STRENGTHENING THE TIES THAT UNITE US

ANNUAL REPORT 2016
At Cultural Vistas, ‘learning-by-doing’ is an essential institutional value. We believe that education is not complete without the opportunity to make connections and apply knowledge in a professional setting.

When this experiential approach involves sustained immersion in another culture and language, the results are often transformative. For more than 50 years, Cultural Vistas has cultivated informed, skilled, empathetic, and engaged citizens and leaders at all levels of society with this belief as the foundation of our work.

After five-plus decades of developing and implementing cultural exchange programs, we have come to understand these benefits extend well beyond any one individual. Exchanges provide our institutions and communities with an unrivaled understanding of other cultures and deep, durable connections. These connections allow for stronger partnerships, economic growth, and sustained dialogue needed to maintain peace and address the complex challenges we continue to face in our increasingly interdependent and complicated world.

Annually, we serve and support over 1,000 businesses and organizations, and close to 6,000 individuals from 130 countries. We are grateful to our many partners, host institutions, friends, and supporters around the world who help us make these meaningful connections possible. It is humbling to work with thousands of students, professionals, educators, policy makers, journalists, governments, and NGOs whose lives and work are touched by our programs. Their stories affirm our mission and are shared throughout these pages.

As we grow, we continue to invest in building new means for intercultural collaboration and shared learning.

Five years ago, we created the Cultural Vistas Fellowship to afford underrepresented U.S. university students the opportunity to advance their career goals, develop global competencies, and experience what life’s like outside the United States for the first time. Since that time, Cultural Vistas has invested $225,000 to send more than 50 students to live and intern for eight weeks in Argentina, Germany, India and Singapore. This summer, we will continue this effort and we are thankful to the many Cultural Vistas Alumni who have joined us in their support of this program.

This past year, we also launched the Cultural Vistas Alumni Network to connect and engage with our growing global community of alumni, and ensure we are equipping them with professional networks they can call upon throughout their careers. Additionally, we continually evaluate the immediate and longitudinal impact of our programs. This ensures we consistently provide the types of opportunities that our participants desire, that our host organizations expect, and that our mission requires.

Our exchange programs transcend borders to unite us all. In our alumni, organizations, and communities they strengthen skills and relationships, while fostering a more inclusive, pluralistic society. We invite you to join us in this journey.
Since 1963, Cultural Vistas has used career exploration to facilitate meaningful connections between Americans and the international community. Our educational and professionally-focused exchanges create more informed, skilled, and engaged citizens and lead toward stronger alliances, increased understanding, and a safer, more prosperous world.

» Cost Effective + Impactful: International exchange programs are a proven way to develop leaders—both American and international—and promote shared values that bring our world closer together. A vast majority of our exchange programs (over 90%) are privately funded and advance key foreign policy priorities at virtually no cost to U.S. taxpayers.

» Expanding Opportunities for Young Americans: Our programs develop competencies demanded in today’s global economy. The 371 Americans who took part in our programs last year represent the most since 1992. We aim to double that number by 2020.

» Future-Focused: Science and technology, entrepreneurship, environmental stewardship, and leadership development are among our core competencies. More than 60 percent of our programs take place in STEM fields, an area which remains vital to our economy’s future.

» Addressing Key Issues: Every year, we organize initiatives for public and private sector partners, such as the U.S. Department of State, U.S. embassies, foreign governments, foundations, universities, and companies, around select topics of global importance, such as:
  - Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)
  - Environmental Protection
  - Resettlement and Integration
  - STEM Education
  - Women’s Empowerment

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING

After participating in Cultural Vistas programs, individuals:

92% are able to describe and adapt to cultural differences
89% feel they are now more respected in their professional field
86% obtained valuable knowledge about U.S. culture
83% developed a more positive view of the United States
80% gained skills valuable in advancing their careers
72% will stay in touch with people in host country
72% increased career prospects upon returning to their home country
55% have significantly improved proficiency in their host country’s language
48% took part in community service or event during their stay

SOURCE: 2016 SURVEYS INCLUDING DATA FROM MORE THAN 4,300 RESPONDENTS FROM ACROSS OUR PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
BY THE NUMBERS

Around The World: 5,942 Participants
Outside the US: 397 Participants
In the US: 5,343 Participants

Top Sender to the U.S.:
- Canada: 28%
- Others: 14%
- Germany: 4%
- South Korea: 6%
- China: 5%
- France: 7%

Top Destination from the U.S.:
- Germany: 63%
- Others: 7%
- Switzerland: 5%
- Spain: 5%
- India: 3%
- Argentina: 3%
- Brazil: 3%

Participants by Country:
- Europe: 32%
- North America: 1%
- Asia: 27%
- South America: 9%
- Africa: 3%
- Oceania: 6%

Participants by Region:
- Coming To The US: 5.5 Months
- Coming From The US: 0%

Total Participant by Program Type:
- Train USA: 4,807 Interns, Trainees, & Teachers

Total Revenue by Program Type (in millions):
- Train USA: $15
- Other Inbound: $10
- Other Outbound/Reciprocal: $5
- Program Dev (Projected): $1

J-1 Exchange Programs:
- 202 Participants

Specialty Programs:
- 202 Participants

Growth of Specialty Program Participants:
- '11: 1,000
- '12: 2,000
- '13: 3,000
- '14: 4,000
- '15: 5,000
- '16: 6,000

Participant Demographics:
- Gender: 35% Female, 65% Male
- Average Program Length: 5.5 Months
- Youngest: 18 yrs old
- Oldest: 71 yrs old

Our portfolio has grown in recent years and now includes an array of bi-lateral projects and regional workshops conducted outside the U.S. In 2016, this included workshops in Jakarta and the Philippines for environmental and NGO professionals, and a Berlin study tour for Ukrainian journalists.

The multifaceted J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, managed by the State Department, enables foreign nationals to come to the United States to teach, study, conduct research, demonstrate special skills or receive on the job training for periods ranging from a few weeks to several years.

Top Fields for J-1 Visa:
- Interns/Trainee: 38%
- Business: 20%
- Computer, Math, & Natural Sciences: 31%
- Others: 3%


HIGHLIGHTS + ACHIEVEMENTS

BUILDING SKILLS. EXPERIENCING AMERICA. ENRICHING COMMUNITIES.

Through our Train USA program in 2016, we sponsored J-1 intern and trainee exchanges that engaged nearly 4,500 individuals at different points in their studies and careers, exposing them to the American people, culture, values, and customs.

Over the course of the year, Cultural Vistas worked with new partners on a range of initiatives, including an exchange program funded by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to strengthen business-to-business ties between Russia and the United States; training programs for scholars from Kazakhstan funded through the Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation; and internships for students and young professionals from El Salvador under the 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative, among others.

ONE TO WATCH

Papa Oppong has always viewed the world as his canvas. At 23, this native of Accra, Ghana has already taken the African fashion industry by storm.

While his illustrations have garnered attention from the likes of celebrities, such as Kelly Rowland, Rihanna, Amber Rose, and stylist Ty Hunter, it’s Papa’s passion to effect change that might just be his most impressive feat.

After graduating from Ghana’s Radford University, his journey brought him stateside for a yearlong internship, sponsored by Cultural Vistas, with the DC Fashion Foundation Incubator (DCFI).

While continuing to hone his craft, Papa also begun work on “One Garment, One Child”, a project to prevent the transmission of malaria via a line of children’s wear with special fabric that repels disease-bearing mosquitoes. The project is dear to his heart. A malaria survivor himself, Papa plans to create jobs in Ghana by hiring local street vendors to dye the fabric, keeping most aspects of production in the country.

“THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS [TO LEARN] FROM DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN THE PROGRAM...IT’S JUST AMAZING. THAT’S THE GOOD THING ABOUT INTERNSHIPS. IT’S ABOUT BUILDING CONNECTIONS.”

PAPA OPPONG | 2016 TRAIN USA INTERN

93% OF HOSTS SAY THE J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM WAS VERY OR EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL TO THEIR COMPANY
CBYX ON CAPITOL HILL

“The most important part of the caucus is supporting the CBYX program.”
Congressman Glenn Thompson (PA-5)

In February, Deniz, Dezire, Anna, Judith, and Gianluca—five German students participating in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals’ Congressional Internship Program (CBYX CIP)—had the unique opportunity to meet and talk shop with Congressman Glenn Thompson of Pennsylvania’s 5th District and the co-chair of the German-American Caucus. The quintet, which was selected from a group of 75 German CBYX Fellows studying and interning with U.S. Congressmen Glenn Thompson [PA-5] since 1998-99, over 85 German students have gained experience working in an office of a member of the U.S. Congress through the CBYX CIP program.

The quintet’s visit to Capitol Hill included a meeting with U.S. Congressman Glenn Thompson, the co-chair of the German-American Caucus. In addition to discussing the importance of the CBYX program, the students had the opportunity to meet with peers from other countries and to engage in discussions on key issues including agriculture, environmental protection, and energy policy.

UKRAINIAN JOURNALISTS EXPLORE PRESS-GOVERNMENT INTERACTION

In the fall of 2016, 15 Ukrainian journalists spent a week in Berlin to learn about unique aspects of press-government interaction in Germany through a professional study tour arranged by Cultural Vistas’ European Office. Through meetings with journalists, government communications officials, and a visit to the Federal Press Conference, the journalists gained new insights into Germany’s public and private broadcasting systems, dedication to pluralism in the media, and unique tools that establish trust between the media and government officials. Each journalist subsequently published and broadcast articles and reports in their home media on aspects of press-government interaction in Germany.

ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME MAT

From climate change and countering extremism to the U.S. election process and taking action for disability inclusion, our 2016 portfolio of International Visitor Leadership Program projects covered a lot of ground. Over the course of the calendar year, we worked with the State Department and partners across the Global Ties U.S. network to organize 42 short-term visits. This provided a record 292 global experts and leaders from 84 countries with a personal understanding of the United States, how its democracy works, and a diversity of viewpoints on the issues they are working on. For 66% of our IVLP visitors, this was the first time they experienced the United States.

“MY EXPERIENCE WITH IAESTE REALLY CHANGED MY CAREER TRAJECTORY. I HAD NEVER BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE I DID IT AND NOBODY IN MY IMMEDIATE FAMILY HAD BEEN SO THE CHANCE TO WORK ABROAD IN FINLAND FOR THE SUMMER WAS REALLY EYE-OPENING.”
CHRISS WOLZ | PRESIDENT + CEO, FORUM ONE

CONNECTING ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

Having recently completed a comprehensive strategic plan, Cultural Vistas is poised to engage its accomplished alumni in an ambitious manner, highlighted in 2016 by the official launch of its dedicated alumni network and the establishment of the Cultural Vistas Alumni Council. Over the course of the year, the Cultural Vistas Alumni Network hosted and sponsored in-person and online events attended by more than 1,000 current and future alumni in over 15 U.S. cities, as well as in Berlin, Tokyo, Manila, and Seoul.

In September 2016, the official launch of the Cultural Vistas Alumni Network was celebrated during a special reception and panel featuring three esteemed alumni: Trooper Sanders, a former domestic policy advisor to the White House and 2002-03 Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow; Karoun Demirjian, a Washington Post reporter and a 2014 Alfa Fellow; and Chris Wolz, a 1982 IAESTE alumnus and Forum One President + CEO.

The establishment of the Cultural Vistas Alumni Council to guide the efforts and activities of the Cultural Vistas Alumni Network marked another 2016 milestone. The council is made up of a dedicated group of alumni volunteers who will serve as ambassadors for and to the organization and who can guide our course, leverage our full potential, and help bring our alumni offerings to scale.

HIGHLIGHTS + ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED
Year two of the Edmund S. Muskie Internship Program provided a unique professional development opportunity, funded by the Department of State, for 51 young leaders and current Fulbright scholars from 12 countries across Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe. The group of graduate students completed internships across the country, from New York City to Anchorage, Alaska, with companies and institutions such as the United Nations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Amazon, and Newsweek.

After a summer internship curating digital records for the Smithsonian’s Biodiversity Heritage Library, Nura Agzamova, a native of Kazakhstan and Fulbright scholar studying library science at Syracuse University, gained new confidence in her developing career as an information professional.

“Being a part of the Smithsonian Institution was an unforgettable life experience, which I will proudly carry with me throughout my library career,” said Nura. “As a librarian, I’ve always known that the information organization is important, but I didn’t realize how much properly maintained bibliographic descriptions can improve the user experience. Especially, when the audience can only interact with online assets.”

Each summer, all Muskie interns give back to their host communities through service projects. We encourage each individual to find an issue that resonates personally with them and to volunteer with local organizations working to address that issue. Yulia Brusova, a Russian native studying music education at the University of Missouri, supported City of Refuge, which serves refugee and immigrant families in the mid-Missouri region. One of Yulia’s volunteer duties was playing with children from these families. This helped them learn to socialize and practice their English skills as many had come to the U.S. with no English ability.

She reflected that, “As a mother of a seven-year-old son, who came to America with no English, I faced the difficulty of his adaptation to a new environment. I was glad to contribute to the community by providing at least one day of positive emotions for children who were new to the country.”

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS FROM 12 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN MUSKIE IN 2016

51
CREATING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

Both Germany and the United States need ample opportunities to share and learn from one another about the reception and integration of refugees into local communities—both what works well and where challenges remain.

That is the underlying idea that led Cultural Vistas, together with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and Welcoming America, to launch the Welcoming Communities Transatlantic Exchange (WCTE) in 2016, a professional exchange for integration practitioners and community leaders between United States and Germany.

The inaugural year of WCTE saw 24 Germans and 16 Americans visit each other’s cities to discuss refugee reception and integration best practices, and work towards turning these ideas into concrete efforts that help establish more sustainable and welcoming infrastructures in their respective communities.

The visits, which took place in April (in the U.S.) and September (in Germany), showcased how cities approach integration through a series of site visits and meetings with local governments, resettlement agencies, interfaith groups, local schools and employers, among others.

The conclusion of the 2016 Welcoming Communities Transatlantic Exchange brought all 40 participants together in Berlin for discussions on what they had experienced and learned during the exchange.

WCTE is funded by the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through funds of the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi), as well as by the U.S. Department of State, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, and BMW Group.

“THOSE WHO LIVE TOGETHER PEACEFULLY—NOT IN TERMS OF US AND THEM, BUT TOGETHER—WE NEED TO BECOME MUCH MORE VOCAL AND VISIBLE, AND NOT TO ALLOW THOSE WHO CURRENTLY DOMINATE SOCIAL MEDIA AND WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT EVERYONE IS AGAINST [IMMIGRATION] TO FRAME THE DEBATE. WE ARE THE MAJORITY, AND WE MUST REMAIN THE MAJORITY AND STRUGGLE FOR THIS EVERY DAY.”

CLAUSS PREISSLER
COMMISSIONER FOR INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION, CITY OF MANNHEIM | 2016 WCTE PARTICIPANT
ADVANCING GLOBAL EDUCATION

Cultural Vistas is honored to support and advance global education through a variety of initiatives. In 2016, its growing Teach USA program brought international teachers to K-12 classrooms in 13 states and Puerto Rico to share their culture and teaching styles with young Americans. And, while Adam Weston taught geography from a U.K. viewpoint to a mostly Hispanic charter school in San Jose, it is the American students who benefit from the global perspectives all these teachers share in the classroom on a daily basis. Hailing from Jamaica, France, Philippines, Germany, Ethiopia, Spain, China, Ireland and the Netherlands, these teachers introduce American young people to maps, cultures, food, language, politics, history, and current events of other places they will know better when they grow up (and, when they take their place in the American workforce).

In October, Cultural Vistas welcomed a group of German teachers or American studies and social studies selected and sponsored by the Atlantik-Brücke Stiftung to the United States to get a firsthand view of issues important to the American public. Economic revitalization, the state of education, the Presidential campaign, media, and American views on the transatlantic relationship were key topics. However, the trip’s highlights were an honest and passionate discussion on 2nd Amendment rights with an attorney defending these rights, and American approaches to dealing with an influx of second-language immigrants and refugees to the classroom.

While national governments make headlines debating how to address the movement of refugees across borders, it is the teachers—in both nations—that have to deal with integrating young people into the classroom, and into their respective societies. This visit reminded teachers from both nations that this task is not easy, in most cases not enjoyable, but hopefully rewarding in the long run.

LANGUAGE LEARNING. EMPATHY. RESILIENCE.

In 2016, Cultural Vistas provided 397 Americans with opportunities to develop these skills and build the capacity to see and analyze global issues from a multitude of perspectives through sustained immersion and professionally-focused exchange programs taking place in 28 different countries.

“I now know that there is more than meets the eye, and it’s important to really get to know the people, the culture, and what’s going on around you, because that is the only way you can really understand it,” said Lisa Smith, a Georgia native who spent the summer interning with Fundação Julita, a foundation serving vulnerable families in São Paulo, as one of 12 U.S. students in the first cohort of Cultural Vistas’ new Internship Program in Brazil.

At a time of increasing need for specialists with Russia expertise, Cultural Vistas was pleased to send the 14th class of Alfa Fellowship Program participants, comprised of 13 exceptional young American, British, and German leaders, to Moscow for an immersive 11-month professional development experience.

Meanwhile, for the 33rd-straight year, the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program, provided a group of 15 emerging U.S. leaders from across the fields of education, law, government, economic policy, and urban planning with the unique opportunity to learn German, gain work experience, and expand their professional networks while becoming personally acquainted with Germany’s political, economic, and social environment.

Kaylon Paterson, an aspiring aerospace engineer and senior mathematics major at Morehouse College in Atlanta, was one of 20 students and three professors from Morehouse and Spelman College comprising Cultural Vistas’ fourth cohort of the STEM LAUNCH tour of Germany, made possible through the generous support of The Halle Foundation.

“For two weeks, we were bombarded by a new culture, stretching from Munich to Berlin. We were able to experience a new language and people while being exposed to new career paths and research projects,” Kaylon reflected. “What we had gained by the end of our journey was the knowledge that we were no longer limited to one country to work. There are equal and greater opportunities in the rest of the world waiting for skilled and ambitious people to take up.

“My experience with the program has inspired me to continue to look for opportunities no matter where they take me.”

HIGHLIGHTS + ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

“KIDS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO PURSUE KNOWLEDGE, THEY SHOULDN’T BE SO DAUNTED, AND THEY SHOULDN’T HAVE TO Worry ABOUT BEING ABLE TO STUDY OR WORK ABROAD IN REGARDS TO MONEY. I AM THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THAT CULTURAL VISTAS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI GAVE ME IN TERMS OF BOTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND THE ABILITY TO, IN THE WORDS OF MY SISTER, MATURE. I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE BACK RIGHT AWAY BECAUSE I AM STILL IN SCHOOL, BUT WHEN I HAVE THE CHANCE, I WANT TO GIVE BACK BECAUSE I WANT SOMEONE ELSE LIKE ME, A STUDENT, TO OPEN THEIR MIND TO A WHOLE OTHER DIMENSION OF UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE, AND I THINK ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO DO THAT IS THROUGH LIVING ABROAD.”

CHIRAU J. PATEL INTERNED FOR SEVEN MONTHS AT THE GERMAN AEROSPACE CENTER (DLR) IN THE CITY OF BREMEN IN NORTHWEST GERMANY. CHIRAU WAS ONE OF 90-PLUS U.S. STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN CULTURAL VISTAS’ CUSTOMIZED INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT PROGRAMS IN GERMANY IN 2016.
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO INTEGRATION

Together with the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Cultural Vistas hosted the two-day Transatlantic Symposium on Innovative Approaches to Integration in September 2016 to culminate the first year of the Welcoming Communities Transatlantic Exchange. Over 150 guests attended this special event, which brought together refugee integration practitioners and public officials from both countries to examine and address key challenges in the areas of community engagement, education policy, job creation and workplace integration, as well as next steps in cooperative efforts from both sides of the Atlantic.

The symposium addressed the topic from both the high-level, national perspective and the local, community perspective, and attendees were all given the opportunity to share examples of best practices from successful integration initiatives in their own communities.

A summary of outcomes from the symposium, as well as clips from the opening reception, panel discussions and interviews can be viewed at culturalvistas.org/wcte.

THINK GLOBAL, BE MOBILE

In today’s world, the competition for talent knows no boundaries. Increasingly employers are seeking synergies between talent mobility and management, using cross-border tools such as exchanges to attract the best and the brightest, develop leadership skills, and retain top performers. On May 12, we hosted a panel discussion featuring experts representing Citigroup, Columbia Business School, IOR Global Services, and AIRINC to discuss just this all-important and evolving topic in New York City.

SPECIAL EVENTS

“SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OCCURS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL] WHEN MEMBERS OF A TOWN OR CITY FEEL THAT THEY BELONG, ARE SECURE IN THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SHARE OWNERSHIP IN THE FUTURE OF THEIR COMMUNITY.”

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY JOHN B. EMERSON AT TRANSATLANTIC SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO INTEGRATION

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF TRAVEL

Travel changes people. It builds empathy and confidence. It transforms perceptions of the world and our role in it. We see it firsthand every day and every year through our annual photo contest for alumni and participants. In November, more than 65 guests received a glimpse into the transformative experiences our exchange programs offer at a special gallery event highlighting the top 30 entries to our contest and unveiling our grand prize winner, Matthias Gees, a German trainee who won a trip to the nation’s capital for his winning photo, Glowing Santa Barbara. You can view it and all 30 finalists at transformedbytravel.com.

“[When I pressed the shutter button on my camera, I didn’t know that this photo would become one of the deepest memories I took back home with me.]”

Christian Dinter, CBXY 2015 alumnus

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

After Yunhee Jung’s presentation about traditional Korean dishes to a fourth grade class at P.S. 72 Lexington Academy in East Harlem, a room full of NYC youngsters found themselves clamoring for a taste of some bibimbap. Yunhee, one of 133 South Korean scholars who took part in our Korea WEST program in 2016, was among a group of 19 participants and alumni volunteers to share their home cultures during special presentations to public elementary, middle, and high schools across New York and Washington, D.C. organized by Cultural Vistas staff during November’s International Education Week.

CELEBRATE THE CONNECTIONS SHOWCASE

For 15 days, Ansley, Fatimah, Flow, Giddy, Neel, and Sheri traveled to India visiting Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, and New Delhi as part of the Celebrate the Connections U.S.-India Urban Arts Exchange - a teaching, learning, and performance tour, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. We reunited the group in May for an interactive showcase in Washington, D.C., featuring a documentary of their experience, spoken word poetry, hip hop dance performances, and visual art—all inspired by their overseas experiences.

PROMOTING DIALOGUE ACROSS GENERATIONS

In partnership with the American Council on Germany, Cultural Vistas hosted several political salons out of its New York office over the course of 2016. The series brought together younger and mid-career professionals for open and intimate discussions on a range of current political, economic, and social topics – with an emphasis on issues of concern for the transatlantic agenda. Talks focused on everything from startups and innovation in the United States and Germany and internet regulation policy in Europe to immigration policy and the rise of populism in both countries and how to address it.
EXPERIENCING AMERICA TOGETHER

Every year, Cultural Vistas provides in-person opportunities for our participants and alumni alike to connect, network, and experience the complexity of American culture with those who’ve shared similar experiences.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

On the first Sunday in November, our staff and more than 20 J-1 international exchange visitors volunteered at rest and water stops along the 2016 TCS New York City Marathon course, supporting the 50,000 runners from over 135 countries who ran the race. With over 1,000 total volunteers, exchange participants made up 10% of all those who volunteered to support the world famous race.

ICE SKATING IN THE SCULPTURE GARDEN

To get into the holiday spirit, our staff organized a festive outing of ice skating at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.

SPORTING EVENTS

Sports are as close as you can come to a national dialect in the United States. That’s why we always love organizing outings for our international visitors. From baseball at Boston’s iconic Fenway Park to NBA hoops in downtown Brooklyn, our interns and trainees experienced some of America’s favorite pastimes.

J DAY

As part of J Day, a nationwide celebration of the value of international exchange every August, we hosted volunteer events at Bread for the City in Washington, D.C. and at the Riverside Park Conservancy in New York City. The celebration brought together more than 30 people representing 12 different countries to “eat, play, and give”—to share cultural diversity and American customs, to give back to their communities, and, of course, to have some fun while they were at it.

MANHATTAN BOAT CRUISE

France, Germany, Honduras, Korea, Japan, Mexico, the UK, and Canada were just a few of the countries represented by our interns during June’s scenic summer boat cruise around Manhattan, coordinated together with fellow exchange sponsors, the German-American Chamber of Commerce and French-American Chamber of Commerce.

TWILIGHT KAYAKING TOUR

A stay in Washington, D.C. is not complete without visiting the many monuments and memorials throughout the capital. As 15 of our exchange interns learned, a twilight kayaking tour is one of the best and most unique ways to see all the sights.
SPOTLIGHT ON: SOUTHEAST ASIA

DAN EWERT
VP for Program Research, Partnerships, + Innovation
Cultural Vistas

I climbed aboard the USS Enterprise as a child living in Singapore, when the ship and its crew refueled in the newly-independent nation’s outer harbor before heading back to support the conflict in Vietnam. I had ‘a clue’ about the conflict because my parents insisted on making sure I played Sticker Book and I was aware of our surroundings, and, well, Southeast Asia was a theater of warfare. Now, this region – the ASEAN region – is locked in a tug-of-war between China and the United States, both nations seeking to win the hearts and pocketbooks of its 625 million inhabitants, the majority of whom are under the age of 30 years old.

More than 90% of my 200-plus LinkedIn and Facebook contacts in this region are also under the age of 30. They are a part of a rising generation of leaders, of change agents. Or, those who have chosen to put their energy into assisting fishermen transform into ocean stewards, and educate farmers on a 21st century scheme of multi-cropping with fields of solar panels.

The success of YSEALI is that it has engaged this energetic and educated group of young people, and has plugged them into a network of their peers, and a network of peers from the United States. Cultural Vistas has been privileged to be selected to implement four YSEALI projects – Generation EARTH Workshop in Cambodia, Generation Oceans Workshop in Indonesia, the Generation Go NGO Workshop in Philippines, and implementation of the YSEALI Seeds for the Future Small Grants Program. We take seriously not only the effort to address YSEALI’s four themes (civic engagement, environment and natural resources, entrepreneurship and economic development, and education), and to create learning opportunities for the members, but also to facilitate the development of an “ASEAN identity” among these future leaders of the 10 member nations.

Want to meet a couple of them? How about Nashrudin Kusairi, whose passion for environmental justice plays out in his work with ADAT-BETAD, Inc. in Mindanao, Philippines. In a nation under increasing attack by powerful typhoons growing out of warmer Pacific Ocean waters, Nash lives and works in a conflict zone and cares to train young people in sustainable development practices, organic farming, and basic renewable energy technologies. He is helping to create an Eco-Army to mitigate the effects of rising seas his local community is battling.

On the other side of the ASEAN region, Aung Mon Myat is working to raise awareness about unsustainable environmental practices involving waste disposal in Yangon, Myanmar. Not only is he organizing clean-up projects in the capital city, his activities ask these volunteers to conjure up innovative ways to build a sustained personal responsibility to managing trash and waste.

His example is indicative of the plight of many cities in the ASEAN region – concern for quick economic growth before development of infrastructure that could manage that growth in a sustainable way. Like many in his generation – the YSEALI generation – he understands it is the people who must work together to foster a better future for Southeast Asia.

These activities build upon Cultural Vistas’ involvement in the region, which also began in earnest in 2013, with the implementation of the American Youth Leadership Program, programs sponsored by the U.S. State Department. And, where are some of these young people now?

Meet Jamie Withorne, a sophomore in political science and government at Columbia University in New York. Following up on working with refugees at Lutheran Social Services in her home state of South Dakota, Jamie has already completed internships with the International Refugee Assistance Project and the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., and studied for a semester in Copenhagen. In summer 2017, Cultural Vistas has arranged an internship in Vietnam for Jamie.

And, meet Kirsten Brodeen, currently studying international business and management at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. Kirsten doesn’t follow trends; she helps to create them. After graduating high school in Colorado, she organized her own gap year in Germany. She was selected to be an intern for the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, but could not accept it because she wasn’t an enrolled student. Oh well, she was able to arrange an internship for herself at Commerzbank AG in Berlin. Not bad for a 19-year-old high school graduate. Kirsten is offering volunteer support to a winner of the 2016 YSEALI Seeds for the Future program.

Or, follow Yousef Rahman, a Levine Scholar studying civil engineering at the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. He has completed internships at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport and the U.S. Green Building Council, but it was his activist bent that helped lead Cultural Vistas to select Yousef to be a Youth Mentor at the YSEALI Oceans Workshop in Indonesia.

Why should the United States care about Southeast Asia? If you believe the 21st century is to be Asia’s century, the United States needs to carefully foster good relations in the region sandwiched between China and India.

Or, if you believe the United States is more than capable of maintaining its cultural and economic influence worldwide, it cannot ignore this region of 625 million consumers.

Why does Cultural Vistas care about this region? Exchanges are means to grow strong, mutually-beneficial relationships between peoples in different regions. Each region has expertise, passion, innovation, insight, and hospitality to share with other. We want to make this happen for as many as possible!
THE HOSTING EXPERIENCE

The hosting experience takes many forms. It encompasses everything from opening your home for a family meal to sharing best practices and local customs to a new colleague. But all forms share a common tenet: the importance of hospitality. It is what makes a visitor feel welcome in a new environment, and it is an integral part of all that we do.

At Cultural Vistas, not only do we work with many generous host families that share their homes with exchange students, we also partner with more than 1,500 businesses, NGOs, and academic institutions every year that teach, train, and network with thousands of international visitors at varying stages of their studies and careers.

In addition to sponsoring intern, trainee, and teacher exchanges through the J-1 Visa, every year Cultural Vistas hosts international interns itself at each of our office locations. In 2016, this tradition continued as we welcomed Christon, Monika, and Rafael, respectively from Mumbai, Berlin, and São Paulo, to learn alongside our New York and Washington, D.C. staff and make meaningful contributions to our daily work.

THREE DECADES OF FAMILY

Some people who study abroad grow to consider their host families an extension of their own. For Tammy Cross, who has lost both of her parents as well as her brother, she considers her host family from 30 years ago the only family she has left.

Tammy spent her 1986-87 college year in Stuttgart with a German couple and their 10, 14, and 16-year-old daughters. They included her on skiing trips in the German Alps and Christmas with the extended family on their dairy farm. “They welcomed me and made me very much a part of not only their immediate family, but their extended family as well,” she said.

30 years later, Tammy still exchanges emails with her host family about once a month. She’s been back numerous times and her family has visited Tennessee. The hosting experience has even had an effect on a second generation, as Tammy’s children have met her host sisters’ children. Her two sons, after hearing Tammy talk about her exchange experience for years, both opted to spend a semester abroad themselves.

Unfortunately, Tammy’s host father Hans passed away this December. “I am so very grateful that I had the opportunity to visit this year,” said Tammy. “I have been truly blessed to have been a part of their family.”

MEET THE CAREER HOST MOM

Annette Kornell’s children grew up surrounded by people from all over the globe. Though they lived outside of Madison, Wisconsin, her family has hosted students from everywhere from France to Mexico to the Middle East. Since both of her parents were immigrants, it seemed like the natural thing to do.

But after her husband passed away, Annette was a bit gun-shy about letting someone new into her home. Then she saw Julian’s application to spend the year living with her through the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals.

“She had this funny personality just come through in the letter,” she said. Julian had included a picture of him with his friends, all donned in t-shirts with pictures from the movie Anchorman. All of her children love that movie, too. It seemed like Julian would be a good fit.

And he was. Julian spent the year bonding with Annette and her three children. Whenever Annette welcomes a student into her home, her goal is to treat him or her like family, with the same expectations. She said she’ll show off the touristy parts of Wisconsin, but she likes exchange students to get to know locals in “normal situations.” That’s why she included Julian in everything from a trip to Wisconsin Dells to a neighborhood party.

“The more you’re exposed to something, the more you can come to accept and even appreciate it,” Annette said of the hosting experience. She pointed to a study that says young children have to try a new food 10 times before they accept it.

“It applies to different lifestyles or different cultures or anything,” she said. “When it’s something we’re not familiar with, maybe we think it’s weird or different or wrong. But when we get to know a person it builds understanding.”

BUSINESSES, NONPROFITS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, AND HOST FAMILIES IN ALL 50 U.S. STATES AND MORE THAN 25 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HOST CULTURAL VISTAS EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

1,500+

ORGANIZATIONS HOST OUR EXCHANGE VISITORS EACH YEAR

99%

OF OUR HOSTS REPORT THEY INTEND TO HOST AN EXCHANGE VISITOR AGAIN IN THE FUTURE

97%

OF OUR HOSTS ARE STILL IN TOUCH WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INTERNS & TRAINEES THEY HOSTED
A TRUE TWO-WAY EXCHANGE

To exchange, by definition, is to give and receive reciprocally. Perhaps none of our programs capture the essence of the term quite as well as IAESTE, or the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experiences. Since 1948, IAESTE has proven to be a win-win for both students and hosts alike—both in the United States and around the world. As the U.S. affiliate of this longstanding reciprocal program, Cultural Vistas provided 50 American engineering students with paid, course-related training in 22 countries in 2016, while matching 68 international students with U.S. organizations for short and long-term projects all across the United States.

Velina Rusjakova, a computer science and engineering major from Macedonia who completed an internship with Purplegator (then-ATS Mobile), a digital agency headquartered in King of Prussia, Pa., was one such student.

“This internship surpassed all my expectations. My work and contribution were highly valued and rewarded, and the practice I’ve gained will be helpful in every aspect of my future career. Not only was I welcomed open-heartedly by my coworkers, they have become my family and close friends,” said Velina. “In addition to experiencing the way of life, I was lucky to spend the greatest holidays with a traditional American Family, leaving me wealthy with memories and affection towards these people. I am happy to have been offered the chance to achieve valuable goals in my vocation, and gain friendships I hope to hold on to for a long time.”

The 10-month internship experience proved to be mutually beneficial to the team at Purplegator, according to Michael Candelori, Velina’s supervisor.

“I think that every employer can benefit from the perspective of an IAESTE intern, who can not only bring elements of his or her unique culture, but novel skill sets and approaches to problem solving that introduce a different dynamic into the work done each day,” said Michael. “The experience was rewarding not only for the business but also for each employee that interacted with Velina on a daily basis.

GERMAN GETS CRAFTY AT SIERRA NEVADA INTERNSHIP

Abe Kabakoff, the head pilot brewer at Sierra Nevada, decided to go into the beer industry after interning at a German brewery with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. "I don’t think I’d be in the brewing business if I hadn’t done that program," said Abe, who was initially interested in a computer science career.

This year, Abe’s experience abroad came full circle when he hosted a German intern, Marius Hartman, at the Chico, California-based brewery. The exchange proved beneficial for both parties.

For Marius, he got experience in the experimental American craft beer scene, which greatly differs from the traditionalist German one. In his home country, only water, malt, hops, and yeast are used to make beer. And Sierra Nevada benefitted from Marius’s knowledge of German techniques, as they frequently prefer to stick to traditional ingredients.

“There’s no place you can gain more experience in 5 months than here at Sierra Nevada,” Marius said of his time interning in the United States.

THE LAST FRONTIER

The Edmund S. Muskie Internship Program doesn’t require its participants to live with host families. But Maria Bakulina, a Fulbright scholar at Binghamton University, was eager to take as much away from her summer in Alaska as possible. In addition to expanding her professional experience through an internship at the Alaska Quarterly Review, she spent the summer of 2016 living with a local couple in Anchorage. After overcoming initial communication hurdles, Maria felt impressed by the Alaskan way of life. Her host family included her on local trips and taught her how to fish.

“Honestly, I’ve never felt any more at home than in Alaska. I felt more at home than in my hometown.”

THE HOSTING EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

WITH NEW INITIATIVES EVERY YEAR, CULTURAL VISTAS OFFERS A VARIETY OF HOST OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS TO HELP BRING OUR WORLD CLOSER TOGETHER - FROM HOSTING INTERNS TO OPENING YOUR HOME TO SHARE A MEAL.

VISIT CULTURALVISTAS.ORG/HOST
SPOTLIGHT ON: J-1 EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

By enabling students, teachers, researchers, scholars, and skilled professionals to experience the U.S. firsthand—and by allowing Americans to experience life through the lens of other countries in the same way—educational and cultural exchanges play an indispensable role in fostering better understanding and strengthening international ties.

Every year, the U.S. Department of State’s J-1 Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) engages over 300,000 current and future leaders from around the world, positively advancing America’s image overseas, and advances key foreign policy goals—all at virtually no cost to taxpayers. The vast majority of programs are privately funded.

The J-1 Visa program in its current form encompasses 15 different private and public subcategories that provide short-term cultural, educational, and professional exchange opportunities to international visitors, ranging from a few weeks to several years. Of these categories, Cultural Vistas is a designated program sponsor for Intern, Teacher, and Trainee exchanges, through which it works with private sector partners to bring 5,000 international students and professionals to the U.S. annually.

As is the case with many visa categories, the EVP was created by a congressional act and the visa is simply a mechanism to carry out its objective. The program was the result of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961) and is rooted in the principles of respect and acceptance for a diversity of cultures and faiths that our nation was founded on. In part, the Act states:

“The purpose…is to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange…to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world.”

As the world grows rapidly, the complexity of the global challenges it faces increase every day. Effective solutions will require a diversity of perspectives, resources, and relationships—all of which are made possible through J-1 educational and cultural exchanges.

"THE UNITED STATES IS THE MOST DEMOCRATIC AND OPEN-MINDED SOCIETY I HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED. HUMAN RIGHTS ARE HIGHLY PROTECTED AND VALUED, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS I WILL LEAVE THIS COUNTRY WITH. WHILE HERE, I’VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY LOVING AND CARING FRIENDS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE MADE ME FEEL A PART OF THEIR LIFE.”

SALIMA ISMAILOVA
TRAINEE FROM AZERBAIJAN

HOSTS: IN WHAT WAYS DID THE J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR BENEFIT YOUR COMPANY?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J-1 INTERN/TRAINEE WAS EAGER TO LEARN AND DEMONSTRATED HIGH QUALITY PERFORMANCE THROUGH SUBSTANTIVE DELIVERABLES</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREATED A MORE DYNAMIC AND INTERNATIONAL WORKPLACE</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND NEW MODES OF THINKING THAT RESULTED IN MORE COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENHANCED BUSINESS FUNCTIONS AND/OR PRODUCTIVITY OF THE AMERICAN STAFF WITH A VALUABLE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN U.S. OFFICES + OVERSEAS BRANCHES</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPANDED THE COMPANY’S OVERSEAS PRESENCE</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARTICIPANTS: WHAT TYPES OF SKILLS HAVE YOU GAINED AS A RESULT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MY HOST COUNTRY’S CULTURE</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW SKILLS THAT WILL BE VALUABLE IN MY CAREER MOVING FORWARD</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPERIENCE LIVING IN A SPECIFIC CITY OR REGION IN MY HOST COUNTRY</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPROVED PROFICIENCY IN MY HOST COUNTRY’S LANGUAGE</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEADERSHIP SKILLS</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The best ideas can originate from anywhere and anyone. Every year, our J-1 exchange visitors enhance the ability of U.S. host organizations, ranging from large multinationals and leading start-ups to small and family-owned businesses and NGOs—allowing them to expand their reach and effectively conduct business around the world in a multitude of ways.

Photo by: Martin Breuer | Train USA | Arches National Park - Utah
TURNING BACK THE CLOCK: YEAR ONE OF CBYX

DREW SHONKA
CBYX Inaugural Member

1984, a year usually associated with the dystopian novel of the same name, was anything but dystopian for 48 American college students. It was the year Steve Jobs rolled out the first Macintosh computer, a box-like machine that had no memory built in. Total sales for cell phones were 7,000, up from 0 in 1983. Ghostbusters, starring Young and idealistic, we were wide open to what And on it went for us all.

YEAR ONE OF CBYX

In photos: Drew Shonka | CBYX Inaugural Member

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange was established in 1983 by a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag to strengthen ties between Germany and the United States through citizen diplomacy. The CBYX for Young Professionals annually provides 75 Americans and 75 Germans, between the ages of 18-24, the opportunity to spend one year in each other’s country studying, interning, and living with hosts on a cultural immersion program.

A VISITOR’S INTRODUCTION

Our language lessons and home stays began with the gaffes that mark a visitor’s introduction to a new country. Later we’d swap stories with CBYX friends, or write home (there was no email, and phone calls cost $3/minute). As when I asked my friend’s mother if I might use the bathroom. I knew every word I needed except the verb use. She waited patiently while I checked my Deutsch-English dictionary. I found two possibilities, benutzen and verwenden, and chose verwenden. The woman laughed heartily, as if I could have the toilet and take it with me. Marcia, from Pennsylvania, arrived at her host family’s home on her first day, and the first thing they asked was if she’d like to dusch herself. And on it went for us all.

HOMESTAYS AND ADVENTURES

For our first two months, our group was situated in the idyllic town of Radolfzell am Bodensee, in the fruit belt of Southern Germany. In this place, we took intensive language instruction at the Carl Duisberg Zentrum. My home stay there was with a first generation Polish family, the Kalkowskis. Maria, known to us as Frau K., led my roommate Joel and me on a day-long walk deep into a forest. We went in with a basket of sandwiches and came back with pies of wild mushrooms. On our return, we crossed a long pasture where sheep were being herded by a man in a long black cape, wearing a wide-brim hat, and marking his steps with a seven-foot shepherd’s crook. Joel and I wondered if we landed in a different century as well as on another continent.

BACK HOME

For our mid-year meeting, we traveled to Berlin. Berlin had the Kurfürstendamm, Europe’s Broadway, a flash point of trendy clubs, avant-garde design, and haute commerce that stood in contrast to the carefully propped and bland economy on the other side of the Wall. This was a common pattern for the first year CBYXers: total immersion in our spread-out villages, at our homestays and in our schools and internships. With our limited language skills, some isolation and loneliness were inevitable. Some weekends we stayed put and pushed through. Other weekends we rode the trains to one another’s cities, finding comfort in English, and American familiarity.

For our return to the United States, my friend Cary would earn her Ph.D. in German and become a professor. John from Detroit, with BMW robotics on his resumé, would become a highly sought-after engineer here. Harmon became a successful financial advisor. He still goes back to Germany and visits his host family, and they visit him in California. I graduated college, and have enjoyed successive careers as a social worker, teacher, and photographer. As a teacher, I incorporated German into every part of my curriculum, from grades one through twelve.

Our group has lost each other, for the most part. We didn’t have the internet to stay connected, and now many names are hard to find online. We all have the memories and experiences of CBYX Year One. None of us will ever forget the day we met and our flight from Newark to Brussels. Our pilot flew through a thunderhead, and the plane was struck by lightning. Fortunately, it was not an omen for the year to come. Year One of the CBYX was a great success for us all, and it continues to this day.

For our rest of my year in München, where I worked my internship at the luxurious Hilton, supervising kitchen staff. The personnel there hailed from 40 different countries, but of the 600 workers, I was the only American.

Most weekends were devoted to adventure, spurred on by a very strong dollar. Friends and I dressed in jacket and ties, blouses and skirts, and hitchhiked from Lake Constance to Zürich, where we heard the orchestra perform at the Tonhalle. Dressed as we were, we had no trouble getting rides. Train passes were a good deal, yet for fewer Deutschmarks than a one-way ticket to Stuttgart, you could buy a used bicycle, fill your backpack with cheese, bread, and beer, and pedal to Salzburg, staying at youth hostels along the way.

This was a common pattern for the first year CBYXers: total immersion in our spread-out villages, at our homestays and in our schools and internships. With our limited language skills, some isolation and loneliness were inevitable. Some weekends we stayed put and pushed through. Other weekends we rode the trains to one another’s cities, finding comfort in English, and American familiarity.

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Our group took a three-hour tour of the East, but it was barely a taste. We spent the first hour just getting in — “Ausweiskontrolle” (passport check). Once through the checkpoint, we gawked and were gawked at. They clearly found us strange. We looked back at them in similar wonder — are they free at all? Are they happy? If we wanted to talk to them, would they want to talk to us too? Or are they so supervised that it’s impossible?

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Cultural Vistas is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in New York, N.Y. and is classified as a publicly-supported organization under Section 509(a). Its financial statements are audited on an annual basis by Marks Paneth LLP.

Marks Paneth LLP conducted an audit of and issued an unmodified opinion on Cultural Vistas’ financial statements (summarized above). Complete audited statements are available at culturalvistas.org, or upon request.

**WHERE DID IT COME FROM?**

21% Foundation + Individual Support of Programming

29% U.S. Government Grants

45% Program Service Fees

5% Contributions, Investment Returns, + Other

**WHERE DID IT GO?**

13% Fundraising

1% Management + General

66% Professional Exchange Programs to the United States

20% Outbound + Reciprocal Exchange Programs

66% Total Expenses $17,593,163

45% Total Support + Revenue $17,638,425

Dr. Marcelo Knobel
Professor of Physics, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil)

Mr. Martin Levion
Managing Partner, Integrated Investment Capital LLC

Ms. Kendra Mirasol
President, IOR Global Services

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Acting President and CEO, Cultural Vistas

Ms. Helga Flores Trejo
External Relations Advisor, Inter-American Investment Corporation

Mr. Kevin Gully
Practice Principal, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise

Mr. Adam M. Hunter
“BEFORE I BEGAN COLLEGE, I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, IT ALWAYS SEEMED NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO DO WITHOUT FINANCIAL SUPPORT.”

CYNTHIA RANN | 2016 CULTURAL VISTAS FELLOW

CYNTHIA RANN | 2016 CULTURAL VISTAS FELLOW

INVESTING IN TOMORROW’S LEADERS

CULTURAL VISTAS FELLOWSHIP

Less than 10 percent of American students graduate with an international experience, such as studying or interning abroad. Even fewer are members of minority communities or first-generation students. Five years ago, we established the Cultural Vistas Fellowship to remove cost as an obstacle and provide these invaluable learning opportunities to more students from groups that have historically been underrepresented in international programs.

Since that time, Cultural Vistas has reinvested $225,000 directly from its own organizational revenue to fund eight-week internship and immersion experiences in Argentina, Germany, India, and Singapore for more than 50 American students from 43 different universities and colleges across the United States.

“Living in India has pushed me to embrace uncomfortable situations and to become more self-reliant at home,” said Cynthia Rann, an Albright College junior who interned with Habitat for Humanity in Bangalore as a Cultural Vistas Fellow in 2016. Her time there reinforced her passion for helping others. “I feel inspired more than ever before and I am certain that I want to dedicate my career to improving economic development and standards of living globally.”

This summer, we continue this vitally important initiative, together with the financial support of several generous alumni, as our fifth class of Cultural Vistas Fellows will test drive future career paths while experiencing what daily life is like in another country for the very first time.

<10% OF AMERICAN STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
Every year, Cultural Vistas publishes a donor honor roll to say thank you to all those who generously donated to our efforts to promote global understanding each year in the previous fiscal year. What we accomplish each year with these gifts is immense, and we are thankful in equal measure for the generosity of Cultural Vistas’ alumni, donors, and partners. We are achieving great things, and it’s thanks to you.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, an unrestricted donation was made by this individual(s) to support the general mission of Cultural Vistas. * denotes that the individual(s) also made an unrestricted contribution.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Tom Hageman Fund  
Pat Monter Fund  
CBYX Fund  
Cultural Vistas Scholarship Fund  
Cultural Vistas Fellowship

$10,000 AND UP
Henry Ramos

$5,000 and up
Karl Geercken and Monica Geercken
Aslan Massoud
Linda Boughton  
Jeff Rorick
Robert Fernandez

$1,000 - $4,999
Noel Knecker
Mark and Nancy Malone
Anonymous
Jeanne Farmer
David Craig
Kevin and Marie Guity
Anonymous
Dr. Fariee Al
James Pidli
Bradley Shingleton
Anonymous
Martin Levit

$500 - $999
Dan Everett
Aslan Massoud
Anna Obrerie-Britt  
Megan Bah
Ute and Wolfgang Line
Geoffrey Oliver
Anonymous
Adam M. Hunter
Elizabeth and Vivek Kumbhari
Tim Pounds
Rebecca S Reagan-Thieme

$250 - $499
Sylvia Becker
Marcelo Kriebel
Christina Lavarn
Ellen Harpin
Wilson Horner
Jaime Chiu
Rachel Leiter
Matthew Coolidge
Josephine Coomes
Jasmine Omeka
David Dejter
Lisa Cohen
Jeanee Fahey
Ronda Rutherford
John Becker
Cheryl Mathely
Chris Wilt
Gregory Crouch
Wilson Rickerson

Up to $249
Robert Gordon
Laura Brown Haggard and John Haggard
Steven Somers
Molly and Steve Piotrowsky
Margaret Monahan
Steven E. Solol
Tim and Susan White
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Carina and Danny Askon
Dr. William C. and Direk Kern Broom
Jennifer Clinton
Heidi Conklin
Anonymous
Marc Dissik
Gary and Hevina Eth
Richard Friedman
Anonymous
Stefan and Vanessa Knoepfel
Tenni Levine
Sarah Mark-Willett
Bruce R March
John Marum
Brian Morris
Sam and Kim Moses
Rosana Pleasch
Anette Maud Obrerie
Catherine Pfefferkorn
Ann Sarks, RN, BS/M Ed
Gary Shifer
Nadine Sheikh
Barbara Sheehan
Dr. Nancy J. Weber
Beatie Witwer
Federal City Realty
Anna Dingler
Nesto Morile
Anonymous
W. Spencer Reeder
Anonymous
Anonymous
Aneila Angles
Annie Anello
Ronald Lee
Cory Clowser
Henry Coggins
Christy Conrad
Katharine Dodel
Lauren Edelson
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Rodger Sole-Sole
Caroline Sorensen-Baruch
Randall Skelton, Esq.
Elizabeth Topo
Julian Varency
Dr. Daniel Vilarasoa
Michelle Wyman
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Katharine Yokan
Elizabeth Topp
Brandon Yamasaki
Bryan Yamasaki
Michelle Yamanaka

DONOR HONOR ROLL

“My experience as an exchange student in Germany 20 years ago had a profound impact on how I view the world today. Giving to Cultural Vistas is a small way to give back and ensure that students and young professionals, whether Americans going overseas or foreign students coming to the U.S., benefit from all of the advantages that come with studying and working abroad.”

BRUCE MARSH
SENIOR MANAGER, CORPORATE PUBLIC POLICY, DEUTSCHE POST DHL AMERICAS
CBYX ALUMNUS, 1995-96

36 | Annual Report 2016

WV46750:ART:Digital:06312018:37

You don’t have to look too far to see the fruit of your generosity. Cultural Vistas’ alumni who are currently living and working abroad express their enthusiastic support for Cultural Vistas and their commitment to building a more just and equitable world. In the fiscal year that ended in 2016, the average annual earnings of Cultural Vistas’ alumni was $83,732, and our alumni expressed a desire to volunteer an average of 11 hours per year. With this kind of generous donor support, we provided $36,800 in scholarship assistance to 34 Americans pursuing low or unpaid internships abroad in 2016 and have provided nearly 200 individuals with more than $215,000 in scholarship support since 2011. Generous program funders such as the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Halle Foundation also helped ensure that more than 85 percent of American participants in Cultural Vistas outgoing programs are at least partially funded. Cultural Vistas is a 501(c)3 organization, and your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Our tax identification number is 36-6199596. International donors wishing to contribute in Euros may support Cultural Vistas gGmbH, a registered nonprofit organization based in Berlin, via bank transfer. German residents are eligible for a tax deduction. Contact us to request account information.

Don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or to request additional information (including other methods of making donations) at donate@culturalvistas.org.

HOW TO GIVE TO CULTURAL VISTAS

Your donation to support Cultural Vistas is sincerely appreciated, and we are pleased to offer a range of giving options for your convenience. To support our mission and programs through our annual fund; we invite you to give online at culturalvistas.org/donate.

Cultural Vistas Scholarship Fund or the Cultural Vistas Fellowship program, which both support young Americans going abroad, many for the very first time. Gifts starting at $25,000 may be endowed in named funds.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

You may also contribute to the endowed Cultural Vistas Scholarship Fund or the Cultural Vistas Fellowship program, which both support young Americans going abroad, many for the very first time. Gifts starting at $25,000 may be endowed in named funds.

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Every year, Cultural Vistas works with and receives funding from many public and private sources such as the U.S. Department of State, U.S. embassies, foreign governments, foundations, universities, and companies, ranging from multinationals to small businesses, to deliver exchange programs ranging across industries with global significance.

- AFS-USA
- AGREA
- AIRINC
- ALFA-BANK
- ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
- AMERICAN COUNCIL ON CONTEMPORARY GERMAN STUDIES
- ATLANTIK-BRÜCKE
- BMW GROUP
- BMW CENTER FOR GERMAN AND EUROPEAN STUDIES, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
- BRAZILIAN NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY
- CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION
- CARL DUISBERG STIFTUNG
- CI EXPERIENCE BRAZIL
- COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE
- COINED
- COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
- COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL
- DEUTSCHE WELLE
- DREXEL UNIVERSITY
- EUROPEAN YOUNG INNOVATORS FORUM
- EXPOSURE
- FRANCE LANGUE
- FREE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN
- GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DC
- GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY
- GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE
- GIZ: DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
- GLOBAL ACCESS PIPELINE
- GLOBAL INTERN TEAM, SOUTH KOREA
- GLOBAL TIES U.S.
- GOETHE INSTITUT
- HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG NORTH AMERICA
- HONG KONG AMERICA CENTER
- INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
- INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES
- INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
- IOR GLOBAL SERVICES
- IRISH EDUCATION PARTNERS
- ITALIAN INSTITUTE FOR JAPANESE INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING
- JAPAN BRIDGING FOUNDATION
- JAPAN MISSION TO ASEAN
- JAPAN MISSION TO USA
- KEIZO SAISHU UNIVERSITY
- KAPLAN INTERNATIONAL
- LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
- MELITEN ALICO
- METUEN ALICO
- MOREHOUSE COLLEGE
- MOSAIC
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
- NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
- ONE TO WORLD
- PAŘÍŽSKÁ UNIVERZITA KAMENIČKA, SIEM REAP
- PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
- RAUS VON ZURHUSEN
- ROBERT BOSCH FOUNDATION
- SINGA DEUTSCHLAND
- SPOelman COLLEGE
- SOUTHERN INDIANA UNIVERSITY
- SOUTH KOREAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
- SPOelman COLLEGE
- SPELMAN COLLEGE
- THE HALLE FOUNDATION
- THE TOMODACHI INITIATIVE
- THOSE NUMBERS HAVE FACES
- UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
- UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
- UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA
- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
- UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
- U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, CHENNAI
- U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, NEW DELHI
- U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, PHNOM PENH
- U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, REYKJAVIK
- U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, TOKYO
- U.S. MISSION TO ASEAN
- U.S. MISSION TO JAPAN
- U.S. MISSION TO CANADA
- U.S. MISSION TO KOREA
- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
- UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
- UNIVERSITY OF S prank
- U.S. EMBASSY, AUSTRIA
- U.S. EMBASSY, BANGKOK
- U.S. EMBASSY, BERLIN
- U.S. EMBASSY, DUBLIN
- U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA
- U.S. EMBASSY, LONDON
- U.S. EMBASSY, MANILA
- U.S. EMBASSY, NEW DELHI
- U.S. EMBASSY, PHNOM PENH
- U.S. EMBASSY, REYKJAVIK
- U.S. EMBASSY, TOKYO
- U.S. EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, DC
- U.S. MISSION TO JAPAN
- U.S. MISSION TO CANADA
- WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

“I spent the summer there 55 years ago. It was the start of my career and a life-enhancing experience. In fact, I was a naïve 21-year old university grad who had essentially ‘parachuted’ into a remote part of France. I imagine I was the only American to ever have spent a summer in its steel mill or maybe even in St. Michel de Maurienne.”

Mickey Glantz (pictured), in St. Michel de Maurienne during his IAESTE program in 1961. 55 years later, Mickey was invited as a guest lecturer about the societal consequences of an El Niño event at Université de Savoie in Chambery, France, which afforded him the opportunity to once again visit the small town where he had interned decades ago.
EXPERIENCE THE GLOBAL WORKPLACE