

**AMERICAN CLUB OF LISBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**APPLICATION**

**NAME:** MARIA MERCEDES GALLIS DA COSTA

**E-MAIL:** [megallis@yahoo.com](mailto:megallis@yahoo.com)

**TELEPHONE:** Mobile: 919072628

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor Degree in Translation (English/German) of ISLA in Lisbon, presently  
Universidade Europeia.

Post-Graduation in International Cultural Relations of Universidade Católica Portuguesa  
in Lisbon;

Master Course in Communications Science of Universidade Católica Portuguesa in  
Lisbon;

Diploma di Lingua e Cultura Italiana del Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Portogallo;

Diplome de Traducteur de l'Alliance Française de Lisbonne;

Japanese Language Course (Intermediate Level) attended at Fundação MOA Portugal

Professional training courses attended in the UK, Canada, Spain, France, Belgium and  
Portugal.

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Independent Events Manager and Senior Public Affairs Consultant &  
Translator.

**PRIOR EMPLOYMENT:** *Embassy of Canada as Cultural, Academic and Public Affairs Officer and as Senior  
Political & Public Affairs Officer.*

**How many years have you been a member of ACL?** Eight Years.

**What ideas, goals and visions do you have for ACL?**

1) To turn ACL into the "go-to" organization for the international professionals living in Lisbon and surroundings who want to wider their social and professional network (all nationalities speaking english should be welcomed);

2) My Vision for ACL is that the Club should continue to engage the American population in Lisbon area, as well as the local Portuguese and International Community through events and activities, with the aim of fostering a strong relationship and understanding between the United States and Portugal and enabling the growth of the Members' contact network.

**If you are elected to the Board, what specific contribution would you like to make and what abilities, would you bring to bear in making those contributions?**

As a Board Member elected in Dec. 2020, I have introduced and developed the cultural activities in the ACL, by organizing a different variety of events during the mandate from Jan. 2021 until Dec 2023. Having started smoothly in June 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions, a variety of cultural programs in Lisbon and surroundings, namely visits to historical Villages and Sites, Palaces, Museums, Portuguese Parliament always complemented by a Lunch, and "last but the least" a magnificent Sunset Cruise in Tagus River, in the total of eleven cultural events, which have been always quite appreciated by our Members.

Knowing that being part of a Committee of a non-profit organization takes time and demands a compromise, I would like to continue to participate in the changes that are pushing ACL and contribute to its growth and success, as well as being an advocate of the American-Portuguese community in Lisbon.

If I am reelected to the Board I think I can pursue in adding value by being involved in proposing interesting Speakers in different areas (Politics, Business and Culture) to ACL Board, followed by the respective ACL invitation.

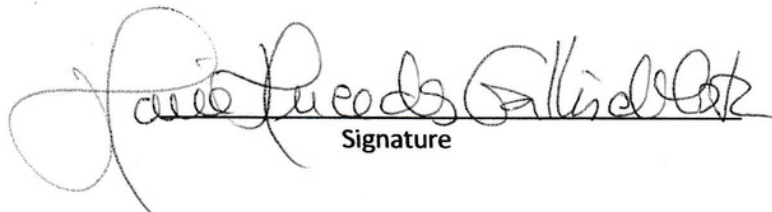
I would also like to keep with the umbrella of organizing VIP Cultural Visits and Trips in Lisbon area and across Portugal as well as to contribute to the growth of Memberships either Individual or Corporate.

As a former Senior Cultural, Political and Public Affairs Officer at the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon, offering a unique combination of 20 years experience in Government Administration, having performed work for six Ambassadors, three Chargé D' Affaires and five Political Counsellors, dealing with Cultural, Public Affairs, Academic Relations and Political files, and of previous relevant work of 15 years in the private sector (multinationals and big local companies) specialized in Corporate Communications, Events Management, Public Relations and External Relations, and more recently as an independent Conference Organizer (up-to 100 participants) as well as of specific training courses for small/medium groups and of thematic dinners for private clients, I have the following abilities/professional skills which are very useful in performing the above mentioned tasks:

Events Planning and Management| Strategic Problem Analysis| Scenario Generation| Effective Problem Solving| Networking| Negotiation| Influence Strategies |Stakeholders engagement|Budget Management| Reporting| Key People Profiling| Ability to act as a key meeting player in the set-up of new innovative initiatives and events| Ability to be an effective team member in the organisation/co-organization of major events| Protocol Expertise| Expertise in Foreign Languages| Reliability and Honesty.

10.11.2023

Date

  
Signature