

2017

Annual Report





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Letter from the Founder

2017 was a milestone year for the Young Professionals in International Affairs (YPIA). On February 17, 2017 YPIA became an official registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization for the first time in our history. This new designation certified YPIA's status as one of the top young professional and international affairs organizations in the Washington D.C area and has allowed us to make huge strides in growth and development of the organization.

For over 10 years, YPIA has prided itself on holding a diverse range of professional events but 2017 was truly exceptional. In the summer of 2017, YPIA held our first ever embassy event at the Nicaraguan Embassy and quickly followed in the fall with a second event at the Croatian Embassy. Throughout the year, YPIA brought in top experts in international issues, such as, MG Tony Taguba, Ilan Goldenberg, Barbara Slavin and many more. This year YPIA also extended our influence into cultural events with diasporic organizations and as a part of these efforts, we were able to introduce our members to Nigerian music via the most popular rapper in Nigeria, iLLBliss and West African Idol's Mike Adekunle and indulge our members with European cuisine while discussing current affairs. In 2017, YPIA was also able to integrate several career development events catered to early professionals into our programing.

My role within YPIA has also evolved over the past year. When I began this organization 12 years ago, I had a vision to bring people together to discuss current international affairs. As YPIA has grown over the years, that founding vision has expanded but its core remains the same. While I will continue to remain involved in YPIA as the Chairman of Board for 2018, at the end of 2017, I empowered a new team of leaders to take the organization to the next level.

YPIA is not one person but a team of dedicated volunteers who spend hours of their personal time, after their normal day jobs, working to organize professional events for members. The successes of 2017 are due to a new Board of Directors, all of whom are passionate about YPIA, international affairs and providing the best quality events to members. It is this diverse group of young leaders who will build upon YPIA's 2017 success and continue to move the organization forward in our mission to create an interconnected global community that better understands the world around us.

In an era where society seems to becoming more polarized and where fiction can be difficult to distinguish from fact; it is more important than ever to have a neutral space where people can come together as a community.



Letter from the President

Hello Friends!

I can't begin to express how excited I am for what is in YPIA's future! In meeting all the volunteers and many of the members through our events, I can easily see there something special in the YPIA community.

While the team accomplished a lot in 2017, we would all agree that we cannot wait to reveal to the membership what we have in store for 2018!

To start, members will continue to experience the same wonderful programming with discussion groups, speaker events, and embassy receptions. But, as the volunteers met, we were focused on one key theme—better programs for you. Whether it will be our new blog through Medium, more career development opportunities, or partnerships where members directly benefit. We have much in the works for 2018, and we are genuinely excited to offer some awesome opportunities to meet wonderful people and build connections while living in Washington, DC.



In leading our volunteer staff, one thing that drives the leadership team's initiatives is ensuring a sense of community in each area of the organization. We do not simply want members to come to our events to learn about international affairs, we want members to leave with new friends, a potential business contact, and feeling more integrated into the District culture.

So, as the new year begins, YPIA hopes that you all check out our organization by coming to our events and meeting our friendly membership and leaders! We look forward to seeing you in 2018!

Sincerely,

April Arnold
President, Young Professionals in International Affairs

Mission

Young Professionals in International Affairs (YPIA) brings together globally minded citizens in a neutral space to engage on international affairs through educational forums, networking and professional development.



Vision

YPIA's vision is for young and young at heart professionals from all backgrounds to create an interconnected global community that actively engages on international affairs in a multifaceted way, creating a better understanding of the world around them.

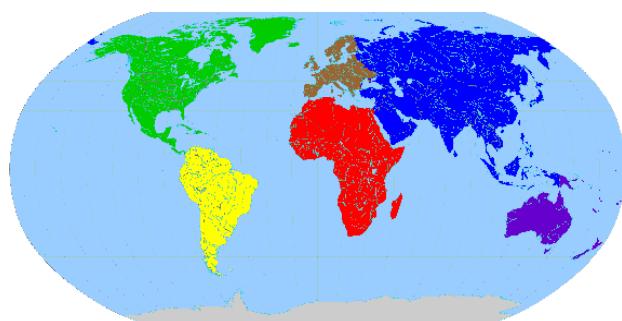
2017 YPIA Accomplishments

- Received 501(c)3 non-profit license
- Hosted first 2 embassy events
 - o Embassy of Nicaragua
 - o Embassy of Croatia
- Coordinated 100+ events
- Hosted 26 industry experts across political, business, and entertainment sectors for speaking engagements
- Launched multiple social media accounts:
- Multiple Twitter accounts: Up to 417 followers per account
 - o Facebook Page: 200 likes
 - o Facebook Group: 500+ members

Programs

The largest portion of YPIA is our programs teams. In 2017, YPIA had six teams, each focused on major regions of the world. The purpose of the programs team is to coordinate and host topic specific events for the organization and in 2017, our program

team hosted over 90 events for our membership and the public which is the highest amount for the organization ever. Though many events and topics encompass multiple regions or topical areas, we believe that the small and intimate nature of regional or topically specific programs, affords our volunteers the opportunity to work in smaller teams and coordinate with others more easily. The 2017 program teams included:



1. Africa Committee
2. Americas Committee
3. Asia Pacific Committee
4. Europe Committee
5. Middle East North Africa Committee
6. Transatlantic Committee

Africa Program

The Africa Program, led by Kiahana Brooks and Aida Dia, organized very unique and successful programs for YPIA in 2017 aimed at promoting a more positive portrayal of the African continent while fostering a sense of unity and inclusion among program participants. With a committed effort to reach the Diaspora community within Washington, DC, they organized events ranging from African Trivia Nights where competitors competed for supremacy in African historical, political, geographical and economic knowledge to hosting Nigerian musician, Illbliss in a discussion on business and entertainment in Nigeria. The team also hosted a variety of discussions on current events in global health, women's rights and political transitions as well as film screenings on Life in Senegal and African Stereotypes aimed at providing critical analysis of current events in news, entertainment and culture. The Africa Committee built a strong following on social media going from just 19 to over 420 followers and a small but dedicated community of volunteers from the diaspora who are actively involved in activities and take the lead on planning Africa program events.



In 2018, with new volunteers hailing from Cameroon and the Ivory Coast, the Africa Program plans to expand their members' exposure to prominent experts in the areas of security, infrastructure and politics while continuing their robust cultural programming including museum visits, film screenings and diasporic festivals. For more information, please email africa@ypiadc.org.

Americas Program



The Americas Program, one of the new teams for YPIA, began the year with a bang, hosting our first embassy reception at the Embassy of Nicaragua. Led by Chris Hicks, approximately 40 people attended the event where they enjoyed Nicaraguan food while meeting embassy staff and learning about Nicaraguan culture. His Excellency Ambassador Francisco Obadiah Campbell Hooker greeted guests and gave short remarks. The Americas program also initiated monthly Latin American discussion groups each which took on a current event pertinent that month and allowed members to listen and learn from one another on the issue.

In 2018, YPIA is working on expanding this program. Expect to see more discussion groups and events next year. For more information, please email americas@ypiadc.org.

Asia Pacific Program

The Asia Pacific Program, led by Chris Gowesky and April Arnold, hosted a variety of events for YPIA members. In 2017, the Asia Pacific Program organized multiple dinner discussion groups throughout the city, including a Dine & Debate on Uyghur culture at Queen Amannisa's and a discussion of the North Korean threat at Banana-Leaf. A major milestone for the group this year was hosting Major General Tony Taguba for a discussion on the Abu Ghraib prison abuses. We were also very proud to host Ms. Bonnie Glaser, Ms. Audrey Winter, and Ms. Erin Ennis for a panel on US-China trade, a partnership event with Young Trade Professionals and Women in International Trade.



In 2018, the Asia-Pacific Program looks forward to onboarding new volunteers and continuing a diverse range of events, including a discussion on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and a potential embassy event. For more information, please email asia@ypiadc.org.

Europe Program



The Europe Program, led by Ben Kissin and Ricky Gandhi, put on a variety of brunches, discussions and speaker events in 2017. From frank discussions on Brexit, to deep dives into the politics of the German election to discussions of Russian influence in the middle east and beyond with Ilan Goldberg, the Europe committee explored it all. One of the highlights for 2017, was the establishment of a series of regional wine-tasting events throughout DC where members of the committee learned European history while indulging in the spirits of the region.

However, the most successful event for 2017 was Europe and Transatlantic's co-sponsored embassy reception at the Embassy of Croatia hosted in October. Catered by Ambar, the event was huge success and even touted by the Ambassador, His Excellency Pjer Simunovic. Along with food and Croatian wine, the night included a fashion show displaying Biljana's Folk Costume collection and a brief address by former Alaska Senator and Croatian-American, Mark Begich.

In 2018, the Europe Program will continue to organize a diverse range of unique events. Future events include bringing in more speakers on Euro-Russian relationships, technologically integrating young professionals in Europe into our discussions and working more closely with the European Union to educate our members on the politics and history of Europe. For more information, please email europe@ypiadc.org.

Middle East & North Africa Program

The Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Program, led by Mehri Haghani and Hannah Krull, hosted numerous successful events on some of the most hot-button issues in the news. Events ranged from discussion groups on women's rights in Saudi Arabia to speaker events on Islamic Exceptionalism with Shadi Hamid from the Brookings Institution. MENA frequently hosts policy experts from local think tanks including journalists actively working in Syria, The Kurdistan delegation to the US and Barbara Slavin of the Middle East Policy Institute to speak to the organization on some of the most pressing issues facing the region. MENA engaged members from all backgrounds to discuss current events and explore Middle Eastern culture, including hosting a Nowruz and Ramadan Iftar dinner.

In 2018, the MENA Program plans to expand our reach to new members and build relationships with experts in less commonly discussed subjects, such as the plight of the Yazidi and minority groups in North Africa. For more information please email mena@ypiadc.org.

Transatlantic Program

The Transatlantic Program, led by Amanda Brown, and launched in 2017, is the newest and first topic focused YPIA Program. Partnering with the Europe Program, activities focused on bridging the gap between many of the regional programs and bringing a more global perspective to the YPIA forum. From assisting on the Croatian Embassy reception to organizing in-depth discussions, on topics such as brexit, international elections and russian influence in the work, 2017 was a successful year for this program. Another successful event, hosted by the Transatlantic Program, was a international development career panel with Ms. Jessica Ernst and Mr. Soud Habbas.

In 2018, the Transatlantic Program seeks to further develop the relationships and partnerships within the community to discuss issues that have a global impact.

Upcoming events include discussion groups, happy hours, and a NextGen talk on women in the military. For more information, please email info@ypiadc.org.



Communications



One of our major organizational goals in 2017 was to launch a social media presence and create a communications team responsible for social media management, communication efforts to both membership and external partners. Gabe Iglesia led YPIA's efforts to develop a Public Relations strategy, launch YPIA Twitter accounts, and establish a Facebook page and group.

By the end of 2017, the organization's main Twitter account, @YPIA_DC, has gained 259 followers; and Africa Committee's account, @YPIA_Africa, which was the active of the YPIA program's twitter accounts, increased followers by 2000% to 420 followers. The YPIA Facebook page has gained 214 likes.

As the organization enters 2018, we are planning to launch a new website that will better reflect the growing organization. We will also be launching our Medium blog, LinkedIn account and Instagram account to reach our members on multiple platforms. The team will also focus on maximizing our digital marketing efforts by pursuing grants and fundraising.

Membership

Throughout 2017, Meetup.com was the primary means that YPIA recruited and maintained membership. Over the last 12 years, our Meetup group has grown to over 3,600 members and it continues to rise. But YPIA is not just about numbers. In addition to adding to our ranks, in 2017, YPIA also worked very hard to enhance the paid membership experience by working with vendors such as Foreign Affairs magazine, Osgood and The Diplomat to provide special discounts for our paid members and by creating members-only events providing special access to top international experts and insider tours of key locations in international affairs. We continue to improve the membership experience of YPIA members by integrating more social and happy hour activities into our schedule which provide increased opportunities for networking and long-lasting social connections.

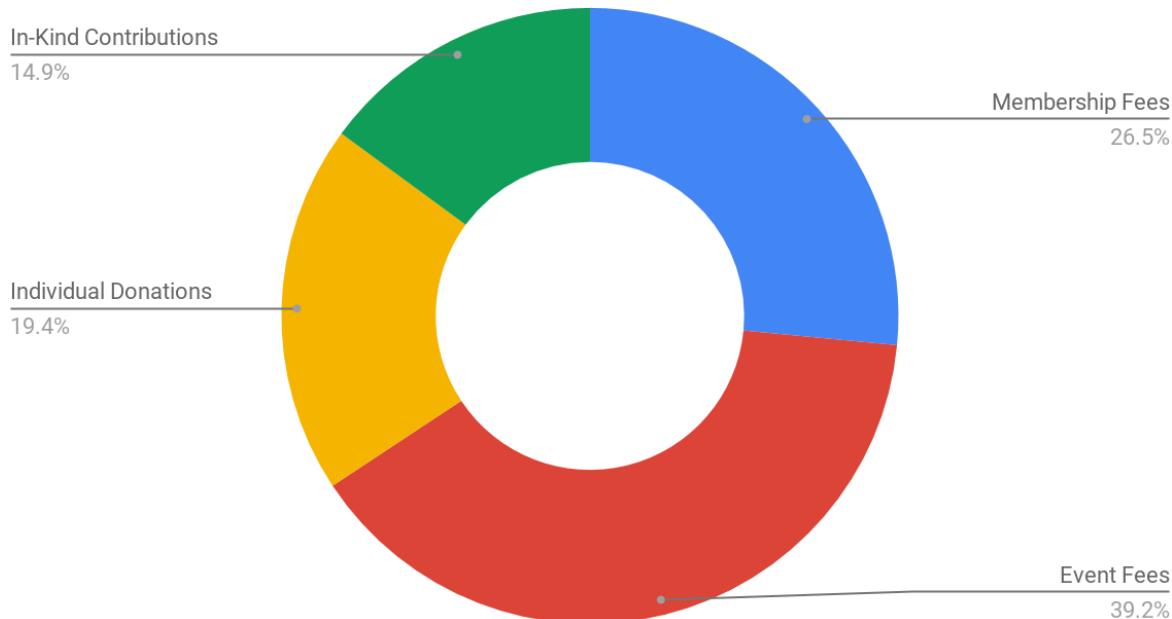


2017 Financial Summary

With a small budget, YPIA was able to provide its members with great events and access to industry leaders. In 2018, YPIA will actively pursued organizational partners and sponsors whose mission aligns with YPIA's core vision. Other sources of revenue will include events and membership fees. Provided below is the graphic data on YPIA's financial status:

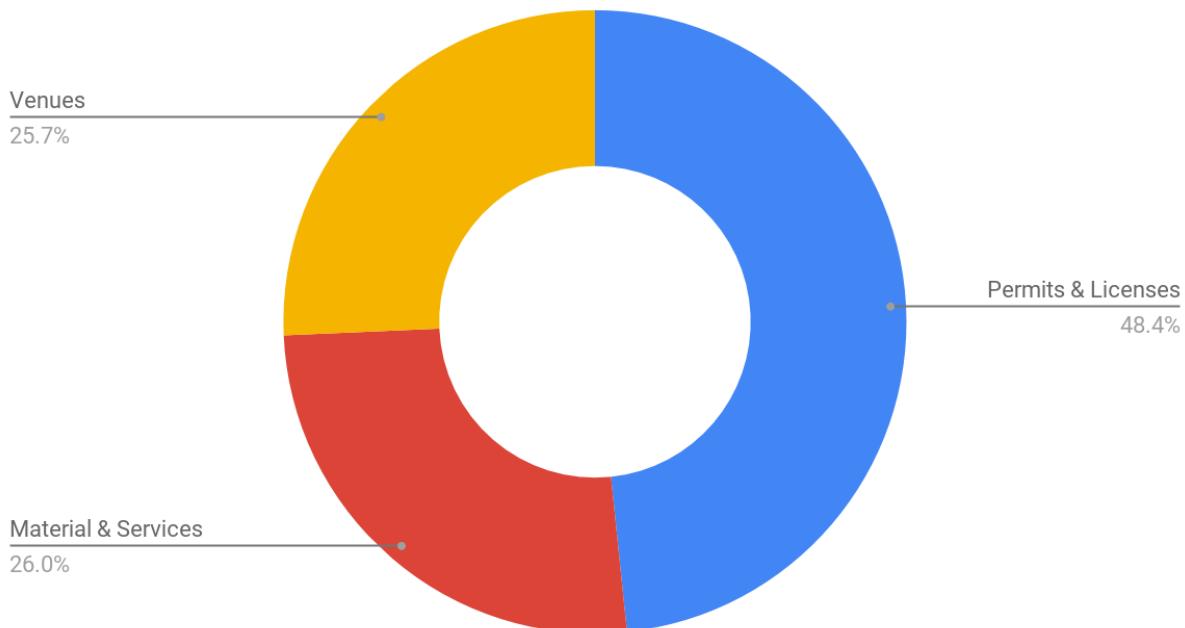
Statement of Activities

Funding Sources



Support & Revenue	Unrestricted	Restricted
Membership Fees	\$1,778	-
Event Fees	\$2,628	-
Individual Donations	\$1,300	-
In-Kind Contributions	\$1,000	
Total Support & Revenue	\$6,706	\$0

Annual Expenses



Expenses	Amount
Business Permits & Licenses	\$941
Support Material & Services	\$505
Venue Space	\$500
Total Expenses	\$1,946

Net Assets	Total
Beginning of Year	\$6,383
End of Year	\$11,143

2018 Goals

YPIA is excited to build upon the successes in 2017 and continue to grow in 2018. As a newly-minted social impact organization, YPIA volunteers will expand our high quality events with more marquee speakers, engaging cultural events, and more effective career development programs. We plan to host at least one speaker based event per month and continue to visit local international restaurants for brunches and discussions. We also plan to host 2-3 career panels for members early in their careers. We realize the need to be accessible online and we will provide interactive platforms on our website, through our blog, and through the other digital mediums which allow our members to interact with us more intimately.

As the organization continues to grow, we want to ensure that YPIA's membership remains a personal and individualized experience while appealing to new and diverse potential members. YPIA's goal for 2018 is to develop a more robust membership offering for those interested in taking full advantage of everything YPIA has to offer, while still maintaining our "free-mium" quality content to those who prefer to be a little less active.

Expect 2018 to be a big year for YPIA and know that YPIA will continue to strive to be a pillar of the young professional international affairs community.

New Leadership

With the end of 2017 came one very big and important change: a new Executive Steering Committee (ESC). The ESC, with the support and advice from the Program Directors, are the key decision-makers and leaders introducing new projects and improvements within YPIA. On December 13, 2017, YPIA members met the new ESC at our annual holiday party. With many new projects on the horizon, each new ESC member will be contributing to large improvements to YPIA in 2018. The new leadership is as follows:

Kristy Mordhorst, Founder (*not pictured*)

April Arnold, President

Chris Gowesky, Chief of Staff (*not pictured*)

Ricky Gandhi, Vice President of Programs

Gabe Iglesia, Vice President of Communications

Ben Kissin, Vice President of Operations

Kiahana Brooks, Vice President of Development



Thank You!

There is no way that YPIA would be able to serve the community so seamlessly without the generous support of our volunteers, wonderful speakers, and charitable event partners. The organization and its leadership thanks everyone's overwhelming support that they provide on a daily basis. You truly are making an impact in the community. Thank you!

2017 Leadership Team

Kristy Mordhorst, Founder & President
Archana Poddar, Senior Vice President
Galen Stocking, Vice President of Communications
Chris Du Jardin, Vice President of Operations

2017 Volunteers

Aida Dia	Darryl Fernandez	Lily Wade
Amanda Brown	Diep Nguyen	Mehri Haghani
April Arnold	Gabe Iglesia	Nathan Bakirci
Ben Kissin	Hannah Krull	Ricky Gandhi
Chris Gowesky	Jennifer Van	Shayla Irtegun
Chris Hicks	Kiahana Brooks	Sophia Lian
Christian Jepsen		

2017 Advisor - Vijay Velamoor

2017 Speakers

Ahed Al Hendi	H.E. Francisco Obadiah	Martha Hudson
Alan Francisco	Campbell Hooker	Michael Meunier
Audrey Winter	Hashoong Amirahmadi	Mike Adekunle
Barbara Slavin	Ilan Goldenberg	DAS Mike Fuchs
Bayan Sami Abdul	Illbliss	H.E. Pjer Simunovic
Rahman	Jessica Ernst	Shadi Hamid
Bonnie Glaser	Loay Mikhael	Shadi Mokhtari
David Millar	Senator Mark Begich	Soud Habbas
Erin Ennis	Mark Bush	MG Tony Taguba

2017 Event Sponsor

Banana Leaves	Embassy of Nicaragua	Queen Amannisa
Barbaricum	Bukom Cafe	Restaurant
Brownstein Hyatt Farber	1831 M St.	World Affairs Council
Schreck	James Hoban's Irish	Young Trade Professionals
Embassy of Croatia	Restaurant and Bar	