



May 2-3, 2024

Economic Summit

Understanding the Past to Build the Future

organized by

**The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids,
Iowa**

and co-organized by

**Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC
Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC
Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy, Steven J. Green
School of International and Public Affairs, FIU, Miami
Friends of Slovakia, Washington, DC
American Friends of the Czech Republic, Washington, DC
Czech North American Chamber of Commerce & Culture (CNACCC Inc.)
The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort
Czech Center NEW YORK, et al.**

A unique forum for delegations from the USA, Czech Republic and Slovakia building on the consequences of modern history related to the period of WWI, WWII, 1968, 1989 and the recent times, with **the participation of Miloslav Stašek, Czech ambassador to the U.S. and Radovan Javorčík, Slovak ambassador to the U.S.**, will be held at NCSML on Thursday and Friday, **May 2-3, 2024**. This gathering will provide an opportunity to learn more about the present-day possibilities related to specific industry clusters, university research areas, topics of freedom, democracy and immigration in the concerned states and regions. The ambassadors will be joined by other high level American, Czech and Slovak business leaders, university leaders, state policy makers, local policy makers, governmental representatives, politicians, artists, scholars and educators visiting the area to attend **NCSML's annual President's Gala on Saturday, May 4, 2024**.

The year 2024 marks the **50th anniversary of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, the Smithsonian Affiliate**, which will be recognized and celebrated all year long. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is looking forward to building more Transatlantic partnerships.



PROGRAM

May 2, 2024, 4pm-8pm

Registration and Pre-Event Networking, 4pm-5pm

Vaclav Havel: From Dissident to President, 5pm

Exhibit Ribbon Cutting, Anderson Gallery, with

Keynote Address by Dr. Martin Palouš,

Director of the Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy at Florida International University, Miami

A Night at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 6pm-8pm

May 3, 2024, 10am-5pm

Economic Summit

Understanding the Past to Build the Future

Moderated by Dr. Dalibor Mikuláš, Vice President and COO, NCSML

9.00-10.00

Registration, Rozek Grand Hall, 9am-10am

10.00-10.40

Introduction by Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, President & CEO, NCSML

Welcome Remarks by

Congresswoman Ashley Hinson

Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell, City of Cedar Rapids

His Excellency Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, Embassy of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America

Jakub Utěšený, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

Dr. Martin Palouš, Former Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Nations and Former Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States

Josef Suchánek, Governor of the Olomouc Region, Czech Republic

Doug Neumann, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

Jozef Síkela, Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (Video Address)

10.40-11.00

Keynote Address by Dr. Jan Svejnar,

Richard N. Gardner Professor of Economics and International Affairs and Director of the Center on Global Economic Governance at Columbia University, New York

11.00-11.20am

Unlocking Potential - Exploring Investment Opportunities in Czechia

Jakub Utěšený, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

11.20-11.40

Slovak-American Collaboration and Doing Business through Slovak PRO Activities

Vladimir Lackovic, Slovak PRO, New York

11.40-12.00

Doing Business in Central and Eastern Europe - Brno as a Gateway

Jan Kubata, CEO, BVV, Brno, Czech Republic

12.00-12.20

Connecting Iowa to the World and the World to Iowa: The University of Iowa's Links to the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Russell Ganim, Associate Provost and Dean, International Programs, University of Iowa, Iowa City

12.20-12.40

Prague-Style Astronomical Clock (Orloj) in the US. A Transatlantic Project Fostering Education, Science, Culture and Tourism Opportunities.

Bruce Hamous, NCSML Board of Trustees

12.40-14.00

Buffet Luncheon, Rozek Grand Hall

13.00-13.15

Groundbreaking Ceremony, NCSML Clock Tower Renovation, by the Clock Tower

14.00-14.20

Sharing Best Practices – Czech Direct Investment in the USA

Jan Vintřlik, COO, ALBAform Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

14.20-14.40

Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance Opportunities in 2024

Ron Corbett, Vice President of Economic Development

14.40-15.00

PepsiCo-Quaker Oats, Present Perspectives

Chad Schweitzer, Productivity Leader QC, PepsiCo, City-Cedar Rapids

15.00-15.20

Business Opportunities in the Olomouc Region, Czech Republic

Josef Tetera, Head of Tourism and International Relations, Olomouc Region

15.20-15.40

Collins Aerospace - Redefining Futures

Nicole M Hubbell, Director, Mission BD Operations Excellence, Collins Aerospace | An RTX Business

15.40-16.00

Sharing Community Impact Data and Advancing the Economic Development Goals of the Region

Amy Alice Chastain, Executive Director, Global Ties Iowa, Iowa City

16.00-16.20

CzechTrade and its Key Export Areas and Activities

Markéta Šebelová

Deputy Director, CzechTrade USA, Chicago

16.20-16.40

The Role of Philanthropy in Civil Society. Czech and American Reality through HEI Experience.

Salvatore Alaimo, Indiana University, Professor, Grand Valley State University; Lisa Dietlin, Philanthropy&Develop. Lecturer, DePaul University, Chicago

16.40-17.00

NCSML TV - Opportunity for Utilizing Positions in the Digital Space

Logan Adam Schultz, CEO, Upload Media Group, Cedar Rapids

Conclusions

May 3, 2024, 5.30pm

Furdek Special Collection, Grand Opening

Skala Bartizal Library

May 3, 2024, 7pm

Performance by Czech Mezzo-Soprano Ester Pavlů

Rozek Grand Hall

Concurrent NCSML Temporary Exhibits/Events:

The National Collection: 50 Years of NCSML,

March 2024 - January, 2025, Smith Gallery

Postmark Czechoslovakia: Every Stamp Tells a Story,

March – May, Skala Bartizal Library

Vaclav Havel: From Dissident to President,

May - September, Anderson Gallery

Groundbreaking Ceremony, NCSML Clock Tower Renovation

May 3, at 1pm, by the Clock Tower

Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau,

May 4, Ribbon Cutting at 10 am

May – September, Petrik Gallery

President's Society Preciosa Gala,

May 4, Rozek Grand Hall & WFLA/ZCJB Heritage Hall

Venue: National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

50th NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY 1974 ♦♦ 2024

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