

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

ATLANTA SISTER CITIES COMMISSION





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Atlanta is increasingly recognized as one of the world's leading cities and is consistently at the top of lists ranking U.S. and international cities for business, education, quality of life, and tourism. To maintain and improve upon these rankings, we must cultivate and deepen relationships with our counterparts across the globe. Atlanta's 17 sister city relationships represent a significant opportunity to promote cultural understanding, expand global education, increase trade and investment, and expand Atlanta's global footprint.

Much was accomplished in 2017. The ASCC's bylaws benefitted from a complete overhaul. All vacant committee chairs were filled. Innovative programs were established. The ASCC launched a new website to promote and communicate regarding its activities. Additionally, the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Foundation, Inc. was established to support fundraising efforts which underwrite sister city programs.

As a result of these efforts, more than 300,000 people participated in over 100 sister cities related activities hosted by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and its regional partners throughout 2017. We are particularly proud of the Atlanta International Business Development Summit and the Atlanta International Startup Exchange. Both brought tangible results in the form of enhanced trade and investments with our sister cities. The City of Atlanta also welcomed more than 25 delegations from our sister cities to exchange best practices, promote trade and investment, and experience our rich culture.

Importantly, 2017 was a year of anniversaries for the Commission. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of our sister city relationship with Salcedo, Dominican Republic and the 30th anniversary of our relationships with Tbilisi, Georgia and the Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In November, Ambassador Andrew Young traveled to Newcastle-upon-Tyne to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our sister city relationship with Newcastle and the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s receipt of an honorary doctorate from Newcastle University.

As we move into a new year and a new administration, the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission will continue to build upon this momentum and further enhance our relationships with cities across the globe. I encourage you to join us in our mission to increase the knowledge, goodwill, and understanding of the world through people-to-people diplomacy and exchanges.

Thank you for your support.

Shelby Grubbs
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission



For every \$1 billion generated in exports, nearly 6,000 new jobs are added to the local economy, and that companies who export grow 20 percent faster, pay 20 percent higher wages, and are nine percent less likely to go out of business than companies relying solely on domestic markets.

ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

In September, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs, in partnership with the Brookings Institution, hosted a three-day summit on economic development best practices with partnering cities from across the globe. The Atlanta International Business Development Summit brought together an intimate group of 50 thought leaders and economic development professionals from Atlanta's sister cities and other partner cities to discuss the importance of city-to-city cooperation and how it can be leveraged to create economic development opportunities.

Thirteen cities – Brussels, Cape Town, Lagos, Lodz, London, Montego Bay, Nuremberg, Paris, Ra'anana, Salcedo, Taipei, Tbilisi, and Toulouse – traveled to Atlanta to take part in this conversation. Speakers included Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, President and CEO of Sister Cities International Mary Kane, President and CEO of the Metro Atlanta Chamber Hala Modellmog, Dentons Principal Brian McGowan, Brookings Institution Fellow Marek Gootman, and high-level economic development professionals from participating cities who outlined concrete strategies to leveraging these important relationships to enhance trade and investment.

The program also included a welcoming reception at the Center for Civil and Human Rights as well as a city tour which showcased Ponce City Market, Tyler Perry Studios, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and the Women Entrepreneurship Initiative to the international guests.

The Summit culminated with the launch of the City 2 City Global Network, an online platform which enabled this global network of leading cities to exchange contacts, trade and investment leads, industry needs, upcoming trade events, and more.



ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL STARTUP EXCHANGE

In 2016, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Invest Atlanta launched the first Atlanta International Startup Exchange—a one-week residency program that provides selected companies a platform for global expansion through connections with potential partners, investors, and clients.

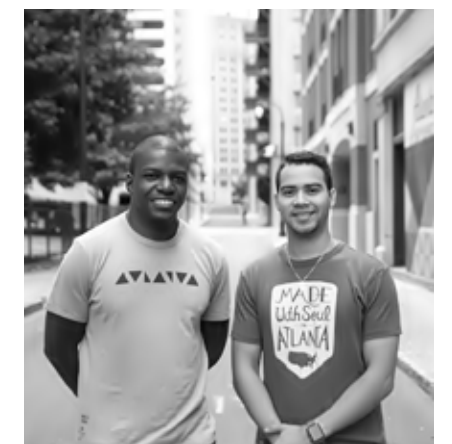
In partnership with the U.K. Department for International Trade, Sage, and Metropole Toulouse; the 2017 Startup Exchange expanded to include ten startups from Toulouse, France; Newcastle, United Kingdom; and Atlanta. In October 2017, Atlanta-based Vayando and Volantio completed their residency at the Airbus BizLab Innovation Center during the EmTech Conference in Toulouse; while Atlanta-based Qoins and Babylogger traveled to the U.K. during the VentureFest North East conference in November.

In October, the City of Atlanta welcomed U.K.-based Citizen and Immersive Labs to Atlanta during Cybercon 2017. The following week, Toulouse-based Nanomade and Nanolike as well as Newcastle-based Drone Ops and Recite Me visited Atlanta during Venture Atlanta—a

venture capital conference which has resulted in over \$2.3 billion in startup investments. Their visit concluded with the Aviation Innovation Demo Day where they showcased their technologies to executives at the world's busiest passenger airport and Global Fortune 500 companies including Delta, Lufthansa, and Southwest.

Since its inception, the Startup Exchange has provided 14 startups the opportunity to expand their operations globally. As a result, these companies have landed new contracts with Global Fortune 500 Companies and have announced several IoT pilot projects, three foreign direct investment commitments, and continue to work closely with newly established partners on expansion projects.

In July 2017, the City of Atlanta was recognized by Sister Cities International at its 2017 Annual Conference and was awarded the Economic Development Award for its significant contribution in launching the Atlanta International Startup Exchange.



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JANUARY 2017

FEBRUARY 2017



TOULOUSE FRANCE

January 7, 2017

The Atlanta-Toulouse Sister Cities Committee hosted its annual la Fête des Rois celebration featuring French wines, cuisines, and the holiday staple—Galette des Rois or King's cake.



MONTEGO BAY JAMAICA

February 9, 2017

City of Atlanta Chief of Staff Candace Byrd joined Jamaican Minister of Transport & Mining Mike Henry and the President and CEO of the Airports Authority of Jamaica to establish a strategic partnership between the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Airports Authority of Jamaica. The partnership serves as a platform to expand Atlanta's global connectivity and to promote best practices, trade, and investment opportunities.



PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

January 8, 2017

The City of Atlanta celebrated its 30th sister city anniversary with the Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. A result of then-Mayor Andrew Young's 1985 trade mission, the sister city relationship has led to continued cooperation in professional development in emergency response as well as academic and cultural exchanges.



TOULOUSE FRANCE

February 11, 2017

Georgia Tech has developed strong ties with France through Atlanta's sister city Toulouse as well as the Georgia Tech Lorraine campus in Metz. Each year, more than 150 students travel from France to study at the renowned technology-focused institute. The Atlanta-Toulouse Sister Cities Committee welcomed Georgia Tech's French exchange students to Atlanta as part of the ASCC's efforts to showcase Atlanta as a welcoming, inclusive city to international visitors every year.



ATLANTA UNITED STATES

January 11, 2017

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed welcomed the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, members of the consular corps, and more than 150 guests during the ASCC's Annual Winter Party at Atlanta City Hall. The event highlighted the ASCC's accomplishments in 2016, showcased Atlanta's 17 sister cities, and featured an array of food, art, music and history from different cultures.

MARCH 2017



FUKUOKA JAPAN

March 18-27, 2017

The Atlanta-Fukuoka Sister Cities Committee welcomed high school students and government officials to Atlanta as part of the annual Youth Exchange Program between Atlanta and Fukuoka, Japan. The annual exchange provides students the opportunity to experience American life through homestays, attending North Atlanta High School, and visiting area attractions such as the World of Coca Cola, the CNN Center, and other Atlanta attractions.



NEWCASTLE UNITED KINGDOM

March 20-23, 2017

The City of Atlanta welcomed a delegation of 11 U.K. women entrepreneurs to Atlanta as part of the 2017 Northern Powerhouse Female Founders Mission, a three-day immersive trade mission for women entrepreneurs from the Northern Powerhouse region of Northern England. Facilitated by the U.K. Department for International Trade, the mission provided the visiting entrepreneurs the opportunity to explore trade and investment opportunities and connect with other women entrepreneurs from both Atlanta, Newcastle, and other cities across Northern England.



BRUSSELS BELGIUM

March 23, 2017

The Consulate General of Belgium, in partnership with the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, the Belgian American Chamber of the South, and the Metro Atlanta Chamber, hosted a luncheon featuring Belgian Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Pieter De Crem. Secretary De Crem discussed the strong relationship between Atlanta and its sister city, Brussels, as well as important trade and investment opportunities between the two regions.



BRUSSELS BELGIUM

March 23, 2017

Belgian Secretary De Crem joined Mayor Kasim Reed to celebrate the renewed Delta Air Lines non-stop service between Atlanta and Brussels during an evening reception. Secretary De Crem also awarded Mr. Anton Mertens, President of the Belgian-American Chamber of the South and Chair of the Atlanta-Brussels Sister Cities Committee, the Knight's Cross of the Order of Leopold for over 20 years of service in facilitating improved cooperation between Belgium and the U.S.



RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZIL

March 25, 2017

To showcase the three Brazilian films featured at the 2017 Atlanta Film Festival, the Atlanta-Rio Sister Cities Committee hosted the Cine Brazil Fest at the Atlanta Film Festival headquarters. At the event, Atlanta Chief of Protocol Taylor Woodruff joined Rise Up & Care Founder and Georgia Tech Professor Kirk Bowman and film critic Jennifer Brett to discuss the Brazilian films, and how Atlanta and Rio de Janeiro can further cooperate as leaders in the film and entertainment industry.



MONTEGO BAY JAMAICA

March 26, 2017

As part of the Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee's Annual Health Mission, more than 300 Atlantans attended a gospel brunch at Atlanta City Hall to raise awareness and funds for the annual humanitarian mission held in October. The annual event featured Jamaica's rich culture through food, history, and music.



APRIL 2017

LAGOS NIGERIA

April 4, 2017

The Atlanta-Lagos Sister Cities Committee hosted a luncheon featuring former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria Robin Renee Sanders to discuss how small and medium-sized enterprises have helped drive economic development and the growth of Africa's middle class.



NUREMBERG GERMANY

April 6-11, 2017

Nuremberg City Treasurer Herald Riedel led a delegation of city officials and human rights leaders to Atlanta for several meetings and events—including the Nuremberg Partnership Symposium which featured International Human Rights Award Winner Amirul Haque Amin, President and Co-founder of the National Garment Workers Federation.



SALCEDO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

April 15, 2017

The Atlanta-Salcedo Sister Cities Committee hosted Dominican fashion designer Dominick Liriano who featured his 2017 collection during a charitable fashion show benefiting the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the Cancer Society of Salcedo.



SALCEDO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

April 24, 2017

The City of Atlanta celebrated its 20th sister city anniversary with Salcedo, Dominican Republic. Established under then-Mayor Bill Campbell, the partnership follows Atlanta and Salcedo's historic roles as human rights leaders.



MAY 2017

MONTEGO BAY JAMAICA

May 21, 2017

Community leaders, executives, and government officials participated in the 2017 Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee Golf Tournament which aimed to raise funds for the annual Health Mission held in October.



TAIPEI TAIWAN

May 14-21, 2017

In partnership with the Atlanta Taiwanese Association of America, the Atlanta-Taipei Sister Cities Committee supported several events during the Taiwanese American Heritage Week—including cultural exhibitions, music concerts, and an aboriginal bamboo dance performance by a professional ensemble from Taipei.



ATLANTA UNITED STATES

May 23, 2017

Hosted by the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Invest Atlanta, the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission convened for a workshop focused on how to leverage Atlanta's sister city relationships to promote trade and investment opportunities.



TOULOUSE FRANCE

May 26, 2017

The Atlanta-Toulouse Sister Cities Committee hosted their annual wine and cheese tasting featuring French delicacies.





DAEGU SOUTH KOREA

June 3, 2017

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed celebrated Delta Air Lines' new service to Seoul, South Korea during a sendoff ceremony prior to the flight's departure. The new service provides customers more options to and from Asia, including Atlanta's sister city Daegu, as well as additional cargo capacity between the U.S. and South Korea.



TBILISI GEORGIA

June 17, 2017

The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister Cities Committee joined Honorary Consul of the Republic of Georgia John Hall in welcoming the Georgia National Rugby Team to Atlanta in advance of their rugby match against the USA Men's Eagles team at the Atlanta United Training Facility. On this occasion, Georgia Ambassador to the U.S. David Bakradze visited Atlanta and met with the Metro Atlanta Chamber, Invest Atlanta, and the Mayor's Office of International Affairs.



NEWCASTLE UNITED KINGDOM

June 28, 2017

The City of Atlanta celebrated its 40th sister city anniversary with Newcastle, United Kingdom. Driven by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic speech at Newcastle University upon receiving this honorary doctorate degree, the relationship was established as part of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to Newcastle and the first Friendship Force exchange.



FUKUOKA JAPAN

July 8-19, 2017

Students from North Atlanta High School traveled to Fukuoka, Japan as part of an annual student exchange. The students experienced the Japanese culture by attending Kasumigaoka High School and by staying with students who visited Atlanta in March. They also learned how to make ramen noodles, write in traditional Japanese calligraphy, and toured area attractions.



FUKUOKA JAPAN

July 14-26, 2017

Students from Atlanta joined 300 students from more than 40 countries at the 29th Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka, Japan. The convention aimed to promote cultural understanding and to build friendships between students from across the globe.



ATLANTA UNITED STATES

July 14-16, 2017

City of Atlanta Chief of Protocol Taylor Woodruff and members of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission traveled to Virginia Beach, VA for the 61st Sister Cities International Annual Conference. While at the conference, Mr. Woodruff accepted Sister Cities International's 2017 Innovation Award for Economic Development which recognized Atlanta for its accomplishments through the 2016 Atlanta International Startup Exchange.



AUGUST 2017

NUREMBERG GERMANY

August 1-4, 2017

Chief of Staff Candace Byrd and Chief of Protocol Taylor Woodruff traveled to Germany to meet with senior executives of Siemens AG and city officials, and to tour successful smart cities projects in Munich and Atlanta's German sister city, Nuremberg. The delegation visited the Munich Transportation Company MVG and Germany's first driverless and fully automated train system, the Nuremberg U-Bahn. Before concluding their visit, they met with Nuremberg Lord Mayor Ulrich Maly and other senior city officials to discuss future cooperation in smart cities, the Atlanta International Startup Exchange, and to promote trade and investment in Atlanta.



SEPTEMBER 2017

FUKUOKA JAPAN

September 16-14, 2017

The Atlanta-Fukuoka Sister Cities Committee showcased Atlanta's sister city relationship with Fukuoka to more than 20,000 attendees at the 2017 JapanFest—the largest Japan-focused cultural festival in the U.S. Southeast. Attendees were able to purchase traditional dolls, textiles, and art from Fukuoka at the Atlanta-Fukuoka Booth.



ANCIENT OLYMPIA GREECE

September 28-October 1, 2017

The Atlanta-Ancient Olympia Sister Cities Committee hosted the Lykion ton Ellinidon's exhibit "Music is Timeless: Greek Music through the Ages" at the Atlanta Greek Festival in September. The exhibit provided information on the ever-evolving story of music from antiquity to the present.





TBILISI GEORGIA

October 1, 2017

The City of Atlanta celebrated its 30th sister city anniversary with Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. Across the past 30 years, Atlanta and Tbilisi have forged strong ties through annual best practice exchanges supported by the Georgia 2 Georgia Foundation and the U.S. Open World Program.



DAEGU SOUTH KOREA

October 2-8, 2017

The Atlanta-Daegu Sister Cities Committee and the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta hosted the 3rd edition of the “Daegu-Atlanta Great Art Fun” which featured 25 pieces of art from Atlanta’s sister city Daegu, South Korea. City officials, community leaders, and area residents celebrated the occasion during a reception at Gallery 72.



MONTEGO BAY JAMAICA

October 9-12, 2017

More than 30 healthcare providers traveled to Montego Bay to provide free healthcare as part of the Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Annual Health Mission. Since its inception, the annual Mission has provided more than \$80 million in medical supplies and services to more than 50,000 patients in Montego Bay and its surrounding communities.



NUREMBERG GERMANY

October 16-20, 2017

High school students from Nuremberg, Germany visited Atlanta as part of an annual reciprocal exchange focused on human and civil rights. The visiting students experienced American life through homestays, attending Maynard Jackson High School, and visiting area attractions. The students also worked with Atlanta partners to complete a seven-month research project pertaining to human rights violations.



RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZIL

October 29-November 1, 2017

Through Atlanta’s strategic partnership with Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in film and entertainment, the Atlanta-Rio Sister Cities Committee welcomed a delegation of Rio-based film executives to Atlanta during a trade mission led by U.S. Consul General to Rio Jimmy Story. The delegation met with city officials and industry leaders to learn more about Georgia’s \$9.5 billion film industry. As a result, a visiting Rio-based film executive selected Atlanta to film an upcoming Netflix co-production.



NOVEMBER 2017



NEWCASTLE UNITED KINGDOM

November 13, 2017

Across 2017, the City of Newcastle hosted a series of events celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the 50th anniversary of his historic speech upon accepting his honorary doctorate at Newcastle University. Ambassador Andrew Young, who was with Dr. King in Newcastle 50 years ago, traveled to Atlanta's British sister city to commemorate the event and joined government officials and community leaders in unveiling a statue of the late civil rights icon.

DECEMBER 2017



TBILISI GEORGIA

December 11-15, 2017

The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister Cities Committee hosted a delegation of government officials and community leaders as part of the ongoing efforts with the Georgia 2 Georgia Foundation and the U.S. Open World Program. The delegation met with federal and local government officials to share best practices in governmental operations and policies.



NUREMBERG GERMANY

December 2017

Nearly 300,000 people visited the second annual Christkindl Market at Atlantic Station. Hosted by the German American Cultural Foundation, the traditional German market featured dozens of vendors selling handmade German holiday décor, treats, and the original Christkind from Atlanta's German sister city, Nuremberg.

COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

Mr. Shelby Grubbs, Chair
Ms. Farah Amir, Mayoral Appointee
Dr. Margo Alexander, Anicent Olympia
Mr. Anton Mertens, Brussels
Mr. Nick Modares, Bucharest
Dr. Charleise Young, Botonou
Mr. John Lee, Daegu
Ms. Keiko Scott, Fukuoka
Dr. Augustine Esogbue, Lagos
Dr. Yvonne Smith, Montego Bay
Mr. David Smith, Newcastle
Mr. Matt Ohm, Nuremberg
Ms. Karen Clarke, Port of Spain
Mr. Arnold Heller, Ra'anana
Mr. Phillip Lee, Rio de Janeiro
Mr. Victor Ramirez, Salcedo
Mr. Peter Yeh, Taipei
Ms. Nina Tickaradze, Tbilisi
Ms. Sherry von Klitzing, Toulouse

55 Trinity Avenue SW, Suite 3450
Atlanta, GA 30303
info@atlsistercities.org
www.atlsistercities.org

Written and designed by Taylor Woodruff, Chief of Protocol, City of Atlanta