



Have You Heard? We Have Merged!

After months of internal meetings, operative plans, and deliberation, the board of US Together has **approved a Merger agreement** with the **Columbus International Program (CIP)**. Under this agreement, CIP merged into our organization, but CIP's programs will continue in our combined entity, with a combined board of directors. With this new development, our communications department will still send out weekly and monthly newsletters. Over the course of the next few weeks, you will receive e-mails from a different address:

THIS IS NOT SPAM! It will in-fact be our new mode of communication. Please refrain from putting it in your junk box. We believe that this opportunity will help us achieve our short and long-term goals by leveraging the best of both organizations. This step towards the future provides many new opportunities! CIP is a well-known organization that has hosted over 1,300 professionals from 116 different countries, and was the only non-profit in central Ohio to provide such support to International Professionals in



Residence. CIP regularly brought American families and friends together with different cultural events and fundraisers, and we can't wait to begin implementing similar projects. As you know, we are a refugee resettlement agency that works towards assisting not only the local community, but displaced peoples from around the world. We currently provide services such as employment, healthcare, family strengthening, ESL classes, and community consultation, among others. CIP brings with them an entirely new web of contacts and program initiatives that will help us enhance the success of these services. By joining forces, we can now expand our local and international reach. With CIP's contacts, and our resources, we can target more populations with bigger and brighter goals. We would like to take the time to thank all of our Board, staff, and supporters. We are excited to see where this merger takes us!



Stay connected by following us online!



Day of the Dead Recap:

On October 21st CIP co-hosted with the Latino Arts for the Humanities the Day of the Dead Community Event 2017! Over the course of the day, hundreds of people joined the century-old Mexican Tradition at Columbus' Greenlawn Cemetery. The morning kicked off with a historical tour of the Greenlawn Cemetery by Randy Rogers, board President of the Cemetery. Art exhibits were displayed inside the Mausoleum by artists Tifanny Christopher, Ryan Hudson, Aina Turiaga, Renee Zamora, Heather Marks, and artists from Evolved. Throughout the entire day, altar offerings commenced in honor of our loved ones. Kids participated in paper flower and skull making, while the adults got their faces painted! By 8:00pm, the event concluded with a beautiful parade and dance. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and sponsored this event! It wouldn't have been possible without the help from our loyal community. We can't wait for next year!



Farewell to Cierra Carafice!



Cierra Carafice has interned for CIP since the beginning of June 2017. A dedicated and hard worker, Cierra spent her internship coordinating our Delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo in July and our Day of the Dead Community Event. Without her input, CIP would not have been able to function as well as it did! In the upcoming months, Cierra plans on continuing her studies in political science and international studies. She also intends on applying for legislative and judicial internships in 2018. Her time at CIP has taught her many things about non-profit management, social enterprises, and creating intercultural programs. Her time with CIP definitely strengthened Columbus' international community. There is no doubt that she will be deeply missed!



This November, US Together is introducing our new program, *Friends of US Together*. We decided to implement this program because we are not a membership-based organization, but CIP was. We wanted to create a system in which all of CIP's old members could remain involved, while simultaneously expanding our own support base. Becoming a Friend allows you to participate in cultural events with a discounted price, provides you with weekly updates from our organization, and offers unique volunteer opportunities. We encourage everyone who was once a member of CIP to fill out the form to become a Friend of US Together! We also hope our current and future supporters reach out as well. To become a Friend, click [here](#)! For more information, contact Mark Poeppelman at mpoepelman@ustogether.us.

CIP has been working with US Together for approximately five years, as US Together has been a training site for several CIP professionals. This past year, CIP and US Together have been working on a new project that was launched this month! Both non-profits worked together to develop their own Social Enterprise: a new career and staffing company with a heart, known as Welcoming City Career Services. The cash flow generated by this venture will make it easier to execute CIP's former exchange programs and fund US Together's services. Welcoming City is a strategy to build a workforce bridge between Columbus businesses and recent immigrants and New Americans. The agency not only aligns with the mission of US Together, but it also provides employers access to a qualified work force that fits their staffing needs. What makes Welcoming City unique is that it allows potential employees to undergo background checks and interviews so that they can be paired with an employer that is in need of qualified staff. On October 9th, Welcoming City officially began its pilot. Now on week 4, we have two more prospective clients. For more information, click [here](#)!



Welcoming City Career Connections is a social enterprise with a mission to provide access and opportunity for prosperity through economic, cultural and community integration.

WELCOMING CITY

Welcoming City is uniquely positioned to fill the gap and challenges that companies face when employing people from different cultures. We provide dependable, hardworking workforce to manufacturing and distribution centers while helping with language barriers and cultural adjustment.



Interested in learning more?
Please contact us at:
exec@ustogether.us

Address: 1415 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone (614) 437-9941

**Russian
Cooking
Session**

Better Plate Community Columbus
December 3rd, 4:00pm-6:00pm

On Sunday, December 3rd from 4:00 to 6:00pm, Better Plate Community Columbus will be holding their first Russian Cooking Session! Elena Lubenets will guide participants through the culinary steps for created dishes from Russia. Afterwards, everyone will sit together and enjoy the meal they have prepared! Pierogies and Olivier Salad will be prepared, and the class accommodate vegetarians. You MUST pre-register; you can do this by buying a ticket! The fee for each session is \$35. If you need financial assistance to attend, please email Columbus@betterplate.org; they are happy to help!

As a refugee resettlement agency who supports the integration of New Americans, US Together is excited to see this current news! History was made July 21, 2017 when Ohio State Governor John Kasich appointed six into the New African Immigrants Commission, and with the seventh added in September to join the Commission created in 2008 to have 11 members. It was established by legislation to among others "gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on problems and programs concerning sub-Saharan African people." Check out the article [here](#)!

