

Open World in the Field



Fred Palmer (fourth from left) of Shell Exploration & Production meets with a May 2008 cultural delegation from Krasnodar, Russia, to discuss corporate support for the arts. Also shown: Open World representative Olesya Zrezartseva (third from left) and New Orleans host John Exnicios (far right).



Larry Miller (right), owner of the Bon Cajun Instruments and Prairie Cajun Mardi Gras Costumes Company, demonstrates the Cajun accordion to Igor Prikhidko, art director and producer of the Krasnodar folk group Yarokhmel.

Local Host Organization: New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council
National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development

Making a Difference



Presenter Tara Miles (third from left) at an Open World orientation for delegates from Tajikistan.

WASHINGTON, DC –

One of the first Americans that Open World's accountable governance delegations are likely to meet with during their U.S. visit is **Tara Miles**, the award-winning director of **BizLaunch**, Arlington County, VA's small business assistance network. Miles is a regular and popular presenter at Open

World's Washington, DC orientations for these delegations. To help prepare delegates to get the most out of their community visits, Miles provides a primer on county-level tax policy and budgeting, and reviews the federal, state, and local roles in U.S. economic development. She also uses Arlington County as a case study of the best practices employed by local U.S. jurisdictions to attract and support businesses. Miles makes her presentation with the aid of a bilingual PowerPoint: one of its most striking visuals is a dollar bill divided proportionally into different-colored segments to illustrate major categories of Arlington County expenditures. There is always a lively back-and-forth during her talk. One question she frequently gets is, How do county governments prevent malfeasance by economic development officials? Another is, What is the process for deciding how Arlington County tax revenue is generated and spent? "My Open World audiences are very engaged and inquisitive," Miles says. "They want to be able to apply what they learn here back home. That really gets me energized. And even though I use an interpreter, the delegates and I have such a great dialogue that it seems like we're speaking one language."

Hosting Corner

TOWSON, MD – Four Azerbaijani leaders got a taste of American down-home politics by attending an April 13 election house party held for **Rep. John Sarbanes** (MD) by one of their delegation's Open World host families. The Azerbaijanis—two senior staff of the **Central Election Commission**, an opposition party leader, and the head of an election-monitoring NGO—joined about 35 Marylanders in asking Rep. Sarbanes wide-ranging questions on domestic and international affairs, the presidential race, and his own reelection campaign. The delegates, who were visiting **Baltimore** and **Towson**, under Open World's accountable governance theme, also discussed with Rep. Sarbanes how he spends a considerable amount of time in his district monitoring issues important to his constituents. Open World head **John O'Keefe** attended the event as an observer. Local Host Organization: League of Women Voters of Baltimore County; National Grantee: League of Women Voters.



Maryland Rep. John Sarbanes (second from right) speaks with Azerbaijani leaders at a host family's home. Executive Director John O'Keefe is at far right.