

International Task Force

International Task Force – Vision 2025

Our committee is tasked with catalyzing the goals of Vision 2025's internationalism section. We need to demonstrate the value of the international presence to the community in order to receive their support for these goals.

At the August 2006 meeting, the group reached a rough consensus that we should focus for now on three areas or goals to develop. Each committee member is asked to consider which area most interests you:

**** Of these three areas, where would you like to be involved? ****

Please remember that as committee members, we will not be the ones solely responsible for executing these plans, but we are the ones who have given careful thought to the issues and may be able to stimulate others to become involved and help implement these things.

PR campaign for the international presence in Greenville/the Upstate (in the SHORT TERM– i.e. we can start these activities immediately)

This group will work to increase the profile of the international community in the greater Greenville community. The community must have a greater awareness and knowledge of the international presence before local residents are willing to consider any further support.

Some possible directions for this group to pursue:

- Encourage city and county to more actively support the international community and the various organizations like ICU, Sister Cities, etc.
- Target the City, County, GADC, Upstate Alliance, CVB, elected representatives to educate them on the various cultures and countries represented here
- Work toward better coordination among all international groups, to pool efforts and create a "critical mass" for greater visibility
- Explore the possibility of having a regular column of international activities in the Greenville News or Journal (i.e. transferring the ICU's weekly bulletin to the newspapers)
- Consider possibilities of a display or information table at the airport or Visitor Bureau

Community event to spotlight and celebrate various countries and cultures (MEDIUM TERM)

This group will explore the feasibility of creating a weekend-long event where Greenville can celebrate the international presence in the community. Other cities such as Spartanburg and Columbia have one, why can't Greenville?

Some possible directions for this group to pursue:

- Meet with City officials, Greenville Events, other interested parties to assess current situation
 - Meet with leaders of other international groups to gauge whether there is any interest in cooperating on a larger/broader festival
 - Assess needed resources, begin developing a plan for implementing a festival
 - Work with the school system? Southside High has an international program that students are interested in taking to the entire community
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Future International Trade and Cultural Center (in the LONG TERM)

This group will examine the feasibility of having a dedicated building in Greenville for an International Trade and Cultural Center, and will work to raise support for the idea among community leaders. Such a center would be a hub of activities for all international groups, as well as an educational center where people could learn about and experience other cultures. It may also house services for international and immigrant residents, as well as businesses with international interests. Or it may house an international school.

Some possible directions for this group to pursue:

- Conduct a feasibility study for creating an International Trade and Cultural Center. Would have representation from different institutions/organizations
- Work on PR efforts along with the first group, since the community must be aware of activities in the international community before they can embrace the idea of a Center
- Talk to various community leaders about the concept of an International Center
- Talk to other organizations who might be interested in combining efforts (e.g. Korea Association, Greenville Chinese Cultural Association, El Centro)

To indicate the area you'd like to pursue, please contact Patricia Harrison, Executive Director of the International Center, at info@internationalupstate.org or 467-4579.
