Dear Friends,

Even with the benefit of hindsight, there is so much about 2020 that transformed everything we thought we knew to be true. It was a difficult year for the world. It tested us all in nearly every aspect of the way we think about our health, our family, our team, our neighbor — it was a year where everything changed. Yet, here's what didn't change: our understanding and belief in the importance of human connection, a palpable need for open dialogue, and the impressive pace of innovation when a group of committed individuals work towards the greater good.

We are awestruck by all that we learned and lived last year and, above all, we were fortunate to continue advancing the mission of the Council in innovative, forward-looking, and empathetic ways. Thank you for your generosity, for inspiring us, and for leading us on a path toward an even brighter future.

The Council's recent merger with Global Minds Initiative is a shining moment in our history, bringing additional opportunities for youth to have meaningful learning experiences and authentic leadership development. Global Minds supports the Council’s vision of a globally minded and globally connected world. We are excited for all that lies ahead in our work and the new heights we will reach as we prepare to roll out our three-year strategic plan.

If it wasn't evident before, it is certainly clear now that today's world is more interconnected and interdependent than ever, and we believe the Council is a unique changemaker in global learning. Through our programs and partnerships, we want to see a future where businesses and community members are continually thriving, our youth are better equipped to answer the challenges of their time, and our region is seen as exceedingly welcoming and talent-rich.

Being a part of this organization is a great privilege for the both of us — not only to serve, but to learn alongside some of the most compassionate, generous, and smart leaders and youth of our time. It is our hope that as we begin the Council’s 90th year, our story will continue to influence the vitality and relevancy of Pittsburgh on the global stage and nurture our young leaders for many more years to come.

To those just getting to know us, we invite you to learn more about our impact through our Annual Report and invite you to partner with us to continue our fruitful work.

Sincerely,

Betty Cruz
President & CEO

Steve Lackey
Chair, Board of Directors
A YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 21
Betty Cruz appointed as new President & CEO

MAY 20
Cooking with Haitian Chef Claudy Pierre kicks off 2020 virtual public programming

MAY 27
25-member Strategy Committee has first meeting to shape the strategic plan

JUNE 3
Council issues anti-racist statement, promising to bring underrepresented voices forward

JULY 1
COVID X Health Care is the first virtual program of the youth-led Emerging Global Leaders Seminar

DECEMBER 2
Celebrated 50 years of the World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders in partnership with Rotary International

DECEMBER 31
Merged with Global Minds Initiative
BY THE NUMBERS

38 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

45,340 DIGITAL ENGAGEMENTS
1,489 EVENT ATTENDEES
57 SPEAKERS
36 PARTNERS
32 VIRTUAL EVENTS

41 SCHOOL PROGRAMS

741 STUDENTS SERVED
323 EDUCATOR/ADULT ALLY TRAINING HOURS
121 TEACHER ALLIES
68 SCHOOLS SERVED
Despite a year that forced the Council to quickly pivot to virtual events, we were fortunate to be able to offer the Pittsburgh community (and beyond) a lineup of well-rounded, nonpartisan, fact-based discussions. Of our 38 programs, 32 went virtual, and allowed us to amplify content and speakers from traditionally underrepresented groups, and reach new audiences. From hosting a cooking demonstration with Chef Claudy, founder of EAT Initiative, to covering the current state of U.S. and Iran relations in a panel moderated by Barbara Slavin, director of Future of Iran Initiative, Atlantic Council, and all in between, our public programs set out to enlighten the global mind.

A highlight in a year of many, was the [Redefining] Global Learning Summit, the Council's first multi-day, virtual conference. Nearly 200 curious minds, gathered to connect, discuss, reflect, and learn more about issues affecting us locally and globally. At the heart of the Summit was the goal to build connectivity, foster learning, and spark empathy as we all indulged in thoughtful discussions with local, national, and international experts.

“If the pandemic teaches us nothing else, it shows that we are all in this together. We are all vulnerable to forces like this. Insularity isn’t something that we can afford. Period. The entire nation can’t afford to not be globally connected. So it’s not how do we get back to normal, but how do we create a new normal with connections that are deeper than before?”

Betty Cruz, “After virus, how will Americans’ view of the world change?” Associated Press.
MESSAGES FROM OUR PARTNERS

“Chatham University has benefited greatly from our win-win partnership with the World Affairs Council around our shared commitment to raising awareness and engagement of young people on how to address climate change. We were pleased to be included in the Council’s process for developing the new strategic plan and look forward to working together to turn this vision into a reality.”

David Finegold, DPhil | President, Chatham University

“I applaud the Council and Betty for such an ambitious strategic planning process — ambitious in all the ways it worked to be inclusive. I think that speaks volumes for the organization’s commitment. Pittsburgh is an international city — economically, socially, and culturally. It has always been. We are a practical people here in Pittsburgh and there are times when practicality is absolutely essential. And, in that practicality, let’s continue to aspire to our boldest ambitions. Now more than ever, we need bold leadership.”

Janera Solomon | Founder, Fieldwork Arts
"We have had 5 or 6 students awarded a scholarship over the last 8 years and it has been life-changing and has changed our community in many ways.... It is difficult for students who live in such an isolated community to see the broader world. We are a farming community that has lost its farms and for the vast majority of students, traveling overseas may as well be travelling to the moon.

I know it might be hard to imagine, but the Global Travel Scholarship has been a big deal for us. [Our] whole community has celebrated whenever a student has been selected. This is a thread to the world we have all held on to. Students who have returned from the trip have always consistently made an effort to educate the students here about their experiences and give them a connection to our globe. This has been a powerful tool to bring global awareness to our isolated community. And for those that were chosen, it has broadened their life goals.

The Global Travel Scholarship has been one way to change what our students imagine is possible and the same for our community as well!"

Samuel McCoy | English and Social Studies Teacher
South Side High School | Hookstown, PA
On December 2, the Council hosted its 50th annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders in partnership with Rotary International with a theme of Our Vision, Our Voice. 100 students from 24 school districts explored local and global issues with youth activists and change-makers from around the world.

While this year was unlike previous years in many ways, the in-depth virtual sessions provided opportunities for students to gain skills and motivation for taking sustained and meaningful action. Kathleen Newell, director of youth programming, says, “This year’s Institute was designed by youth, for youth, which both honored the 50 year legacy of developing youth leaders, as well as recognized the vision for the Council's work. Our Vision, Our Voice demonstrated that young people are not just future leaders—they are today's leaders.”

“They actually had young activists talk about the importance of youth voice. Many of them had recently started in activism, so they gave nice explanations on how to expand your reach when advocating. My favorite part was when they had a few speakers come in to talk about activism burnout and self-care. In quarantine, it is a little hard to be motivated, but the event overall resparked my passion for advocacy.”

-Student | North Allegheny Senior HS

A special thank you to Rotary International and local Rotary Clubs of East Palestine, Greater McKees Rocks, Latrobe, and Ebensburg for providing transformative experiences for high school students in their Districts!
"The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh has been a major part of my life and shaped my future aspirations as well as my personal development as a whole. I am forever grateful for the opportunities I have been provided with through the Council and the essential lessons I have learned along the way.

During quarantine, I was immediately drawn to the opportunity to host a virtual student discussion as I hoped to create a sense of community among peers despite the trying times. I truly enjoyed moderating the discussion, and it helped me grow as both a facilitator and person in general.

Additionally, I was selected as the Council’s Innovation and Research Fellow. My work focuses on devising creative methods to evaluate the Council’s impact on youth and working with staff members and fellow youth to design innovative programs. I hope to continue to contribute to the Council as it has truly impacted my life. The Council is surely shaping the next generation, and we youth are forever grateful for the work that it does."

Hannah Shin | 11th Grade
North Allegheny Senior High School

“I have been involved in World Affairs programming since 10th grade and every program I have been involved in has been interesting, and informative. Attending Council events exposed me to careers and topics I was not previously exposed to. It was a crucial part in adding to my high school experience.

I was given the opportunity to extend my involvement over the summer of 2020 in helping to guide the World Affairs Council’s future. I felt honored they wanted to hear my thoughts and ideas. I used that platform to advocate for more low income Black students in the Pittsburgh area to be involved in the Council's youth programing and the World Affairs staff seemed to genuinely take that suggestion seriously. As a current college freshman, I can say confidently being involved with the Council has helped me grow as a global citizen and thinker.”

Jeremiah Davis | Chatham University Class of 2024
GLOBAL MINDS MERGER

FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH

At the end of 2020, the Council officially merged with Global Minds Initiative and received unanimous support from both organizations’ Board of Directors. Under this merger of two like-minded organizations, Global Minds will become the Council's leading youth program. Discussions began early in the year, well before the pandemic upended our lives and routines. In coming together, the Council will be uniquely positioned to provide a more effective and sustainable continuum of education and student engagement to young persons, their families, as well as the general public.

Founded in 2016, by then 15-year-old Peyton Klein, Global Minds is dedicated to fostering intercultural friendships and dialogue in schools globally. The organization has grown from a singular club at Pittsburgh’s Taylor Allderdice High School to a network of 25 youth-led afterschool programs and over 3,600 students, leading a movement of welcoming, inclusion, and kindness in classrooms across North America.

“Our joining of forces solidifies that the work of Global Minds will continue to grow into the future, and presents countless opportunities to leverage the legacy and platform of the Council to deepen our impact.”

-Peyton Klein

The Council will soon launch a virtual platform centered on youth, a project that staff has been co-designing with Global Minds since summer 2020 and has received seed funding from The Pittsburgh Foundation. Youth can look forward to increased access to global learning and leadership experiences through this new program, along with the Council's existing programs including the World Affairs Institute, Global Careers, and Global Travel Scholars.
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS IN 2020!
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TOTAL REVENUE:
$558,970

END OF YEAR NET ASSETS:
$2,006,680

TOTAL EXPENSES:
$1,010,379

These are unaudited numbers and may change slightly.
Thank you!

We are grateful for our many individual donors and funders for their tremendous generosity and partnership in 2020. You make our work possible!
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