

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.

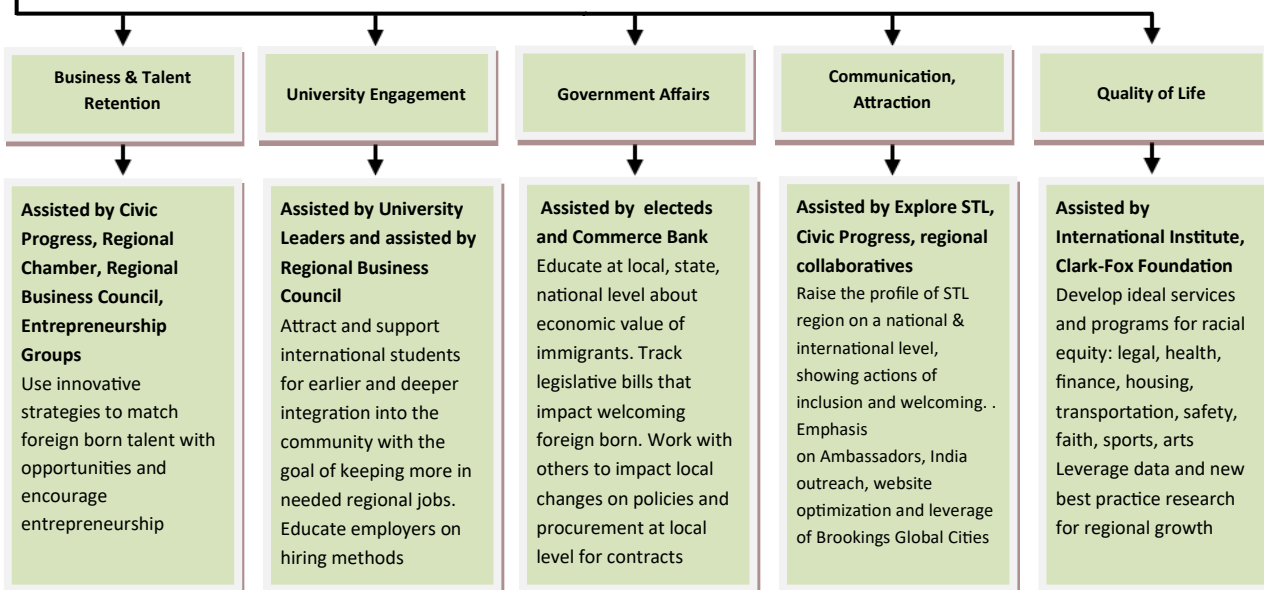
Results/Impact: In past 7 years, Mosaic and regional partners have seen the STL metro be #3 in fastest growth of foreign born verses the other top metros. This is the result of Mosaic programs and the ecosystem collaboration, plus media and outreach.

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.

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
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

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

Jeffery Jackson – Associate Provost for Career Development, SLU

Ray Kleeman - CHRO at RGA

Stephanie Lewis – Chief Transformation Officer, Office of St. Louis County Executive

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

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, CEEdge

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

Mark Sutherland – VP of Market Strategies, Missouri Partnership

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