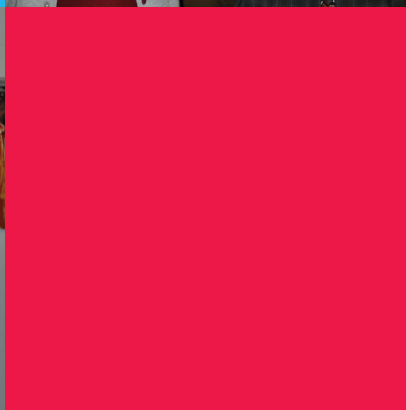
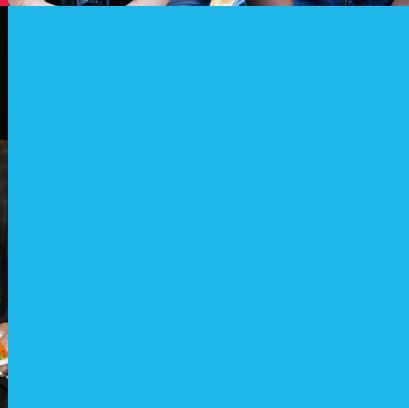
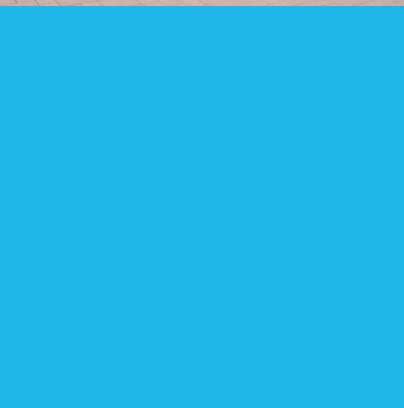




worldchicago

CITIZEN DIPLOMACY  
ONE HANDSHAKE  
AT A TIME



## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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# WELCOME

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## GREETINGS!

2012 WAS CERTAINLY A BUSY YEAR FOR WORLDCHICAGO. Thank you for all you did to help us welcome a record number of international visitors to Chicago. We broke the 1,000 mark for the first time in twelve years with 1,050 visitors from 154 countries — truly an exceptional year, and in large part thanks to you! This was the year of big projects and even bigger ideas. Some of the highlights included:

- In April, WorldChicago hosted fourteen youth leaders from Bangladesh, East Timor, Liberia, and Yemen, in town to attend the Nobel Peace Summit.
- The next month, many of our WorldChicago members hosted in-home dinners for international journalists in Chicago to cover the NATO Summit. The journalists thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experience Chicago beyond McCormick Place and share meals with “regular” Chicagoans in neighborhoods throughout the city.
- June saw us welcome 62 business and social entrepreneurship leaders from 43 African nations for a three-day closing conference to conclude their U.S. based program — a group of truly amazing people who are really changing their continent for the better.
- Right before Thanksgiving, WorldChicago welcomed 132 journalists from nearly 100 countries, in Chicago to conclude their participation in the prestigious U.S. Department of State’s Edward R. Murrow Journalism Program. They all left as big fans of our city, eager to return with their families.

WorldChicago’s portfolio is comprised of about twelve different grant programs through various federal agencies, most of them Department of State-sponsored programs. In the following pages you’ll hear some personal stories from our visitors and from Chicagoans who have been impacted by these programs.

Thanks to all of you for your support of Citizen Diplomacy in 2012. Look out for more international adventures in Chicago in the coming year!

With much gratitude for your support,

*Peggy Parfenoff*  
Executive Director

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WorldChicago is pleased to acknowledge that this Annual Report is funded in part by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended.

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## MISSION



*WorldChicago's mission is to facilitate professional and personal interactions for international leaders during official visits to Chicago; to enhance respect and communication through international exchanges and alliances; and to promote the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and Cook County as important centers of business and culture.*

WORLDCHICAGO IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, a nonprofit membership association with over fifty years of leadership in citizen diplomacy. Together with more than ninety community partner members, WorldChicago helps shape foreign relations “one handshake at a time.” We arrange professional programs, cultural activities, and homestay opportunities for foreign leaders, scholars, and youth participating in government-sponsored exchange programs.



## OUR WORK

WORLDCHICAGO DESIGNS HIGH-QUALITY, CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS that range in length from a few days to several months for mid-career professionals, young adults, and youth leaders from around the world. All visitors explore their professional or educational areas of interest through meetings with local leaders and organizations, while also meeting Chicagoans and experiencing cultural and social life in the United States.

In 2012, WorldChicago implemented the following programs:

PROGRAM	NO. OF PROGRAMS	NO. OF VISITORS
International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)	77	590
Fulbright Programs	2	149
Youth Leadership Programs	6	90
Mentoring Partnerships for Young African Leaders	1	62
Legislative Fellows Program	4	23
Open World Leadership	2	11
Community Connections	1	10
Other Programs	10	115
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1050</b>



# 2012 VISITOR & COUNTRY STATISTICS

## Visitors by Country

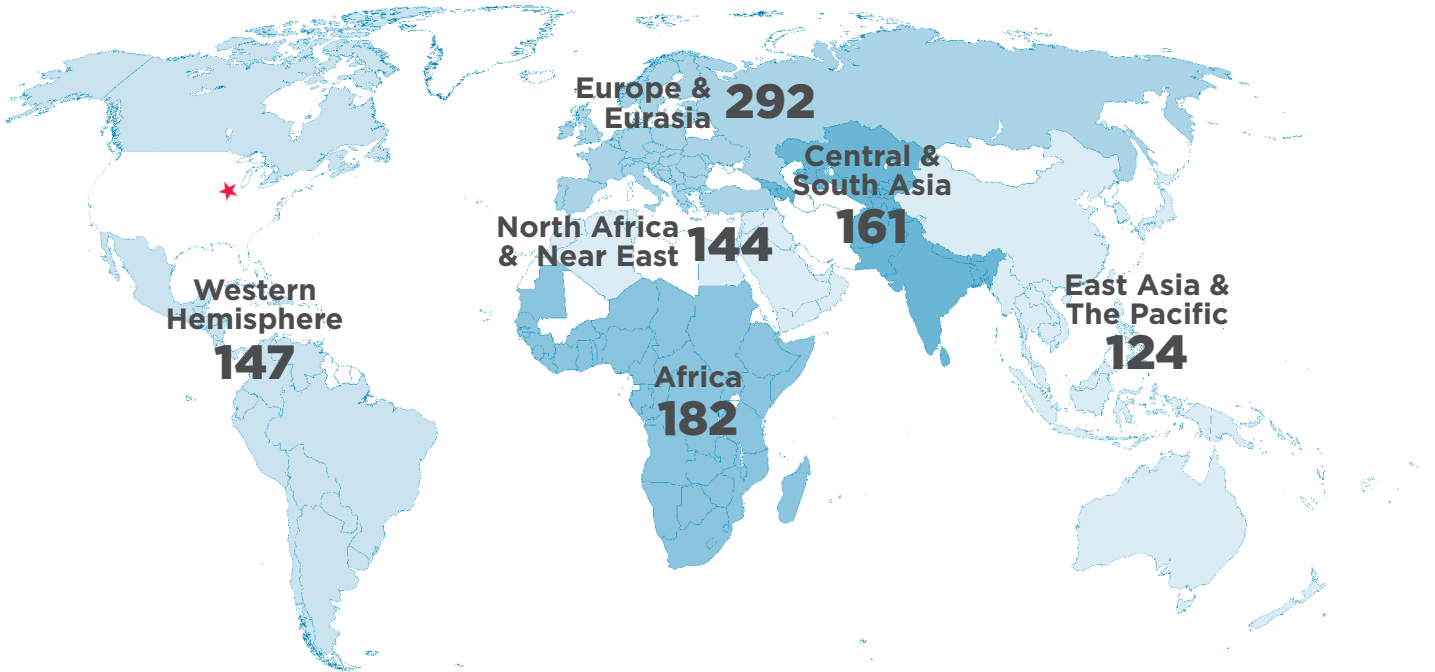
Afghanistan.....	11	Democratic Republic	Latvia.....	2	Sao Tome&Principe....	2
Albania.....	2	of the Congo .....	Lebanon .....	11	Saudi Arabia .....	10
Algeria.....	3	Djibouti .....	Lesotho .....	1	Senegal.....	9
Angola.....	5	Dominican	Liberia .....	7	Serbia.....	22
Argentina.....	8	Republic.....	Lithuania .....	1	Sierra Leone.....	2
Armenia.....	9	Ecuador.....	Macedonia .....	1	Singapore.....	5
Australia.....	5	Egypt .....	Madagascar.....	3	Slovakia.....	12
Austria.....	5	El Salvador .....	Malawi .....	3	Slovenia.....	12
Azerbaijan.....	6	Estonia .....	Malaysia .....	3	Somalia.....	1
Bahrain.....	2	Ethiopia.....	Mauritania.....	3	South Africa.....	7
Bangladesh.....	15	Finland .....	Mauritius .....	1	South Sudan.....	4
Belgium.....	2	France .....	Mexico .....	39	Spain.....	28
Belize.....	2	Gabon .....	Micronesia .....	1	Sri Lanka.....	4
Benin.....	2	Gambia.....	Moldova .....	2	Sudan.....	3
Bhutan.....	1	Georgia .....	Montenegro .....	1	Swaziland.....	1
Bolivia.....	7	Germany .....	Morocco .....	8	Sweden.....	2
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	Ghana .....	Mozambique .....	2	Switzerland.....	1
Botswana.....	6	Greece .....	Namibia .....	4	Syria.....	1
Brazil.....	32	Grenada .....	Nepal .....	4	Taiwan.....	6
Brunei.....	1	Guatemala .....	Netherlands .....	3	Tajikistan.....	4
Bulgaria.....	9	Guinea .....	New Zealand .....	1	Tanzania.....	6
Burkina Faso.....	4	Guinea-Bissau .....	Nicaragua .....	4	Thailand.....	12
Burma.....	4	Haiti.....	Niger .....	2	Timor-Leste.....	7
Burundi.....	2	Honduras .....	Nigeria.....	19	Togo.....	2
Cameroon.....	4	Hong Kong .....	Norway .....	2	Trinidad & Tobago.....	1
Cambodia.....	3	Hungary .....	Oman .....	2	Tunisia.....	6
Canada.....	2	India .....	Pakistan .....	53	Turkey.....	22
Cape Verde.....	3	Indonesia .....	Palestinian Territories	2	Uganda.....	6
Central African		Iraq .....	Panama .....	1	Ukraine.....	35
Republic.....	1	Ireland .....	Papua New Guinea ....	1	United Arab Emirates	5
Chad .....	2	Israel .....	Paraguay .....	4	United Kingdom.....	18
Chile .....	2	Italy .....	Peru.....	4	Uruguay.....	2
China.....	36	Japan .....	Philippines.....	6	Uzbekistan.....	9
Colombia .....	6	Jordan .....	Poland.....	8	Venezuela.....	9
Comoros .....	1	Kazakhstan.....	Portugal .....	3	Vietnam.....	4
Costa Rica .....	1	Kenya .....	Qatar.....	3	Yemen.....	26
Côte d'Ivoire .....	6	Korea .....	Republic of the Congo..	2	Zambia.....	3
Croatia.....	3	Kuwait .....	Romania.....	7	Zimbabwe.....	13
Curaçao .....	1	Kyrgyzstan .....	Russia.....	38		
Czech Republic .....	5	Laos .....	Rwanda.....	3	<b>TOTAL COUNTRIES:</b>	<b>154</b>
					<b>TOTAL VISITORS:</b>	<b>1050</b>



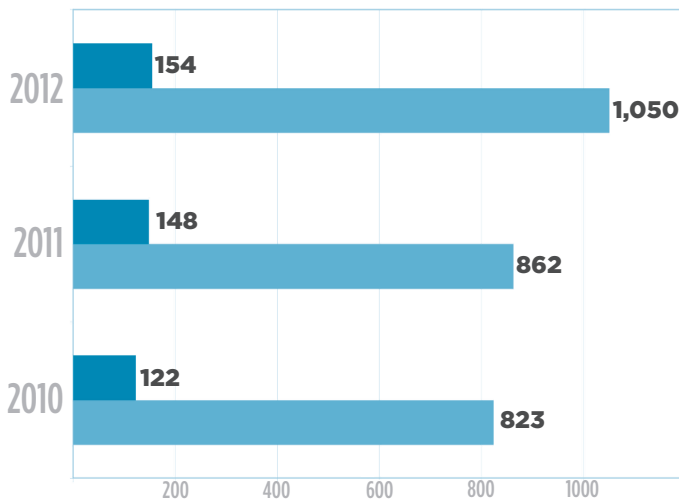


# 2012 VISITOR & COUNTRY STATISTICS

## Visitors by Region



## Countries Visitors



## Top 10 Visitor Program Themes

1. Governance, Politics, & Civil Society
2. Law, Justice, & Crime
3. Youth & Education
4. Economics, Labor, & Trade
5. Media & Journalism
6. Women's Leadership
7. Arts, Culture, & Religion
8. Environment & Agriculture
9. Entrepreneurship & Technology
10. Science & Health



## PROGRAMS

### INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premiere professional exchange program. Through three- to four-week visits to cities across the U.S. — including Chicago — current and emerging foreign leaders from a variety of fields engage in face-to-face dialogues with Americans and cultivate lasting relationships with their professional counterparts.

In 2012, WorldChicago welcomed 590 IVLP participants on 77 different programs, engaging dozens of Americans in citizen diplomacy.

Visitors hailed from 113 different countries, from Albania and Azerbaijan to Zambia and Zimbabwe, and nearly everywhere else in between.

Programs focused on such topics as Community Policing and National Security, Urban Economic Renewal, Women in Law, Water Resources Protection, Engaging Youth Through New Media, and Opera Management and Exchanges.

### Edward R. Murrow Program for International Journalists November 13–17

In November, WorldChicago hosted 132 journalists from nearly 100 countries — our largest group ever — for the closing meetings of the Murrow Program, a three-week exchange for international visitors to experience America's newsrooms, share journalistic practices, and build relationships with fellow media professionals from the U.S. and around the world.

The program opened with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn delivering the keynote address at a day-long conference at the Allerton Hotel, followed by a reception at the Chicago Cultural Center, featuring a special welcome from Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and remarks from Alma Candelaria, Director of IVLP at the Department of State.

The next day the journalists dispersed across the city for meetings with Chicago print, radio, and television media, as well as nonprofit and youth media organizations.

TOP: Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel delivers the opening address at the Murrow Closing Reception

BOTTOM: Visiting journalists speak with panelist Rummana Hussain of the Chicago Sun-Times



*“I left Chicago sure that I had made life-long friends.”*

— LABAN, FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR FROM KENYA

## FULBRIGHT PROGRAMS

### ***Fulbright Scholar Enrichment Program 2012***

In 2012, WorldChicago coordinated networking events, cultural activities, and volunteer opportunities for Fulbright scholars working and studying at Illinois and Indiana universities.

These events introduce scholars to aspects of American culture they might not otherwise experience on their campuses, and are intended to further the Fulbright goal of increasing mutual understanding between citizens of the United States and other countries.

Highlights included a tour of Chicago’s financial institutions, a Chicago White Sox baseball game, two Broadway in Chicago performances (*Rock of Ages* and *Les Miserables*), a Native American culture and heritage event to commemorate International Education Week with the Fulbright Association-Chicago Chapter, and a celebration with WorldChicago Board members and friends at our 2012 Holiday Party at the Chicago Photography Center.



ABOVE: Fulbright scholar Lin Chen from China enjoys the WorldChicago Holiday Party

TOP RIGHT: Fulbright Seminar participants gather for a photo



### ***Fulbright Scholar Seminar: March 28–31***

In partnership with the U.S. Department of State and the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, WorldChicago presented the 2012 Fulbright Regional Scholar Enrichment Seminar, “Diversity: A Chicago Work in Progress.”

Sixty-seven Fulbright scholars representing 38 countries explored the themes of Diversity in Education, Diversity in the Workforce, and Diversity in the Community through panel discussions, keynote addresses, and volunteer activities.

Highlights included a welcome reception featuring a *Celebration of American Jazz* with entertainer and WorldChicago Board Member Greta Pope and hospitality dinners hosted by WorldChicago and Fulbright Association-Chicago Chapter members and friends.

*“I can’t wait to do this again!”*

— AMY, DINNER HOST





## YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



In 2012, WorldChicago hosted six Youth Leadership Programs, supported by the U.S. Department of State, U.S. embassies in foreign countries, and private foundations. All youth programs aimed to foster mutual understanding, build respect, and inspire civic engagement among young Americans and their international peers.

A special thank you to our generous host families for welcoming these young leaders into your homes!

### **Youth Leadership Peace Program: April 21–May 2**

WorldChicago hosted 21 students and educators from Bangladesh, Liberia, Timor-Leste, and Yemen for a program focused on peace building, community service, and leadership. Presented in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> World Summit of Nobel Laureates in Chicago, the Youth Leadership Peace Program enabled this next generation of young activists to bring their unique global youth voice to the summit. Students then paired with Nobel Peace laureates to visit Chicago public high schools and engage with their American peers in discussions on human rights and youth empowerment.

### **U.K.–U.S. Youth Dialogue Program: July 11–20**

Twelve participants from the United Kingdom explored the themes of diversity, interfaith dialogue, political activism, community organizing, and volunteerism. Highlights included meetings with 47<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Ameya Pewar, the Mikva Challenge, Chicago Young Republicans, and CAIR-Chicago.

### **Jovenes en Accion: July 20–August 4**



Peer violence and bullying were the program themes for the fourteen participants in *Jovenes en Accion* —Youth in Action. Youth from across Mexico developed skills to become effective community

leaders through nonviolence training, volunteer activities, and meetings with youth NGOs and former gang members. To round out their Chicago experience, the group went up the Willis Tower, toured The Field Museum, and cheered on the White Sox at U.S. Cellular Field.

### **Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program: July 22–August 3**

The Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program paired eight Iraqi and four American high school students for three weeks of leadership training and civic engagement activities. Participants explored diversity, volunteerism, and global issues through meetings with other youth groups and hands-on media projects. The group also visited the Willis Tower, shopped Michigan Avenue, and cruised the Chicago River on an architecture tour.

TOP: Participants in the Youth Leadership Peace Program meet former U.S. President Jimmy Carter at the 12th World Summit of Nobel Laureates in Chicago

ABOVE RIGHT: Jovenes en Accion on the steps of The Field Museum





## Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program August 2012–June 2013

For the first time, WorldChicago is hosting a group of high school exchange students through the U.S. Department of State's highly-competitive Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program.

These five students — from Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine — attend a Chicago public high school and live with a Chicago family for the entire 2012–2013 school year. During their stay, they also participate in leadership and engagement workshops, and volunteer and cultural activities to enhance their experience of American life.

Special thanks to Lincoln Park High School, Lindblom Math & Science Academy, and Taft High School for hosting our students this year, and to our fantastic host families for opening your homes!



LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP: FLEX students with their host siblings at Buckingham Fountain; Moldovan student on the SkyDeck at Willis Tower; Ukrainian student with her host sister on the SkyDeck; Volunteering at the Lakeview Pantry; Ukrainian student presents about her home country at WorldChicago Coffee Conversation; FLEX students at The Field Museum



### **Central Europe Youth Leadership Program: July 27–31**

Thirty students from Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia came to the U.S. to meet their American peers to build cross-cultural ties and work together to address shared community problems like hunger, the environment, and inequality. During their five-day stay in Chicago, youth attended a strategic communications workshop, participated in cultural activities, and developed action plans for their return home.



## PROGRAMS

### MENTORING PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

*“I did not only  
achieve my  
business goals,  
but also built  
relationships  
with people  
that I will see  
again.”*

— HANANE, CHAD

The Mentoring Partnerships for Young African Leaders is a signature U.S. Department of State professional development program, which in 2012 brought 62 young African leaders from 43 countries to the United States for leadership training and mutual exchange in the fields of social and business entrepreneurship. Chicago hosted several young leaders during their mentorships, as well as the overall program closing.

#### ***Mentoring Partnerships: June 16–28***

In June, WorldChicago welcomed seven young entrepreneurs from Angola, Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and South Africa. These innovators took part in two-week professional development programs with U.S. professionals in their respective fields to gain best practices in investment, social responsibility, and business innovation.

Mentorship hosts included: Cerato, Chicago Youth Programs, g boutique, Glam To Go, the Globe Pub, the Habitat Company, Heartland Alliance, LISC Chicago, National Futures Association, Sara Jane, and Women’s Business Development Center.

The participants also had the opportunity to share their work and culture with WorldChicago members at a Coffee Conversation. For Sibande from Malawi, it was a high point of the program:

My highlight experience was speaking on a panel of “From Africa to Chicago” organized by WorldChicago. We told our stories and the audience was mesmerized. Through this, one volunteer approached me and said he was very impressed with the way we were using technology to transform smallholder farmers’ lives. He then arranged meetings for me with Senator Kirk and Senator Durbin’s staffers.

#### ***Program Closing: June 29–30***

At the conclusion of the mentorships, all 62 Young African Leaders program participants reconvened in Chicago for the closing ceremony. Over two days, the group shared success stories and lessons learned, and developed action plans to carry on the program’s momentum upon their return home.





## LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Legislative Fellows Program provides young professionals with exposure to U.S. political processes and grassroots democratic institutions. Participants are placed in month-long fellowships with their counterparts in U.S. Congressional offices, state and local governments, and public policy-oriented NGOs.



In 2012, WorldChicago hosted fellows from Armenia, Bangladesh, Georgia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, and Turkey. Our fall Fellows were in Chicago for the U.S. elections, and had the opportunity to volunteer for a Congressional

campaign in northern Chicago. Several Fellows also attended President Obama's re-election rally at McCormick Place. Some were caught on TV!

Special thanks to our Fellowship Hosts for their commitment to encouraging effective and accountable institutions in these countries.

### ***Eastern Europe Legislative Fellows Program: April 4–May 2***

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Alderman Michele Smith, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago Public Schools Office of Service Learning, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago, Girls in the Game, Juvenile Justice Initiative, Legal Assistance Foundation, and State of Illinois Office of Financial and Professional Regulation.

### ***South and Central Asia Legislative Fellows Program: April 15–May 2***

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Alderman Proco Joe Moreno, Alderman Ameya Pekar, Alderman Scott Waguespack, and Metropolitan Planning Council.

### ***Eastern Europe Legislative Fellows Program: October 12–November 7***

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Alderman Debra Silverstein, American Bar Association Center for Professional Development, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Mikva Challenge, Northwestern University Civic Education Project, Personal PAC, State of Illinois Department of Human Services.

### ***South and Central Asia Legislative Fellows Program: October 21–November 7***

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Chicago Federation for Labor, State of Illinois Human Rights Commission, State of Illinois Office of the Governor.

LEFT: Program closing for Mentoring Partnerships for Young African Leaders

ABOVE: Legislative Fellow at McCormick Place on election night

# CITIZEN DIPLOMACY SUCCESS STORIES

## *Following Up with Our Legislative Fellows*

**In April 2012, Legislative Fellow Ketevan Jeladze of Knowledge Management Group Georgia came to Chicago for a one-month fellowship with Chicago-Kent College of Law, arranged by WorldChicago. Four months later, she brought Chicago-Kent to Georgia.**



UPON HER RETURN HOME, MS. JELADZE — in collaboration with Professor Richard Warner, her professional American host,

and Maia Meskhi, a fellow alumnus of the Legislative Fellows Program — coordinated the launch of an official IIT Chicago-Kent School of American Law (SAL) for the Caucasus Region and Turkey. SAL is a fully-certified, pre-LL.M. study program founded and directed by Prof. Warner. It was first implemented in Gdansk, Poland in 1998 and later expanded to Wroclaw, Poland and Kiev, Ukraine.

This new SAL initiative is the first and only program of its kind in the whole Caucasus Region and Turkey. Intensive law instruction is conducted solely by IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law professors and adjunct professors. Upon completion of the SAL program, graduates have the opportunity to complete the LL.M degree in International and Comparative Law at IIT Chicago-Kent in just one semester.

The Legislative Fellows Program is a two-way exchange. In fall 2012, Professor Steven Harris, Ms. Jeladze's American supervisor at IIT Chicago-Kent, traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia to guide the official opening of the new SAL and serve as the program's inaugural instructor. By mid-September, the program had admitted fourteen students (from over 150 applicants) from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

The primary aim of the School of American Law project was to promote the tenets of American Law, the U.S. standard of higher education teaching, and the LL.M. degree in the Caucasus Region and Turkey, in addition to providing equal access to higher education for emerging countries.

Realization and implementation of a project of this magnitude, over such an abbreviated period of time, is possible only through the effective cooperation and collaboration of multiple people and organizations. From the initial WorldChicago internship placement, to American Councils' continued project funding, to the on-going involvement of an LFP alum, to dedicated American hosts, this project speaks to the power of citizen diplomacy to build lasting partnerships between nations — one handshake at a time. 🤝



IIT Chicago-Kent Professor Steven Harris visits the Supreme Court of Georgia



## Excerpts from Report on Study Trip to St. Petersburg

Jon Schmidt, Department of Literacy, Chicago Public Schools



THREE LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS FROM RUSSIA, who spent a month in the United States with agency leaders in April 2012, hosted their American counterparts for ten days from

September 20-30, 2012. The exchange, part of the U.S. Department of State's Legislative Fellows Program, enabled the American participants to explore Russian education, governmental, political, and social systems and possible partnership projects between Russia and the United States.

As a representative of Chicago Public Schools, I was especially intrigued by the opportunity to visit schools and youth organizations in order to learn more about the participation of young people in the civic life of St. Petersburg and Russia. A great mix of visits to public and private schools, government agencies working on issues that impact young people, universities, HIV/AIDS organizations, NGOs, and student leadership groups revealed great insights about the wonderful city of St. Petersburg, the Russian nation, and what seems to be an enormous interest among Russians to create partnerships to explore common issues.

During our visit to St. Petersburg we uncovered numerous differences between our systems. We experienced these differences during our visits to schools, NGOs, and government agencies. The differences can be so stark that engaging in discussion about these issues can be challenging particularly because our core assumptions may be quite different. For example, while American society may have a difficult time accepting elements of a social welfare state, Russians like their counterparts

in Europe, appear to be quite comfortable supporting a social welfare state that includes national health care, social security, and free or very affordable university education. While public school funding differs from state to state and can be quite inequitable in the United States, all schools in Russia appear to receive an equal level of funding. And while Americans generally usher 18-year olds into adulthood, Russian society has a developed youth policy strategy for 18 to 30-year olds.

Recognizing the core assumptions about how the state recognizes and supports its people is key to any meaningful dialogue about how we can learn from each other. Though these differences made some conversations quite challenging and even vexing, they did enable us to hold up a mirror to our own social organization and norms and reflect on what we value as a nation.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our hosts from St. Petersburg. In particular I must mention Vera Ageeva who put together a wonderful program for us. In addition to visits to schools, we were able to tour the great cultural sites and artifacts of St. Petersburg, enjoy two magnificent artistic performances, and learn so much about the history of St. Petersburg and Russia. We also enjoyed traditional Russian food at every turn. Vera is responsible for putting together one of the best exchange visits I have ever experienced. I truly hope that we can continue our collaboration to build stronger relationships between Russia and the United States/St. Petersburg and Chicago. It is a dream of mine to facilitate new interactions between our two nations and our two cities. 🌐



## PROGRAMS

### OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

The Open World Program is an initiative of the Library of Congress to bring emerging leaders from Eastern Europe and Eurasia to the United States to experience American democracy in action. During the program, participants meet with their professional counterparts, participate in cultural activities, and live with local families.

#### ***Armenia Urban Planning Development: March 28–April 5***

WorldChicago welcomed six urban planning and environmental design specialists to Chicago for meetings about urban transportation, community planning, architecture, and environmental law. Highlights included meetings with City of Chicago officials about bicycle transportation and urban sustainability – two issues currently very relevant to Armenian urban development – and the American Planning Association, where the delegation gathered ideas about education and advocacy efforts and professional support networks to take back to Armenia.



Russian visitors with Prof. John Woods at the University of Chicago

#### ***Russia Cultural Preservation: May 18–26***

Five historians and professors from the Buryatia region of Russia learned about ethnography and cultural preservation in the U.S. The delegation met with professors and curators, toured historic sites and museums, and visited different ethnic centers. Among the program highlights was a meeting at the Chicago Karma Thegsum Choling-Tibetan Buddhism Center, where the visitors — many themselves Tibetan Buddhists — saw Buddhist culture from an American perspective. Lama Sean Jones even led the group through an afternoon meditation session. The group also enjoyed a cultural tour of the Naper Settlement, a living history museum, during their annual Civil War Days event.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Community Connections — an initiative of the U.S. Agency for International Development — provides Eastern European and Eurasian entrepreneurs, local government officials, legal professionals, and NGO leaders with an opportunity for practical training tailored to their interests and a three-week homestay with a local family. The broad public diplomacy goal of the program is to contribute to economic and democratic reform in participating countries and to promote mutual understanding through exposure to U.S. society and personal connections with Americans.

#### ***Ukraine Access to Justice and Legal Aid: June 14–July 5***

WorldChicago arranged meetings for ten participants from Ukraine to gain a deeper understanding of access to justice issues, strengthen their capacity to help Ukraine provide legal services to its needy citizens, and to introduce them to a pro bono culture to provide free legal service to those that need it most. Highlights included meetings with Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Human Rights Watch, the Jane Addams Juvenile Court Foundation, and various law firms, as well as a road trip to Springfield, Illinois to learn more about American history and culture.

## NATO SUMMIT

May 20–21, WorldChicago members provided meal hospitality for twenty international journalists from eleven countries in Chicago to cover the NATO Summit, providing a glimpse into everyday American life for these distinguished correspondents.

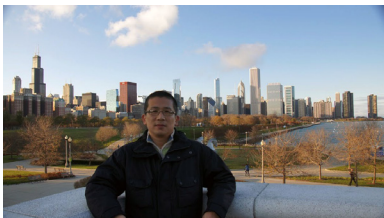
## OTHER PROGRAMS

### ***Embassy and Private-Funded Exchange Programs: Throughout the year***

WorldChicago also hosts visitors on programs funded by embassies and private foundations. In 2012, we welcomed 67 visitors on seven programs from countries such as Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, and Pakistan, exploring topics like New Media in Education, Religious Pluralism, and U.S. Labor Unions.

### ***Madrid Teacher Training Program: July 1–28***

WorldChicago partnered with Roosevelt University to coordinate a program for twenty science teachers from Madrid, Spain. The teachers attended courses at Roosevelt’s School of Education to develop their skills at bilingual teaching. WorldChicago arranged homestays and planned cultural activities for the teachers.



Shanghai visitors tour Chicago

### ***Shanghai Manager Fellowship Program: October 15–December 8***

WorldChicago welcomed eight professionals from the Shanghai Economic Management College in Shanghai, China for a two-month fellowship program with local companies. In turn, the Chicago participants had the opportunity to strengthen their professional and cultural ties with Shanghai, one of Chicago’s sister cities.

At the end of the program, the Shanghai trainees had the opportunity to share their internship experiences at a WorldChicago Coffee Conversations event, where they noted similarities (“spirit of innovation,” “global center of finance”) and differences (“corporate culture,” “communication methods”) between the Chicago and Shanghai workplace.

Thank you to our Fellowship Hosts: ArcelorMittal, Chicago Department of Aviation, Chicago Public Schools, Exelon, Flying Food Group, New Management Ltd., and U.S. Cellular.



## EVENTS

Each year, WorldChicago organizes fundraising and citizen diplomacy events to share our mission of promoting global understanding, one handshake at a time, with even more Chicagoans. Our events encourage wider engagement in world affairs and provide essential support for our programs and operations. WorldChicago earns about half of our funding through program grants, with the remainder provided by local support. Thanks to all who attended events in 2012 — we hope you join us in supporting WorldChicago at our Spring Diplomacy Luncheon May 7, 2013!

### FUNDRAISERS

#### ***Cuba — Cars, Cuisine, & Contrasts!: June 19***

This lively event at the University Club of Chicago featured a panel discussion with travelers from WorldChicago's People-to-People trip to Cuba (see Page 26), moderated by Mai Martinez from CBS 2 Chicago. Our guests sipped mojitos while savoring Board members' impressions of Cuban art, architecture, education, people, and — of course — food! The lessons in Cuban culture then continued with live music from Los Perros Cubanos.

#### ***Incredible India — A Night to Remember: October 2***



Natya Dance Theatre performs

Guests gathered at the Union League Club of Chicago for WorldChicago's annual cultural fundraiser. The event (which coincided with Gandhi's birthday) featured a live and silent auction, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and a performance from Natya Dance Theatre Chicago. The silent auction featured many unique Indian-themed events, with a Grand Prize of a trip anywhere in the U.S., with airline tickets sponsored by United Airlines. The Grand Prize of the live auction was a trip to India, with airline tickets sponsored by Air India.

### CITIZEN DIPLOMACY EVENTS

#### ***Coffee Conversations Series***

Citizen diplomacy over coffee and croissants! WorldChicago's Coffee Conversations series brings together our members and international visitors for friendly, informal dialogue around a diverse range of topics. In 2012, our presenters included Fulbright scholars from around the world, women in STEM fields from Africa (in partnership with the American Women for International Understanding–Chicago Chapter), cultural historians from the Buryatia region of Russia, young entrepreneurs from Africa, Brazilian government officials, an affiliate event of Chicago Ideas Week featuring religious leaders from Pakistan, high school exchange students from Eurasia, and Management Fellows from Shanghai.





International Women's Day guests tour the International Fair

### ***11<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Celebrates International Women's Day: March 8***

WorldChicago co-presented this annual celebration with the International Trade Club of Chicago and the Union League Club of Chicago to inspire conversation around the universal goals, rights, needs, dreams, and accomplishments of women around the world.

Held at the Union League Club, the event began with an International Fair showcasing local organizations, companies, associations, and universities with interests in women's and/or international affairs.

Following the fair, guests enjoyed a luncheon featuring Sarah Robb O'Hagan, Gatorade President North America and Global Chief Marketing Officer, Sports Nutrition of PepsiCo, as keynote speaker.

The luncheon — emceed by Alison Cuddy of WBEZ — also included brief cultural remarks from Avirama Golan and Roxane Assaf on the status of women in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

### ***Olympics Opening Ceremonies Party: July 27***

Members and visitors mingled with athletes and Olympians to view the spectacular London Opening Ceremonies celebration together at Dave & Buster's. This event — presented in partnership with the International Trade Club of Chicago, American Women for International Understanding Chicago Chapter, Midwest Chapter of U.S. Olympians and Paralympians, and World Sport Chicago — featured local Olympians, a bountiful buffet, and Olympics-themed trivia.



A visitor from Buryatia sings with Board member Corey Friedman at the Young Internationals Karaoke Night

### ***Young Internationals***

The Young Internationals group kicked off the year in March with a sold-out International Trivia Night at The Globe Pub. In May, citizen diplomacy was in full swing at Karaoke Night at Sakura Lounge in Chinatown, where we were joined by visitors from Buryatia, Russia. In September, we co-hosted a Young Internationals Career Night with IIT and Harold Washington College, featuring panelists from the Arts & Architecture, Business, Nonprofit, and Technology sectors.



WorldChicago members Karen Brown and Ken Nopar at the 2012 Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

### ***Annual Meeting and Holiday Party: December 4***

The Chicago Photography Center played host to WorldChicago's annual gathering of members, friends, and visitors. The meeting featured remarks from Board president George Drost and a look back at our 2012 activities and achievements. Guests — including Fulbright scholars, Shanghai Manager Fellows, and FLEX Program students — viewed an exhibit of international photography from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East while devouring a Mediterranean feast from local Turkish restaurant Turquoise.



## STAFF

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*Director of Operations*

### **John Baum**

*Associate Director — Programs*

### **Lexy Gore**

*Associate Director — Outreach*

### **Amy Krzyzek**

*Youth & Professional Programs Manager (to 9/12)*

### **Maria Krasinski**

*Youth & Professional Programs Manager (from 11/12)*



Fall interns Betty, Alex, and Karolina and Legislative Fellow Omer from Turkey are caught on television at President Obama's Election Night Rally at McCormick Place

## INTERNS

### **Alexandra Andorfer**

**Romina Cascaval**

**Sonam Deki**

**Jake Dietz**

**Gregory Fat**

**Melissa Gatter**

**Emily Gerst**

**Lula Hannes**

**Lexy Huber**

**Betty Huynh**

**Ennuri Jo**

**Wan Yee “Wendy” Leung**

**Hannah Macfarlane**

**Karolina Maslanka**

**Aja Ringenbach**

**Jessica Slaviero**

**Georgia Tankard**

*“Tough love! That is what I would call the treatment we got from the WorldChicago team. If not for their strategy not to pamper us, we would not have known the city so well!... Above all, the people of Chicago are very hospitable and are always eager to meet foreigners.”*

— KENNETH, ENTREPRENEUR FROM KENYA

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For many of our long-term international visitors, the highlight of their exchange program is the homestay with a local family. Thank you to our wonderful homestay hosts for so warmly opening your homes to our youth and professional visitors!

## HOMESTAY HOSTS

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Todd Wells & Virginia Pace  
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Lucy & Wally Wojdyla





TOP: American and Ukrainian host sisters from the FLEX Program. BOTTOM: WorldChicago members Todd Wells & Virginia Pace host international visitors for a meal

*“[My homestay  
experience taught  
me] to be more  
open-minded  
related to knowing  
new and different  
people.”*

— YOUTH PARTICIPANT,  
JOVENES EN ACCION

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Local, national, and international partners support WorldChicago's work by collaborating with us on programs, events, and special initiatives. In addition, many of WorldChicago's programs are initiated and overseen by national program agencies based in Washington, D.C. Thank you to all of the following organizations for supporting WorldChicago's work in 2012!

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American Women for International Understanding Chicago Chapter	Musicians Club of Women
Chicago Council on Global Affairs	National Association of Women Business Owners — Chicago
Chicago Ideas Week	Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness Organization
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WorldChicago would like to sincerely thank our corporate, nonprofit, and individual donors for their generous contributions in 2012. Gifts of all sizes support our efforts to bring talented emerging leaders and youth from around the world to Chicago.

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With interest from the Board, WorldChicago applied for a People-to-People license from the U.S. Department of Treasury to travel to Cuba in April 2012. Because WorldChicago is an organization that supports People-to-People exchange in all our work, we were approved in less than a month.

In total, nineteen of us had a fascinating journey in Cuba. We were educated by professors and speakers with expertise in U.S.-Cuba relations, explored the city of Havana, and learned more of the history of this intriguing island nation.





# MEETING HOSTS

WorldChicago's 2012 programs would not have been possible without the myriad Chicago-area meeting hosts who gave generously of their time to share their expertise, ideas, and interests with our international visitors. Thank you for your support of citizen diplomacy!

## 2012 TOP 25 MEETING HOSTS

- The City of Chicago
- Chicago Public Schools
- Northwestern University
- Chicago Police Department
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Loyola University Chicago
- U.S. Attorney's Office  
Northern District of Illinois
- State of Illinois Department of  
Financial and Professional Regulation
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
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- Chicago Public Media
- Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group
- DePaul University
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- Circuit Court of Cook County
- City of Chicago Board of Ethics
- Columbia College
- Community Media Workshop
- Council of Islamic Organizations  
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- Federal Bureau of Investigation
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- Legal Assistance Foundation
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*Thank you for your support!*



**WorldChicago**

72 East Randolph Street | Chicago, IL 60601

T 312.254.1800 | F 312.254.1805

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