

# ABOUT OUR OFFICE



**Matthew Shailer**  
Director of Trade & International Affairs  
Mayor's Office

In December 2016, Matthew celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> year in the Houston Mayor's Office, where he has worked under three mayors to promote Houston and its citizens on the global stage. As director of the office of trade and international affairs, Matthew coordinates the various international initiatives of the mayor's team as they relate to visitor facilitation, outbound city promotion, consular affairs, international business services, community outreach and event management.

Matthew is completing a JD at the University of Houston, a MLA at the University of St. Thomas (concentration in international affairs), and has a BA and certificate in strategic foresight from the University of Houston.

**Mohit Bangia**  
Business Development Manager  
Mayor's Office of Trade & International Affairs

Mohit joined the office in 2013 after completing a B.A in Political Science and Minors in Business and Chinese at the University of Houston. He previously interned for the Mayor's Office of International Trade and Development under the leadership of Ms. Helen Chang.

As a Business Development Manager, Mohit's scope of responsibilities involve assisting with inbound and outbound delegations, interacting with the international business community and working to help increase business opportunities for the City of Houston. Mohit is fluent in Hindi and Punjabi and conversational in Mandarin Chinese.



**Oni Blair**  
Senior Advisor  
Mayor's Office of Trade and International Affairs

Oni K. Blair, a career diplomat for the U.S. Department of State, is on loan to the Mayor's Office to advise on international trade, business development and community outreach. Prior to returning to Houston, Oni was the Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs in the State Department's Human Rights Bureau. Throughout her career in Washington and at the U.S. Embassies in Iraq, Pakistan, and Jordan, she has developed strategies to advance U.S. interests; managed contracts and projects of up to \$150 million; and managed large teams. She is the Chair of the Board for the non-profit Atlas Corps and a Term-Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

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## **Paul Cuclis**

Communications and Outreach Manager  
Mayor's Office of Trade & International Affairs

Paul joined the mayor's office in 2015. As a communications manager, he oversees the office's web development and social media presence, manages the monthly event calendar and quarterly newsletter, engages in outreach with office partners and assists with the coordination of largescale international events.

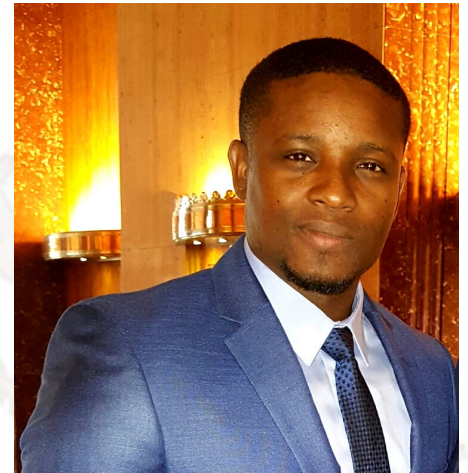
After graduating from Trinity University with a Bachelor of Arts in English, Paul went on to work abroad in China as both a Culture & Travel journalist and a midstream natural gas researcher. He is highly proficient in Mandarin Chinese, and an avid student of Chinese culture.

## **Mazda Denon**

Administration Affairs and Events Manager  
Mayor's Office of trade & International Affairs

Mazda joined the mayor's office in 2016; he has been a committed volunteer since 2013. As an Administrative Affairs and Events Manager, Mazda has a wide variety of duties including budgeting, record keeping, developing key relationships with suppliers, vendors and potential event venues, and developing signature events.

Mazda is fluent in French and English. He holds two bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Finances and is currently working on his Graduate Certificate at Texas A&M in International Affairs with emphasis in Intelligence.



## **Deanea LeFlore**

Chief of Protocol  
Mayor's Office of Trade & International Affairs

Deanea develops international government relations strategies to achieve Houston's diplomatic, trade and development objectives. Daily, she liaises with members of Houston's consular corps and international partners to bring economic, cultural, and educational opportunities to Houston. Since 2001, she has overseen the visits of 30 heads of state and over 2,000 cabinet members and ambassadors, connecting these distinguished guests to Houston-area leaders and organizations.

Deanea serves on the board of Casa Cultural de las Americas and is a past board member of Protocol & Diplomacy International. She speaks fluent Spanish and is a student of Arabic. Deanea has a BA in Spanish and International Studies and is a certified protocol consultant.



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**Niké (Beltran) Luqman**

International Partners and Agreements Manager  
Mayor's Office of Trade & International Affairs

Nike joined the Mayor's Office of Trade and International Affairs in February 2013. She serves as the consular affairs and international partnerships manager.

Nike is a native Spaniard who's made Houston her home and the United States her country. She is fluent in Spanish and English. She graduated from Baylor University and has travelled and lived in many parts of the world, developing lasting friendships. She finds Houston and her position in the Mayor's office an extension of her passion in discovering and connecting with national and international communities.

**Tomiko Olah**

Business Development Manager  
Mayor's Office of Trade & International Affairs

Tomiko joined the office in 2013. Her responsibilities include cultivating relationships within the international business community and connecting Houston enterprises with those abroad. She coordinates inbound and outbound delegations and is the liaison to Houston's 19 sister city organizations, including serving on the Sister Cities of Houston Board of Directors.

Tomiko graduated from the University of Houston, Honors College with Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History, as well as the Culinary Institute LeNôtre with a diploma in culinary arts. She loves being able to tap into the international presence of Houston through community events, the culinary scene and business.



## Mayor's Office of Trade & International Affairs



### Location

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