



CITY OF ATLANTA

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Andre Dickens
MAYOR

Greetings:

As we close another year of my administration, it is with great pride that I continue to support the vital work of the Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs – Welcoming Atlanta (MOIIA).

Atlanta is a city that builds bridges, not barriers. Our commitment to inclusion fuels the remarkable diversity that defines our community, drawing people from across the world who call Atlanta home. These global citizens enrich our city, fostering stronger and more vibrant neighborhoods.

Since taking office, I've had the honor of participating in a wide range of welcoming activities hosted by MOIIA. In 2024, we not only welcomed international visitors from nearly 100 nations, but Atlanta City Hall also hosted several signature events that celebrated the richness of our cultural diversity. We marked our first-ever celebration of Eid after Ramadan, Diwali, Mexican Independence Day, Latinx Pride, and a Naturalization Ceremony that welcomed more than 50 new U.S. citizens into our community. Additionally, we commemorated World Migrants Day, highlighting the invaluable contributions of immigrant-owned businesses, artists, and our consular and international partners.

Beyond these major milestones, MOIIA's weekly Community Resource Events have made a tangible impact on improving safety, belonging, and a sense of community throughout the city. Through these events, MOIIA has served over 45,000 individuals in 2024 alone. We continue to see increased demand for the City's Language Access Plan, iSpeakATL, which provided over 15,000 minutes of interpretation this year - helping ensure language is never a barrier to connection.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the many partners who have been instrumental in advancing my administration's priorities over the past year. This includes our consular and foreign trade offices, binational chambers of commerce, advocacy organizations, educational institutions, and more. Atlanta is a group project, and every partner has played a role in bolstering Atlanta's international presence and supporting our immigrant communities.

The dedicated team at MOIIA is hard at work developing Atlanta as a truly welcoming city – one where meaningful connections, inclusion, and opportunity are available to all. Together, we are shaping a future where Atlanta thrives as a global hub of innovation and culture. As we continue this journey, I am confident that we will take Atlanta to even greater heights in 2025.

Thank you for a successful year. We've proven that there's no limit to what we can achieve together as we continue Moving Atlanta Forward.

Sincerely,

Mayor Andre Dickens



Dear MOIIA partners,

As I wrap up my first year as Director of the Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs – Welcoming Atlanta, I am thrilled to highlight another successful year of embodying our core mission of positioning Atlanta as a welcoming city.

2024 was a year of bolstering Atlanta's international presence and reaching new heights in our goals to empower our city's local communities. With the help of our 310 local, national, and international partners, MOIIA excelled in the areas of diplomacy, business, sports, education, and neighborhood empowerment.

In 2024, we hosted 89 delegations representing 98 countries. This year saw high-profile delegation visits, including the Dutch King and Queen and the President of Kenya. Our team also represented Atlanta abroad, with missions to France, Ireland, Sint Maarten, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

In line with Mayor Dickens's Year of the Youth initiatives, our office empowers local and international youth. We hosted youth delegations from our sister cities in Nuremberg, Fukuoka, and Brussels, as well as young entrepreneurs from Sint Maarten. We are proud to engage in Atlanta's educational institutions and foreign-born youth for career and cultural development opportunities.

At Community Resource Events throughout the City of Atlanta, we are connecting residents to resources across a number of service areas. This year, we served close to 46,000 individuals representing 56 distinct countries. Alongside 112 public and private partners in 2024, this program is one of many ways we are engaging communities and supporting healthy, safe neighborhoods.

In continuing to position Atlanta as a welcoming city, iSpeakATL, the City's language access line, received over 15,800 minutes of interpretation calls in languages such as Spanish, French, Mandarin, and more. We are proud that City of Atlanta employees have conducted over 1,300 translation calls to better serve our Limited English Proficiency population.

Atlanta is a dynamic city, and I am incredibly grateful for the successes of 2024, made possible by the MOIIA team, our numerous partnerships, and the support and encouragement from Mayor Andre Dickens.

Sincerely,

Paulina Guzman

Director, Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs - Welcoming Atlanta

About the Mayor's Office of International & Immigrant Affairs

OUR VISION

Position Atlanta as a welcoming City—a connected, inclusive community that uplifts our foreign-born population and provides an opportunity for all—and a global hub for diplomacy, business, innovation, education, culture, and sports.

OUR MISSION

Inclusion is a part of Atlanta's DNA, and we stand proud as a welcoming city.

MOIIA's mission is to develop and foster relationships between Atlanta's international communities, City departments, and external partners to empower our foreign born population through access to information, to identify economic opportunities, and to address local and global challenges.

OBJECTIVES

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Engage youth, including foreign-born and limited English speaking communities, and educational institutions to promote foreign language acquisition, cultural competency building, and equitable access to career development opportunities.

WELCOMING CITY

Build a more connected, inclusive community through the adoption of intentional and welcoming policies, practices, and programming that provide residents opportunities to meaningfully engage and strengthen the social, civic, and economic environment of Atlanta in an equitable manner.

NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

Enhance public safety, trust, and access to internal and external resources through place-based outreach efforts that invest in community development and enable everyone to live, thrive, and contribute fully.

DIPLOMACY

Lead the City's diplomacy efforts and international partnerships by engaging with local partners and both national and international counterparts to identify solutions to local and global challenges.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Establish opportunities for trade, advance international strategic partnerships, and connect minority and women-owned businesses to resources, collaborative networks, and tools for growth.

SPORTS DIPLOMACY

Host visits and exchanges that improve dialogue and promote connection and cultural understanding between diverse groups, while underscoring Atlanta's global passion for sports and delivering cultural experiences for youth and professionals.

Meet the Team



Paulina Guzman
Director



Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez
Deputy Director



Valerie Mills
Senior Manager



Holly Malerba
Senior Outreach and
Programs Manager



Carolina Ramos
Senior Policy and
Partnership Manager



Christina Chu
Community Outreach
Manager



Nicholas Mulkey
Ecosystem and
Experience Manager



Jacob Noh
Programs and
Operations Manager



Ana Petrova
International Affairs
Specialist



Pilar Baca
Community Navigator
Coordinator



Avery James
New Arrivals Coordinator

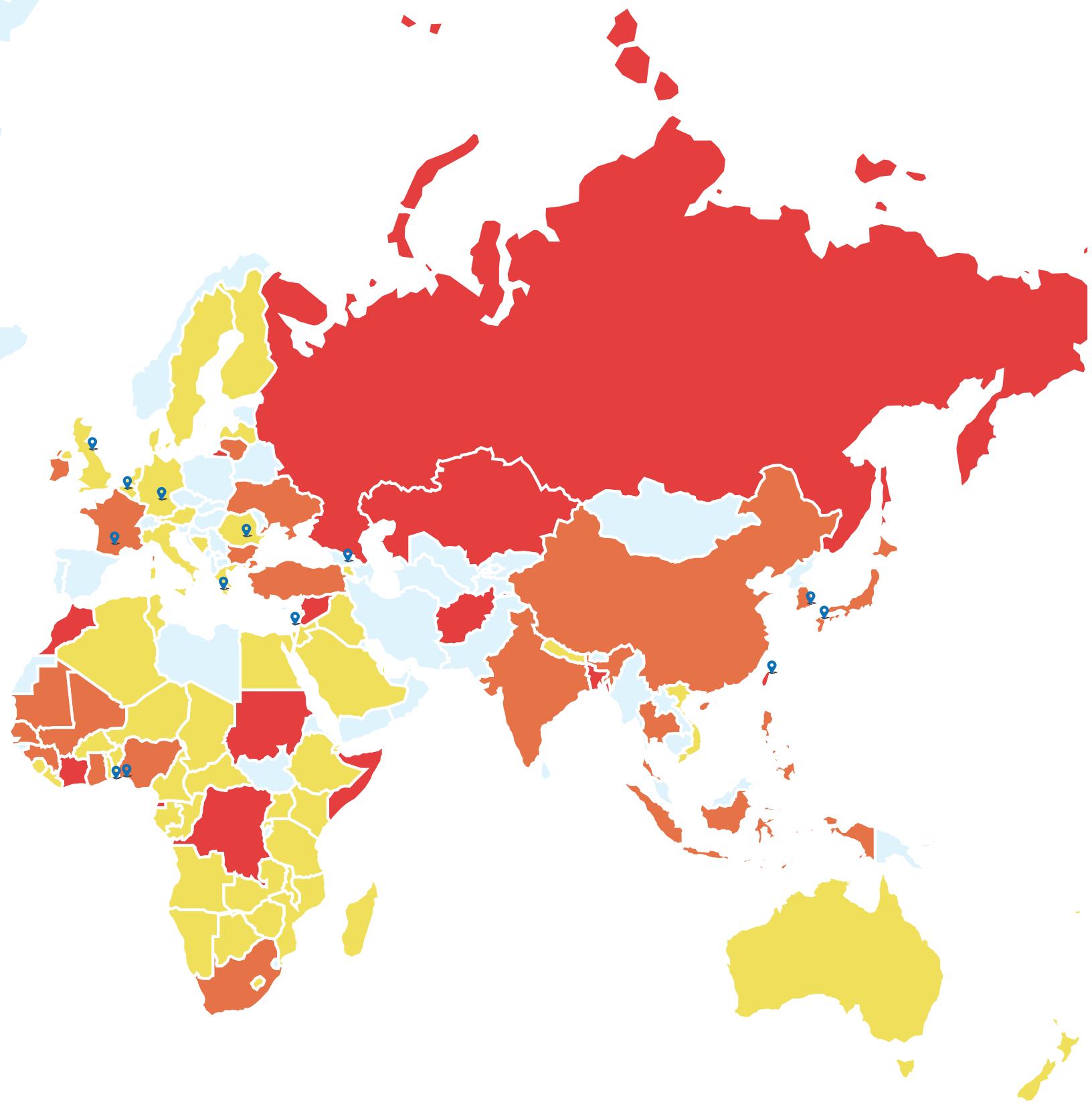
Our World View

2024 Country Engagement - by the numbers

Community Resource Events (56)

Diplomacy (98)

Both (34)



Youth & Education

Engage youth, including foreign-born and limited English speaking communities, and educational institutions to promote foreign language acquisition, cultural competency building, and equitable access to career development opportunities.



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YOUTH INTERNS

Public Service Interns

Our Public Service Internship (PSI) Program welcomed 13 students as part of our 13th, 14th, and 15th cohorts. This internship program is designed to offer undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to engage and empower immigrant communities, while learning about professional development and civic engagement at the City of Atlanta. Students represented 5 different universities over the spring, summer, and fall.



“Being part of the public service internship with MOIIA has been an incredibly inspiring and empowering journey. Through my involvement in both international and diplomatic initiatives, as well as direct engagement with local communities, I have gained valuable experience that has allowed me to bridge global perspectives with local action. These unique opportunities have not only shaped my professional path but have also cultivated a stronger sense of purpose and direction in my career. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such impactful work and to be part of a team with such a strong sense of purpose.”

—Victoria L., International Relations graduate from Monterrey Institute of Technology

Community Engagement Exchange Fellows

We welcomed 2 Fellows as part of the Community Engagement Exchange Program, a U.S. State Department program which offers young leaders from around the world the opportunity to engage with US civil society organizations. Our Fellows represented Egypt and Tajikistan, and they worked on data collection for our MyCity ATL program and research for iSpeakATL, the City's Language Access Plan.



Social Work Interns

Our Social Work Internship Program entered its 4th year as we hosted 5 students throughout the spring and fall. The Social Work Internship Program is hosted in partnership with Georgia post-secondary institutions, including Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, and the University of Georgia. Our Social Work interns complete their field practicum, a requirement for their Social Work degree, for the duration of one academic year and earn a total of 300-600 hours, depending on their specific degree program. This program was initiated in 2021 and has hosted 11 students since its inception.

“My Corporate Work Study Program experience with the Atlanta Mayor’s Office of International and Immigrant Affairs has given me the opportunity to learn the behind the scenes processes of the City. MOIIA has let me experience the different departments firsthand and allowed me to meet the people who operate them.”

—London W., student at Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School

“The office has a wide reach across multiple disciplines, so as a Social Work Intern, I have been able to apply my knowledge from my Master’s program as well as learn further skills. One memory I am most proud of was during the Migrant’s Day Celebration at City Hall. I was able to see a wide array of nationalities and cultures under the roof of City Hall, and see the exchange between groups and City Hall staff. The event also helped me understand the importance of diplomacy in the context of Social Work, in terms of being aware of the social capital and wealth of diversity in the community of Atlanta.”

—Elizabeth S., Masters of Social Work student at Georgia State University

Cristo Rey Corporate Work Study Program

This was our 7th year of welcoming student interns from Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School through their Corporate Work Study Program. Students participated in shadowing opportunities with other City of Atlanta departments and gained experience researching important topics relevant to our office.



Highlights of Youth-Related Activities



Youth Volunteers

We hosted 184 youth volunteers at our Community Resource Events, in partnership with Agape Youth and Family Center, Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School, Mays High School, Midtown High School, North Atlanta High School, and Spelman College. These volunteer opportunities help students earn Community Service Hours towards graduation, while showcasing ways to get involved in their own neighborhoods. This program exposes students to the work of our office and equips them to serve as ambassadors of care in their daily lives.

"I have never seen an organization that actually takes care of and listens to your opinions. Their staff is more than nice. They are understanding, sympathetic, and friendly. Helping out at their events has taught me about giving and being grateful of what we have because not everybody has the privilege to have food on the table every day. They also give out free healthcare checkups which the people I have talked to say they have discovered what's wrong with their health."

—Isis G., student volunteer

Bike Giveaway

This year, we distributed 43 bikes at our 6th Annual Bike Giveaway, which took place in an Admasville neighborhood in February in partnership with Free Bikes 4 Kidz (FB4K), Young Middle School, and Mays High School. Since 2019, we have hosted Bike Giveaways with FB4K in 7 distinct neighborhoods, providing nearly 800 bikes to kids across the city. We also supported their Holiday Bike Giveaway again, which included 33 families from our neighborhoods. We are grateful to continue this partnership with Free Bikes 4 Kidz!



Spooky Family Day

We hosted our first-ever Spooky Family Day, with an estimated 200 families turning out to celebrate Halloween in North Atlanta. This event included distribution of 129 strider bikes for toddlers under age 4, in partnership with Free Bikes 4 Kidz Atlanta. 8 additional youth engagement and resource partners joined us to offer fun, interactive activities- including face painting, coloring, and games! We celebrated the spooky season in the community, complete with Halloween music, trick-or-treating, and costumes.



Students at Eid and El Grito

We welcomed students from Mays High School to 2 of our Welcoming Events at Atlanta City Hall: Eid and Mexican Independence Day. Students from Mays ESOL and the Hispanic Heritage Club toured City Hall, learned about city government, and participated in the festivities.

"The Mexican Independence Celebration provided a uniquely dynamic opportunity for Mays HS students, Mexican, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic alike, to learn and celebrate together. Students enjoyed the tour of Atlanta City Hall and the phenomenal program which highlighted exemplary Mexican leaders in their communities. The Mays participants and teachers were so thankful for the invitation."

—Mrs. Tanner, Lead ESOL Teacher at Mays HS and Hispanic Heritage Club and International Club sponsor

Cristo Rey Students HoPe Club

Our community engagement team established a partnership with Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School's HoPe Club (Hispanic Organization Promoting Education). Students supported 2 of our Community Resource Events and attended our World Migrants Day celebration in December.



"What inspires me to volunteer is seeing my community grow and empowering them with so many essential resources. I personally love volunteering with Welcoming Atlanta because I am the son of two immigrants who have always worked twice as hard as anyone I know. I see my parents in the people we serve. Being able to give back to my parents is one of my biggest goals in life, and serving those in these communities feels like I am accomplishing that goal. Lastly, I am a very hands-on learner, and having the opportunity to be outside in my community and interacting with one another, I learned that time is one of the most important things we can give because it shows care, commitment, and the willingness to invest in others, creating a lasting impact on their lives and our own."

—Gerardo R., student at Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School

Welcoming City

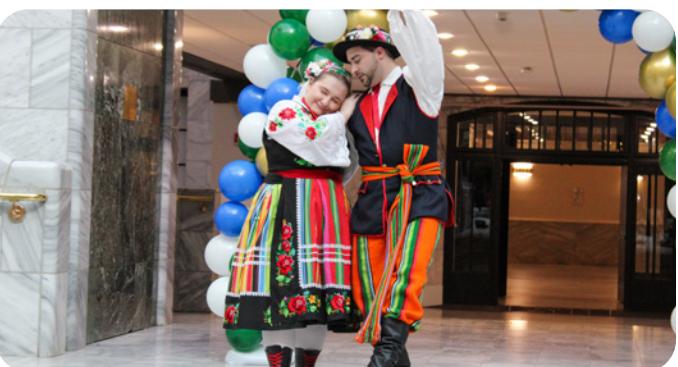
Build a more connected, inclusive community through the adoption of intentional and welcoming policies, practices, and programming that provide residents opportunities to meaningfully engage and strengthen the social, civic, and economic environment of Atlanta in an equitable manner.

Signature Welcoming Events

World Migrants Day

Mayor Andre Dickens hosted our first-ever celebration of World Migrants Day at City Hall! Alongside over 30 Consulates, international partners, immigrant-owned businesses, Sister Cities, local artists, and performance groups, we honored the experiences of migrants from around the world and recognized their significant contributions to our city.

Mayor Dickens and Dean of the Atlanta Consular Corps and Consul General of Mexico Javier Díaz de León delivered welcoming remarks, and performance groups represented a traditional Korean drum dance, Polish national dances, Mexican ballet folklórico, and dance from the Pacific Islands, including Tahiti and New Zealand. This culturally immersive event encouraged City employees and attendees to consider diverse perspectives and think globally.



Eid Reception

We were honored to host the first annual Mayor's Eid Reception at City Hall, in partnership with the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta. In celebration of this holy festival marking the conclusion of Ramadan, we were joined by members and leaders of the Muslim community here in Atlanta, students from Mays High School, Atlanta City Council representatives, and City of Atlanta employees! Performances included Alif Institute Tabla Drummers, singer Amira Unplugged, and Emory Qawwali Ensemble.

Mexican Independence Day

In celebration of the 214th anniversary of Mexican independence, Mayor Andre Dickens joined the Consulate General of Mexico in Atlanta for a special night honoring history and culture at City Hall. This commemoration of Mexican Independence Day included a presentation of the traditional El Grito by Consul General of Mexico Javier Díaz de León and performances by Soprano Carolina Herrera and Mariachi Pepe López. This was our fourth year bringing this significant occasion to City Hall, and we enjoyed uplifting the voices of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in our city.



Naturalization Ceremony

During Welcoming Week 2024, we were honored to host our annual Naturalization Ceremony, which welcomed 50 new US citizens from 25 countries around the world. This special ceremony represents the culmination of an immigrant's journey to citizenship and confers all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including the right to vote and travel with a U.S. passport. Mayor Dickens offered congratulatory remarks, and participating organizations included Women Watch Afrika, Atlanta Passport Agency, Carver STEAM Academy, and Momonoki.



Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Vendor Expo

We hosted an Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Vendor Expo at City Hall, in partnership with Microsoft. With 11 restaurant vendors, 3 cultural performance groups, and 4 artists, we celebrated the many cultures under the AANHPI umbrella. During this celebration of May as AANHPI Heritage Month, we recognized the diverse traditions, foods, music, and dance of our AANHPI communities and reflected on the important contributions of these communities to our city!



Diwali Celebration

At City Hall, Mayor Dickens hosted a celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights celebrated by millions of Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs around the world. The event included a ceremonial diya lamp lighting to symbolize the victory of good over evil, traditional Indian classical dance, and delicious Indian food. City Council President Shipman joined the celebration and presented a Proclamation recognizing Diwali in the City of Atlanta.



Passport Services Day

We hosted the first-ever Passport Services Day, in partnership with the Atlanta Passport Agency. This event offered assistance with passport applications and renewals for 79 City of Atlanta employees and their families. By improving access to passports for those eligible, we hope to facilitate international exchange and opportunities for Atlantans to travel and represent our city abroad.



Latinx Orgullo/Pride Reception

We loved celebrating the 2nd Annual Latinx Orgullo / Pride Reception, co-hosted by the Latino Community Fund at City Hall! This was a wonderful celebration of the intersection of LGBTQ+ and Latinx identities, complete with drag performances and remarks from Mayor Dickens. Thank you to the Latino Community Fund, for all your work to recognize and uplift our Latinx LGBTQ+ community.



Welcoming City

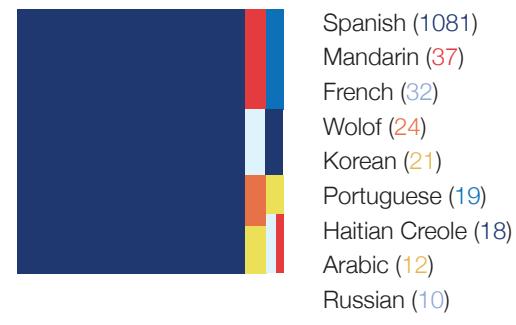
Immigrant Integration Programs

iSpeakATL

This is the 3rd year of the City of Atlanta's in-service training on iSpeakATL, our language access plan. iSpeakATL ensures that City of Atlanta programs and services are accessible to all, regardless of the language you speak. Here in Atlanta, you don't have to speak excellent English to receive excellent service!

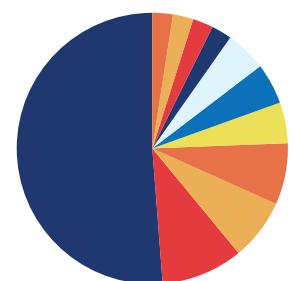
TOP 10 LANGUAGES

requested for interpretation in descending order:



54 TOTAL REQUESTS

for document translations:



New Arrivals

We closed out our Emergency Food and Shelter Humanitarian Program in September 2024. We were able to support over 30,000 new arrivals who came to Georgia, and we supported this program with \$6,728,982.87. We are so thankful for our partners: Georgia Asylum Immigration Network, Casa Alterna, Latin American Association, Inspiritus, Catholic Charities, IMAN Center, Hispanic Alliance Georgia, Migrant Equity Southeast and the International Rescue Committee.



TOP 10 DEPARTMENTS

using iSpeakATL in descending order:



Welcoming City

Local and National Engagements

Maximizing Global Talent Event

Director Paulina Guzman delivered welcoming remarks at the Global Talent Event "Maximizing Global Talent: Expanding Georgia's Healthcare Workforce," hosted by the BIG Partnership. This event focused on inclusive responses to healthcare workforce shortages in the state of Georgia.



Cities 4 Action

As a member of the steering committee for Cities for Action, our team participated in the annual Cities for Action (C4A) Convening in New York City. C4A is made up of local governments from across the United States. This year, C4A brought together not only cities, but also advocates, philanthropists, and other key stakeholders committed to advancing pro-immigrant policies. Our goal is to address common challenges, share best practices, and develop a unified roadmap to promote immigrant justice at all levels of government and beyond.



New Employee Orientations

Across 8 trainings, we presented to over 500 new employees at the City of Atlanta Department of Human Resource's New Employee Orientations to inform them about iSpeakATL—the City's Language Access Plan.



Strong Cities Transatlantic Webinar

Director Paulina Guzman participated in a Strong Cities Transatlantic Webinar, titled "Global Crises, Local Impacts: Threats to Social Cohesion and How Cities Can Respond." Paulina highlighted the importance of local coordination to support welcoming policies and respond to disinformation, particularly related to anti-migrant sentiments and violence.



International Volunteer Day

We hosted our 4th International Volunteer Day, which welcomed 48 volunteers in celebration of the United Nations' International Volunteer Day. Volunteers represented the Consulates General of the Bahamas, France, and the United Kingdom, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Georgia and Trinity Anglican Church.

Neighborhood Empowerment

Enhance public safety, trust, and access to internal and external resources through place-based outreach efforts that invest in community development and enable everyone to live, thrive, and contribute fully.

Community Resource Events

Our Community Resource Event program connects residents to needed resources and offers a safe space for community building, earning trust in City of Atlanta neighborhoods. Events bridge partners and people, improving resource access in a number of focus areas: education advocacy, financial literacy, food access, health and wellbeing, housing stability, legal services, public safety, victim services, violence reduction, and youth empowerment.

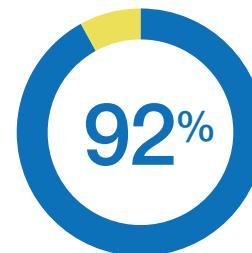


Neighborhood Empowerment

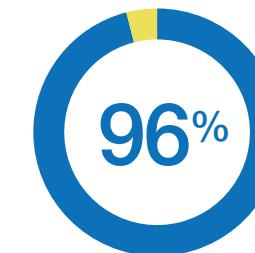
Community Resource Events

Impact Report Project

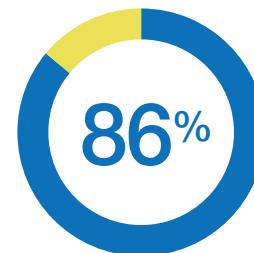
In 2024, our community engagement team undertook a survey and long-form interview project to measure program impact. Over 250 surveys and 30 interviews were conducted across 9 neighborhoods. The results demonstrate a significantly positive impact on family stability, wellbeing, connection, and sense of belonging within communities and within the City of Atlanta. Many described the program as transformative and credited it with improving their quality of life.



Participants report feeling more connected to their community



Participants report feeling comfortable asking for help from Welcoming Atlanta *in comparison to 72% feeling comfortable reaching out to City government*



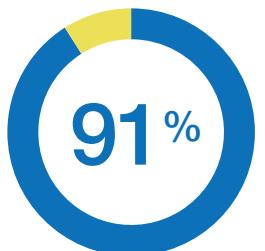
Participants report feeling safer in their community



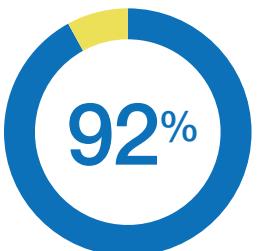
Second Helpings Atlanta

Since 2021, the Meals with Meaning program with Second Helpings Atlanta has supported fresh food access in our neighborhoods, serving nearly 36,000 individuals at 70 Community Resource Events this year alone. The Meals with Meaning program came to a close at the end of 2024, and we are deeply grateful for Second Helpings' partnership and their commitment to improving food access in the communities we serve.

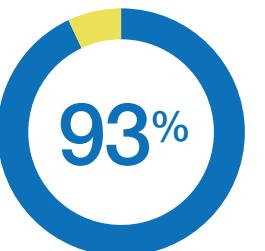
Community Resource Events (continued)



Participants know they will receive help in their language when needed



Participants feel like they are welcome in the City of Atlanta



Participants report reduced levels of financial stress and overall anxiety



Friends of Sara J. González Memorial Park

We partnered with the Friends of Sara J. González Memorial Park to host our signature Back-to-School Resource Fair, which saw the largest turnout ever of 326 families and provided school supplies to 434 students. Our 5th Annual Winter Resource Fair brought together 30+ Community Partners to distribute nearly 750 toys, an estimated 8,800 pounds of groceries and more!

"I've been here (in Atlanta) for almost 22 years, and I've never had this type of help until now. It has been a great help, really, for the entire community."

—Socorro V., community member



"I have connected a lot with my neighbors, now I know them much more and that seems perfect to me."

—Carlos S., community member

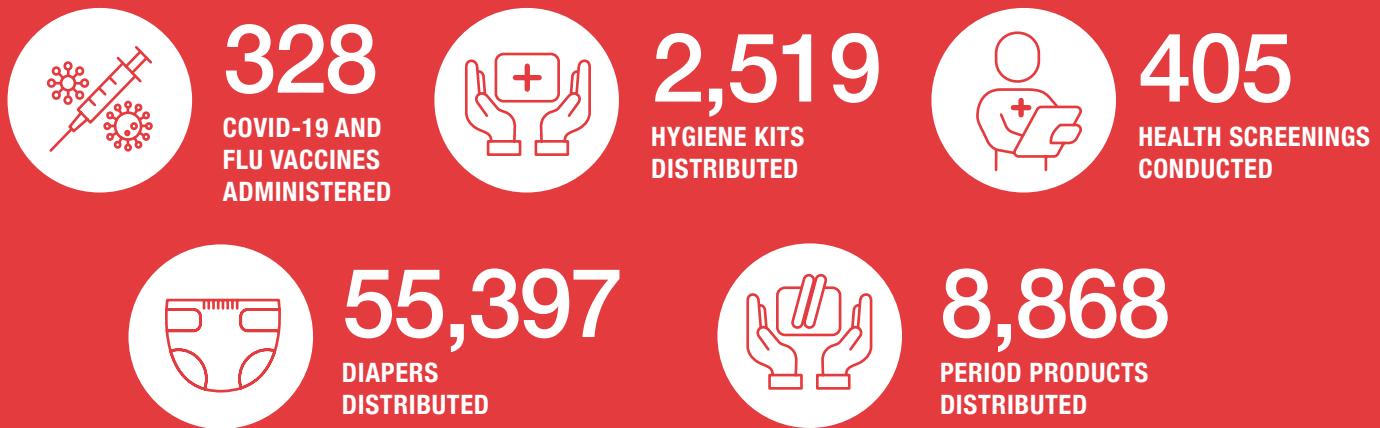
Atlanta Braves Foundation and Georgia Power

Alongside the Atlanta Braves Foundation and Georgia Power, we co-hosted 12 Community Resource Events, serving over 6,800 individuals with protein boxes, fresh food items, and hot meals. This signature collaboration demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships and is a key example of how we are bringing together important local stakeholders to create positive change.



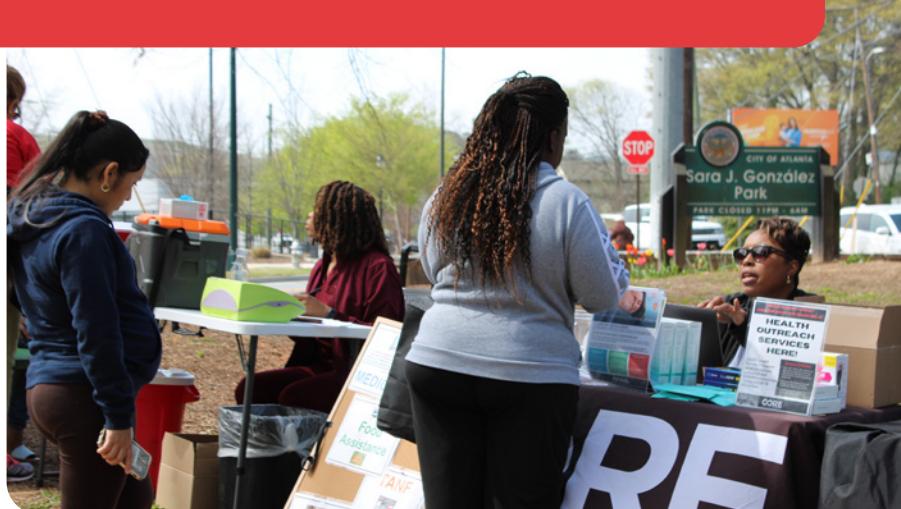
Neighborhood Empowerment

Health & Wellbeing



CORE Georgia

Since 2021, CORE Georgia has administered 1,185 vaccinations at our Community Resource Events, including 290 COVID-19 and flu vaccines this year. The CORE team has expanded our ability to improve health equity and vaccine accessibility in our communities, and their bilingual team has also provided medical benefits navigation, HIV/STI testing, Narcan, and other health resources.



ICNA Relief Georgia

ICNA Relief Georgia offered health screenings at 5 Community Resource Events, totaling 206 glucose and blood pressure screenings throughout the year. At our co-hosted Back-to-School Resource Fair, we also distributed backpacks and school supplies to 94 families.

Someone Cares

Someone Cares' Mobile Health Unit attended 9 Community Resource Events this year. Their team conducted 111 health screenings and accessible HIV testing. Additional services included referrals to clinical care, addiction support, and assistance navigating a positive HIV diagnosis.

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) Georgia

In our third year partnering with PCOM Georgia, medical students participated in our annual Winter Resource Fair with the Friends of Sara J. González Memorial Park. The PCOM Georgia team administered 88 health screenings, decorated toy stethoscopes, and offered tours of their 'Simbulance,' which allows children to experience a simulated ambulance.

Neighborhood Empowerment

Community Navigator Program

Our Community Navigator program is hosted in partnership with the Latino Community Fund and empowers Spanish-speaking leaders to facilitate resource access in their communities. Navigators participate in training opportunities with various partner organizations, gaining valuable knowledge to share with residents. Through these efforts, they build meaningful connections and actively contribute to a variety of community engagement initiatives.

This year, we hosted 9 in-language Navigator trainings with 8 organizations, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice- Atlanta, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Atlanta Police Department Code Enforcement Section, LaAmistad, Latino Community Fund, Mi Familia Vota, Operation Hope, and YMCA. Navigators also supported 31 additional events and community engagement activities for 9 City of Atlanta departments and 19 external community partners.

In her position as a Navigator, Veronica C. led conversations with the Consulate General of Ecuador in Atlanta. She met with local leaders to discuss the needs of the Ecuadorian community and her role as a Community Navigator with our office, and she attended a ceremony unveiling a new work of art now hanging at the Consulate.



"As a Community Navigator, I have come to understand the immense value of accessing information and effectively communicating it to the community. People place their trust in us and reach out for assistance. I truly enjoy engaging with the community, learning about their needs, and hearing how our support impacts them—not only in terms of food but also economically and socially—because they have someone they can rely on. This drives me to continue learning and finding ways to provide even greater support in my role as Community Navigator."

— Faviola M., Community Navigator

Neighborhood Empowerment

Victims' Services and Public Safety

Our Victims' Services Program provides direct victim services to Limited English Proficient and foreign-born victims of crime. Since 2019, we have received funding from Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to carry out a culturally competent victim assistance program. Our current funding allows for three bilingual staff members part-time to provide direct victim services to Limited English Proficient and foreign-born victims of crime and oversee grant administration. We have also partnered with 6 multicultural victims' services organizations to offer resources at 33 Community Resource Events this year.

Top 5 Victimization:

1. Assault
2. Domestic Violence
3. Fraud
4. Robbery
5. Labor Trafficking



In 2024, we expanded place-based community engagement efforts in Southwest Atlanta to serve a community of asylum seekers fleeing persecution in their home countries. 499 households were provided assistance in the form of fresh food, clothing, personal hygiene items, and pro-bono legal resources in their native languages. We worked with religious and community leaders to connect community members to critical public safety resources to avoid further victimization and discrimination.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month presents the opportunity to improve understanding around domestic violence, particularly when it comes to immigrant survivors. Due to immigration status and other factors, immigrants may face disproportionate challenges to leaving their abuser, including limited language proficiency, disparities in economic and social resources, social isolation, and fear of reporting.

Our team participated in the first Multicultural Candlelight Vigil, hosted in partnership with several immigrant and refugee-serving organizations in Atlanta, including the Cherokee Family Violence Center, Raksha, Caminar Latino, Tapestri, Karibou, Tahirih Justice Center and Noor Family Services. The Candlelight Vigil served to honor and remember the many lives tragically lost to domestic violence.

Community Navigator Anabel A. joined Tapestri's 5th Domestic Violence Forum, an annual opportunity to learn about recognizing, preventing, and responding to domestic violence.

We also participated in the Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction's "No More" Domestic Violence Awareness Employee Lunch and Learn, where our partners at Cherokee Family Violence Center participated in an informational panel.



Neighborhood Empowerment

MyCity ATL Program

MyCity ATL is a community engagement program in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools Adult ESOL, and it is structured to empower our immigrant and refugee population to directly engage with City of Atlanta services on topics that are important to New Americans. This year's cohort consisted of 53 participants, representing 18 countries.



"Through the MyCity ATL's partnership with the Atlanta Public Schools Adult ESOL, I became empowered. I received advice on how to integrate into the community, and how to access opportunities that could transform my life. When you arrive in a new place with no family, no knowledge of the language, and no idea where to go for help, the world can seem overwhelming, but with the right guidance and care, Atlanta becomes a place of hope, opportunity, and belonging. Thank you for helping me build confidence, find direction, and create a better future for myself."

— Bijoux T., MyCity ATL 2024 participant



Diplomacy

Lead the City's diplomacy efforts and International Partnerships by engaging with local partners and both national and international counterparts to identify solutions to local and global challenges.

Delegation Highlights



Atlanta Welcomes Kenyan President William Ruto

The City of Atlanta welcomed Kenyan President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto. During his visit, President Ruto underscored the importance of strengthening Atlanta and Kenya's economic relationship.



Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Visits Atlanta

Former Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Mayor Dickens, and MOIIA met with local leaders and organizations to discuss food insecurity and highlight MOIIA's work in combating the issue through empowering Atlanta's foreign-born population with our Community Resource Events.



Former Undersecretary of State Meets with Mayor Dickens

Mayor Dickens and the former Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Jose W. Fernandez, met to discuss further collaboration between the City of Atlanta and the State Department's Subnational Diplomacy Unit.

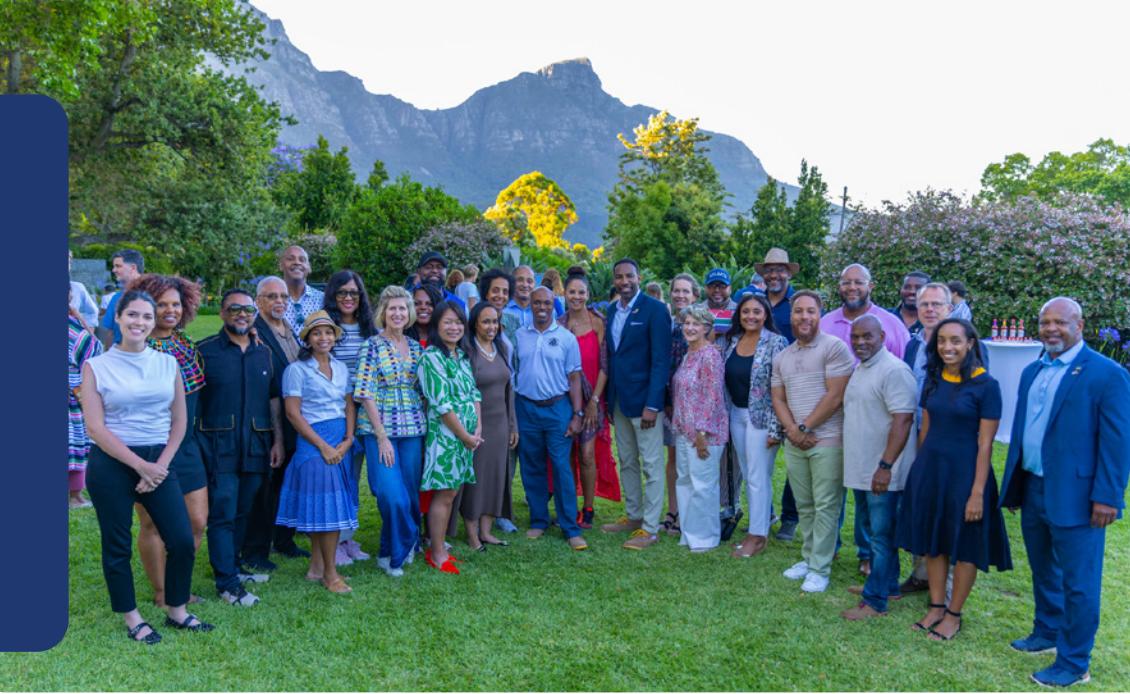


The City of Atlanta Hosts Dutch King and Queen

The Royal Couple visited Atlanta to highlight the ties between the Netherlands and the U.S., focusing on Georgia's economic opportunity. Mayor Dickens and Atlanta Beltline CEO Clyde Higgs led a tour of the Atlanta Beltline. Mayor Dickens later welcomed the Royal Couple for a reception at the High Museum of Art with Dutch Ambassador Birgitta Tazelaar.

"We believe that Atlanta could and should be a premier destination for South African investment. It isn't just our strength in tech, logistics and infrastructure. Our city offers a combination of strategic advantages, robust economic sectors, and a shared cultural DNA."

— Mayor Andre Dickens



Mayor's Atlanta Phambili Mission to South Africa

Mayor Dickens led a delegation of Atlanta stakeholders to Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Pretoria, South Africa for a reciprocal Atlanta Phambili Mission. This visit fostered U.S.-South Africa collaboration through economic, cultural, and educational partnerships. The Atlanta Phambili Mission is designed to bridge continents and inspire connections, as both Atlanta and South Africa are leaders in logistics, technology, financial services, and creative industries.



Mayor's Visit to Dublin, Ireland

Mayor Dickens traveled to Dublin, Ireland to cheer on Georgia Tech at the Aer Lingus College Football Classic and engage with local government officials and businesses to strengthen areas of collaboration in fintech and sportstech.



Nuremberg and Mays High School Student Exchange

MOIIA helped facilitate an exchange between high school students from Atlanta's sister city, Nuremberg, Germany, and students at Mays High School. Staying with their Mays host families for the week of the 2024 presidential elections, the students learned about voting, civic engagement, and Atlanta's civil rights history.

"I learned there are so many different ways people live in other countries. I loved meeting and having friends in other countries and having the opportunity to learn so many unique things about each other. My experience with the German students was immeasurable. I'm glad and blessed that I had the opportunity to learn from them and I hope students all around the world get to also experience this."

— Angelly G., Mays High School participant

Diplomacy

MOIIA Welcomes Youth Delegations



FIUTS Youth Delegation from Southern Africa

Twenty students representing Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, through their exchange program with Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS), visited Atlanta to speak with representatives in the city to learn about the civic engagement community.



Brussels High School Students Visit Atlanta

High school students from Brussels collaborated with students from Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School to present their technology pitches to MOIIA and Microsoft.



Guadeloupe Education Delegation

MOIIA welcomed a group of students from AFSO Guadeloupe, an apprenticeship training center in Guadeloupe. MOIIA highlighted Atlanta is an international business hub, and spoke on our youth engagement activities, iSpeakATL, and MyCity ATL.



Fukuoka City Youth Delegation

As part of the 2024 Fukuoka-Atlanta Youth Exchange program, five Japanese high school students spent a week in Atlanta, participating in cultural exchange activities, including a behind-the-scenes tour of City Hall and a meeting with MOIIA.



St. Maarten Youth Competition Winners

After a successful visit to St. Maarten for Islandpreneur Power Fest, Nicholas Mulkey welcomed students of the Islandpreneur Summer Entrepreneurial Exchange with the winners of National Youth Pitch Competition at City Hall.

Highlights



"All the presenters were incredibly kind and informative —they all took the time to engage with everyone who stayed to chat. It was refreshing to have the opportunity to network with both the presenters and other attendees."

— Doing Business with the City participant (November 2024)



Hosting Our Inaugural Atlanta Export Summit

In partnership with UPS, Regions Bank, Global Atlanta, and Georgia District Export Council, MOIIA hosted the inaugural Atlanta Export Summit. Fifty of Atlanta's local entrepreneurs heard from 17 experts a wide range of industries - banking, transport, consulting, insurance, and more — to learn how to take their business to the next level through exporting.



Alkebulan Africa Summit in Paris

Valerie Mills and Ana Petrova presented at the Alkebulan Africa Summit in Paris, France. They spoke on the African diaspora in Atlanta and our business friendly environment that makes Atlanta an ideal location for investment from the African continent.

International Business

Establish opportunities for trade, advance international strategic partnerships, and connect minority- & women-owned businesses to resources, collaborative networks, and tools for growth.

Doing Business with the City Returns

Teaming up with the City of Atlanta and Department of Procurement and Invest Atlanta, MOIIA hosted two "Doing Business with the City of Atlanta" workshops in 2024. Throughout the year, approximately 200 metro-area business owners attended our signature workshop to learn how to become registered City vendors, bid for contracts, and gain access to small-business resources to expand their businesses through partners like Invest Atlanta.

Islandpreneur Power Fest in St. Maartin

MOIIA's Nicholas Mulkey attended Islandpreneur Power Fest, a conference designed to empower women business owners from the Dutch Caribbean and the United States. The conference facilitated business matching, aimed at bolstering foreign trade and opening new market opportunities.



MOIIA Heads to Zimbabwe for International Business Mission

Ecosystem and Experience Architect Nicholas Mulkey visited Zimbabwe to build strategic partnerships, introduce how Atlanta's startup ecosystem can be leveraged to create market-based solutions for the Zimbabwean economy, and continue building Atlanta as an economic gateway to Africa.



Sports Diplomacy

Host visits and exchanges that improve dialogue and promote connection and cultural understanding between diverse groups, while underscoring Atlanta's global passion for sports and delivering cultural experiences for youth and professionals.

Delegation Highlights

MOIIA Connects Flag Football Athletes to Atlanta Community

MOIIA assisted FHI 360 in collaboration with the Department of State, as they implemented a Sports Visitor program which brought fifteen youth flag football athletes from Angola, Brazil, and Mexico to Atlanta to take part in sessions about civic engagement, civil rights, leadership, and female empowerment.



Atlanta Hosts CONMEBOL Copa América

Mercedes-Benz Stadium was home to the opening Argentina v. Canada game of the CONMEBOL Copa América competition. In light of the event, Mayor Dickens met with the newest Ambassador of Argentina to the United States, Dr. Gerardo Werthein.



Consulate General of Ireland Convenes for Coffee, Cake and College Football

The Consulate General of Ireland in Atlanta hosted a convening of Irish and sports stakeholders ahead of the Aer Lingus College Football Classic in Dublin.



Thank you to all the partners who engaged with us this year and supported our mission of making Atlanta a more inclusive and welcoming city for all!



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