Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
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Dear Friends of UCCD:

Imagine not creating global friendships. Imagine not discussing critical international affairs that impact Utah. Imagine not trusting our future leaders of Utah to have a global understanding. Without citizen diplomacy, our lives would not have the same vitality and purpose.

For 50 years, Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy (UCCD) has risen above many daunting obstacles—wars, economic depressions, inward-facing administrations, terrorist attacks, and social injustices—to create a more just, peaceful, and prosperous world.

Recognizing that the slow-down and pivot from in-person to virtual programming in 2020 was but a brief moment in time in our extraordinary history, I am dedicating this annual review to UCCD's achievements over the last decade.

I don’t recall where I read the following quote, but it goes, "the point of life is the same as the point of a story - character transformation." As a storyteller myself, the pages that follow summarize the vast amount of character transformation we have created by fostering community engagement through our programs. We have cultivated hundreds of experiences and stories that have molded Utah, the nation, and the world, all speaking to our values:

- Respect for all people and diverse perspectives;
- Personal and social responsibility;
- A belief that the people of the world are interconnected;
- Open and respectful dialogue

Additionally, the pages that follow highlight our focus,
which includes increasing organizational growth guided by our mission, increasing impact through data-driven evidence, fostering collaborations through strategic outreach, and exemplifying social responsibility.

Finally, I want to take this moment to share that I am awe-inspired by the tenacity and resiliency of UCCD staff to create new approaches to our "one handshake at a time" programs. I am grateful to the UCCD Board of Directors, who provide vision and leadership during an unprecedented time. I am humbled by the community who stood by our side as we weathered the latest global obstacle.

Now, more than ever, the world needs to connect and learn from each other. Thank you for making UCCD an essential part of this effort and a part of your life. I hope you enjoy exploring Utah’s character transformation through global engagement over the last decade— it would not have been possible without you.

I look forward to connecting with you through our work over the next decade.

Globally,
Felecia Maxfield-Barrett
Executive Director

2016 Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative
Our Mission
To promote respect and understanding between the people of Utah and other nations.

Our Guiding Principle: Citizen Diplomacy
The concept that every individual has the right, even the responsibility, to help shape U.S. foreign relations one handshake at a time.

Our Commitment to Values
- Respect for all people and diverse perspectives
- Personal and social responsibility
- A belief that the people of the world are interconnected
- Open and respectful dialogue
UTAH: A GLOBAL ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND INNOVATION HUB
NUMBERS AT A GLANCE 2011 - 2020

- Countries Represented: 172
- Dinners Hosted: 1,014
- International Visitors Welcomed: 4,088
- Days in Utah: 21,380
- Meetings, Tours, Volunteer Service Projects, and Cultural Activities Hosted: 64,893
- Volunteer Hours Donated: 71,023
- Economic Revenue for Utah: $9,538,000
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*Red lines indicate years hosted.*
DIPLOMACY IN ACTION
The Experience

INNOVATIVE OR RENEWED ENERGY FOR WORK OR CAUSE
My time in Utah was a turning point in my life. Not only professionally, but also as a life experience. In the professional realm, making connections with other entrepreneurs, businesses, and organizations brought lots of learnings and insights to the way I see my own business. Learning about Utah, its culture, and its people was an experience I cherish a lot. I am grateful and proud to have been part of this program.

- Andrea Toro Ortuno, Bolivia

A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF UTAH AND THE U.S.
“Living in Salt Lake City reinforced how I see the world, and makes me feel more committed to my community and country. Living in Utah with the most interesting and intellectual people in America is an experience that I cannot describe with words – it is like Disneyland for entrepreneurs.

- Xavier Retif, Mexico

MORE CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY THROUGH INCREASED CAPACITY
The meetings in Utah build capacity for me and will serve as a stepping stone. I promised to cascade lessons learned and experiences and knowledge gained back home. I am a rural woman and did not go to University, just high school, and became a drop-out. But I have been doing capacity-building training of sorts in my country and attending such programs as IVLP is like having my master’s degree in the work I do in my community.

- Doris Fatima Webber, Sierra Leone
Diplomacy in Action
The Numbers

- Innovative or renewed energy for work or cause: 81%
- More connected to one’s own community through increased capacity: 71%
- Increased networks and connections: 76%
- Increased public recognition and engagement: 62%
- Working to pass laws or public policies: 29%
- Increased philanthropy in a community (fundraising and volunteerism): 52%
- Promotes their Utah experiences with others abroad: 86%
- Improved Utah and U.S. relations: 76%
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

For 50 years, the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) has been UCCD's flagship program and a cornerstone of the U.S. Department of State people-to-people diplomacy efforts, connecting current and future leaders from around the world to their U.S. partners to cultivate lasting relationships.

IVLP is designed to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through carefully curated programs that reflect the participants' professional interests and support U.S. foreign policy goals.

Programs that highlight Utah as an economic, cultural, and innovation hub include Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Agriculture, Land-use Rights, Renewable Energy, Government Accountability and Transparency, Rule of Law, NGO Management, Volunteerism and Civic Engagement, Combating Gender-based Violence and Human Trafficking, and Interfaith Dialogue, among so many other themes.

IVLP Classroom Integration for Migrant Children 2017
172 COUNTRIES IN 10 YEARS

Afghanistan Chad Guinea Malaysia
Albania Chile Guyana Maldives
Algeria China Haiti Mali
Angola Colombia Honduras Mauritania
Antigua and Barbuda Comoros Mauritius
Argentina Democratic Republic of Congo Mexico
Armenia Congo Mongolia Moldova
Australia Costa Rica Montenegro Morocco
Austria Côte d’Ivoire Myanmar (Burma) Namibia
Australia Croatia Namibia Nepal
Austria Cuba Jamaica Nepal
Bahrain Cyprus Japan Nepal
Bangladesh Czech Republic Jordan Nepal
Barbados Denmark Kazakhstan Nepal
Belarus Dominican Republic Kenya Nepal
Belgium Dominican Republic Kyrgyzstan Nepal
Belize Ecuador South Korea Nepal
Benin Egypt Kosovo Nepal
Bhutan El Salvador Kuwait Nepal
Bolivia Eritrea Kyrgyzstan Nepal
Bosnia and Herzegovina Egypt Laos Nepal
Botswana El Salvador Kosovo Nepal
Brazil Eritrea Kosovo Nepal
Brunei Estonia Kuwait Nepal
Bulgaria Ethiopia Kyrgyzstan Nepal
Burkina Faso Gabon Kyrgyzstan Nepal
Burundi Gabon Lebanon Nepal
Cambodia Georgia Lebanon Nepal
Cameroon Ghana Lesotho Nepal
Canada Ghana Liberia Nepal
Central African Republic Ghana Libya Nepal
Chad Guyana Malawi Nepal
China Honduras Mali
Colombia Hong Kong Maldives
Comoros Hungary Mali
Democratic Republic of Congo Iceland Mauritania
Congo Indonesia Mauritius
Costa Rica Iran Mexico
Côte d’Ivoire Iraq Moldova
Croatia Israel Montenegro Morocco
Cuba Italy Myanmar (Burma)
Cyprus Jamaica Namibia
Dominican Republic Japan Nepal
Ecuador Jordan Nepal
Egypt Kenya Nepal
Eritrea Kosovo Nepal
Estonia Kuwait Nepal
Ethiopia Kyrgyzstan Nepal
Finland Latvia Nepal
France Lebanon Nepal
Gabon Lebanon Pakistan
Georgia Lesotho Pakistan
Germany Liberia Palestinian
Ghana Libya Paraguay
Greece Lithuania Peru
Guatemala Malawi Philippines
Guyana Malawi Poland
Haiti Malaysia Portugal
Honduras Maldives Qatar
Hungary Mali Romania
Iceland Mauritania Russia
Ireland Mauritius Rwanda
Iran Mexico Saint Kitts and Nevis
Iraq Moldova Saint Maarten
Israel Montenegro Samoa
Italy Myanmar (Burma)
Jamaica Namibia Sao Tome and Principe
Japan Nepal Saudi Arabia
Jordan Nepal Senegal
Kazakhstan Nepal Senegal
Kenya Nepal Serbia
South Korea Nepal Seychelles
Nicaragua Nepal Sierra Leone
Niger Nepal Singapore
Nigeria Nepal Slovakia
North Macedonia Nepal Slovenia
Norway Nepal Somalia
Oman Nepal South Africa
Pakistan Nepal Spain
Palestine Nepal Sri Lanka
Panama Nepal Sudan
Papua New Guinea Nepal Sudan, South
Paraguay Nepal Suriname
Peru Nepal Swaziland
Philippines Nepal Switzerland
Poland Nepal Syria
Portugal Nepal Taiwan
Qatar Nepal Tajikistan
Romania Nepal Tanzania
Russia Nepal Thailand
Saint Kitts and Nevis Nepal The Bahamas
Saint Maarten Nepal The Gambia
Samoa Nepal Togo
Sao Tome and Principe Nepal Trinidad and Tobago
Saudi Arabia Nepal Tunisia
Senegal Nepal Turkey
Senegal Nepal Turkmenistan
Somalia Nepal Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Vatican City
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

YOUNG LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE
42 YLAI fellows hosted since 2016

The U.S. Department of State’s YLAI program empowers emerging business and social entrepreneurs from across Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States to realize the full economic potential of the region’s citizens. They represent tourism, trade, entrepreneurship, healthcare, food, marketing, and many other industries.

OPEN WORLD
5 delegations hosted since 2018

Open World is a congressionally supported exchange program where post-Soviet countries examine ways to implement the rule of law, combating extremism and corruption, and more accountability of elected officials. Delegations of political and civic leaders take part in tailored, in-depth exchanges.

Left Photo: YLAI 2017; Right Photo: Open World Delegation from Kosovo, Renewable Energy, 2019
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

CHINA TOWN HALL
4 CHINA Town Halls hosted 2011-2014

CHINA Town Hall program is a national day of programming designed to provide Americans across the United States and beyond the opportunity to discuss the U.S.-China relations with leading experts. President Jimmy Carter and Madeleine Albright are just two VIP guests who have led our CHINA Town Hall discussions.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE
11 IWOC award recipients hosted

International Women of Courage (IWOC) is a prestigious IVLP program featuring U.S. Secretary of State’s award winners. This annual award recognizes women who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women’s rights and empowerment, often at great personal risk.

Left Photo: CHINA Town Hall guest speaker Madeleine Albright 2013, former Secretary of State; Right Photo: IWOC award recipient Roya Sadat meeting with SLC Mayor Biskupski, 2018.
Nothing shapes foreign relations better than sharing a meal with people from around the world. Home Hospitality Dinners often make the biggest impact on international visitors because they create opportunities for meaningful conversation and cultural exchange centered around food. Generous volunteers across Utah open their homes to host our international visitors but often find they make life-long friends.
Can you believe that we have hosted 207 lectures, conversations, and dialogues over the last ten years? The image to the right summarizes the topics we have addressed through our World Affairs Lecture Series, Great Decisions discussion course, Fireside Chats Podcast, and Engage America Series.

By inviting leading experts to provide insight into critical national and global issues, our events help shape public discourse and explore ideas that transform how we connect with the world.

In addition to hosting lectures in the evening, we organize community events where our guest speakers engage those audiences most connected with the topics, especially students, underrepresented community members, and activists.
Ending The Tyranny Of Oil, Leif Werner

Muslims Contributions to America, Dalia Mogahed

Peace Corps Diplomacy, Jody Olsen

Unexpected Warriors, Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley

War Child, Emmanuel Jal

NASA Space Diplomacy, Kathy Laurini

Skateboard Diplomacy, Neftalie Williams

Future Of The U.S. Army, General David G. Perkins
GREAT DECISIONS

In 2018, UCCD introduced the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program to its World Affairs Series programming. Hosted in partnership with the University of Utah’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, this discussion group shares knowledge, ideas, and opinions on current world affairs topics. To date, our discussion topics have addressed every industry and region of the world.

FIRESIDE CHATS PODCAST

UCCD began a new podcast series in 2020 called Fireside Chats. These chats are short conversations with Utah’s citizen diplomats who are helping to reshape the American worldview from one of despair to one of hope during a time of multiple crises. Topics discussed to date include refugee to restaurant owner, rock climbing and caring for wild places, black in white spaces, and music diplomacy.
In 2017, UCCD welcomed Shihana Alazzaz, one of Saudi Arabia’s first female lawyers, who shared her inspirational story of overcoming adversity and discussed her role as a mentor for professional Saudi women.

Two days before the 2018 U.S.-North Korea Summit, UCCD hosted the Future of Korea program featuring subject matter experts from the U.S. Department of State, the Korean Region Embassy, and the Korea Economic Institute to discuss fragility and stability in the region.

The Alliance Working in America program discussed the impact and importance of U.S.-Japan Relations and featured Japanese business experts from Keidandren USA and Rakuten and Ambassador James Zumwalt.
25 Students from 6 Schools

Young Diplomats of Utah (YDoU) empowers high school students to engage the global community in their hometowns. Using world affairs as the fundamental basis of our program, we introduce youth to cultural awareness, lectures, diplomacy simulations, volunteerism, and service projects while providing the knowledge and resources to develop their leadership skills. The results are youth committed to civic activism, engaged with Utah’s diversity, and practicing our guiding principle of citizen diplomacy.
YOUNG DIPLOMATS OF UTAH
Global Leadership Scholarship Fund

“I have always considered myself a global citizen trying to make this world a more inclusive space for others through community service and volunteer work. My goal is to work for the United Nations or become the Secretary of the State.”

- Obaid, 2021 GLSF Award Recipient

Photo courtesy of the 2019 UN Civil Society Conference

In 2020, UCCD kept its focus on the future. With the generous support of Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski and UN Committee Finance Chair, Chris Redgrave, we created the Global Leaders Scholarship Fund (GLSF) as a legacy program of the 68th UN Civil Society Conference, to empower Utah's young people to participate in critical global conversations with peers worldwide.

Important qualities of a scholarship recipient are leadership potential, a passion for improving one’s community through volunteerism and service, and a long-term vision of how receiving a scholarship from GLSF will positively impact one’s life.

12 scholarships awarded in 2021.
Young Diplomats of Utah
International Career Development Program

My time at UCCD was brief, but deeply enriching thanks to the camaraderie of talented individuals who share a common goal of citizen diplomacy. My knowledge of international cooperation flourished as my exposure to community involvement expanded.

- Lee Winkleman, Research Intern 2019

17 Fellows and Interns

UCCD connects career-ready youth with opportunities to expand their networks and explore their dream jobs through internships and fellowships. In addition to developing their employability skills by working directly with our programs, staff, and executive leadership on various projects, our interns and fellows expand their leadership skills and network with businesses and leaders in Utah, Washington D.C., and worldwide.
YOUNG DIPLOMATS OF UTAH
Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program

Since 2012, UCCD has hosted the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP). This four-week summer exchange provides Iraqi high school students the opportunity to develop leadership skills while learning about American culture as they stay with host families and engage with local high school students.

"IYLEP had a big impact on me. I learned how to respect other cultures and religions and people’s opinions even if I disagree with them. I am motivated to work harder to make my country a better place for living by applying the experiences that I had in this program."

-Hamza Abdulameed, IYLEP 2012
While the work we do at UCCD is critical to global peace and prosperity, we are not afraid to let down our hair down and have an evening of fun and fierce competition. Since 2015, we have hosted Academic WorldQuest, a global knowledge competition. Originally, this event was hosted as a fundraiser with more than 25 teams competing each year for the title of champion. However, in 2019, Academic WorldQuest transitioned to an event hosted for high school students with the winning team traveling to Washington D.C. to compete at the national competition. Unfortunately, COVID-19 canceled this opportunity for Utah youth in 2020. However, we pivoted to a virtual competition in 2021 and are now sending three teams to the national competition. We are eager to see how far our youth will go!
UCCD has played an important role in supporting our national network. UCCD was selected to host the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) Western Regional Conference in 2012. With a name change to Global Ties U.S. Diplomacy Begins Here Regional Conference, we hosted the conference again in 2019.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of State and nonprofits in Utah and across the nation met in Salt Lake City for hands-on training, dynamic discussions, and to foster network connections that strengthen international exchanges.

Our 2012 conference highlighted Utah’s array of attractions including visiting Red Butte Garden, enjoying a tour of Temple Square, watching the world-famous Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, and taking a day trip to our Winter Olympic hub, Park City, Utah.

Our 2019 conference offered a day of nonprofit leadership development at the beautiful Utah Valley University Wasatch Campus in Heber City with dinner served in Park City, Utah. The main conference session focused on strengthening data collections and implementing powerful storytelling to make a social impact. We ended the conference by taking some of our Washington D.C. partners to Moab, Utah to hike and river raft the mighty Colorado River.
Music is a powerful tool for cultural diplomacy. As a universal language, music breaks down language barriers and cultural differences; it promotes cooperation, understanding, and mutual respect among people, communities, and nations; it contributes to peace and social cohesion; it can help people understand world affairs. Over the last ten years, our concerts have addressed such topics as the UK doing their own thing (ahem...Brexit), the role women have played in Baroque music, the value of international exchanges through cultural diplomacy, and the fusion of sounds through international cooperation.

Vivaldi By Candlelight is UCCD’s premier fundraising event, raising $181,791 over the last 10 years, and it is also one of our longest-standing programs. For nearly 40 years, we have inspired more than 15,000 people in the community to be citizen diplomats by learning about our work, one piece of music at a time.

UCCD would also like to take this moment to give our sincere gratitude to the music director, Mr. Gerald Elias. For fifteen years, Gerald has created inspirational concerts that have enthralled the audience, eager to attend year after year.
The internet offers us endless, free content for expanding our knowledge and understanding of the world. Our virtual Utah Peace & Diplomacy Resource Center offers media, reports, educational resources, and more! Each of these topics is focused and organized around diplomacy, democracy, and humanities. This resource will connect local and global communities, and make you a more engaged and informed citizen diplomat.

Citizen diplomacy is deeply rooted in the United States by enabling individuals to contribute directly to world peace, international understanding, and cooperation. This effort has produced an array of programs and projects that are genuine grassroots efforts to address common problems and build enduring connections among the people of various countries.

- Sherry Lee Mueller, Ph.D., former President of the National Council for International Visitors, 2016
OUR TRIBUTE TO ZOOM
Utilizing a strategic plan, we are exploring organizational growth that advances the mission, creates sustainable growth, and increases our role in the broader community.

UCCD is passionate about the work we do, but passion is not enough. We are implementing analytics that improves the way we define, measure, and report our efforts and guides our organizational growth.

To maximize our efforts, eliminate duplication, and reduce organizational waste, we are implementing a communication and outreach plan focused on collaboration with critical private, public, and civil sector organizations while increasing UCCD brand recognition.

UCCD is committed to social responsibility. We thrive when diversity in all forms actively participates in our programs and organization. Additionally, we recognize that we must play an active role in combating climate change. UCCD is committed to making organizational decisions weighed against the social and environmental impacts on those in our community.
Ahmad Zia Afzali is our International Exchange Program Director. I had the privilege of meeting Ahmad about six months after moving to the United States from Afghanistan. I had just begun a program with the Utah Refugee Services Office that would hire AmeriCorps VISTA to work with ten different government and nonprofit organizations to create sustainable programs that assisted in the resettlement and integrations of refugees in Utah life.

Ahmad shared in his interview that he had studied law and started a nonprofit that gave soccer balls to newly repatriated Afghan kids and provided job opportunities for their families. I later learned that Ahmad had a passion for reading, learning, and exploring because of his father, an educator. He also has an infectious laugh that doesn't stop once he gets going.

Ahmad's VISTA placement was as a Citizenship Specialist at the English Skills Learning Center. Ironically, he helped more than 500 refugees and immigrants on their journey to naturalization before becoming a citizen himself in February 2016.

Ahmad exemplifies the American spirit - he is kind, generous, dedicated, and hardworking. I am honored to call Ahmad a friend and colleague.

Thank you, Ahmad, for sharing this momentous occasion with your UCCD family.

Written by Felecia Maxfield-Barrett
A Letter about UCCD’s Leadership from Bill Clifford, CEO, World Affairs Councils of America

Sustaining and growing a nonprofit organization is often a labor of love.

It requires vision, smart stakeholder engagement, oodles of overtime and the hearts of volunteers, and doubtless, a bit of luck.

I have had the pleasure and good fortune to get to know and work with three incredibly accomplished, dedicated leaders of the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy over the past decade and then some.

First, as a new fellow executive director at WorldBoston, I benefited from Laura Dupuy’s
mentoring amid the challenges of navigating the Great Recession and its aftershocks. Then, as the head of the World Affairs Councils of America, I relied on the energy and perspective of younger leaders like Beth Martial to help drive change in our national network.

And last year, a week before the pandemic upended the world as we knew it, I traveled to Salt Lake City for a WACA-UCCD program on the U.S.-Japan Alliance. Felecia Maxfield-Barrett and her team, of course, did a terrific job, but even more important was Felecia’s commitment to guiding the Council through the pandemic year - mastering the transition to digital programming, expanding audiences and the donor base, and partnering with other Councils and WACA to share best practices and ideas.

Through innumerable programs with top-flight speakers and international visitors from all over the globe, UCCD has provided opportunities for Utahns all ages and backgrounds to learn about world cultures, policy problems faced and sometimes solved by the United States, and issues that confront Utah but have relevance for human beings everywhere.

The standard of excellence these three leaders have set and consistently embodied – not just in the last ten years but since 1967 – is inspiring. Admiration of colleagues in both the World Affairs Councils of America and Global Ties U.S. networks stems from how UCCD fulfills its mission day in and day out. UCCD thrives - on love, on fine leadership - and that makes all of us feel lucky.

With gratitude,
Bill Clifford
President and CEO
World Affairs Councils of America
2021 Board of Directors

Baldomero Lago - Chair
Alicia Cunningham-Bryant - 1st Vice-Chair
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