



EST. 1925

*The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York, Inc.*

[www.sofcny.com](http://www.sofcny.com)

**SOCIETY OF FOREIGN CONSULS IN NEW YORK (SOFC)  
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY GALA RECEPTION**

**POST-EVENT PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SOCIETY OF FOREIGN CONSULS IN NEW YORK COMMEMORATES 100  
YEARS OF GLOBAL DIPLOMACY**

**New York, May 5, 2025** – The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York (SoFC) celebrated a momentous milestone with a grand 100th Anniversary Gala Reception at the historic Surrogate's Courthouse in Lower Manhattan. The centennial celebration honored a century of consular presence, global cooperation, and diplomatic service in New York—home to the largest consular corps in the world.

Under the theme “*A Legacy of Diplomacy, A Future of Possibilities*,” the evening welcomed over 200 guests, including distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, senior officials from city and state governments, and representatives from partner institutions and international organizations.

The event opened with a stirring 100-Year Video Montage chronicling the origins and evolution of SoFC since its founding in 1925—when early gatherings took place aboard ocean liners such as the RMS *Majestic*, symbolizing the Society's deep-rooted legacy of cross-border dialogue and unity.

In his welcome remarks, SoFC President and Consul General of Malaysia Amir Farid Abu Hasan reflected on the Society's enduring legacy and evolution. “A century later, we may not be aboard an ocean liner,” he remarked, “but here we are in this majestic building, surrounded by friends from across the world. The Society of Foreign Consuls stands alone in scope and spirit—uniting us across language, politics, and culture as we carry out the quiet force of diplomacy.”

Representing the City of New York, First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro, on behalf of Mayor Eric L. Adams, affirmed the vital role of the consular corps in shaping the city's global identity. “Has there ever been a more important time in our modern age for diplomacy, for communication, for mutual respect, for coming together?” he asked. “We are a city of immigrants and a city of nations—this gathering reminds us what we can accomplish together.”

Commissioner for International Affairs Edward Mermelstein highlighted the longstanding partnership between the SoFC and the Mayor's Office. “In a world that often feels more divided,” he said, “this Society reminds us that diplomacy is not a luxury—it's a necessity. It's how we translate good intentions into lasting partnerships. And in this city, global is local.”



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Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, Cliff Seagroves, Acting Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, emphasized the shared mission of fostering international understanding. “You bring your cultures, perspectives, and people closer to ours,” he said. “You make a real difference not only in New York but across the country. Through your work, we put shared values into action.”

A key highlight of the evening was the presentation of an official Proclamation from the Mayor’s Office, formally recognizing SoFC’s 100 years of diplomatic service and reaffirming the City’s partnership with the diplomatic community.

The evening concluded with a festive networking reception, where guests enjoyed the **Experiential Multicultural Bar**—an immersive celebration of global hospitality featuring premium wines, spirits, and liqueurs donated by SoFC member countries, each one representing the diversity and diplomatic reach of the organization.

The Society of Foreign Consuls extends its deepest appreciation to its partners, including the New York City Mayor’s Office for International Affairs as co-hosts, and other key stakeholders, whose support helped make this once-in-a-century celebration a reality. The Gala Reception stands as a powerful testament to the enduring spirit of diplomacy, and the shared vision of a more interconnected, peaceful, and cooperative world.

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## **ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF FOREIGN CONSULS IN NEW YORK**

Founded in 1925, the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York, Inc. (SoFC) represents the world’s largest consular corps, comprising Consulates, Consulates General, and Honorary Consulates based in New York City. Incorporated as a 501(c)(7) not-for-profit organization in 2015, SoFC serves as a platform for diplomatic engagement, cultural and economic collaboration, and advocacy for the interests of consular representatives.

For more information about the event or to inquire about future initiatives, please contact the Society of Foreign Consuls at: [sofcny@gmail.com](mailto:sofcny@gmail.com) ; [sofcny.com](http://sofcny.com) or follow #SoFC100 on social media.

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## PHOTOS

### Photo 1

Members of the Society of Foreign Consuls Executive Committee, together with New York City First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro, New York City Commissioner for International Affairs Edward Mermelstein, Acting Director of the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions Cliff Seagroves gather on stage for a commemorative photo at the 100th Anniversary Gala Reception held at the historic Surrogate's Courthouse in New York City.

### Photo 2

SoFC President and Consul General of Malaysia Amir Farid Abu Hasan delivers his welcome remarks, highlighting the Society's century of diplomatic service, cross-cultural collaboration, and its unique role in strengthening ties between New York City and the global community.

### Photo 3

New York City First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro (left) and Consul General of Malaysia and SoFC President Amir Farid Abu Hasan (right) pose for a photo following the presentation of an official Proclamation from Mayor Eric L. Adams, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York.

### Photo 4

A highlight of the reception is the experiential multicultural bar, where guests sampled a curated selection of wines and spirits from SoFC member countries—a celebration of global traditions and diplomacy through taste.

### Photo 5

Guests enjoy a diverse culinary experience exclusively curated by Andaaz Restaurant & Caterers, featuring globally inspired dishes.

### Photo 6

A live musical performance by *Q Train*, a Georgian band based in New York City sets the tone for the evening, providing a festive atmosphere that reflects the international camaraderie of the Society of Foreign Consuls.

**### END ###**