

🇺🇸 Uncle Sam in the Six 🇺🇸

A newsletter brought to you by the U.S. Consulate General Toronto Public Affairs Section

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

MAY-JULY 2018

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U.S. Consulate General Toronto Marches for the First Time Pride Toronto



Along with hanging the Pride flag for the fifth consecutive year, the U.S. Consulate Toronto marched for the first time in the Pride Toronto parade to celebrate the third anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage in the U.S. and to show its support for the LGBTQ community.

More than 120 groups marched with some 197 different floats in the parade, one of the biggest in North America. The participants marched 22 blocks and were cheered by more than 100,000 people all the way through Toronto's iconic Church and Wellesley neighborhood, down Yonge Street from Bloor Street in the north to Dundas Street East in the south. The crowd showed their support as Consulate employees marched in the Parade together with their families.

The Consulate reached more than 14,000 people on its social media platforms highlighting the event.

U.S. Consulate General Toronto's Partner Wilfrid Laurier University is Awarded 100K Strong Grant



The Department of State awarded Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) of Waterloo, Ontario with a 100K Strong in the Americas grant for the creation of an exchange program with Syracuse University, Cornell University, and the State University of New York- Buffalo, at a ceremony at the National Association for International Educators (NAFSA) conference in Philadelphia, on May 29, 2018. The \$25,000 grant will create a program entitled "Indigenous Mobility and Curriculum across

Borders." This program was inspired by the strong and meaningful associations with Indigenous people and their territories in both the U.S. and Canada. WLU, with its multiple U.S. university partners, will collaborate on a pilot exchange program to increase the mobility of Indigenous students between Canada and the United States. The exchange experience will be enriched by research opportunities during which students—in consultation with community-based partners and Indigenous

scholars at host institutions—will work together to collect and develop an online database of Indigenous curriculum resources. The program will culminate in a symposium hosted by WLU that will highlight the potential for Indigenous exchange and curriculum in both New York and Ontario, and launch the resources online to a wide network of institutions.

WLU is a member of the U.S. Consulate's U.S.-Ontario Education Working Group which aims to increase educational exchange between the province's universities and institutions in the United States.

Addressing the Opioid Crisis: Expert Forum in Toronto



On May 3, 2018, the U.S. Consulate General Toronto co-hosted a one-day forum with the Canadian Center on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) featuring experts from the U.S. and Canada who shared knowledge and solutions on the opioid crisis that has hit both countries. U.S. speakers included Dr. Jane Ballantyne, President of the Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, and Dr. Miriam Komaromy, Associate Director of the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico. The

speakers discussed how treatment efforts in the U.S. can inform those being implemented in Canada, and how decision makers and healthcare professionals can learn from each other. U.S. Consul General Juan Alsace gave opening remarks. This program is a part of a larger U.S. Mission to Canada campaign to provide resources to combat the opioid epidemic.

Through a media advisory, media outlets were invited to cover the event. CityTV interviewed the speakers in addition to Public Affairs: <http://toronto.citynews.ca/video/2018/05/03/medical-community-gathers-to-search-for-solutions-to-opioid-crisis/>. CTV also covered the event: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/video?binId=1.3378531>

Canadian Music Week: America's Musical Journey in the Spotlight



On May 9, 2018, U.S. Consul General Juan Alsace delivered remarks during an advance screening of Brand USA's Film "America's Musical Journey" at Canadian Music Week (CMW) in Toronto. CMW is Canada's longest-running and most important music industry event. The film features Grammy Award-nominated Aloe Blacc as he traces the roots of American music and explores the great musical cities of New Orleans, Chicago, Nashville, Miami, and New York City.

The movie was followed by a reception hosted by Brand USA for approximately 500 people with a live performance by Aloe Blacc.

The event was great opportunity to promote U.S. travel destinations and U.S. music exports. Public Affairs Section provided social media support and reached 13,047 people.

U.S. Consulate General Toronto Partners with Largest Photography Festival Worldwide

For the first time, U.S. Consulate General Toronto supported the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival -- the world's largest photography festival, held annually in Toronto. Now in its 22nd year, CONTACT brings together 200 exhibitions throughout the month of May. The U.S. Consulate partnered with CONTACT through a grant to highlight several U.S. photographers who focus on key



themes. Public Affairs attended the launch of the festival as well as the opening public panel- CONTACT International Photography Talks: Public Art- held at the Art Gallery of Ontario on April 29. The panel featured two U.S. artists, John Edmonds and Charlie Engman along with two Canadians, a British and a Dutch photographer. John Edmonds’ photographic series, Hoods, is concerned with the visualization of contemporary Black masculinity and addresses the architecture of clothing and the way bodies in public space are seen and understood. The artist foregrounds how viewers associate apparel such as hooded sweatshirts with race, gender, and age. His work was featured in a series of large panels on King St. in downtown Toronto.

U.S. Filmmakers Reach 3,000 Students at Hot Docs Festival



Through its support for the innovative “Docs for Schools” (DFS) program, in conjunction with the Hot Docs Canadian International Film Festival, PAS Toronto brought five American documentaries and directors to students from 73 school boards who attended screenings at no cost. Since its inception in 2006, over 880,000 students have connected with documentary films as an educational tool through DFS.

In one film, American director spent two years profiling UN Envoy Nadia Murad as she brought the spotlight on the Yazidi genocide in Iraq through her personal story. The Yazidi film, “On Her Shoulders” by American filmmaker Alexandria Bombach, was named Student Choice for the Festival, and will be included as one of three films to be toured across the Greater Toronto Area all year. Also popular was “Time for Ilhan” which chronicles the rise of a Somali-American woman from Minnesota who became the first Somali American elected to office in the United States. PAS connected “Time for Ilhan” Director Noah Shapiro with Somali-Canadians for a screening and Q & A. PAS also sponsored “Believer”, a film about the lead singer for Imagine Dragons singer and his struggle to reconcile the Mormon faith and LGBT rights. That film was picked up at Hot Docs by HBO for wider distribution. Also, “Inventing Tomorrow”, which follows student finalists at the Intel Science and Engineering Fair, and “Don’t Be Nice,” in which a team of black poets from New York make it to the National Slam Poetry Competition.

Welcoming “Come From Away” Creators to the U.S. Consulate General Toronto



U.S. Consul General Juan Alsace welcomed Come From Away creators David Hein and Irene Sankoff to the Consulate in Toronto on May 9, 2018. Irene and David, an American-Canadian couple, shared the story behind the creation of their Tony award-winning musical which depicts binational friendship in the wake of 9/11.

The Consulate also wished a Happy 100th performance to Come From Away Toronto on its social media platforms and reached 7,772 people.

CAJ Conference: U.S. Consulate Toronto Supports Prominent U.S. Journalists



U.S. Consulate Toronto supported costs to bring three American journalists to address the national conference of the Canadian Journalism Foundation in Toronto from May 4-6, 2018. The annual conference offered delegates a wide variety of sessions for skills development, discussion of current issues and trends, as well as networking opportunities -- all related to journalism and freedom of speech.

Three prominent U.S. journalists, Amy King, Editor-in-Chief of The Lily, a publication of The Washington Post, the New York Times' Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Katie Benner and investigative freelancer Jenni Monet shared their insights with conference participants during one of Canada's major journalism gatherings. Topics included the #metoo movement, civic engagement and changes in media landscape.

Participants also heard talks on aboriginal issues, human rights, investigative journalism, social media, photojournalism, immigration, fake news, etc.

The conference was followed by the 2017 CAJ Awards. 2017 CAJ Awards were awarded to a number of reporters for outstanding investigative journalism in Canada published or broadcast in 2017 under variety of categories including indigenous and human rights reporting. U.S. Consulate Toronto was recognized for its support during the gala.

U.S. Consulate General Toronto Supports Intellectual Property Rights Panel at Canadian Music Week



Toronto hosted Canadian Music Week -- an annual industry conference and music festival- from May 7-18. This year's spotlight was on the U.S. and many American music cities were highlighted at the event as part of BrandUSA's tourism campaign. To address the cross-border topic of Intellectual Property Rights, Public Affairs joined forces with the Consulate's Foreign Commercial Service to bring a U.S. IPR expert to participate at the conference as a panelist. The panelist, a well-regarded D.C. researcher, joined Canadian artists and the General Counsel for Music Canada to look at how we can work together to strengthen IPR to support musicians on both sides of the border.

U.S. Consulate General Toronto Supports Youth Resilience Conference



On May 7-8, U.S. Consulate General Toronto's partner Midaynta Community Services held their conference "Youth Resiliency, Hate, Racism and Radicalization" which centered on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) issues and on teaching youth how to be resilient in their communities in an effort to combat hate. This 3rd annual conference was organized in partnership with the University of Toronto, the Mosaic Institute, the U.S. Consulate, Public Safety Canada, and various other community and law enforcement partners. This conference brought together multiple concerned stakeholders to address youth radicalization in light of new and emerging issues but was mainly geared towards youth involvement in the community.

The U.S. Consulate supported the event by funding two U.S. panelists who provided a U.S. perspective on combating CVE. Both of the speakers delivered presentations and answered questions from the audience.

Tree Planting Diplomacy



U.S. Consul General Juan Alsace participated in the Consular section's Leadership Day on May 31, 2018. The team joined the City of Toronto Urban Forestry staff and other volunteers in Earl Bales Park to plant trees and shrubs. The City has a goal of achieving 40 percent canopy cover in Toronto, and the Consulate staff was happy to support the local community in reaching its goal.

U.S. Consulate General Toronto's Speakers Bureau in Caledon



U.S. Consulate General Toronto's Political and Economic Officer Jeanne Geers spoke at Mayfield Secondary School to a class of high-school students interested in U.S. diplomacy and international relations on June 5, 2018. Located in Caledon, Ontario, the school is one of two Regional Arts Schools in the Peel District School Board Senior level (grades 11-12) students attended the presentation.

After the presentation, the students had an opportunity to discuss a wide variety of issues such as the U.S. Foreign Service, economy, trade and many more. This presentation was part of the U.S. Consulate Toronto's Speakers Bureau program. Outreach to school districts in this region is important; several school districts have banned travel to the U.S. due to concerns about the border.

Furthering the Partnership with North America's Largest Documentary Festival



On May 3, 2018, Consul General Juan Alsace hosted a reception with the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival at his residence. The event honored the American filmmakers at the 2018 Hot Docs Festival that took place from April 26 to May 6, 2018. Hot Docs Executive Director Brett Hendrie attended the reception and welcomed the guests with opening remarks.

Hot Docs is North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, which takes place in Toronto annually. This year, the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary. They showcased a record-breaking 263 documentaries from Canada and around the world, including 79 from the United States.

Cross-border Collaboration to Protect the Great Lakes: Fighting against Harmful Algal Bloom



On May 23, 2018, harmful algal bloom (HAB) experts from the U.S. and Canada took part in an interactive bus tour as part of a cross-border collaboration to protect the Great Lakes. The day included discussions as well as a tour of a 'hotspot', Pier 4 in the Hamilton Harbor -- one of the areas most impacted by HABs. The tour was the first step towards developing a cross-border community of practice among governments, NGOs, academics

and other interested constituencies.

In addition to providing a grant to the group, PAS supported the tour by arranging media coverage. CBC Hamilton reporter highlighted a number of recommendations by the U.S. experts such as using data to identify plots of farmland where people are actually losing money, then trying to convince farmers not to plant or fertilize there to cut down on the amount of phosphorus that will leach into area waters. The reporter interviewed Consul General Juan Alsace who noted that the tour is a way to build relationships between experts in both countries given the many shared issues along the Great Lakes. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/algae-bloom-hamilton-harbour-u-s-consul-general-1.4674856>

U.S. Arts Envoy Ellen Gallagher Opens Exhibit



U.S. Consulate General Toronto's Public Affairs attending the opening of U.S. Arts Envoy Ellen Gallagher's exhibit at the Power Plant Gallery in Toronto on June 22, 2018. Ellen Gallagher is a leading figure in contemporary American art, a visionary, a woman, an African-American of mixed heritage. Her multimedia practice involves painting, drawing, sculpture, film, photography, collage and many others – and hangs in a fine

balance between figurative and abstract, reality and mythology. Her investigation into the beauty and images of contemporary culture unveils how we are linked through shared histories. Much of her work

focuses on making visible the loss and suppression shouldered by black and indigenous communities in North America, and how various forms of media – books, music, advertising, fine art, magazines- use stereotypes to perpetuate social customs derogatory to these communities. Her work appropriates these images, altering them and owning them in a process of reclamation and celebration. Gallagher is an internationally renowned artist, having shown in leading artistic venues across the world. This is her first exhibit in Canada.

Celebrating U.S.-Canada Friendship at "Come From Away"



Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Matt Boyse welcomed U.S. Consulate General Toronto's guests to a special Come From Away performance and reception at the Mirvish Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto on July 11, 2018. The Canadian musical, based on the true story of U.S.-bound airline passengers stranded in Gander, Newfoundland, following the 9/11 terror attacks, has been selling out theaters in the United States and Canada since the show first premiered in 2016. To commemorate this story of bilateral friendship, the Consulate blocked group tickets for Canadian contacts and invited the Premier of Newfoundland Dwight Ball. The reception was also attended by the Come From Away writers, cast and band, as well as the show's producer from New York.

Toronto's Largest Museum Celebrates the Fourth of July



Royal Ontario Museum looked extra festive on July 5, 2018 for U.S. Consulate General Toronto's #July4Canada reception. The Consulate staff were honored to host Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Premier of Ontario Doug Ford and Mayor of Toronto John Tory to celebrate the United States of America's 242nd Independence Day.

Consul General Juan Alsace delivered his last #July4Canada remarks as Consul General, and as a U.S. diplomat as he departed Toronto later that month on his way to retirement. "I want to express my appreciation for all that this city and this country have meant to my wife, Nancy, and me", said Mr. Alsace. "The relationship between Ontario and the United States also has deep roots in common values that we cherish and defend. Our economic ties are rich and integrated. And it will continue being so. Of that I am certain."

The theme of the event was "America's Musical Journey", amplifying the ongoing BrandUSA campaign to encourage travel to America's music cities and promote the diversity of American music. PA Toronto has reached 20,396 people covering the event and received 261 likes on its social media properties.

U.S. Arts Envoy Inspires Canadian Youth



U.S. Consulate Toronto joined the Power Youth Summer Camp at the Power Plant Gallery on July 27, 2018. Inspired by U.S. Arts Envoy Ellen Gallagher's solo exhibition Nu-Nile, youth are learning how a variety of mediums may be used to consider history, narrative and mythology. After learning about Ellen's works, the students are writing stories and then transforming their stories into finished drawings, paintings or stop-motion animations.

Ellen Gallagher's exhibit, her first in Canada, is on at the Power Plant in Toronto through September 3, 2018, with the support of the U.S. Consulate as an International Arts Partner.

The U.S. Department of State's Arts Envoy Program shares the best of the U.S. arts community with the world to foster cross-cultural understanding and collaboration and to demonstrate shared values and aspirations.

U.S. Consulate General Toronto Hosts Academic Working Group Meeting



On Friday, July 27, U.S. Consulate General Toronto's Public Affairs hosted an academic working group meeting with representatives from several colleges and university representatives from across the Consular district to discuss cross-border collaboration. The group discussed lessons learned from the National Association of International Educators (NAFSA) conference in May 2018 and brainstormed ideas on how the U.S. Consulate could support the development of student mobility and bilateral exchanges between Ontario and the United States. Wilfred Laurier University presented on their U.S.- Canada 100K Strong in the Americas grant -- a partnership with Syracuse University, Cornell University and SUNY Buffalo. The meeting was followed by a reception in the Consulate's rooftop where the Acting Consul General and Consular Chief had the chance to mingle with university officials.

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