

# Georgia Council for International Visitors

Connecting Georgians to the World Since 1962

**GCIV fosters professional, cultural and educational experiences that connect Georgia citizens and international leaders to cultivate positive global change.** Our vision is to be the Georgia organization that allows every citizen the opportunity to be more globally engaged through people to people connections.

Founded in 1962, GCIV is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that implements professional international exchange programs across Georgia, including the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Launched in 1940, the IVLP seeks to build mutual understanding between the United States and other nations through carefully designed professional visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. U.S. ambassadors consistently rank the IVLP as the most effective in a long list of public diplomacy tools.

## 2023 International Visitor Programs



## 2023 GCIV Board of Trustees

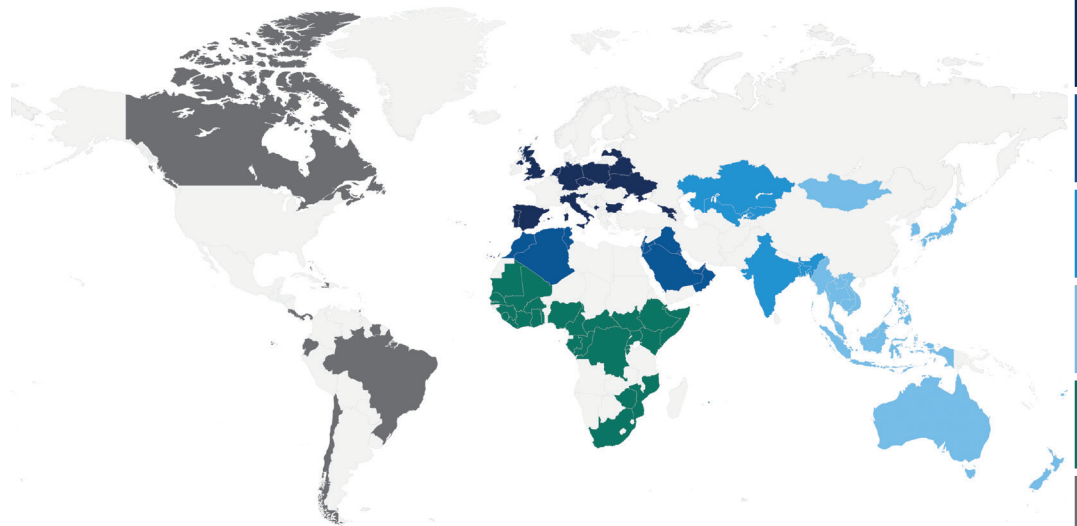
- Rashad Richey**, Chair  
Rolling Out
- Obse Ababiya**  
Emory University
- Omar Ali**  
Steel Fabrication Exponents LLC
- Christopher Chalk**  
Graphic Packaging International, LLC
- Omari Crawford**  
Georgia State Representative
- Matt Dollar**  
Technical College System of Georgia
- Sheila Jiwani**  
International Women Associates (IWA)  
President
- Robert McCormick**  
Great Decisions Lecture Series  
Coordinator
- Ahli Moore**  
X-Factor Solutions

## GCIV Staff

- Emily Shaw**, Executive Director
- Lindsey Gantt**, Program Coordinator

**660+** IVLP participants have gone on to serve as heads of state or government.

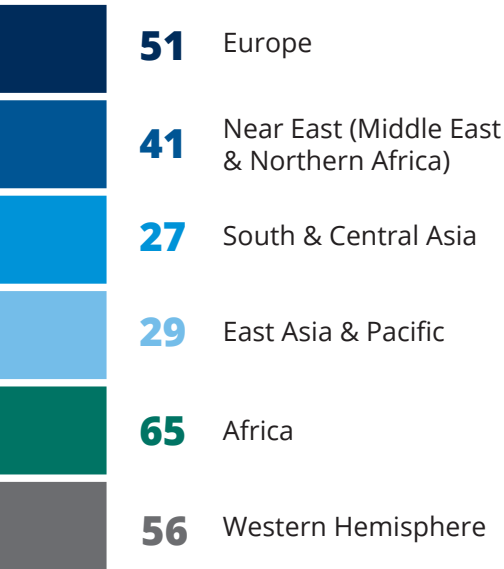
GCIV hosted **311** international visitors from **97** countries and territories to the state of Georgia in fiscal year 2023.



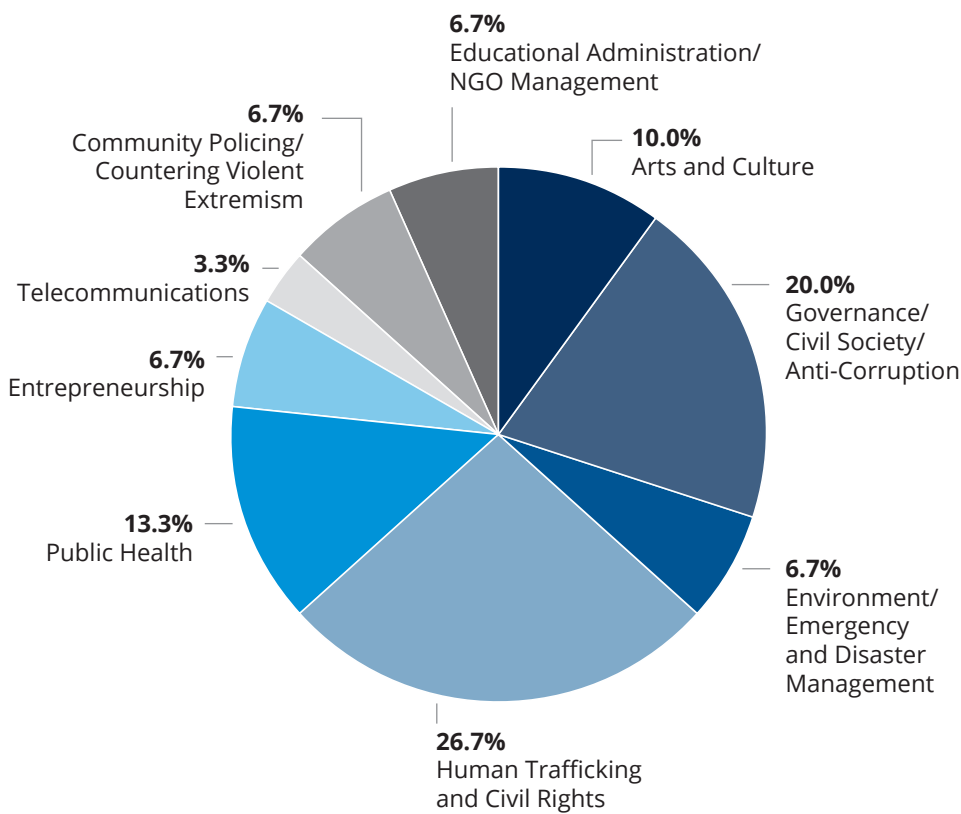
### 2023 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Participants

Country/Territory	Number of Visitors	Country/Territory	Number of Visitors	Country/Territory	Number of Visitors
Algeria	7	Guinea	1	Palestinian Territories	3
Armenia	5	Haiti	2	Panama	1
Australia	1	Hong Kong SAR	2	Philippines	2
The Bahamas	2	India	21	Poland	18
Bangladesh	1	Indonesia	1	Portugal	6
Belarus	1	Iraq	11	Republic of the Congo	1
Brazil	29	Israel	1	Rwanda	1
Brunei	1	Italy	1	São Tomé and Príncipe	1
Bulgaria	1	Japan	6	Saudi Arabia	7
Burkina Faso	3	Jordan	1	Senegal	1
Burundi	1	Kazakhstan	1	Sierra Leone	1
Burma	1	Kenya	13	Singapore	1
Cambodia	2	Kuwait	1	Slovenia	1
Cameroon	1	Kyrgyzstan	1	Somalia	1
Canada	11	Laos	1	South Africa	1
Central African Republic	1	Latvia	1	South Korea	1
Chile	1	Lebanon	1	South Sudan	3
Costa Rica	1	Liberia	9	Spain	1
Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	2	Malaysia	2	Suriname	1
Czech Republic	2	Mali	2	Thailand	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4	Mauritania	2	Timor-Leste	2
Djibouti	1	Mauritius	1	Togo	1
Ecuador	7	Mongolia	1	Trinidad and Tobago	1
Ethiopia	4	Montenegro	1	Tunisia	2
Fiji	1	Morocco	2	Uganda	3
Gabon	1	Mozambique	1	Ukraine	1
The Gambia	1	Nepal	2	United Arab Emirates	2
Georgia	2	The Netherlands	1	United Kingdom	8
Germany	1	New Zealand	1	Uzbekistan	1
Ghana	1	Nigeria	1	Vietnam	2
		Oman	3	Zimbabwe	1

### 2023 IVLP Visitors by World Region



### 2023 IVLP Visitors by Professional Focus



### 2023 Fee-for-Service Participants

Country/Territory	Number of Visitors
Belize	1
Brazil	1
Colombia	5
El Salvador	1
Honduras	1
Kenya	12
Nicaragua	2
Suriname	3
Ukraine	7
Uzbekistan	9

## FY 2023 Exchange Programs



**January 29 - February 2**

**Liberia**

*Combating Trafficking in Persons*

**January 31 - February 4**

**Portugal**

*Afro-Descent Museum Development and Management*

**February 16-22**

**Multi-Regional Program**

*Human Trafficking*

**March 11-15**

**Kazakhstan**

*International Women of Courage (IWOC) Awardee*

**March 16-22**

**Armenia**

*Strategic Communication for Government Public Affairs Officers*

**March 22-28**

**India**

*Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation in the U.S.*

**March 28 - April 1**

**Regional Africa Program**

*Combating Trafficking in Persons*

**April 4-8**

**India**

*Building Capacity in People with Disabilities*

**April 16-19**

**Brazil**

*Promoting Bilateral Health Science Collaboration*

**April 29 - May 3**

**Poland**

*U.S. Elections and Civic Engagement*

**April 29 - May 3**

**Kenya**

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

**May 12 - June 14**

**Multi-Regional Program**

*Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA)*

**May 26-29**

**Uzbekistan**

*Religious Freedom*

**June 13-17**

**Algeria**

*Promoting Entrepreneurship and Startups*

**June 24-28**

India  
*Women's Political Participation  
in Tamil Nadu*

**June 28 - July 2**

Ukraine  
*Ukrainian Documentary Filmmakers*

**July 3-8**

Brazil  
*Dismantling Racial and Social Injustice*

**July 9**

Multi-Regional Program  
*Mandela Fellows*

**July 19-22**

UK  
*Performance Art and Activism*

**July 25-29**

Regional Africa Program  
*Global Pandemic Collaboration  
and Recovery*

**August 11-16**

Iraq  
*Emergency Preparedness and Response*

**August 22-26**

Poland  
*Fostering Inclusion and Respect  
of Local Communities*

**August 31 - September 6**

Saudi Arabia  
*Boosting the Creative Economy  
and Expression through Film*

**September 29 - October 4**

Africa  
*Women Leaders - Promoting Peace  
and Security*

**October 1-7**

Japan  
*The Fight for Marriage Equality*

**October 3-7**

Multi-Regional Program  
*Opportunities and Risks of 5G Networks*

**October 19-25**

Africa  
*Connecting African Universities  
with HBCUs*

**October 25-28**

Brazil  
*Law Enforcement: Community Policing*

**November 2-8**

Regional Southeast Asia Program  
*Combatting Public Health Challenges*

**November 9-14**

Multi-Regional Program  
*NGO Management*

**November 12-15**

Ecuador  
*Minority Women and Leadership*

**November 12-15**

Canada  
*Entrepreneurship and Inclusive  
Economic Growth*

**November 15-22**

Multi-Regional Program  
*Protecting Soft Targets against  
Terrorist Attacks*

**December 8-16**

Multi-Regional Program  
*Anti Corruption Champions Initiative*

**December 9-13**

Kenya  
*Cancer Care in the U.S.*

**169** professional  
exchange meetings  
(145 IVLP)

**296** volunteer  
professional resources  
(250 IVLP)

**15** volunteer dinner  
hospitality experiences  
(12 IVLP)

Professional meetings involve the sharing of best practices between emerging leaders from around the world and their counterparts in the state of Georgia.

Dinner hospitality gives international exchange participants the opportunity to share a meal in an American home, meet everyday citizens and learn about the culture of the United States. International visitors seek to get to know hosts to acquire a better understanding of the culture of the United States. International visitors frequently rate dinner or home hospitality as the experience that most clearly demonstrated true America as well as the highlight of their exchange program.



## Community Programs

### Great Decisions

GCIV serves as the state coordinator for the Foreign Policy Association (FPA)'s Great Decisions program. In this role, GCIV helps coordinate discussion groups and lecture series that give participants the opportunity to expand their understanding of world affairs. Topics change annually and are based on the FPA's non-partisan briefing book. More than 100 people participated in the virtual 2023 Dunwoody Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series with speakers coordinated by the Atlanta Global Studies Center.

More than 100 people participated in the virtual 2023 Dunwoody Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series.

### International Women Associates (IWA)

Formed in 1978, IWA brings together 100+ women from countries around the world and North Americans who have lived abroad or have interest in international affairs to build friendships and cultural enrichment. Monthly cultural and educational programs enhance the personal and professional growth of IWA members. Previously, meetings were often held in personal homes. IWA presently meets September to May at outdoor restaurants or patios.

Topic	Speaker
Energy Geopolitics	Dr. Adam Stulberg, Georgia Institute of Technology
War Crimes	Dr. Bridgitte Stepanov, Georgia Institute of Technology
China and the U.S.	Dr. Yawei Liu, The Carter Center
Economic Warfare	Dr. Stephen Collins, Kennesaw State University
Politics in Latin America	Dr. Kirk Bowman, Georgia Institute of Technology
Global Famine	Dr. Bill Winders, Georgia Institute of Technology
Iran at a Crossroads	Dr. Kevin Jones, University of Georgia
Climate Migration	Dr. Cassandra White, Georgia State University



IWA brings together 100+ women from countries around the world and Atlantans who lived abroad or have an interest in international affairs.

## Exchange Program Highlights

### GCIV Hosts Kazakh International Women of Courage Awardee

GCIV hosted one of 11 U.S. Secretary of State 2023 International Women of Courage Awardees, Bakhytzhan Toregozhina (ba-hit-ZHAN to-re-GO-zhi-na), who has campaigned for the protection of fundamental human rights in Kazakhstan for nearly 25 years.

The U.S. Secretary of State's annual International Women of Courage (IWOC) Awards recognizes extraordinary women from around the world for demonstrating exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment, often at great personal risk and sacrifice.

Individuals are nominated by U.S. Embassies abroad and awardees participate in a U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The 11 Awardees met with both the U.S. Secretary of State and the First Lady, then visited other communities in the U.S., like Atlanta, Georgia, to connect with their professional American counterparts.

While in Georgia and in addition to professional meetings, Toregozhina was the guest of honor at a GCIV member's only reception, enjoyed dinner hospitality with volunteer GCIV hosts and toured various Atlanta cultural institutions.

Toregozhina is GCIV's sixth International Women of Courage (IWOC) Awardee. GCIV is extremely humbled and honored to host these incredibly courageous, impactful women and to connect them with Georgians.



**“[Courage is] the ability to be free and honest.”**

Bakhytzhan Toregozhina, Civil Society Activist,  
2023 International Women of Courage Awardee



## Georgia Welcomes Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellows

GCIV welcomed 14 of the brightest and ambitious young entrepreneurs from Latin and Central America participating in the U.S. Department of State's Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) fellowship program.

Atlanta, Georgia was 1 of 19 U.S. cities selected to host 2023 Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellows.

YLAI Fellows range from 25-35 years old and are identified by the U.S. Department of State as high-impact, mid-career entrepreneurs promoting economic growth across 37 countries. The Atlanta YLAI fellow cohort represented the following countries: Belize, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Suriname.

YLAI Fellows spent approximately 4 weeks in Atlanta gaining valuable professional development skills and experience at a local organization in a variety of sectors.

Upon the conclusion of their collaborative 4-week exchange in Atlanta and utilizing knowledge or experience gained during that time, fellows pitched a solution for their business. The finalist of the Solution Pitch Competition for Atlanta moved on to contend in D.C. for "YLAI Ambassador" for 2023 representing the cohort nationally.

In addition to their fellowship, the YLAI Fellows had professional meetings, pitch training with GCIV trustee Ahli Moore and Sebastian Ibarra, volunteered with Books for Africa, met GCIV board chair and radio personality Dr. Rashad Richey, attended an Atlanta Braves game and toured various Atlanta cultural institutions and historic sites. Fellows also enjoyed dinner hospitality with GCIV volunteer hosts and networked at a GCIV members only reception held in partnership with Global Atlanta.



### Exchange program alumni include:

123

Pulitzer Prize  
Winners

87

Nobel Prize  
Winners

75

current  
or former  
Representatives  
to the United  
Nations

\*Alumni of Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) programs.

GCIV will host another cohort of YLAI Fellows in March 2024.

**gciv**  
Georgia Council for International Visitors

Georgia Council for International Visitors (GCIV)  
1920 Dresden Drive NE, #191322  
Brookhaven, Georgia 30319-9998

(404) 832-5560 | [www.gciv.org](http://www.gciv.org)

**f** @GeorgiaCouncilforInternationalVisitors

**in** @company/georgiacouncilforinternationalvisitors