

# 2025 Global Links Business Luncheon

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 | THE ABBEY ON MONROE



PHOENIX  
Sister Cities  
Discovery Changes Everything.

# LUNCHEON PROGRAM

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**11:30 AM    Opening & Introductions**

MELISSA GOITIA  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Phoenix Sister Cities, Inc.

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**Welcome Remarks**

EMILIO GAYNOR  
Chair, Business Relations Committee  
Phoenix Sister Cities, Inc.

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**Innovations in Air Mobility**

MICHAEL ROBBINS  
President/CEO, Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International  
(AUVSI)

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**Mayor's Business Awards Presentation**

THE HONORABLE KATE GALLEGRO  
Mayor of Phoenix

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**12:55 PM    Closing Remarks**

EMILIO GAYNOR  
Chair, Business Relations Committee  
Phoenix Sister Cities, Inc.

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## WELCOME



### **MELISSA GOITIA**

#### **CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS PHOENIX SISTER CITIES, INC.**

Melissa Goitia CSEP, is Executive Director of the Office of University Events & Protocol and the Office of University Ceremonies. She is a Protocol Officer at Arizona State University and the co-founder of the North American Association of Commencement Officers [naaco.co] (NAACO) a professional association for commencement and graduation planners from across the United States and Canada. Melissa has more than 30 years' experience in event production and has produced commencement and other ceremonies for ASU for more than 20 years.



### **EMILIO W. GAYNOR**

#### **CHAIR, BUSINESS RELATIONS COMMITTEE PHOENIX SISTER CITIES, INC.**

Emilio W. Gaynor's current role as consultant to Arizona State University aims to expand the competitiveness of the West Valley of Greater Phoenix in high tech and entrepreneurship with long-term sustainable models to ensure large scale workforce development through targeted education and non-degreed learning; aiming to satisfy the incoming international investment in technology that is catapulting Phoenix into the world's technological space. Prior, Gaynor served as Senior Vice President at Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., for 9 years, where he was charged with strategic relationship building, the creation of partnerships and development of sustainable revenue opportunities to ensure CPLC's economic and political empowerment mission is fulfilled. In previous roles at CPLC, he headed the international partnership and relationship development focusing on Mexican business, philanthropic and community organization partners with Mexico and within Mexico. Gaynor served in the executive branch for two governors as representative of the State of Arizona in Sonora, Mexico and as Executive Director of the Arizona Mexico Commission in the Office of the Governor. He proudly serves as Phoenix Sister Cities Board Member, where he also serves as Chair of the Business Relations Committee. He currently serves as the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce Chair of the Board, and most recently served as the Chair of the Phoenix Planning Commission. Additionally, his civic contributions include Co-chair of the Community Committee on the Arizona Governor's Arizona Mexico Commission, Chair of the Los D-backs Hispanic Council, board member of Global Ties Arizona, advisory committee member of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition and served as Honorary Commander at Luke Airforce base 56th Fighter Wing. Emilio received an honorary Doctor Honoris Causa from the Claustro Doctoral H.C. at Mexico's National Autonomous University.

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## INNOVATIONS IN AIR MOBILITY



### **MICHAEL ROBBINS**

**PRESIDENT/CEO, ASSOCIATION FOR UNCREWED VEHICLE SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL (AUVSI)**

Michael is the President/CEO of the world's largest trade association for uncrewed systems, autonomy, and robotics, in both the commercial and defense sectors. He joined AUVSI in 2020 and previously served as Chief Advocacy Officer and an Executive Vice President.

In 2015, he co-founded a business consulting firm, Intrepid, and served as its Chief Operating Officer. AUVSI was an Intrepid client. Before starting Intrepid, Michael was Managing Director of Government and Public Affairs at the Air Line Pilot Association, International (ALPA). Before ALPA, Michael spent a decade in the office of the late U.S. Congressman John Dingell (Michigan), where he served as the Chief of Staff.

Michael serves on the MITRE Corporation's Aviation Advisory Committee, the board of the Greater Washington Aviation Open, and the National Advanced Mobility Consortium's Advisory Committee. He recently served as co-chair of the Federal Aviation Administration's UAS Detection and Mitigation Aviation Rulemaking Committee and currently serves on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Aviation Supply Chain Risk Task Force and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council sUAS Security Working Group.

Michael holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Georgetown University and is an Officer in the United States Navy (Reserve).

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## 2025 MAYOR'S BUSINESS AWARDS



### THE HONORABLE KATE GALLEGO

Since her early days serving Phoenix on the City Council, Mayor Gallego has been focused on creating the Phoenix of the future: a welcoming, thriving city with ample high-wage jobs and opportunities for all.

As mayor, Gallego spends every day focused on getting things done for Phoenix families. The results speak for themselves: Mayor Gallego brought a historic \$65 billion semiconductor manufacturing plant to Phoenix that's creating thousands of great-paying career paths; she built coalitions to deliver critical improvements to parks, public safety, and city infrastructure; and she is partnering with ASU to build a brand-new medical school in downtown Phoenix.

Gallego is the second elected woman mayor in Phoenix history and one of the youngest big city mayors in the nation. She graduated from Harvard and holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business. Though serving Phoenicians keeps her days busy and her heart full, her favorite job is being Michael's mom.

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## 2025 EXPORT CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



### AVNET

With its corporate headquarters in Phoenix, Avnet is a leading global technology distributor and solutions provider, and has served the evolving needs of its customers for more than 100 years. It supports customers at each stage of a product's lifecycle, from idea to design and prototype to production. Avnet's unique position at the center of the technology value chain enables it to accelerate the design and supply stages of product development so customers can realize revenue faster. Learn more at <https://www.avnet.com/wps/portal/us/>

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## 2025 ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR



### TRACEY LATHAM, LATHAM INDUSTRIES

Tracey Latham is CEO and Founder of Latham Industries, a leading electronics manufacturer headquartered in Phoenix. The company specializes in surface mount, plated-through-hole, and mixed technology printed circuit boards used by a range of industries, including aerospace, commercial, medical, military, and security. Learn more at <https://www.lathamindustries.com/>

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## 2025 BRAND CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

### WAYMO



WAYMO

The world's first fully autonomous ride-hailing service, Waymo offers its robotaxi service 24/7 across more than 300 square miles of metro Phoenix. Riders use the Waymo One app to schedule a ride. The Waymo Driver system uses highly detailed custom maps, matched with real-time sensor data and artificial intelligence to determine its exact road location and surroundings. Greater Phoenix has the largest autonomous zone in the world, and is the only place you can get a robotaxi at an airport. Learn more at <https://waymo.com/>

# PHOENIX GLOBAL FORUM



## April 8 - 9, 2025

Join hundreds of business and community leaders from around the globe and engage in critical dialogue about AI, quantum computing, sourcing critical minerals, the future of USMCA, electric and autonomous mobility, the space economy, biotech and more.



### PRESENTING PARTNERS



City of Phoenix



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Partnerships available. Contact [rita.marko@phoenix.gov](mailto:rita.marko@phoenix.gov)

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### WITH ADDITIONAL THANKS TO:

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City of Phoenix Community & Economic Development Department

Bruce Meyerson and Mary Ellen Simonson

With utmost appreciation to the Global Links Business Luncheon Committee:  
Chair Brandon Perlow, Louie Lujan, Ken Booth, Cindy Braun, Caroline Lobo,  
Rick Gerrard, Sheryl Thomas and Rita Marko.



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CALGARY, CANADA

ESTABLISHED 1997

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CATANIA, ITALY

ESTABLISHED 2001

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CHENGDU, CHINA

ESTABLISHED 1987

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ENNIS, IRELAND

ESTABLISHED 1988

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GRENOBLE, FRANCE

ESTABLISHED 1990

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HERMOSILLO, MEXICO

ESTABLISHED 1976

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HIMEJI, JAPAN

ESTABLISHED 1976

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PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

ESTABLISHED 2013

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RAMAT-GAN, ISRAEL

ESTABLISHED 2005

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SUWON, SOUTH KOREA

ESTABLISHED 2021

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TAIPEI, TAIWAN

ESTABLISHED 1979

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*Phoenix Sister Cities fosters relationships  
between the people of Phoenix and our  
Sister Cities around the world to promote  
friendship, peace and prosperity.*

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[phoenixsistercities.org](http://phoenixsistercities.org)

### **Phoenix Sister Cities**

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For more information, or a copy of this publication  
in an alternate format, contact  
Phoenix Sister Cities at 602-534-3751.