

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Proud Member of

**GLOBALTIES** > U.S.  
AT THE CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

# GLOBALTIES > iowa

is a community-based and member-driven non-profit organization that creates, supports, and sustains citizen diplomacy initiatives in eastern Iowa's Creative Corridor and beyond. We invite our community to greet, guide, host, and give with us!

## WHAT WE DO

Global Ties Iowa coordinates people-to-people exchanges between international leaders and residents of eastern Iowa.

As a member of Global Ties U.S., we collaborate with the U.S. Department of State's sponsored exchange programs, including International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), to host current and emerging international leaders who work in both public and private sectors. By programming meetings and exchange opportunities between visiting leaders and their professional peers, hosting Iowa Table Dinners, and sharing unique aspects of the eastern Iowa community, Global Ties Iowa connects the world and the heartland.

## OUR MISSION

We seek to strengthen our community's commitment to and participation in international exchanges on professional and individual levels. We believe in the inherent value of these interactions and that people-to-people exchanges contribute to the creation of a more prosperous local community

Through citizen diplomacy, we aim to develop international cooperation, foster mutual understanding across national borders, facilitate the creation of global professional networks, and contribute to the global education of area students and community residents, making eastern Iowa a better place to live and work.

## OUR VALUES

In our day-to-day and long-term decision-making, we seek to align our actions with our values. To do so, we ask: Is it globally- and community-focused? Is it reciprocal? We believe that these questions support our mission and move us closer to our vision



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sit down to reflect on fiscal year 2021, I can hardly believe it has come to an end. In many ways, it seems like mere weeks have passed since we hosted visitors virtually. And yet, as you can see from the numbers, it has indeed been many weeks and months since we began to once again call on our members and volunteers from all over eastern Iowa's Creative Corridor to bring an Iowa welcome to Eastern Iowa airport, area hotels, businesses, homes, and venues of all kinds—even area parks!

Spring and summer brought the return of Iowa Table dinners, a Celebration of Citizen Diplomacy unlike any before in the form of a holiday weekend picnic complete with music, games, and delicious food! For the staff and board who have been working behind the scenes for the last couple of years, these celebratory events brought renewed energy, enthusiasm, and the joy of sharing in the work of citizen diplomacy with our beloved community of members and like-minded global citizens. We can't express enough how touched and appreciative we all felt as you have come out en masse to renew memberships and support, to welcome visitors into your homes and lives, to welcome them into your innovative businesses, to share your passions and expertise, and to tell us just how much Global Ties Iowa means to you now and in the years past.

We've experienced many exciting changes this year as we launched our new name and tagline, which many of you have celebrated with us. The ribbon-cutting ceremony during International Welcoming Week brought many of you out to share your stories and experiences over months and years of how you have chosen to greet, guide, host, and give in support of a more peaceful and prosperous world right here from our home in eastern Iowa. It was energizing and inspiring to see and feel the excitement generated by your stories and genuine love for the work of citizen diplomacy!

We need you to continue being a part of this work as we seek to generate greater leadership, programming, and reach in order to enrich the experiences of our distinguished guests. Greet visitors at every opportunity and make them feel welcomed and valued. Guide guests as they move through their days of programming and cultural activities and events and share your love for the heartland with them. Host delegations in your home, at a local park, or anywhere that may be comfortable and familiar for you; you can even join forces with other individuals or families and share a meal together! Give as you are able and from your abundance to increase our capacity to bring the world here for reciprocal professional, people-to-people exchange. We have unprecedented access to emerging leaders from every area of the globe as we host the same visitors as organizations many times our size in larger cities.

We hope that together—friends, neighbors, family, colleagues—our mission to foster mutual understanding by connecting the world and the heartland will continue to grow and thrive for many years to come! Greet, guide, host, and give to help us expand our ability to welcome visitors from every corner of every continent and enrich the lives and experiences of everyone in our communities.



Amy Alice Chastain  
Board President & Interim Executive Director



# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

**19** programs

**161** total visitors

**43** virtual visitors

**118** in-person visitors

**54** countries/territories

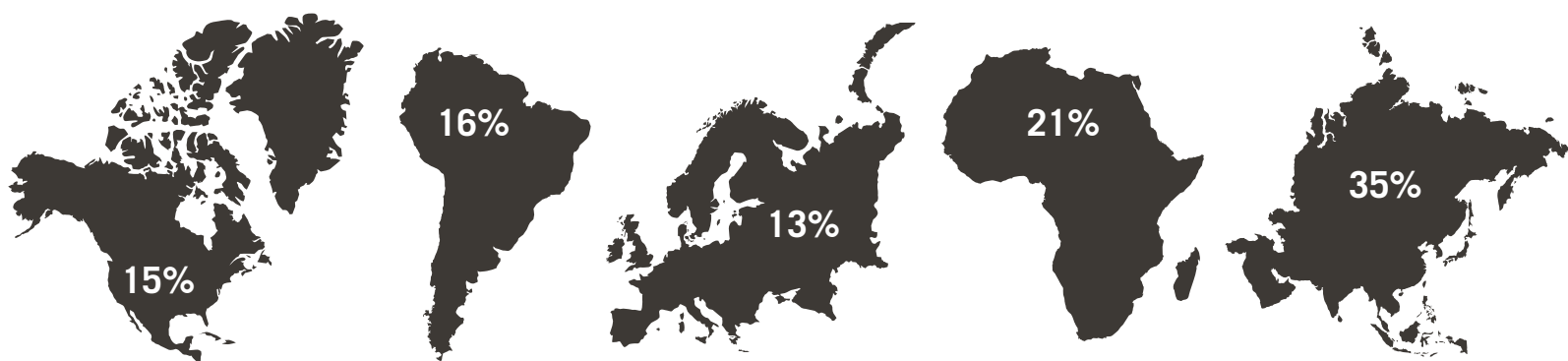
**597** hotel nights

**\$368,206.20+**  
of total economic impact

## Countries / Territories Represented

Azerbaijan	Honduras
Bahamas	Kenya
Bangladesh	Republic of Kosovo
Belarus	Kuwait
Botswana	Liberia
Brazil	Malawi
Burkina Faso	Mexico
Central African Republic	Mozambique
Chile	Nambia
China	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Nigeria
Cote d'Ivoire	Pakistan
Curaçao	Palestinian Territories
Czech Republic	Paraguay
DR Congo	Poland
Dominica	Saudi Arabia
Dominican Republic	Senegal
Ecuador	Slovakia
El Salvador	Slovenia
Equatorial Guinea	South Africa
Eswatini	Sri Lanka
Ethiopia	Suriname
Finland	Thailand
Ghana	Togo
Guinea	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	Venezuela
Haiti	Zimbabwe

Where have our international visitors come from this year?





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Amy Alice Chastain**  
President



**Peter Gerlach**  
Vice President



**Liz Bergeron**  
Secretary



**Andrew Farley**  
Treasurer



**Newman Abuissa**



**John Achrazoglou**

If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors or getting involved with a committee, reach out to us at [connect@globaltiesiowa.org](mailto:connect@globaltiesiowa.org). We are hoping to expand our leadership to include new talents and insights. Committees meet once every month on Zoom.





# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## CONNECTING THE WORLD AND THE HEARTLAND

Above: Mandela Washington Fellows







“ From start to end I had a fulfilling experience on many levels, professionally and socially. People were very excited to have us, they were very welcoming and engaging

Huda Odeh, Palestinian Territories





# TREASURER'S REPORT

Andrew Farley, Board Treasurer

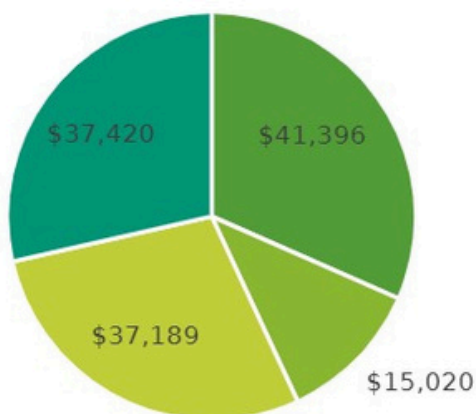
Global Ties Iowa emerged from the pandemic years in stable financial position, and short-term funding remains stable as the Community Partnership Grant (CPG) through the U.S. State Department provides core funding. Historically, CPG funding levels depend on the number of programs and visitors GT IA hosts during a given year, but the State Department froze funding levels during the pandemic years and for one more fiscal year allowing GT IA to experience financial stability during uncertain times. Nonetheless, the Board recognized this core funding would once again become dependent on the number of visitors and programs completed during a year, and so resources were devoted towards that goal this year. The increase in expenses, a direct result of working towards that goal, was aided by grant funds received prior to this fiscal year. Current year CPG funding (2022) is not reflected in income as these funds have not yet been disbursed.

Prior investment in technology and continued support this year allowed Global Ties Iowa to complete multiple virtual programs. The same technology was used for communications and membership initiatives as well. A mid-year CPG funding increase allowed the Board to boost staffing, as well as match inflationary pressures, ultimately positioning the organization to handle in-person programming again and increase capacity to host visitors and attract new programming. The return of the Mandela Washington Fellowship this summer resulted in fee-for-service income which had been lost income due to the pandemic.

Your membership and donations, through the uncertainty of the past several years, reminds us Global Ties Iowa is comprised of a wonderful community of people that believe in citizen diplomacy and long to see our visitors succeed. Thank you for your support.

## Financial Position as of Sept 30, 2022

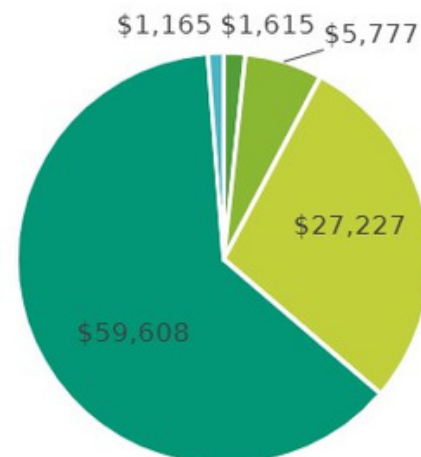
**\$131,024**



■ Cash and cash equivalent ■ Savings  
■ CDs ■ Endowment

## Total Income: \$95,391

**Oct '21 - Sept '22**



■ Membership ■ Donations ■ Fees for Service  
■ Global Ties ■ Interest

## Total Expenses: \$133,601

**Oct '21 - Sept '22**



■ Publications ■ Operating Costs ■ Personnel ■ Other Costs

# MEET OUR FALL 2022 INTERNS

## Élie Nio

### Membership and Development Intern

Élie Nio is originally from Rwanda and migrated to Buffalo, NY in 2011. He is now a senior undergraduate student at the University of Iowa majoring in International Studies.

Due to his entrepreneurial spirit, Élie has started two business ventures (Nio Logistics Group LLC & Excellence Foundation LLC). In 2018, he was awarded a certificate from The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi. Élie is passionate about French (which he studies at school), networking, and helping people - especially go-getters. As far as a career, he wants to pursue international business in either sales, marketing, logistics or management. Eventually, he wants to be a full-time serial entrepreneur with successful companies in logistics, real estate, and social media. He also speaks Kinyarwanda (native), Kirundi, English, and Swahili.



## Grayson Kilburn

### Communications and Storytelling Intern

Grayson Kilburn is a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Iowa from Warsaw, Indiana. She is majoring in Managerial Marketing and Leadership Management and is also pursuing a certificate in International Business.

Grayson is also the Vice President of her sorority, Chi Omega, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, Women in Business, The National Retail Federation, and Tippie Honors Society. Last summer, she had the opportunity to work abroad in Dublin, Ireland, which is where her interest in international markets and activities started.







## Celebration of Citizen Diplomacy

On July 3rd, in lieu of our annual Celebration of Citizen Diplomacy Dinner, we hosted a Celebration of Citizen Diplomacy Picnic. The Mandela Washington Fellows and a delegation from Sri Lanka joined our community of staff, members, and volunteers at City Park in Iowa City. We shared a meal, played outdoor games, and enjoyed candid conversation with new friends!



## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

To formally celebrate our new identity as Global Ties Iowa and the work we have been doing since 1986, on September 15th we had a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Iowa City Area Business Partnership. We are so grateful to our members, volunteers, resources, and new faces who came to celebrate with us and learn more about what we do at Global Ties Iowa!



# STAFF



Amy Alice Chastain  
Interim Executive  
Director



Holly Harris  
Manager of Programs  
and Operations



Abby Fowler  
Communications  
Coordinator



Bailey Shafer  
Programming  
Coordinator

## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE



[WWW.GLOBALTIESIOWA.ORG](http://WWW.GLOBALTIESIOWA.ORG)



Greet.  
Guide.  
Host.  
Give.

@GlobalTiesIowa



319.569.1115



[connect@globaltiesiowa.org](mailto:connect@globaltiesiowa.org)



26 E. Market St.  
Iowa City, IA 52245

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## Our Proud Sponsors

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International Visitor  
Leadership Program  
U.S. Department of State



Thank you to all of our donors, members, sponsors, and volunteers. Your support is critical for us to facilitate people-to-people exchange and create a more peaceful world.

Please reach out to us by phone or email if you are interested in sponsoring Global Ties Iowa.