

## 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.

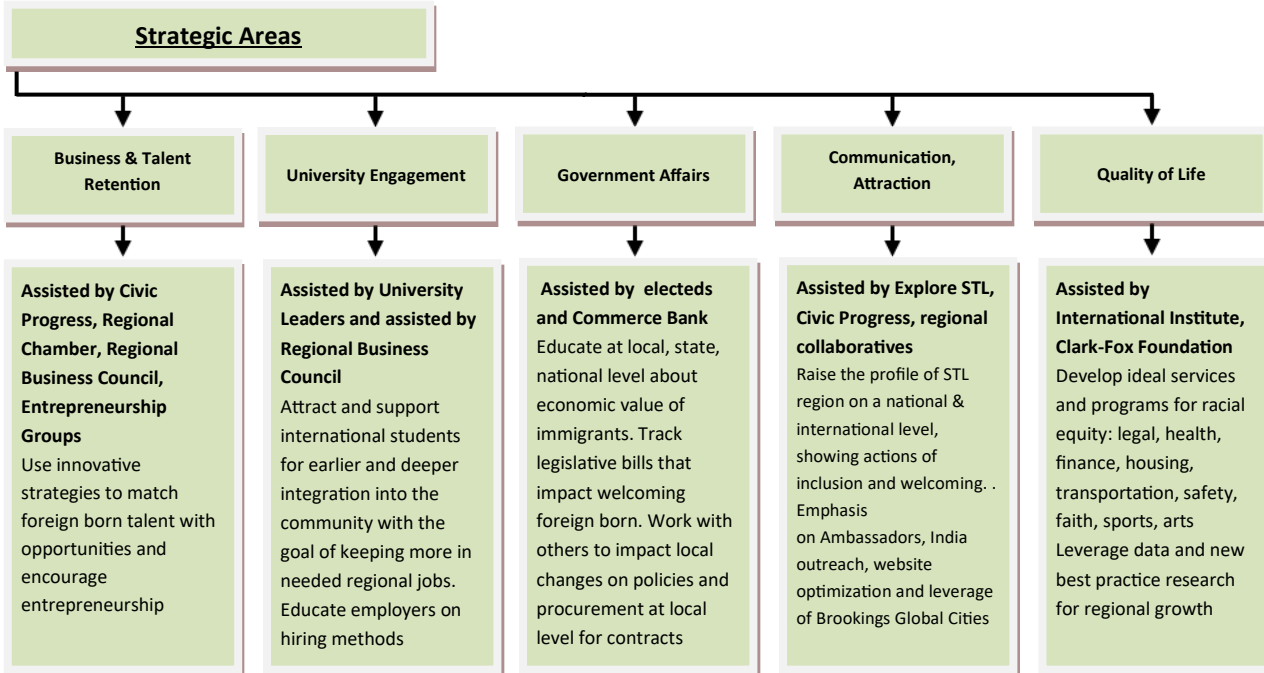
**Results/Impact:** In past 7 years, Mosaic and regional partners have seen the STL metro be #3 in fastest growth of foreign born verses the other top metros. This is the result of Mosaic programs and the ecosystem collaboration, plus media and outreach.

### 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.

**Goal: To transform St. Louis into the fastest growing major metropolitan area for immigration by 2025**

### Strategic Areas



**Betsy Cohen**—Executive Director  
**Suzanne Sierra**—Senior Program Manager  
**Annie Mbale**—Project Manager

#### Steering Committee Chair

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

#### Steering Committee Members

**Liane Constantine** — Interim Executive Director, UMSL Global, University of Missouri St. Louis  
**Anna Crosslin** – Co-Founder of Mosaic Project  
**Kathleen Davis** – Vice President, Enrollment and Retention, SLU  
**Meghan Feole** – Manager, HR Business Partners Life Sciences Mid to West Region, MilliporeSigma  
**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  
**Molly Hyland** – Senior Vice President, Commerce Bank  
**Ray Kleeman** - CHRO at RGA  
**Edward S. Macias** – Casa de Salud, Board Chair  
**Julia Macias** – Asst. Dean, Office of Scholar Programs, Director, Annika Rodriguez Scholars Program, Washington University  
**Vernon Mitchell**- Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, Office STL City Mayor  
**Debbie Monterrey** – News Anchor/Reporter, KMOX AM1120  
**Kenny Murdock** – Director of the County Executive’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
**Christianne “Chris” Niccolini** — HR Senior Director, Crop Science Product Supply, Bayer  
**Arrey Obenson** — President & CEO, International Institute of St. Louis  
**Javier Orozco** – Executive Director, Intercultural Affairs, Archdiocese of St. Louis  
**Valerie Patton** — Chief DEI Officer and President, Greater St. Louis Foundation  
**Rev. James Poinsett**, Executive Director, Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis  
**Sekhar Prabhakar** – Chief Executive Officer, CEde  
**Deborah Price** – VP Bus. Recruitment, Gen. Counsel Missouri Partnership  
**Kathleen “Kitty” Ratcliffe** – President, St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission  
**Kathy Reeves** – Assistant Vice President, Corporate Community Relations, Enterprise Holdings  
**Stephanie Regagnon**– Executive Director, Innovation Partnership, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center  
**Julian Schuster** – Provost and Senior Vice President, Webster University  
**Aarti Sharma** – Vice President, Tech Ops and Service Delivery, Mastercard  
**Crystal Smith** – Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Ameren  
**Peter Tao** – Co-founder, TAO + LEE  
**Mulugheta Teferi** — Vice President of Strategic Planning & Grants Management, Urban League STL  
**Ted M. Zimmerman** — VP, Bi-State Development

#### Advisors to the Steering Committee

**Kathy Osborn** – President & CEO, The Regional Business Council (RBC)  
**Tim Nowak** – Executive Director, World Trade Center St. Louis