

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Rep. Joaquin Castro to Speak at GlobalAustin Diplomacy Summit

(Austin, TX) 9/8/17 – GlobalAustin, a student and visitor diplomacy program with ties to the U.S. Department of State, will be presenting their Diplomacy Begins Here Regional Summit featuring U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro on September 19. The event is being billed as an opportunity to bring together local, national, and international leaders in order to "foster connections and growth in the international exchange community" and address the critical role of citizen diplomacy in the modern world.

Representative Castro will open the event by addressing "the vital need to improve international dialogue starting at the local level, the role of individual citizens in creating a positive US image in the world, and the impact of US foreign policy on local communities," according to event chair Aditi Joshi.

During his presentation, Castro will answer two important questions:

- How do public diplomacy programs and international programs contribute to the well-being of Texans?
- What foreign-policy issues are most important to Texas?

Castro represents Texas' 20<sup>th</sup> congressional district as he has done since 2013. His district covers just over half of San Antonio along with some of its suburbs. Prior to his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Castro represented the 125<sup>th</sup> district in the Texas House of Representatives.

Also participating in the summit is the Honorable Ron Kirk, former Dallas mayor, Texas Secretary of State, and U.S. trade representative. He will address the summit at 9:30 AM with his presentation, '*Why Leading Globally Matters for Texas: The impact of U.S. foreign policy and global events on Texas businesses and communities*'.

Lastly, U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer Ian Brown will emcee the summit. Mr. Brown has extensive experience as a diplomat in both Latin America and Africa. He has been with the U.S. Department of State for more than seven years.

"We are delighted that we have a diverse group of speakers and panelists who will contribute their thoughts and opinions on a memorable day at the Texas state capital," said Joshi. "Seats are limited for the morning sessions, so registration is required for that time."

Joshi says that the afternoon panel discussions and the evening reception in the Scholz Garten are both offered free of charge. Anyone interested in learning more about the mission and vision of GlobalAustin is invited to attend them.

The Diplomacy Begins Here summit is a single day event planned for Tuesday, September 19 at the Texas State Capitol building. Registration is limited; those wishing to attend should [visit the event website](#) and follow the registration link.

## **About GlobalAustin**

GlobalAustin began as a program designed to welcome international students to the University of Texas. Over the years, it grew into an important leadership organization that eventually became affiliated with the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Since 1960, GlobalAustin has worked with thousands of international visitors to make connections in Austin; connections the organization says enhance the local economy, architecture, environment, city government, technology, and culture.

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