



International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 21, 2024

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	E	P	P	X	P	P	E			Mayor Vince Lago
Vicky Rua	P	P	A	E	P	P	X	P	E	P			Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Sadia M. Raja	P	P	A	P	UA	E	X	P	A	F			Comm. Kirk Menendez
Raoul Cantero	P	P	P	E	P	E	X	E	A	P			Comm. Ariel Fernandez
Richard Montes de Oca	P	E	P	P	E	P	X	P	E	A			Comm. Melissa Castro
Alejandra Collarte 0000	E	P	E	P	P	P	X	E	P	F			Amos Rojas, Jr., C.M.
Ilsa Danielson New Board Member 10/21/24										P			
Rafael Gavarrete	E	P	E	P	P	UA	X	P	P	F			Council-at-Large Appointment

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

The International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m.

There was no quorum in the room for the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC). An informational meeting took place instead. Mrs. Belkys Perez, Director of Economic Development, welcomed everyone to the committee.

Board members and guests were asked to introduce themselves, among them were Mr. Amos Rojas Jr., City Manager for the City of Coral Gables and Mrs. Ilsa Danielson, new IACC Board member.

- Mrs. Belkys Perez provided IACC Board members and guests with a brief history of the International Affairs Coordinating Council committee from its inception in 1950 to the present. She also presented an overview of La Feria de Sevilla en Miami 2025, scheduled for March 8, 2025. This annual event originally known as La Feria de Abril, takes place each year in Sevilla, Spain, two weeks after Easter. Recognized globally, La Feria is organized by the Club Expats LLC and the Consulate of Spain to celebrate and preserve Spanish cultural heritage. Club expats have proudly hosted the Miami version of this fair for five consecutive years, beginning in 2019.

This Fair was introduced to the city by Olga Ramudo, Chair of the IACC, who represents Sevilla, one of Coral Gables Sister Cities. The event will be part of the City’s International Cultural events program.

Attendees will enjoy traditional Spanish cuisine and beverages, Andalusian horse exhibition, live performances and music featuring international Flamenco artists and much more.

Mrs. Perez is confident that, given the city's demographics and its history of hosting cultural events, La Feria de Sevilla would be an excellent fit for both residents and visitors of Coral Gables.

COUNTRY REPORT

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Board member Rua reported that she is currently collaborating with Aix representatives and EDO staff on various activities and events planned for next year. Mrs. Belkys Perez informed the members that in February 2025, the city will celebrate French month, featuring a range of French themed activities around Coral Gables. Ms. Leticia Perez then shared some of the events that Aix-en-Provence would like to bring, including a visit from Mr. Denis Coutagne, President of the Cezanne Association, and the possibility of screening Cezanne et Moi at the Gables Art Cinema.

Mrs. Perez added that future details on French Month would be provided at the next IACC meeting.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Ms. Leticia Perez gave a brief update on the delegation of 11 firefighters from Cartagena, Colombia who participated in a week training program with the Coral Gables Fire Department from August 12 to August 16. The fire fighters received collaborative training with support from other municipalities fire stations. On the final day, each firefighter was awarded a certificate of completion, and all expressed gratitude for the valuable experience. Several participants mentioned an interest in returning for future training opportunities.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.

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