



SAN DIEGO
DIPLOMACY
COUNCIL

San Diego Diplomacy Council

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO AND THE WORLD

For over 40 years, the San Diego Diplomacy Council has connected world leaders with San Diego counterparts to build trust, dialogue, collaboration and innovation across all sectors, changing lives and the world for the better.

In addition, we facilitate people-to-people diplomacy through issue-focused journeys. We also open the world to San Diego high school students through youth programs teaching effective communication, negotiation and engagement skills for a global tomorrow. Our success is possible thanks to the active involvement of donors, sponsors, members, home hosts, community leaders, distinguished speakers and many others.

THE TEAM

Every visitor, every student, every partner, every home host is uniquely important — so our entire team works hard to ensure every experience is meaningful!



Heidi Knuff
Executive Director



Jim Davis
Operations Director



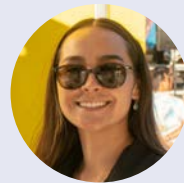
Jessica Frank
Program Director



Lulu Bonning
Program Officer



Adrianna Borja
Program Associate



Julia Masias
Program Associate

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

This year the San Diego Diplomacy Council adopted its DEI pledge and put it into immediate execution by expanding membership opportunities, moving our programs and events to underserved areas, and ensuring every international leader we host experiences the full richness of San Diego's diverse community.

Our Board recruitment, hiring and administrative practices were reviewed to ensure we live the principles we pledge. We expanded our long tradition of connecting with diverse community partners, including San Diego PRIDE and the San Diego African-American Museum of Fine Art. Thanks to generous sponsors over 50 percent of students in our flagship Global Leadership Youth Program received full scholarship support.

We supported women-owned businesses, joined efforts to build regional cooperation, and contributed to exhibitions highlighting the ongoing civil rights struggle. We held book talks focusing on the achievements of the differently-abled, supported concerts for peace in Ukraine, and participated in beach clean-ups, food distributions, and welcoming events for newly-arriving immigrants.



INFORMING INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

Since 1979 the U.S. Department of State has trusted the San Diego Diplomacy Council to host up-and-coming international leaders selected for their contributions to constructive global change.

San Diego offers the perfect mix of academic rigor and entrepreneurial flair, attracting almost 500 dynamic global changemakers this year. We were privileged to prepare meetings, programs and unique experiences that literally changed their lives.

Often our international leaders will spend just a few days in San Diego. Other exchange visitors and fellows, however, dedicate weeks of their time to volunteering in a local organization or business to collaborate in a new environment. This year a global activist spent 20 days working in San Diego PRIDE, building unity among a community that is subject to threat and repression. A child trauma expert from a conflict-ridden nation worked with a local counterpart to explore new ways of offering support and treatment. An academic seeking to promote business education worked at the Wendy Gillespie Center at San Diego State University. These are just a few of the many embed opportunities we were able to foster, partnering global changemakers with San Diego's innovative doers.



DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS

During the pandemic we piloted an on-line summer program for high school students eager to engage in the global challenges of our time.

This year we took the program live for five one-week modules, with over 100 students participating, and 94 percent telling us they would do it again. Students loved the operational experts (including ambassadors and PhDs); the relevant topics; the hands-on simulation; and the developmental feedback. Over one-half our students received scholarship funding from our generous sponsors and donors, allowing us to extend the opportunity all the way into Mexico! The 2022 cohort was so enthusiastic they prompted the formation of a Global Youth Collaborative, which will extend the global engagement into four sessions throughout 2022-2023, sustaining their development as tomorrow's global leaders. We also launched a newsletter targeting youth engagement in world affairs.

Our youth focus continued through the identification of four partner schools willing to host our delegations, open classrooms to global education, and create opportunities for new connections at the middle- and high-school levels. Citizen diplomacy relies on making positive connections, and starting this process in local schools can encourage students to later explore new fields of study, year-abroad programs, independent travel and other experiences that can help them define and reach their full potential.

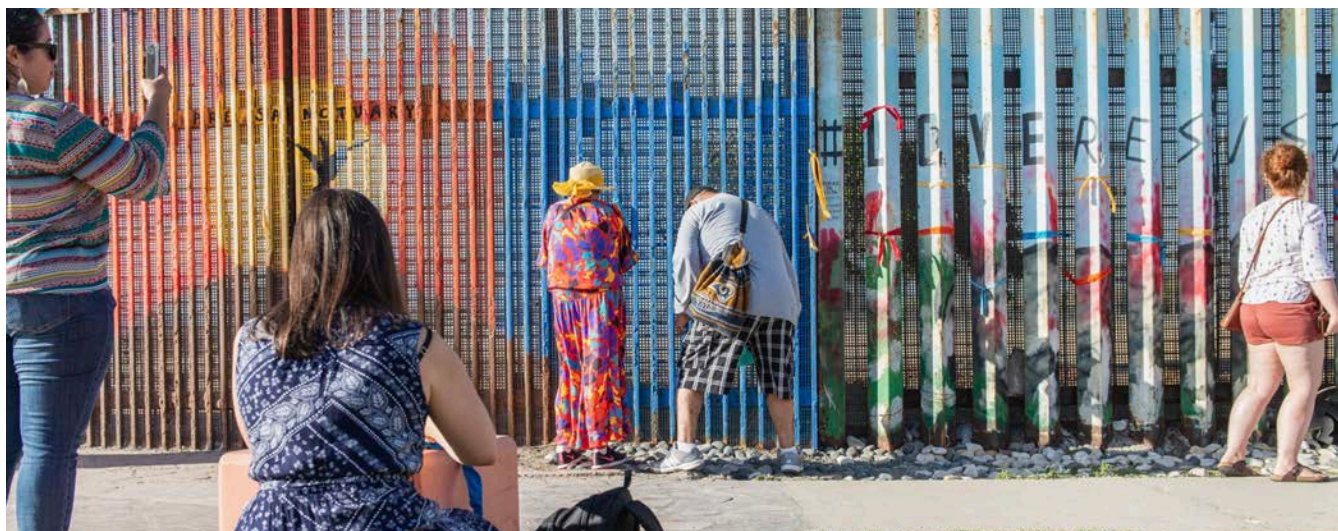
Our commitment to forging the future of global engagement in San Diego flourishes through our vigorous internship program, which puts graduate students in direct contact with future world leaders. Our interns receive academic credit for an experience that develops their organizational, protocol, cultural sensitivity and communication skills as they engage with our visitors, San Diego partners, home hosts and sponsors. Citizen diplomacy is a key tool of global engagement, and these colleagues are masters by the end of their experience with the San Diego Diplomacy Council.



ADVOCATING FOR THE COMMUNITY

From Chicano Park to National City and across the county, this year we brought our members, community partners, sponsors, donors and friends to exchange ideas and innovations with incredible young changemakers from across the world.

Together we shared the favorite foods of Uzbekistan, the dreams of young activists from North Africa, and the business aspirations of women entrepreneurs from Latin America. At our annual fundraiser we celebrated global connections and specifically the culture of Colombia, the destination for this year's citizen diplomacy study tour. We celebrated our many partners alongside the San Diego African-American Fine Arts Museum by supporting its exhibition recalling the Freedom Riders' contributions to the civil rights struggle — and a blues concert to remind us the struggle is ongoing.





We continued our Global Leaders' speaker series with a captivating discussion of the book, "Being Heumann," a memoir of the civil rights struggle led by the disabled. U.S. Consul General in Tijuana Tom Reott spoke to us about the power of citizen diplomacy. Additional conversations covered world hunger, resilience in the face of adversity, the future of the United Nations, and more.

Our staff, partners, students and delegations marched to stop breast cancer; cleaned the beaches, volunteered at food banks, supported cross-border engagement, inspired youth, advocated for the LGBTQ community, allied with Ukraine, and spoke out against hate crimes.



Coastal Cleanup



7,535,411

Cigarettes/
Filters

2,193,018

Food
Wrappers/
Containers

1,861,923

Caps/
Lids

Figures taken from the California Coastal Commission, 1998 - 2017

EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES

How do you build peace after decades of war? How can a community overrun by drug cartels regain agency, and flourish? How can natural reserves be protected against development?

We believe that the benefits of cultural exchange go both ways, and offer the opportunity of organized citizen diplomacy study tours to our members (when covid permits). Past visits included an exploration of Cuba and its challenges and culture. In late 2022, we escorted 19 members and friends on a civic engagement tour of Colombia as a new government took office, putting into question years of US-Colombian partnership in the war against drugs. We also facilitated visits by San Diego hosts who were offered international travel grants to re-unite with their global visitor.



BUILDING SUPPORT FOR CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

Membership this year increased 37 percent, as we moved to a pay-what-you-can system that broadened access and inclusion.

Members host dinners for visiting leaders, attend talks and presentations, travel with us to different countries, and keep San Diego connected to the world. We are grateful for the increased numbers of donors and sponsors who make our youth, outreach and engagement programs possible. Thanks to superlative staff, we continued this year to ensure that we met all donor criteria, provided specific impact reports, and exceeded expectations in terms of our administration, program development, and outreach goals. Our opportunity to change lives this year was made possible by the generous personal, financial and in-kind contributions of our supporters.



MANAGING RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, sponsors and partners. We comply with every grant stipulation, provide immaculate accounting, and ensure appropriate financial oversight. Our June 30, 2022 financial statement attests to this and more.

	Jun 30, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	363,024.43
Accounts Receivable	172,828.41
Other Current Assets	2,649.22
Total Current Assets	538,502.06
Other Assets	3,646.50
TOTAL ASSETS	542,148.56
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	7,794.23
Other Current Liabilities	12,260.92
Total Current Liabilities	20,055.15
Total Liabilities	20,055.15
Equity	522,093.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	542,148.56

GROWING OUR IMPACT

We are delighted that in-person visits have resumed. This year we hope to reach pre-covid levels of delegation travel while maintaining our services to partners in San Diego. With the continued support of donors and sponsors, we plan to expand youth programs to larger numbers of students across the entire school year. The success of past citizen diplomacy delegations inspired us to plan a new journey to Morocco, to explore its political, social and cultural connections to San Diego.






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