



American
Spaces

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs





Contents

02 DIRECTOR'S NOTE

03 OVERVIEW

American Spaces Mission & Types of Spaces

Global Snapshot of FY2024

FY2024 American Spaces Activities

Historical American Spaces Timeline

11 KEY INITIATIVES

Training the Field

Seeing America

Partnerships

15 REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

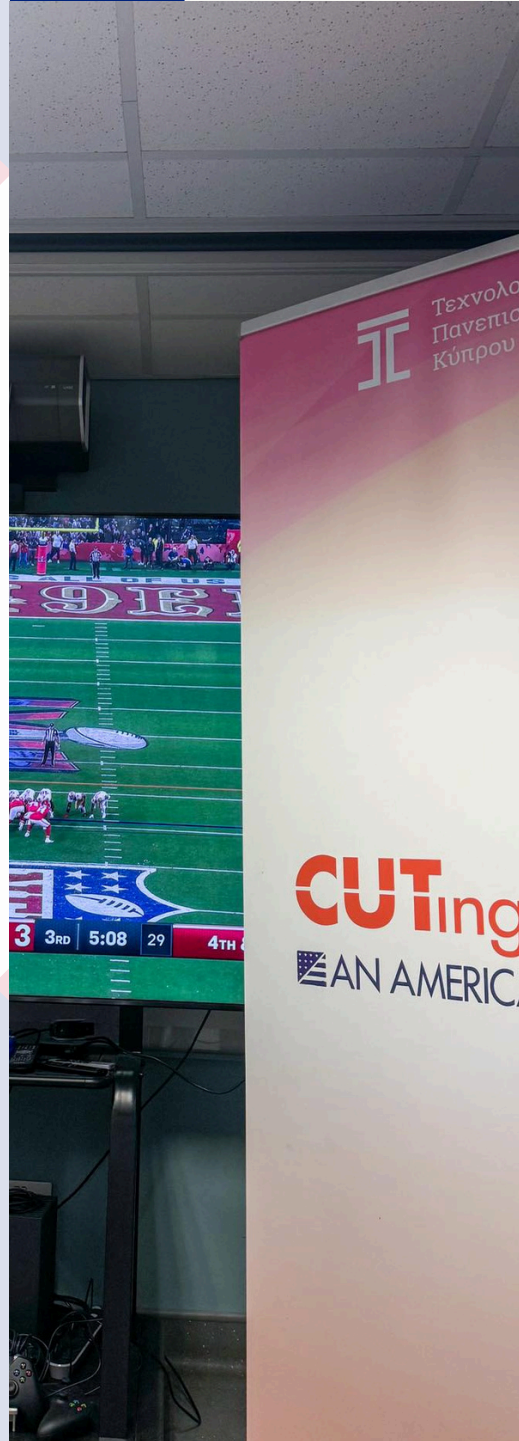
18 CONTACT US

Cover image: Participants at the American Space in Budapest.

This page: The Super Bowl is streamed live to overseas fans.

Back cover: Program participants create a monumental American-themed art project.

Photo Credits: Department of State.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

American Spaces serve as a foundational element of the U.S. Government's engagement with the world. Through our American Centers, Binational Centers, and American Corners, the United States reaches critical audiences with accurate information about the United States, innovative programming that showcases American culture, and educational resources that enhance global prosperity. It was an incredible honor for me to join the Office of American Spaces as its Director in July 2024. I have seen first-hand the impact of the American Spaces teams in many countries abroad, and I look forward to building upon the impressive legacy of our network.



Photo Credit: Department of State.

Fiscal Year 2024 saw positive results across our network. In this report, we highlight how American Spaces are leading their communities to connect with the United States, understand our people and our culture, and find new ways to partner with America.

As you flip through the pages of this report, I hope you see it as an invitation. You may represent an educational institution or multinational corporation considering partnership opportunities. You may be an American, seeking to understand how information and cultural centers transform into global tools for national security. You may be a researcher, utilizing this information to develop new insights into the practice of public diplomacy.

No matter what led you to pick up this report, let it be the start to a conversation. If you have any questions, our doors are always open.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Todd Miyahira".

Todd Miyahira
Director, Office of American Spaces



American Spaces

American Spaces are the U.S. government's primary information and cultural centers around the world that promote American interests and showcase the unmatched power of the United States as an economic and innovation leader to foreign audiences.

MISSION



OVERVIEW

With over 700 locations in 140 countries, American Spaces are key touchpoints for millions of people globally, building connections between the United States and communities worldwide. Managed by U.S. embassies, often in partnership with local institutions, American Spaces are strategically aligned to U.S. foreign policy and national security goals. They showcase the United States' core values and reflect the American spirit to international audiences. Through their engagement with foreign audiences, American Spaces support U.S. interests, foster a greater understanding of the United States, and offer opportunities for the United States to connect with aspiring leaders.

Maker Fest attendees participate in a robotics challenge.
Photo Credit: Department of State.

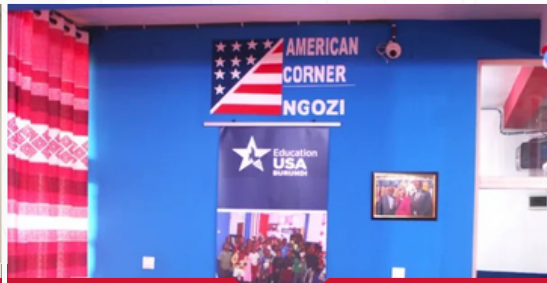
Global Network Showcasing the United States

As a wide-ranging and versatile network, American Spaces may be located inside embassies or within local libraries or universities, and some operate as standalone facilities. They have different naming conventions depending on where they are located, most commonly:



American Centers

USG operated locations within or nearby U.S. Missions



American Corners

Partner locations, often in national libraries or on university campuses



Binational Centers

Organizations in Latin America and Germany offering American Spaces programs

American Spaces may also use other names, such as Lincoln Corners, America Houses, American Hubs, or InfoUSA Centers, and provide a wide range of programming built around six core pillars:

1 Information about the U.S.

2 American Cultural Programs

3 English Language Teaching and Learning

4 Educational Advising for Study in the U.S.

5 Networking with U.S. Exchange Program Alumni

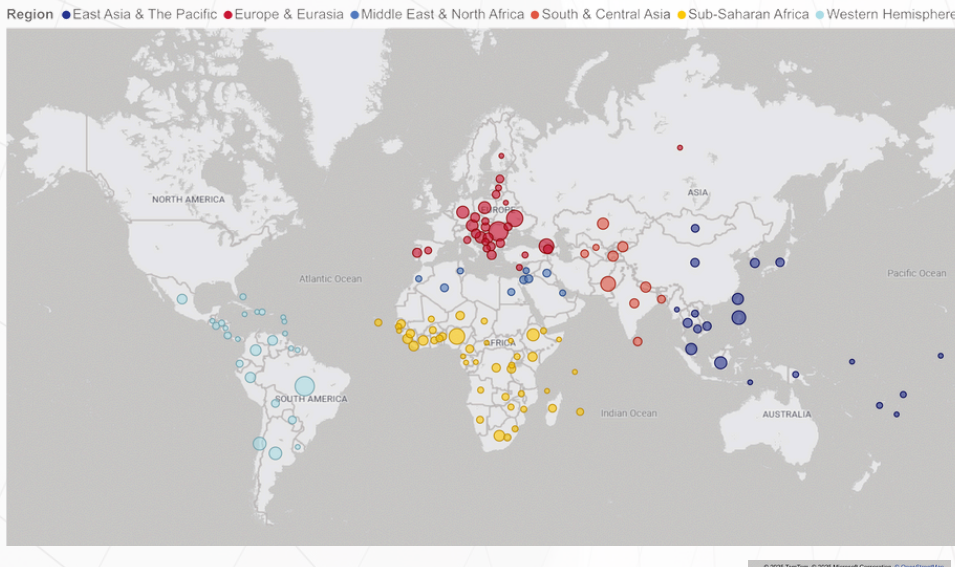
6 Professional Skills Building



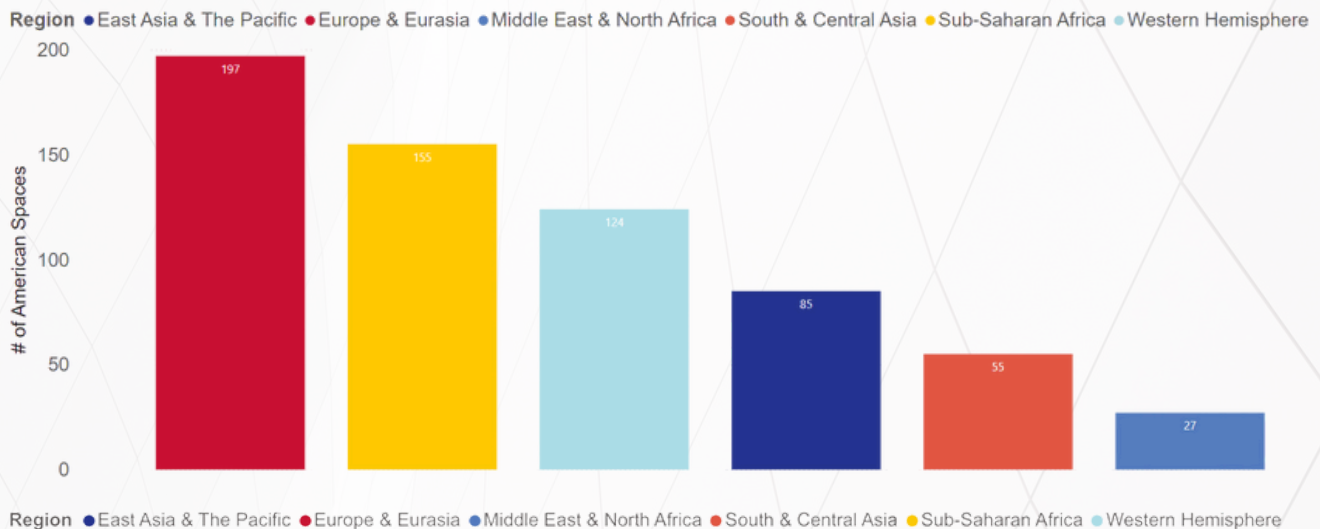
Photo Credits: Department of State.

Global Snapshot

Below is a quick overview of the American Spaces global network in FY 2024 in numbers:



- Four Regional Public Engagement Specialists joined the 28-member corps as global American Spaces advisors
- 41 new American Spaces opened
- 162 Spaces co-located with EducationUSA*
- 706 total American Spaces located in 169 cities and 141 countries
- Nearly 20 million attendees at programs in American Spaces
- 1,127 American Spaces partner staff



* EducationUSA is the U.S. Department of State's global network of educational advising centers in more than 175 countries and territories. The EducationUSA network includes more than 430 advising centers, 550 advisers, and twelve Regional Managers who mentor and guide prospective graduate and undergraduate students.

Serving America through Strategic Programming

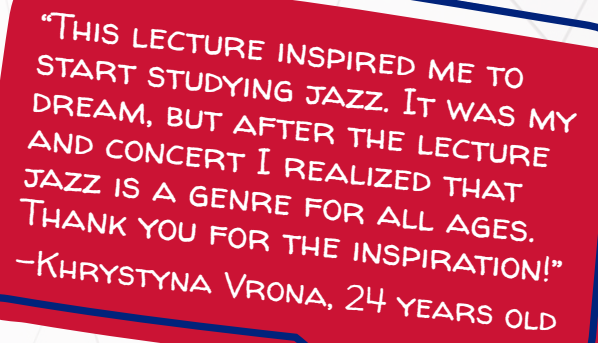
American Spaces programs offered in FY 2024 communicated key U.S. messages and instilled a greater understanding of and appreciation for U.S. language, culture, and innovation through a variety of activities.

Enhancing Partnership through English

In Mongolia, American Corners hosted a year-long English language training program for local police, medical staff, and public servants in essential roles. Proficiency in English is a prerequisite for those in foreign countries wishing to enhance partnerships with the U.S. government and commercial sectors. English training programs like this one enable connections between the U.S. and foreign security sectors—a crucial element for rapid and clear communication during emergencies.

Sharing American Culture

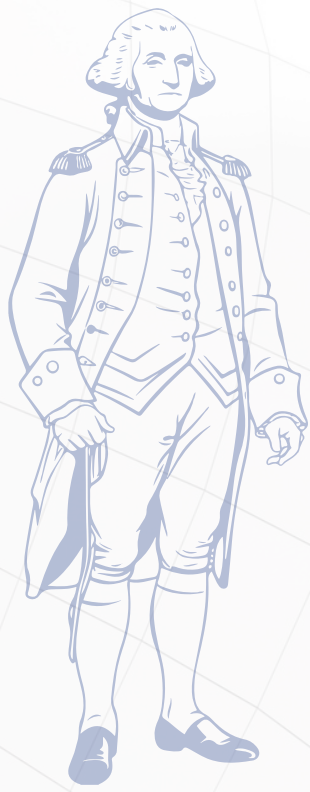
In 2024, American Spaces showcased the power of American music and film—leading drivers of the U.S. creative economy. One American Space in Ukraine, called America House Odessa, organized a lecture-performance titled “Jazz as a Phenomenon of American Culture.” Participants explored the origins of blues, bebop, bossa nova, and gospel, and learned how these styles emerged in Europe. The event featured live performances and practical analysis of various jazz types, culminating in a concert by the Awaband music group. This enriching experience deepened the audience's knowledge of American music, strengthening appreciation for the nation's culture.



“THIS LECTURE INSPIRED ME TO START STUDYING JAZZ. IT WAS MY DREAM, BUT AFTER THE LECTURE AND CONCERT I REALIZED THAT JAZZ IS A GENRE FOR ALL AGES. THANK YOU FOR THE INSPIRATION!”
—KHYRSTYNA VRONA, 24 YEARS OLD

Leading the World in Innovation

The American Institute in Taiwan epitomized U.S. leadership in technology and innovation. In 2024, its American Innovation Center (AIC) introduced the “XR Hub AIC” in partnership with Meta, providing visitors with cutting-edge virtual and augmented reality experiences to learn about American culture and technology. This program highlighted American technological advancements and fostered a global exchange of ideas and skills in a region of utmost importance to national security.



American Spaces activities, such as the ones described above, are funded from various sources. In FY 2024, American Spaces Support Funds included the following types of funding categories:

Programming:

Activities designed to advance U.S. foreign policy goals through events free and open to the public with a clear target audience and appropriate monitoring and evaluation plan.

Technology

Upgrades and replacement of technology.

Multimedia, Promotional Items, and Outreach

Print and electronic resources focused on U.S.-related materials and messages.

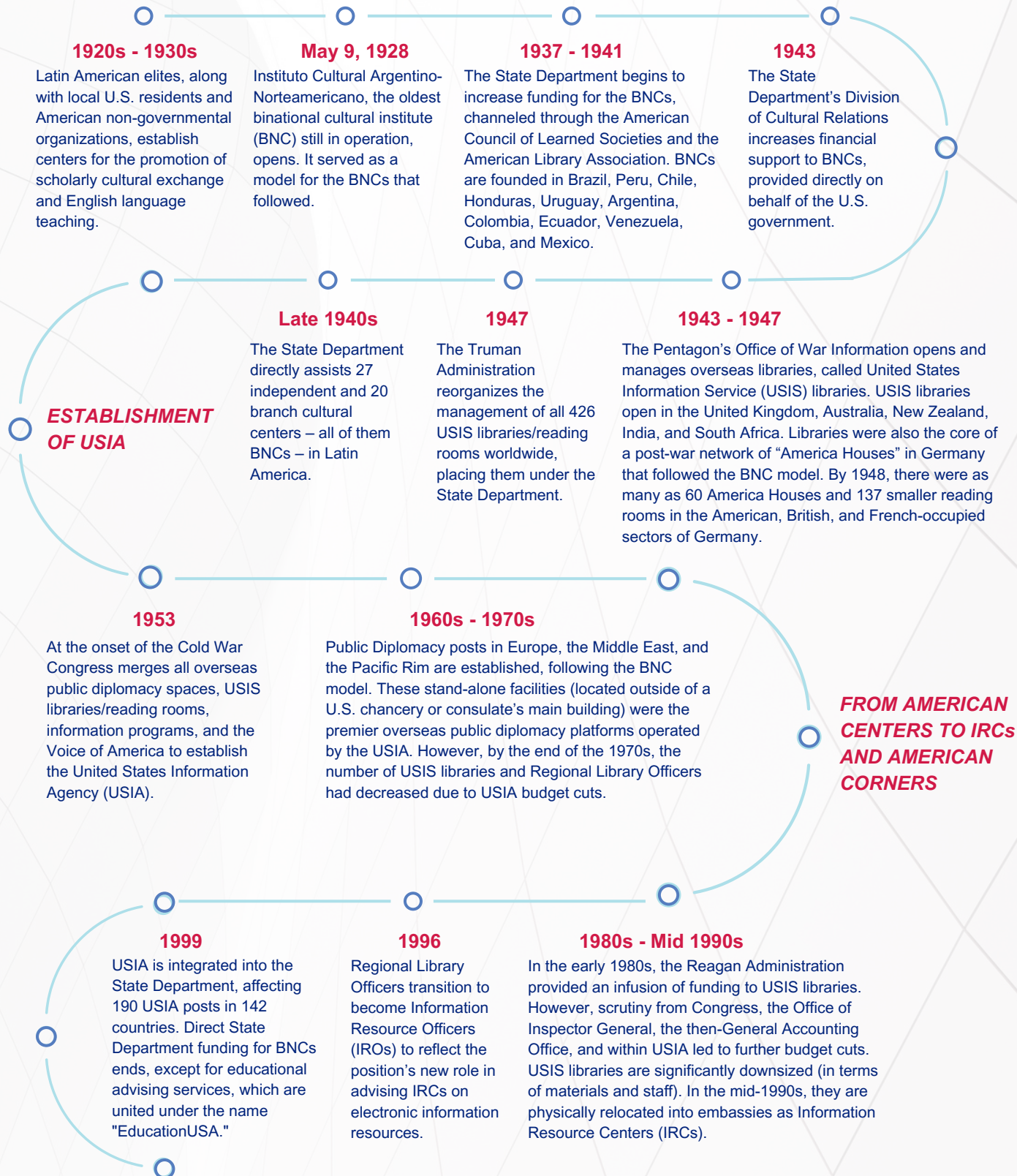
Design and Furnishing

Physical items for the interior of American Spaces with appropriate branding and design.

OVERVIEW



EMERGENCE OF BINATIONAL CENTERS, OVERSEAS LIBRARIES, AND AMERICA HOUSES



Early 2000s

BNCs continue to operate under their own funding with U.S.-educated executive directors. They begin to sign agreements with U.S. testing services to offer TOEFL, SAT, and other college entrance exams.

U.S. Embassy Moscow expands outreach to a broader range of the public in more remote areas, and the idea of American Corners is born. Eventually, 14 American Corners are developed across the Russian Federation. The American Corner model expands into neighboring countries: in Ukraine, *Windows on America* becomes the brand for its 29 American Corners. American Corners expand into all geographic regions.

CONGRESS AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE LEADERSHIP RENEW INTEREST IN AMERICAN SPACES

2009

Senate Foreign Relations Committee member Richard Lugar (R – Indiana) pens a report that documents the many American Spaces available for more robust use and urges the State Department to develop a strategy while adhering to security standards.

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Judith McHale initiates the Strategic Framework for Public Diplomacy. Working groups conclude that American Spaces should be considered a single set of assets with a common menu of programs and information which, combined, would form a common experience of America for foreign audiences. By this time, over 400 American Corners operate worldwide.

2011

The Office of American Spaces is established in the Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP).

2014

IIP invests funds, human capital, and training into what it identifies as strategically located American Spaces, resulting in a transformation of over 40 facilities into modern 21st-century programming platforms that offer a welcoming, distinctly American environment, policy-relevant programming, trained staff, and modern technologies.

2017

IROs' title transitions to Regional Public Engagement Specialists, with a broader focus on communications. IRCs transition in name, function, and design to become American Centers.

OFFICE OF AMERICAN SPACES ESTABLISHED

2020-present

The Office of American Spaces spearheads efforts to modernize and standardize the global network—including the delivery of more online training and programming to allow for both in-person and virtual participation, leveraging private sector support.

2019

The Office of American Spaces moves to the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

Training the Field

Supporting our Global Staff

American Spaces staff overseas play a critical role in promoting the United States to public audiences abroad, and so their training and professional development is a top priority. The training, which is offered via numerous courses scheduled over the course of the calendar year, is led by the corps of roughly 30 Regional Public Engagement Specialists (REPS), foreign service specialists responsible for guiding and advising American Spaces abroad.

In FY2024, these courses included:

Introduction to American Spaces

Through 11 online courses, 542 staff learned American Spaces programming basics while connecting with their global network of peers through virtual discussions.

American Spaces Workshop I

This course equipped entry-level Public Diplomacy Foreign Service Nationals with essential skills to manage American Spaces, conduct effective outreach, navigate State Department operations, and strengthen stakeholder relationships while deepening their understanding of U.S. politics, history, and culture. In FY2024, 184 participants attended seven courses (six offered in Vienna and one offered in Pretoria).

American Spaces Workshop II

This course equipped mid- and senior-level Public Diplomacy professionals to effectively manage American Spaces, leverage State Department technologies, and implement high-impact outreach strategies with target audiences. In FY2024, 21 participants attended one course offered in Vienna.

Regional Workshops

In FY2024, over 200 people participated in seven regional workshops led by Regional Public Engagement Specialists (REPS) on strategic topics to advance the professional development of American Spaces practitioners.



SEEING AMERICA:

Coordinators Strengthen U.S. Engagement Through Exchange

In FY 2024, the Office of American Spaces hosted a U.S. visit for 20 American Spaces coordinators from around the world, none of whom had visited the United States previously. This 10-day cultural and educational opportunity deepened their understanding of American values, history, and innovation—an experience they were able to bring home and share to enhance programs for hundreds of thousands of visitors.

One standout participant was Wander Martins Borges Filho, coordinator of seven resource centers at Casa Thomas Jefferson (CTJ), an American Space in Brasília. With over 15 years of experience, Wander has led groundbreaking projects—including assistive tech for blind students—helping further the impact of CTJ’s outreach to 158,000 Brazilians who participated in its programs in 2024. His leadership supports shared U.S.-Brazil priorities in education, innovation, and economic growth.

The U.S. exchange did more than just deepen cultural understanding—it also helped practitioners in the field advance strategic U.S. interests. Coordinators returned home better equipped to run impactful programs in English language learning, entrepreneurship, and technology—skills that expand local opportunity, reduce irregular migration, and support peace and stability. By visiting U.S. universities, museums, and companies, participants gained further knowledge about how to effectively promote the United States as a global partner.

Wander, who has been recognized through awards such as the [International Network of Emerging Librarian Innovators](#) network, exemplifies how American Spaces coordinators amplify U.S. exceptionalism abroad. Through education, innovation, and connection, American Spaces open doors, inspire future leaders, and embody the spirit of American engagement around the world.



Photo Credit: Department of State.



Photo Credit: Department of State.

Evolving the Network through New Partners

Public-Private Partnerships

In 2024, American Spaces benefited from private sector partnerships designed to further common interests, particularly around economic growth and stability overseas. A key partnership with Amazon expanded the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) in Costa Rica. This program was hosted at American Spaces, where participants developed key competencies in business planning, financial management, and sustainability. Women entrepreneurs are now better equipped to build sustainable businesses, strengthening community resilience against the influence of local and transnational criminal networks.



Photo Credit: CC by 2.0.

Mission Kazakhstan continued its partnership with Chevron to support the creation and growth of makerspaces within its network of American Spaces. These makerspaces have provided science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education to over 27,500 Kazakh youth over the course of three years. By teaching valuable technical skills, the makerspaces develop local talent pipelines and showcase America's leadership in innovation.

Additionally, in 2024, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs entered into partnership with Coupang, a Seattle-based technology company, to fund the opening of a new American Space in Busan and support entrepreneurship training and professional development at the American Spaces throughout the Republic of Korea. The partnership also supports expert speakers, business pitch competitions, and seed funding for high-potential participants. This partnership fosters global innovation and strengthens economic ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

These partnerships benefit the American people and U.S. businesses by developing foreign markets, as well as building stronger relationships and trust with partners overseas.



Diplomacy Lab

Under the Department of State's Diplomacy Lab initiative*, the Office of American Spaces partnered with two universities in 2024—American University (AU) and Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)—as part of an examination of its global brand and messaging.

The AU international studies students compared the strengths and weaknesses of foreign cultural centers in Washington, D.C. with American Spaces abroad, while FSCJ graphic arts students created engaging and fresh thematic imagery for use at American Spaces. The projects provided a unique opportunity for American students to directly engage with American Spaces, while also developing their understanding of American Spaces' use as a public diplomacy tool. The partnerships resulted in strong ties between the universities and the Office of American Spaces, which is pursuing further projects with both institutions in FY 2025.

* Launched in 2013, Diplomacy Lab harnesses the efforts of students and faculty experts at universities across the country to engage the American people in the work of foreign policy and broaden the Department's research base in response to complex global challenges.

Photo Credit: Department of State.

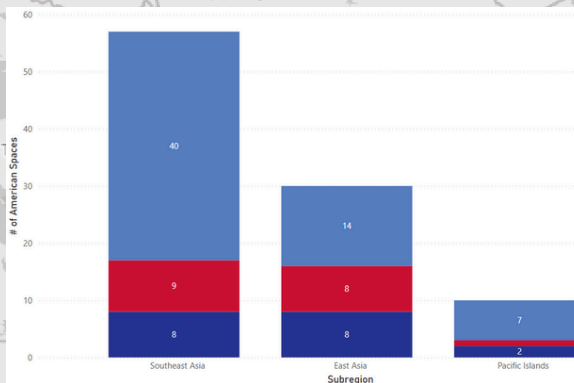


East Asia and the Pacific

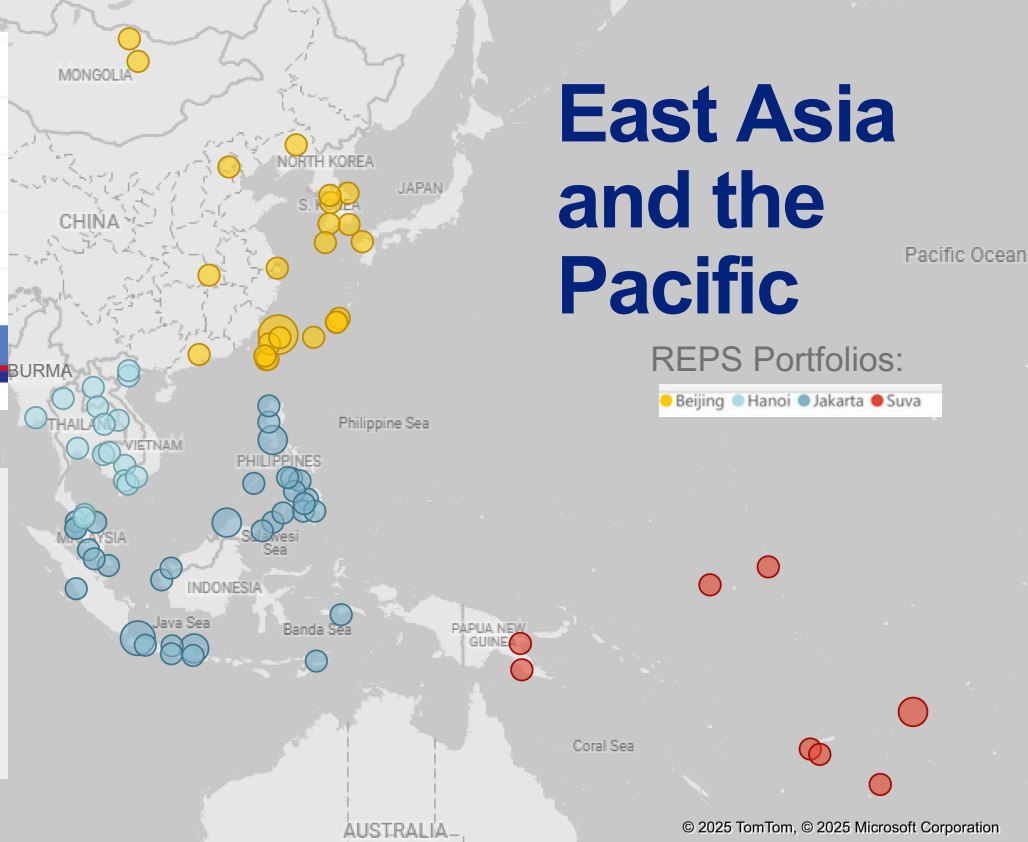
Pacific Ocean

REPS Portfolios:

● Beijing ● Hanoi ● Jakarta ● Suva



Almost 100 American Spaces in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region advanced a free, open, and safe Indo-Pacific, while showcasing the United States as a strong partner for education, technology, and economic development.



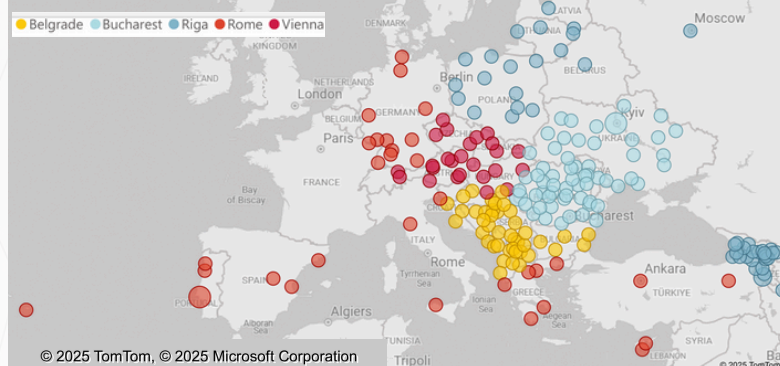
© 2025 TomTom, © 2025 Microsoft Corporation

From Accra to Wuhan, American Spaces contributed to national security directives in 2024. As regional priorities shifted, so did the efforts of our American Spaces staff.

Europe and Eurasia

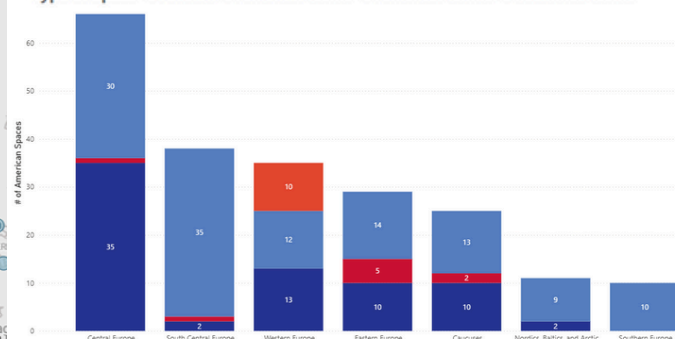
Europe has the largest concentration of American Spaces globally and is the birthplace of the American Corner, when 14 American Corners opened across Russia in the years after the end of the Cold War.

REPS Portfolios:



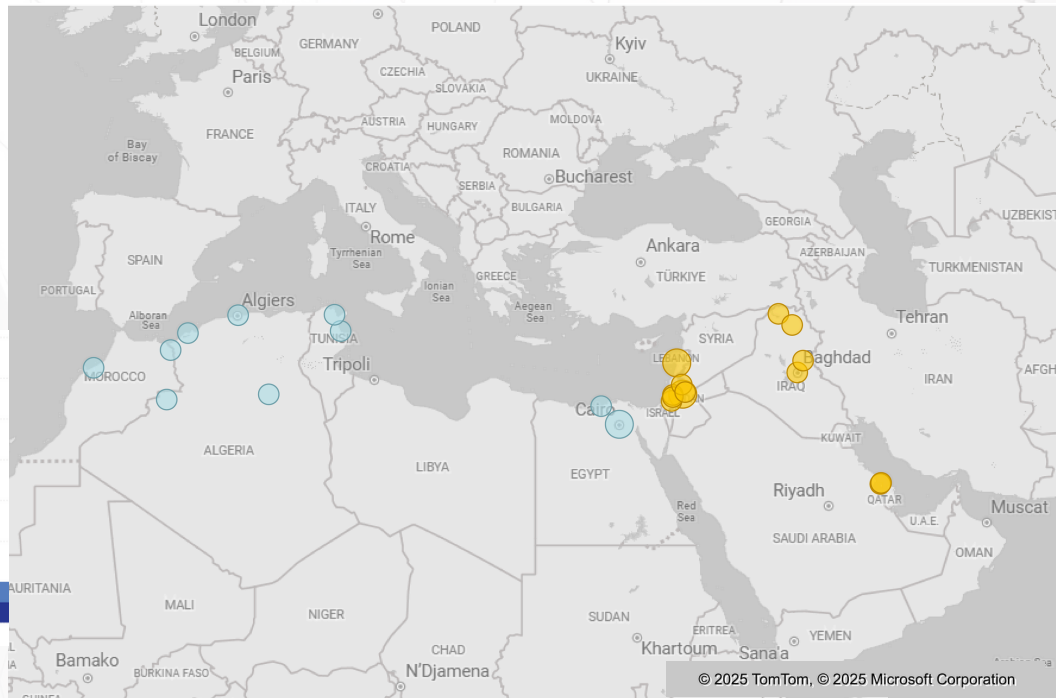
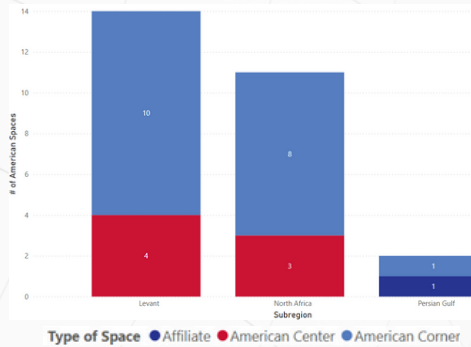
© 2025 TomTom, © 2025 Microsoft Corporation

Type of Space ● Affiliate ● American Center ● American Corner ● Binational Center



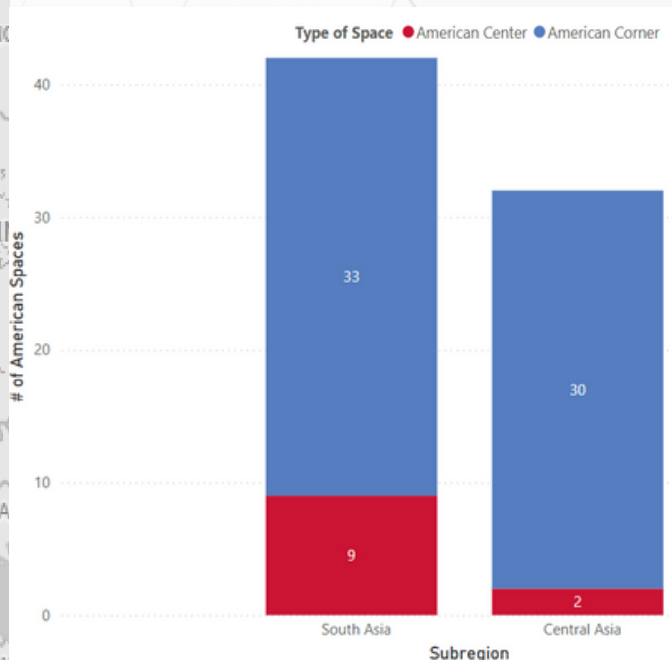
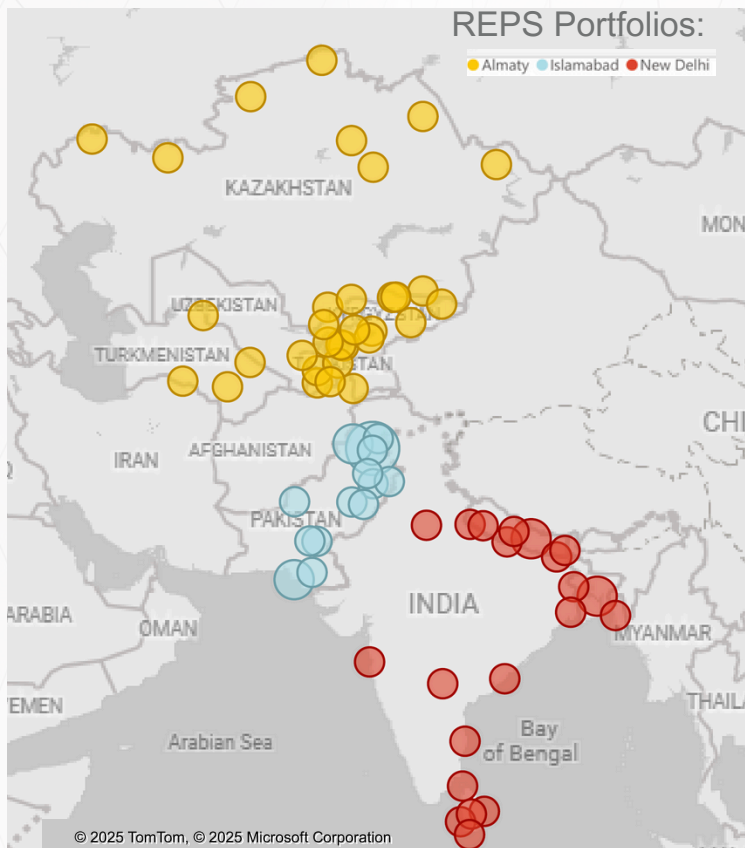
Middle East and Northern Africa

American Spaces throughout the Middle East and North Africa advance economic prosperity and stability in the region by delivering cutting edge technology, professional development, and entrepreneurship programs.



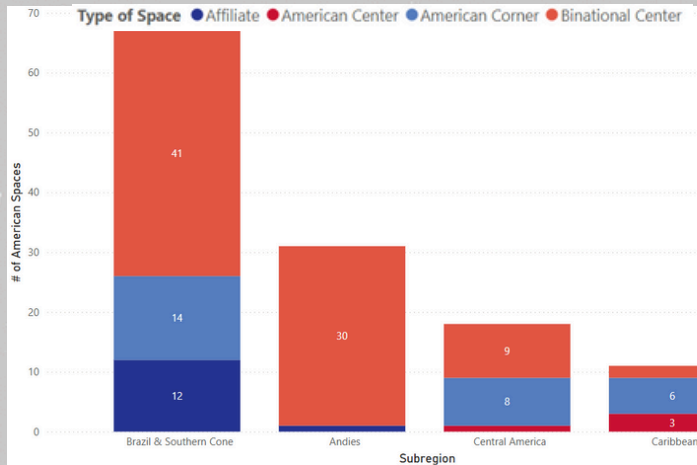
South/Central Asia

The network of American Spaces in South and Central Asia promotes America's global leadership in innovation and education and also is home to the largest public private partnership currently operating in the American Spaces global network.



Western Hemisphere

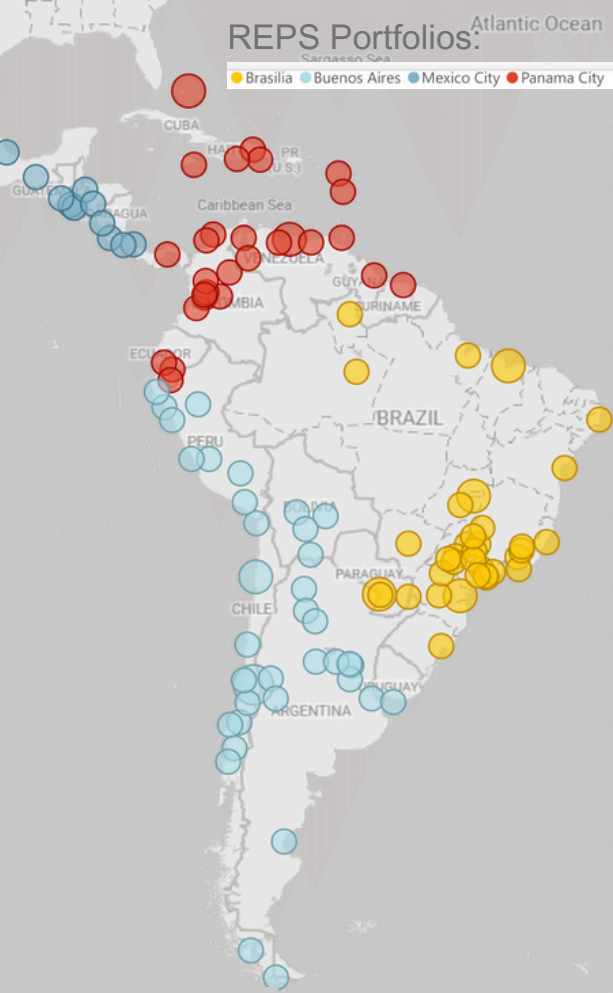
The American Spaces network in the Western Hemisphere is distinguished from those in other regions by its 80 Binational Centers (BNCs), which make up 96.8% of the American Spaces network in that region. These autonomous institutions, which offered English language classes to 1.2 million people in 2024, serve as key partners in promoting the American Spaces mission.



© 2025 TomTom, © 2025 Microsoft Corporation

REPS Portfolios:

● Brasilia ● Buenos Aires ● Mexico City ● Panama City

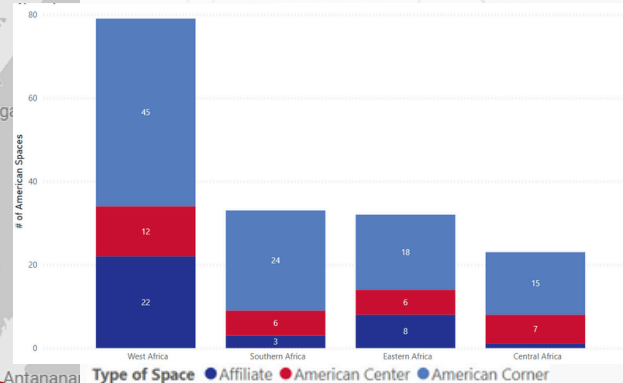
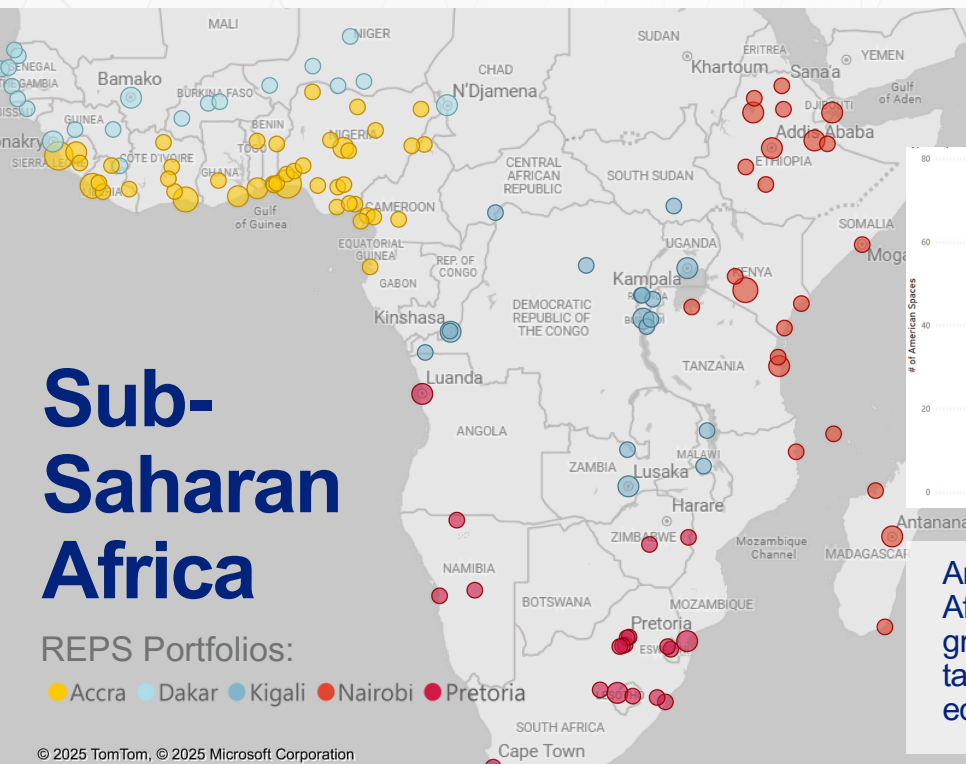


Sub-Saharan Africa

REPS Portfolios:

● Accra ● Dakar ● Kigali ● Nairobi ● Pretoria

© 2025 TomTom, © 2025 Microsoft Corporation



American Spaces in Sub-Saharan Africa focus on engaging one of Africa's greatest resources -- its youth -- through targeted entrepreneurship, creative economy, and STEM programming.

CONTACT US

✉ americanspaces@state.gov



American
Spaces

Find a space near you!



Special thanks to American Spaces staff who contributed to this report.



Photo Credit: Department of State.



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs