ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia (the Council) is the region’s largest and oldest international affairs nonprofit with 75 years of expertise in connecting Philadelphia to the world.

The Council is a nonpartisan, nonprofit that promotes speaker programs, youth education, travel, and professional development. The Council hosts international exchange visitors and travels the world reaching more than 125 countries annually.

Through authentic people-to-people diplomacy and exchange of ideas, the Council advances Philadelphia’s understanding of the world by creating the next generation of global citizens and furthering Philadelphia’s position as an international hub for business, education, and culture.

THE COUNCIL'S WORK

The Council was established in 1949 as a private, non-profit and is supported through earned and contributed revenue from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Today, the Council invites the Greater Philadelphia community to grow their knowledge of the world through five key program areas:

- Speaker Series & Public Events
- International Leadership Exchanges
- In-School Curriculum & Extracurricular Student Programming
- National Travel Program
- Professional Development for Business Professionals

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL MATTER?

Over **95%** of the world’s population lives, buys, & innovates outside of the U.S.

Over **80%** of global economic growth will occur outside of the U.S.

More than **1 in 7** people in the U.S. are immigrants.
SPEAKER SERIES & PUBLIC EVENTS

The Council offers unique access to some of the most influential figures shaping policy today, where people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs can understand cross-cultural perspectives through respectful conversation and public diplomacy.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXCHANGES

Each year, the Council welcomes more than 400 current and emerging leaders from over 125 countries to Philadelphia through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) — the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. IVLP curates unique experiences in and around Philadelphia for these international guests including professional meetings, tours, cultural and social events, and in-home hospitality.

EDUCATION

In-School Curriculum & Extracurricular Student Programming

Fueling the region’s future leaders, the Council offers students — ages 11 and up — educational experiences, in-school curriculum, and diverse programming to create citizen diplomats and international problem solvers.

NATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM

The Council leads domestic and international tours to all seven continents where travelers engage in meetings with government officials and diplomats, develop people-to-people diplomacy, and receive in-depth cultural, historical, and political experiences.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Council offers the Global Leadership Institute (GLI) a rich and engaging professional development program. In this cohort-based model, participants build their cultural diplomacy and global fluency skills to increase their comfort and effectiveness when working across international cultures.