

Regional Prosperity Through Immigration and Innovation



Background: In 2012, the William T. Kemper Foundation funded the report, “The Economic Impact of Immigration on St. Louis,” by Jack Strauss PhD, Director of the Simon Center for Regional Forecasting at Saint Louis University. The study was an urgent call to action for the St. Louis region. While St. Louis has considerable strengths, the region lacks several ingredients that are contributing to its economic stagnation. One such ingredient is the low representation of immigrants, compared to similarly-sized metropolitan areas in the United States. The study indicated St. Louis’ economy already has benefitted from immigrants as entrepreneurs, a talented workforce, and sources of new population. For the region to grow, St. Louis must attract and retain new residents, including immigrants.

St. Louis Mosaic Project In June 2013, Dr. Strauss completed a second study titled “Immigration Recommendations for St. Louis Region: How can we Jumpstart Growth?” which benchmarked St. Louis to 10 similar Midwestern regions. The study suggested better coordination between immigrant and business communities as well as better access to St. Louis resources. The study resulted in nine recommendations for St. Louis to attract immigrants. The Steering Committee is moving forward in five action areas.

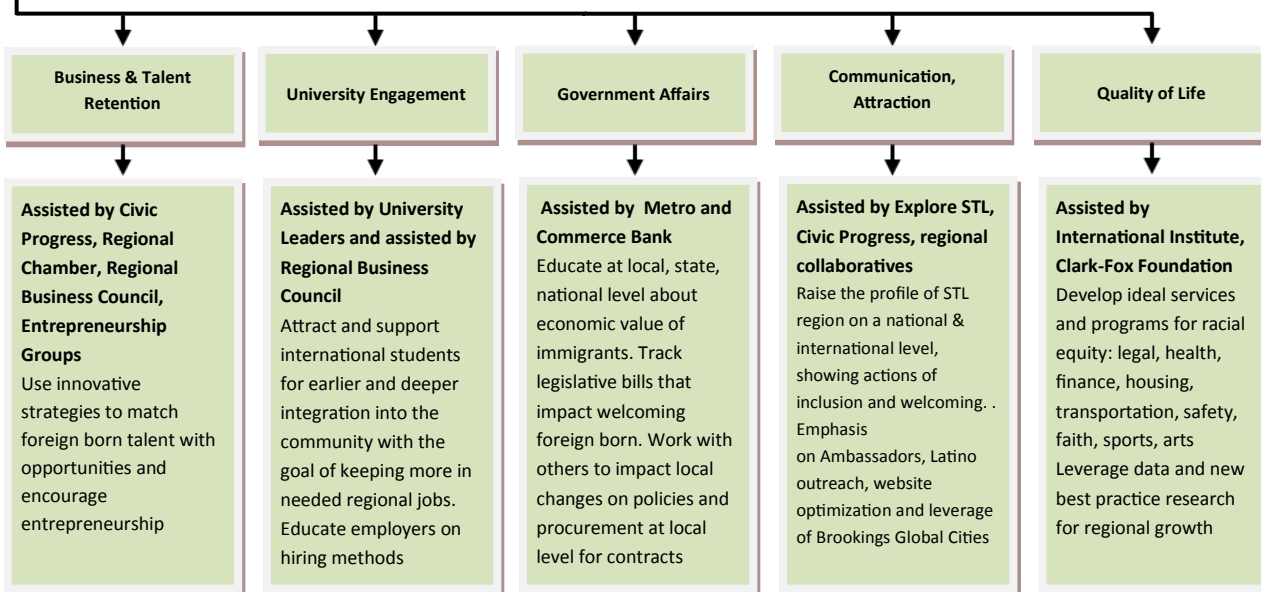
Results/Impact: In past 5 years, Mosaic and regional partners have seen the STL metro be #1 or #2 in fastest growth of foreign born verses the other top metros. This is the result of Mosaic programs and the ecosystem collaboration, plus media and outreach.

Steering Committee

Steering committee: The Strauss study was unveiled publicly in June 2012 and the St. Louis Regional Immigration & Innovation Steering Committee was formed. The 32-member steering committee is a diverse mix of regional business, civic, economic development, faith, agency and academic leaders. The committee analyzes the effects of immigration on the St. Louis region and builds support for local recommendations to attract, support and ultimately retain new citizens to spur growth and secure the economic future of St. Louis.

Goals: St. Louis 2025 — Fastest Growing U.S. Major Metropolitan Area for Immigration AND increase the foreign born regional population by 25,000, called our “25 by 25” Rally Cry!

Strategic Areas



Betsy Cohen—Executive Director **Vin Ko** – Sr. Program Manager
Bomi Park – Assistant Project Manager

Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Rodney Crim – President, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership
Sheila Sweeney – CEO, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Steering Committee Members

Jim Buford – Civic Leader
Gay Burns – Civic Progress Representative (EVP HR at RGA)
Ethel Byndom – Interim Director, St. Louis County Community Empowerment Office for County Executive
Anna Crosslin – President & CEO, International Institute of St. Louis
Bill Cummings – Head of Service Operations & Engineering Thomson Reuters
Bob Fox – Board Chairman, Casa de Salud
Renee Franklin – Director of Audience Development, St. Louis Art Museum
Noe Gonzalez – Office of St. Louis City Mayor
Anthony Gonzalez-Angel – Partner, Tota Investments, RBC representative
Charlie Hall – Sr. Vice President, Human Resource, Master Card
Abdullatif Hamad – Chair of Physics, International Student liaison at SIUE
Melissa Harper – Vice President, Global Talent Acquisition, Diversity & HR Compliance, Bayer
Sharon Harvey Davis – Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at Ameren
Molly Hyland – Senior Vice President, Commerce Bank
Edward S. Macias – Casa de Salud, Board Chair
Julia Macias – Asst. Dean, Office of Scholar Programs, Director, Annika Rodriguez Scholars Program, Washington University
Michael McMillan – President and CEO Urban League STL
Debbie Monterrey – News Anchor/Reporter, KMOX AM1120
John Nations – President & CEO, Bi-State Development Agency/Metro
Javier Orozco – Interfaith Partnership Cabinet Representative (Archdiocese)
Patricia Ovca – Sr. HR Business Partner, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
Kent Porterfield – Vice President, Student Development, Saint Louis University
Kathleen “Kitty” Ratcliffe – President, St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission
Kathy Reeves – Assistant Vice President, Corporate Community Relations, Enterprise Holdings
Liesl Schroer – Global HR, MilliporeSigma
Julian Schuster – Provost and Senior Vice President, Webster University
George T. Sipsos – Senior International Officer and Executive Director, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Mark Sutherland – VP of Market Strategies, Missouri Partnership
Peter Tao – Co-founder, TAO + LEE

Advisors to the Steering Committee

Kathy Osborn – Executive Director, The Regional Business Council (RBC)
Tom Santel – Executive Director, Civic Progress
Tim Nowak – Executive Director, World Trade Center St. Louis
Ellen Harshman – St. Louis University
Dee Joyner – Senior Vice President Commerce Bank