

The Cross Cultural Committee is largely responsible for organizing the language exchange program each semester. Managing and organizing this group comprises a large majority of our primary tasks, and as such has it's own handbook in the office of international programs. The language exchange will always be an internalized function of the cross cultural committee, so whichever of the leaders works at the Study Abroad Office will be the one responsible for organizing this group. As the handbook contains a lot of information about our databases, it has been asked that it not be included in this handbook and remain solely in the office.

Below are some of the objectives that our committee has worked on during the past semester.

Student Organization Collaborations

We are actively trying to bring about more collaboration with all the cultural student organizations on campus. As of right now, our committee has had close ties with the Japanese Student Organization. This is in large part due to the fact that their advisor, Ko, works at the Office of International Programs and is always eager to have his organization be more active with on campus events. It is highly encourage that you seek partnerships with other student groups as they have close ties with larger cultural organizations within San Francisco and can be your reference point to cultural events that might be going on. Another benefit is that these Student Organization work on their own promotional events throughout the semester, so you can often find events to work on together and collaboratively hold for IEEC. As an example, we have been working on the JSA-IEEC dodgeball event, and the KSA scavenger hunt.

It can be tricky dealing with the student org's as they don't generally answer their email, but be persistent. The best way is to go visit their booths when they are tabling at the quad, if you can get emails for their President and Marketing chair.

Cultural Events within San Francisco

Cultural events within SF are easy to find, just go on funcheapsf or other community event forums to find more information. When you have found events, submit an event registration through IEEC and make sure you have a leader from your organization who will be in charge of the event bring a sign with them to lead IEEC'ers who choose to go.

Food Events

Cultural Food events are a major struggle with in our committee. The main reason is Facebook. Facebook events are a horrible way to gauge if people are actually going to show up to a dinner event. This can be really difficult because when you have a party that has more have 8 people you need to reserve a table.

Some tips:

- Keep updating the page "if you are not going please remove yourself from the list". Hopefully people, who just hit the Going button because it sounded fun, will take themselves off so the more serious attendees can attend.

- Expect half the people to show up. We've always tried to be fairly accurate when reserving tables; usually we would round down 10 people. This generally works but then you have Food events where no one shows up.
- If you are calling ahead to get a table, ask for discounts. Given that you are bringing a lot of people, the staff may be willing to give you free appetizers or a general discount on your meal.
- Have the student who organized this event for your committee, help each table order. This is a major help to the staff who have to manage a huge group. Also, since most people will be new to the cultural food you are introducing have someone versed in the culture be there to help each group out and recommend food.