

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.

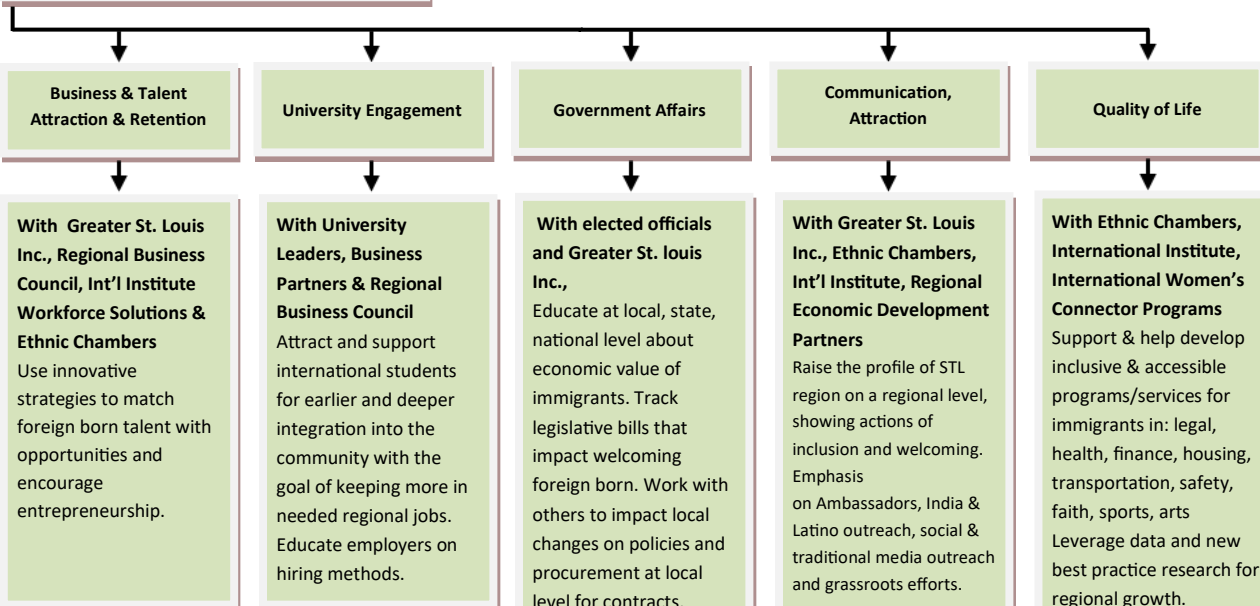
Results/Impact: Since 2012, Mosaic and regional partners have seen the STL metro add 12,500 foreign-born to the region. This is the result of Mosaic programs and the ecosystem collaboration, plus media and grassroots outreach.

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.

Goal: Maintain St. Louis’ ranking as the #1 fastest growing major metro for immigration thru 2030, and drive initiatives that expand and retain our global talent pool as a cornerstone of regional economic growth.

Strategic Areas



Suzanne Sierra—Executive Director
Annie Mbale—Program Manager

Steering Committee Chair

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

Steering Committee Members

Diego Abente—Pres., & CEO Casa de Salud
Dr. Michael Brown — Strategic Planning, Urban League STL
Scott Chase — Head of St. Louis Operations, MilliporeSigma
Samrat Ray Chaudhuri — Asst. Vice Pres., Webster University
Anna Crosslin — Co-Founder of Mosaic Project
Nisha Dharna — HR Partner Lead, NA Crop Science, Bayer
Anna Dibble — VP for People & Culture, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
Trezette Dixon — Sr. Director, Fellows Experience, Greater St. Louis Inc
Bob Fox — Founder and recent Past Chair, Casa de Salud
Renee Franklin —Director of Audience Development, St. Louis Art Museum, President of St. Louis Sister Cities
Abdullatif Hamad — Professor of Physics, Int’l Student liaison at SIUE
Blake Hamilton—CEO, International Institute of St. Louis
Molly Hyland — Senior Vice President, Commerce Bank
Jessica Lynn Hylton — Director, Internationalization Strategies and International Student and Scholar Services, UMSL
Luchen Li — Assoc. VP Global Engagement, International Enrollment, SLU
Edward S. Macias — Casa de Salud, Board Chair
Katherine Mauschbaugh — Corp. Comm. Relations Mgr., Enterprise Mobility
Debbie Monterrey — News Anchor/Reporter, KMOX AM 1120
Kenny Murdock — Director of the County Executive’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Dan Nielsen — VP Global Talent Acquisition, RGA
F. Javier Orozco — Executive Director, Human Dignity & Intercultural Affairs, Archdiocese of St. Louis
Gilberto Pinela — Director Office of New Americans, City of St. Louis
Sekhar Prabhakar —Chief Executive Officer, CEde
Deborah Price —VP Bus. Recruitment, Gen. Counsel Missouri Partnership
Aarti Sharma —Vice President, Tech Ops and Service Delivery, Mastercard
Jack Sisk — Board President, Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis
Ed Skapinok — Chief Commercial Officer, Explore St. Louis
Crystal Smith —Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Ameren
Mike Tang — Sr. Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Emerson
Peter Tao — Co-founder, TAO + LEE
Roumy Theunissen—Director, Global Communications & Outreach, Office of the Provost - WashU
Melissa M. Webb—Director Public Affairs, Bi-State Development

Advisors to the Steering Committee

Karen Branding – President & CEO, Regional Business Council (RBC)
Tim Nowak – Executive Director, World Trade Center St. Louis