 1, 2023. I am also happy to appoint Karen Higareda to the IAB, to a term expiring March 1, 2022. I am also pleased to re-appoint Mary Abad, Mark Leo, Andre Kwan, and Chandler Martin each to a two-year term ending March 1, 2023 and Melissa Floca, Hilda Mwangi and Kenia Zamarripa each to terms ending March 1, 2022.

Ms. Phillips is the founder of the International Association of Asylum Seekers and Refugees based in South Africa and Sweden. She has been dedicated to promoting the rights of marginalized groups worldwide for decades. She has partnered with top European NGOs to facilitate training workshops for asylum seekers, refugees and faith-based organizations in the areas of skills development and acquisition and women's empowerment in South Africa. Ms. Phillips holds a B.A. from the University of Johannesburg and an M.A. from the University of San Diego.

Mr. D'Amico serves as the Airport Staff Liaison for the World Trade Center San Diego, working as an airport representative in partnership with the City, the EDC, and the Port of San Diego to expand San Diego's access to international markets. He also serves as an International Air Service Committee Member at Airports Council International – North America, where he monitors how trends in global policy and events are impacting travel around the world. Mr. D'Amico earned his Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor's Degree in Humanities and Spanish from Franciscan University.

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Mr. Geibel is a global scholar and practitioner who currently holds a dual appointment at UC San Diego's Sixth College as a faculty member and the Associate Director of Experiential Learning. In this role, he oversees and teaches within the College's experiential learning program and works to develop educational programming and partnerships that provide students with real world learning opportunities including study abroad, internships, and community engagement. He holds a B.A. from UC Santa Barbara, an M.A. from Brandeis University, and a Ph.D. in International Education from UCLA.

Mr. Bainter brings over three decades worth of experience providing legal representation to international organizations, nonprofits and small businesses. He has been involved in several projects to promote democratic governance and the rule of law in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Poland, Russia South Sudan and Vietnam. Mr. Bainter received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Denver College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa.

Mr. Williams has over eleven years of experience with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), including two assignments as a U.S. State Department-sponsored Junior Professional Officer with UNHCR in Nepal and Bangladesh. Mr. Williams has a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from Santa Clara University.

Ms. Higareda is currently a Lead Case Manager with South Bay Community Services at Operation Artemis at our San Diego Convention Center. Operation Artemis brought various organizations to serve 1,450 unaccompanied minors. Operation Artemis provides childcare, healthcare, education, basic needs, recreation, and case management services to minors to ensure safety, health, and, ultimately, reunification in a safe home with family members or placement in a foster care program. Ms. Higareda holds a Master's Degree in Landscape and Urbanism from Woodbury University.

Mr. De La Fuente brings more than 25 years of experience in commercial banking, start-ups, telecommunications, and media companies. His board experience includes serving as vice chair for the International Community Foundation, a non-profit organization of choice for U.S. donors who are passionate about protecting the environment and improving the quality of life in Baja California and Latin America. Mr. De La Fuente also sits on the board of the Border Trade Alliance, and the Tijuana Innovadora Binational Advisory Council. Mr. De La Fuente's educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Master's Degree in International Policy Studies from Stanford University.

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Mr. Broussard brings a wealth of experience in volunteerism and serves on many nonprofit boards and committees. His board experience includes having served on the KPBS Producers Club Committee, UCSD Asian Pacific Islander Alumni Council, USS Midway Museum's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Philippine Honorary Consulate of San Diego Board of Advisors; the San Diego International Sister Cities Association Board of Directors, Asian Culture & Media Alliance Board of Directors; and the Corporate Relations Officer for the Beta Gamma Sigma Alumni San Diego Chapter. Mr. Broussard's educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Orleans and a Master's Degree from the University of California, San Diego.

I am confident that these individuals will bring their invaluable experiences and expertise to the board, and I thank them for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

MTG:mg

cc: Honorable Mara Elliott, City Attorney
Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst