

ONE
WORLD



2019

Mayor's Office of International Affairs
Annual Report / Year in Review

ONE WORLD

ATLANTA



Dear Friends:

As the 60th Mayor of Atlanta, I am proud of the work that the Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA) has done to cultivate relationships with Atlanta's foreign partners and its international community. Building on our work to promote the southeast region as a world-class destination, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs has made significant progress in expanding our international influence and has leveraged our strengths that fuel the City's emergence as a global hub for commerce, innovation, culture, and diplomacy.

Home to the world's busiest and most efficient airport, Atlanta's growth is due in great part to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which offers service to more than 75 international destinations in 50 countries. Our global ecosystem is supported by a dynamic community of international representatives and organizations. It includes more than 70 consular and trade offices, 31 bi-national chambers of commerce, and 17 sister city partnerships.

Atlanta's proud legacy of advocacy for human rights and individual dignity plays an integral role in our success as a global leader. It continues to inspire us to promote democracy and civic engagement at home and around the world. As we work to create an affordable, resilient, and equitable city, we welcome the new year as an opportunity to expand Atlanta's global connections and diverse communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keisha Bottoms". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Keisha Lance Bottoms

Mayor's Office of International Affairs

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA) is to develop and foster relationships with Atlanta's international community, economic development partners, government agencies, and academic and cultural institutions to position Atlanta as a global hub for commerce, innovation, education, culture, and diplomacy.



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Promoting International Ties with Atlanta

The Global positioning of the City is at the core of the Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA)'s mission. In 2019, the MOIA team traveled to Spain, Brazil, Canada and the Netherlands to position Atlanta as a global hub for investment, innovation, diplomacy, culture and tourism.

Brazil: Sister Cities, ENAEX, and São Paulo Tech Week

MOIA visited Brazil twice in 2019, the first trip was an exploratory mission in partnership with Invest Atlanta to reactivate links between Rio de Janeiro, Atlanta's Sister City, and São Paulo. During the trip, Deputy Director, Cesar Vence, and the Invest Atlanta team, met with local and national economic development agencies to promote bilateral trade and investment, as well as cooperation around exchanges of best practices and know-how. MOIA and Invest Atlanta hosted a luncheon at the home of the U.S. Consul General in São Paulo to introduce Atlanta's innovation ecosystem to Brazil's entrepreneurs. The luncheon was attended by over 50 startups in the innovation sector.

The second trip was a trade mission in partnership with the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce of the South East (BACC-SE) and Invest Atlanta to participate in ENAEX, Brazil's foreign trade promotion event, and São Paulo Tech Week. During ENAEX the delegation had an opportunity to connect with agencies that promote trade and support companies interested in expanding globally, particularly to the United States. During São Paulo Tech Week, the delegation hosted two panels, one on "How to Do Business in the U.S." with a focus on Georgia, led by Lucia Jennings, President & CEO of the BACC-SE. The second panel, led by Mr. Vence, centered around trends in innovation, with a focus on Atlanta as a hub for innovation in the Southeastern United States. Panelists during this discussion were from Atlanta-based companies with operations in Brazil.

Canada: Collision

Mr. Vence participated in Collision, one of the world's largest innovation conferences with over 30,000 participants representing 100 countries. Collision presents a great opportunity to position the City of Atlanta as an innovation hub for foreign companies that are looking at a North American expansion. During his visit to Toronto, Mr. Vence had the opportunity to meet with several startups interested in Atlanta's innovation ecosystem, followed-up with prospects and connected with Toronto's Mayor's Office.

Netherlands: Money 2020 and GES

In partnership with economic developments partners, including the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, and Invest Atlanta, MOIA attended the Money2020 Fintech conference to promote Atlanta's ecosystem to potential investors and attended the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) organized by the State Department and the Netherlands. Several Atlanta companies were represented at GES, including Skylar Security, a graduating company from the City's Women Entrepreneurship Initiative's 2019 Cohort. Skylar Security was provided the opportunity to attend the conference by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development and Cooperation, Sigrid Kaag, during her visit to Atlanta in March 2019. During the Netherlands trade mission, Director Vanessa Ibarra met various organizations, recommended by the Dutch Consulate in Atlanta, including the Mayor's Office of International Affairs in Amsterdam and Schiphol airport, to explore potential partnerships around health, innovation, education, workforce, airport development, and business.



Barcelona: Smart City Expo & World Congress

In partnership with the Metro Atlanta Chamber and Invest Atlanta, MOIA and representatives from the Department of Atlanta Information Management (AIM) including Chief Information Officer Gary Brantley, Chief Technology Officer Tye Hayes, and Smart City Program Director Lillie Madali attended the Smart City Expo & World Congress, the leading event to empower cities around the world to discuss and exchange best practices on urban innovation. Companies from the city and region, including Georgia Power and Verizon, joined the delegation to promote the region and the city's smart cities ecosystem to companies, government organizations, and international institutions.

Select USA: Promoting the City for Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays an important role in our region's economy. Every year, MOIA participates in Select USA, the United States' investment summit, where the State of Georgia and the region's economic development partners promote the region for investment. MOIA and Invest Atlanta partnered to promote investment opportunities in Atlanta to foreign investors.

The Global positioning
of the City is at the core
of our team's mission.



A Growing International Ecosystem

International Webinars: Promoting Atlanta to the World

In partnership with local and international partners, MOIA launched its international webinars initiative to promote the City of Atlanta as an innovation and commercial hub. In 2019, MOIA hosted four webinars focused on Atlanta's FinTech industry. In partnership with FinTech Atlanta, the American Transaction Payment Coalition, the Georgia FinTech Academy and ATDC, MOIA introduced Atlanta's booming FinTech ecosystem to entrepreneurs and investors in Chile, Canada, Brazil, and the Netherlands.

Passport to Exports: Equipping Atlanta Companies to go Global

Passport to Exports is an ongoing series that aims to help small and medium size companies that are new to exporting and are interested in entering the global economy to hear firsthand export accounts from metro Atlanta-based companies, and learn about the different tools, resources, and services available. In 2019, MOIA hosted three Passport to Exports Seminars in partnership with the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the U.S. Commercial Service, the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the UGA Small Business Development Center. The seminars were attended by over 80 businesses representing a wide range of industries.

Opening of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Atlanta

The Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands opened in Atlanta, Georgia, marking a new phase in the longstanding relationship between the United States and the Netherlands. This will be the Netherlands' fifth Consulate General in America. Ard van der Vorst will serve as the first Consul General in Atlanta and will focus on strengthening economic ties between the Netherlands and the southeast, including: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Opening of Export Development Canada (EDC)

Export Development Canada (EDC) opened its office in Atlanta to support its growing strategy in the United States and to better serve the Southeast. The Atlanta EDC office is led by Michael Gonsalves, Senior Regional Manager. The opening of this office signifies the importance of the southeastern region for the Canadian market, particularly as industries, such as auto and financial services are growing and share similarities between the regions.

Establishment of the Italian Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Chapter

Italian Consul General Cristiano Musillo with the support of Honorary Consul Ryan Kurtz, the Head of the Italian Chamber of Commerce, and the Italian Trade Commission Director established the first Italian Chamber of Commerce Georgia Chapter to further economic ties between Italy and Atlanta. Atlanta is considered a key location for companies looking to expand into the United States in the areas of smart cities, sustainability, smart manufacturing, logistics and supply chain management among others.



Expanding Global Connectivity

The Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA) supported Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as they established Sister Airport Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Vaclav Havel Prague Airport in the Czech Republic and Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport in France.



Sustainable Airport Areas International Seminar

MOIA partnered with the airport's offices of International Affairs and Sustainability, Aerotropolis Atlanta, and the Atlanta Regional Commission to bring the 9th Edition of the Sustainable Airport Areas International Seminar to Atlanta (SAAIS). Each year, airport area professionals from around the world gather to share best practices around sustainability, data, workforce, transport and mobility, urban planning and quality of life. In 2019, Atlanta hosted representatives from Beijing, Paris, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, and Vienna as well as multiple startups from the Paris region of France.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8th to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate achievements. In 2019, Atlanta organizations held a variety of events to bring awareness to the global campaign theme--#BalanceforBetter. The international affairs team at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport assembled a group that included dance students from Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts, Airport staff, and strategic partners—including our Global Engagement Officer, Paulina Guzman—to dance a choreographed performance of "Run the World" by Beyoncé.

Attracting International Events & Tourism

The Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA) attracts and supports international events throughout the year to grow Atlanta's brand as a global city and to bring cultural experiences to all Atlantans

In 2019,
MOIA
organized
17 events and
attracted
8 global events.



Smart City Expo Atlanta

In partnership with Fira de Barcelona, Smart City Expo Atlanta, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, Georgia Power, and economic development partners, MOIA attracted and supported the first U.S. edition of the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona. The 2019, the Expo focused on redefining smart while ensuring equity, prosperity, humanity, inclusion and justice are on par with technological advancements. In its first year, the expo gathered over 2,500 attendees representing government, corporations, non-profits, and entrepreneurs. Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms participated in a panel discussion alongside Ambassador Andrew Young and Dr. Bernice King to discuss the topic of compassionate cities. Director, Vanessa Ibarra, moderated a panel on Urban Diplomacy.

Wunderbar Together

To celebrate the year of German-American friendship, MOIA partnered with the Goethe Institute in Washington, the German Federal Foreign Office, and the Federation of German Industries (BDI) to bring for the second year in a row the Wunderbar Together Pop-up tour to Atlanta. The Wunderbar Together pop-up tour traveled around the United States through Chicago, St. Louis, Portland, and Atlanta to strengthen economic, educational and cultural ties between the two countries. Ms. Ibarra, participated in a panel entitled the "Future of Work" and Global Engagement Officer Paulina Guzman welcomed 80 elementary school students.

Christkindl Market

For the past four years, in partnership with the German American Cultural Foundation, MOIA has supported the growth and development of the Christkindl Market, a traditional German Christmas market. From its original location at Atlanta Station to its recent home at Centennial Olympic Park, the number of visitors has increased throughout the years from 250,000 to almost 750,000 in 2019. This year representatives from Atlanta's Sister City Nuremberg visited alongside the Christkind, the traditional Christmas gift-bringer. Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Jestin Johnson provided Christmas greetings on behalf of Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms.

France-Atlanta: 10th Anniversary

France-Atlanta is a two-week symposium organized in partnership with the French Consulate in Atlanta and the Georgia Institute of Technology to build bridges between Atlanta and France around scientific, business, cultural, and humanitarian arenas, celebrated their 10th year anniversary. Ms. Ibarra, provided remarks on behalf of the city to congratulate multiple partners for their dedication to continuing this exchange between the City and France.

Cultural Day – A Celebration of Ecuadorian Folklore

In partnership with the Consulate General of Ecuador in Atlanta and Welcoming Atlanta, MOIA celebrated the Day of el Pasillo – a traditional genre of Ecuadorian music - at City Hall with a performance from the members of the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert, attended by the Ecuadorian community and members of the Consular Corps, highlighted Ecuadorian culture as well as the contributions of the Ecuadorian community to the region.



Caribbean Heritage Month

To celebrate and educate residents of Atlanta on the Caribbean culture, lineage and contributions to America, many events took place around Atlanta. Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport hosted a program that featured an array of Caribbean culture, a steel band, and samba dancers. The Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Coalition organized an opening reception and expo to feature approximately 35 countries representing English, French, Spanish, and Dutch speaking Caribbean national in their national dress, a taste of Caribbean cuisine, and cultural entertainment.

Canada Day at City Hall

The Canadian Consulate in partnership with MOIA hosted Canada Day at City Hall, in celebration of Canada's creation and traditions, and to honor the 50th year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The Canada Day celebration marked the 152nd year anniversary of Confederation and celebrated the strong and longstanding Canada-Atlanta friendship.

International Migrants Day

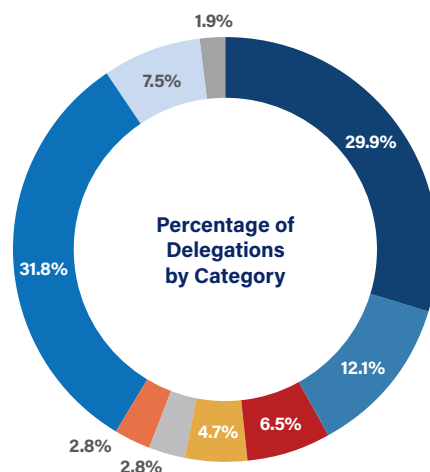
The City of Atlanta and Consulates of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, México and Perú partnered to host the International Day of Migrants at City Hall. The event brought awareness to human rights and the fundamental political freedoms of migrants, and an opportunity to reflect upon the unique contributions migrants make in our communities.

Atlanta: A Global City

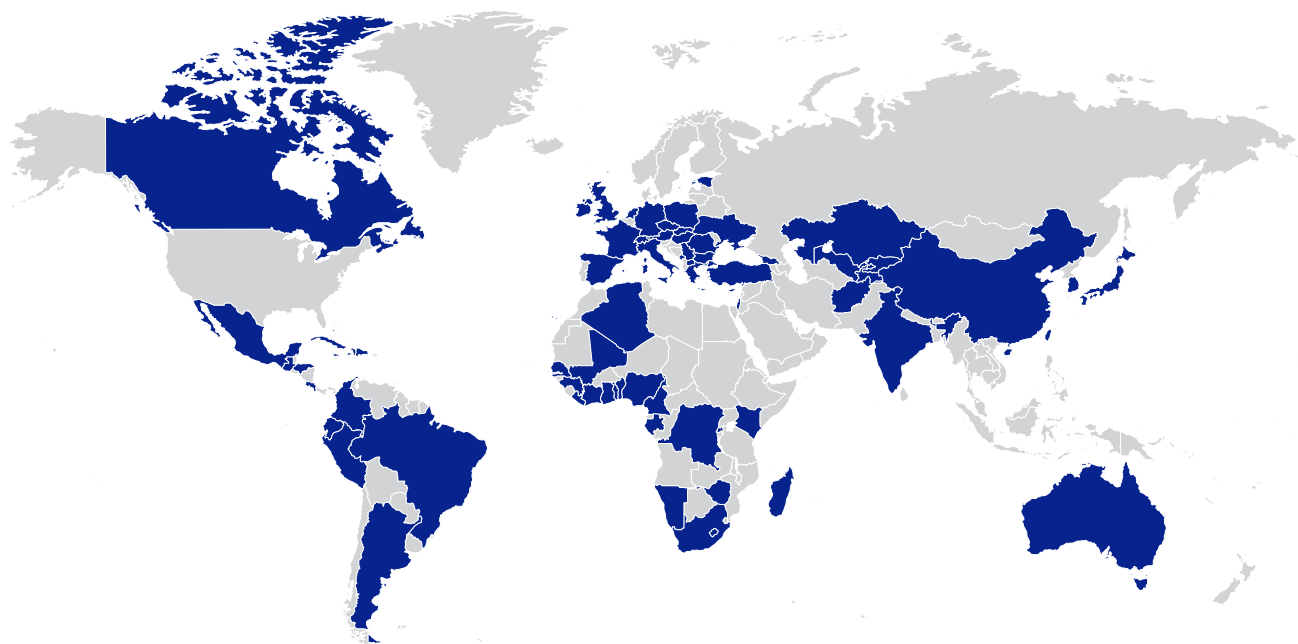
In 2019, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA) welcomed more than 100 delegations from 45 countries and regions all around the world. The delegations traveled to Atlanta to strengthen diplomatic and cultural ties, foster economic development and exchange best practices with different city departments.

2019 Complete List of Delegations by Category

Category	Amount
● Economic Development / Area Airport Development	32
● Emergency Preparedness / Police Department / Fire Department / Cybersecurity / Health	13
● LGBTQ / Human and Civil Rights / Immigrant Affairs	7
● Cultural Affairs / Film & Creative Industries	5
● City Planning/ Watershed/ Public Works / Parks and Recreation / Procurement	3
● Sustainability	3
● Diplomacy	34
● Education	8
● Sports Diplomacy	2
Total	107



Afghanistan • Algeria • Argentina • Australia • Austria • Bahamas • Barbados • Belgium • Brazil • Bulgaria • Canada • China • Colombia • Costa Rica • Côte d'Ivoire • Cuba • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • Estonia • France • Georgia • Germany • Ghana • Greece • Guatemala • Haiti • Honduras • Hungary • India • Ireland • Israel • Italy • Jamaica • Japan • Kazakhstan • Kenya • Kosovo • Kyrgyz Republic • Liberia • Macedonia • México • Montenegro • Netherlands • Nigeria • Perú • Poland • Romania • Serbia • Singapore • Slovakia • South Africa • South Korea • Spain • Switzerland • Taiwan • Tajikistan • Turkey • Ukraine • United Kingdom • Uzbekistan • Zimbabwe • **YALI Fellows:** Benin • Cameroon • The Democratic Republic of the Congo • Gabon • The Gambia • Ghana • Guinea • Kenya • Lesotho • Liberia • Madagascar • Mali • Namibia • Nigeria • Rwanda • Senegal • South Africa • Togo • Zimbabwe



We welcomed
**more than
100 delegations**
from countries
and regions
**around
the world.**



Mayor Bottoms Welcomes Minister Sigrid Kaag: Kingdom of the Netherlands Consulate General Grand Opening

In March 2019, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands opened its doors in Atlanta. As part of the occasion, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development and Cooperation, Sigrid Kaag, and delegates including Ambassador Henne Schuwer and the newly appointed Consul General Aard van der Vorst visited Atlanta. During her visit, Minister Kaag was hosted at City Hall by Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms to discuss equity, sustainability, women empowerment, trade, and entrepreneurship. At the conclusion of the meeting, Minister Kaag provided Mayor Bottoms a ticket to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit to be given to a leading female entrepreneur to attend the global conference in the Hague.

Mayor Bottoms Welcomes Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je: 40th Sister City Anniversary

2019 marked the 40th sister city anniversary between Atlanta and Taipei. To commemorate the sister city relationship in March, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms welcomed Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je to discuss the sister city relationship, trade, and youth exchanges. A reception was hosted at the Center for Puppetry Arts, and a tree planting ceremony took place along the Atlanta Beltline with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office and remarks from Deputy Chief Operating Officer Jon Keen and Ms. Ibarra.

Mayor Bottoms Welcomes Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness

In April 2019, Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness, visited Atlanta and met with Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. During the meeting Prime Minister Holness and Mayor Bottoms discussed the importance of the sister city relationship between Montego Bay and Atlanta and the opportunity to continue to develop strong economic and political ties as well as youth empowerment through education, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Following the meeting, Mayor Bottoms, Prime Minister Holness, and Ambassador Audrey Marks provided remarks for the Jamaican Chamber of Commerce and members of the Jamaican community in Atlanta.

IoT ATL Living Labs Agtech Challenge

In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Resilience, the Beltline, Invest Atlanta, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, AGCO Corporation, Southern Company, and New Market City, MOIA supported the establishment of the first IoT ATL Living Labs. The 2019 project was centered around identifying scalable Agtech solutions that address the global need for resilient food systems. The program will focus on IoT and technology solutions to help ensure equity and inclusion in the wave of strong economic growth while fostering the development of innovative technologies and partnerships between the City of Atlanta, businesses, and entrepreneurs.

Emergency Preparedness @ ATL

MOIA in partnership with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport organized a session for the members of the Atlanta Consular Corps focused on emergency preparedness and recovery, and how to respond to disaster situations and major incidents. The purpose of the session was to be part of a collaborative effort to help Atlanta's Consular Corps increase their knowledge and awareness of responding effectively to their constituents in the event of an emergency, severe weather events, and other disruptive incidents. The workshop included presentations by the Mayor's Office of Emergency Preparedness, Centralized Command and Control Center, and Atlanta Police Department.



Protocol Training at Georgia Tech

The Event Coordinators Network of the Georgia Institute of Technology organized an all-day event that included educational presentations to inform and inspire event coordinators and planners. As part of the session, MOIA was invited to lead a breakout session on receiving international visitors and protocol etiquette. The session centered on the basics of international protocol, regional variations of customs and business etiquette, and how to create the right conditions for business and diplomacy to succeed.

Protocol Training at The Coca-Cola Company

Members of the Protocol Officers Association, in partnership with the Coca-Cola Company and MOIA, hosted a spring protocol training session. Ms. Ibarra participated in a panel alongside Deputy Commissioner of International Relations for the Georgia Department of Economic Development Abby Turano, and Senior Representative of the Welsh Government in Atlanta, Erica Stevens, to discuss protocol experiences within government institutions.



International Support at the Atlanta Pride Parade

This year, thousands of supporters of LGBTQ+ rights braved the chilly weather and scattered showers at Pride Parade. Among the supporters were the Members of the Consular Corp including Ireland, Germany, France, Belgium, Greece, Netherlands, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Quebec Trade Office. As an additional demonstration of support, the Consulate General of Ireland invited Rory O'Neill AKA Panti Bliss, a drag queen and LGBTQ+ activist who became a key advocate for same-sex marriage in Ireland. A film screening documenting her life and rise as a prominent LGBTQ+ activist was organized in Atlanta's Landmark's Midtown Art Cinema.

To kick-off Atlanta Pride, Mayor Bottoms hosted the Mayor's Pride Reception, which brought together prominent LGBTQ+ leaders and performers, legislators, City of Atlanta officials, and members of the community, including the Consular Corps, to support the momentum surrounding Atlanta Pride.

L.A. Summit on City Diplomacy

The USC Center on Public Diplomacy (CPD) and the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of International Affairs co-hosted the L.A. Summit on City Diplomacy to discuss the vital role of U.S. cities on the world stage. The conference convened U.S. city officials, leading scholars, and practitioners to explore critical issues of governance, policy and community engagement for successful city diplomacy. Global Engagement Officer Paulina Guzman, participated, and provided a presentation centered on understanding citizens' perceptions and attitudes within the framework of Mayor Bottoms' One Atlanta vision of equity, inclusion, and diversity.

Atlanta's Sister City Relations

The City of Atlanta fosters 17 sister city relationships with communities across the globe. The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission has continued to expand its programming by promoting mutually beneficial cultural, educational, economic, and community development exchanges. The Commission has positioned itself to enhance its efforts through increased marketing, a charitable foundation and increased staff support from MOIA.



The City of Atlanta
fosters **17 sister city
relationships** with
communities **across
the globe.**

Sister Cities International Conference

MOIA and Sister City State Representative Teri Simmons attended the Sister Cities International Conference. The annual conference hosted in Houston, Texas in July focused on the theme "Cities Mean Business". Presentations and exchanges around sports diplomacy, youth leadership, community engagement, educational and cultural exchanges took place. The event culminated with a session with the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush around diplomacy.

Atlanta-Daegu Sister Cities Art Exhibit

The Atlanta-Daegu Great Art Fun Exhibit is an annual program held at City Hall which features a collection of art pieces from Korean artists to promote the exchange of arts and culture between Atlanta and Daegu.

Atlanta-Montego Bay Health Mission Brunch

Each year, the Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee organizes a Sunday brunch event in an effort to raise funds for the Annual Vin Martin Health Mission, which supplies much needed medical equipment and health services to local clinics in Jamaica.

City of Atlanta's Sister Cities

Ancient Olympia – Greece 1994
Brussels – Belgium 1983
Bucharest – Romania 1994
Cotonou – Benin 1995
Fukuoka – Japan 2005
Lagos – Nigeria 1974
Montego Bay – Jamaica 1972
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne – Great Britain 1977
Nuremberg – Germany 1998

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad 1987
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil 1972
Ra'anana – Israel 2000
Salcedo – Dominican Republic 1996
Daegu – South Korea 1981
Taipei – Republic of China (Taiwan) 1979
Tbilisi – Republic of Georgia 1988
Toulouse – France 1974

Youth Engagement & Expanding Atlanta's Global Education

MOIA collaborates with Atlanta-based academic institutions, grades K-12, universities and colleges to develop students' cross-cultural competencies and foreign language acquisition in order to establish a competitive global workforce.

**We help
prepare
Atlanta's
workforce
to succeed
in a global
economy.**



World Languages Day

MOIA participated as an exhibitor for the World Languages Day event, hosted by Georgia State University's Center for Urban Language Teaching and Research (CULTR). The interactive fair connects high school and college students with leaders in international business, social services, and public agencies to raise student awareness of the benefits of language study and global competency.

Atlanta Global Studies Center

The Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC) made a splash in 2019 with their Inaugural Annual Atlanta Global Studies Symposium in April, which served to support AGSC's mission to highlight the city's growing role as a global hub for innovation in higher education focused on languages, global competence, and sustainable development. Throughout 2019, MOIA participated in a variety of programs and initiatives implemented by AGSC in order to support international education and promote the benefits of language and global competence.

Youth United N2025

Global Engagement Officer, Paulina Guzman, was invited to visit Atlanta's sister city, Nuremberg, Germany, to attend an international workshop to showcase youth activities in respective cities, exchange best practices, and explore how young populations impact their communities. The international workshop was a component of Nuremberg's bid to be selected as European Capital of Culture in 2025 and was centered on three central topics: embracing humanity, exploring reality, and evolving community. As part of the exchange, Paulina had the opportunity to tour historical sites such as the Way of Human Rights and Nuremberg Rathaus, as well as youthcentered organizations and public spaces like LAUT Nürnberg and the Street of Children's Rights.

World Language Leadership Institute

The World Language Leadership Institute was hosted by the Georgia Department of Education in Savannah, Georgia, to convene educators, administrators, and government officials convened for an exchange of best practices in world language advocacy, proficiency training, and workforce development. Ms. Guzman presented on MOIA's efforts to support and advocate for global education across metro Atlanta.

Student Engagement

The 2019 year brought many exciting opportunities to engage with students. Global Engagement Officer, Paulina Guzman, was invited to participate in conversations with high school and college students interested in exploring careers in international affairs and public service. She participated in panel discussions and speaking engagements with Georgia State University, Georgia Tech's Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Atlanta Institute for Diplomatic Leadership, The Center for the Advancement and Study of International Education (CASIE), Jubilee International Symposium in Americus, Georgia, the Atlanta Global Studies Center, and much more. Conversations ranged from international protocol to advocacy for cultural competence and language acquisition.



Thank you to the following City of Atlanta departments for partnering with us!

Office of Emergency Preparedness
Office of Sustainability
Office of Cultural Affairs
Office of Immigrant Affairs
One Atlanta
Atlanta Fire Department
Atlanta Police Department
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

- Department of Watershed Management
- Department of Parks & Recreation
- Department of Procurement
- Department of City Planning
- Department of Finance
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Public Works
- Atlanta Information Management
- Invest Atlanta
- Atlanta City Council

To You All:

The 1996 Olympics elevated Atlanta's standing as a global city. The establishment of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport positioned Atlanta as a global gateway. And now, our city is recognized more than ever by our diverse and robust portfolio of industries including fintech, logistics, supply chain management, cybersecurity, health, mobility, and the creative industries. However, it is our spirit of public-private partnership, ease of doing business, culture, outstanding education, and overall quality of life that has attracted many international businesses and visitors to make Atlanta the capital of the south and global force it is today.

In 2019, the office of international affairs welcomed more than 100 international delegations ranging from high ranking diplomats, businesses, and city representatives seeking to exchange best practices with city departments and City Council, to students interested in learning about our history and governance structure. We brought the world to our constituents by attracting five international events focused on airport areas development, smart cities, arts, and culture. We participated in five overseas trade missions to promote Atlanta's key industries to potential investors and discussed potential partnerships with foreign organizations and government offices.

As facilitators and connectors, the international affairs office has been able to connect the dots and grow Atlanta's international brand, and I am proud of my team, the small but mighty team, for their drive and commitment to do so every day. I am thankful for the support of our dynamic global community and partnerships with various stakeholders including our city departments, the Airport, the Governor's office, Consulates, binational chambers of commerce, trade offices, international organizations, educational institutions, economic development partners, sister cities, and academic institutions who work with us to make the work that we do possible.

It is my honor to serve as the Director for the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and look forward to what the year 2020 will bring as we expand our portfolio to include sports, educational exchanges, empowerment of female entrepreneurs, and the development of Atlanta led trade missions.

Thank you to our partners for all that you do, every day, to continue to position Atlanta as a global hub for commerce, innovation, education, sports, culture, and diplomacy. Let's continue to show the world why Atlanta is a leading city.



Thank you,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Vanessa Ibarra, written in a cursive style.

Vanessa Ibarra
Director, Mayor's Office of International Affairs



Mayor's Office of International Affairs

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