

GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

CONNECTING GEORGIANS TO THE WORLD SINCE 1962

about the georgia council for international visitors

GCIV builds understanding and cooperation between the people of our state and the world. Our vision is that every Georgia citizen has the opportunity to become more globally engaged. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to "Connecting Georgians to the World" since 1962. GCIV works with the U.S. Department of State to develop a broad spectrum of professional and cultural exchange programs for emerging global leaders. Our non-partisan citizen diplomacy programs provide Georgians with unique opportunities to share best practices, insights, and friendship with distinguished visitors to the United States.

GCIV administers the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in the state of Georgia. Launched in 1940, the IVLP seeks to build mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through carefully designed professional visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. U.S. ambassadors consistently rank the IVLP as most effective in a long list of public diplomacy tools at their disposal. GCIV is one of ninety community-based organizations around the country that implement this impressive program on behalf of the U.S. government. In 2001 our national network was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to foster international understanding.



Since the program's inception, over 250 participants in the International Visitor Leadership Program have gone on to serve as heads of government and chiefs of state, including:

Hamid Karzai, *Afghanistan*

Gordon Brown, *United Kingdom*

Anwar Sadat, *Egypt*

Nicolas Sarkozy, *France*

Mikheil Saakashvili, *Georgia*

Indira Gandhi, *India*

Adnan Badran, *Jordan*

Mwai Kibaki, *Kenya*

Felipe Calderon, *Mexico*

Kim Dae-Jung, *South Korea*

Frederik de Klerk, *South Africa*

Oscar Arias, *Costa Rica*

2009 international visitor programs

In our fiscal year 2009, GCIV welcomed four-hundred and sixty-eight overseas visitors through the International Visitor Leadership Program and various fee-for-service programs. These visitors came to Georgia on eighty-three different programs, ranging from individuals to groups of twenty or more. Participants represented one-hundred and twenty-four different countries.

The delegations hosted by GCIV were quite a varied group, including public health officials, lawyers, civil servants, NGO representatives, religious leaders, business owners, educators, journalists, elected

officials, community activists, entrepreneurs, and financial experts. In addition to coordinating programs for the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), GCIV has attracted a wide variety of fee-for-service (FFS) programs. While very similar in substance to the IVLP, these programs are funded separately. In the past year, GCIV has completed programs for the U.S. Embassy in Belgium, Meridian International Center, the Foreign Service Institute, America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, the Fulton County Commission, and the CNN International Journalism Fellowship Program.

FY 2009 IVLP Totals

quarter	# of programs	# of visitors
1	19	98
2	13	49
3	18	84
4	26	154
totals	76	385

FY 2009 FFS Totals

quarter	# of programs	# of visitors
1	4	51
2	0	0
3	1	11
4	2	21
totals	7	83

gciv international exchange participants

GCIV welcomed delegations from one-hundred twenty four countries to the state of Georgia in our fiscal year 2009.

Afghanistan	22	Germany	6	Nigeria	9
Algeria	1	Ghana	2	Oman	2
Angola	1	Greece	3	Pakistan	16
Argentina	3	Guatemala	1	Panama	1
Armenia	2	Guinea	1	Peru	2
Australia	1	Honduras	1	Philippines	1
Azerbaijan	1	Hong Kong	4	Poland	6
Bangladesh	1	Hungary	3	Romania	1
Barbados	1	India	10	Russia	34
Belarus	6	Indonesia	5	Rwanda	1
Belgium	11	Iran	1	Saudi Arabia	19
Belize	1	Iraq	21	Senegal	10
Benin	2	Israel	5	Sierra Leone	2
Bhutan	1	Italy	1	Singapore	2
Bolivia	2	Jamaica	1	Slovak Republic	2
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	Japan	3	Slovenia	1
Botswana	1	Jordan	2	South Africa	2
Brazil	7	Kazakhstan	2	Spain	1
Burkina Faso	1	Kenya	8	Sri Lanka	2
Burma	2	Korea	2	Sudan	1
Burundi	1	Kosovo	1	Swaziland	1
Cameroon	5	Kuwait	3	Sweden	1
Canada	11	Kyrgyz Republic	3	Syria	5
Central African Republic	1	Latvia	2	Taiwan	2
Chad	1	Lebanon	11	Tajikistan	1
China	26	Liberia	1	Tanzania	3
Colombia	8	Lithuania	1	Thailand	5
Comoros	1	Luxembourg	1	Togo	3
Costa Rica	1	Macedonia	5	Trinidad and Tobago	2
Cote D'Ivoire	1	Malawi	1	Turkey	3
Croatia	2	Mali	2	Ukraine	1
Democratic Republic of Congo	2	Malta	2	United Arab Emirates	1
Djibouti	1	Mauritania	3	United Kingdom	1
Dominican Republic	1	Mauritius	1	United States	19
Ecuador	4	Mexico	2	Uruguay	1
Egypt	4	Mongolia	2	Venezuela	1
Estonia	2	Morocco	4	Vietnam	1
Finland	1	Mozambique	1	Yemen	2
France	5	Nepal	3	Zambia	1
Gabon	1	Netherlands	2	Zimbabwe	4
Gaza	3	Nicaragua	2		
Georgia	8	Niger	2		

delegation spotlight



GCIV arranged a professional program for three men from Afghanistan, Bhutan, and India in April 2009. This delegation came to Atlanta to explore disability rights through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. They had the opportunity to meet with a wide range of professional counterparts while getting to know our city and its people. This dynamic professional and cultural exchange contributed to GCIV's goal of promoting international understanding.

While here, the group met with staff at the Bobby Dodd Institute to discuss the Bobby Dodd Institute's training and placement services of people with disabilities for economic self-sufficiency and workplace integration. They also traveled to Dalton for the quarterly meeting of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. They had the opportunity to meet the council's staff and see how people with disabilities are part of the decision making process. Later, they met with staff of disABILITY Link to discuss their work to teach individuals with disabilities advocacy techniques that enable them to voice opinions and promote change to benefit whole communities. They also met with staff of the Georgia Public Library System where they learned about the library for the blind and visually impaired Georgians. Finally, they met with the director of the ADAPTS (Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students) Office at Georgia Tech. In Atlanta, they also had the opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and to experience home hospitality with one of GCIV's board members.

complete list of delegations

October 4-8 - Belgium

Eight Journalists

Focus: U.S. Reporting Tour - Elections & the Economy

October 16-20 - Hungary

One University Administrator

Focus: Health Care Reform

October 22-26 - Saudi Arabia

Five Journalists

Focus: Media in the U.S.

November 1-6 - Saudi Arabia

Two Community Leaders

Focus: Interfaith Dialogue

November 2-5 - Russia

Ten Government & NGO Leaders

Focus: Energy Efficiency

November 2-5 - Multi-Regional

Two Political Activists

Focus: American Elections

November 5-8 - Multi-Regional

Twenty-five Foreign Service Nationals

Focus: American Elections

November 6 - Multi-Regional

Thirteen Journalists

Focus: CNN Journalism Fellowship

November 6-8 - China

Eight University Administrators
& Journalists

Focus: Elections

November 6-11 - Russia

Eight Government & NGO Officials

Focus: Countering Radicalism

November 6-11 - United Kingdom

One World Food Bank Representative

Focus: Disaster Management

November 11-15 - Kazakhstan

Two Government Officials

Focus: Medical Emergency Response

**November 12-16 - Multi-Regional**

Eight University Professors

Focus: Higher Education

November 12-16 - Multi-Regional

Four Government Officials

Focus: International Crime

November 18-22 - Pan-Africa

Five Public Health Officials

Focus: HIV/AIDS Prevention

November 19-22 - Nicaragua

Two Government Officials

Focus: Presidential Libraries

November 29 - December 3 - China

Two Government & Civil Society
Representatives

Focus: Religion in the U.S.

**November 30 - December 5
- Multi-Regional**

Nineteen Public Health Officials

Focus: HIV/AIDS Prevention

December 2-6 - South Asia

Eight Civil Society Leaders

*Focus: Community Approaches to
Social Issues*

December 2-6 - Brazil

One Civil Society Leader

Focus: At-Risk Youth

December 3-6 - Latin America

Six Teachers & Principals

Focus: Primary Education

December 9-13 - Russia & Azerbaijan

Seven Medical Officials

Focus: Maternal & Child Health

January 15-21 - Germany

Three Government & NGO Leaders

Focus: Immigration & Civil Rights

January 16-21 - Brazil

Two Journalists

Focus: Transition of Power

January 17-21 - Morocco

Two Civil Society Leaders

Focus: Volunteerism & Civil Rights

“Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each one of us individually.”

—Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama

complete list of delegations



January 25-28 - Germany
One Government Official
Focus: Pharmaceutical Research

February 11-14 - Macedonia
Five Government & NGO
Representatives
Focus: Religious Life

February 12-17 - China
Three Government Officials &
Academics
Focus: US Foreign Policy

February 18-22 - China
Four Journalists
Focus: Citizen Access to Information

February 28 - March 4 - Indonesia
Two Government Officials
Focus: Good Governance

**March 3-7 - Near East Asia/
North Africa**
Ten Civil Society & Government
Leaders
Focus: Human Rights

March 11-13 - Russia
Six Government & NGO Officials
Focus: Urban Planning

March 24-28 - Western Hemisphere
Five Public Health Officials
Focus: Public Health

March 24-28 - South & Central Asia
Seven Local Government Leaders
Focus: Community Problem Solving

April 11-15 - Armenia
One Government Official
Focus: Human Rights

April 12-16 - Iraq
Nine Journalists
Focus: Broadcast Journalism

April 15-18 - South Asia
Four Community Activists
Focus: Disability Rights

April 15-19 - Thailand
Four Community Leaders
Focus: Religious & Ethnic Diversity

April 25-29 - Netherlands
One Business Executive
Focus: Diversity & Marketing

**April 26-30 - Near East Asia &
North Africa**
Nine Journalists & Producers
Focus: Creative Broadcasting

April 26-29 - Belarus
Five Religious & NGO Leaders
Focus: Religion & Community Activism

April 29 - May 2 - Finland
One Government Official
Focus: Civil Rights

April 30 - May 6 - Saudi Arabia
Nine University Administrators
Focus: Religious & Public Education

May 6-9 - China
Three Government Officials
Focus: Financial Crisis

May 9-13 - Kenya
Eight Government Officials
Focus: Procurement Process

May 16-20 - France
Two Civil Society Leaders
*Focus: Managing Ethnic & Religious
Diversity*

May 20-23 - Iraq
Seven Government Officials
Focus: Water Management

**May 23 - August 13 - Kuwait &
Yemen**
Two Businesswomen
Focus: Business Fellowships

May 28 - June 2 - Georgia
Six University Administrators
Focus: Higher Education Fundraising

May 30 - June 3- Kyrgyz Republic
Three Government Officials
Focus: International Adoption

May 30 - June 4 - Multi-Regional
Eight Government Officials & Business
Representatives
Focus: Accountability in Government

June 9 - 12 - Brazil
One Musician/Social Activist
Focus: Hip Hop & Youth Programs

June 13 - 17 - South Asia
Five Local Leaders
Focus: Conflict Resolution

June 17 - Multi-Regional
Eleven Journalists
Focus: CNN Journalism Fellowship

July 1-5 - China
One Public Health Official
*Focus: HIV/AIDS Prevention &
Treatment*

**July 5-16 - Fulton County, GA-
Germany Exchange**
Nineteen Student Leaders and County
Administrators
*Focus: Fulton County Global Youth
Leadership Program*

complete list of delegations

July 15-21 - Colombia
Six Public Health Officials
Focus: Public Health

July 26-29 - European Union
Four Public Health Officials
Focus: TB Prevention

July 29 - August 1 - Russia
Five Government & Civil Society Leaders
Focus: Disability Issues

July 29 - August 1 - Iraq
Six NGO Representatives
Focus: Human Rights Advocacy & Awareness

August 2-5 - Greece
One Community Organizer
Focus: Hip-Hop

August 2-8 - South Asia
Fourteen Journalists
Focus: Media

August 11-14 - Hong Kong
One Journalist
Focus: Broadcast Journalism

August 12-18 - Indonesia
Two Journalists
Focus: Broadcast Journalism

August 13-18 - Japan
Two Civil Servants
Focus: Prison Management

August 15-19 - France
One Journalist
Focus: Civil Society

August 29 - September 2 - Multi-Regional
Twenty-two Public Health Officials
Focus: Preparing for Pandemics

August 29 - September 2 - Mongolia
One NGO Official
Focus: Historic Preservation

September 2-5 - Belgium
One Entrepreneur
Focus: Small Business Development

September 10-15 - Multi-Regional
Six Labor Leaders
Focus: Organized Labor

September 10-15 - Mongolia
One Public Health Official
Focus: Public Health

September 10-12 - India
One Government Official
Focus: Aviation

September 12-16 - Multi-Regional
Nine Government & NGO Leaders
Focus: Grassroots Democracy

September 12-16 - Poland
Two Political Reporters
Focus: Journalism

September 13-16 - Senegal
Eight Judges & Government Officials
Focus: American Judicial System

September 16-20 - Lebanon
Eight Government & NGO Leaders
Focus: Civil Society

September 20-24 - Thailand
One News Editor
Focus: Human Rights & Media

September 29 - October 3 - Pan-Africa
Twelve Government & NGO Leaders
Focus: Women & the Law

October 1-7 - Pan-Africa
Sixteen Journalists
Focus: Edward R. Murrow Journalism Program

October 3-7 - Canada
Ten Government & NGO Officials
Focus: Museum Administration

October 8-13 - South & Central Asia
Seven Local Government Leaders
Focus: Religion in America

October 13-17 - Nigeria
Six Teachers & Government Officials
Focus: Elementary & Secondary Education

delegation spotlight



In September 2009, GCIV was honored to host a delegation of African journalists participating in the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists. This is a special initiative of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program that brings approximately 150 international journalists to the U.S. a year to examine the rights and responsibilities of a free press in a democracy. This program also partners with leading schools of journalism to conduct intensive professional seminars on journalistic principles in a democratic society. Each delegation also travels to a city that differs geographically and politically from the academic locale. While in Georgia, they were able to receive the best of both worlds.

In Atlanta, the visitors met with staff from the Democracy Program at the Carter Center to discuss the range of programs that

they cover in Africa, particularly in the visitors' respective countries. They also had the opportunity to have a Behind-the-Scenes VIP tour of CNN International and meet with staff from the International Desk. Finally, they met with the managing editor for print for the AJC. Before they left Atlanta, they were able to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and experience Southern hospitality with local GCIV members.

The delegation then traveled on to the University of Georgia where we partnered with the wonderful staff at the Cox Center for International Mass Communications within the Grady College of Journalism. The visitors spent two full days visiting the Cox Center, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the Grady College, the Institute for African Studies, and the student newspaper The Red & Black. They met with a wide range of professors, journalists, and students.

GCIV was honored to serve as a host, along with the Cox Center at UGA, for the 2009 Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists. Hopefully the program they experienced in Atlanta and Athens gave them a first-hand view of the diversity of the United States, and the knowledge that they shared will be invaluable for our local community.

community programs

hosting

In 2009 over four hundred professional resources and fifty community hosts served as citizen diplomats on behalf of the Georgia Council for International Visitors. The professional meetings resulted in the sharing of best practices between emerging leaders from around the world and their counterparts in the state of Georgia. This valuable experience often leads to collaboration with colleagues abroad. Home hospitality gives international exchange participants the opportunity to share a meal in an American home, meet everyday citizens, and learn about the culture of the United States. Time and time again, international delegates rate dinner hospitality as the experience that most clearly showed them the true America.

All GCIV professional and dinner hosts are volunteers. We cannot list all four hundred professional resources, but would like to thank them and the many members who hosted one or more international visitors by sharing a meal and opening their homes in 2009:

Ranjani Balasubramaniam &
Ted Revilock

Joy Carter

DJ & Dan Clancy

Beverly & David Clyde

Sussi Craig

Rene Esler & Eric Nankervis

Allen Freedman

Rusty & Dick George

Laura Gilmore

Anne & Jerry Godsey

Gail and Clark Goodwin

Beatriz Golden-Hayes &

Ricardo Hayes

Lyn Graybill

Otha Greer

Sue & Jim Heerin

Jenni Heerink

Louise Kan

Joel Kollin

Bethany & Ron Lane

Queen & Emmanuel Meheux

Mila & David Nunan

Habib Osta

Marcia Partin

Sue & Mark Partridge

Saralyn Perry

Margaret Pumper

Shelley Riden

Jonathan Ross

Shell Stuart

Vicki Van Der Hoek

Jackie Chen & Mike Wang

Polly & Tobin Watt

Karen & Bob Wildau

Camille & Stuart Yahm

Sara & Steve Yurman



international women associates



The International Women Associates is a group of dedicated GCIV volunteers who meet in members' homes for friendship and cultural enrichment. Formed in 1978, IWA brings together women to build friendships and help international newcomers become oriented to life in Atlanta through a network of support and activities. Other members are North Americans who have lived abroad or have interests in international affairs. Monthly programs on cultural and educational topics enhance the personal and professional growth of the members and promote understanding of other cultures and goodwill among the IWA members.

The 2008-09 series was once again a success, featuring programs on Venice Carnevale, global health, Ukrainian art, the American West, civil society in Afghanistan, ancient Chinese textiles, and more. Over 100 members and guests participated in IWA programs this year.

community programs

global lunch forums

GCIV further connects our delegations to the community through Global Lunch Forums. Our members and the community at large are invited to a brown bag lunch and briefing from an international delegation in town. This is a unique opportunity to meet leaders in a variety of fields from all over the world for dialogue.

The international guests share their work with local citizens, and then an engaging discussion begins. The conversation ranges from the visitors' profession, homeland, and experiences, to relating common issues in the United States and abroad.

GCIV organized eleven Global Lunch Forums for over two-hundred and fifty participants in our fiscal year 2009. The topics and participants showcased a variety of professional backgrounds in a global context. Some of the topics were: The Face of the New Conservative Party in the United Kingdom, Human Rights Advocacy in Morocco, Recording History in Nicaragua, Fighting for At-Risk Youth in Brazil, Citizen Access to Information in China, Protecting Human Rights in Armenia,

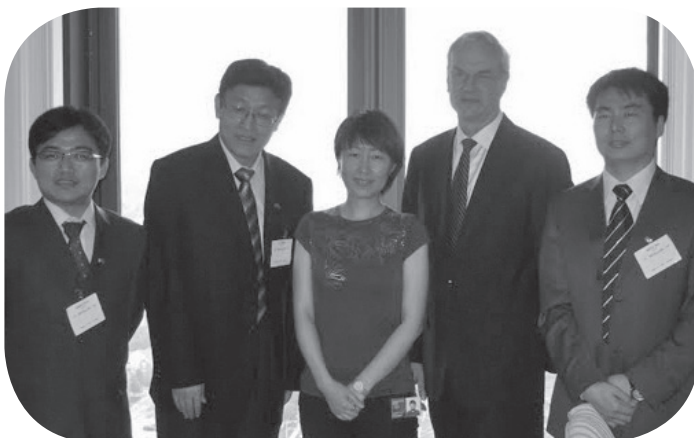


A Participant's Reflections on the Durban Review Conference, Impressions from a MEPI Participant: Business Women in the Middle East, Hip Hop & Youth Empowerment in Brazil, Diversity in French Media, Covering Politics & Foreign Affairs in Poland

great decisions

GCIV serves as the state coordinator for the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program. In this role we organize discussion groups and lecture series that give participants the opportunity to expand their understanding of world affairs. Topics change annually, and are based on the FPA's non-partisan briefing book. Over seven-hundred people

participated in the GCIV Foreign Policy Lecture Series and in twenty-five discussion groups. These community groups met in Atlanta, Decatur, Roswell, McDonough and Dunwoody, and outside Atlanta in Athens, Big Canoe, Carrollton, Columbus, Demorest and Macon.



2009 Foreign Policy Lecture Series

1/22 - The U.S. and Rising Powers: Dr. John Garver, Professor of International Relations at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute Of Technology.

1/29 - Afghanistan and Pakistan: Ambassador Marion Creekmore, Jr., Visiting Professor at Emory University, former U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Deputy Chief of Mission in India, Deputy Afghan Coordinator.

2/5 - Energy and the Global Economy: Dr. Jay Hakes, former Director of the Energy Information Administration; currently Director of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

2/12 - The Arctic Age: Dr. Peter White, President Emeritus of the Southern Center for International Studies.

2/19 - Universal Human Rights: Dr. John Stremmler, vice president for peace programs at The Carter Center.

2/26 - Global Food Supply: Ambassador Gordon Streeb, Visiting Professor of Economics at Emory University, former U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, former director of Global Development Initiative at Carter Center.

3/5 - Cuba after Castro: Dr. Jennifer McCoy, Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University and Director of the Americas Program at The Carter Center.

3/12 - Egypt in the 21st Century: Dr. Dona Stewart, Associate Professor and Director of the Middle East Institute at Georgia State University.

community programs

envoy

Young professionals in metro Atlanta have the opportunity to network with each other and emerging leaders from all over the world through Envoy. GCIV coordinates monthly events to engage young members and give visiting international delegations the opportunity to socialize with Georgia's next generation of leaders. In 2009 Envoy members

attended lectures at the Carter Presidential Library, the Turner First Thursdays Art Walk, an Atlanta Braves game, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens' Cocktails in the Garden, CNN Studio Tour, the Georgia Aquarium, the National Black Arts Festival, and more.



international consular ball

Atlanta's international community was swept away to Venice for an evening at the 28th Annual International Consular Ball on Saturday, June 6th, 2009. Three-hundred leaders from the business and civic communities attended the Venice Carnevale-themed event at the Georgia Aquarium. GCIV proudly sponsors the black-tie gala each year to honor the men and women serving as consular representatives in Georgia.

A performer on stilts and an aerial acrobat took us to the streets of Venice; beautiful masks brought the event to life. A dynamic silent auction, featuring donations from the Consular Corps and local businesses, raised funds to support GCIV's work to build international understanding and cooperation. GCIV thanks our corporate partners and patrons for their support of our citizen diplomacy work and the 28th Annual International Consular Ball.



international dining experiences

International Dining Experiences give members the chance to meet visiting delegations in a more informal, social environment. IDEs take place at a different ethnic restaurant on the 15th of the month. We encourage members to bring friends and neighbors as an introduction

to GCIV. Many of our hosts enjoy this opportunity to meet other members while sampling exotic cuisines. This year we organized four IDEs events, involving over 50 citizen diplomats.

internship program

GCIV's Internship Program allows us to more effectively partner with local universities by offering practical experience to students. Participants receive training in the field of international affairs and learn about issues affecting Atlanta and the world. In addition to assisting with the International Visitor Leadership Program, interns

are given the chance to attend GCIV community programs to further their exposure to Atlanta's international sector. This year GCIV trained four interns from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

middle east partnership initiative

From May to August 2009, GCIV was home to two women participating in the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). These businesswomen were from Kuwait and Yemen, and took part in the MEPI Legal and Business Fellowship (LBF) Program.

In 2009 the LBF Program brought twenty-four young professional women from the Middle East and North Africa to the U.S. to work in large U.S. companies and top-tier law firms in key U.S. cities for academic study. The fellows arrived in the U.S. in April to attend a four-week MBA-level academic program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

In May they travelled to Atlanta, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Jose for four-month fellowships in large U.S. companies and top-tier law firms. GCIV arranged the fellows' internships, housing, and cultural experiences. In Atlanta the fellows worked for the Coca-Cola Company and Southern Company, in their government relations and finance departments, respectively.

While in Atlanta, the delegation had the opportunity to experience American culture in addition to business practices. They visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, CNN International Studios, and the World of Coca-Cola. They also attended Screen on the Green at Piedmont Park and Atlanta Braves game, in addition to a short trip to Amelia Island to see the Atlantic Ocean. Of course, they participated in many GCIV events, including a Global Lunch Forum, International Dining Experience, and the International Consular Ball.

The Legal and Business Fellowship Program is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative, a presidential initiative of the U.S. Department of State. MEPI Programs are intended to create links and partnerships with Arab and U.S. civil society and governments to jointly achieve sustainable reform.



fulton county global youth leadership program

GCIV partnered with Fulton County to bring a delegation of fourteen high school students to Germany for an exchange program July 5-16. The students, all part of the Fulton County Youth Commission, had an opportunity to explore the diversity, educational system, and local government of Germany in a twelve-day program. The Nürnberg Office of International Relations ensured that our delegation had a fantastic seven days in their lovely city. Our group visited the Hauptschule St. Leonhard School, Geiza Youth Club, the Documentation Center, Hans Sachs Gymnasium School, Nürnberg Messe, and the Atlanta-Nürnberg Sister City Commission. We also saw many beautiful and historic areas



of Nürnberg and stayed with generous local host families. Later in the trip we took a daytrip to Munich and spent three days in Berlin, seeing many famous and historical sites. The group left Germany with a more nuanced outlook on the country, its challenges, and its many wonderful assets. The Fulton County Global Youth Program was an incredible experience for the Fulton County student leaders, and GCIV appreciated the opportunity to be involved in such a dynamic youth exchange program.

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Douglas Allen
Pilar Amir
Christine Armour
Marika Barbalho
Dorothy Toth Beasley
Ann Beeson
Cordelia Blake
Christa Burry
Judy Cantwell
Jill Carlson-Miyatake
Silvana Cavellier
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“The delegation was divided into three small groups to enjoy dinners in American homes so the visitors had varying experiences, respectively dining with a retired mother of a judge, the young parents of two rambunctious toddlers and a multi-generational family of mixed cultures. The common theme for all these experiences was southern hospitality and the joy of laughing with new friends.”

—Brandie P. Brunner, French interpreter accompanying Senegalese Judges

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“I appreciate GCIV and the Department of State for this rare privilege and opportunity to widen my leadership potential in grassroots efforts. I assure you that this is a worthwhile investment, which will bear fruits!”

—Dr. Daniel Ochigbo, IVLP Participant, Nigeria

delegation spotlight

Last June, GCIV hosted Alex Barboza, better known as MV Bill. MV Bill is a nationally (and internationally) known rapper, poet, author and filmmaker from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He co-founded a nonprofit organization called Central Unica das Favelas. CUFA works with at-risk Brazilian youth, particularly those that have been or that may become engaged in urban street violence, to rehabilitate them through cultural and educational activities. He traveled to Atlanta through the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program to deepen his understanding of the development of hip hop culture in the U.S., its diverse influences upon mainstream American society, and its adaptation as a form of artistic and socio-political expression by youth throughout the world; and to explore approaches to the provision of social and rehabilitative services to at-risk urban youth by meeting with various NGOs.

While in Atlanta, MV Bill met with staff from the Ludacris Foundation to discuss the many programs they offer children as well as Ludacris' influence on Southern Hip Hop culture. He also met with staff at the Boys and Girls Club of America and Judge Belinda Edwards of the Fulton County Juvenile Court to discuss their outreach programs for troubled teens. Volunteers at the Hip Hop Congress at Georgia State met with him to discuss using hip hop for community outreach and cultural education. MV Bill also had the opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site as well as be a guest on Georgia Tech's WREK student radio station with DJ Rasta Root.



GCIV was delighted to host MV Bill in Atlanta and learn about the struggles his community faces back home, as well as the impact he has had with his music on the disadvantaged youth in Rio and beyond.

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The Georgia Council for International Visitors promotes international understanding through citizen diplomacy.