



International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Location: Fink Studio
2506 Ponce de León Blvd., Coral Gables, Florida

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Olga Ramudo	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	E	P	P			Mayor Vince Lago
Vicky Rua	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	UA	E			Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Alfonso Cueto	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	P	P			Comm. Richard Lara
Raoul Cantero	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	UA	P			Comm. Ariel Fernandez
Richard Montes de Oca	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	P	P			Comm. Melissa Castro
Ilsa Danielson	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	E	P	P			Peter Iglesias
Estrellita Sibila	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P			Council-at-Large Appointment

A = Absent P = Present E = Excused UA = Unexcused Absence X = No Meeting F = Former Member

The International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m.
Chair Ramudo welcomed everyone to the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from September 30, 2025, IACC meeting was made by Vice Chair Montes de Oca and Board Member Cueto seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

- The focus of today's meeting is on strengthening existing Sister City's relationships before pursuing new ones. Current active sister cities include La Antigua, Cartagena, San Isidro, Aix-en-Provence, and Sevilla, with tentative discussions ongoing with Santa Tecla. Expansion to new cities will depend on board engagement, community interest, and adherence to established Sister City's guidelines. Past experiences highlighted the importance of coordination between the mayor, board members, and city staff to ensure the success of sister city relationships and avoid oversights.
- Several ongoing and upcoming initiatives were highlighted. For San Isidro, a video conference has been scheduled to explore collaborative opportunities involving city staff, volunteers, and consulate contacts. Engagement with Sevilla continues through the Greater Miami Chamber trips and board coordination, while Uruguay will host an art exhibit during the FIFA World Cup, integrating cultural and sports engagement.

- International Sister Cities Day, celebrated on October 14th to honor Eisenhower’s founding of the Sister Cities School, was emphasized as an opportunity to expand into a full week of events, showcasing cultural exchange and community participation.
- Cultural and community events were also a key focus. Past events included Carnival of Barranquilla, French month with participation of Mayor Sophie Joissains and team from Aix-en-Provence, Feria de Sevilla, Fiesta Nacional de España, and Malaga murals and receptions. New initiatives are planned, including rotating art and cultural exhibits featuring sister city artists, a Sip & Shop event on Miracle Mile, and multi-sister city event incorporating food, music, and interactive experiences. Venues under consideration include the Coral Gables Museum, the Coral Gables Country Club, Ponce Circle Park, and other temporary outdoor locations, balancing accessibility with available resources.
- Budget and funding considerations were discussed, noting that \$20,000 in in-kind services are allocated annually for five international cultural event initiatives. Small-scale events can be executed with minimal cost, while larger-scale events may require additional approvals and help. Some private venues charge fees, though city-supported spaces are available for low-cost or no-cost use.
- Volunteer and internship support was identified as critical to the Economic Development program’s success.
- Finally, board coordination and administration were emphasized. The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 17th, with final confirmation pending. Effective communication and scheduling with consulates, sister cities, and city staff are crucial for planning and executing events. Recommendations moving forward include solidifying relationships with current sister cities, developing rotating cultural events, leveraging International Sister Cities Day for broader community engagement, identifying low-cost venues, encouraging volunteer participation, and prioritizing quality over quantity in all initiatives. Strategic planning, active board involvement, and strong coordination are essential for the continued success and sustainability of Coral Gables’ international programs.
- **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Cantero and seconded by Vice Chair Montes de Oca. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
 Leticia Perez
 International Business Development Representative
 Economic Development Department
 City of Coral Gables