



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

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## **Global Americans Welcomes Guy Mentel as new Executive Director**

- *Guy Mentel introduced as new Executive Director by Chairman of the Board Iván Rebolledo, who applauds the Search Committee's thorough process and expresses the Board's excitement about Mr. Mentel's hiring.*
- *Founder and Former Executive Director Chris Sabatini, now Senior Fellow for Latin America at Chatham House, transitions onto Global Americans' Board of Directors.*

**Washington, DC, April 30** — After a four-month intensive search, Global Americans is thrilled to announce the selection of Guy Mentel as its new Executive Director. Mr. Mentel follows Global Americans' Founder and longtime Executive Director Chris Sabatini, who recently joined Chatham House as a Senior Fellow for Latin America. Global Americans selected Mr. Mentel after an extensive search led by a team of founders and current Board members, including Hunter Carter, Iván Rebolledo, and Victor Sierra. The Board is excited about what Mr. Mentel's leadership will mean for the organization, and for Americas-focused research and policy discussions going forward.

Chris Sabatini, who has transitioned to the Global Americans' Board, was critical to the organization's early success. Over his tenure, Global Americans built an expansive network of writers and other contributors across the hemisphere. In response to global challenges, Mr. Sabatini developed the Global Americans High Level Working Group on Inter-American Relations and Bipartisanship, releasing a series of policy papers containing regional recommendations regarding topics as diverse as the Venezuelan refugee crisis, the Caribbean's extreme vulnerability to climate change, and pathways to improving education exchanges in the Americas. Alongside Board member Ken Frankel, Mr. Sabatini made *Two Gringos with Questions* a staple of every Latin Americanist's podcast diet. The Board is ever grateful for the role he played in the think tank's rise and looks forward to his continued participation in his new role.

In Mr. Mentel, the Board sees an opportunity to quickly build on Mr. Sabatini's early successes. Mr. Mentel has spent the past two years in the U.S. Senate, where he has worked—in bipartisan ways—on issues central to Western Hemisphere policymaking. He was an active member of the Latin America and the Caribbean Working Group of a presidential campaign and founded his own political action group after working on the 2016 presidential campaign. The Board is excited not only by his political sensibilities and his unique combination of energy and proven leadership, but also by his extensive work in the region. Mr. Mentel has worked on transitional justice issues related to the Colombian armed conflict and on marriage equality in Colombia. He has lived in Quito, Buenos Aires, and Bogotá, and represents a new generation of Latin Americanist thinking that recognizes—as Global Americans does—that the U.S.-Latin America policy playbook is in need of a critical update that takes stock of pragmatic responses to modern challenges and gives greater voice to a wider collection of thought leaders across sectors and countries.

"We are very excited to have Guy as the new Executive Director of Global Americans," said Iván Rebolledo, Chairman of the Board. "He brings to the job an indefatigable work ethic, a deep commitment to the region, and a thoughtfully developed perspective on how Global Americans can expand its reach in this unique historical moment." Both the Board and staff are impressed with his knowledge of the region and his understanding of where the Latin America debate has at times fallen short. Board member Hunter Carter noted that Mr. Mentel's hiring reflects "Global Americans' growing influence in D.C., New York, and across the hemisphere, promoting the thoughtful work of changemakers and seasoned experts alike." Board member Victor Sierra said, "Guy's energy and vision stood out from the start. His background and skillset will allow him to hit the ground running, taking full advantage of the Board's expertise across a broad range of topics." Mr. Sabatini noted that he is flattered and honored that Mr. Mentel will be taking the organization in a new direction and looks forward to supporting his efforts from his new position on the Board.

"I count myself privileged to have spent much of my career working in and around Latin America, and feel even more privileged today," said Mr. Mentel. "The team at Global Americans is exceptional and is uniquely positioned to influence the conversation around key issues in our hemisphere for years to come. I look forward to working with the Board and

staff to do just that, amplifying new voices and bringing the ideas that inspired the organization's founding to more people in our community.”

Guy Mentel will be starting as Executive Director on May 1, 2020.

### **About Global Americans**

Global Americans is a modern day take on the traditional think tank. Through our website, [www.theglobalamericans.org](http://www.theglobalamericans.org), we provide up-to-date research and analysis on key areas affecting the countries of the Americas—democracy, human rights, social inclusion, and foreign policy. Our goal is to provide policymakers, academics, civil society leaders and Latin America enthusiasts with the tools needed to promote change and build more prosperous Inter-American relations.

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