PRESS RELEASE

The Netherland-America Foundation celebrates the launch of its Atlanta Chapter

November 2021

On November 16th, Dutch-American Heritage Day, the Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will host a special, invitation-only, event to celebrate the launch of the Atlanta Chapter of The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF).

One hundred years after the NAF was founded in New York City, Atlanta will become the 10th NAF chapter in the US. Its mission will be to “build bridges between the Netherlands and the Southeast United States, by enabling the exchange of people and ideas that create appreciation, progress, and tolerance.” The launch of the new NAF chapter is a recognition of the growing importance of Atlanta as a cultural and economic hub and is a testament to our strong roots in this community. As the gateway to the Southeastern United States, Atlanta already hosts a successful Netherlands American Chamber of Commerce and the Atlanta Holland Club. A number of distinguished guests and speakers, including The Carter Center CEO Paige Alexander, will join the festivities on November 16th.

“The expansion of the Netherland-America Foundation to the Southeast with the new Atlanta chapter represents the interest of strengthening ties between our nations. The newly initiated activities will focus on how we learn more from our shared heritage and values (democracy, open societies, emphasis on freedom, individual responsibility) and move forward together. I am very grateful to the individual Dutch and American men and women in Atlanta taking up this initiative and they can count on our support,” said Ard van der Vorst, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Atlanta.

Willemijn Keizer, Executive Director of the Netherland-America Foundation said: “This is a milestone year for the Netherland-America Foundation. Not only is this a year where we celebrate our 100th anniversary, this is also the year where we welcome Atlanta to our family of chapters.”

Bernard van der Lande, the inaugural Chair of the new NAF Chapter, also remarked: “We’re proud and excited to start the 10th NAF Chapter in the United States on the 100th anniversary of the NAF. It’s a testament to the growing importance of Atlanta as a cultural and economic hub, and we look forward to doing our part to contribute to future success and growth in region, as well as further strengthening the bonds between our two great countries.”

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Notes to editors:

About the NAF: Founded in 1921, the Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) is the leading bilateral foundation initiating and supporting high-impact exchange between the Netherlands and the United States, including the NAF-Fulbright Fellowships and programs in the arts, business, public policy and historic preservation. NAF activities provide donors and recipients with access to a broad network of educational, cultural and business organizations that exemplify Dutch and American excellence in a number of disciplines. Website: https://thenaf.org/