



September 2012 | [Clique aqui para a Versão Portuguesa](#)

From the Ambassador's Desk | **A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon**



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KATZ

On September 11, 2001, the world was shocked by the terrorist acts that targeted the cities of New York and Washington, D.C. On that fateful day, the Twin Towers of downtown Manhattan, two of the most important landmarks of the city, were destroyed. Today, at the site of Ground Zero, a new landmark is being built, One World Trade Center, which in 2013 will become the tallest building of the Americas and will at once become a new landmark for New York and at the same time a symbol for the creativity, global vision and resilience of the city and its people. In that same vein, this month, with our partners in Aveiro, we are organizing an exhibition to showcase the architectural legacy of the United States' largest metropolis. This edition of the Newsletter also focuses on the tragic crisis that has already cost the lives of thousands of Syrians, which we hope will soon find a resolution. In the wake of the Democratic and Republican conventions, September is also the beginning of the final stages of the political show that grips the United States every four years. I am pleased that our partners at the American Club and at the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) will provide the platforms for some stimulating debates between Democrats and Republicans in the months ahead sponsored by the Embassy. Finally, we highlight a recent fitness camp that we hosted at the Embassy this Summer to get city youth moving and the second year of Walk and Talk Azores, an international public art festival that marked the Summer calendar of the island of São Miguel. As always, we welcome your [comments](#).



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THE ELECTIONS IN THE U.S.

The United States has been a representative democracy since the ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1788. Republicans and Democrats have dominated electoral politics since the 1860s.

Every four years, Americans elect a president and vice president. Every two years, Americans elect all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and approximately one-third of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate. Senators serve staggered terms of six years each.

There are two basic types of elections: primary and general. Primary elections are held prior to a general election to determine party candidates for the general election. The winning candidates in the primary go on to represent that party in the general election.

The general election for U.S. president takes place on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November. Prior to this general election, states hold primary elections or caucuses to choose delegates to the national nominating conventions where the party nominees are selected. These individual state primaries and caucuses typically take place between January and June, followed by the national conventions in the summer preceding the election.

This year Presidential elections will occur in November 6 and voters will choose between President Obama and Vice President Biden (Democrat Party) and Governor Romney and Congressman Ryan (Republican Party). To commemorate the upcoming election season, the U.S. Embassy is organizing in conjunction with the Luso American Foundation for Development (FLAD) a debate that feature representatives from the Democratic and Republican parties on September 27 at FLAD.

[Learn more about the candidates: Obama - Biden | Romney - Ryan](#)



Parties enthusiasm

SYRIAN CONFLICT AND U.S. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

With no end to the Syrian crisis currently in sight, an estimated 2.5 million Syrians are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The United States is pursuing every avenue to provide humanitarian relief to those Syrians affected by the conflict. This year the U.S. has already provided nearly \$82 million to the United Nations and other relief agencies to help Syrians in need.

It is vital to stress though, as Secretary Clinton has, that this is not, at its root a humanitarian crisis. It is a political crisis caused by the Assad regime's unwillingness to make way for a peaceful, Syrian-led transition to democracy. The United States stands ready with the international community to support Syria in this transition that we hope will put an end to the bloodshed.

[Learn more about U.S. Humanitarian Assistance](#)



Secretary Clinton

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS PORTUGAL

On August 9-10, a Congressional delegation led by Senator Kent Conrad (Democrat - North Dakota), accompanied by Senators Patrick Leahy (Democrat - Vermont), Thad Cochran (Republican - Mississippi), Olympia Snowe (Republican - Maine) and Jeanne Shaheen (Democrat - New Hampshire), as well as Congressman Dennis Cardoza (Democrat - California), visited Portugal. The delegation, joined by Ambassador Katz, met with Portuguese Minister of Defense Aguiar-Branco and Finance Minister Gaspar to discuss cooperation between the two countries and to gain an understanding of Euro zone economic issues. The delegation emphasized how much the United States values its relationship with Portugal, and expressed its appreciation for the longstanding bilateral relationship and praised Portugal on the tough steps it is taking to resolve the current economic crisis.



Senator Kent Conrad

SEPTEMBER 11TH AND THE LANDMARKS OF NY EXHIBITION

The exhibition, "The Landmarks of New York" was inaugurated on September 8, 2012 at Museu da Cidade in Aveiro. The exhibition consists of 38 photographs of New York City landmarks put on display to commemorate the 47th anniversary of the enactment of New York City's Landmark Preservation Act and 11 years after the tragic events of September 11. The displayed photographs comprise a wide-range of buildings, each with its own unique story and history showcasing American architectonic creativity of XIX and XX centuries. With this exhibition, we take a moment to honor all the New Yorkers - including Portuguese - who were affected by this tragedy, but we also celebrate the strength and determination of the people of New York to rebuild their lives and their city. The exhibition will be open to the public until October 28, 2012, between Tuesday and Friday, 9:30-12:30 and 14:00-18:00 and during weekends between 14:00-18:00 hours.

[Learn more about the exhibition](#)



A photography from exhibit

SUMMER FITNESS CAMPS AT THE EMBASSY

On August 1st and 2nd, the U.S. Marines and the Office of Public Affairs invited unprivileged children from two local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) to participate in a Fitness Camp organized by the Marines. Both NGO's (Associação Cultural Moinho da Juventude and Associação Máquina do Mundo) were delighted to participate in these fitness activities on the Embassy grounds. To close the day's activities, the Office of Public Affairs invited the kids, their monitors and the Marines to an outdoor lunch at the U.S. Embassy.

[Learn more about the Fitness Camp](#)



Summer Fitness Camps participants

WALK & TALK AZORES

Walk & Talk Azores, an Azorean international festival of public art, which was held from 27 July to 12 August, brought together more than 40 artists and designers from nine countries and three continents, to create a true outdoor art studio on the island of São Miguel. This year the second annual Walk & Talk Azores presented "art interventions" in several public spaces and a dynamic program with exhibitions, workshops, music, performances and thematic meetings.

The Consulate of the United States in the Azores helped sponsor the festival which included U.S. avant-garde artist Mark Jenkins.

[Learn more about the Walk & Talk Azores](#)



Walk & Talk outdoor art

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Landmarks of New York Exhibition
September 8 to October 28
Museu da Cidade Aveiro
Rua João Mendonça n.9/11
3800-200 Aveiro
Telefone: 234 406 485
E-mail: museucidade@cm-aveiro.pt
- Election Debate at FLAD
September 27
Rua Sacramento à Lapa, 21
1249-090 Lisboa
Portugal
Telefone: 213 935 800
E-mail: fladport@flad.pt