

2023 Annual Report



2023 In Review

For the past 92 years, the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh has shapeshifted to meet the global issues of our time. But amidst an ever-changing world, one thing has remained constant: our role to convene and connect Pittsburghers who care about the world.

Although our *what* has remained the same, our *how* has evolved to reflect our changing society. As we enter a future that's more interconnected and interdependent than ever, we're redefining what global learning looks like.

Many roads lead to the Council, and we meet people where they are, whether in a classroom, conference room, or on a bike trail. Each path to global learning is unique. Here's what a few of these paths looked like in 2023:

- We connected with real people behind policies by lifting up stories that otherwise may have gone untold – whether through theater performances on the Ukrainian migration crisis or a panel discussion with women entrepreneurs on their experience overcoming obstacles to professional success in Japan and the U.S.
- We paved the way for youth to learn to lead by empowering our Youth Fellows and Youth Board members to educate their educators through youth-led adult trainings and expanding our youth-led Global Minds program as far as Hong Kong.

Many roads lead to the Council, and we meet people where they are.

- And we celebrated the power of music to bring people together, as Pittsburghers of all ages and backgrounds danced at our second annual Soiree, dedicated to hip hop's 50 year legacy as a tool of cultural exchange.

We believe that what starts as a single conversation today can spark a lifetime of global learning. No matter what road they take to our work, just one globally-minded individual has the power to change their community and the world.

Thank you for being with us on this journey to build a world that is equitable and just for all.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty".

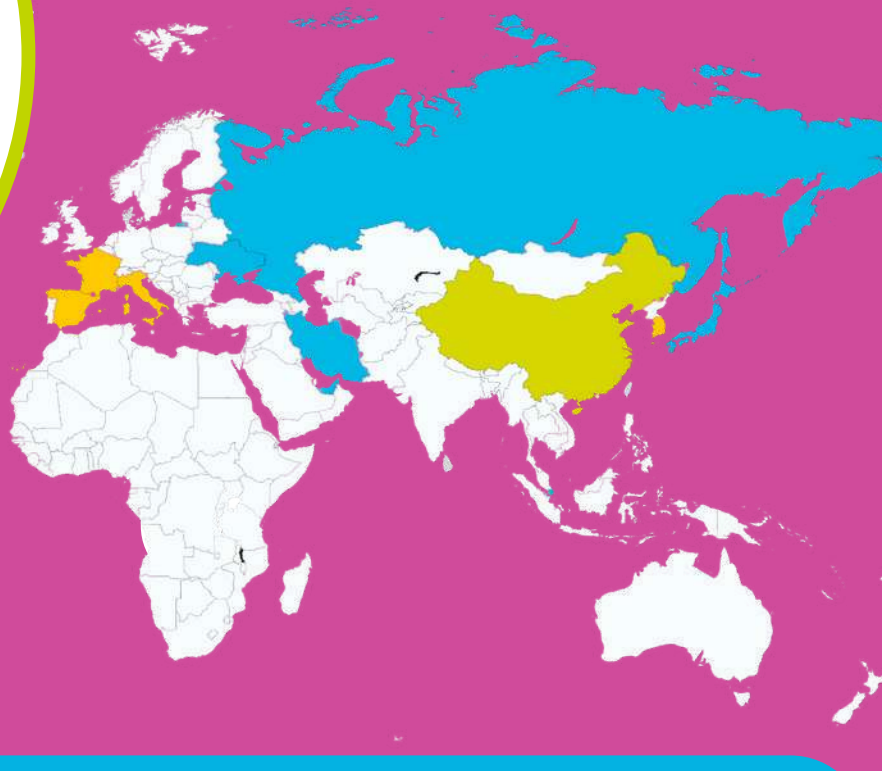
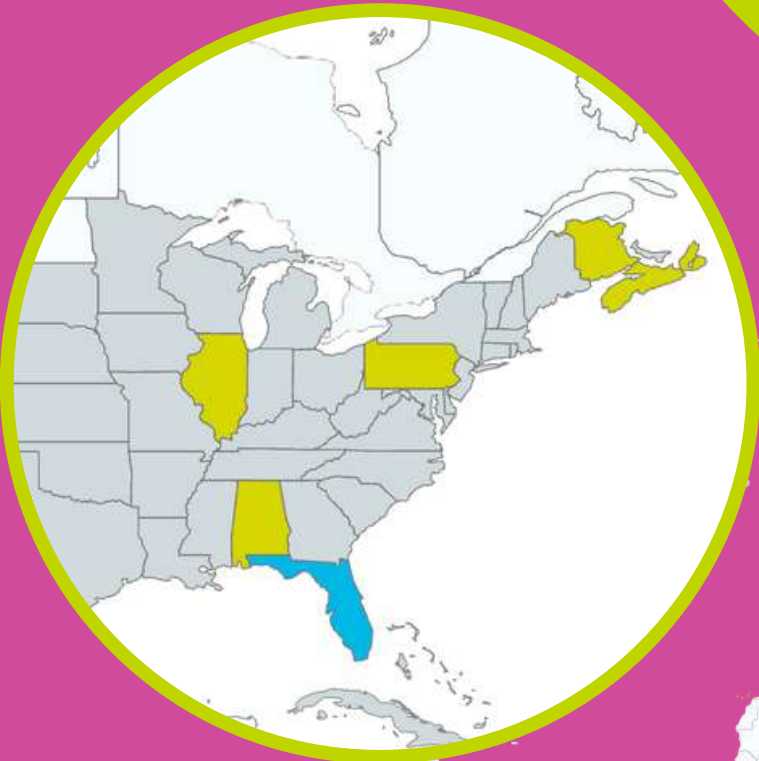
Betty Cruz
President & CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg".

Meg Gleason
Chair, Board of Directors

Where did we go in 2023?



13
countries visited

1,468
program attendees

35
youth programs

49
expert speakers

11
public programs

41
schools served

61
community partners

Ukraine, Russia

- Performance – *Mothermotherland*
- A Diplomatic End to the War in Ukraine

Japan

- Innovation and Women's Entrepreneurship in Japan and the U.S.

Iran

- Performance – *I will dance with those oak trees as long as*

Singapore, Dubai, Miami

- Emerging Global Cities: A Conversation with Dr. Ariel Armony

Global Minds Chapters:

- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
- Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, USA
- West Aurora, Illinois, USA
- Madison, Alabama, USA
- St. John, New Brunswick, Canada
- Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada
- Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
- Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong

Global Travel Scholars Program:

- Japan
- France
- South Korea
- Ecuador
- Italy
- Spain

The road to global learning

Our immersive and engaging public programming meets people where they are in their learning journeys. This means that learning can happen...



...on a bike trail.

Getting to know the world around us starts with the world right beneath our feet, and the most sustainable way to do that is by bike. Our [bike rides](#) deepen our community's connections to global issues and bring neighbors together to explore our shared city. We hosted two themed rides in 2023: [Hispanic & Latine Heritage Month Community Bike Ride](#) and [Climate Action Community Bike Ride](#).



...in a conference room.

Through our speaker series, we invite subject matter experts — with an emphasis on BIPOC and women speakers — for interactive panel discussions, one-on-one conversations, and friendly debates to help Pittsburghers learn clear, trustworthy, and accurate information about global issues. 2023 programs included: [The State of U.S. Diplomacy: A Conversation with Ambassador Eric Rubin](#); [Innovation and Women's Entrepreneurship in Japan and the U.S.](#); [A Diplomatic End to the War in Ukraine](#); and [Emerging Global Cities: A Conversation with Dr. Ariel Armony](#).



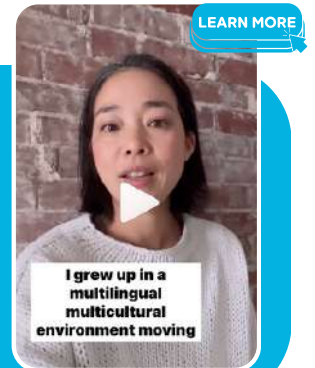
...on stage.

We incorporate art, theater, dance, and music to bring to life the people behind policies and stories behind statistics. We hosted Slovo. Theater Group's [Mothermotherland](#) play exploring motherhood and the Ukrainian refugee crisis, and CP4P International Productions' performance of [I will dance with those oak trees as long as](#) to bring to life the experience of Kurdish women in 1980s Iran.

The Road to Global Learning: Reiko's Story

Raised in a multilingual, multicultural household, Reiko Yamamoto's road to global learning began at an early age. An entrepreneur and artist, she discovered the Council when she was invited to sell her ceramics at a program, Innovation and Women's Entrepreneurship in Japan and the U.S.

She said, "I was surprised and intrigued by the work they do in Pittsburgh, a place I have called home for 12 years. [The Council's] commitment to cultural understanding is much needed in a place that can sometimes feel small." [Click to hear Reiko's story!](#)



Nurturing the leaders of today

We work alongside young people, empowering them to take action on global issues. We create connected pathways for students to navigate their own personalized learning journeys, paving the way for a lifetime of leadership and curiosity about the world around them. Young people can....



Attend a Conference

Most students first learn about our youth programming from a teacher or by attending a conference. Designed by and created for youth, conferences like the World Affairs Institute engage students in discussions of key issues in international affairs so that they can understand and think critically about their world.

Study Abroad as a Global Travel Scholar

Our Global Travel Scholars program provides a full scholarship to students with financial need to participate in a summer program abroad. Our eight Scholars traveled to six countries. Along with a trip overseas, this year-long program includes orientation sessions on cultural humility and a storytelling event to share the transformative impacts of travel abroad and cross-cultural exchange. [Hear their stories!](#)



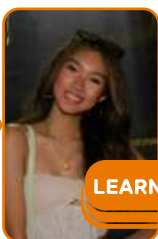
Apply to be a Youth Fellow or Board Member

Our Youth Board and Youth Fellows program focuses on leadership and career development by providing high school students with hands-on professional experience. Fellows work alongside staff members on daily tasks and collaborate with Youth Board members to design and facilitate youth-led trainings for adult allies, educators, and community leaders.



Start a Global Minds Chapter

Global Minds, our flagship youth program, is a school-based program that catalyzes youth-led action for inclusive and welcoming schools. In 2023, we expanded our Global Minds footprint to 16 active Chapters across the U.S., Canada, and Hong Kong!



[LEARN MORE](#)

Izzy L.'s experience is a perfect example of this learning pathway!

She got involved with the Council by participating in a design committee, then started a Global Minds Chapter, and finally became a Youth Fellow.

[Click to read Izzy's story.](#)

Soiree

Our annual Soiree brings our mission to life as a true **celebration** – a party dedicated to our caring community and all the ways we are connected to the world around us.

Nearly 250 members of our community gathered for **Radiating Rhythms: Celebrating Hip Hop's Brilliance** on October 6, in honor of hip hop's 50th anniversary and our 92nd year of connecting Pittsburgh to the world.



We also honored the winners of our **Illuminate Awards**, presented by the David Glick Memorial Fund. These leaders have made a difference in advancing global mindedness and connection in the Pittsburgh region:

- Brent Rondon (Business Leader)
- Angela Garcia (Community Leader)
- Sasha Ahmad (Youth)
- Carolina Loyola-Garcia (Educator)



[Click to watch a video capturing the night!](#)

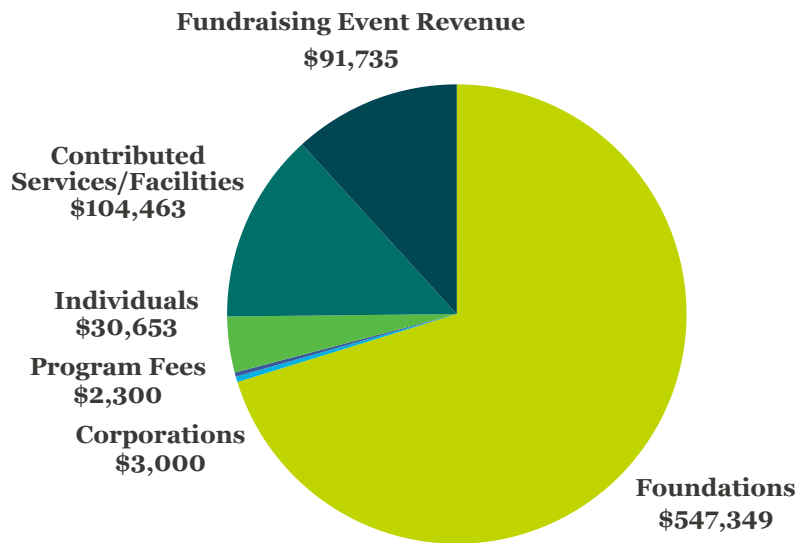
Community is what gives meaning to people's lives. Community makes you belong, gives you a sense of identity, makes you feel welcome, gives you the encouragement to get up in the morning and go make a difference because you feel that you're having some impact with the people that you are relating to. So events like tonight, the Soiree, that bring so many people together from a variety of different backgrounds, ethnicities, places of origin, ages, is one fantastic way of building that sense of community, of friendship.

– Carolina Loyola-Garcia, Illuminate Award winner

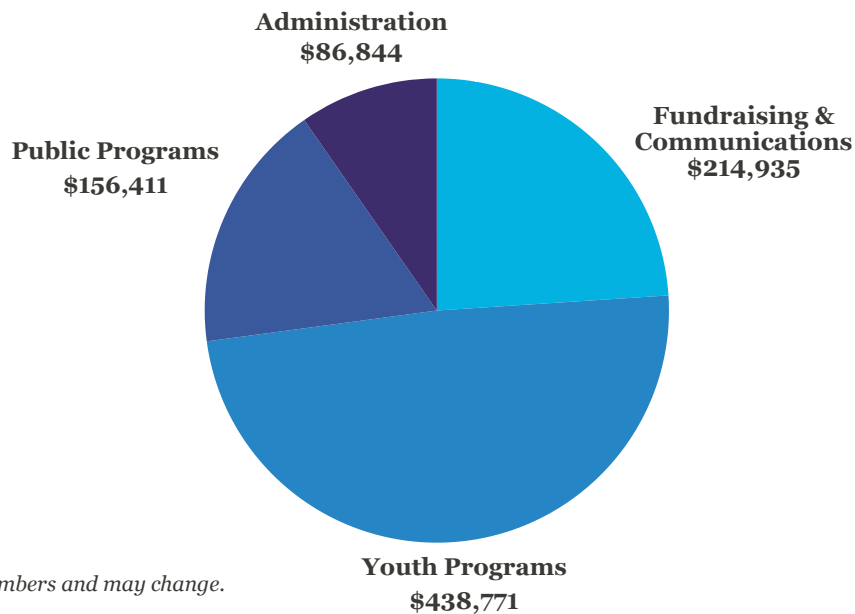
Financial Statements

Total Revenue: \$779,500

End of year net assets: \$1,394,013



Total Expenses: \$896,961



These are unaudited numbers and may change.

Donor Listing

A special thank you to our Soiree sponsors!



Foundation, Corporate & Organization Supporters

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Carolina Loyola-Garcia	Fred Thieman	Katie Manukyan	Michael Hogel	Robert Fronduti	
Catherine Augustine				Robin Zoufalik	

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Avery N.



Jeongwoo C.



Makenzie S.



Natalia C.



Nandana M.



Pavel M.



Sophie G.



Tom O.

LEARN MORE



[Click to learn more
about our Youth
Board members!](#)

Thank you to our partners!

Our collective impact is greater when we work together. We are proud to partner with other organizations doing important work to build an equitable and just world.



Meet Our Team!



[LEARN MORE](#)

The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh full-time staff works together with seven Youth Fellows to bring diverse, bold, and engaging programming to the Pittsburgh region and beyond.

[Learn more about our team.](#)



Stay Connected!

Whether you attend every program, support our work with a donation, or are just learning about us for the first time – **thank you** for joining us on a journey to global learning, in 2023 and in the years ahead. It takes everyone to build a globally minded, globally connected region and world. We're glad you're here with us.

Head to worldpittsburgh.org to learn more about us, and be sure to [sign up for our newsletter](#) to connect with the Council community and stay aware of upcoming programs.