



2022

**Mayor's Office
of International &
Immigrant Affairs**



Mayor Andre Dickens Establishes Office of International and Immigrant Affairs

ATLANTA— On the heels of joining a delegation representing the United States in Geneva as part of the country’s presentation to the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Mayor Andre Dickens announced the City of Atlanta has established the Mayor’s Office of International and Immigrant Affairs. Mayor Dickens initiated – and City Council approved - the reorganization of the newly established Office, which merges the current Immigrant Affairs Division of the Mayor’s Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion with the Office of International Affairs.

“Atlanta is a welcoming, international city committed to developing and fostering relationships that position us as a global hub for commerce, innovation, culture and diplomacy,” said Mayor Dickens. “From owning and operating the world’s busiest and most efficient airport to being home to numerous Fortune 500 companies and consulates, our influence spans the globe and this office will only foster the growth of that influence.”

The Mayor’s Office of International and Immigrant Affairs will be led by current International Affairs Director, Vanessa Ibarra in a cabinet-level position. Under her leadership, the office will have an expanded focus beyond current international affairs focus areas, will align outreach and engagement activities with the City’s local initiatives as well as focus on connecting various departments within City government with counterparts abroad to address local issues and exchange best practices. Additionally, the Office will continue to stay to committed to fostering a connected community of all Atlantans through programs and policies that improve the day-to-day lives of immigrant Atlantans.

One of the first initiatives of the Mayor’s Office of International and Immigrant Affairs will be hosting the 39th annual Consular Ball on Sept. 17, 2022, in conjunction with the Georgia Council for International Visitors. This event honors the Georgia Consular Corps and the influence of Atlanta’s international community.

Earlier this year, Mayor Dickens was named a Co-Chair of the Truman Center for National Policy’s new Task Force on City and State Diplomacy. Supported by the Open Society Foundations, this effort will address states, cities and other subnational actors as essential participants in foreign policy.

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For more information about the City of Atlanta, please visit www.atlantaga.gov or watch City Channel 26. Follow the City of Atlanta on Facebook and Twitter @CityofAtlanta.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Atlanta is a city made stronger by its incredible diversity, and as your Mayor, I am inspired by the families and individuals who hail from all over the world to call Atlanta home. In our city, we welcome you, regardless of where you are from or what language you speak.

Over the last few decades, Atlanta has transformed into a major global destination. Atlanta is home to nearly 850,000 immigrant residents, over 70 Consular and foreign trade offices, more than 30 bi-national chambers of commerce, 17 sister city relationships, and 2,700 foreign-owned enterprises, all of whom contribute to the social, cultural, and economic strength of our city.

In the first year of my administration, I established the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs and placed it at the Cabinet level, reflecting my strong belief that we must uplift our foreign-born population and ensure that Atlanta remains a place known for its diversity, inclusivity, and international influence.

In 2022, we launched the City’s premier language access plan, iSpeakATL which offers free, timely, and efficient language services to the City’s Limited English Proficient (LEP) population. We also hosted numerous cultural celebrations, anchored in the rich cultural fabric that makes our city unique. From the 39th Annual International Consular Ball to our Immigrant Heritage Month Resource Fair, Atlanta is elevating its position on the global stage and keeping its word as a city that is welcoming to all.

My vision for Atlanta is one of equity, opportunity, and safety and that is only possible through partnership and collaboration. I am thankful to the organizations, businesses, corporations, and communities themselves who have shown up to make progress towards a more inclusive tomorrow.

Together, we are working to raise Atlanta’s profile as the global hub for commerce, innovation, culture, and diplomacy. Together, we are moving Atlanta forward.

Andre Dickens,

61st Mayor of Atlanta



MESSAGE FROM VANESSA IBARRA

Now more than ever, Atlanta is a global city. We stand proudly as an international hub for culture, business, diplomacy, education, innovation, and sports. Atlanta is home to the world's busiest airport in Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and has emerged as a gateway for immigrants from all over the world. Thanks in part to the significant contributions of our immigrant population, Atlanta is a beacon for welcoming diversity and offering opportunity for all.

The Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs – Welcoming Atlanta is committed to an inclusive tomorrow that enables everyone to truly thrive, reflecting Mayor Andre Dickens' vision for one city with one bright future. In 2022, we served 12,875 households at 275 Community Resource Events, hosted 100 international delegations from over 60 countries, and celebrated important accomplishments in creating a more welcoming city.

This year, Mayor Andre Dickens joined the U.S. delegation to the United Nations to present the work Atlanta is leading in eliminating racial discrimination. Among the many Welcoming Events we celebrated, Mayor Dickens hosted a Naturalization Ceremony at City Hall, during which 47 citizenship candidates became New Americans, and received members of Atlanta's Consular Corps for the inaugural Consular Corps Luncheon. We highlighted the transformative power of information access through the Carter Center Inform Women, Transform Lives campaign. We invested in our youth by hosting 13 interns across high school, undergraduate, and graduate studies, providing opportunities for students to engage in community outreach, diplomacy, and more.

In this report, you will learn about the many other activations we are conducting across the City of Atlanta to continue building our global brand and invest in inclusivity. These activities bring us together as one city, reflecting the many backgrounds from which we come, and the many religions, cultures, and countries we represent.

Thanks to the numerous partners who have joined us in these efforts, Atlanta is becoming a more welcoming city every year. We are excited to continue this work hand in hand and to continue Moving Atlanta Forward to an equitable future that embraces innovation and provides opportunity for all.

Vanessa Ibarra,

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

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ABOUT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL & IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Vision

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

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



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.



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 & Safe Streets

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.



International Business & Economic Development

Establish opportunities for trade, advance international strategic partnerships, and connect minority- & 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



Vanessa Ibarra
Executive Director



Paulina Guzman
Deputy Director



Valerie Mills
Senior Manager



Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez
Global Engagement Manager



Christina Chu
Community Outreach Coordinator



Eduardo Muñoz
Advocacy and Civic Engagement Manager



Holly Malerba
Community Programs Manager



Rolando Restrepo
Operations and Project Coordinator



Peter Pimentel
Community Empowerment Manager



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS MET WITH RETA JO LEWIS, ESQ

At the United States Conference of Mayors, City of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens met with Reta Jo Lewis, Esq. to discuss various exporting opportunities, particularly for minority and women-owned businesses, including our Women Export University program with UPS.



RECIPIENTS OF THE 2022 ATLANTA METRO EXPORT CHALLENGE GRANT ANNOUNCED



Our office attended the 2022 Metro Export Challenge reception, honoring nine Atlanta companies who were awarded a \$5,000 reimbursement grant that can be used for expenses going towards their international expansion efforts. Our office has proudly supported the Metro Atlanta Chamber's Export Challenge grant since the program's inception six years ago. Over those six years, the Atlanta Metro Export Challenge has awarded over \$600,000 to over 120 companies to support their international business development efforts. 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, and customized expert consultation from the UGA Small Business Development Center, US Commercial Service, and Georgia District Export Council, among others.

www.metroatlantachamber.com/metro-export-challenge



2022 WOMEN EXPORT UNIVERSITY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UPS

Our office and UPS hosted the 2022 Women Export University program at UPS' World Headquarters. Women Export University is a capacity-building program that equips entrepreneurs with the necessary tools and resources to become globally competitive and increase the participation of women-owned businesses in international trade. A one-day hybrid event, Women Export University highlights insights and training on export strategies, tools, and resources to enter new markets, insights on how to build an export-friendly digital presence, and guidance on package flows and preparing export shipments. A partnership between our office and UPS, Women Export University aims to increase the participation of women-owned businesses in exporting and create more opportunities for women entrepreneurs to achieve economic equality.

Learn more, visit www.atlinternationalaffairs.com/women-export-u.



GEORGIA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S EME DE MUJER WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"I love me for me!" Vanessa Ibarra kicked off a panel with positive self affirmations before her discussion with Veronica Maldonado-Torres, President and CEO of Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Natalia P. Franco, President and Founder of BrandMark Marketing Solutions at the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's annual EME de Mujer Women's Conference.

Panelists discussed the various challenges women face when pursuing top leadership positions, managing the day-to-day professional/personal responsibilities and the resources needed to support the next generation in rising to the top. Vanessa also spoke about our office's activities and the significant role public-private partnerships play in supporting and advancing our international and immigrant communities.

WELCOME TO ATLANTA!

The City of Atlanta welcomed business delegations from Argentina, Ireland, Pakistan and Vietnam.



Ambassador Jorge Argüello & representatives of Argentine companies



Irish Minister for Trade Promotion, Robert Troy, & 26 Irish companies



MOIIA, Invest Atlanta & Atlanta City Council members hosted business representatives from Pakistan



Chief of Staff, Odie Donald II, welcomed Vietnamese Trade & Investment Representatives

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PANELS AT COCA-COLA, THE HOME DEPOT, EY, AND MICROSOFT

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Welcoming Atlanta Executive Director Vanessa Ibarra joined four conversations where panelists discussed their diverse professional careers and how corporations, government agencies, and individuals can positively impact the Hispanic/Latinx community locally and abroad.



IN 2022, THE CITY OF ATLANTA HOSTED DELEGATIONS FROM:

- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Burundi
- Canada
- Central Africa Republic
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Estonia
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Hong Kong
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Lagos
- Libya
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- South Africa
- Saudi Arabia
- South Korea
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Vietnam
- Virgin Islands





MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS JOINED U.S. DELEGATION TO UN COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

GENEVA - Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens joined a delegation representing the United States in Geneva this week as part of the country's presentation to the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Mayor Dickens joined federal and state leaders and was the only leader representing a U.S. city. Mayor Dickens highlighted Atlanta's leadership in the areas of equity, diversity and inclusion as the Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement, and discussed the ways that cities can lead in issues of racial equity, diversity and inclusion.

[View the Press Release](#)



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS JOINED AS CO-CHAIR OF TRUMAN CENTER CITY & STATE DIPLOMACY TASK FORCE

The Truman Center for National Policy announced a new Task Force on City and State Diplomacy supported by the Open Society Foundations. As Co-Chair Mayor Andre Dickens joined Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Ambassador Nina Hachigian, U.S. Representative Ted Lieu,



U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, and Task Force Lead and Truman Center Senior Fellow Erin Bromaghim in developing a series of recommendations to broaden diplomatic engagement across America, strengthen ties between the U.S. Department of State and U.S. city and state governments, and deepen domestic engagement on transnational issues, including: climate change, migration, and trade.

In June 2022, the Task Force launched its official report, “Broadening Diplomatic Engagement Across America”, addressing how U.S. cities and states currently engage in diplomacy and foreign policy and explore opportunities for capacity building and collaboration between these groups, the State Department, and partners around the world.



“Cities generate more than two thirds of the world’s GDP, face some of history’s greatest challenges and their mayors are on the front lines tackling the kitchen table issues facing families across the globe. With urban growth comes a great responsibility to improve the lives of our residents—ensuring there is equity in city services, housing, safety, education and so much more. While no two cities are alike, there is a clear intersection between global and local affairs. Through organizations like the Truman Center for National Policy’s City and State Taskforce, our goal is to build a strong coalition of city and state leaders to broaden our influence in shaping national and global initiatives” said City of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens

“As a global hub for innovation, commerce, technology, entertainment and so much more, Atlanta truly influences everything,” said Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens. “Thank you to the Truman Center for the opportunity to serve on the Task Force on City and State Diplomacy, and for recognizing the important role cities play in shaping national and global initiatives.”

[View the Report](#)

UNVEILING OF THE INFORM WOMEN TRANSFORM LIVES MURAL



In partnership with The Carter Center, City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs, and Mayor’s Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, MOIIA gathered for the unveiling of the Inform Women Transform Lives Mural, designed by Atlanta-based artist Sarah Neuburger, that highlights the transformative power of access to information for women. This gathering was also an opportunity to address the challenges and needs of women across the globe, and to reaffirm Andre Dickens and City of Atlanta commitment to supporting women and girls across the city.

[Learn More](#)



CITY OF ATLANTA WELCOMED THE ROYAL BELGIAN ECONOMIC MISSION LED BY HRH PRINCESS ASTRID

As part of the Royal Belgian Economic Mission presided over by HRH Princess Astrid, our office in partnership with hub.brussels and the Consulate General of Belgium in Atlanta hosted a lively discussion at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights on Global Perspectives on Women in Entrepreneurship with VIP speaker Dr. Ilham Kadri, CEO of Solvay and Monica Delores Hooks, Executive Director of the Atlanta’s Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative.



Representing Mayor Andre Dickens and the City of Atlanta, Vanessa Ibarra attended a private reception for the Belgian mission. With over 500 participants, 270 companies, universities and organizations, BEmissionUSA is the largest trade mission ever organized by Belgium in the United States and is also the largest international business delegation to visit the City of Atlanta since the 1996 Olympic Games.

Thank you HRH Princess Astrid, HE David Clarinval, HE Jan Jambon, HE Willy Borsus, HE Pascal Smet and BEmissionUSA for choosing Atlanta as your first stop in the United States and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our strong transatlantic partnership!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS AND THE CITY OF ATLANTA CELEBRATED THE 39TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONSULAR BALL!

The 39th Annual International Consular Ball, presented by the Mayor’s Office of International & Immigrant Affairs - Welcoming Atlanta and the Georgia Council for International Visitors (GCIV), was the premier event bringing together the international and diplomatic communities in the City of Atlanta.

The International Consular Ball brought together not only the diplomatic community, but corporations, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, trade offices, chambers of commerce, and government representatives on a local, regional, and state level under one roof and at a brand new location, Flourish Atlanta.

Chaired by Vanessa Ibarra, Executive Director of MOIIA, #ICB2022 celebrated the many achievements of these various groups and acted as a catalyst for future endeavors.

Special thank you to our speakers Mayor Andre Dickens, keynote speaker Frank Patterson of Trilith Studios, Amb. Charles Rivkin of the Motion Picture Association, MC Jorge Estevez of WSB-TV Channel 2, Amb. Javier Diaz de Leon, Consul General of Mexico and Dean of the Georgia Consular Corps, Abby Turano of Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), Nico Wijnberg of the State of Georgia & GDEcD, Mar Anderson of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Rickey Bevington of World Affairs Council of Atlanta, & late night MC Dr. Rashad Richey of Rolling Out.

Another special thank you to all of our performers - Atlanta Drumline Academy, Atlanta Irish Dance, Melissa Youngblood, Dance Canvas, and Lunar Krew, our musical talents - the Ojeda Penn Experience & DJ Salah Ananse - and the many volunteers and sponsors for making it an unforgettable evening.

We truly brought #theWorldtotheA!

[View Photos](#)

[Watch the Video](#)



DIPLOMACY HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS WELCOMED MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY



Javier Diaz de Leon – Consul General of Mexico in Atlanta, Dean of the Georgia Consular Corps



H.E. Dr. Uzoma Emenike, Nigeria's first female Ambassador to the United States and H.E. Amb. Dr. Amina Smaila, Consul General of Nigeria in Atlanta



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS HOSTED THE INAUGURAL CONSULAR CORPS LUNCHEON

City of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens and our office hosted the inaugural Consular Corps Luncheon, providing the Mayor an opportunity to demonstrate his support of the international community and their contributions to advancing the global profile of Atlanta and his vision for “One City with One bright future.”

“Atlanta has been a global City for decades, thanks largely to our engaged and diverse communities, our airport, business and educational institutions, world renowned nonprofit organizations and our diplomatic community” said Mayor Andre Dickens during his remarks.

Dean of the Consular Corps, Ambassador Javier Diaz de Leon, Consul General of the Consulate General of Mexico in Atlanta also hosted a fireside chat with Mayor Dickens to discuss the Mayor's vision of how the Consulates and international community can partner with the city to address common interests in the work of diversity and inclusion, being a welcoming City, and keeping communities safe and connected. Mayor Dickens also mentioned that since Atlanta influences everything, his Administration will continue to look for ways to create opportunities to improve Atlanta's position nationally and internationally.

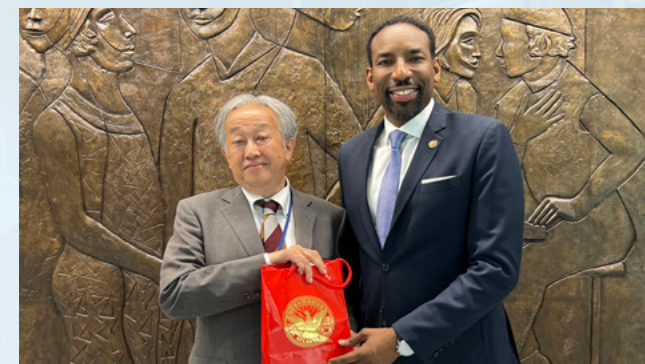
[Watch Coverage from ATL26](#)



Governor Albert Bryan Jr of the U.S. Virgin Islands



Anthony Moss – Consul General of the Bahamas in Atlanta



Kazuyuki Takeuchi – former Consul General of Japan in Atlanta



Rachel Galloway – British Consul General in Atlanta

EDUCATION & YOUTH



PARTNERSHIPS WITH 6 ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HOST STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AT COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENTS



We established partnerships with 6 Atlanta Public Schools to host student volunteers at our Community Resource Events. This initiative helps local high school students earn meaningful community service hours, while also engaging with our office and learning about local government. We began partnerships with schools that have large populations of immigrant students, with the goal that by involving them in community engagement work, they will also be better equipped to serve as ambassadors of care in their own neighborhoods and will take the spirit of community back to their daily lives.



GLOW CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Our office partnered with Girls Inc., an organization focused on the development of young girls through mentorship, programming, and education to inspire young women to be Strong, Smart, and Bold. Each month, Girls Inc. organizes a workshop as part of their GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) Series, featuring monthly themed workshops and field trips. On Saturday, we organized the GLOW Cultural Celebration event for an international day of learning new cultures, interactive activities and fun!

We are proud to spotlight Marietta D. Murton, a City of Atlanta-based Peruvian artist. Our office had the honor of working with her at Girls Inc.'s GLOW Cultural Celebration, where she taught young girls how to make traditional Mochica jewelry.

[Read Article](#)



BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCE FAIR FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES AT THE SARA J. GONZÁLEZ MEMORIAL PARK

We hosted a Back to School Resource Fair for students and families at the Sara J. González Memorial Park, in partnership with Isabel González Whitaker, Trinity Anglican Church, Operation Feed Atlanta, Second Helpings Atlanta, Latino Association for Parents of Public Schools, Atlanta Public Schools Multilingual Programs & Services, and Soccer in the Streets. Families received free grocery items, snack bags, backpacks, and school supplies, and attendees were able to meet with parents advocacy organizations on-site.



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ATLANTA - UNITED NATIONS OF PLAY

Our office partnered with the Children's Museum of Atlanta for United Nations of Play featuring countries represented in the City of Atlanta including Nigeria, Tajikistan, Brazil, Philippines, and Ireland!

Thank you Children's Museum of Atlanta and international partners for putting together a wonderful cultural experience for kids in Atlanta.

PARTNERSHIP WITH JEAN CHILDS YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY VIOLENCE AND IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS



Our team attended 5 monthly Hispanic Community Partnership Meetings to discuss ongoing community violence, particularly affecting middle school students and their families, in the Adamsville neighborhood of Atlanta. These convenings brought together stakeholders from the school, public safety, and local government levels to collaborate on solutions. Attendees included Jean Childs Young Middle School, Atlanta Public Schools Multilingual Programs & Services, Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction, Atlanta Police Department Gangs Unit, Atlanta Police Department Multicultural Liaison, and Atlanta Public Schools Resource Officer.

ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SIGNED MOU WITH B1 BERUFLICHE SCHULE (TECHNICAL COLLEGE) IN NUREMBERG, GERMANY



Congratulations to Atlanta Technical College and B-1 Berufliche Schule (Technical College) in Nuremberg, Germany for the signing of their educational exchange MOU!

Dr. Victoria Seals, President of Atlanta Technical College, and Bernhard Palm, Head Administrator for the B-1 Schule, formalized their partnership exchange between the two schools. The signing of the MOU leverages the opportunity to encourage workforce skills and cultural competency among students and young talent.

Did you know the City of Atlanta and the City of Nuremberg have a thriving sister city relationship including a robust student exchange program between Atlanta's Maynard Jackson High School and Nuremberg's Sigmund-Schuckert Gymnasium? The MOU signing between ATC and the B-1 Berufliche Schule further solidifies and strengthens this relationship.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION AT MAYS HIGH SCHOOL, TRI-CITIES HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL

MOIIA team members Vanessa Ibarra, Christina Chu, and Rolando Restrepo were invited to participate in Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) Career and Student Panels at three Atlanta Public Schools! Thank you to former Welcoming Atlanta intern Mr. Jackson, ESOL teacher Ms. Tanner and Ms. Adams for inviting our office to participate in the celebrations.



THE CITY OF ATLANTA & HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WELCOMED DELEGATIONS FROM:

PRAGUE AIRPORT



The City of Atlanta's Chief of Staff Odie Donald II and ATL Airport representatives welcomed a delegation visiting Atlanta to exchange best practices and materialize an MOU signed in 2019.

In April 2019, officials from ATL Airport and Prague's Vaclav Havel Airport signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve aviation collaboration and in hopes of one day reviving non-stop flights between Atlanta and the Czech Republic's capital city. Prague Airport is the first European airport to sign a sister airport agreement with Hartsfield-Jackson.

NORTH AFRICA



Deputy Chief of Staff Austin Wagner welcomed a 32-member delegation from the North African countries of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, and Egypt. The delegation consisted of ministries of trade and customs and border protection interested in learning more about the Atlanta market.

THE EMBASSY OF UGANDA



Our office and ATL Airport General Manager Balram Bheodari and International Business Director Alrene Richards Barr welcomed delegates from the Embassy Of Uganda. During the meeting, an emphasis was made on growing ties between the City of Atlanta and the continent of Africa.



CELEBRATING AIR CANADA'S INAUGURAL FLIGHT CONNECTING YUL - ATL

Our office proudly attended a special ceremony celebrating Air Canada's inaugural flight connecting Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and ATL Airport! Air Canada offers many flights to Atlanta, now including two from Montreal. *Switch with Human Trafficking Month



ATLANTA WELCOMED COPA AIRLINES AND THEIR DIRECT SERVICE TO ATL AIRPORT

Our office had the pleasure of joining ATL Airport and various local partners for a welcome reception celebrating Copa Airlines' service from Atlanta to Panama and beyond. Copa established service to Atlanta with an inaugural flight from Aeropuerto Internacional de Tocumen Panamá in December 2021.



OBSERVING HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH AT ATL AIRPORT

Mayor Andre Dickens, ATL Airport officials were joined by state and local leaders to observe Human Trafficking Prevention Month and launch a multijurisdictional collaborative "Not in My Country." The collaborative brings together various resources to combat human trafficking in the region. Thank you for the various members of the Consular Corps for attending and supporting this collaboration.



NEIGHBORHOOD
EMPOWERMENT

COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENTS TO BENEFIT LOW-INCOME ATLANTANS ACROSS THE CITY

The Mayor's Office of International & Immigrant Affairs – Welcoming Atlanta has hosted 275 Community Resource Events, benefitting over 12,875 family units in 16 distinct communities during 2022. These events have made resources like groceries, COVID vaccines, in-language information around domestic violence, fire safety, and more accessible, especially in communities that face barriers related to language, transportation, and documentation status.

 **275 EVENTS**
hosted in 2022, in 16 distinct neighborhoods

12,875 family units served

39% of families served selected México as their country of origin, **21%** selected the US, **13%** selected Guatemala, **8%** selected Venezuela, **5%** selected Honduras, and **4%** selected Colombia.

Families served represent 35 countries, spanning North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe.



These Community Resource Events have engaged

35+ public and private partners across an assortment of sectors, including education and youth empowerment, public safety, food access, health and wellbeing, civic participation, and more.

250+ volunteers have attended, representing the way that community engagement truly engages everyone, not just the primarily community being served. These volunteers represent various Atlanta corporate groups, middle and high schools, religious organizations, and affinity groups.



VICTIMS' SERVICES PROGRAM

Our Victims' Services Program seeks to respond to a need for culturally competent victims' services to help immigrants seek assistance after being victims of crime. Examples of services we provided in 2022 included: assistance to obtain U-visa certifications, assistance to file police reports, criminal justice system accompaniment, provision of language assistance, advocacy on behalf of crime victims, resource linkage, and know-your-rights awareness. 187 victims were served in 2022, and the top victimizations were fraud, domestic violence, assault, robbery, and labor trafficking.

FOOD ACCESS PARTNERS

24,500

Meals with Meaning received in partnership with Second Helpings Atlanta, HelloFresh, Pratt Industries, and Atlanta City Council, benefitting over 6,100 household units at 160 Community Resource Events

13

Food Access partner organizations engaged in fighting food insecurity and building trust in our immigrant communities

3,200

Household units served with Common Market's locally and sustainably sourced protein boxes at 60 Community Resource Events

3,000

Household units served at 140 Community Resource Events, hosted in partnership with the Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center

131

Families served at Latinx Heritage Month Community Resource Event sponsored by UPS's Crecer Business Resource Group and Future Business Leaders Resource Group, in partnership with A. Garcia Produce & Trucking

740

sandwiches provided through our 2nd year of partnership with the Sandwich Project ATL, benefitting 127 families in 2 Lenox and Lindridge Martin Manor neighborhoods

1,000

household units served at 26 Community Resource Event in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank

8,000

pre-packaged meal kits provided by Feed the Children and Americold Logistics, to benefit children who lost access to free/reduced school lunch during winter holidays

RESOURCE ACCESS PARTNERS

30,280

diapers provided by Helping Mamas, in addition to 11,793 period products, 4,102 articles of clothing, 119 diaper backpacks, and 105 health and hygiene kits

450

residents provided with in-language domestic violence resources, in partnership with the Partnership Against Domestic Violence during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

243

families provided with in-language fire safety information and participated in Q&A sessions conducted by Atlanta Fire Rescue Department at 4 Community Resource Events

188

COVID-19 vaccines administered in partnership with CORE Georgia, including 72 1st doses, 50 2nd doses, 54 booster shots, and 12 2nd booster shots. These numbers include pediatric vaccines administered to children

75

families provided information about the Affordable Connectivity Program by Cricket Wireless. Families in 2 Browns Mill Park neighborhoods received vegetables and staple food items from the Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center and A. Garcia Produce & Trucking

46

families provided in-language domestic violence resources from the Cherokee Family Violence Center, including the Spanish domestic violence hotline number. Attendees received food from the Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center, and CORE Georgia administered COVID vaccines

46

families served at Just Peace Month Community Resource Event hosted in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction and the Mayor's Division of Strategic Initiatives & Partnership. Attendees received resources about fire safety, grocery items, and the opportunity to speak with the Mexican Consulate, Atlanta Police Department and Atlanta Fire Rescue Department

111

families served at Community Resource Event sponsored by Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP at the Sara J. González Memorial Park. Food assistance was provided by A. Garcia Produce & Trucking and Second Helpings Atlanta, and COVID vaccines were administered by CORE Georgia



TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) LEGAL CLINIC WITH ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE AND LATINO COMMUNITY FUND

Our office partnered with Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the Latino Community Fund to hold a free Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Legal Clinic to assist eligible immigrants residing in the Metro Atlanta area with free legal assistance, services, and application support. Eligible participants were able to file TPS applications and Employment Authorization applications, and we were able to save our community members \$2,230 in application fees through the help of fee waiver applications and fundraising!

HONORING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Check out the list of things we did to commemorate:

- Partnered with Partnership Against Domestic Violence to provide in-language DV resources to over 450 residents at our Community Resource Events;
- Attended Atlanta Victim Assistance, Inc. DV Fair, in partnership with City of Atlanta Police Department Domestic Violence Unit;
- Honored over 160 lives lost to domestic violence this past year at both Centro contra la Violencia Familiar en Cherokee and PADV Atlanta Candlelight Vigils;
- Toured PADV's Emergency Safe House and learned about the services they offer to survivors of domestic violence.



CAMINAR LATINO - LATINOS UNITED FOR PEACE AND EQUITY'S 2022 ATLANTA COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Our office was honored to receive Caminar Latino - Latinos United for Peace and Equity's 2022 Atlanta Community Partner of the Year Award at their 9th Annual Celebration. MOIIA team members Holly Malerba and Peter Pimentel accepted the award on behalf of our office and provided brief remarks - "Caminar Latino has been an essential partner in our work to ensure that all Atlantans, regardless of their country of origin or language, can live safe and healthy lives."

Thank you to Caminar Latino, Inc. for your work to create safe environments and provide resources to prevent and respond to domestic and gender-based violence in our Latino communities. We look forward to our continued partnership in keeping our communities safe, healthy, and informed.

WELCOMING CITY



WELCOMING CITY

Mayoral Events:



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS HOSTED RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER

Mayor Andre Dickens co-hosted the 4th annual Mayor's Ramadan Iftar with the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta (ISB), representing the values of unity, solidarity, and inclusion that our City embodies.

"Islam is woven into the fabric of this great city and our city is better for it [...] I am thankful that Atlanta has such an active and inclusive Muslim community," said Mayor Andre Dickens during his remarks. The Mayor's Ramadan Iftar is an opportunity for the City to celebrate its diverse Muslim community and employees and publicly reaffirm its commitment to supporting them. Being home to over 100,000 Muslims and 80 mosques, Atlanta is one of few cities that celebrate Ramadan in this manner.

Speakers from the Temple ATL, New Horizon Baptist Church, and Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam offered an Interfaith Invocation, and students from Decatur High School and Fulton Science Academy presented readings from the Quran.

Special congratulations to Phoenix Award recipients Imam Plemon El-Amin, ISB Atlanta Board Member and Imam Emeritus of Atlanta Masjid of Al Islam, and Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley, Pastor Emeritus of Providence Missionary Baptist Church. Thank you for your leadership in our City!

[Watch the Video](#)



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS HOSTED MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY - EL GRITO EVENT WITH THE MEXICAN CONSULATE

Mayor Andre Dickens kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a celebration of El Día de Independencia (Day of Independence) of México at City Hall, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Mexico and commemorating El Grito de Dolores.

Mayor Andre Dickens joined Consul General of México Javier Díaz de León to observe Mexican Independence Day and recognize the contributions of our city's Mexican and Mexican-American communities.

"Mexico and Atlanta share a deep and rich relationship. Mexicans makeup the majority of the Hispanic population in the City, form part of our rich tapestry, and are central to who we are as a city," said Mayor Andre Dickens in his remarks.

This year marked the 212th Anniversary of the proclamation of México's Independence and was the second time since 2019 that our City Hall has hosted the celebration.

[Watch the Video](#)



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS AND THE CITY OF ATLANTA WELCOMED NEW U.S. CITIZENS DURING NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

In celebration of Welcoming Week 2022 and Citizenship Day, Mayor Andre Dickens joined U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in welcoming 47 New US Citizens at Atlanta City Hall during a special Naturalization Ceremony. Citizenship candidates represented 27 distinct countries.

This ceremony commemorates the conclusion of an immigrant's journey to citizenship and honors the commitment they have demonstrated.

During the ceremony, Atlanta District Director Denise M. Frazier administered the Oath of Allegiance to 47 citizenship candidates, making them officially citizens of the United States. Welcoming Atlanta Executive Director Vanessa Ibarra shared her own experiences of becoming a U.S. citizen and provided words of inspiration for their new journey as U.S. citizens.

Earlier in the year, Vanessa had the honor of speaking to 55 new U.S. citizens at a Naturalization Ceremony led by the Honorable Regina Cannon, U.S. Magistrate Court Judge. Vanessa shared her own experiences of becoming a U.S. citizen and provided words of inspiration for their new journey as U.S. citizens

[Watch the Video](#)



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS HOSTED INAUGURAL AAPI LEADERS CONVENING

Mayor Dickens hosted the City of Atlanta’s inaugural AAPI leaders convening in partnership with NAAAP Atlanta (National Association of Asian American Professionals) to discuss community priorities and address local concerns to improve the lives of Asian diasporas in the city. The convening, the first of many, establishes open lines of communication and extends the bridge between City Hall and Atlanta’s Asian diasporas - further cementing Mayor Dickens’ vision for “one city with one bright future.”

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH RESOURCE FAIR AT SARA J. GONZÁLEZ MEMORIAL PARK



Our office brought together social service and health agencies in the public and private spaces to hold a Resource Fair in celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month.

Over 200 residents gathered in the historic Sara J. González Memorial Park to connect and learn about resources, in addition to receiving groceries, diapers, and free food. 19 volunteers assisted in distributing 150 grocery kits and 100 boxes of diapers and period products.

13 Community Partners and City Departments were represented, including Healing Community Center, Tapestri, Cherokee Family Violence Center, Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, Atlanta Police Department, Department of Watershed Management, Helping Mamas, Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Latin American Association, Comcast, SWEEAC, Common Market, and Latino Community Fund.

The event included cultural dance performances by Laotian American Society, HOLIK from KPOP Atlanta Dance Studio, and Garima Dance Company. Food vendors representing local businesses NaanStop, Mrs. Rosa, and Ray’s Mediterranean Cuisine offered cultural food samplings.

Language Access



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS LAUNCHED ISPEAKATL, THE CITY’S LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

You don’t have to speak perfect English to receive perfect service. Mayor Andre Dickens launched the City of Atlanta’s Language Access Plan with a Launch Event at City Hall.

Speakers at the kick-off event included MOIIA Senior Program Manager Valerie Mills, Councilmember Liliana Bakhtiari, Chief Operating Officer Lisa Gordon, Chief Equity Officer Qaadirah Abdur-Rahim, Deputy Chief Equity Officer La’Shawn Brown Dudley, and MyCityATL participant Marilú Biafora. The event was MC’d by MOIIA’s Community Outreach Coordinator Christina Chu.

As a City, it is our duty and honor to ensure that we serve everyone equitably and in an accessible manner, regardless of what language you speak. In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, language access is a constitutional right, and it is fundamentally protected by US law. In line with the City’s commitment to expanding access to programs and services for Atlanta’s foreign-born population regardless of race, ethnicity, country of origin or language, iSpeakATL, the City’s Language Access Plan, was created to offer free interpretation and translation services to City Departments.

[Learn More](#)

5,309 minutes of language assistance to City offices and departments provided by the City of Atlanta’s Language Access Plan, iSpeakATL through 468 distinct calls in 2022.

Top 5 languages provided include:

78% Spanish	5% Mandarin	4% Portuguese
2% Vietnamese	2% Burmese	

Interpretation assistance was also provided in 20 other languages.

In 2022, our office received 26 requests for language access consultation and translation. Over 1,240 minutes were spent coordinating these requests, which represented 9 languages.



WELCOMING WEEK SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

We celebrated Welcoming Week with an educational social media campaign across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to inform our audience on how the City of Atlanta builds welcoming infrastructure through language access and Welcoming Events.

The campaign reached a total of:



2,272 People

935 Accounts 1004 Users 333 Profiles

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT OF LITERARY WORKS CENTERING MIGRANT STORIES

Welcoming Atlanta celebrated International Migrants Day with a social media highlight of literary works centering migrant stories.

Posts reached an audience of:



610 People

259 Accounts 246 Users 105 Profiles



OUR COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR TEAM CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS TO DETERMINE PROGRAM IMPACT

Our Community Navigator Team conducted a survey of community residents to determine program impact. 169 respondents provided information about their trust in government, the impact of the food assistance provided at Community Resource Events, and their comfort levels in reaching out to organizations or the government for help.

22.5%

of residents reported trusting government more through Community Navigators than directly

Survey results indicated that Community Navigators held significant positions of trust for many residents and demonstrated improved neighborhood access to government. This result suggests that Community Navigators are an effective mechanism to build trust in government. This is particularly notable in communities that have disproportionate fear and often compelling mistrust of institutions, including those comprised of immigrants.



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

In partnership with Atlanta-based International Consulates, our office celebrated U.N. International Volunteer Day by volunteering with partner organizations helping to serve Metro Atlanta's residents and communities!

Over five days, 40 volunteers participated in International Volunteer Week events, which included:

- prepping Team Libertad's trailer that will store supplies at ATL Airport for asylum seekers,
- organizing thousands of clothing donations and helping decorate for the Holidays at both the Fulton & Gwinnett locations for the Partnership Against Domestic Violence,
- sorting food items and assembling health/hygiene kits for local families in need with Urban Recipe, and
- assisting with organizing and distributing food, clothing items, and snack bags to the community at our office's Community Resource Event.

Thank you to representatives of the Consulate Generals of The Bahamas, Belgium, Ireland, México, Switzerland, and United Kingdom and representatives of the State Guanajuato, Mexico for volunteering your time and collaborating with us on this initiative!



SPORTS



CITY OF ATLANTA WELCOMES UK SPORTS TRADE MISSION LED BY MIKE FREER, UK MINISTER FOR TRADE AND EQUALITIES

City of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens welcomed Mike Freer, UK Minister of Trade & Minister of Equalities, Emma Wade-Smith OBE, Trade Commissioner to North America and Consul General of the British Consulate-General New York, and a delegation of 12 UK-based sports companies interested in the Atlanta market. The delegation, hosted by former British Consul General Andrew Staunton in Atlanta, and the Department for International Trade (DIT) USA, learned more about the diverse Atlanta sports scene during a panel discussion with Dan Corso of the Atlanta Sports Council, Grant Wainscott of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, and Allie Young of AXR Edge. After the discussion, the delegation met with Darren Eales, former President of Atlanta United FC, and then toured Mercedes-Benz Stadium, including the locker rooms of Atlanta United FC and Atlanta Falcons.

After a full morning of all things sports in Atlanta, Minister Freer, Trade Commissioner Emma Wade-Smith, Consul General Staunton, and our office then traveled to Sage USA's Headquarters for an intimate transatlantic conversation on ways to bridge the digital divide. MOIA Director Vanessa Ibarra joined day two of the UK Trade Mission for a conversation about the City of Atlanta and State of Georgia's film and TV industries and learned of the many opportunities to grow UK exports.



ATLANTA SELECTED AS A 2026 AS A FIFA WORLD CUP HOST CITY!

It's official: the FIFA World Cup is coming to Atlanta! The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the largest edition of the world's most popular sporting event yet, with 48 teams vying for soccer's biggest prize in matches hosted across the United States, Mexico and Canada. The three nations won the right to host in 2018 after a yearlong bidding process. This unprecedented scale brings more attention to the already immensely popular competition, which has traditionally been contested by 32 teams and hosted by a single nation.



CITY OF ATLANTA CELEBRATES THE INSTALLATION OF A YOUTH SOCCER FIELD AT SARA J. GONZÁLEZ MEMORIAL PARK

Mayor Andre Dickens and the City of Atlanta joined Isabel González Whitaker, Congresswoman Nikema Williams, and city and community leaders for a

ribbon-tying ceremony to celebrate the installation of a youth soccer field at Atlanta's Sara J. González Memorial Park, the first park named for a Latinx individual in the State of Georgia. Atlanta City Council Member Dustin Hillis, Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Justin Cutler, Park Pride Executive Director Michael Helicki, Vanessa Ibarra, Executive Director of our office, and Sofia Marie Bork, Director of Community Engagement for Sara J. González Memorial Park also provided celebratory remarks.

MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS GIVES CEREMONIAL COIN TOSS AT THIS YEAR'S SÚPER CLÁSICO GAME BETWEEN CLUB AMÉRICA & CHIVAS DE GUADALAJARA



For the first time, the City of Atlanta hosted a friendly match between Mexico's two most popular soccer teams (Chivas v. América) at the historic Bobby Dodd Stadium at Mayor Dickens' alma mater - Georgia Tech. Mayor Dickens joined Javier Diaz de Leon, Consul General of Mexico in Atlanta, in welcoming the crowd and gave the ceremonial coin toss to kick-off the game.

Earlier in the year, Meredith Steinmetz-Rodriguez attended the official announcement of this year's matchup. 2022 marked the 4th installment of El Súper Clásico game and the first year the game took place in Atlanta.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENTS FOR PARTNERING WITH US!

- Atlanta City Council
- Atlanta Fire Rescue Department
- Atlanta Police Department
- Atlanta's Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Department of City Planning
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Watershed Management
- Division of LGBTQ Affairs
- Division of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
- Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- Invest Atlanta
- Office of Communications
- Office of Constituent Services
- Office of Cultural Affairs
- Office of Emergency Preparedness
- Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Office of Special Events
- Office of Sustainability and Resilience
- Office of Violence Reduction
- Office of Youth Engagement



Atlanta welcomes you.

Atlanta linakukaribisha.

Atlanta vous souhaite la bienvenue.

애틀랜타는 여러분을 환영합니다.

Atlanta verwelkomt u.

アトランタはあなたを歓迎します。

Atlanta ti dà il benvenuto.

Atlanta heißt Sie herzlich willkommen.



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