



UTAH GLOBAL DIPLOMACY

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Utah Global Diplomacy Promotes Diplomacy Through Cuisine

Salt Lake City, Utah – At a time when international tensions are high among global leaders, Utah Global Diplomacy is building bridges in Utah through the common language of cuisine.

On Wednesday, July 12, Utah Global Diplomacy hosted its first annual Dining Around the World event at the Salt Lake Culinary Institute. This event highlighted “culinary diplomacy,” which uses food and cuisine to build bridges between different cultures and nations, fostering mutual respect and understanding through the sharing of food traditions, recipes and culinary techniques.

“Our inaugural Dining Around the World event gave Utahns the opportunity to step out of their home and into dining rooms across the world,” said Felecia Maxfield-Barrett, President and CEO of Utah Global Diplomacy. “Attendees were able to enjoy some familiar, authentic dishes while exploring new culinary flavors for the first time. Attendees broke down barriers and built beautiful cultural bridges as they shared a journey through international cuisine together.”

In collaboration with 11 ethnic restaurants and food vendors in the greater Salt Lake area, Utah Global Diplomacy introduced attendees to a variety of popular dishes crafted by local chefs showcasing their culture and cuisine. Chef Cathy Tshilombo-Lokemba, also known as “Mama Africa,” shared her coveted beignets with attendees. A 17-year resident of Utah, Tshilombo-Lokemba is a refugee, former clothing designer, and restaurateur. “I was honored to showcase my culture and my country,” said Tshilombo-Lokemba. “Food speaks all languages and brings out good in everyone. Presenting the Democratic Republic of the Congo through my pastries brought me great pride.”

Local countries and restaurants featured at the Dining Around the World event include:

Belgium - Park City Creamery

Bhutan - Buhtan House

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Mama Africa

Germany & Turkey - Deziria

Italy - Salt Lake Culinary Education



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Peru - INTI Special Coffee
Puerto Rico - Papito Moe's
Serbia - Dali Crepes
Sudan - Mother of All
Ukraine - Cafe Mriya
United States - Taste 117

Culinary diplomacy can take many forms, from cultural exchange programs and food festivals to formal state dinners and international food summits. Through culinary diplomacy, individuals and countries can showcase their unique culinary heritage, build relationships, and promote cultural and economic exchange. Culinary diplomacy is an effective tool promoted by Utah Global Diplomacy as a way to encourage meaningful dialogue that enhances national security, connect Utahns with resources to find solutions to global and local challenges, and immerse the broader community in cultures, customs, and languages.

The Dining Around the World event also raised funds for Utah Global Diplomacy's Young Diplomats of Utah Program, which engages high school, college, and career-ready young adults to become future global leaders.

The event also included a flute performance by the remarkable Nino Reyes, a cultural artist who has performed throughout the United States, including as one of five flute players at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games Opening Ceremonies in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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About Utah Global Diplomacy:

Utah Global Diplomacy is committed to promoting respect and understanding between the people of Utah and other nations. This is done through citizen diplomacy - the concept that every individual has the right, even the responsibility, to help shape U.S. foreign relations by connecting with each other one handshake at a time. Utah Global Diplomacy applies citizen diplomacy efforts through its International Exchange Programs (in partnership with the U.S. State Department), World Affairs Lectures, Dialogues, & Conversations, and its Young Diplomats of Utah program. You can join Utah Global Diplomacy's community and conversations at www.utahglobaldiplomacy.org or by emailing info@utahglobaldiplomacy.org.