Germany and Ohio, U.S. Welcoming Initiatives Transatlantic Dialogue: 
Building Welcoming Communities for Refugees and Immigrants

Agenda for Thursday, April 21 – Sunday, April 24, 2016

Day One
Thursday, April 21, 2016

11:37AM  German Delegation Arrival in Columbus


1:00PM – 2:00PM  Overview of U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program in Ohio
Participants: State Refugee Coordinator, State Refugee Health Coordinator, Refugee Resettlement Agencies

2:00PM – 3:00PM  Refugee Impact Studies in Ohio

3:00PM – 4:00PM  Round table discussion: Differences in European and U.S. approach to Refugee Resettlement

Location: Ibel Agency, 243 N. 5th Street, Suite 200 Columbus, Ohio 43215

5:30PM – 7:30PM  Reception/Networking Event: Welcome from host Sebastian Ibel, German-born Columbus resident
Participants: Elected officials and partners from Columbus, Dayton, and Lucas County including but not limited to local, state, and federal elected officials, World Affairs Council members, Sister Cities members, local, state, and national partners

Day Two
Friday, April 22, 2016

8:00AM to 4:00PM

Location: Columbus City Hall, 90 West Broad Street, Columbus OH 43215

9:00AM – 9:15AM  Arrival/Coffee
9:15AM – 9:20AM  Greetings from City of Columbus
9:20AM – 9:30AM  Greetings from Welcoming America and Introduction to Transatlantic Exchange Program
Susan Downs-Karkos, Welcoming America, Director of Strategic Partnerships
9:30AM – 10:00AM  Panel Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities as Elected Officials in cities and counties with Welcoming Initiatives; Experience with Backlash

10:00AM – 10:30AM  Panel Discussion: How the Future Looks in Ohio Welcoming Cities & Counties – Elected Officials Perspective

Participants: Elected Officials representing local governments of Columbus, Dayton, and Lucas County

Moderator: Susan Downs-Karkos, Welcoming America

10:30AM – 10:45AM  Break

10:45AM – 11:45AM  Ohio Welcoming Initiatives Network

Showcasing promising practices in three cities

- Overview of Ohio Welcoming Initiatives
- Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (establishing a welcoming initiative, making the case: Lucas County Commissioners)
- Welcome Dayton (implementation stage of a welcoming initiative: City of Dayton)
- City of Columbus New Americans Initiative (Establishing long-term relationships and capacity building: City of Columbus)

Location: Franklin University International Institute for Innovative Instruction (I4) Center; 201 S Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215

12:00PM – 12:45PM  Lunch/Networking

12:45PM – 1:00PM  Tentative: Tour of Franklin University International Institute for Innovative Instruction (I4) Center

1:00PM – 2:00PM  Conversation on Engaging Business Community in Building Welcoming Communities

2:00PM – 2:15PM  Break

2:15PM – 4:30PM  Roundtable Discussions on Best Practices:

- Social, Linguistic, Civic Integration
- Economic Integration
- Cross-Sector Collaboration
- Building Welcoming Initiatives

5:30PM – 7:30PM  Dinner at Sidebar Columbus, 122 E Main St, Columbus, OH 43215
Day Three
Saturday, April 23

10:00AM – 12:00PM Optional:

- Race for Refugees, Sharon Woods Metro Park, Columbus OH
- Inprem Holistic Community Resource Center www.inprem.org, 4646 Tamarck Blvd, Columbus OH
- Bhutanese Nepali Community of Columbus www.bnccohio.org, 5757 Karl Rd, Columbus OH

Location: The Noor Islamic Cultural Center, 5001 Wilcox Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

1:00PM – 3:00PM Round Table discussion with leaders of Muslim Community from around the State on Integration Issues, Islamophobia and the Intersection with Rising Anti-Refugee Sentiment

3:00PM – evening Free time to explore Columbus

Day Four
Sunday, April 24

Location: Tasi, 680 N Pearl St, Columbus, OH 43215

9:00AM – 11:00AM Breakfast/Planning Welcoming Events

11:00AM – 1:00PM Free time to explore Columbus (Short North/North Market)

2:55PM German Delegation flight departs to Washington, DC