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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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(From L. to R.) Juan Gonzalez, Jorge Argüello, Mike Pyle and Sergio Massa.

VISIT OF MINISTER SERGIO MASSA TO WASHINGTON DC

The Minister of Economy, Sergio Massa, paid a working visit to Washington DC on August 22nd and 23rd. First, on the morning of Tuesday the 22nd, Minister Massa held a meeting with Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations of the World Bank with the purpose of concretizing the financing of social programs aimed at strengthening food security, and specifically to reinforce the universal allowances program (\$450 million dollars) and to support the capacity of SMEs to access pre-financing lines for imports and exports through the BICE (\$200 million dollars).

Then, at noon on Tuesday, the 22nd, Minister Massa participated in a working meeting with the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Ilan Goldfajn and IDB Executive Vice President, Jordan Schwartz, in which progress was made in the signing of contracts for the financing of important infrastructure works, such as the expansion of the installed capacity for the hydroelectric generation of the Salto Grande dam, and programs for the pre-financing of exports in the knowledge economy sector. It was also announced that the project to finance the construction of a new bridge that will link the cities of



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the visit to Washington DC of the Minister of Economy Sergio Massa during which held meetings with high officials from the US government, World Bank, IDB and IMF".

In this edition we also include an article on Lionel Messi's first title in the MLS Leagues Cup final and the presentation of an AFA project in the United States.

Finally, an article on issues related to Argentina's special participation in the 19th Transformer's Annual Auction Exhibition & Benefit Gala.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE PROGRESS MADE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH MULTILATERAL BANKS WILL ALLOW THE COUNTRY TO COUNT ON WITH FINANCING FOR \$1.31 BILLION DOLLARS FOR PROJECTS THAT ARE STRATEGIC FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Corrientes and Chaco, will soon be processed.

Minister Massa pointed out that progress made in these discussions with multilateral banks will allow the country to count on, between now and the end of the year, with financing for \$1.31 billion dollars for projects that are strategic for development with social inclusion, and that will also contribute to strengthening the international reserves, which have been depleted this year due to the impact of an unprecedented drought in the country which took a toll on exports.

On the afternoon of Tuesday the 22nd, Minister Massa visited the Treasury Department where he had a working meeting with the Undersecretary for International Affairs, Jay Shambaugh and his team.

Finally, on Tuesday night, Minister Sergio Massa met at the residence of Ambassador Jorge Arguello with important White House officials: Mike Pyle, Deputy National Security Advisor to President Biden and Juan Gonzalez, Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council.

On Wednesday, August 23, the IMF Board of Directors approved the fifth and sixth revisions to the Extended Facilities Agreement with the IMF, which will immediately unlock disbursements under the agreement in an amount equivalent to \$7.5 billion dollars.

Following the IMF Board meeting on Wednesday afternoon, August 23rd, Minister Massa and his team met with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, IMF Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath and Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs Rodrigo Valdés together with IMF staff assigned to follow up on Argentina's current program. ■

Sergio Massa at World Bank. Photo Credit: Ministry of Economy.



LIONEL MESSI WINS HIS FIRST TITLE WITH INTER MIAMI IN THE LEAGUES CUP

Lionel Messi's Inter Miami won the first title in its short history last Saturday against Nashville SC in the Leagues Cup final.

The Argentine star who revolutionized the MLS since his arrival last month was the author of a new and spectacular goal, thus writing another glorious page in his long career. Lionel Messi joined Inter Miami -being the lowest ranked team in MLS- and within a month he led it to its first title in a competition that brings together soccer teams from the Mexican and American leagues. For Messi this was the 44th trophy of his legendary career, being the most winning soccer player of all time.

With the victory, Inter Miami qualifies directly to the

round of 16 of the 2024 Concacaf Champions League, where Messi will seek to win the highest title of the North American confederation. The "Concachampions" is a tournament that brings together the qualified teams from North, Central America and the Caribbean and whose winner obtains a place to play in the FIFA Club World Cup. Argentine soccer makes a strong impact on the United States.

Messi's arrival at Inter Miami and obtaining his first title in the country can be seen as one more piece in the big picture where Argentine soccer undoubtedly continues to expand its presence in the United States by leaps and bounds. On August 15, the Argentine Football Association (AFA) presented its ambitious project in the United States

Lionel Messi in the Leagues Cup final.



ON AUGUST 15, THE ARGENTINE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (AFA) PRESENTED ITS AMBITIOUS PROJECT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE 2024 COPA AMÉRICA AND THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP.

and business standpoint, the conjunction of the Argentine star and the expansion of the AFA project on North American soil will provide a unique platform for American and Argentine companies that want to strengthen their brand and their commercial presence in the land of “soccer”. The AFA, which already has more than 15 regional sponsorships, its own social networks for each market and a high volume of e-commerce sales, is thus committed to consolidating its position in the US market. ■

for the 2024 Copa América and the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The plan includes the construction of two professional fields, six 5-a-side soccer fields, gyms and workspaces for the academy. The mother house of soccer won a 30-year land lease approved by the city of North Bay Village, outside Miami. This is in addition to offices in the Wynwood Township of 1,500 overall square feet spread over one floor. The presentation, held in Hialeah, Miami, was given by the president of the AFA, Claudio Tapia, and the coach of the National Team, Lionel Scaloni.

The idea of building a high-performance center in Miami (with the intention of expanding to other US cities in the long term) responds not only to the needs of the Argentine National team for the upcoming Copa América and the World Cup: the facilities are also going to be available to the local community. “The agreement tries to give social assistance to the neighbors. That people will be able to play different sports, not just soccer,” said President Tapia.

There are currently 46 Argentine players in the MLS, spread across 21 of the 29 clubs, including Messi and another world champion Thiago Almada (Atlanta United), who also holds the record for being the most expensive incoming transfer in MLS history. In addition, there are two Argentine coaches in the league: Hernán Losada, from the Montreal Impact, and Gerardo Tata Martino, from Inter Miami.

On the other hand, and looking at it from an economic



Transformer20 Exhibition, 2022. Photo: Camille DeSanto. Courtesy: Transformer.

ARGENTINE ARTISTS PARTICIPATE IN THE 19TH EDITION OF TRANSFORMER GALLERY'S ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND AUCTION

In the heart of Logan Circle, the Transformer Art Gallery has become, over the past 20 years, one of the focal points of Washington DC's art scene. Since its foundation in 2002, its mission has been to support the art community from a broad and inclusive perspective that reflects diversity in all its aspects.

This year, the Embassy of Argentina with Ambassador Jorge Argüello in the role of diplomatic chair, will participate in the 19th Transformer's Annual Auction Exhibition & Benefit Gala. This event brings together about 25 works by Argentine artists and a total of 150 pieces by emerging and established creators of different nationalities.

"The Invincible Visible" is the title of this exhibition, which will be open to the public from November 4 to 17 at the

Katzen Arts Center of American University. The exhibition and accompanying online Auction will culminate with a Benefit Gala reception on November 18.

Argentine artists selected by Transformer include: María Bouquet, Lorena Cabrera, Adriana Carambia, Claudio Debenedetti, Ana Castro Feijoo, Lao Gabrielli, Christina Ghetti, Carolina Gutierrez, Silvia Levenson, Susana Mendaro, Victoria Muniagurria, Gladys Nistor, Fernando Poggio, Anda Rendich, Anahí Roitman, Marina Soria and Claudia Tordini. In addition, a work by Argentinean artist Julio Le Parc will be specially auctioned at the October 18 gala, and by special invitation, an installation by Argentine artist Marcelo Toledo will be on display.

For this event, the Embassy invited artists who have

THE EMBASSY INVITED ARTISTS
WHO HAVE EXHIBITED AT
OUR HEADQUARTERS IN THE
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2023/2024 SEASON TO SUBMIT
PROJECTS.

exhibited at our headquarters in the last five years and those selected in the Call for Entry for the 2023/2024 season to submit projects. The jurors for this last call were Carlos Basualdo (curator of contemporary art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and general curator at MAXXI-Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo in Rome, Italy), Aimé Iglesias Lukin (director and chief curator of Visual Arts at the Americas Society), and Maria Bonta de la Pezuela (associate director of Development at the National Gallery of Arts).

The exhibition "The Invincible Visible" is a vehicle for promoting the work of the auction's participating artists to an audience of more than 850 collectors. In turn, the Transformer's Annual Silent Auction & Benefit Gala allows the artworks of local, national and international artists to be exhibited on a large-scale.

Since its conception, Transformer has been presented in partnership with cultural institutions such as the Katzen Arts Center at American University, the Corcoran College of the Arts and Design at George Washington University, the Mexican Cultural Institute, Halcyon House and Pepco Edison Place Gallery.

At the end of 2022 Transformer celebrated its 20th anniversary highlighting the talent of the emerging visual artist community. This retrospective exhibition, which brought together 100 works by artists who exhibited at the gallery over the past 20 years, was presented at GW Corcoran School of the Arts and Design from November 11 to December 10, 2022.

Since its inception the gallery has driven innovative cultural production through broad and comprehensive support of exceptionally talented artists who continue to challenge and influence evolving cultural and social systems. The development of innovative and multi-faceted exhibition and programmatic platforms, both independently and through global programs, has been one of Transformer's primary objectives. ■