

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 National 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.

2024 International Visitor Programs



FY 2024 IVLP Totals
32 programs | 310 visitors

FY 2024 Fee-for-Service Totals
5 programs | 42 visitors

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

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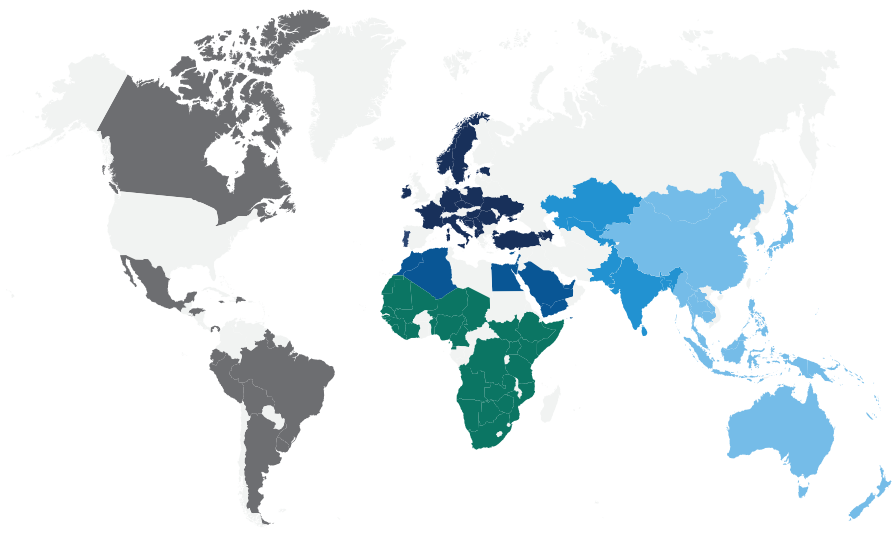
Ted Terry
DeKalb County Super District 6

GCIV Staff

Emily Shaw, Executive Director

Lindsey Gantt, Program Coordinator

GCIV hosted **352**
international visitors
from **105** countries and
territories to the state
of Georgia in fiscal
year 2024.



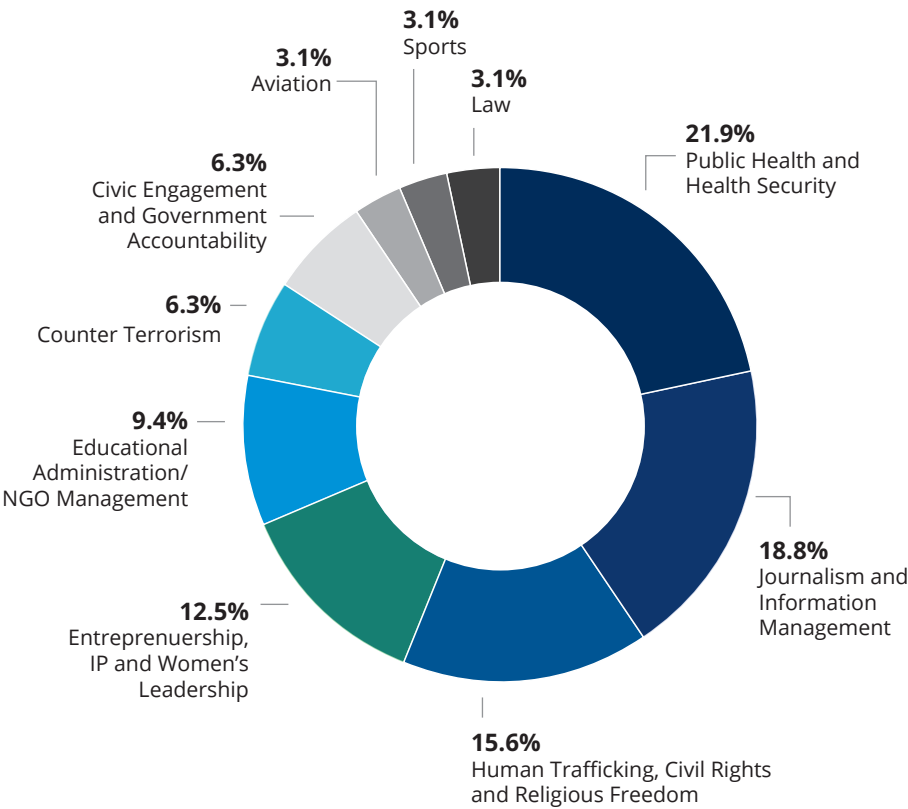
2024 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Participants

Country/Territory	Number of Visitors	Country/Territory	Number of Visitors	Country/Territory	Number of Visitors
Albania	1	Guinea	4	Panama	1
Algeria	4	Guinea-Bissau	4	Paraguay	1
Angola	1	Guyana	3	People's Republic of China	9
Argentina	3	Honduras	1	Peru	1
Armenia	5	Hong Kong	1	Philippines	1
Australia	3	Hungary	1	Portugal	1
Azerbaijan	1	India	7	Republic of Kosovo	7
Bangladesh	3	Indonesia	5	Republic of North Macedonia	1
Belarus	2	Iraq	16	Romania	1
Benin	1	Ireland	1	Rwanda	3
Bolivia	1	Israel	3	Saudi Arabia	5
Bosnia	1	Italy	2	Senegal	3
Botswana	2	Jamaica	1	Serbia	2
Brazil	1	Japan	1	Sierra Leone	1
Burkina Faso	11	Jordan	3	South Africa	3
Burma	2	Kazakhstan	6	South Korea	2
Cameroon	2	Kenya	8	Sri Lanka	1
Canada	6	Kyrgyz Republic	1	Suriname	2
Chad	1	Latvia	1	Sweden	1
Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	2	Lebanon	9	Tajikistan	2
Croatia	1	Lesotho	1	Tanzania	2
Cyprus	1	Liberia	3	Thailand	1
Czech Republic	1	Malaysia	4	Togo	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	Mali	1	Tunisia	3
Djibouti	1	Mauritania	2	Turkey	2
Dominican Republic	1	Mexico	10	Uganda	2
Ecuador	1	Mongolia	1	Ukraine	2
Egypt	10	Morocco	8	United Arab Emirates	10
Equatorial Guinea	1	Mozambique	2	Uruguay	1
Estonia	1	Namibia	2	Uzbekistan	5
Ethiopia	3	Nepal	3	West Bank	1
Finland	1	New Zealand	1	Yemen	1
France	1	Niger	3	Zambia	2
Germany	2	Nigeria	6	Zimbabwe	3
Ghana	4	Norway	1		
		Pakistan	1		

*Chart does not reflect Fee-for-Service program participants.



2024 IVLP Visitors by Professional Focus



2024 Fee-for-Service Participants

Country/Territory	Number of Visitors
Angola	6
Antigua and Barbuda	1
The Bahamas	1
Brazil	7
Cameroon	1
Colombia	1
Dominican Republic	1
Ecuador	2
Guatemala	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Mexico	7
Nicaragua	2
Pakistan	10
Suriname	1

FY 2024 Exchange Programs



January 24-27

Regional North Africa and Middle East Program

Human and Civil Rights Advocacy and Awareness

February 1-7

Regional North Africa and Middle East Program

Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists: U.S. Foreign Policy

February 3-8

Uzbekistan

Establishing a Public Health Institute

February 6-10

Regional Middle East Program

Countering Disinformation and Malign Influence

February 9-14

Armenia

Supporting Integration and Human Rights of Displaced Persons

March 7 - April 7

Multi Regional Program

Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA)

March 26-31

Guinea-Bissau

Public Universities' Administration in the U.S.

April 4-8

India

Promoting Religious Freedom as a Constitutional Right

April 9-13

Regional Program

Global Public Health Challenges

April 10-16

Multi Regional Program

Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists: Research & Investigation

April 24-30

Regional Africa Program

Global Public Health Challenges

May 15-19

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Combatting Trafficking in Persons

May 21-25

Canada

Fostering Cross-Border Collaboration within U.S.-Based Minority-and-Indigenous-Owned Small Businesses

June 4-8

[Multi Regional Program](#)

Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists: Media Responsibility in an Age of Disinformation

June 4-8

[Morocco](#)

Protecting Soft Targets Against Terrorist Attacks

July 11-17

[Multi Regional Program](#)

Advancing Global Health Equity

June 18-22

[Multi Regional Program](#)

Human and Civil Rights for Marginalized Communities

June 25-29

[Regional Africa Program](#)

Women Leaders - Promoting Peace and Security

June 25-29

[Kosovo](#)

Fostering Civic Engagement and Political Participation of Minority Communities in the U.S.

June 30 - July 3

[Regional Africa Program](#)

Intellectual Property Rights

July 9-13

[Multi Regional Program](#)

Protecting Soft Targets Against Terrorist Attacks

July 10-14

[Burkina Faso](#)

Transparency and Accountability in Government

July 14

[Angola, Brazil and Mexico](#)

Female Youth Flag Football Athletes

July 18-24

[Indonesia](#)

Enhancing Civil Aviation Prosperity and Engagement: Open Skies Implementation

July 23-27

[Lebanon](#)

NGO Management

July 24-27

[Regional Program](#)

Women and Entrepreneurship

July 25-31

[Egypt](#)

Strategies to Strengthen Health Security

July 31 - August 4

[Iraq](#)

Communication and Information Management

August 6-10

[Kazakhstan](#)

Advancing Leadership in Health Research, Education and Disease Surveillance

September 24-28

[Regional Africa Program](#)

Rule of Law and the U.S. Judicial System

September 24-28

[China](#)

New and Traditional American Media in the Digital Age

September 26 - October 1

[Regional Africa Program](#)

Developing University Partnerships: Connecting African Universities with HBCUs

September 28 - October 3

[Cameroon and Kyrgyzstan](#)

Humphrey Fellows: Leadership

November 6-9

[Multi Regional Program](#)

Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists: Media Responsibility in an Age of Disinformation

November 14-17

[Mexico](#)

Management and Economic Development of Sports Facilities

December 14-18

[Pakistan](#)

Promoting Religious Tolerance and Inclusion

250 professional
(211 IVLP) exchange meetings

309 volunteer
(256 IVLP) professional resources

31 volunteer dinner
(21 IVLP) hospitality experiences

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 2024 Dunwoody Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series with speakers coordinated by the Atlanta Global Studies Center.

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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
Mideast Realignment	Dr. Allen Fromherz, Georgia State University
Climate Technology & Competition	Dr. Timothy Lieuwen, Georgia Institute of Technology
Science Across Borders	Dr. Margaret Kosal, Georgia Institute of Technology
U.S.-China Trade Rivalry	Penelope Prime, China Research Center
NATO's Future	General Philip Breedlove, Georgia Institute of Technology
Understanding Indonesia	Dr. Bibek Chand, University of North Georgia
Highseas Treaty	Dr. Patricia Yager, University of Georgia
Pandemic Preparation	Dr. Monica Schoch-Spana, Johns Hopkins University



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

International Consular Ball

Atlanta's international community gathered for the 40th International Consular Ball on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at Porsche Experience Center Atlanta.

GCIV's largest single fundraising event for the year, the annual gala is the premier diplomatic event in Atlanta honoring the 70+ members of the Georgia Consular Corps for their role in promoting international ties in business, education, science and culture. Residing in Georgia, the Consular Corps, which include both career and honoraries, represent foreign government across the southeastern U.S.

The 40th Consular Ball was chaired by GCIV Board Chair Dr. Rashad Richey and themed Stronger Together: A Global Commitment to Health. Governor of Georgia Brian Kemp and Mayor of the City of Atlanta Andre Dickens provided video remarks. The Dean of the Georgia Consular Corps and Consul General of Mexico in Atlanta, Ambassador Javier Díaz de León gave remarks.

Emceed by Emmy award-winning news anchor/reporter Monica Kaufman Pearson, the evening featured exciting live performances by Naach Dance Academy, Atlanta Young Singers and TEOTL Foundation Inc. followed by an open dance floor with tunes provided by DJ DT.

The 40th International Consular Ball silent auction was a tremendous success. Proceeds from the Consular Ball enable the continuation and expansion of GCIV's vital work to bring the world to Georgia through international exchange programs and honor the Georgia Consular Corps for their role in building and promoting international ties. All of these efforts contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world.

GCIV held the first International Consular Ball in 1981. There were approximately 32 Georgia Consular Corps at that time.



Georgia Welcomes Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) Fellows

GCIV welcomed 12 of the brightest and ambitious young entrepreneurs from the Caribbean, Latin and Central America participating in the U.S. Department of State's Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) fellowship program.

Atlanta, Georgia was 1 of 19 U.S. cities selected to host 2024 Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) Fellows.

YLA 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 YLA fellow cohort represented the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Suriname.

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

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.

Exchange Program Highlight: YLA

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 "YLA Ambassador" for 2024 representing the cohort nationally.

In addition to their fellowship, the YLA Fellows had professional meetings, pitch training with GCIV trustee Ahli Moore and Trevor Williams, volunteered with Books for Africa, attended an Atlanta Hawks 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.



gciv
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