

2018 Annual Report





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Letter from the Founder

In 2018, the Young Professionals in International Affairs (YPIA) continued to make strides by expanding both programming and membership. YPIA welcomed Karima Woods and Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins to the Advisory Board. They along with Vijay Velamore will mentor the organization as we continue to grow.



For over ten years, YPIA has prided itself on holding a diverse range of professional events and 2018 was no exception. The YPIA leadership team led several in-depth discussions on current events throughout the year. Members had the opportunity to learn to cook Thai and African dishes as well as explore the culinary diversity in the Washington D.C. area. Top experts in international issues addressed the organization, such as Major Lindsey Giggy, Simon Ateba, Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins and many more. YPIA offered several cultural events, which culminated in an Evening at the Cote d'Ivoire Embassy in December. In 2018, members participated in several career development events and had opportunities to learn a new language through a partnership with the Global Language Network.

Although currently overseas, I have been excited to see how much YPIA continues to develop as an organization. In 2019, I will focus on helping develop YPIA's leadership and career development programming. I maintain my role on the Board of Directors; however, the operations of the organization are led by an outstanding team of volunteers.

YPIA is not one person but a team of dedicated volunteers who spend hours of their own time, after their regular day jobs, working to organize professional events for members. The successes of 2018 are due to a committed Board of Directors and leadership volunteers, all of whom are passionate about YPIA, international affairs and providing the best quality events to members. It is this diverse group of leaders who will build upon YPIA's 2018 success and continue to move the organization forward in our mission to create an interconnected global community that better understands the world around us.

As we continue to live in a world where opinions become more and more polarized, it is more important than ever to have space where people from all backgrounds can come together for civil discussions and to build an integrated global community.

Letter from the President

Hello Friends!

In 2018, YPIA members questioned international experts, tried and cooked new foods, learned new languages and wine and dined with diplomats from Uzbekistan, the Ivory Coast, Ireland and the African Union.



We opened the year discussing global health security and weapons of mass destruction over a seven course meal with one of YPIA's advisors, Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins. We then taught members how to cook their own meals with Thai, Senegalese, and Botswana cooking classes hosted by native chefs. We explored current events including the Future of NATO, the economic Impact of Tariffs and the relationship between India, China and Russia and read international literature with authors including Germaine de Staël author of *Germany in 1794*, *Essays on Issues*. We ended the year with an intimate holiday party at the Embassy of the Ivory Coast where we gorged on Ivorian fish, chicken and rice, learned a Senegalese dance and learned about the many business opportunities in the Ivory Coast.

But, 2019 is already shaping up to be even better. In 2019, we will repeat and delve deeper into discussions on North Korea, Brexit, Venezuela, African Politics and the French Protests. YPIA is also excited to continue to foster its relationship with partners, such as the Global Language Network and World Affairs Council to continue to provide opportunities for our members to further their careers through low cost language courses and high level networking events.

All of our work at YPIA is only possible because of the generous time commitments of our volunteers and donations of members and advisers. YPIA could not survive without paid members and this year we hope to transition most of our event attendees into paid members in order to foster a more open and intimate discussion environment and more sustainable organizational structure.

As always, YPIA appreciates constructive feedback on how we are doing, specifically how we can create a better paid membership experience and host more interesting events. I look forward to what the year has ahead and am excited for what all of our members will get to experience!

Warmly,

April Arnold

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.

2018 YPIA Accomplishments

- Recruited six new Program Directors for the Asia- Pacific, Europe, Africa and Americas programs
- Hosted an Embassy Holiday Party at the Embassy of the Côte D'Ivoire
- Coordinated 80+ discussions, speaker events, happy hours , cooking classes, panels, book clubs and movie nights
- Hosted 15 industry experts including Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins , journalist Simon Ateba, author Germinal Van and Major Lindsey Giggy as well as others from across the political, business, and academic sectors .

Programs



Our programming is the core of the YPIA experience, and we held several events on timely global issues in 2018. The topics of discussion ranged from women driving in Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, global health security, and journalism in developing nations. YPIA has five programs, each focused on a region of the world: Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the Americas, Europe, and Asia- Pacific. Through diverse programming, regional committees provide a unique experience for members. During the last year, the Africa program hosted several cultural

events, the MENA program presented subject experts, the Europe program lead informative discussions on current events, the America's program initiated a book club, and the Asia Pacific program held debates around popular topics such as North Korean Nuclear/Missile Programs and Indian Politics. With such diverse offerings, we highly encourage members to attend events from each committee so they can have the full YPIA experience. In total, program teams hosted over 70 public events in 2018. In addition, 10 exclusive members' only events provided personal access to speakers and a more intimate experience.

YPIA Program Teams:

1. Africa Program
2. Americas Program
3. Asia Pacific Program
4. Europe Program
5. Middle East North Africa Program

The Africa Program

The Africa Program, led by Jennifer Van and Kim Rodgers organized over 15 events in 2018. The program promotes a more positive portrayal of the African continent while fostering a sense of unity and inclusion among program participants. To engage with local diaspora communities, a speaker series on African political thought was held featuring prominent Ivorian author Germaine Akoa. Other notable events included a discussion of freedom of the press in West Africa with journalist Simon Ateba, and three Trivia Nights where competitors competed for supremacy in African historical, political, geographical and economic knowledge. In addition, a variety of discussions on current events in global health, African media, and women's rights were held throughout the year. Members attended film screenings on Josephine Baker, cross border trade in West Africa, Winnie Mandela, and the impact of sports on the “troubles” in Ethiopia in the 1980s. The year culminated with a successful holiday party at the Embassy of the Ivory Coast featuring Senegalese dancers, a buffet of traditional Ivorian food, and a cultural presentation by Embassy staff. The Africa program maintained a strong following on social media with over 500 followers and will continue to engage diasporic communities, young professionals and the academic community.



In 2019, the Africa program will expand our membership and recruit new volunteers. We will also host events focused on the elections in Congo, African cooking, and resume the African trivia nights. For more information, please email africa@ypiadc.org.





The Americas Program

Led by Emely Amaya, the Americas program led monthly discussions on current events where peers got to learn about new issues as well as share analysis of these issues with one another. Topics included issues affecting Canada, the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, El Salvador, Haiti, Chile, Venezuela, among others. Topics included elections, immigration, crime and corruption, NAFTA negotiations, history, etc. The program also held a few social events! Events included a Mexican Day of the Dead brunch, a

US midterm elections viewing party, and attending the 10th Annual Roots of Development Haiti fundraiser at the Organization of American States. The Americas program membership grew significantly in 2018 with many recurring members eager to learn about the issues happening throughout the Western Hemisphere.

In 2019, the Americas program intends to keep bringing topics of interest to the forefront, keep exposing members to the wide array of cultural and culinary diversity in both North and South America, and plans to start incorporating professional speakers into the program. For more information, please email eamaya@ypiadc.org.

Asia Pacific Program

The Asia-Pacific Program, led by Alex Burns, hosted speaker dinners, happy hours and discussions throughout DC. In 2018, the program explored a variety of topics including North Korea's nuclear program, China's Belt & Road Initiative, and several social events including a Lunar New Year celebration. The team has significantly grown to include professionals from many fields and backgrounds, which increased the capacity and diversity of the programs.



In 2019, the Asia-Pacific Program will host events around the US-NK Summits, cultural events around the Lunar New Year, and guest speaker events from senior International Affairs professionals. We will continue frequent scholarly debates over delicious Asian meals and host at least one embassy event. For more information, please email asia@ypiadc.org.

Europe Program



In 2018, the Europe program worked diligently to expand networking opportunities for our members. Continuing our partnership with the World Affairs Council, YPIA cosponsored an event at the Embassy of Uzbekistan, and a speaking engagement featuring the Irish Ambassador. In November, we also hosted a panel discussion on Christian Democracy in Germany through our partners at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung USA, a think tank which is affiliated with Angela Merkel's party in Germany. New partnerships initiated with the Eurasia Research and Analysis Institute, Eurasia Foundation, and the Persian Gulf Institute resulted in two successful happy hour events attended by nearly 100 people each.

Throughout the year smaller the program led discussions on current events and unique cultural experiences. The topics ranged from frozen conflicts in the Caucasus, presidential elections in Russia, BRICS, and the future of NATO. In addition, brunches at Busboys & Poets, Kafe Leopold, and our annual St. Patrick's Day Hangover Brunch engaged members in a more informal environment. The program also hosted a popular series following the World Cup games.

In 2019, we will welcome two new program directors, Claudia Ruiz and Hania Bisat, who will continue to organize events for our members. Topics for discussions will follow current events such as Brexit, Ukraine, the Gilets Jaunes Protests in France, and the European Union. The Europe program will also dive deeper into European political thought through hosting speakers on European political structures, the European Union, and other topics related to European political and social issues. For more information, please email europa@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 region. This year's events included a spirited discussion on Western images of Middle Eastern women, our annual Ramadan Iftar, a presentation of Persian ice cream, and a special performance by Music in Exile, an NGO that records traditional music from those living in refugee and internally-displaced person's camps.



In 2019, the MENA Program will expand our reach to new members and build relationships with experts in less commonly discussed subjects, such as the Gulf States and North Africa. For more information please email mena@ypiadc.org.

Communications



For 2018, YPIA maintained a strong social media presence in the DC community. We launched a blog which allowed program directors and event attendees to react to our events and provide deeper insights into topics. Program teams began integrating more communication tools into their strategies to increase member engagement.

By the end of 2018, the organization's main Twitter account, @YPIA_DC, had nearly 500 followers and our region-specific accounts, housed within each program team, had another nearly 500 followers combined. At

the beginning of 2018, we launched a new website that allows members to pay dues, follow our events, and learn about our organization in one place.

In 2019, we will upgrade our website to promote a more integrated experience for YPIA members and to develop members-only content. Through new platforms, our members will engage in deeper debates and intellectual pursuits while further expanding YPIA's global reach.

Membership

In 2018, our Meetup membership exceeded 4000 members. However, YPIA is not just about numbers. In addition to adding to our ranks, YPIA also enhanced the paid membership experience by working with vendors and partner organizations such as the Global Language Network and World Affairs Council. These partnerships provided members with exclusive access to Embassy events, high profile speaker series, and priority placement in language classes. We continue to improve the membership experience by integrating more career development activities and exclusive access to prominent experts in international affairs into our schedule which provide increased opportunities for networking and long-lasting social connections.



2018 Financial Summary

With a limited budget, YPIA was able to provide its members with high quality events and access to industry leaders.

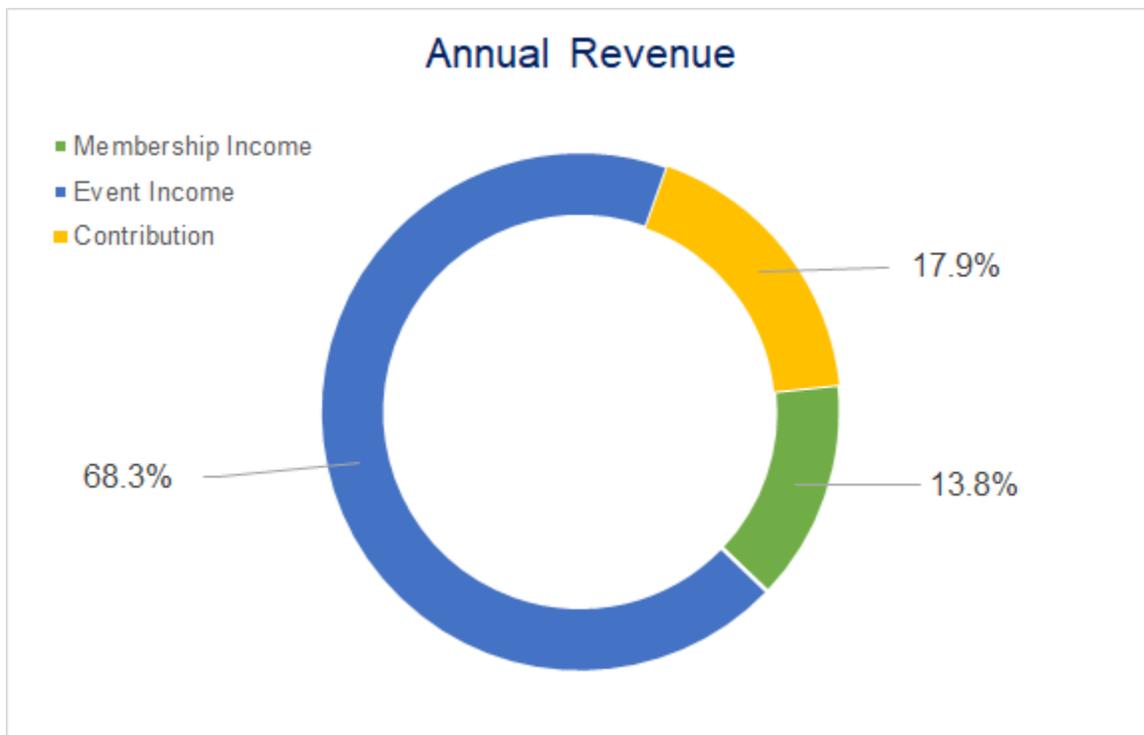
YPIA started the year with an opening balance of \$10,507.58, and ended with \$12,050.72 -- a 14.7 percent increase. Almost 70 percent of revenue came from events, while less than 15 percent came from membership dues. Expenses remained consistent with the previous year.

In order to increase total revenues, YPIA will expand paid memberships and events. This entails using a more data-driven approach, such as documenting information after every event that can give us insight on turnout. Data from 2018 will help inform the programming decisions for 2019.

YPIA will also actively pursue additional organizational partners and sponsors through our new fundraising director Jordan Greenwald. Besides membership fees, we will explore new revenue stream options, such as investments in bonds.

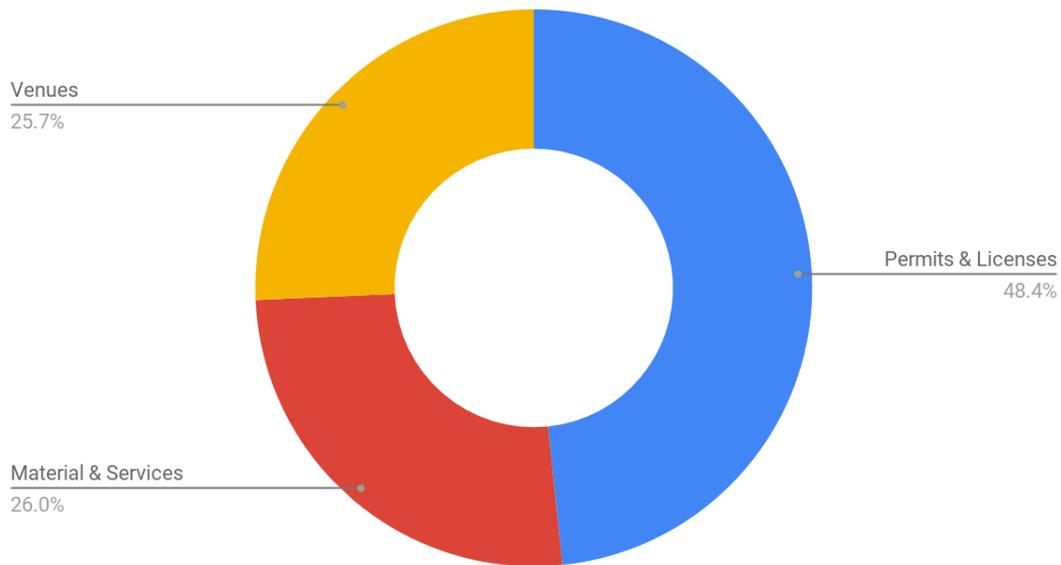
The graphics below provide a summary of YPIA's 2018 finances.

Statement of Activities



Revenue Streams	Amount	Change from 2017	Percent Change
Membership Fees	\$ 774.97	\$ (1003.03)	-129%
Event Fees	\$ 3822.37	\$ 1194.37	31%
Contributions	\$ 1000.00	\$ (1300.00)	-130%
Total	\$ 5597.34	\$ (1108.66)	-20%

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	\$10,507.58
End of Year	\$12,050.72

2019 Goals

In 2019, YPIA will expand upon its core programming. Events will be more accessible and reflect member interests. As part of our effort to diversify membership, we will spread outside of downtown DC and into the surrounding suburbs. Expanding upon previous successes, we will host discussions on current events that appeal to a wide audience. At least one speaker-based event will be held per month and programs will continue to mix discussions with culinary experiences at local restaurants. There will be a greater focus on career development programs for early and mid-career professionals. Utilizing new platforms we will increase the substantive basis of our online community by fostering discussion and information exchanges.

As the organization continues to grow, we want to give our members the best opportunities to learn, network, and expand their cultural knowledge. As such, YPIA will be working more closely with universities, diasporic communities, and professional organizations to recruit more young/"young at heart" professionals and academics. Continued focus on a diverse membership will allow more robust and nuanced discussions. Our advisors, many of whom specialize in career mentorship, and partners will continue to provide opportunities for professional development.

YPIA continues to convert nonpaying members into full official paid members. Given the organization strives to provide high quality programming for lower than average fees, once membership management platform is integrated into the website we should be able to exponentially increase paid member numbers. In the past two years, YPIA has worked vigorously to vastly increase the value of the membership package, which now includes priority registration for language classes, discounts on international magazines, and access to partner organization events at the member rate. This along with increased efforts to foster relationships among members will further strengthen the YPIA community. While we plan to continue to offer a variety of public events which will continue to be open to the community, we plan to vastly increase the number of members- only events and better promote the advantages of full membership.

2019 will be another big year for the organization as we continue to be a pillar of the young professional international affairs community.

New Leadership

In 2018, YPIA was happy to welcome six new program directors and a new Director of Fundraising

Our new program director for the Asia-Pacific Committee is Alex Burns. Alex is a government contractor working in international issues who has spent a large chunk of his adulthood residing and working in Asia. We are ecstatic to have him on our team.



Our two new Africa directors are Jennifer Van and Kim Rodgers. Jennifer hails from the Ivory Coast and has worked with various nonprofits in the DC area, most recently Atlas Corps. Jennifer brings a strong interest in women's issues in Africa and has organized events focusing on African political transitions. Kim is a Kentucky native with extensive knowledge of women's issues around the world from her work in a nonprofit on that topic. Kim has spearheaded two major cooking classes in African food and won two rounds of African trivia night.

Our new Americas director is Emely Amaya. Emely is a DC professional with a strong interest in Latin American issues. Emely has greatly expanded her program and spearheaded discussions on trade, Nicaragua and current affairs.

Claudia Ruiz and Hania Biast are the new Europe Program Directors. They are both dynamic speakers and moderators who bring their intense energy, organizational skills, and leadership to the program.

Jordan Greenwald is a consultant from DC. In the New Year, Jordan will be working with YPIA to increase our fundraising programs so that we can increase the quality, quantity, and diversity of content that we can offer to our members.

We were sad to see the departure of our two Middle East and North Africa chairs Mehri Haghani and Hannah Krull as well as our Vice President of Communication Gabe Iglesia. These positions will be filled in 2019. The Executive Steering Committee Leadership for 2019 is as follows:

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!

2018 Leadership Team

Kristy Mordhorst, Founder
April Arnold, President
Chris Govesky, Chief of Staff
Ricky Gandhi, Vice President of Programs
Gabe Iglesia, Vice President of Communications
Ben Kissin, Vice President of Operations
Kiahana Brooks, Vice President of Development

2018 Volunteers

Aida Dia	Darryl Fernandez	Kim Rodgers
April Arnold	Gabe Iglesia	Mehri Haghani
Alex Burns	Hannah Krull	Michelle Turner
Ben Kissin	Jennifer Van	Nathan Bakirci
Chris Govesky	Jordan Greenwald	Ricky Gandhi
Christian Jepsen	Kiahana Brooks	

2018 Advisors - Vijay Velamoor, Karima Woods, Amb Bonnie Jenkins

2018 Speakers

Amb. Bonnie Jenkins	Mikeala James
Germinal Van	Catriona Dearn
Maj. Lindsay Giggy	Alex Ebsary
Soyoung Kim	Sasha Ingber
Brandon Hughes	Simon Ateba

2018 Event Sponsor

Ankara	Malbec Restaurant
Banana Leaves Asian Restaurant	Nanny O'Briens
Barbaricum	Prequel
Barrafina	Sauf Haus Beer Hall
Bloombars	Soho Coffee and Tea
Don Tito	Teaism
E.F Centro D. F.	The Fire Station 1
Eighteenth Street Lounge	The Front Page
Embassy of the Ivory Coast	Vapiano
Bukom Cafe	WeWork
1831 M St.	World Affairs Council
James Hoban's Irish Restaurant and Bar	Young Trade Professionals
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftun	Zorbas
Kramerbooks and Afterwards	
Lemon Indian Cuisine	

Leopold's Cafe
Mandu