

The background features a collage of community activities, including people on bicycles, a group of people walking, and students in a classroom, all overlaid with semi-transparent colored circles in shades of green, orange, and yellow.

2022 Annual Report

world
affairs
council
pittsburgh

2022 In Review

It goes without saying that the past few years have been defined by change – for the world, for Pittsburgh, and for us.

Three years ago, the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh was an 89-year-old organization on a trajectory to transform. We seized the disruptions of 2020 as an opportunity to rethink our mission, vision, and our “why.” In 2021, we piloted new tools, programs, and ideas to figure out how best to navigate our new world. And in 2022, we put our lessons learned into action – finding our stride and gaining momentum toward the direction in which we want to go.

Over the past year, we’ve integrated old and new, launching new initiatives while building on the foundation of what’s been proven to be effective. In practice, this looks like a few big firsts, such as our first-ever Illuminate Awards and the launch of our digital learning lab, along with tried-and-true classics, like a timely discussion on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine with Ambassador John Tefft and our 52nd Annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders.

We’ve refined not only *what* programs we’re bringing to Pittsburgh, but *who* we’re bringing into the room. Our focus is more intentional than ever on engaging people from all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life, whether by offering discussion space for BIPOC community members, combining a youth and adult conference, or hosting a program in both rural and urban communities.

We know that this work cannot be done alone. Thank you for *Sparking Bold Thoughts* with us and helping to build a world that is equitable and just for all.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty Cruz".

Betty Cruz
President & CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saleem Ghubril".

Saleem Ghubril
Chair, Board of Directors



After the launch of our new strategic plan and rebrand, we thought it was time to reintroduce ourselves to the Pittsburgh community. First revealed at our Soiree on June 9, this short video expands on who we are, what we do, and where we're heading.

2022 By The Numbers



17 Public programs



94 Educators served

96 Expert speakers



45 Schools served



1,200 Public program attendees



53 Community Partnerships



1,000 Students served



44 Youth programs



Where in the world did we go?



Ukraine

3/4 – An Update on Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: A Conversation With John Tefft, Ambassador To Russia And Ukraine



Japan

3/23 – Geostrategy In The Grassroots



Russia

5/4 – Reconsidering Swan Lake: Culture and Context

5/11 – Cultural Exchange and Global Conflict: Swan Lake and Beyond



Canada

7/29-8/1 – Camp Global Minds welcomed students from New Brunswick, Canada



Iran

11/26 – An American Martyr in Persia: A Conversation with Reza Aslan

Global Travel Scholars



Ecuador



Germany



France



Ghana



Switzerland



Spain



South Korea

A Look Back On The Year

Our work can be summed up in our tagline, "Sparking Bold Thoughts." We aim to ignite a lifelong interest and engagement in global affairs for youth and adults; create diverse and bold learning experiences that generate transformative action; and allow space for in-depth, thought-provoking discussions with global experts. This phrase shapes our programs in classrooms, conferences, and the community.



Engaging Youth

Our youth programming focuses on By-Youth For-Youth events and programs that build advocacy and help youth understand and act on global issues. This takes the form of youth-designed convenings, like our Emerging Global Leaders Conference, and career exploration opportunities like the Global Careers Skills Seminar. This year, we also expanded our learning online with the launch of our digital learning lab where students can develop skills in a social learning environment.

Understanding Policy

Because the U.S. Senate plays an essential role in deciding foreign policy, we saw an opportunity to connect our community directly to policy issues through a Candidate Forum where they could question PA Senate candidates on foreign affairs. We also empowered Pittsburghers to combat misinformation by partnering with the Alliance for Securing Democracy on a program about the strategies, tools, and tactics used to impact voters and divide communities, held both in rural and urban communities.



"The Council sparks bold thoughts by exposing the people they impact to groups and individuals of various backgrounds and walks of life. This leads to their audiences being left with a greater sense of global mindedness and awareness to make a similar impact on their own communities. By fostering a community of collaboration and open-mindedness, in and out of the Council, they are able to spark bold thoughts in all people they reach and inspire them to implement them in the environments around them." – Harshitha Lingam, 2022 Youth Board Co-Chair and 2021-22 Communications Youth Fellow

Sharing Stories

Facts are critical, but stories are how we understand the world around us. We prioritize opportunities for storytelling in our programs – whether during a dedicated storytelling event where folks shared their experiences with Culture Shock, a Welcome Home Celebration for Global Travel Scholars to present their travel stories, or in a casual conversational space for BIPOC community members to gather around global issues in a safe and mindful manner.



Exploring Our Community

We believe getting to know the world around us starts with the world right beneath our feet. Not only is biking a sustainable and accessible way to get around, but the United Nations says that cycling is a tool to help reach the Sustainable Development Goals! We partnered with POGO as Community Ambassadors to host our second year of community bike rides exploring the influence of global music and art on local identity.

Learning Lab

We expanded our digital youth programming by launching a partnership with CanopyLAB to host globally relevant courses on a new AI-powered social learning lab. We launched two pilot courses, an orientation course for our Youth Fellows and Youth Board and a World Affairs Institute pre-event course on Deconstructing Culture, and also convened three youth design committees to plan new digital programming.



"The Council sparks bold thoughts by empowering a diverse group of youth leaders to become effective changemakers in their communities. Through innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity, youth voices are granted the power to advocate for what they believe in... Council-sponsored events and conferences allow youth to participate in informed dialogue and collaborate with other leaders throughout the region. Youth-led initiatives help students better understand their communities and make meaningful connections in an increasingly interconnected world. With help from the Council, youth voices have the power to think boldly and spark innovative change for generations to come!" – Mary Zagrocki, 2022 Youth Board Co-Chair



SPARKING

Meeting global challenges requires people of all ages to work together, and that includes the high school students in our region who are already making a change in their communities. Our youth programming aims to spark young people's interest in global issues, and we work alongside and amplify their voices to be the leaders of today. This year, we were excited to host two in-person programs for the first time since 2019: Camp Global Minds and our Global Travel Scholars program.

Learning from each other...

Global Minds members from Illinois, Canada, and across Pennsylvania traveled to Pittsburgh for Camp Global Minds! Global Minds is a school-based program that forms cross-cultural friendships between Emerging Multilingual Learners and Native English Speaking students to create inclusive and welcoming schools. Students spent four days learning from each other, making new friends, and exploring what it means to belong, how to gather with intention, and how to lead together. They also explored Pittsburgh with a ride on the Gateway Clipper and a visit to Carnegie Science Center.



5
Schools

12
Sessions

6
Speakers

... and exploring our world.

While Camp Global Minds students were boarding their flights to Pittsburgh, our Global Travel Scholars were also flying back from their trips abroad. Studying abroad is proven to increase cultural awareness, develop empathy, and improve academic performance. Through our Global Travel Scholars program, 12 high school students were able to reap these benefits with a full scholarship to a program abroad through our partner World Learning's The Experiment in International Living. Eligibility is based on economic need and provides young people with a life-changing experience of traveling outside of the U.S. for the first time to countries like Ghana, Ecuador, South Korea, and Spain.



12
students

7
countries

52
applicants

"One day I'm sitting in my Spanish class, and we're watching videos and learning how people in South America harvest cocoa beans to make chocolate. And a couple months later, I'm in South America in real time watching Ecuadorian people make chocolate and coffee... It was so inspiring and moving for me because it helped me to realize that these people were real and they had emotions... My story just goes to show that despite language barriers and cultural barriers, you're still able to form real genuine human connections."

– Mercedes Montano, 2022 Global Travel Scholar to Ecuador



BOLD

2022 marked our full return to recurring in-person programming – and there's no better way to celebrate than to throw a party infused with global food, music, and inspiring stories. Over 250 Pittsburghers formed a vibrant and dynamic crowd for our first-ever Soiree on June 9 to celebrate our "90+1" anniversary.

262
attendees

\$161k
raised

5
local leaders
honored



Our Soiree brought our mission to life, complete with music, dancing, and good food. Spoken word artists and business leaders, changemakers and high school students – people of all backgrounds gathered in a celebration of global learning and connection. Our featured keynote speaker and Council Board Chair Saleem Ghubril said it best: “Tonight we’re not talking about the world, we’re hosting the world. The world is here right now. Take a look around you. Isn’t that a beautiful sight.”

A highlight of the night was our Illuminate Awards, which recognized leaders who have made a difference in advancing global mindedness and connection in the Pittsburgh region. We honored Leigh Solomon Pugliano (Business Leader), Marian Lien (Community Leader), Bill Strickland (Educator), and Sharifa Mkomwa & Rahwa Angesom (Youth).



"I'm a supporter, an advocate, a believer in the values of the World Affairs Council in bringing the community, and by example the world, closer together. We've got to get this figured out, and time is running short. The episodes of violence that we've witnessed in this country is unacceptable and it certainly has been demonstrated in other hemispheres of the world. I think that the World Affairs Council is one place of sanity and hope and empathy that I believe, if sustained, will at least be a candle in the night that offers some hope for those who are suffering."

— Bill Strickland, Illuminate Award Winner – Educator



THOUGHTS

We have seen how people across ages and experiences in the same room spark bold thoughts. And, as we began planning two of our largest annual convenings — our 3rd Annual Summit and 52nd Annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders — we reflected on how to create an intergenerational, multicultural experience, and asked ourselves: Why not host both events on the same day, in person?

The day brought together hundreds of students, teachers, and business and community leaders to explore the questions: How are we shaped by our individual and collective cultural identities? What does it mean to be an American or to achieve the American Dream? And how can we build diverse communities and truly build a culture of belonging?

In 2022, Pittsburgh experienced an increase in refugees from Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and other countries. To address this timely issue, our sessions deconstructed our views of global migration, humanized the people behind the statistics, and explored how to build inclusive institutions. The day examined the latest demographic data and took an in-depth look at refugee resettlement and implicit bias, incorporating dance and music from local musicians along with stories of immigrants and refugees.

240
registrants

16
speakers

14
sessions



Local leaders, students, and educators joined together for an opening plenary featuring a keynote from Rachel Perić, executive director of Welcoming America. Afterwards, the group split into distinct tracts; students participated in interactive sessions like Cultural Humility Workshop and a Cross-Cultural Simulation, while educators and local leaders attended sessions like Organizational Practices to Support a Culture of Belonging to apply these lessons in their schools and workplaces.

Thanks to our longstanding partner Rotary International, we reached high school students and educators across Pennsylvania and Ohio. Our new partnership with Vibrant Pittsburgh increased engagement with local business leaders.



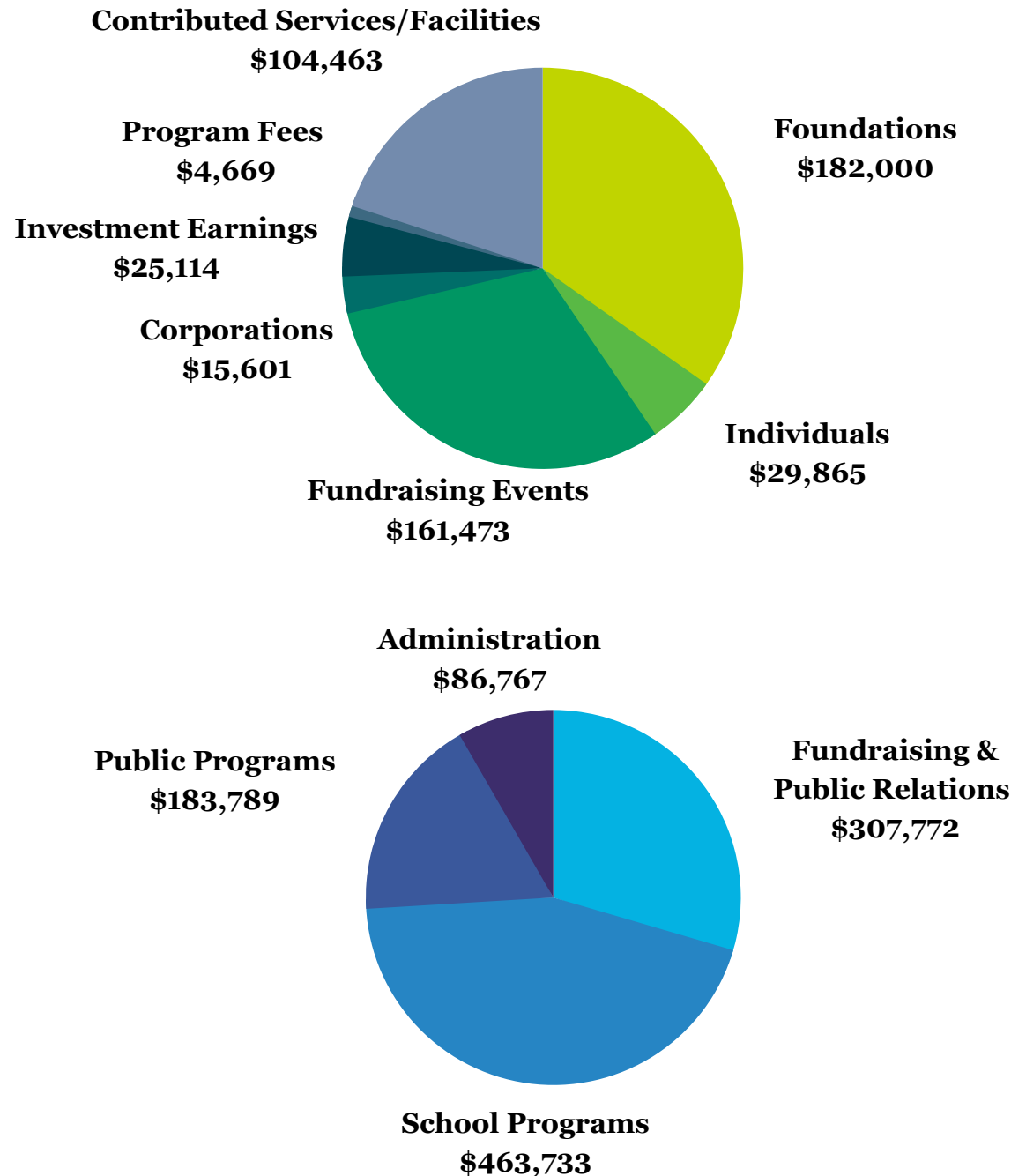
"Discussing culture and respectful interaction among cultures with peers who are my age was one of the most impactful aspects of this event. Being able to relate with commonalities and acknowledge our differences in our identities opened my eyes to the range of perspectives outside of my own." — Anonymous Student Attendee

Financial Statements

**Total Revenue:
\$523,185**

**End of year
net assets:
\$1,613,277**

**Total Expenses:
\$1,042,061**



These are unaudited numbers and may change.

Donor Listing

A special thank you to our Spring Soiree sponsors!



Foundation and Corporate Supporters:

Alan L. & Barbara B. Ackerman Foundation	Everett & Geneva Sugarbaker Foundation	Global Wordsmiths	The Benter Foundation
Ann & Frank Cahouet Foundation	Federated Advisory Services Company	Grable Foundation	The Buhl Foundation
BNY Mellon	Fred Rogers Productions	McCune Foundation	The Heinz Endowments
Donald & Sylvia Robinson Foundation	Giant Eagle	PNC	The Roy A. Hunt Foundation
		PricewaterhouseCoopers	UPMC Health Plan
		Segal Family Foundation	

Individual Supporters:

Alex Condron	Catherine Augustine	Gabe Hunt	John McCaslin*	Matt Fawcett	Randy Kovitz	Stephen Robinson
Alex Magill	Celine Oneill	Gerald Rosenfeld	Jonathan Spatz	Maxine Bruhns	Rebecca Berquist	Steve Rodgers
Alice Scott	Charlotte Song	Gloria Farzati	Justin Forzano	Meg Gleason	Richard Kann	Steven Guo
Allyce Pinchback-Johnson	Christine Cicchino	Greg Victor	Kathy Buechel	Michael Klein	Robert Fronduti	Steven Irwin
Ana Maria Miele	Cindy Haines	Gregory Swiderski	Katie Manukyan	Michael Morley*	Robin Zoufalik	Susan Englert
Ann Kirwan	Clare Drobot	Hilda Fu	Kevin Kearns	Mila Sanina	Roderick Mason	Susan Hockenberry
Anne Lewis	Cynthia Hunt	Ihab Salib	Lawrence Doperak	Molly Onufer	Saleem & Patti Ghubril	Susan McCarthy
Ariel Armony	David & Dawne Hickton	J. Christopher Donahue	Lee Fogarty	Natalia Goldin	Sara Raszewski	Tetiana Borysenko
Ariele Klausner	David Liu	Jake Withrell	Les Dutka	Olga Blackledge	Sarah Spiegel	Tyler Stenger
Armon Coleman	Douglas Quint	James Belchick	Lycia Neumann	Olivia Benson	Scott & Sue Lammie	W T McGough
Barbara Barnes*	Earl Westerlund	Jasmine Huff	Lynette Horrell	Patrick Forster	Sean Sebastian	Yara El-Khatib
Barbara Rudiak	Eileen Forrester	Jeanne Cobetto	Lynn Desmone	Patrick Wallace	Shalu Singh	
Bennett Richardson	Ellen Night*	Jenna Baron	Maliha Zia-Kamal	Paul Overby	Sharon Fuller	<i>*Forge Circle</i>
Bill Benter	Emily Francis	Jennifer Hoffmann	Marian Lien	Peggy Outon	Sharon Pickup	<i>monthly donor</i>
Blaine Connor	Eva Wright	Jennifer Martin	Marjorie Klein	Peter Sharadin	Simin Curtis	
Brian Magee	Farhod Yuldas	Jesse Irwin	Mark C. Freeman	Rachel Mauer*	Soo Song	
Caelan Schick	Fred & Christine Thieman	Joan Murdoch	Mary Boscia	Rachel Willsey	Stephen Bullick	

Thank you to our partners!



2022 Board of Directors

Chair

Saleem Ghubril, Executive Director, The Pittsburgh Promise

Vice Chair

Margaret C. Gleason, Partner, Jones Day

Secretary

Barbara E. Barnes, M.D., M.S., V.P. of Sponsored Programs, Research Support & Continuing Medical Education, UPMC

Treasurer

Patrick Forster, Partner, Healthcare Industries, Pricewaterhouse Coopers

Directors

Alan L. Ackerman, Esq., Retired Attorney-at-Law

Ariel C. Armony, PhD, Vice Provost for Global Affairs, Director,
University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh

Catherine Augustine, PhD, Director, Pittsburgh Office;
Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation

Jenna Baron, Executive Director, ARYSE

William F. Benter, Chairman and International CEO, Acusis

Kathleen Buechel, Executive Director, The Benter Foundation

Jean-Pierre Collet, President, Consular Association of Pittsburgh

Betty Cruz, President & Chief Executive Officer, World Affairs
Council of Pittsburgh

Les Dutka, Founder and former CEO, Echo International

The Honorable Rich Fitzgerald, County Executive, Allegheny County

The Honorable Edward C. Gainey, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

Lynette Horrell, Partner, Ernst & Young LLP

Peyton Klein, Founder, Global Minds Initiative

Frank Li, Founder and CEO, Kailasa Capital Management

Michael Morley, Associate Partner, McKinsey & Company

Ihab Salib, Senior Vice President, Federated Hermes

Patrick Wallace, President, Covington Investment Advisors, Inc.

Directors Emeriti

***Alan H. Finegold, Esq.**, Law Offices of Alan H. Finegold

***F. Worth Hobbs**, Former President, Alcoa Foundation

****The Honorable Dick Thornburgh**,
Former Attorney General of the United States and Former
Governor of Pennsylvania

****James M. Walton**, Vice Chairman, The Heinz Endowments

**Past Chair*

***Deceased*

Youth Board



Alekhya B.



Zachariah J.



Harshitha L.



Peer K.



Aavin M.



Ayushma N.



Jake R.



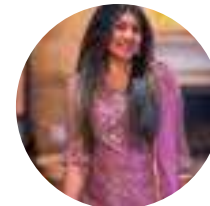
Yu X.



Mary Z.



Giavanna C.



Nandana M.



Anushri E.



Sam N.



Diya R.



Ben W.

Youth Fellows

Our Youth Board and Youth Fellowship program prioritizes youth voice and leadership. These students serve as a thought-partner to the Council Board of Directors and staff, and they guide the organization in how to best serve young people.

Staff



Betty Cruz
President & CEO
betty@worldpittsburgh.org



Kathleen Newell
Director of Youth Programming
kathleen@worldpittsburgh.org



Joe Poskin
Director of Operations
joe@worldpittsburgh.org



Shawn Reming Jr., PhD
**Youth Programming
Coordinator**
shawn@worldpittsburgh.org



Kara Bowen
**Communications
Coordinator**
kara@worldpittsburgh.org



Lauren Scholle
Operations Coordinator
lauren@worldpittsburgh.org

Get Involved!

[Subscribe to our newsletter.](#)

Sign up to receive email updates on upcoming events and programs.

[Attend one of our programs.](#)

Our programming is designed to foster global mindedness and global connectivity in Pittsburgh. Whether on a bike trail, university campus, or local theater, we convene and connect people for inclusive and accessible learning opportunities that generate transformed leadership.

[Start a Global Minds chapter.](#)

Global Minds is a school-based program of the Council that catalyzes youth-led action for inclusive and welcoming schools. Apply to start a chapter in your school or community.

[Make a donation!](#)

We depend on your support to bring engaging global learning programming to Pittsburgh!

Contact Us



Sparking Bold Thoughts

2640 BNY Mellon Center
500 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

worldpittsburgh.org

412.218.7970

welcome@worldpittsburgh.org

