



International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 30, 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				Mayor Vince Lago
Vicky Rua	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	UA				Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Alfonso Cueto	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	P				Comm. Richard Lara
Raoul Cantero	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	UA				Comm. Ariel Fernandez
Richard Montes de Oca	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	P	P				Comm. Melissa Castro
Ilsa Danielson	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	E	P				Peter Iglesias
Vacancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					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 4:05 p.m.
Chair Ramudo welcomed everyone to the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from August 18, 2025, IACC meeting was made by Board member Cueto and Vice Chair Montes de Oca seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

- The International Affairs Committee meeting was called to order on September 30, 2025, at Fink Studio. Members were present, and introductions were made before reviewing the agenda and topics for discussion.
- Regarding sister city relationships, the committee discussed La Antigua, Guatemala, whose sister city agreement remains active despite being dormant for some time. Past engagements included visits from mayors and city officials, as well as aid such as fire trucks. The committee agreed not to drop the agreement but to maintain contact for potential future engagement. Board member Cueto was tasked with obtaining updated contact information and establishing initial communications with La Antigua.
- The committee then reviewed the San Isidro, Argentina agreement, which was formalized in September 2019. Recent communications with the mayor confirmed continued interest, and two contacts were provided for coordinating the sister city relationship. A virtual meeting was proposed to discuss priorities in education, science, technology, and cultural programming, with a tentative in-person visit planned for December 2025 to solidify the relationship. Committee members emphasized an exploratory approach, allowing San Isidro to propose initial ideas.

- The Malaga, Spain murals project was also discussed. Artist Lalone, at no cost to the city, is painting murals in Coral Gables, expected to be completed by October 15, 2025. Coordination involved finalizing agreements for privately-owned walls, and a reception is planned at Mayor Belen Alfaro's residence following the unveiling. Committee members expressed gratitude to Malaga city officials for their contribution.
- The meeting also covered challenges with city regulations for cultural events, such as restrictions on horses, on-site cooking, and cleanup times, with comparisons made to Carnival on the Mile. The committee agreed that future planning should address city restrictions early while emphasizing the cultural and economic value these events bring to Coral Gables.
- The preparation of the committee's annual report was discussed. Highlights will include sister city activities, cultural events such as Carnaval de Barranquilla, Feria de Sevilla, and Day of the Dead, as well as economic and trade engagement. The report will be submitted to the city clerk's office for review and approval and aims to capture accomplishments and future priorities. Committee members were reminded of the importance of city assignments to maximize engagement, with Board member Cantero responsible for Cartagena and Board member Rua for Aix-en-Provence.
- During open discussion, the committee explored the possibility of an annual international sister cities event at City Hall, featuring booths, cultural presentations, and traditional foods and dress. The committee noted that this would require careful planning and potentially professional event management support. Updates to the City of Coral Gables website were also highlighted, including the International Cultural Programs section with examples of past events and links to grant applications for consulates. Once the annual report is finalized, it will also be added to the site.
- The meeting included motions to approve the leadership of the committee. **A motion was made by Board member, Alfonso Cueto and seconded by Board member Ilsa Danielson to approve Olga Ramudo as Chair and Richard Montes de Oca as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.**
- The committee then heard from board as a whole candidate Estrellita Sibila, who presented her background as a zoning attorney, green building specialist, and founder of Philanthropes. She discussed her experience with trade missions, philanthropic initiatives, and diplomatic training, emphasizing her interest in cultural, economic, and trade engagement. Following her presentation, **a motion was made by Vice Chair Richard Montes de Oca and seconded by Board member Alfonso Cueto to recommend Estrellita Sibila to be appointed to the Council at Large. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Finally, future planning for sister city engagement was reviewed. A virtual meeting with San Isidro contacts is scheduled for November, followed by a tentative in-person visit in December. The committee agreed to continue maintaining and strengthening sister city relationships. The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2025, and items from this meeting will go to the commission on October 14, 2025. The meeting was adjourned following these discussions.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned. The meeting concluded with thanks extended to all attendees and guests.

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