



ST. LOUIS MOSAIC PROJECT

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 is 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 indicates 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.

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.

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 27-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: St. Louis 2020 – Fastest Growing U.S. Major Metropolitan Area for Immigration. For 2015, Hit this goal!

Strategic Areas

Business & Talent Retention,

Assisted by Civic Progress, Regional Chamber, Regional Business Council, Entrepreneurship Groups
Use innovative strategies to match foreign born talent with opportunities and encourage entrepreneurship.

University Engagement

Chairs: Joel Glassman & Julian Schuster, assisted by Regional Business Council
Attract and support international students for earlier and deeper integration into the community with the goal of keeping more in needed regional jobs.

Government Affairs

Assisted by Regional Chamber and Commerce Bank
Educate at local, state, national level about economic value of immigrants. Track legislative bills that impact welcoming foreign born. Work with others to impact local changes on policies and

Communication, Attraction

Chair: Kitty Ratcliffe
Raise the profile of STL region on a national & international level, showing actions of inclusion and welcoming. . Emphasis on Ambassadors, Latino outreach, website optimization and leverage of Brookings Global Cities

Quality of Life and Analysis

QOL Chair: Anna Crosslin
Develop ideal services and programs for racial equity: legal, health, finance, housing, transportation, safety, faith, sports, arts
Analysis Chair: Bob Fox
Leverage data and new best practice research for regional growth

Betsy Cohen—Executive Director

Vin Ko – Sr. Program Manager **Amela Kuckovic**-Assoc. Prj. Mgr.

Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Rodney Crim – President, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Joe Reagan – President & CEO, St. Louis Regional Chamber

Sheila Sweeney – CEO, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Steering Committee Members

Edgar Aguilar-EVP HR, Operations & Tech, MasterCard

Paul Bland-Global Head Customer Administration, Thomson Reuters

Nancy Brickhouse-Provost, St. Louis University

Jim Buford – Civic Leader

Gay Burns-Civic Progress representative (EVP HR at RGA)

Ethel Byndom-Interim Director, St. Louis County Community Empowerment Office

Sable Campbell-Dir. Diversity/Inclusion, Office of St. Louis City Mayor

Anna Crosslin – President & CEO, International Institute of St. Louis

Bob Fox – Board Chairman, Casa de Salud

Joel Glassman – Associate Provost, University of Missouri St. Louis

Anthony Gonzalez-Angel –Partner, Tota Investments, RBC representative

Abdullatif Hamad, Chair of Physics, International Student liaison at SIUE

Melissa Harper—Vice President, Global Talent Acquisition, Diversity & HR Compliance, Monsanto Company

Alicia Hayek-Director, Human Resources, MilliporeSigma

Molly Hyland – Senior Vice President, Commerce Bank

Edward S. Macias – Provost Emeritus Barbara and David Thomas Distinguished Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

Michael McMillan-President and CEO Urban League STL

John Nations – President & CEO, Bi-State Development Agency/Metro

Patricia Ovca – Sr. HR Business Partner, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

Javier Orozco- Interfaith Partnership Cabinet Representative (Archdiocese)

Kathleen “Kitty” Ratcliffe – President, St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission

Julian Schuster – Provost and Senior Vice President, Webster University

Peter Tao—Founder, TAO + LEE

Advisors to the Steering Committee

Kathy Osborn – Executive Director, The Regional Business Council(RBC)

Tom Irwin – Executive Director, Civic Progress

Tim Nowak – Executive Director, World Trade Center St. Louis

Ellen Harshman-St. Louis University

Dee Joyner - Senior Vice President Commerce Bank