

COLOMBIA TODAY

A Weekly Update from the Embassy of Colombia

December 22, 2016

Ambassador Pinzón Visits the Windy City



Ambassador Pinzón tours Chicago Sister Cities International. Chicago and Bogotá are sister cities.

Last week, Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón visited Chicago to meet with local business leaders and other key stakeholders to discuss Colombia's transformation on the road to peace and opportunities to expand trade and investment ties between Colombia and the Windy City. While in Chicago, the Ambassador met with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and business leaders from AAR Corp., World Business Chicago and Motorola Solutions, among others, as well as the local Colombian community.

In an [op-ed](#) out today in *Crain's Chicago Business*, the Ambassador writes about the importance of the trade partnership:



Why Colombia's Ambassador Came to Chicago
Op-ed by Juan Carlos Pinzón, Colombian Ambassador to the United States
December 22, 2016

On the southern tip of Lake Michigan, Chicago is a multi-stop, daylong plane ride from Colombia on the northern tip of South America. But geographical distance has not prevented your city and my country from establishing a strong trade partnership and a deepening relationship.

That's why I visited Chicago last week—to celebrate and expand our close ties and the Chicago-Bogotá Sister Cities partnership.

Trade between Illinois and Colombia is a two-way business that brings great benefits to exporters and importers in both places. In 2015, Illinois exported to Colombia \$443 million in goods that ranged from agricultural products and processed food to computer and electronic products and machinery. In that same year, Colombia sent to Illinois \$59.1 million in exports, which included agricultural products, chemicals and manufacturing products.

What's more, international trade overall plays as a major role in driving the Illinois economy, delivering benefits across the state. In 2015 alone, the state's exports around the globe totaled \$63.4 billion, and Colombia was the fourth-leading destination in Latin America for Illinois-made goods. Colombia is pleased to be part of this positive story.

While in Chicago, I had the chance to meet with local business leaders and talk about how we can achieve even more together. For example, I sat down with company executives convened by World Business Chicago and the Business Council for International Understanding, as well as with the CEO of Motorola Solutions, Greg Brown. In every conversation, we discussed how we can further strengthen the Chicago-Colombia economic partnership.

The strong ties Colombia has built with local and state leaders and businesses are supported by the women and men who serve Illinois in America's capital. We have enjoyed working with the state's congressional delegation to advance a positive trade agenda for Illinois and all of the United States, and we will continue to make sure they know how important trade is between your state and my country.

Through bilateral trade, two regions that are distant geographically have forged a strong economic partnership that has brought us closer together. And through much determination and sacrifice—and driven by common cause—our partnership has led to Colombia becoming a nation transformed. Once on the verge of decline a decade and a half ago, today Colombia is building a stable and lasting peace and prosperity for all of our citizens.

I am grateful for the opportunity to visit Chicago and tell this positive story, as well as learn how we can produce more opportunities together through trade and expanding our bilateral partnership.

The Visit ... in Tweets

 **Ambassador Pinzon** @ColAmbPinzon · Dec 15
Sat down w/CEO @gregbrownmoto to learn more about @Moto_USA's incredible technology and opportunities in Colombia



 **Ambassador Pinzon** @ColAmbPinzon · Dec 15
Important discussion today w/@BCIU & @WorldBizChicago on opportunities to expand economic and investment ties between Colombia & the U.S.



ChicagoSisterCities

 **Ambassador Pinzon** @ColAmbPinzon · Dec 14
Thank you @ChicagosMayor Rahm Emanuel for warmly welcoming us to Chicago this week



 **Ambassador Pinzon** @ColAmbPinzon · Dec 15
In Chicago on the coldest day of the year (6°F) talking about Colombia - a beautiful and warm country full of opportunities for the future.





Ambassador Pinzón sits down with WBEZ-FM's Jerome McDonnell.

While in Chicago, the Ambassador also had a chance to sit down with *WBEZ-FM* "Worldview" Host Jerome McDonnell to discuss the new Peace Agreement reached with the FARC, today's Colombia and the importance of the bilateral partnership.

Listen to the interview [here](#).

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