



St. Louis Mosaic Project

Thank you for a Robust 2023!

Greetings Friends-

As we close out 2023, we want to thank you for your continued support. Your dedication and belief in our mission have been the cornerstone of our journey towards fostering a region that is welcoming to foreign-born newcomers from many countries.

This year we celebrated our 10th Anniversary, added new Ambassador Companies and k-12 schools, helped organize the first multi-ethnic Chamber event, took our monthly STL101 "on the road," and connected many foreign-born professional job seekers to local business leaders who graciously offered guidance and additional networking introductions.

In the coming year, our programs and outreach will highlight **commUNITY** which goes beyond proximity or physical location to encompass a sense of belonging, mutual support and a feeling of connectedness between foreign-born newcomers and local St. Louisans.

Here's to a wonderful holiday and a bright, promising year ahead!

Betsy, Suzanne & Annie

Highlights from the Year

Mosaic reached a 10-year milestone! A decade of collaboration and partnerships between the region's businesses, k-12 Schools, Universities, non-profit organizations and City and County leaders to create a narrative and amplify what it means and looks like to welcome foreign-born professionals and their families to St. Louis. The result is 10,000 immigrants who have been added to the region since Mosaic's inception and recent US Census data shows that the region's growth will continue coming from this segment of the population. And it's why St. Louis is considered **one of the top cities where immigrants thrive.**

Little Amal. an internationally celebrated 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, was welcomed to St. Louis by Mayor Tishaura Jones and others with open arms along her 35-city tour of the US to bring awareness of the plight of refugees. The effort was led by COCA Artistic Director of Voice, Dr. Philip A. Woodmore with support

from Mosaic and the International institute.

St. Louis County Executive Sam Page issued a **Welcoming Week Proclamation** during this year's Welcoming Week in September that highlighted events across the region to celebrate contributions by immigrants

STL101, our monthly events came back to real life this year introducing St. Louis supporters to **small businesses owned by foreign-born immigrants** including **Gitzell Fairtrade International** owned by corporate-associate-turned-entrepreneur, Zellipah Githui (Africa), and **Zee Bee Market**, owned by Julio Zegarra-Ballon (Peru).

We added our 53rd Ambassador Company this year-- the Federal Reserve - and have half a dozen more in the pipeline. Among other things, **Ambassador Companies join at no cost** and receive 1:1 counseling about welcoming practices and get connected to foreign-born professionals looking for work.

Priory, Rockwood, Thomas Jefferson, St. Louis University High School, St. Joseph's and Lindbergh Schools **joined as Ambassador k-12 Schools bringing the total to more than 120!** Our annual meeting with them resulted in lots of best practice sharing and new collaborations.

Our major universities saw their **highest levels of international students in years**— proof that the brightest minds from around the world know they can receive the best education in St. Louis. The majority of these are studying a STEM field and we continue to make introductions between these students and companies that are hiring.

The International Spouse/Women Expat Group grew to 848 and the International Mentoring Program became a 501(c)(3) organization, hired its first Executive Director and welcomed its 52nd co-hort of five international women matched with 5 local mentors-- **that's 540 members from more than 60 countries.**

Mosaic's Executive Director, Betsy Cohen, **wowed with a TedX Talk** about why immigrants are important to our communities and economies and was honored as Connector of the Year by the Asian Chamber of Commerce and Multicultural Leader by the International Institute; Suzanne Sierra was promoted to Assistant Director and received the **Civic Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**; and Project Manager Annie Mbale was named a **Young Leader by the St. Louis American Foundation** and helped organize and co-host the first multi-ethnic Chamber event.

These are just a few examples of our impact this year and we can't wait to see how our collaborations in 2024 pave the way for more wins!

Mosaic News



[International Mentoring Program Hires First Executive Director](#)

[Mosaic's Betsy Cohen Talks to KMOX about The Need for Immigrants in St. Louis](#)

[What the US Census Tells us About St. Louis' Changing Demographics](#)

[More News on Mosaic Website](#)

Job Listings



[The Rice House Asian Fusion Cuisine \(various openings\)](#)

[International Institute of St. Louis](#)

[Cortex Innovation Manager](#)

[More Jobs on Mosaic Website](#)



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