

Somali Community Engagement Recap

On Thursday, January 26th, CIP hosted an event at Hoyo's Kitchen, a local Somali restaurant, centered on creating dialogue and understanding with the Somali community living in Columbus. Guests shared a great Somali meal together, as well as discussing the history of Somalia, the personal stories of our three speakers, Khadra Mohamed, Abdi Soofe and Jibril Mohamed, and intercultural relations in Columbus and the nation overall.

There are over 40,000 Somali people currently settled in Ohio. We were happy to have three outstanding members of this community present to lead us in discussion and share their stories. Khadra Mohamed is the President and CEO of the [Center for Somali Women's Advancement](#) as well as a [2014 Champion of Change](#) award recipient. Khadra arrived in Ohio in 2000, and has since built a great support network for other Somali women residing in the area. Abdi Soofe works for the City of Columbus as the [New American Initiative Coordinator](#) and is incredibly involved in the Columbus community. Abdi is the editor of the Columbus Community Relation's Quarterly E-Newsletter, The Community Focus, and serves as a board member of the Board of Directors of Focus Academy of Northern Columbus and several other Central Ohio organizations. Jibril Mohamed is a faculty member of the Department of African American and African Studies at The Ohio State University, as well as the chairman of [SomaliCAN](#), which is a local 501(c)3 non-profit that provides cultural sensitivity training, Somali translation, health promotion, youth services, community outreach, policy analysis, advocacy, and referral services.

During the event, all had a great time meeting new people and listening to our speakers explain a bit about Somalia, the community here in Columbus, the future of Columbus as a welcoming city, and how to support refugee and minority communities every day. It was a great discussion in a very open and welcoming atmosphere, and a great time was had by all. If you missed out on this opportunity, be on the lookout for CIP's next cultural event, with our Nancy Buyantar, a current IPR from Mongolia. This event will take place in March, and we would love to see you there. More information will follow.

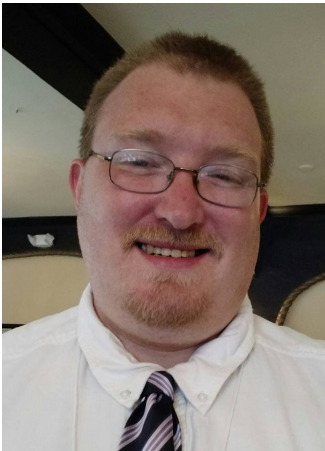
Thank you to our speakers and guests who made this night so great.



Stay connected with CIP
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Farewell to Paul Saltz



After two years of dedicated service to our organization, Paul Saltz, our Project Manager for Grants and Development, has made the decision to move on from CIP. Paul will now be a foreign documents clerk at the Ohio BMV License Agency #2517. Here, his work primarily consists of processing non-US citizens. Additionally, Paul will continue working as a nonprofit grants consultant on the side, for other nonprofit organizations, like Forwahd Africa. We would like to thank Paul for all he has done to help us. We wish him success and happiness in his new career endeavors.

The Host Family Experience - As Told by a Former IPR



*Anjanaa (middle) with hosts
Pranab and Indira.*

In 2014, Anjanaa Chattapodhyay came to Columbus to participate in the India Youth Advocacy program. The focus of the program was to learn more about options available to youth with disabilities in America, specifically related to hearing loss detection and special education tracks available to students with this disability. While here, Anjanaa learned about the American Sign Language system, in hopes of developing a more uniform mode of communication for the Deaf Community in India through Indian Sign Language. Recently, Anjanaa wrote an article about what her host family experience was like while she was here. She was hosted by CIP Board of Trustees Treasurer, Pranab Bhattacharya, and his family. [Click here](#) to check out her experience! If you are interested in the enriching experience of serving as a host family in the future, contact Mark Poeppelman at mark@cipcolumbus.org.

Welcome to our New Sponsor



**LATINO ARTS
FOR HUMANITY**

We would like to thank Leticia Vazquez-Smith and her organization Latino Arts for Humanity for their contribution to CIP for the 2017 fiscal year. Latino Arts for Humanity is a non-profit organization that exists to encourage, develop and preserve the arts and cultural heritage of the Latino Community. Leticia is a former IPR, and we worked with her last fall on a great cultural event celebrating The Day of the Dead. We look forward to more collaboration in the future, and would again like to extend our appreciation for their partnership. To learn more about this organization, [click here](#).

Russian Peer to Peer Recap

On January 3rd, a delegation of ten students and two educators from Lingua schools in Moscow and Surgut, Russia arrived in Columbus. Everyone involved in the project was very excited to finally have the chance to meet face to face. The Russian delegation spent about a week in Columbus, heading home on the 10th. While the delegation was here, students were able to dig even deeper into the development of the business project. They participated in several work days and moved through business education modules from Junior Achievement of Central Ohio (JACO) together. Students put on an evening open to the public at which they presented an update on the project so far, and shared a bit about their schools and cities. Russian students prepared some of their favorite dishes from home to share with all those in attendance.

In addition to gaining headway on the business project, students were able to spend a significant amount of time socializing and getting to know each other. The group visited the Economic and Community Development Institute and the Idea Foundry. Students also participated in community service together at the Hilltop YMCA, where they painted outdoor benches to be used at summer camps in the coming season. Students also enjoyed a pool and pizza party.

All parties involved are incredibly excited for the collaboration to continue between these two excellent schools. In March, a delegation of US students and educators will travel to Russia to meet with students in Surgut and Moscow to share in their culture and continue work on the business project. We cannot wait to see where the next few months takes this program, and would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have helped make this happen.

Visit our [website](#) for more details and photos!



Whole group photo at Wellington



Volunteering at the YMCA



Student Presentation Night

Impacts of Executive Order on Immigration

As an organization devoted to Promoting International Understanding through Intercultural Exchange, CIP has growing concern in regards to the new executive order President Trump has put out concerning immigration processes in the United States. We ask that our friends and supporters educate themselves on these issues, and remain aware of changes being made in this country that affect the work we do, as well as the work of many of our local partners who are refugee organizations in Columbus. Please consider watching [this story](#) to see some of the effects this legislation is having on people from all over the world. We must remain united in our efforts to continue to help establish peaceful and long lasting relationships with people from every corner of the globe. Through intercultural exchange and by practicing tolerance and understanding, we can make the world a better, smarter, and more peaceful place.

Events and Announcements

Upcoming Mongolian Country Presentation

With Nancy Buyantur

We are excited to announce an upcoming country presentation that will be given by one of our current IPRs, Nancy Buyantur. Nancy is the first IPR that CIP has hosted from Mongolia and we are very excited to learn more about her beautiful country. Her presentation will take place on **Thursday, March 9th, at 6:00 pm** at BD's Mongolian Grill on Sawmill Road. Ticket information will be available on our website soon. We hope you will join us for this great experience.

Please RSVP at eleni@cipcolumbus.org



Click the image above to renew your membership.

International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education

The Ohio State University and [Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict](#) are putting on the 11th Annual International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education this **March**, from the **16th—the 19th**, at OSU. The purpose of this conference is to create an opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration and research. Presentations will focus on innovations in the field that are making broad impacts in local, state, national, and international communities. The conference is intended for primary, secondary and higher education students, faculty, staff and administrators, members of the business community, policy makers at all levels, researchers, non-profit leaders, media groups, philanthropists, and anyone wishing to make positive change in their communities. If you would like to attend or find more information on this event, [please click here!](#)

