



# One Atlanta, One World





## A Letter From **KEISHA LANCE-BOTTOMS**

Dear Friends:

It is an understatement to say that 2021 has been a challenging year. But in true Atlanta fashion, we have joined together to help one another during these unprecedented times. There is a great slogan about our great city: *Atlanta influences everything!*

As the 60th Mayor of Atlanta, I am proud of the work that the Mayor's Office of International Affairs (MOIA) has done to continue cultivating relationships with Atlanta's foreign partners and its international community even in an all-digital environment. 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.

From our legacy as the cradle of the civil rights movement to our current status as one of the most progressive cities in the nation, even in the midst of one of the most difficult years in modern history, we still shine as that city on a hill – influencing 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,

Keisha Lance Bottoms



## Mayor's Office of International Affairs

# ABOUT US

### 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, diplomacy, and sports.

### Our Objectives



#### PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND TRADE

Promoting trade, global connectivity, and international strategic partnerships between the City of Atlanta and international stakeholders.



#### PROTOCOL AND DIPLOMACY

Liaise with and support the Members of the Consular Corps, international community, sister city relationships, welcome foreign delegations, and provide protocol guidance to City departments and organizations based in Atlanta.



#### HOSTING AND ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Attracting physical and virtual international events to grow Atlanta's global brand, increase domestic spending, and bring cultural experiences to all Atlantans.



#### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Collaborate with Atlanta-based academic institutions to develop students' cross-cultural competencies and foreign language acquisition to establish a competitive global workforce.



#### POSITION ATLANTA AS A GLOBAL SPORTS HUB

Promoting Atlanta as the leading place for sports and encourage sports as a vehicle to bring communities and cultures together.



#### SUPPORT THE CITY OF ATLANTA AND MAYORAL-LED INITIATIVES

Ensure that the City of Atlanta and the Mayor have the necessary support to serve the public and ensure business continuity for the City.

## MEET OUR TEAM



### Vanessa Ibarra

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### Paulina Guzman

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### Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez

*Global Engagement Manager*

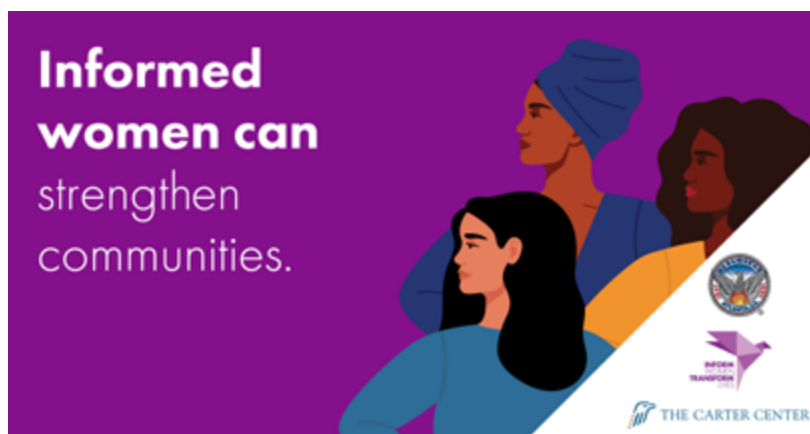
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# INFORM WOMEN, TRANSFORM LIVES

The City of Atlanta was proud to partner with the Carter Center for their global Inform Women, Transform Lives Campaign aimed at raising awareness about women's right to information in 13 inaugural cities: Amman, Jordan; Atlanta, USA; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Chicago, USA; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Dublin, Ireland; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Kampala, Uganda; Lima, Peru; Monrovia, Liberia; and São Paulo, Brazil. The campaign is a groundbreaking global endeavor to raise awareness about women's right to information and help ensure that women can seek and receive information from their governments.

Through combined efforts of City partners, Atlanta raised awareness around various services & programs—including gender-based violence, economic mobility, housing, health, community safety, food access & more. Atlanta residents can gain access to services by visiting [www.atlstrong.org](http://www.atlstrong.org) or [ATL311.com](http://ATL311.com), or by calling 311.

## Remarks from Mayor Bottoms



## Inform Women Transform Lives Campaign Launched

March 8 2021

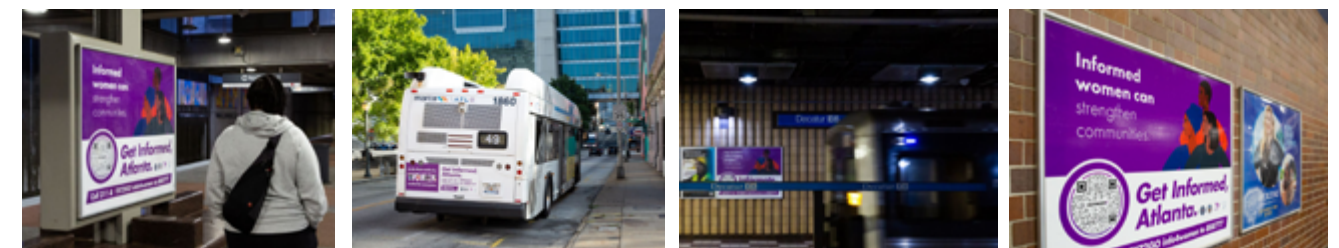
On International Women's Day, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced a partnership with The Carter Center for their Inform Women, Transform Lives campaign to increase awareness of women's right to information and connect women to available City services and programs which help strengthen the well-being of Atlantans. Team MOIA joined this campaign and took the pledge.



## Inform Women, Transform Lives Campaign Showcased at Atlanta Airport in multiple languages

The City of Atlanta is proud to partner and showcase The Carter Center's Inform Women Transform Lives campaign in French, Spanish, German, Mandarin, and Korean at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport at the International F terminal and North Baggage Claim monitors. Atlanta is committed to keeping women informed around the world. Thanks to our partners at Atlanta Airport and The Carter Center for helping us make sure that all of the diverse people coming to and from Atlanta have access to vital information about City services and resources.

## Learn more



## Inform Women Transform Lives MARTA Signage

The City of Atlanta and The Carter Center recently began advertising the Inform Women, Transform Lives campaign across various MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) trains, stations, and busses. MARTA displayed signs at several locations across the city with a QR code in various languages.



## MOIA partners on “Women in the Workplace”

September 16, 2021

The MOIA team participated in “Women in the Workplace,” a virtual roundtable and marketplace event in partnership with Invest Atlanta, WorkSource Atlanta, and the Mayor’s Office of One Atlanta. The campaign kicked off on September 13 with a full week of events highlighting citywide programs and resources specifically tailored for women. As part of “Women in the Workplace” and the Inform Women, Transform Lives campaign, MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra led two roundtable sessions highlighting citywide programs and resources specific to empowering women and strengthening families. The sessions were titled “Inform Women Transform Lives Meets “Women in the Workplace” and “Empowering Mothers and Communities.”



## United Nations International Volunteer Day at Helping Mama’s

December 7, 2021

The Atlanta Mayor’s Office of International Affairs in partnership with various Atlanta-based International Chambers of Commerce celebrated the Inform Women Transform Lives Campaign and U.N. International Volunteer Day by volunteering with Helping Mamas. Helping Mamas is the Baby Supply Bank of Georgia. Their mission is to connect helping mamas to mamas needing help. To learn more, visit [www.helpingmamas.org](http://www.helpingmamas.org).

[View event photos](#)



Thank you to our volunteers!

Day one volunteers included representatives from the British-American Business Council of Georgia, Consulate General of the Bahamas in Atlanta, and Imerys Kaolin.

Day two volunteers were from the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast, Consulate General of Belgium in Atlanta, Belgian American Chamber of the South and more.



## Artist Sarah Neuberger begins painting the Inform Women, Transform Lives mural at Chastain Arts Center

September 18, 2021

As part of the Inform Women, Transform Lives global campaign, the City of Atlanta and Carter Center have come together to support a mural by Sarah Neuberger at Chastain Arts Center that highlights women’s equal right to information and the power it provides. During Elevate Atlanta, the Carter Center and City of Atlanta hosted a community paint day where members of the community were able to help Sarah paint the mural. A special thank you to Carter Center’s CEO Paige Alexander, and Director of the Rule of Law Program Laura Neuman, Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta’s Executive Director Oliver Gorf, Sissy Weldon of the Office of One Atlanta, Robert Witherspoon of the Office of Cultural Affairs and all members of the community for joining us to paint the mural.

[For more information](#)



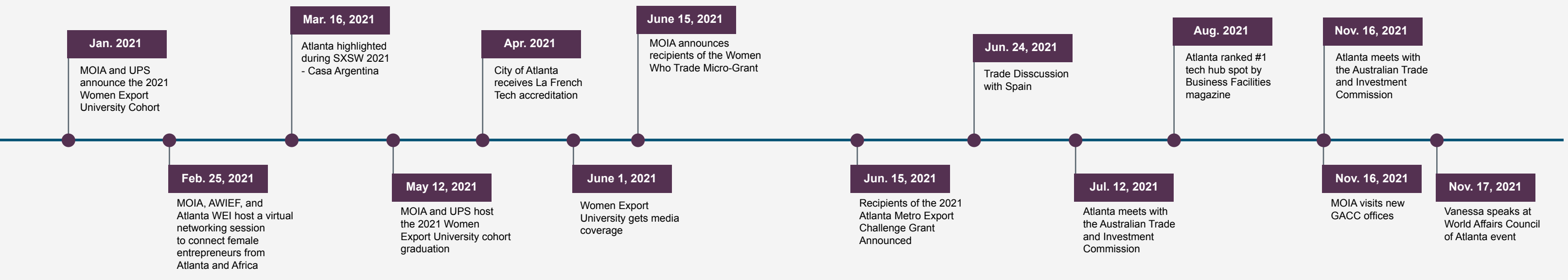
# BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS



The Mayor’s Office of International Affairs (MOIA) supports Atlanta-based companies that wish to expand globally as well as foreign companies interested in establishing their operations in Atlanta. With more than 2,600 foreign-owned enterprises in the metro area, MOIA supports those based in the City of Atlanta with their ongoing needs and expansion plans. We also work closely with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in attracting direct international routes to increase opportunities for business, investment, and encourage tourism to the city.

“MOIA promotes the City of Atlanta around the World as a destination hub for commerce, innovation, and entrepreneurship.”

## Business Timeline of Events



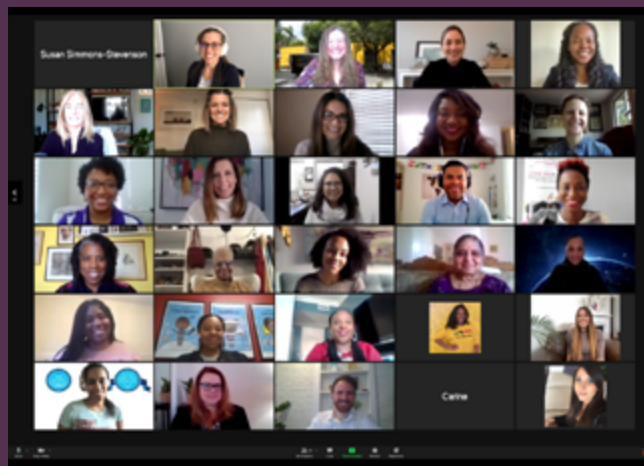


# MOIA and UPS announce the 2021 Women Export University Cohort

January 2021

Women Export University, in partnership with UPS, is a four month capacity building program that equips female entrepreneurs with the necessary tools and resources to become globally competitive and increase the participation of women-owned businesses in international trade.

[Meet the 2021 Cohort Here](#)



# MOIA and UPS host the 2021 Women Export University cohort graduation

May 12, 2021

MOIA and UPS celebrated the accomplishments of 26 female entrepreneurs who completed Women Export University, the City's first capacity-building program focused on international trade. The graduation included remarks from Cesar Vence, former MOIA Deputy Director, Vanessa Ibarra, MOIA Director, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Maria Luisa Boyce, VP of Global Public Affairs at UPS; Laura Lane, Chief Corporate Affairs and Communications Officer at UPS, and class speaker Akissi Stokes, CEO & Co-Founder of WUNDERgrubs, LLC. Programming included special performances from artists Fernanda Noronha & Peu Pereira and a powerful poem written and spoken by Kisha Freed. Congratulatory remarks came from Katie Kirkpatrick, President, and CEO of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, Qadirah Abdul-Rahim, City of Atlanta's Chief Equity Officer, Dr. Eloisa Klementich, President and CEO of Invest Atlanta, and special guest, Ludacris.

[View the Graduation](#)



# WOMEN EXPORT UNIVERSITY



The Women Export University is a partnership between MOIA and UPS that aims to increase women-owned business participation in exporting and create more opportunities for women entrepreneurs to achieve economic equality. The four-month curriculum includes insights and training on export strategies, tools, and resources to enter new markets, how to build an export-friendly digital presence, and guidance on package flows and preparing export shipments. The program operates at no cost to participants and includes one-on-one mentoring sessions and access to various federal, state, and local resources.

# Women Export U gets media coverage

June 1, 2021



ATL Channel 26 and Global Atlanta highlighted the Women Export University program and all of the empowering female entrepreneurs who made the City of Atlanta's first cohort successful. Women Export University, a partnership between MOIA and UPS, is the City's first capacity-building program focused on international trade.

[View Coverage](#)





## MOIA, AWIEF, and Atlanta WEI host a virtual networking session to connect female entrepreneurs from Atlanta and Africa

February 25, 2021

MOIA, the Africa Women Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF), and the Atlanta Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI) hosted a women's international virtual networking event, which connected female entrepreneurs from the City of Atlanta and Africa. Opening remarks came from former MOIA Deputy Director, Cesar Vence, AWIEF Founder and CEO, Irene Ochem, and Atlanta WEI Executive Director, Monica Delores Hooks. The entrepreneurs then spoke about the importance of empowerment through women in business, delivered dynamic elevator pitches, and networked with one another for future business endeavors.



## Recipients of the 2021 Atlanta Metro Export Challenge Grant Announced

June 15, 2021

Congratulations to the 2021 Atlanta Metro Export Challenge grant recipients, especially City of Atlanta based companies: Aquagenuity, Astral Brands, Emrgy Inc., Foundry 45, Safely.com, and Spectrum International Group! This adds to the City of Atlanta's impressive list of 29 companies that have already been MEC winners, totaling \$145,000 in awarded grants. MOIA proudly partnered with the Metro Atlanta Chamber for this year's program, an opportunity for Metro Atlanta companies to explore their international expansion efforts. Each recipient will receive a \$5,000 reimbursement grant which the company can spend on expenses related to their international business growth. In addition to the grant funds, recipients will have access to other resources throughout the year that will assist in the development of global sales and go-to market strategies.



## MOIA announces recipients of the Women Who Trade Micro-Grant

Sponsored by MOIA, the Mayor's Office of One Atlanta, Invest Atlanta, the Atlanta Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative, and UPS, the Women Who Trade micro-grant is a financial tool designed to support Women Export University participants in applying concepts learned throughout the program to launch in their international expansion strategies. Selected recipients received \$2,000, to be used for international sales related expenses including, but not limited to trade show participation, product development, website globalization, marketing, and translation services.

## Atlanta highlighted during SXSW 2021 - Casa Argentina

March 16, 2021

Former MOIA Deputy Director, Cesar Vence, joined SXSW 2021 - Casa Argentina to highlight Atlanta's booming innovation ecosystem. Moderated by Jorge Luis López Menardi, former Consul General of Argentina in Atlanta, the conversation also brought awareness to the U.S. market about Argentina's capabilities as a tech provider and partner for U.S. companies.

## Trade Discussion with Spain

June 24, 2021

MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra welcomed Trade Commissioner of Spain, Francisco Javier Garzon Morales to discuss opportunities for Spanish companies in the City of Atlanta and potential partnerships. The Commissioner also spoke to Global Atlanta as part of their Consular Conversations series.

## Atlanta ranked #1 tech hub spot by Business Facilities magazine

August 2021



## MOIA visits new GACC-South offices

November 16, 2021

Director Vanessa Ibarra visited the new location of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S., Inc. at Atlantic Station and met with Matthias Hoffmann, President & CEO, to discuss the importance of strengthening Germany’s relationship with the City of Atlanta and the many ways to connect U.S. and German businesses.



## Atlanta meets with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission

November 16, 2021

MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra and Global Engagement Manager, Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez and Invest Atlanta had the pleasure of meeting with Holly Jenkins, Investment Director for the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) USA to discuss the many trade and investment opportunities between Australia and the City of Atlanta.

## Vanessa speaks at World Affairs Council of Atlanta event

November 17, 2021

MOIA enjoyed the opportunity to talk all things international with the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and the Metro Atlanta Chamber. Our Director, Vanessa Ibarra, participated in a panel with John W. Woodward, Vice President of Global Commerce for the Metro Atlanta Chamber and Cecily McLeod, Senior Counsel in the Atlanta office of Gordon & Rees LLP, to discuss the City of Atlanta’s global ecosystem including business, education, and even sports.

## City of Atlanta receives La French Tech accreditation

April 2021



The City of Atlanta was proud to receive the La French Tech accreditation and be 1 of 10 cities in the United States. The La French Tech accreditation is an official accreditation awarded by French authorities to metropolitan centers with dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystems. In Atlanta, La French Tech reemphasizes what our City already knows - we punch above our weight in various industries. We are committed to growing our tech ecosystem alongside our global partners to provide opportunities for foreign companies to establish their businesses in our City for Atlanta businesses to go global.



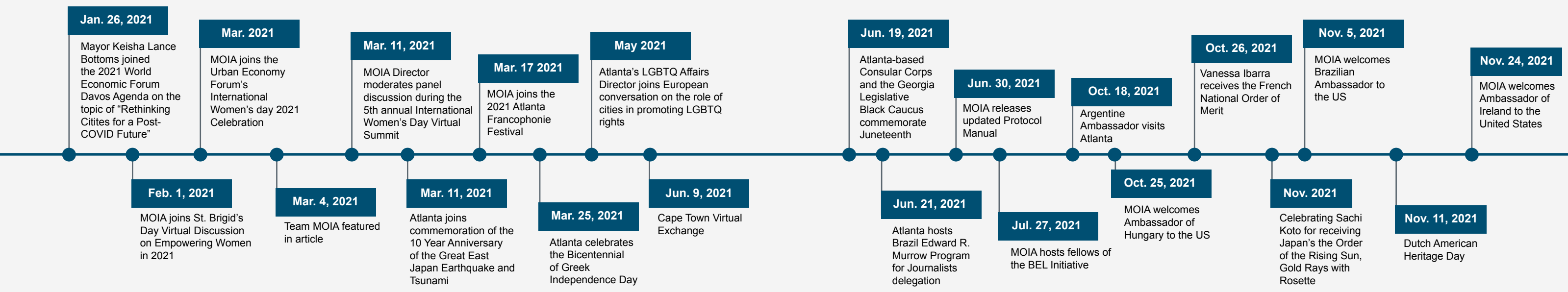
# DIPLOMACY HIGHLIGHTS



The City of Atlanta is home to a large thriving Consular Corps made of up more than 70 countries and over 30 bi-national chambers of commerce and trade offices. The primary focuses of these offices are to develop economic, bilateral trade, commercial, educational, and cultural relations between their respective countries and the southeastern United States, particularly in the State of Georgia and City of Atlanta.

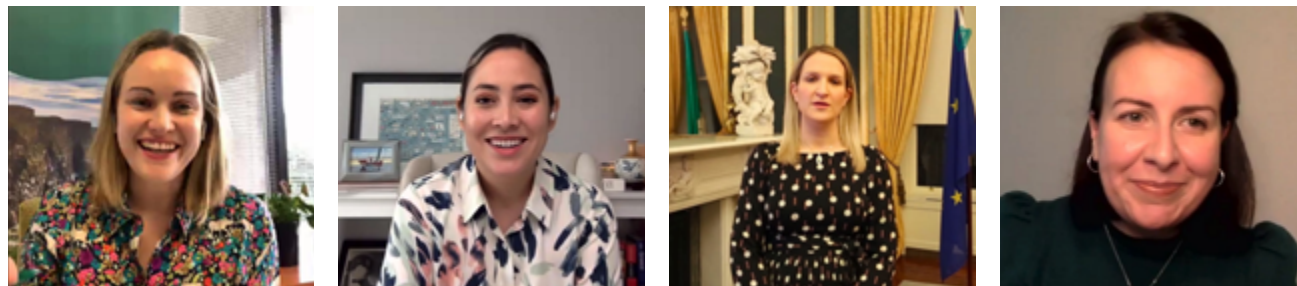
“Atlanta’s global ecosystem is supported by a dynamic community of international representatives and organizations.”

## Diplomacy Timeline of Events





# MOIA AT WORK



## MOIA joins St. Brigid's Day Virtual Discussion on Empowering Women in 2021

February 1, 2021

MOIA celebrated St. Brigid's Day with the Consulate General of Ireland in Atlanta and Irish Network Atlanta. Helen McEntee, Ireland's Minister for Justice, opened the event with welcoming remarks, followed by a discussion with Ciara O'Flóinn, Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta, Vanessa Ibarra, MOIA Director, and Sarah Keane, Vice Consul of Ireland in Atlanta. The women spoke on their personal and professional experiences of empowerment, the importance of mentorship, and ways to support women locally and beyond in 2021.

## MOIA joins the Urban Economy Forum's International Women's day 2021 Celebration

March 2021

In celebration of International Women's Day, the Urban Economy Forum (UEF) invited leaders from around the World, including MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra, to provide messages of support that aim to empower and enrich women's leadership and representation in all areas of their life. This year's theme, Choose To Challenge, is a call to action to raise awareness for gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide - a theme that is also at the heart of the City of Atlanta's equity and resilience agenda.



## MOIA Director moderates panel discussion during the 5th annual International Women's Day Virtual Summit

March 11, 2021

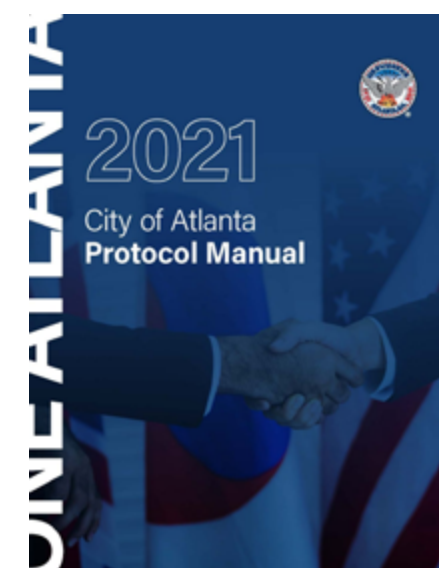
During the Georgia Women's Chamber of Commerce's 5th annual International Women's Day Virtual Summit, MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra moderated a "Women in Diplomacy" panel discussion with Cynthia Blandford, Honorary Consul of Liberia, Ciara O'Flóinn, Consul General of Ireland, Anat Sultan-Dadon, Consul General of Israel, and Monica Altagracia Marin Cruz, Consul General of El Salvador. The women shared their insights to managing work-life balance, how they found themselves in leadership roles, current efforts to address gender equality, and discussed international trade opportunities in their respective countries.

## Team MOIA featured in article

March 4, 2021

Team MOIA was featured in the article "Taking it Online: Getting to Where to Engage in the World?" Written by Mary Wong of EvaluCraft Global LLC, the article discusses diplomacy and foreign policy in a digital environment.

[View Article](#)



## MOIA releases updated Protocol Manual

June 30, 2021

MOIA released the newly updated 2021 Protocol Manual to provide guidance on protocol, diplomacy, and manners of procedure for international guests and dignitaries. This manual is intended to be an accessible guide for anyone who wants to be empowered by the tools of protocol and diplomacy in work and everyday life.

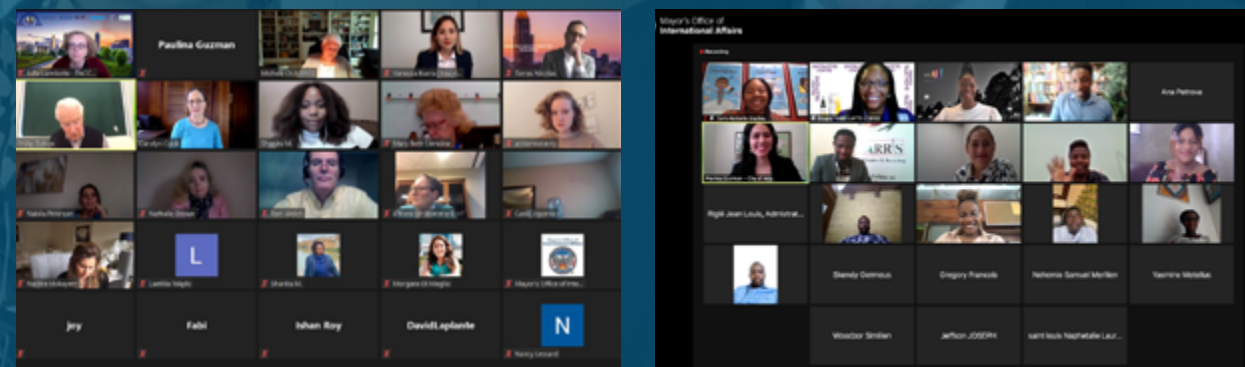
[View Manual](#)



## MOIA welcomes Ambassador of Ireland to the United States

November 24, 2021

MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra had the pleasure of welcoming Ambassador Dan Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, during his first visit to the City of Atlanta. Thank you, Ambassador, for visiting our great city and sharing more about the Irish economy, Irish-US relations, and the country's deep ties to the Southeast and Atlanta.



## MOIA joins the 2021 Atlanta Francophonie Festival

March 17, 2021

As part of the 2021 Atlanta Francophonie Festival, Global Atlanta Founder Philip Bolton led a round table discussion with MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra; Nicolas Torres, French Cooperation Attaché at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Ministère des Affaires étrangères français); Shanita Miller, Director of Development at Girls Inc. of Greater Atlanta; Carolyn Cook, Founder and First Artistic Director of Théâtre du Rêve on the importance of the French language globally and in the United States. The panelists shared their professional and personal experiences with the language, opportunities for those interested in learning and practicing French, and resources for businesses seeking French speaking talent.

## MOIA hosts fellows of the BEL Initiative

July 27, 2021

MOIA was honored to speak to Haitian entrepreneurs who are participating in the BEL Initiative Fellowship, an entrepreneurship program of the Georgia Haitian American Chamber of Commerce that provides entrepreneurship education, mentorship, access, and exposure to entrepreneurs from Haiti. Vanessa Ibarra, MOIA Director, spoke to the fellows about Atlanta's global business environment and how our office strives to position Atlanta as a global hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. Thank you to Women Export U alumni Terri-Nichelle Bradley of Brown Toy Box and Shayla McNair of Shay Latte Coffee, as well as Monica Delores Hooks from Atlanta's Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative for their authenticity and providing inspiring words of advice to all of the fellows.

## Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms joined the 2021 World Economic Forum Davos Agenda on the topic of "Rethinking Cities for a Post-COVID Future"

January 26, 2021

Moderated by Katherine Bell of Quartz Media, Mayor Bottoms joined João Doria, Governor of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, Christian Ulbrich, President and Chief Executive Officer of JLL, and Juan Jose Pocatererra, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ViKua, for the 2021 Davos Agenda to discuss how cities can build back better in a post-COVID future.

[View the Event](#)



## Atlanta joins commemoration of the 10 Year Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

March 11, 2021

MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra, joined the Japan-America Society of Georgia in commemorating the 10 Year Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. On March 11, 2011, the earthquake and tsunami took the lives of nearly 20,000 people, destroyed 200,000 homes, and forced the evacuation of 400,000 individuals. Ten years on, the City of Atlanta remembers and honors all who were affected.

[View Remarks from Vanessa](#)

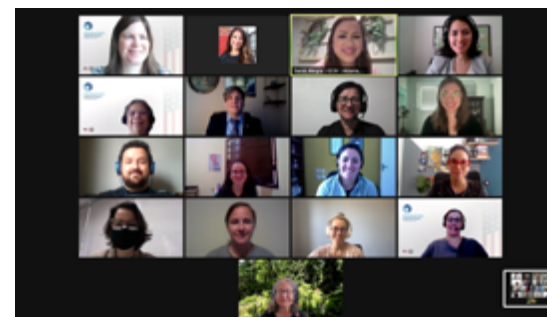




## Cape Town Virtual Exchange

June 9, 2021

MOIA, the Mayor’s Office of Resilience, and Atlanta’s Department of Transportation (ATLDOT) met with representatives from the City of Cape Town, South Africa to exchange practices in transportation, urban mobility, and resilience. MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra, provided remarks and Shelby Buso, Chief Sustainability Officer of the Office of Resilience, and Doug Nagy, Deputy Commissioner of ATLDOT provided presentations on behalf of the City.



## Atlanta hosts Brazil Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists delegation

June 21, 2021

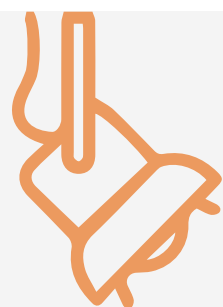
We had the pleasure of hosting a virtual delegation of Brazilian journalists that are part of the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership’s Edward Murrow Program for Journalists. MOIA Deputy Director, Paulina Guzman, provided introductory remarks and the delegation gained insight into how the City of Atlanta engages in communication and media relations from Barbara Luttrell, Deputy Director of the Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Communications (MOC) and Michael Smith, Press Secretary, MOC.



## Argentine Ambassador visits Atlanta

October 18, 2021

MOIA welcomed the Ambassador of Argentina to the U.S. Jorge Argüello. MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra presented the Ambassador a crystal peach on behalf of the City of Atlanta in celebration of our continued relationship with the country. During his remarks, Ambassador Argüello mentioned the City’s transformation and being a leader in the IT and Fintech industries.



## SPOTLIGHT ON HUNGARY & BRAZIL

### Vanessa Ibarra welcomes Ambassador of Hungary to the US

October 25, 2021

MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra had the pleasure of welcoming Ambassador of Hungary to the United States, H.E. Mr. Szabolcs Takács during his visit to the City of Atlanta.

### Vanessa Ibarra welcomes Ambassador of Brazil to the US

November 5, 2021

MOIA welcomed Brazil’s Ambassador to the United States, Nestor Forster, to the City of Atlanta. Vanessa introduced Ambassador Forster at Georgia State University at a discussion hosted by the Atlanta Global Studies Center, where he spoke to faculty and students about Brazil’s political, economic, and diplomatic landscape.

“ Exactly 9 years ago, I visited Atlanta. I came and thought I knew the city, but this is not the Atlanta I know from years ago. It is amazing what you have done.”





## Vanessa's French National Order of Merit

October 26, 2021

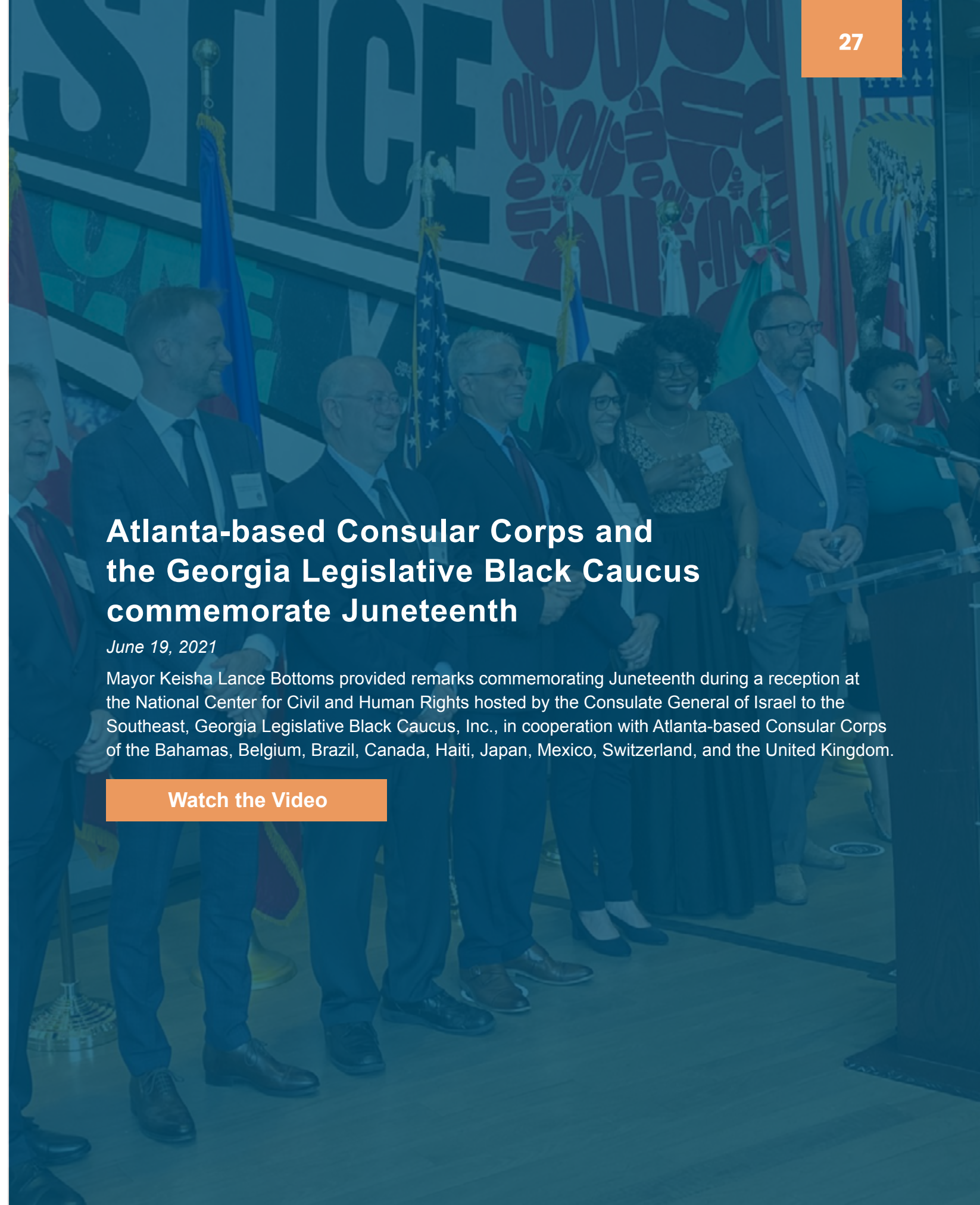
MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra, received the prestigious French National Order of Merit (L'ordre national du Mérite) with the rank of Knight from President Emmanuel Macron for her many years of dedicated service in advancing the France–Atlanta relationship.

Vanessa is a proud Latina leading diplomatic affairs on behalf of the City of Atlanta, and is the first woman of Latin American descent in Atlanta to be knighted by the French government. Her extensive work in advancing the France – Atlanta relationship have brought significant contributions to the local French community and international partners over the years.

The French National Order of Merit is a presidential award that recognizes distinguished services or acts of devotion, bravery, generosity, and commitment to the service of others, in the military or the public and private sectors. It is ranked as the second-highest award in France after the Legion of Honour (Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur).

[View Photos](#)

[Global Atlanta](#)  
[Atlanta Intown](#)



## Atlanta-based Consular Corps and the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus commemorate Juneteenth

June 19, 2021

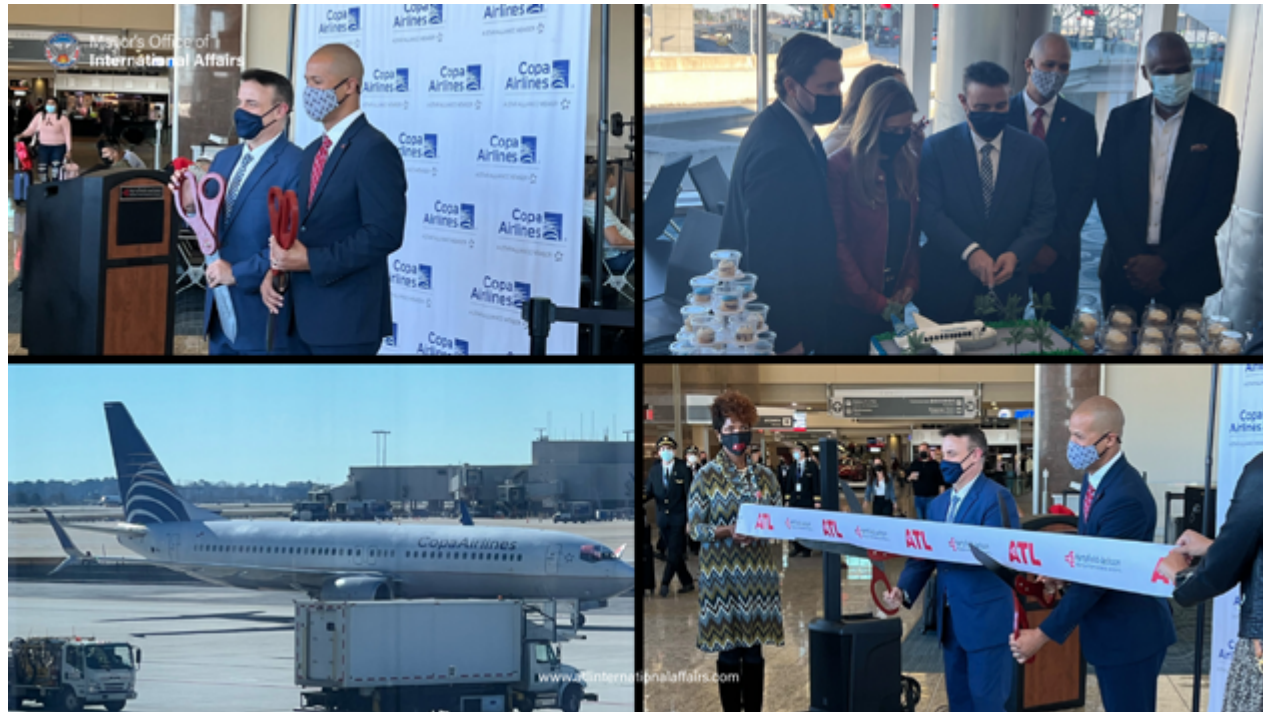
Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms provided remarks commemorating Juneteenth during a reception at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights hosted by the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast, Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, Inc., in cooperation with Atlanta-based Consular Corps of the Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Haiti, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

[Watch the Video](#)



## Copa Airlines Inaugural Flight from Atlanta

MOIA was proud to attend a special ceremony celebrating Copa Airlines' inaugural flight from Aeropuerto Internacional de Tocumen Panamá to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. We welcome you to the City of Atlanta, Copa Airlines!



## Atlanta celebrates the Bicentennial of Greek Independence Day

March 25, 2021

MOIA was delighted to join the Greek community in Atlanta in celebration of the Bicentennial of Greek Independence Day. As the world united to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Greek culture, we were reminded of the strong ties we have with our Greek community, from the Atlanta Greek Festival to our sister city relationship with Ancient Olympia. The strength of our relationship is reflected by our Greek neighbors that call Atlanta home and enrich the fabric of our community. The City of Atlanta was honored to join the Consulate General of Greece in Atlanta and the Greek community in commemorating this historic occasion.

## Dutch American Heritage Day

November 11, 2021



In honor of Dutch American Heritage Day, Director Vanessa Ibarra joined a reception celebrating the launch of the Atlanta Chapter of The Netherland America Foundation, whose mission is to “build bridges between the Netherlands and the Southeastern

United States by enabling the exchange of people and ideas that create appreciation, progress, and tolerance.” Consul General Ard van der Vorst of the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Atlanta said “the launch of this chapter reconfirms the growing importance of the City of Atlanta as an economic and cultural hub” and is a testament to the strong roots of the Dutch in the community. As the gateway to the Southeast, Atlanta is also home to the Netherlands American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeastern United States and the Atlanta Holland Club.

## Celebrating Sachi Koto for receiving Japan’s the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

November 2021



MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra attended the Imperial Conferment Ceremony and reception in honor of Sachi Koto at the Consulate General of Japan residence. Ms. Koto was conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in recognition of her outstanding contribution to promoting exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. MOIA celebrates her many years of dedicated service to Japan’s relationship with the United States and City of Atlanta, including the establishment of our Sister City relationship with Fukuoka.

The Order was established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji to award those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations. The last person to receive this honor was Hall of Famer Hank Aaron.

## Atlanta’s LGBTQ Affairs Director joins European conversation on the role of cities in promoting LGBTQ rights

May 2021

City of Atlanta LGBTQ Affairs Director Malik Brown joined European officials in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany to discuss best practices and the role local government can play in supporting LGBTQ rights. Hosted by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw and the Council of Europe, Malik was joined by Arndt Freytag von Loringhoven, Ambassador of Germany to Poland, Andrew Boff, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRG) of the Council of Europe Rapporteur, Martin Benda, Member of the Prague City Assembly, and Monika Chabior, Deputy President of Gdańsk for Social Development and Equal Treatment. The conversation was moderated by Marcin Antosiewicz, political journalist in Warsaw.



# SISTER CITY HIGHLIGHTS



## Sister City Relations Timeline of Events



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.

### 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

[2021 Annual Report](#)



### Fukuoka Article

When COVID-19 altered life as we knew it, residents of Fukuoka, Japan rose to the occasion. This City of Atlanta sister city is home to the #FridayOvation movement that applauds those working on the frontlines against COVID-19.

[Read the Article](#)



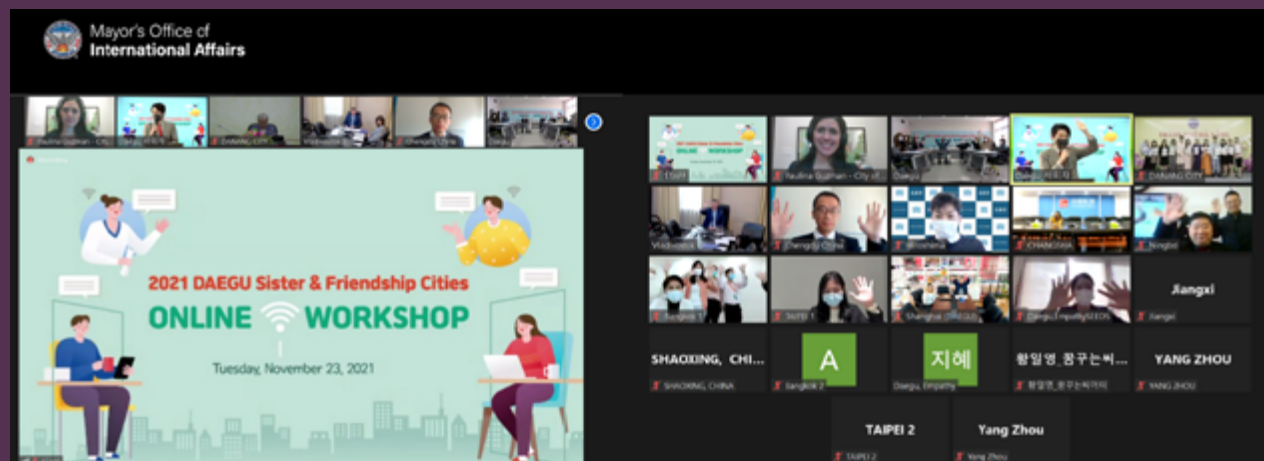
### Bucharest Article

In the face of COVID-19, city employees of Bucharest, Romania quickly adapted to an uncertain and rapidly changing environment. This City of Atlanta sister city also experienced incredible generosity from its citizens, who came together to support the city's most vulnerable residents.

[Read the Article](#)



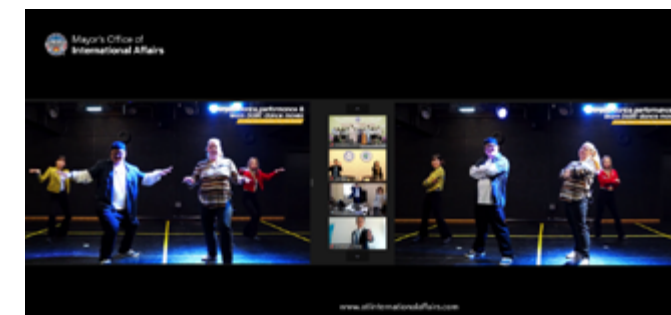
# DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA



## Atlanta highlighted in Daegu's Sister Cities virtual photo exhibition

May 2021

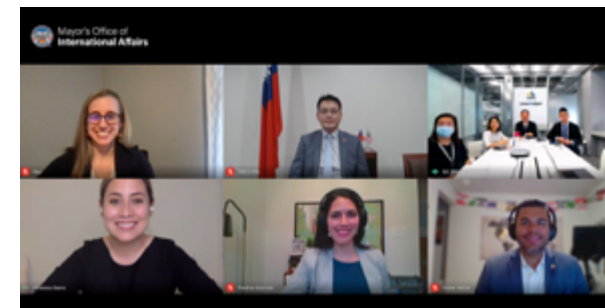
As part of a global campaign to promote international engagement and unity, Daegu, Korea, is featuring a new sister city each month as part of their Sister Cities Web Photo Exhibition. The exhibit provides visual storytelling of each city's unique neighborhoods, historical sites, and local attractions. The City of Atlanta was featured in May.



## Paulina Guzman joins Daegu to discuss international activities during the pandemic

November 29, 2021

Deputy Director Paulina Guzman joined City of Atlanta sister city Daegu, South Korea for an interactive discussion on how each city has navigated their international activities during the pandemic and what is to come for next year. Participants enjoyed a cultural performance, created paper crafts of Daegu's must-see places, and even had a chance to learn basic K-pop dance moves!



## MOIA meets with Taipei City Government and TECO Atlanta

April 20, 2021

MOIA had the pleasure of connecting with Ambassador Tom Chou, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of External Affairs for Taipei City Government, and Elliot Wang, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta. The City of Atlanta looks forward to continuing our support of cultural, economic, and educational opportunities that strengthen ties between the two regions and sister cities.

## Atlanta featured in Daegu art gallery

Mat 2021

CNK Gallery in Daegu, South Korea featured photos of Atlanta's skyline and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at its exhibit titled "Borderless Travel." The exhibit featured photographs from Daegu's sister cities. In addition, as part of a global campaign to promote engagement and unity, Daegu features a sister city each month as part of their Sister Cities Web Photo Exhibition. In May 2020, Atlanta was featured.



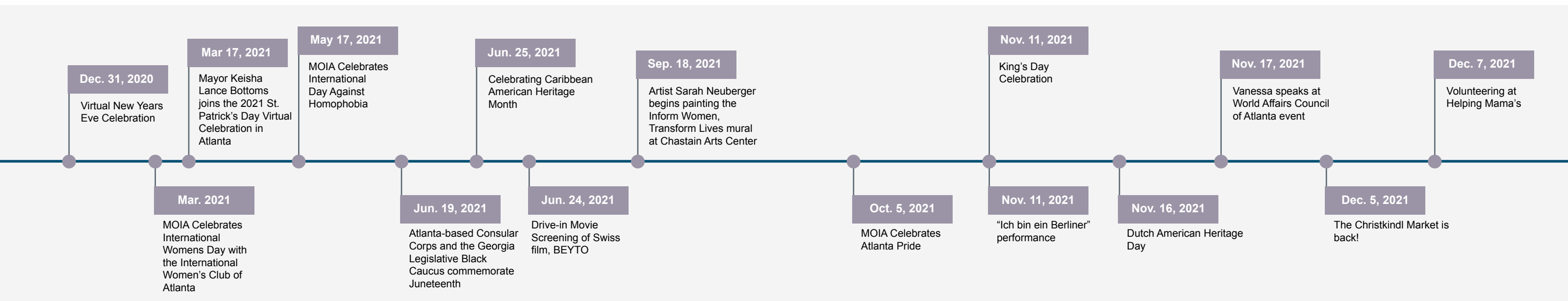
# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



MOIA attracts and supports several international community events throughout the year that help grow Atlanta’s brand as a global city, expand visitor traffic, and fortifies the relationship with different international communities. In addition, these events contribute to the economic impact of local communities including local and foreign owned businesses in Atlanta and attract international businesses interested in entering the U.S. market through Atlanta and the Southeast.

“The City of Atlanta is committed to elevating Atlanta’s global profile and bringing cultural experiences to ALL Atlantans.”

## Community Timeline of Events





# MORE IN THE COMMUNITY

## Drive-in Movie Screening of Swiss film, BEYTO

June 24, 2021

The Swiss Consulate General of Atlanta, City of Atlanta's MOIA and LGBTQ Affairs Office, Wussy Magazine, and Out on Film hosted a screening of the Swiss film BEYTO at the Plaza Drive-in Theater. BEYTO tells the story of a talented swimmer with a bright future ahead of him. But, when the only son of a Turkish migrant family falls in love with his coach Mike, an ideal world falls to pieces.

## “Ich bin ein Berliner” performance

November 11, 2021

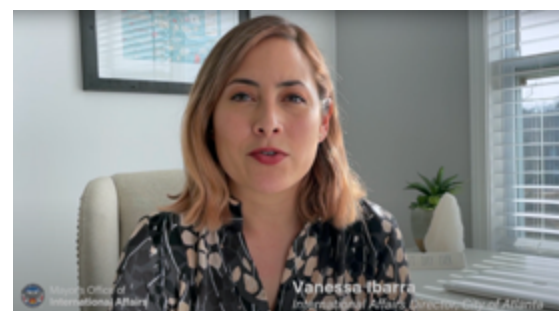
Global Engagement Manager Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez attended the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta's hybrid performance of “Ich bin ein Berliner” by Cuban-American playwright Vanessa Garcia at Ponce City Market's RoleCall Theatre.



## King's Day Celebration

November 11, 2021

Director Vanessa Ibarra joined the Consulate General of Belgium in Atlanta's King's Day celebration.



## MOIA Celebrates International Womens Day with the International Women's Club of Atlanta

December 7, 2021

The International Women's Club of Atlanta invited MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra, to lead an engaging conversation about our office and the various city-wide services and programs aimed to support women's health, economic mobility, food access, housing, and more. The discussion also led to talks about the Inform Women, Transform Lives campaign and Mayor Bottoms' vision for an equitable and inclusive One Atlanta.



## MOIA Celebrates International Day Against Homophobia

May 17, 2021

MOIA, Office of LGBTQ Affairs, and the City of Atlanta stand in love and solidarity with the Rainbow Cities Network and cities worldwide for this years International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, & Biphobia.

## MOIA Celebrates Atlanta Pride

October 5, 2021

Deputy Director Paulina Guzman enjoyed a memorable evening celebrating the Mayor's Pride Reception and highlighting the City of Atlanta's commitment to embracing and supporting our LGBTQ+ community. Applause to Malik Brown, Director of LGBTQ Affairs, for bringing everyone together for a night of friendship and unity.







## Celebrating Caribbean American Heritage Month

June 25, 2021

Paulina Guzman, MOIA Global Engagement Officer, celebrated National Caribbean American Heritage Month with the members of the Atlanta Caribbean Consular Corps and Atlanta Airport at Papi's Cuban Grill at Hartsfield Jackson International Airport. Thank you to Alrene Barr, Airport Director, International Business at ATL Airport, Astra Armbrister-Rolle, Consul General of the Bahamas, Roudelyne Nogar Jean, Consul General of Haiti, David Cutting, Consul General of Barbados, Marva Jacobs, Honorary Consul of Guyana, Dr. Elaine Bryan, Honorary Consul of Jamaica.

[Link to Remarks](#)



## Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms joined the 2021 St. Patrick's Day Virtual Celebration in Atlanta

March 17, 2021

The Consulate General of Ireland in Atlanta, Irish Chamber Atlanta and Irish Network Atlanta hosted an event celebrating the Irish community and culture virtually for St. Patrick's Day. The event featured remarks from the Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Dan Mulhall, Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta, Ciara O'Flóinn, Mayor of the City of Atlanta, Keisha Lance Bottoms, and EVP & CFO of The Coca-Cola Company, John Murphy. There was also contributions from IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland, as well as cultural performances from IrishFest Atlanta and Irish Traditions Atlanta.

[View the Event](#)



## The Christkindl Market is back!

December 5, 2021

The Atlanta Christkindl Market is officially back in the City of Atlanta! Atlanta Sister Cities Commission members and our Global Engagement Manager, Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez, came together to enjoy an evening at the traditional German Christmas market.

## MOIA Director moderates panel discussion during the 5th annual International Women's Day Virtual Summit

March 11, 2021

During the Georgia Women's Chamber of Commerce's 5th annual International Women's Day Virtual Summit, MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra moderated a "Women in Diplomacy" panel discussion with Cynthia Blandford, Honorary Consul of Liberia, Ciara O'Flóinn, Consul General of Ireland, Anat Sultan-Dadon, Consul General of Israel, and Monica Altagracia Marin Cruz, Consul General of El Salvador. The women shared their insights to managing work-life balance, how they found themselves in leadership roles, current efforts to address gender equality, and discussed international trade opportunities in their respective countries.

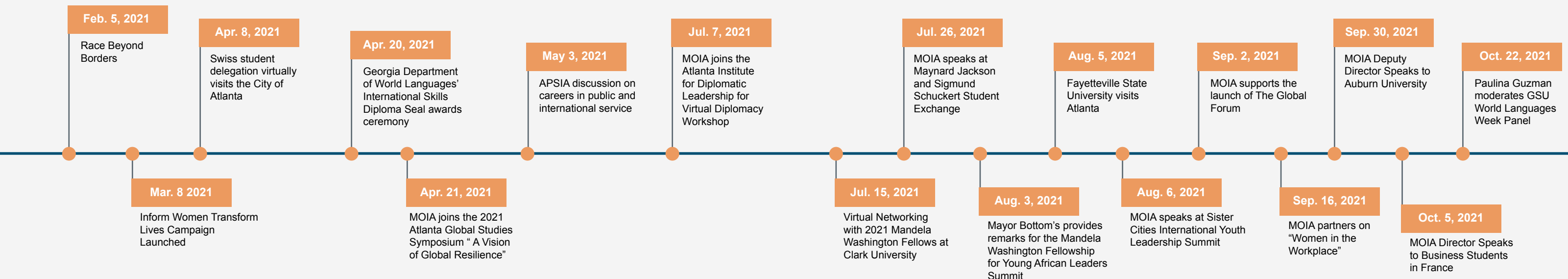


# EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Mayor's Office of International Affairs supports opportunities for international education and youth engagement by working with Atlanta-based academic institutions and international partners to support programming that develops global competencies and 21st century skills in an increasingly global economy.

“Our goal is to promote student achievement through language education and cultural competency and build the talent pipeline to support regional economic growth.”

## Education Timeline of Events

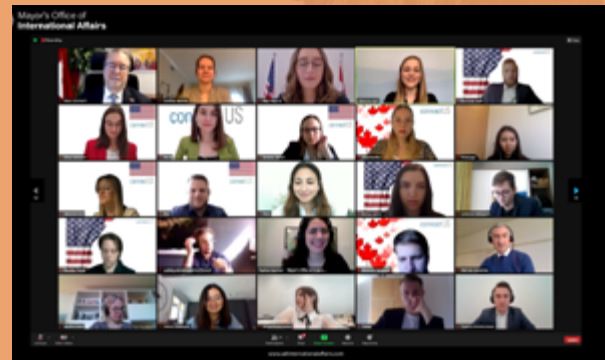
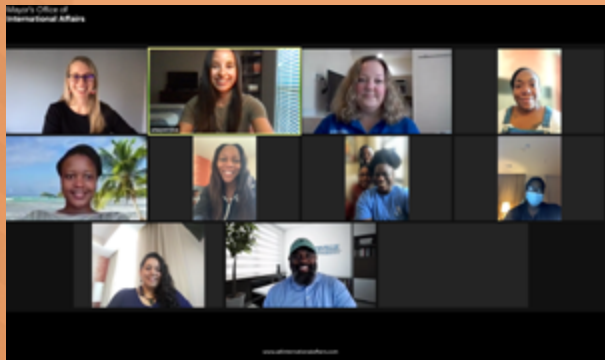




## MOIA supports the launch of The Global Forum

September 2, 2021

MOIA is proud to support the launch of The Global Forum, an initiative of the Minor in International Business at Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business. This experiential exchange allows students to digitally collaborate with peers around the world, including students of Munich Business School and Conestoga College.



## Fayetteville State University visits Atlanta

August 5, 2021

MOIA Global Engagement Manager, Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez, virtually welcomed students from North Carolina's Fayetteville State University to Atlanta, introducing them to our office and city. The students spent four days on a faculty-led trip exploring the local and international landscape of Atlanta, visiting iconic sites around the city like the World of Coca-Cola, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, and more.

## Swiss student delegation virtually visits the City of Atlanta

April 8, 2021

As part of connectUS, our Global Engagement Officer, Paulina Guzman, participated in an engaging conversation with students from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland FHNW. In partnership with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta, the students were introduced to Atlanta's workforce development initiatives in the entrepreneurship, LGBTQ, and youth sectors.

## EDUCATION AND MORE...

### Georgia Department of World Languages' International Skills Diploma Seal awards ceremony

April 20, 2021

The Georgia Department of World Languages invited Paulina Guzman, MOIA Global Engagement Officer, to deliver congratulatory remarks and a brief overview of our office's education activities during the International Skills Diploma Seal Awards Ceremony. The ISDS is awarded to graduating high school students who complete an international education curriculum and engage in extracurricular activities and experiences that foster global competencies.

### APsIA discussion on careers in public and international service

May 3, 2021

The Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APsIA) invited Paulina Guzman, MOIA Global Engagement Officer, to join an engaging discussion with Public and International Service Advisors (PISA) on pursuing careers in public and international service. Moderated by Amy Kennedy, Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Syracuse University - Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Paulina joined speakers Stephanie Martone, Multilateral Relations Advisor, U.S. Department of State, Jason Terry, Director, Exchange Programs, Global Ties U.S., and Samantha Tu, Intelligence Analyst, Everbridge.

### MOIA joins the Atlanta Institute for Diplomatic Leadership for Virtual Diplomacy Workshop

July 7, 2021

MOIA Global Engagement Officer, Paulina Guzman, joined the Atlanta Institute for Diplomatic Leadership for a virtual workshop about the "ins" and "outs" of protocol and diplomacy—from greetings, to cultural customs, to forms of address, and more. MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra and Coryn Marsik, International Relations Manager for the Georgia Department of Economic Development joined the same group of high school students to discuss their respective career paths into their current positions, and the importance of working collaboratively to further global ties and international business for the state and the city.





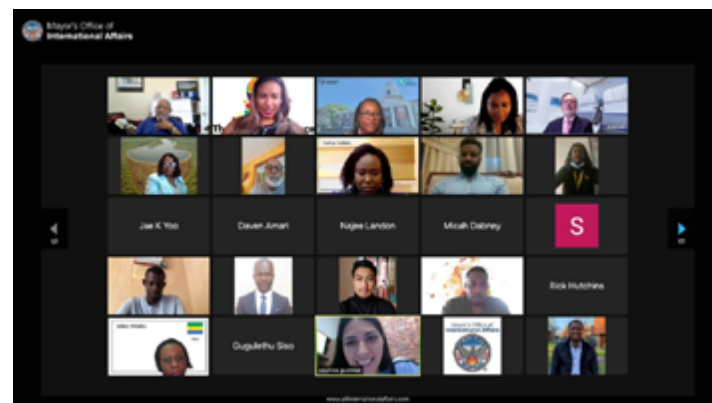
## MOIA joins the 2021 Atlanta Global Studies Symposium “A Vision of Global Resilience”

April 21, 2021

MOIA participated in the second annual Atlanta Global Studies Symposium, which brings together educators, researchers, corporate, civic, community partners, graduate and undergraduate students, to discuss global and local significance topics and foster interdisciplinary collaboration across universities. MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra provided a welcome message to all participants on the first day of the symposium. As part of the 2021 Atlanta Global Studies Symposium, MOIA, in partnership with the Greater Atlanta Coalition for Global Education and Research (GAcGEAR), hosted a panel discussion with Metro Atlanta students and alumni working or have worked in global-oriented internships and positions. MOIA Global Engagement Officer Paulina Guzman provided introductory remarks and the panel was moderated by Diana Wrenn Rapp of the Atlanta Global Studies Center and Kristy Winkler of the Center for Urban Language Teaching and Research. MOIA former intern Lucas de Souza Martins and MOIA interns Anya Foreman and Jenna Medcalf participated in the panel. They provided insights and advice for working in a globally connected environment.

## Virtual Networking with 2021 Mandela Washington Fellows at Clark University

July 15, 2021



MOIA had the pleasure of connecting and networking with the 2021 Mandela Washington Fellows at Clark Atlanta University. This years cohort of 25 entrepreneurs and business leaders represents 20 countries in Africa across multiple sectors: agribusiness, fashion, construction, product development & marketing, food retail, logistics & supply chain, and technology.

# MOIA SPEAKS

### MOIA speaks at Maynard Jackson and Sigmund Schuckert Student Exchange

July 26, 2021

MOIA enjoyed hosting and speaking to students from Maynard H. Jackson High School in Atlanta and Sigmund Schuckert Gymnasium in Nuremberg, Germany as part of their exchange program. Held virtually this year, the exchange program connected 14 students from Nuremberg and 13 from Atlanta, where they had the opportunity to connect and share presentations on their daily lives and cultures.

### MOIA speaks at Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit

August 6, 2021

MOIA Director, Vanessa Ibarra spoke with students from all over the world during the 2021 Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit. Vanessa discussed our office's activities and what Atlanta is doing to build and develop global partnerships.

### MOIA Director Speaks to Business Students in France

October 5, 2021

Director Vanessa Ibarra had the opportunity to speak with a group of Executive Masters in Marketing students from the IAE Paris - Sorbonne Business School about our work in the Mayor's Office of International Affairs. Joining her for the presentation were Lexi Newhouse of Invest Atlanta and Max Sutherland of the World Trade Center Atlanta. The delegation consisted of business professionals seeking to gain an in-depth knowledge of the branding of the City of Atlanta and our diverse portfolio of companies and industries.



## Paulina Guzman moderates GSU World Languages Week Panel

October 22, 2021

Deputy Director Paulina Guzman had the honor of moderating Georgia State University CULTR's World Languages Week Diplomacy Panel, featuring Elizabeth Blumenthal, Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Embassy Warsaw, Allen DuBose, Diplomat in Residence at the U.S. Department of State, and Todd Miyahira, Country Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy Brasilia.



## Mayor Bottom's provides remarks for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Summit

August 3, 2021

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms provided a video message for the 2021 Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit hosted by Clark Atlanta University and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, begun in 2014, is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that empowers young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking. The goals of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders are to build and sustain a prestigious network of young leaders across critical sectors and cement stronger ties between Africa and the United States. The Mandela Washington Fellowship program for Young African Leaders represent the extraordinary promise of an emerging generation of entrepreneurs, activists, and public officials.

[Learn more](#)

## Race Beyond Borders

February 5, 2021

MOIA is a proud member of a coalition of Greater Atlanta area higher education institutions and non-profits that are working together to create a collaborative, diverse, multi-institutional, and multi-disciplinary space for a global conversation on race and a public-facing scholar/activist network. The multi-institutional Race Beyond Borders initiative recently launched with an event that offered a foundation on establishing terminology and language around race and how concepts of race are constructed across the world.

[Watch Video](#)



## GSU's Center for Urban Language Teaching and Research (CULTR): World Languages Week

MOIA Deputy Director Paulina Guzman had the honor of moderating Georgia State University CULTR's World Languages Week Diplomacy Panel, featuring Elizabeth Blumenthal, Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Embassy Warsaw, Allen DuBose, Diplomat in Residence at the U.S. Department of State, and Todd Miyahira, Country Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy Brasilia. All three speakers discussed their fascinating experiences as foreign service officers and offered advice to students seeking to enter the field of diplomacy. They also discussed how the Department of State operates abroad, and how to prepare for a career in international relations.



## MOIA Deputy Director Speaks to Auburn University

September 30, 2021

Deputy Director Paulina Guzman virtually presented to Auburn University students about the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and discussed how to navigate professional opportunities in the international relations field. Paulina was joined by Dr. Faida Mitifu, former U.S. Ambassador to DRC and Ashley Hiers of CAPA The Global Education Network.



# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



MOIA aims to elevate the City of Atlanta as an international sports hub through community engagement, sports exchanges, economic development, and sports diplomacy.

“Atlanta views sports as a bridge between our international and local communities, creating opportunities for community engagement and business.”

## Sports Timeline of Events



## Korean Anyang Halla Ice Hockey Club visits Atlanta

October 13, 2021

Global Engagement Manager, Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez enjoyed welcoming the players and coaching staff of Anyang Halla Ice Hockey Club! The Korean team is visiting metro Atlanta for the Atlanta Gladiators ' 2021 Atlanta Hockey Showcase.



# A COFFEE WITH LEGENDS

From the World to the A: Coffee with Legends” is a platform of dialogue with Atlanta’s international figures - athletes, diplomats, journalists, historians, business, and civic leaders - as they discuss the city’s role in their careers and their experiences in the capital of Georgia.

The first two seasons highlight the Atlanta Mayor’s Office of International Affairs’ Global Sports Initiative, which aims to elevate the City of Atlanta as an international sports hub through community engagement, sports exchanges, economic development, and sports diplomacy.



## MOIA releases season 2 of “From the World to the A: A Coffee with Legends”

December 3, 2021

[Watch Video](#)

After a successful first season, welcome to the second season of our series “From the World to the A: Coffee with Legends”! In the first episode of this season, former Mayor’s Office of International Affairs intern Lucas de Souza Martins, interviews Elizabeth Pérez, Cuban-Venezuelan Emmy-winning television journalist and anchor for CNN en Español and DeportesCNN.



## “From the World to the A: A Coffee with Legends” episode 2

December 8, 2021

[Watch Video](#)

“In the second season of our video series “From the World to the A: Coffee with Legends”, we continue to highlight international sports figures and their careers in the City of Atlanta.

In the last episode of season two, Lucas de Souza Martins, MA interviews Paulo Neto, Atlanta United FC’s eMLS representative and #Brazilian Esports athlete. In 2020, he won the FIFA 20 Summer Cup Series for South America, marking the second international title that an #eMLS player has won. He was also ranked #11 player in the World, #1 ranked South American in Global Series, and a Top 4 in the eMLS Cup. In 2018, he was selected to the Brazilian national team after being crowned the PlayStation champion of the country.”

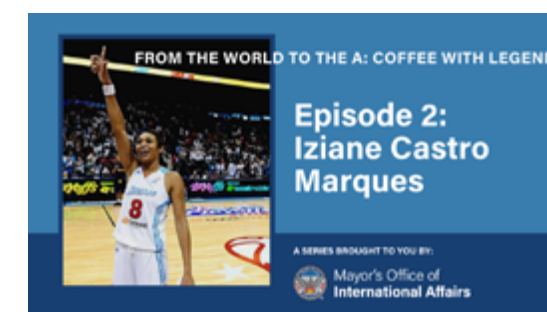
## ICYMI: Check out Season One’s Episodes



### “From the World to the A: A Coffee with Legends”: Naomy Grand’Pierre

[Watch Video](#)

For Episode One, we interview Naomi Grand’Pierre, a Canada born, America raised, Haitian woman. Born in Montreal, Canada and an alumna of Whitfield Academy in Marietta, Georgia, Grand’Pierre is the first female Olympic Swimmer to represent the beautiful country of Haiti in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Following the Olympics in 2018 at the CCCAN Games (Central American and Caribbean Swimming Championships), Grand’Pierre won the first Haitian medals for swimming: Gold and Silver medals in the 50m and 100m Breaststroke. To add to her impressive resume, Grand’Pierre is also the national record holder in the 50m & 100m Freestyle and 50m Fly.



### “From the World to the A: A Coffee with Legends”: Iziane Castro Marques

[Watch Video](#)

For Episode Two, we interview Iziane Castro Marques, a Brazilian Olympian (2004 & 2016) and a former WNBA star who played for the Atlanta Dream from 2008 to 2011. “Izi” also had a long career overseas playing in France, Spain, Latvia, Turkey, Poland, and Russia. In 2014, she founded in Brazil the “Iziane Institute” focused on youth, education, and sports.



### “From the World to the A: A Coffee with Legends”: Kristi Castlin

[Watch Video](#)

For Episode Three, we interview Kristi Castlin, an Atlanta native Olympian. She is an American Track and Field athlete, 2016 Olympic Medalist, and lifestyle influencer. Also known by her nickname, “Hollywood” began competing at age 14 and, since then, she has traveled to over 45 countries for competitions and philanthropy. Kristi is eager to engage her followers (50,000 + on Instagram) to come along the journey with her as she trains for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.





## Atlanta Mayor's Office of International Affairs

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**@ATLIntlAffairs**    

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