OUR MISSION

The World Affairs Council advances global understanding and engagement. The Council's programs are powerful tools for building an engaged, inspired, and connected global citizenry in greater Seattle. The Council truly brings the world to Seattle and helps inform local debates about global issues.
The World Affairs Council has a 65-year history of advancing global understanding and engagement throughout greater Seattle. We envision a community that is connected, actively engaged, and inspired to create change in the world. This is achieved through public events, programming for K-12 educators and students, and diplomacy initiatives that engage international delegations with our community. It is a fundamental formula that works well and is highly adaptable, allowing the Council to reach a large cross-section of Seattle on a wide range of topics. Our platform connects civic, academic, corporate, and individual members around world issues. We are part of a vibrant global city; our goal is to ensure that Seattle is visible, engaged, and globally aware.
Community Programs (CP) is the platform through which the World Affairs Council engages its members and the greater Seattle community by providing opportunities for discussion, dialogue, and debate on global issues. The Council is nonpartisan and hosts events on a broad range of issues that feature experts with diverse perspectives. In 2016, Community Programs hosted over a hundred events, offering frequent opportunities for community members to become more knowledgeable about international issues and their local relevance, to become inspired to learn more, and to become more connected to others who share an interest in global issues and the roles of the United States and Seattle in the international community.

Events

The Council’s events are formatted as discussions, rather than lectures, enabling attendees to engage directly with the speakers and each other. Events are organized into a number of series, each focused on a current topic in global affairs. Topics in 2016 included climate change, cybersecurity, and the foreign policy challenges facing the new administration after the presidential election. Events include panel discussions, town-hall meetings, discussion groups, trivia nights, and networking events as well as high-level receptions and private gatherings. No matter the size of the program, participants at every event are able to address their specific interests in a meaningful conversation through moderated Q&A. In keeping with its mission, the World Affairs Council created opportunities for the Seattle community to engage and better understand the many global developments that shaped 2016.

Examples of notable events from the past year include a talk by Richard Stengel, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, who discussed attempts to counter ISIL messaging and recruitment by the United States and its allies in the Middle East; an event featuring Admiral Michael S. Rogers, Commander of U.S. Cyber Command, Director of the National Security Agency, and Chief of the Central Security Service, who spoke about defending and operating in an increasingly chaotic cyberspace; and a program with Afghan Judge Najla Ayubi, who addressed the challenges facing women who pursue justice amidst the insecurity and extremism of Afghan society.
Partner events

The Council also hosts events throughout the year with its business, education, government, and civic group partners. These partner events allow the Council to expand its reach in the community and broaden the conversation so that the varied interests and issues that are important to the greater Seattle community are effectively addressed. Examples include a February talk with Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, hosted by the Council in partnership with the Rainier Club’s Public and Global Affairs Committee. Secretary Gates spoke on what U.S. national security priorities and policies might look like going forward. Another notable event, also co-hosted by the Rainier Club, featured Jill Dougherty, former Moscow bureau chief for CNN, who analyzed the origins of Vladimir Putin’s vision for the future of Russia and its significance for the world.

Local Leaders on Global Issues

This new series successfully launched in a December 2015 conversation with Holland America Line CEO Orlando Ashford moderated by Tammy Young, vice president of human resources at Alaska Airlines. The conversation focused on “talentism,” the global competition for human capital as a driver for growth, and what the technology and networks enabling that growth means for global businesses in Seattle. John Culver, group president of Starbucks Coffee China and Asia Pacific, sharing the stage with moderator Phyllis Campbell, Pacific Northwest chairman for JPMorgan Chase & Co., led the second program in the series with a conversation on business growth strategies in Asia. The series, sponsored by Alaska Airlines, utilizes the Council’s network to enable Seattle business leaders the opportunity to explore how their peers are addressing the global challenges they share.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Young Professionals International Network
The Young Professionals International Network (YPIN) hosts events catering to individuals interested in growing their globally-oriented professional networks in more informal settings. YPIN works to expand young adults’ engagement with global issues and provide a platform for those with an interest in international news and foreign cultures to connect with like-minded individuals. In 2016, YPIN programmed a number of ongoing series, including monthly networking events in which local community leaders are invited to share perspectives on their career and industry with YPIN members; Global Cafe, a series of roundtable discussions; and a monthly Spanish conversation group, one of the Council’s longest running programs led by YPIN member Sacha Stjepanovic. YPIN continued their flagship holiday party, a fundraiser for Global Classroom, and their summer boating excursion on Lake Union, this year featuring local activists and change-makers working in a variety of fields in the Seattle community.

Fellows Program
The World Affairs Council’s Fellows Program is a unique professional development opportunity for a carefully selected cohort of greater Seattle business and community leaders. The program gives Fellows an opportunity to connect with their local counterparts and fosters dialogue on how global issues affect their respective fields on a local, state, national, and international level. The Fellows meet once a month for a breakfast discussion with world-renowned experts who provide unparalleled insight into important global issues. Speakers in 2016 included Daniel Rosenblum, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia at the U.S. Department of State, who discussed the relationships between the U.S. and the states of Central Asia; Joanne Silberner, freelance reporter and artist-in-residence at the University of Washington, who spoke about her work studying global health and covering the subject for NPR; and U.S. Congressman Adam Smith, ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, who discussed national security priorities.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Audience at “The United States in the Asia Pacific”

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins

Question from audience to Admiral Michael S. Rogers

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Asia Daniel Rosenblum

The International Visitor Program (IVP) advances global understanding by connecting the Seattle community with emerging leaders from around the world. Through professional and youth exchanges, these person-to-person connections allow emerging leaders to build the foundation for addressing critical global issues. These international exchanges allow citizens and visitors alike to recognize their shared values and to powerfully diminish the boundaries of language, culture, and nation.

**International Visitor Leadership Program**

IVP’s core initiative is the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Launched in 1940, the IVLP helps strengthen U.S. engagement with countries around the world and cultivate lasting relationships by connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts through short-term visits to the United States. Typical exchanges include visits to four U.S. communities over three weeks.

Participants meet with professional counterparts, visit U.S. public and private sector organizations related to the project theme, and participate in cultural and social activities. The World Affairs Council partners with the U.S. Department of State and national program agencies to administer the program in Washington state. Of the nearly 5,000 people who participated nationwide last year, 615 were brought to Seattle by the Council, making it one of the largest community partners in the country.

**Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative**

In 2016, IVP administered the Department of State’s inaugural Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative’s (YLAI) Professional Fellows Program, a personal initiative of President Obama which brought young business and social entrepreneurs from Latin America and the Caribbean together with the local Seattle community to explore topics of business development and innovation. Visitors spent several weeks in Seattle working with fellowship hosts, meeting with local leaders, and studying entrepreneurial strategies.

**Fulbright**

IVP also administers many nationally recognized programs outside of the IVLP. In April, the World Affairs Council hosted a four-day Fulbright Enrichment Seminar with the aim of exposing recipients of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to the impacts of climate and environmental change in Seattle and the United States. Scholars from around the world attended panels on a wide range of environmental issues to hear the views of individuals from private, public, and nonprofit sectors. In addition to the seminar, cultural activities, and dinner hosting, a highlight of their trip was volunteering with the ROOTS Young Adult Shelter and at the Lake Geneva Park.
The experience was transformative – I learned so much about another part of the world and now I want to continue working, somehow, with the delegate we hosted.

Robin Oppenheimer, homestay host for Open World Ukraine Program

Participants in the “Human and Civil Right for the LGBT Community” program at Seattle PrideFest
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

Participating countries

Program Themes

- Economic Development, Trade, and Technology
- Health and Environment
- International Law and Human Rights
- Media, Politics, and Civil Society
- Education and Youth
- Arts and Culture

"Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative"

"Global Heath Security"
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

A special thanks to some of the community partners who make our work possible:

Southwest Youth and Family Services
University of Washington CoMotion
Pacific Northwest Economic Region
Seattle International Foundation
North Cascades National Park
Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
Refugee Women’s Alliance
Atlas Coffee Importers
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Cathy Allen/Connections Group
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
International Living Future Institute
The Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center
Washington Talking Book and Braille Library
Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle
Network for Business Innovation & Sustainability

“It was wonderful to get the time to hang out with such fabulous comics people. I'm always interested in hearing what's going on with artists and organizers around the world. We both really want to retain these relationships and hope that they can grow into some kind of artist exchange.”

Erynn Franklin, creative director,
Short Run Comix and Arts Festival

“We had a great time visiting with them! They are doing great work for social change – I found myself inspired by their visit!”

Meredith Li-Vollmer, risk communication specialist,
King County Public Health

“Theyir questions were so thoughtful and their insights so astute. They left me with much to think about. I would have happily spent the day with them.”

Erica Mills, director, University of Washington Evans Center
Global Classroom (GC) extends the World Affairs Council’s message of global understanding to K-12 classrooms. GC empowers teachers with the tools, knowledge, and perspectives to engage students in global studies, cultivate 21st century skills, and act consciously as informed global citizens. Students’ lives will be defined by the world within and beyond our borders, and the Council’s goal is to ensure that the education system reflects this reality. GC brings the world to the classroom to ensure that students are prepared to live, work, and play in a world of diverse cultures, histories, and economies.

Professional Development

Teacher Professional Development
GC offers teacher training on a variety of relevant international topics. Monthly programs include guest speakers and meaningful discussion, and participants earn teacher clock hours. Educators leave with a greater understanding of global issues and interdisciplinary resources for bringing them into the classroom as well as stronger connections to their colleagues in the greater Seattle community.

Educator Book Club
2016, teachers read City of Thorns, a book by Ben Rawlence about the largest refugee camp in the world, located in Kenya. GC created a resource packet to help the educators create their own lesson plans around the book and provided them with the opportunity to meet with the author.

World Educator Award
Each year, the World Affairs Council honors a local educator who has made exceptional contributions in broadening the global horizons of students and colleagues.

The recipient of the 2016–2017 World Educator Award was Eileen Hynes, director of thematic studies at the Lake and Park School. She received the award for her outstanding work promoting international understanding in the classroom and beyond. Eileen has been part of the GC community since 2001, has participated in GC programs ranging from the Turkey Study Tour to the Teacher Leaders for Online Exchange, and was the teacher-in-residence at the World Affairs Council during the 2010–2011 school year. Eileen was celebrated at a public awards ceremony where teachers, students, and community members had the opportunity to learn more about her career.
**Youth Programming**

**Community Programs**
K-12 students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of community programs featuring renowned international experts and political figures discussing critical global issues.

**Classroom Visits**
GC offers opportunities to bring delegations of international visitors and professionals engaged in international affairs, including returned Peace Corps volunteers, ambassadors, and academicians, into Seattle-area classrooms.

**National Euro Challenge Competition**
This competition challenges 9th and 10th grade students to create presentations on the European economy. Students from The Northwest School had the opportunity to travel to New York City to compete in the national championship, marking the first time a school from the West Coast has competed in this challenge.

**Student workshops**
Global Classroom led leadership development workshops for international youth delegations from Iraq, Cuba, Brazil, and Mexico. GC also partnered with Seattle Public Schools for the Washington State Global Issues Network Conference to facilitate student-led programming, as well as with The Links, Inc. to assist with a month-long STEAM training program for young students of color.

**World Citizen Essay Contest**
This annual essay contest for Washington State 3rd through 12th grade students promotes discussion among students, teachers, families, and community members about the ways that individuals can affect positive change in the global community. This year, the Council partnered with Water1st International to prompt students to think critically and be engaged as global citizens by addressing one of the most critical issues of our time: the worldwide water crisis. The student winners were celebrated at a public awards ceremony in May with keynote speaker Jeff Raikes, former CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the founder of Water1st International Marla Smith-Nilson.

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**2016 Highlights**

**Teacher Training**
9 professional development workshops attended by more than 500 educators from 155 schools

**2016 World Citizen Essay Contest**
353 students participated representing 57 schools and 26 Washington school districts

2016 World Citizen Essay Contest winners
Thank You

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**Financials**

### Expenses 2016

- International Visitor Program: $389,606
- Community Programs: $221,542
- Global Classroom: $139,193
- Membership: $94,163
- Admin: $91,208
- Fundraising: $61,315
- **Total**: $997,027

### Revenue 2016

- Program Services: $472,447
- Direct Public Support: $248,767
- Membership: $163,390
- Government Grants: $136,085
- Other: $8,096
- **Total**: $1,028,785
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Mark Dawson
Dean DeCrease
Bill Driscoll
Steven Driscoll
Marcia Garrett
William Glassford
Slade Gorton
Bill Grinstein
Paul Isaki
Darryl Johnson
Robert Kapp
Karen Kodama
Jeannie Kohl-Welles
Gary Locke
Jim McDermott
Ralph Munro
Roy Prosterman
David Tang
Ezra Teshome
Raymond Waldmann
Mimi Warner
John Wecker
Monica Whaley
Kathy Wilco

“As an intern at the World Affairs Council… I discovered many similar issues prevalent within Seattle that are being addressed by individuals and organizations in inventive and meaningful ways, enlightening me to the opportunities and challenges of my own city.”

Alexander Kegel, International Visitor Program Intern
2016–2017 Fellows

Kevin Austin
Founding Attorney, Aero Law Group

Virginia Bergin
Director, Global Responsibility and Public Policy, Starbucks

Stephanie Bittner Byington
Director of Marketing Strategy, Nordstrom

Jeff Douglass
Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

David Echodu
Chair, Pilgrim Africa

Krystle Gomez
Founder, CIMI Ventures PC

Melanie Godinez
Project Manager, National Security, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

Brent Gray
CFP®, Vice President, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

Barbara Hazzard
Program Director and ABAC Coordinator, National Center for APEC

Eileen Hynes
Director of Thematic Studies, Lake and Park School

Joanne Kalas
Associate, Stoel Rives LLP

Peggy Keene
Marketing Communications Director, Esterline

Captain Mark Lakamp
Commanding Officer, Naval Station Everett, U.S. Navy

Quan Vu Le
Eva Albers Professor, Associate Professor of Economics, Director of International Business, Seattle University

Simon Liepold
Manager of Global Government Affairs, Microsoft

Tom Lombardo
Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co.

Kimberly Pearson
Regional Director for Europe, Boeing Commercial Planes
International Strategy and Business Development

Harkiran Rajasansi
Consul and Program Manager, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Service, Consulate General of Canada in Seattle

Mia Reyes
Program Director, National Center for APEC

Bea Rico
Strategic Planning Program Manager, Port of Seattle

Jessica Rush
Assistant Director, MBA Global Programs, Global Business Center, University of Washington

Rob Saka
Technology, Transactions and Privacy Associate, Perkins Coie

Cindy Schaarschmidt
Director, Student Fellowships and Awards, University of Washington Tacoma

Dmitry Sherbakov
Director of Global Outreach and Programs, The Northwest School

Wendy Sowers
Director, Product Forecasting and Marketing, Boeing Commercial Airplanes

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen
Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy

Jack Unbehend
Relationship Manager, The Commerce Bank of Washington

David von Moritz
Legal Assistant (Staff Counsel pending bar admission), WaveDivision Holdings LLC

Melissa West
Director of Advocacy, VillageReach

Brian Wright
Director of Sales, Nice-Pak Products