



CIVIC

Council for International Visitors

Iowa Cities

2015

Annual Report



A Message from the President



Dear CIVIC Members,
It's been another busy year at CIVIC, and a lot of exciting things have been done since this time last year. Our visit numbers remained strong in 2015, with 98 visitors from 43 countries coming to eastern Iowa through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Every single (inhabitable) continent was well represented in terms of numbers of visitors. Some of the programs from these visits included globally important topics such as: Indigenous Youth Leadership, Youth Volunteerism, Competition and Anti-Trust Law, Human Rights & Foreign Policy, Access for All: Enhancing the Lives of People with Disabilities, Education in the Digital Age, and more!

The visitors and eastern Iowans who participated in these program were able to share ideas, learn from one another, and make friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime.

Also this year we launched our *30 for 30* fundraising campaign, celebrating CIVIC turning 30 years old in 2016 while also aiming to raise \$30,000. These funds will be used to sustain CIVIC's operational capacity and strengthen our long-term financial security. We want to be sure that we can continue our important work of bringing international visitors to eastern Iowa for the next 30 years!

Looking forward to a great 2016!

Patrick Bourgeacq
President of the Board

What We Do

Through people-to-people exchange, CIVIC brings the world to eastern Iowa and introduces Iowa to the world. We are a community-based, member-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to citizen diplomacy.

CIVIC:

- hosts current & emerging international leaders who work in both public and private sectors
- collaborates with the International Visitor Leadership Program as a member of Global Ties U.S.
- encourages citizen diplomacy by promoting the exchange of ideas, facilitating the creation of global networks, and fostering understanding between our visitors and eastern Iowans
- arranges meetings with our visitors' professional peers, schedules home hospitality dinners, and plans cultural excursions



German IVVLP examining Current U.S. Political Trends take time out to visit Larry Marek's family farm

2015 At-A-Glance

In FY 2015, CIVIC welcomed **98** international visitors, representing **43** countries accompanied by **23** State Department representatives

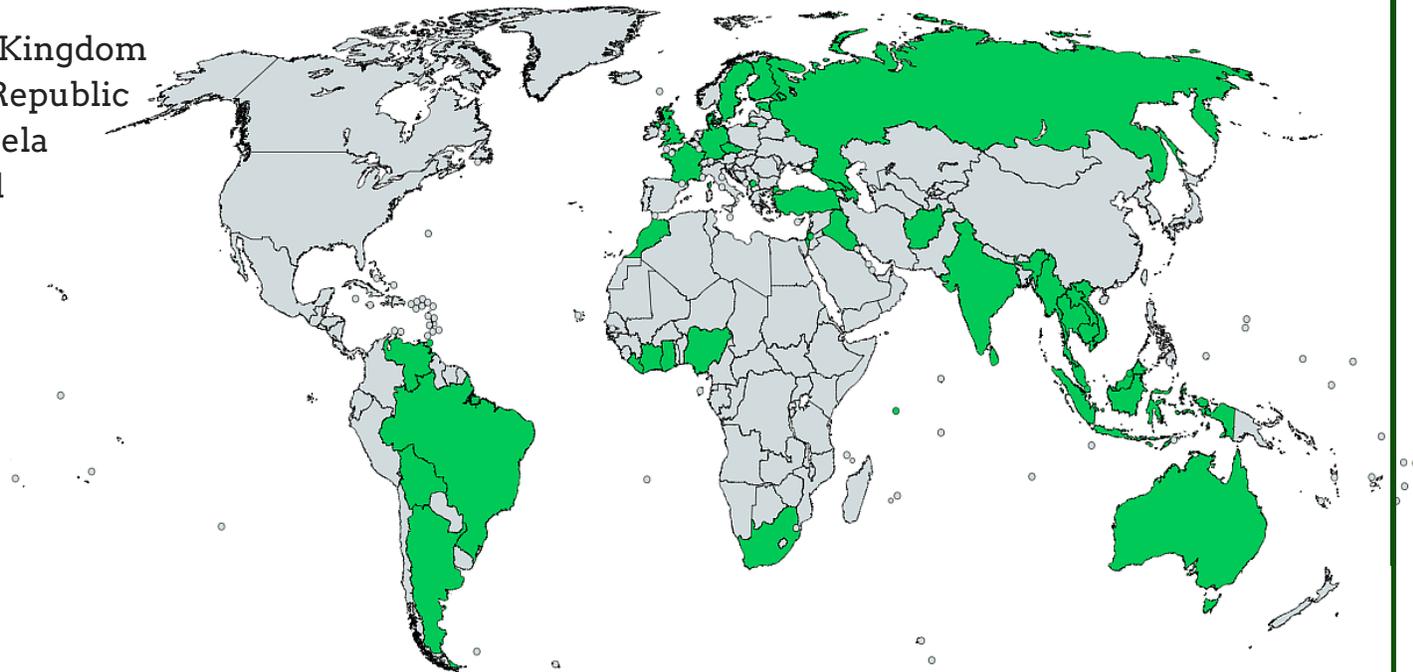
Countries Represented

Palestine
Brunei
Cambodia
Laos
Samoa
Thailand
Kosovo
Brazil
Argentina
Liberia
Seychelles
Estonia
Ghana
Georgia
Germany
Turkey
Israel
South Africa
Bolivia
Iraq
United Kingdom
Czech Republic
Venezuela
Finland
Russia

European Union
Trinidad and Tobago
Australia
Burma
Indonesia
Malaysia
Singapore
Vietnam
Sweden
India
Azerbaijan
Morocco
Cote d'Ivoire
Gaza Strip
Sri Lanka
Afghanistan
Denmark
France
Nigeria

Visitors Examined

- Journalism Education
- Youth Volunteerism
- Integrating Minority Communities & Refugees
- Competition and Anti-Trust Law
- Youth Leadership
- Access for All: Enhancing the Lives of People with Disabilities
- Human Rights and Foreign Policy
- Good Governance & Refugee Services
- Women's Healthcare
- U.S. Political Trends
- U.S. Cultural, Political, Economic, & Social Issues
- Advocacy and Education for At-Risk Youth
- Grassroots Democracy & Citizen Activism
- Education in the Digital Age
- Technology Innovation
- Agricultural Trade





A Message from the Executive Director

Greetings CIVIC members, volunteers, and community partners! 2015 was another busy year for the CIVIC staff. Our primary focus has remained providing quality programming for our International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) participants and creating opportunities for eastern Iowans to build global ties locally. Citizen diplomacy is about facilitating people-to-people exchanges in an effort to foster mutual understanding, promote international cooperation, and forge the creation of global networks to solve common problems and attain mutual goals.

In May, CIVIC kicked off the *30 for 30* campaign to both celebrate CIVIC's 30 year history and to raise \$30,000 to ensure a robust financial position so that our citizen diplomacy efforts thrive well into the future. To this end, the board established an endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Johnson County, and planned several events designed to bring the Creative Corridor's citizen diplomats together in mutual purpose. Highlights included a "Barn-Raising" supper in July and most recently the *Celebration of Citizen Diplomacy Dinner*, which recognized 2015 professional programming resources who made significant contributions to our mission. In October 2016, CIVIC will officially mark its 30th Anniversary and we'll cap off the *30 for 30* campaign with our *30th Anniversary Founders and Future Dinner*.

The CIVIC staff has striven to improve our communications in ways that meet the needs of a multi-generational membership. We continue to work to enhance and streamline our website, increased social media presence, and launched a print newsletter so that our member-volunteers can stay informed about ways to engage. We're deeply appreciative of your feedback, for the encouragement you provide for a job well-done, and for your suggestions about how we can improve. Please keep your ideas coming—it's your organization.

You are diplomacy!

Jo Butterfield
Executive Director



Meet & Greet for Brazilian delegation and Brody farewell (May 2015)

Staff Program Coordinator, Nadia Doubiany, began at CIVIC as the fundraising intern in May 2014, and now, as Program Coordinator since October 2014, she is excited for a career in international and cross-cultural exchange. Nadia is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa, having earned a BA in International Studies with an emphasis in Human Rights, a Certificate in Fundraising and Philanthropy Communications, and a Minor in Spanish. Nadia hopes to work in community development and public diplomacy whether in the states or abroad, preferably in Latin America or the Caribbean, focusing on economic development and rights advocacy in marginalized communities.



Building Global Ties Locally: 2015 in Photos



Multi-regional project at Jeanne Cadoret's farm

I get great pleasure from learning more about our community through accompanying our visitors, and am always awed by their expertise, curiosity and gratitude. I feel like this is one of the best ways to create global mutual respect; one on one, warm Midwestern welcomes.

--Peg Bouska, CIVIC Member-Volunteer



FLTA moving day!



Competition & Anti-Trust IVLP with Peg Bouska at the Marek's



My experience in Iowa was fabulous, the people are very polite and affectionate, the weather is excellent, and the meetings were diverse and in line with our interests. Mr. and Mrs. Royar were an excellent and friendly couple. Iowa would not have been as significant for me if it weren't for them. I loved it!

--Venezuelan Visitor, Grassroots Democracy and Citizen Activism



Young European Leaders at the Winkler's



ASEAN Youth Volunteerism at Ground Hog Day Party

On professional appointments, "They were all done with integrity, humility, excellence and transparency. Sharing and informative. I have learned a lot from the appointments." -- Ms. Phumelele Kunene, South Africa
Advocacy and Education for At-Risk Youth



At-Risk Youth Jane & Ron McMullen Home Hospitality



My overall experience in Iowa City was positive. We attended a number of meetings which were very beneficial. The professionals we met at the meetings were just perfect - their explainings and responding were just great. The volunteers love what they do and were very kind and helpful. The home hospitality was a great experience. I had a chance to get some idea about daily life of Americans. I'd like to give big thanks to everyone who made our stay in Iowa City perfect. --Ms. Sevdal Safaraliyeva, Azerbaijan
Access for All: Enhancing the Lives of People with Disabilities



Human Rights & Foreign Policy boating on the Coralville Lake



Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

Membership & Communications Committee Updates



CIVIC's Membership Committee had a busy and productive year in 2015 and is pleased to report that our membership roster grew to an all-time high of 127, up 31 members from 2014! (Our records show a previous high of 116 paid members in 2007.) Growing our base of citizen diplomats is key to our success because CIVIC truly is a community-based, member-driven non-profit organization. Membership fees and donations provide much needed financial support and volunteer engagement is the glue that holds together the international visits to eastern Iowa. To our newest members and to long-standing supporters alike we say "Thank you!" Our membership drive relies on your help in identifying and recommending potential new CIVIC members.

Another way to get involved is to serve on a CIVIC committee. This year the Membership Committee welcomed Paula Sanan, who joined Tom Baldridge, Patrick Bourgeacq, Elena Osinskaya, Jacqueline Otting, Dave Tiffany, UI student intern Yike Fu, Jo Butterfield and myself at our monthly meetings. Besides revising the membership form and brainstorming ideas on how to enlist more members from the community, we were hard at work planning the July 21 Barn-Raising event and the 2016 Annual Meeting. We aim to encourage more members to volunteer as program escorts or to host a home hospitality dinner in 2016 by holding *The Savvy Citizen Diplomat: Workshop for CIVIC Volunteers* on Saturday March 5th from 9:30- 11:30 am. We welcome your participation! Let's build global ties locally!

Jane McMullen, Membership Committee Chair

The **Communications Committee** continues to craft and professionalize CIVIC's public messaging. Our focus this year has been to improve our website, increase our social media presence, create materials for corporate fundraising, and record CIVIC's history. Have you noticed an uptick in our use of social media this year? Our Washington, D.C. partners strongly encourage local affiliates to have a regular presence on social media—kudos to our wonderful interns, volunteers, and members for picking up the pace with our Twitter and Facebook accounts! Members—if you are a Facebook user become a friend of the CIVIC website; it's a great way to keep up to date on the latest international visits and share your enthusiasm for citizen diplomacy! If CIVIC is to provide another 30 years of building global ties locally, corporate fundraising is essential. We have recently finalized our corporate fundraising plan—the Partnership Program—and created materials to aid in that effort.

Finally, our most exciting project is one in which you can all participate! CIVIC is producing a video documenting our 30 years of citizen diplomacy in eastern Iowa and we want your stories! With the help of a media intern, we will interview several members of CIVIC and through them, weave our story, past and present. Don't want to be interviewed but have a story to tell? Fantastic! Send us your favorite CIVIC memory to be included in our book! Finally, if you have suggestions about how we can better communicate with you, please let us know...or join the committee!

Martha Kirby, Communications Chair



Community Impact: The Numbers

In 2015, 98 visitors:
spent 425 nights in hotels
ate 1,231 meals locally
participated in 14 cultural events in the area

**This resulted in a local economic activity
estimated at \$118,000**



Elena Osinskaya & Tammy Coverdale Bauer
ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration

Visitors met with 41 middle, high school, and university students this year
to get the perspective of younger generations.

62 dedicated volunteers contributed 1,416 hours of time hosting and
escorting the visitors to their programs. CIVIC's hardworking interns
logged over 2,500 hours.

Visitors interacted one-on-one during over 140 meetings with their
professional peers.



Australian Indigenous Youth IVs run the
4thFest Coralville 5K Walk/Run

CIVIC Volunteers work the
Northside Oktoberfest



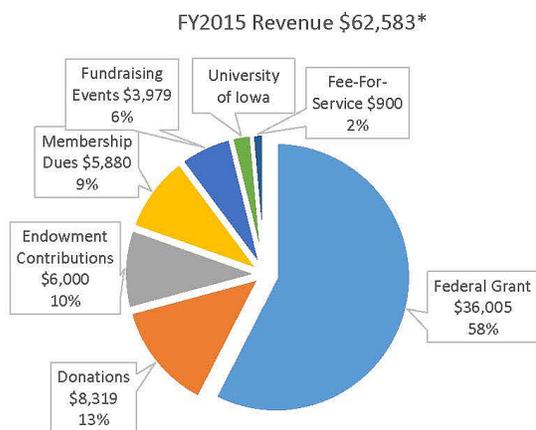
A Message from the Treasurer

The 2015 fiscal year (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015) was one of transition and long term planning. Operationally, CIVIC hired a new accounting service and implemented a new reporting system, providing us more transparent and streamlined financial reports. Kudos to Jo Butterfield for leading us through a sometimes challenging process!

Our 30 for 30 Campaign is well underway with an ambitious goal to raise \$30,000 toward the goal of ensuring the future of citizen diplomacy in eastern Iowa. The delays and continued uncertainty of our federal funding requires that CIVIC maintain a significant emergency operational fund and build an endowment fund. We are making good progress toward both goals, but need your support. We enjoyed record funding levels in 2015, but will not enjoy the same in 2016 given the decrease in federal funding.

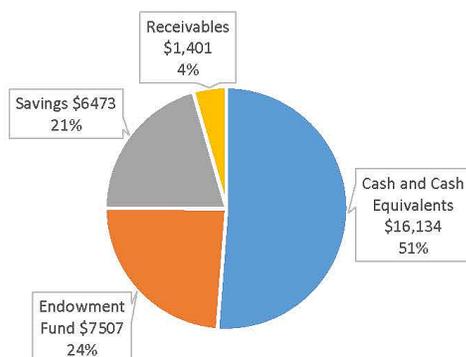
As a member-driven organization, each of us plays a crucial role in ensuring the future of CIVIC. We hope to optimize on the talent, knowledge, and ideas of our membership base to assist us in developing new funding streams through increased membership, private and corporate fundraising, and the expansion of fee-for-service contracts. Please join us in ensuring our future by engaging with our fundraising activities.

Martha Kirby, Board Treasurer

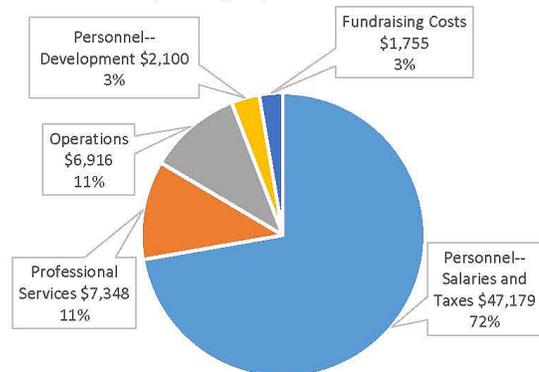


*FY2015 Revenue reporting includes 30 for 30 fundraising events, restricted endowment contributions, and surplus federal grant funding.

Statement of Financial Position--Sept. 30, 2015



FY2015 Operating Expenses \$65,298



2015

Citizen Diplomat Award Recipients

The CITIZEN DIPLOMAT AWARD recognizes a business/industry; a non-profit organization; and an individual who demonstrate a consistent commitment to citizen diplomacy by sharing their knowledge and expertise and by exchanging ideas with international visitors. This dedication promotes international cooperation and fosters mutual understanding across national borders.

CIVIC honored the 2015 recipients in January 2016 at the Celebration of Citizen Diplomacy Dinner held at the hotelVetro in Iowa City.

Business/Industry:

Joint Awards to the
Gazette & KCRG TV-9



Non-Profit Organization:

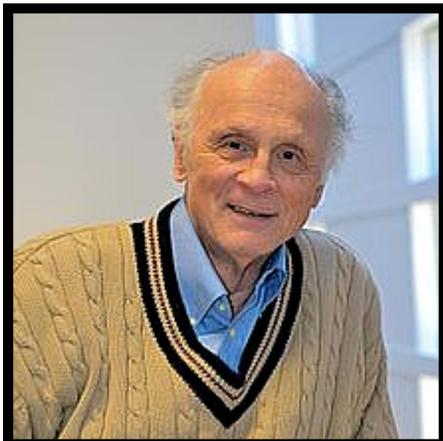
The Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids



Keynote address by Dr. James Zogby, "How We Should be Discussing the Arab World & Islam in 2016."

Individual:

Dr. Nicholas Johnson



2015

CIVIC Member-Volunteer Award Recipients

Above & Beyond Award: **Jeanne Stoakes & Concepcion Piragine**

Save the Day Award: **Newman Abuissa**

Boy Scout Award: **Ron McMullen**

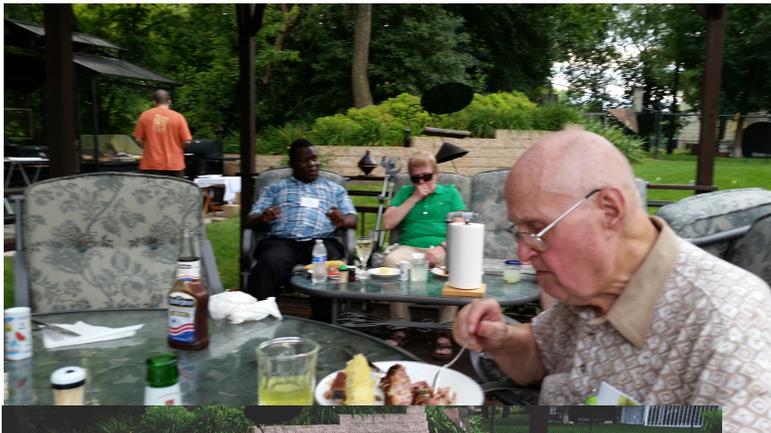
Flight Tracker Award: **Ken Royar**

Hit the Ground Running Award: **Paula Sanan**

Pineapple Award: **Don & Suzanne Kirchner**

Steady Eddie Award: **Les and Betty Batterman**

Energizer Bunny Award **Jennifer Blair**





Campaign Update

In May 2015, CIVIC launched the *30 for 30 Campaign: Celebrating Our Past: Ensuring Our Future* with the goal to raise \$30,000 in recognition of our thirtieth year. Recent years have seen a steady rise in the number of international visitors and through the *30 for 30 Campaign* we aim to fulfill the local contribution expectations of the federal grant allocation for years to come. From our launch in late spring to the end of the FY2015 (Sept. 30th) we raised:

\$3800 in cash donations
\$6000 for the endowment

**Make a gift
today at
iowacivic.org**

How to Contribute:

- **Recommend** new members.
- Make a **one-time donation** to support CIVIC's ongoing citizen diplomacy efforts.
 - \$500+ Ambassador
 - \$200 – \$499 Chargé d'affaires
 - \$50 – \$199 Attaché
- Set a **recurring monthly donation** to CIVIC through Paypal!
- Contribute to CIVIC's **endowment** fund. Take advantage of the Endow Iowa tax credit by contributing to the endowment fund established through the Community Foundation of Johnson County.
- Encourage your employer and establishments with whom you do business to **become a corporate sponsor** through CIVIC's Partnership Program.



Special thanks to CIVIC's partners



2014- 2015 event sponsors



CIVIC's corporate sponsors provide critical ongoing funding to support our work in eastern Iowa. Our Partnership Program for corporate sponsors adds value to your organization and employees through global competency opportunities, while ensuring that CIVIC can continue to build ties between Eastern Iowans and the world. Visit iowa.civic.org to learn more about our Partnership Program.



2015/2016 Sponsorship Booklet

Partnership Program



1120 University Capitol Centre
Iowa City, IA 52242-5500
Phone: (319) 355-0351
civic@uiowa.edu
iowacivic.org





CIVIC

Council for International Visitors

Iowa Cities

Get involved in Citizen Diplomacy today:

- Serve as a program escort and transport and accompany visitors to their professional appointments
- Invite visitors to your home for dinner
- Share the rich and diverse heritage of eastern Iowa with our visitors by participating in cultural excursions

Membership Information

Citizen Diplomat

Student Rate - \$10
Individual Rate - \$35
Household Rate - \$55

Donation Levels

Attache - \$50-\$199
Charge d'affaires - \$200-\$499
Ambassador - \$500+

1120 University Capitol Centre
Iowa City, IA 52240
civic@uiowa.edu
(319)-335-0351
iowacivic.org



Venezuelan visitors - Grassroots Democracy and Citizen Activism