

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
 Meeting Minutes
 Monday, May 18th, 2026
 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	P	-	E	-	E	-							Mayor Vince Lago
Vicky Rua	UA	-	P	-	P	-							Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Alfonso Cueto	P	-	P	-	P	-							Comm. Richard Lara
Raoul Cantero	E	-	P	-	P	-							Comm. Ariel Fernandez
Richard Montes de Oca	P	-	P	-	P	-							Comm. Melissa Castro
Ilsa Danielson	P	-	UA	-	UA	-							Peter Iglesias
Estrellita Sibila	P	-	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 4:12 p.m. Vice Chair, Montes de Oca welcomed everyone to the Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2026, IACC meeting was made by Board member Cueto and Board member Rua seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

COUNTRY REPORT

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

Board member Cueto reported on the successful sawdust carpet installation presented at the Coral Gables Museum from March 27–April 16, 2026. The project was highly successful, with strong public participation and positive reception from the community and the Consulate.

Members highlighted the cultural authenticity of the installation and participation by Guatemalan artisans and youth volunteers. The project was completed primarily through donated materials and limited City expenditure. The Council noted the event as a strong model for future cultural collaborations and discussed increasing public interaction opportunities for similar installations.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Ms. Leticia Perez reviewed the City’s application for international awards recognition related to programming with its Sister City Aix-en-Provence.

The submission highlighted French Month, museum programming, exhibitions, film screenings, and cultural exchanges. Members emphasized the importance of continued participation in international award programs to elevate the City's cultural profile.

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA

Board member Cantero discussed efforts to reestablish engagement with Cartagena under new municipal leadership, which includes a letter being prepared to send to Mr. Tarik new Mayor of Cartagena de Indias. Members also discussed expanding Colombian cultural programming, including potential collaborations with cities such as Cali, known for its cultural and performing arts traditions (music and dance).

SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA

Vice Chair Montes de Oca gave an update on ongoing collaboration with San Isidro, focusing on Smart City initiatives, urban planning, and environmental beautification.

Due to scheduling limitations, coordination will proceed virtually with municipal counterparts. Areas of interest include technology exchange and sustainability practices.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- **FIFA World Cup 2026**

Members discussed opportunities related to the FIFA World Cup, emphasizing economic impact, tourism, and cultural visibility.

A FIFA-donated official match ball will be installed in a public plaza as a visitor activation. Additionally programming ideas included public watch areas and cultural events aligned with World Cup activities, subject to FIFA guidelines.

- **Uruguay Cultural Exhibition**

Mrs. Belkys Perez announced an upcoming exhibition in partnership with the Consulate of Uruguay featuring soccer-themed artwork by Uruguayan artist Daniel Supervielle.

The installation will remain on display throughout July and is intended to complement World Cup-related programming.

- **Mexico – Sip & Shop Activation**

Mrs. Perez spoke about the successful “Sip & Shop” activation along Miracle Mile with the Mexican Consulate. The event activated retail spaces, featured Mexican cultural offerings, included local entrepreneurs, and direct proceeds to a designated charitable foundation.

Cultural Installation

She also reviewed with the board the success of the “Cielo Tejido” installation in partnership with the Consulate of Mexico City. The project was supported through private sponsorships and community partnerships and highlighted strong collaboration between the city, consulate, and local businesses.

- **Strategic Programming & Calendar Development**

The Board emphasized the importance of aligning cultural programming with economic development goals, including tourism and international visibility. Members supported the development of an annual international events calendar to improve coordination and public awareness.

- **Upcoming Consular Corps Networking Luncheon Event – June 12**

Members were briefed on the June 12 international luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables featuring Mayor Vince Lago and trade attorney Jennifer Diaz, focusing on global trade and economic development. The event will include participation from consular representatives and international trade officials.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2026.

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