

DAVIS international house



2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

FACILITATED BY THIRD PLATEAU SOCIAL IMPACT STRATEGIES

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OVERVIEW

Building community, international understanding, and cultural connections.

International House Davis is a leading Davis, California nonprofit cultural center recognized for its community gathering space, supportive learning programs, and cultural events, attracting thousands of participants to experience international cultures.

I-House Davis Past and Present

Established in 1981, International House Davis began to serve international students at UC Davis by connecting them with the greater Davis community. In 1984, thanks to the generosity of the Shunta Yamamoto family, the organization was able to purchase its home at 10 College Park. Since then, I-House Davis has broadened its scope of programs and services, building community, international understanding, and cultural connections across the Davis region. Over the years, we've become known as a home and gathering place for international scholars, visitors, transplants, immigrants, and anyone interested in learning and engaging with international cultures.

Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, as we reopened our doors to the public, we focused on easing social isolation by bringing people together and creating a

space of belonging for people from diverse backgrounds to feel connected and valued. Our volunteers grew our learning programs to include Persian drumming, French and Peruvian dance, and public speaking. We developed a new culturally responsive English learning program for refugees and newcomers. We launched the I-House World Tour to highlight cultural traditions, beginning with a focus on Native American Cultures in Wintun Homeland.

We've reflected on I-House's position in our community and reimaged our mission, vision, and offerings through a comprehensive strategic planning process. We know that the world today is not the same as it was in 2020 (or 1981 when we were founded) and rather than defaulting back to our pre-pandemic operating norms, we are taking intentional steps forward to meet the moment and serve the current needs of our community.

We believe that culture – language, beliefs, art, music, storytelling, food, dance, history, architecture, poetry – is a critical vehicle to facilitate meaningful international and intercultural learning, understanding, and connections. Through a deepened understanding of the complexity of our shared humanity, we create an inclusive, culturally vibrant, collaborative, and compassionate community and world.



OVERVIEW

Looking ahead

As set forth by our strategic plan, over the next three and a half years (by June 2027), we will establish I-House Davis as a cultural center for the exchange of international arts, culture, and ideas. As a cultural presenting organization, we will continue to center international and marginalized voices, perspectives, and practices to bridge differences for a more connected and inclusive community. We will create space for cultural practitioners – artists, musicians, storytellers, dance makers, scholars, chefs, historians – with an international or intercultural lens to share and engage the I-House community in their work. We know that people come to I-House to share experiences with others, and we will intentionally program those experiences to foster inclusion, cultivate joy and kinship, and facilitate learning. Staying true to our founding principles, we will welcome international scholars, visitors, immigrants, transplants, and families by connecting them with the local community. We will support volunteers to provide quality language learning and other community-led international arts and humanities programs. We are excited to engage the Davis community in a process to reimagine and better utilize our 235 Russell property, aligning with the I-House mission, piloting new opportunities for engaging

programming, and developing a holistic approach to the long-term sustainability of the I-House properties. Additionally, we will bolster I-House’s organizational infrastructure, investing in the team that advances our mission and building the organization’s long-term financial sustainability.

Over the next three and a half years (Jan. 2024 - June 2027), we will focus on four key priorities:

1. Establish I-House Davis as a hub for international arts, culture, and ideas.
2. Grow the I-House Davis community.
3. Reimagine the use of 235 Russell to advance our mission and impact.
4. Strengthen our organizational capacity and infrastructure to achieve our goals.

This strategic plan reflects a continuation and evolution of our ongoing work to build community, international understanding, and cultural connections. It outlines and clarifies our role as an international cultural center and our continued commitment to connecting people through the exchange of arts, culture, and ideas to build a vibrant, inclusive, and globally connected community.



I-HOUSE DAVIS OVERVIEW

The local hub for international culture

VISION

An inclusive, culturally vibrant and compassionate world

MISSION

Nurturing the exchange of arts, culture, and ideas to build a vibrant, inclusive, and globally-connected community.

WHO WE SERVE

- Attendees and participants - globally curious locals and international transplants and visitors
- Cultural practitioners
- Community volunteers

CORE VALUES

- Community
- Curiosity
- Collaboration
- Culture
- Inclusion

WHAT IS I-HOUSE

A nonprofit international cultural center with meeting and event space, and a variety of arts, culture, and humanities programs.

WHAT WE DO (GENERAL)

We facilitate

- Cultural expression and participation
- Learning and the exchange of ideas
- Community co-creation
- Connection and convening

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Cultural events: performances, talks, exhibits, and gatherings.
- Learning Program: volunteer-led language conversation, music, dance, and meet-ups
- Community building for international scholars and newcomers: Fulbright Enrichment, English partners.



OUR PURPOSE

Values

Community

We cultivate connections and bring people together to build an inclusive space where everyone feels welcome and belongs. We value diverse lived experiences and perspectives, while we celebrate what is shared within the complexity of humanity. We work to honor reciprocal relationships and recognize that we all collectively contribute to building and deepening an equitable, empathetic, and connected community.

Curiosity

We bring a mindset of constant learning, growth, and cultural humility, in which we honor the beliefs, customs, and values of others. We believe everyone has something to share, learn, and teach and we create space to listen. We step out of our comfort zones to experience new places and open ourselves to new ideas and perspectives.

Collaboration

We believe that more is possible when we work together. We partner with people, organizations, and communities to help one another achieve our goals. We practice awareness of power structures and work to level the playing field to

support equitable inclusion, participation, and reciprocity. We work with others, building strong relationships in which partners hold each other accountable, share collective responsibility, and learn from one another to build a more inclusive and connected Davis community.

Culture

We build bridges across common human experiences. We nurture the expression of creativity, identities, and ideas, through language, music, dance, literature, food, and beyond. We believe that the exchange of ideas, arts, and culture can engender understanding, compassion, empathy, and innovation, creating a better future in our town, our region, and our world.

Inclusion

We value the wide array of experiences, backgrounds, perspectives, and identities that our participants bring to I-House. We seek and uplift voices that are often unheard, quieted, or outside of the mainstream. We are attentive to our cultural differences and are thoughtful in creating spaces where people with marginalized identities will feel respected, valued, and connected to the community, where they can practice, share, and honor their own culture and learn about other cultures.





I-House serves three interrelated constituencies:



Cultural practitioners - artists, musicians, scholars, poets, chefs, historians, writers, storytellers, etc – creatives and knowledge bearers who work in an international, intercultural, or traditional context. The essence of our work involves practices and individuals situated beyond, challenging, interplaying with, or blending with dominant (Western European) paradigms. As a presenting organization, we offer space for these practitioners to present and share their work but do not typically produce or lead the creative processes.

Community volunteers – learning program instructors, event volunteers, conversation partners/local hosts, and interns. Our model relies on and deeply values the engagement of our community volunteers. We provide support and training for our volunteers to teach classes, host international visitors, and support I-House programming, more broadly.



Attendees/participants – culturally engaged and globally curious locals as well as international scholars, immigrants, transplants, and visitors from around the world. Our events, classes, and programs provide a welcoming space for attendees to gather, learn, and connect.

WHAT WE DO

Programs & Services



Cultural Expression and Participation

I-House presents I-Fest, a major community festival, and hosts concerts, workshops, symposiums, and events that share and celebrate the music, dance, art, ideas and knowledge of our diasporic communities.



Community-led Learning Experiences

Our learning pass program includes volunteer-led language, cooking, music and dance opportunities. We offer opportunities for community members to share their culture and experience with others



English Language Services

I-House supports culturally responsive English Learning through conversation groups, the English Practice Partnership and other community services.



Activities for International Parents, Scholars & Professionals

We provide community building activities through the International Parent Community, Fulbright Enrichment Program and Humphrey Scholar office support.



Space Rental Services

We offer our space to rent for community events, celebrations, meetings, social gatherings and more.





THE LOCAL HUB
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
CULTURE.

BUILDING
COMMUNITY,
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING,
AND CULTURAL
CONNECTIONS.

JANUARY 2024 - JUNE 2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

To advance our vision and mission, we will focus on the following priorities over the next 3.5 years:

1) Establish I-House Davis as a hub for international arts, culture, and ideas.

I-House is poised to deepen our programs, presence, and reputation as an international cultural center. We will promote international cultural and creative exploration and expression through arts, culture, and humanities programming.

2) Grow the I-House Davis community.

I-House is proud to shape a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming space for our community that promotes inclusion, belonging, and cultural learning. We will invest in programs, partnerships, and outreach to attract and engage new and recurring community members. We will grow our volunteer base and opportunities for I-House participants to initiate and facilitate programs and events.

3) Reimagine 235 Russell to advance our mission and impact.

We will explore and pilot new opportunities to utilize our 235 Russell property to deepen our impact. Utilizing the existing space with minor improvements as needed, our pilots will allow us to gather information on how we might balance community engagement, unique support to cultural practitioners, and organizational revenue/sustainability needs. Conclusions drawn from the piloting process will be integrated into full-campus design needs, investments, and opportunities.

4) Strengthen our organizational capacity and infrastructure to achieve our goals.

Our internal stability and effectiveness drive our long-term success and impact. We will grow our team, strengthen internal systems, and expand our financial capacity.



STRATEGIES & TACTICS

To reach our 2024-2027 priorities, we will pursue the targeted strategies and tactics detailed below. Strategies represent our main approach to achieving the goals; tactics represent the concrete, specific actions that we will take within each of the strategies.

1

**ESTABLISH I-HOUSE DAVIS AS A
HUB FOR INTERNATIONAL ARTS,
CULTURE, AND IDEAS.**

2

**GROW THE I-HOUSE DAVIS
COMMUNITY.**

3

**REIMAGINE 235 RUSSELL TO
ADVANCE OUR MISSION AND
IMPACT.**

4

**STRENGTHEN OUR
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY
AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO
ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.**



STRATEGIES & TACTICS

1 Establish I-House Davis as a hub for international arts, culture, and ideas.

Expand and strengthen cultural and humanities programs to be more diverse, relevant and meaningful.

- Increase and diversify programs, piloting new content and modalities
- Evolve existing programs
- Develop deeper assessment and feedback tools to guide decisions.

Support cultural practitioners with an international or intercultural lens to thrive

- Strengthen relationships and increase opportunities for cultural practitioners to showcase their work.

Build volunteer capacity to expand volunteer-led programs and support cultural events.

- Increase support and training for volunteers to develop and pilot new programs at I-House.



STRATEGIES & TACTICS

2 Grow the I-House Davis community.

Partner with local and regional organizations to reach new participants

- Continue to develop strategic partnerships with UC Davis, government agencies, and local organizations to pursue co-programming.

Increase awareness of our programs and impact

- Strengthen branding, marketing and outreach strategies, and increase accessibility of our materials and programs.



STRATEGIES & TACTICS

3 Reimagine the utilization of 235 Russell to advance our mission and impact.

Explore and pilot 2-4 mission-aligned strategies for using 235 Russell.

Conduct and assess pilots, using the space in a variety of ways.

- Increase and diversify presenting program, evolve existing programs and develop new

- Strengthen relationships and increase opportunities for cultural preactioners to showcase their work.



STRATEGIES & TACTICS

4 Strengthen our organizational capacity and infrastructure to achieve our goals.

Build staff and board capacity

- Invest in our people - strengthen policies and procedures, offer professional development, hire and recruit.

Increase Individual and philanthropic giving

- Strengthen relationships with past and prospective donors, diversify contributed income streams

Increase earned revenue

- Assess pricing models, increase program and rental revenue and pilot service contracts

Maintain and improve our facilities and systems to fulfill our mission

- Create comprehensive maintenance and improvement plan for I-House campus, increase curb appeal.





International House Davis

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Photos from I-House 2023-2024 Cultural
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