WHAT'S NEW AT CIVIC?

So far this year we have hosted 58 visitors from 18 countries! Turn the page to read about upcoming events and other CIVIC news, such as the National Meeting, our Annual Membership meeting, CIVIC member profiles, and more!

We hosted visitors from Uzbekistan, Brazil, and the Kyrgyz Republic between December and March.

Thank you to the CIVIC volunteers who helped with these programs: Conception Piragine, Sujit Singh, Elena Osinskaya, Ty Lassen, Catharine Cashner, Ken Royar, Madison Rush, Jennifer Miller, Amy Chastain, Christy Weitz, Doug Hansel, Steve Merkel-Hess, Mary Sauer, Willis Harte, Newman Abuissa, Mazahir Salih, Mick Weitz, Josh Meggitt, Mohamad Hallak, Jane McMullen, Jeanne Stoakes, Dan Gall, Emma Cole, Liz Bergeron, Alan Bergeron, Jane Murphy, and the CIVIC staff.

"This experience was essential to reassure my choices, restore my energies and restart stronger. I bring back from this trip a mind full of ideas and a heart full of people."

- Leticia Accioly Gavazzoni, Brazil
Ken & Gayle Royar

Why did you join CIVIC?

We became involved with CIVIC because it was one way that in extending the hand of welcome and friendship to those who came as visitors we were creating a better vision of what is possible when people from different cultures and countries come to share with one another. It is something we can do that definitely makes a difference in shaping world understanding.

What do you enjoy about engaging with CIVIC?

The thing we enjoy most about CIVIC is expanding not only our understanding of others but at the same time allowing this to happen with our guests. It is a win-win situation for all involved. When this happens the world suddenly becomes smaller and we realize we are all part of the human family.

What visit has been your favorite and why?

It's hard to identify our most favorite visit because all of them have been great. But if we had to choose any of the many, it would be those who when they returned home responded by email or phone and said, “Our visit with you and other members of CIVIC has made a difference in our understanding and feelings for each other. Thank you for being good hosts.”

Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck Dinner

February 25, 2019

On February 25th, CIVIC staff and members gathered at the Coralville Public Library to celebrate another year of building global ties locally. Some highlights: We officially elected new board members: Liz Bergeron, Mazahir Saleh, and Emma Cole; recognized our volunteer-member award recipients; celebrated Ken Royar’s retirement; heard updates from our committee chairs; ate some great international cuisine; and listened to Bob Wolff’s keynote address, “For the Love of Bees.”

Award Recipients

Save the Day Award
Barb Stein and Joni Jones

Hit the Ground Running Award
Pam Terrill

Above and Beyond Award
Jane McMullen

Pineapple Award
Don and Suzanne Kirchner

Flight Tracker
Leo and Zinnia Lim

Lifetime Member Inductees
Dave, Denise, and Mike Tiffany
In combination with learning, a majority of my time was spent networking with national agency and Department of State program officers. Building deeper connections will continue to help CIVIC in gaining programs having established that trust that can only be achieved in a person to person encounter.

-CIVIC Programming Coordinator, Mark Schoen

National Meeting Reflections

As a CIVIC Board Member, I appreciated the opportunity to get an insider’s view of the processes and meet the people behind the programs that bring international visitors to the U.S. Before arriving in eastern Iowa, our visitors have worked with multiple offices and dozens of people, and it was inspiring to appreciate how everyone along the way shares the same belief in the power of people-to-people exchanges.

Two opportunities that stood out as particularly meaningful were our visits to the Congressional offices of Rep. Dave Loebsack and Rep. Abby Finkenauer and a reception for conference attendees hosted at the Argentinian embassy.

We hear a great deal of negative and divisive news from Washington these days, but what I witnessed at the National Conference was a unifying spirit of friendship across the globe. I came back energized and so proud to be part of CIVIC!

-CIVIC Communications Chair, Jennifer Blair

"The Exchange Effect: Growing Impact at Home and Abroad" was the theme of the 2019 Global Ties U.S. National Meeting. The event took place January 23-26 in Washington, DC. Attendees participated in the multi-day event by exploring the effects of exchange programs on both international exchange participants and organizations like CIVIC who host them during their visit to the United States.
Upcoming Programs

U.S. Food Policy
May 13 - 31
Participants for this project are from Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. During their stay they will examine policies and programs related to agricultural trade, explore how food commodities are regulated and marketed, and analyze the political, social, environmental, and economic forces that influence U.S. trade.

Haiti: Combating Trafficking
May 15 - 19
This program focuses on combating human trafficking in Haiti. In Iowa City, participants will learn the role of law enforcement agencies and the prosecution of human traffickers, legal services provided to victims of human trafficking, efforts to raise awareness through the media, and faith-based intervention strategies.

Mandela Washington Fellowship
June 19 - July 27
We will welcome 20 young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa. CIVIC will host a welcome reception for them on June 24th, coordinate community service activities, take them to experience a Kernels game, visit Kalona, IA, and explore the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Library and Museum. Stay tuned for volunteer activities!

CIVIC Endowment Fund

Matching endowment gift- your CIVIC gift can have twice the impact
Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous CIVIC donor, gifts to the CIVIC Endowment fund will be matched up to $1,000 total. CIVIC’s Endowment Fund was created in 2016, during our 30th anniversary year, to set aside funds to sustain the organization in an uncertain future. Donating to the Endowment Fund is a statement of belief in the long-term benefits of citizen diplomacy. The Community Foundation of Johnson County houses the Endowment Fund, and donations may be eligible for the Endow Iowa State Tax Credit.

Get Social with CIVIC

CIVIC is now hosting casual opportunities to meet with our international delegations. Rather than a full meet-and-greet meal, these events allow you to stop by as you are able, with no obligation to cook! Events are announced to members via email as they are planned. Please join us for one of these opportunities:

Sip & Socialize - join the delegation for a beverage at a local restaurant or bar

Coffee & Conversation - get to know the delegates over a cup of coffee or a pastry at a local coffee shop

Dine & Discover - meet delegates for lunch or dinner at a local eatery

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