

## Global Greeter Network: Fact sheet

### The idea: Greeter Concept

Greeters welcome visitors to their city and take them on a personal, two- to three-hour walk showing them the city beyond the guide books and off the beaten track.

Greeters are volunteers who love their city or region and are keen to share with you their enthusiasm and knowledge about the city or region.

During the walk, visitors discover the city on foot or using public transport network. Whether visiting a city for the first time or as a regular visitor Greeters welcome them to their city and look forward to showing them a part of “their” city.

All Greeters and Greeter destinations share the same core values: see next page.

### Global Greeter Network – network of Greeter destinations around the world

GGN is a worldwide network of more than 130 city/region Greeter programs, sharing a common drive to create a unique experience, by connecting visitors with enthusiastic local volunteers.

In bi-annual meetings the members of the Global Greeter Network discuss and decide about their common project and elect the GGN board.

### Current GGN Board members

Katie Law, Chicago – Chair

Klaus Bostelmann, Hamburg – Secretary

Joaquin Brenman, Buenos Aires

Françoise Deygout, Paris

Emilie Herssens, Brussels

### Facts & Figures





## **GGN Core Values**

All Greeters and Greeter destinations share the same core values:

- 1) Greeters are volunteers, a friendly face for those visiting a city/destination
- 2) Greeters welcome individuals and may serve small groups of up to six people
- 3) Meeting a Greeter is free of charge
- 4) All visitors and volunteers are welcomed without any kind of discrimination.
- 5) Greeter programs support sustainable tourism. Programs respect natural and man-made environments, bringing both cultural and economic enrichment to local communities. Programs aim for a lasting positive image of each destination.
- 6) Greeter programs create a mutually enriching opportunity for cultural exchange; create links between people in creating a better world.

## **Milestones in GGN history**

- 1992 Lynn Brooks initiates "Big Apple Greeters" in New York
- 1997 The Greeter concepts starts to spread around the world: Melbourne becomes second destination. In 2001 Adelaide follows, Buenos Aires and Chicago follow in 2002, 3 years later Houston and Toronto.
- 2005 First meeting in New York, attended by five destinations from US and Canada
- 2007 "Global Greeter Network Annual Roundtable" in Toronto, Canada. Regulations for new members approval, GGN website and logo.
- 2009 More than 10 destinations
- 2010 Jos Nusse (Den Haag) is elected chairman
- 2012 Annual Meeting Brussels: Christian Ragil (Paris) is elected chairman.
- 2013 More than 50 destinations.  
Annual Meeting Paris: First Release of "GGN Goals and Governance"
- 2014 Annual Meeting Chicago: Joaquin Brenman (Buenos Aires) is elected chairman
- 2015 More than 100 destinations
- 2016 Nov 2016: Katie Law (Chicago) is elected chairman

## **Contact**

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