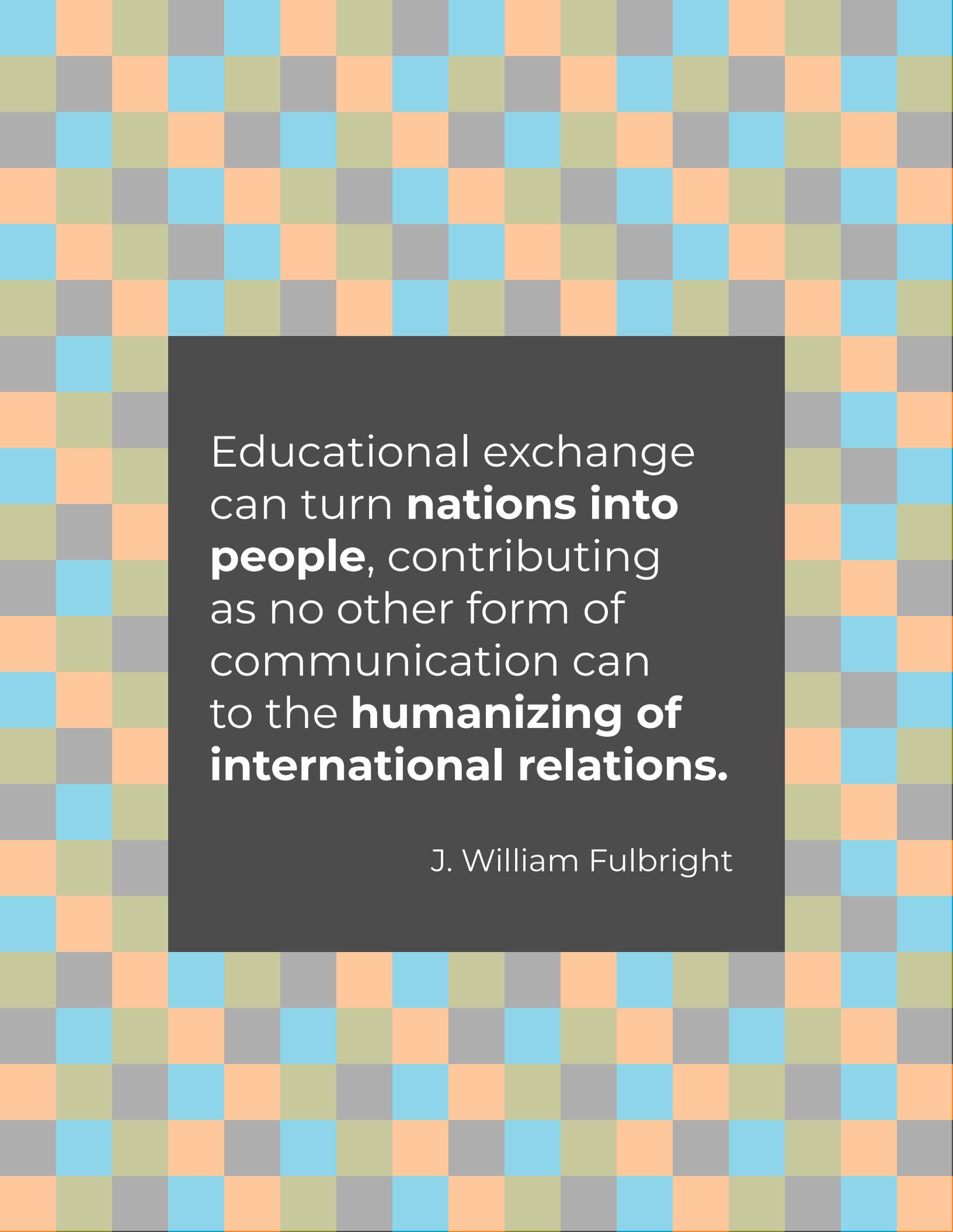


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ANNUAL REPORT





Educational exchange
can turn **nations into
people**, contributing
as no other form of
communication can
to the **humanizing of
international relations.**

J. William Fulbright

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INTRODUCTION



Dear friends of Global Ties KC,

In the infamous words of Mark Twain, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness”. How then, do we replicate the feeling and lessons learned in travel, during a season when the whole world has been grounded?

Global Ties KC programs have always filled this gap—allowing people in the midwest to experience the world, without ever having to physically travel. The only difference these past two years is that our international participants were able to do the same thing—experiencing Kansas City from remote settings. While we certainly missed sharing meals in-person, I couldn’t be more proud of how our network has leaned into virtual programs throughout this season. You embraced virtual dance lessons, walked laptops through your homes, and opened refrigerators and cupboards to satisfy visitor curiosities. You continue to engage in genuine, honest conversations about problems and opportunities in your businesses, nonprofits, and government offices. Learning to build relationships through a computer screen is a skillset we will take into the years and decades to come. With this forced technological shift comes great opportunity, includes chances for greater opportunity and equity in exchanges.



The same holds true for our community projects, including the Youth Diplomats Program and Institute. By embracing virtual program sessions, we are no longer bound by geographic restrictions. Our high school student participants can (and have!) joined us virtually from across Kansas and Missouri. Our 2021-2022 Youth Diplomats Institute includes three cohorts of students from across both states. Students from inner-city schools, suburbs, and from more remote areas now have the opportunity to connect with the globe and grow as future professionals and active citizen diplomats.

This report is a testament to the heart of our community and the enduring power of global connection.

As always, I am incredibly grateful to our staff, board, sponsors, and greater community who continue to show up for international exchange. Thank you for the continued support of Global Ties KC. You are making the world a smaller place, one handshake and virtual wave at a time.

Globally Yours,

Courtney Brooks
Courtney Brooks

Executive Director



For over 65 years, Global Ties KC has fostered citizen diplomacy in Kansas and Missouri, providing our communities with opportunities to interact with other cultures. We connect you to parliamentarians, students, scholars, teachers, social entrepreneurs, artisans, and government officials (plus more) from over 100 different countries every year. These visitors—and you through the relationships you are building—are shaping the world to be more prosperous, equitable, and safer for future generations. The last two years of virtual programming has provided us the opportunity to foster global collaboration in an online setting and to build long-term international relationships between the Heartland and the world.

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Ky Shardein

Dominic Elting

Monterey Mecham

Rajitha Velakaturi

Katie Petersen



A YEAR VIRTUAL



2021 by the Numbers

- 68 Programs
- 414 Visitors
- 93 Unique Countries



IVLP INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging leaders in a variety of fields experience this country firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. The IVLP is designed to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through carefully designed visits that reflect participants' professional interests and support U.S. foreign policy goals. Program participants are either established or potential foreign opinion-makers in government, public policy, media, education, labor, the arts, and other key fields. Selected by American embassies around the world (there is no application), these international visitors come to the United States to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to gain and appreciate the ethnic, cultural, political, and socio-economic diversity of the U.S.

Launched in 1940, the IVLP helps strengthen U.S. engagement with countries around the world and cultivate lasting relationships by connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts through short-term visits to the United States. The majority of IVLP exchanges include visits to four U.S. communities over three weeks - although projects vary based on themes, Embassy requests and other factors. In addition to meeting with other professionals, participants visit U.S. public and private sector organizations related to the project theme and participate in cultural and social activities.

Global Ties KC has worked on the IVLP since our inception as an organization. We receive partial grant funding to support the effort that this program requires, and depend heavily on the local community to make these programs a success.

National Partners



BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

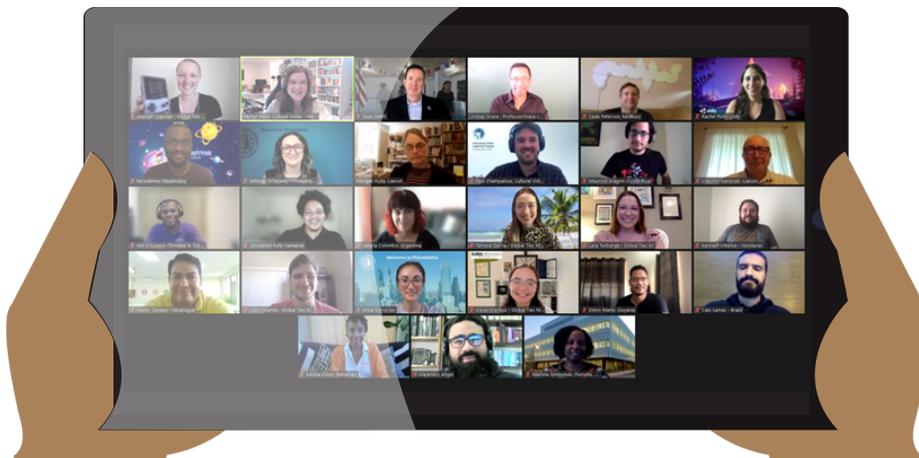




Global Ties KC is the local partner for all Department of State International Visitor Leadership Programs that visit Kansas and Western Missouri. Throughout 2021, Global Ties KC hosted 21 virtual IVLP projects.

Global Ties KC implemented the following International Visitor Leadership Programs in KC in 2021

Democracy and Community Based Leadership
Biosecurity and Agricultural Import/Export
NGO Management III
WEAmericas Program for Women Entrepreneurs
Strengthening Educational Collaboration and Promotion of U.S. Higher Education
Volunteerism and Civic Action
NGO Management
Media Responsibility in an Age of Disinformation
Women and Entrepreneurship
Video Games for STEAM and Entrepreneurship
Agricultural Marketing Information Systems
Philanthropy and Charitable Giving in the United States
Edward R Murrow for Journalist - Research and Investigation
Women in Business
Supporting Increase in Domestic Resources Mobilization by Improving Tax Collection
Journalism Issues
Transitioning to Digital Media
Best Practices in the U.S. Energy Infrastructure
10,000 Strong in the Americas
Community, Library, and Youth Engagement Centers and Programs
Edward R. Murrow for Journalists - Media Responsibility in an Age of Disinformation II



Videogames for STEM and Entrepreneurship



2021 International Women of Courage Awardee

When 32-year-old Shohreh Bayat boarded her flight from Tehran in January 2020 on her way to the 2020 Women's Chess World Championship in Shanghai, she had no idea she would be seeing her native Iran for potentially the last time. Bayat, a rising star in the world of elite chess competitions, was photographed at the Shanghai competition without her hijab, the headscarf which is mandatory in Iran. Within 24 hours, the Iranian Chess Federation refused to guarantee Bayat's safety if she returned to Iran without first apologizing. Bayat, fearing for her safety but unwilling to apologize, made the heart-wrenching decision to seek refuge in the UK, leaving her husband – who lacked a UK visa – in Iran.

On March 8, Secretary of State Antony Blinken honored Shohreh Bayat with the 2021 Secretary of State's International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award. This award honors women who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership in acting to improve the lives of others.

This April, Global Ties KC hosted Ms. Shohreh Bayat one of the 2021 International Women of Courage Awardees on a virtual International Visitor Leadership Program. Her Kansas City program included off-the record, small-group discussion of chess, sports, social activism, and human rights, and connections with the KC Sports Commission and Win for KC, United WE, ACLU of Kansas and Department of State's Sports Diplomacy Division. Conversations are underway for what a chess-competition in the heartland would look like in 2022.

From Courtney Brooks, Global Ties KC Executive Director, "The International Women of Courage program is one of the most special initiatives that I've been a part of over the years. Not just because the women who are nominated for this program are phenomenal (they are) but because it allows us as programmers to slow down, and design a project around the interests of one person. Ms. Bayat's story was inspirational. Beyond all of the media attention she has received over the past year, she is humble. Her love for chess is contagious. And for a short couple of weeks through this program, we were able to connect from across continents."





Biosecurity and Agricultural Import/Export

Biosecurity encompasses all procedures intended to protect humans or animals against disease or harmful biological agents. For program participants from Fiji who virtually visited Kansas City to meet with the Missouri Poultry Inspection Program and the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, the opportunity to discuss food safety with international counterparts, migration of land and air animals that can cause disease, and the impact of COVID on food supply are conversations that may someday save lives, and contribute to the revolutionization food safety in both the U.S. and Fiji.

Video Games for STEAM and Entrepreneurship

The power of video games has become increasingly prevalent throughout the pandemic. From providing a way to help people learn, to helping with fundraising, to being a social outlet, gaming has filled necessary gaps in global societies. In 2021, Global Ties KC welcomed 21 visitors from the Western hemisphere (from Canada to Uruguay) to explore socially positive avenues of games. To accomplish this objective, a conversation was facilitated with VOISS through the University of Kansas, to discuss their role in building virtual reality environments for students who benefit from assistive learning to develop their social skills through interactive scenarios. The participants left the program deeply connected to one another, with new ties to VOISS at the University of Kansas, and with a renewed inspiration to promote social good.

Philanthropy and Charitable Giving

China is developing a culture of philanthropic and a legal system for philanthropic giving. To facilitate this important process, this incredibly timely IVLP brought nonprofit and legal experts from China to the US virtually, to learn about our own systems of philanthropy. Through conversations with Bank of America, participants learned the various ways a high wealth family can donate their money to charities, and how to set up their legacy in order to plan for younger generations to take over. As a result of the program, participants are better equipped with best practices on how to promote and attract more charitable giving from the private sector.

YOUNG LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE



Launched in 2015, The Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellowship Program is an annual exchange program for 280 young business and social entrepreneurs from 37 countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, who are matched with businesses and organizations across the United States. In addition to entrepreneurial leadership training, YLAI Fellows build new skills, share best practices, and forge commercial ties.

Global Ties KC has welcomed between 9 and 14 YLAI Fellows to Kansas City almost annually since 2016. This includes a virtual cohort in Winter 2021 for 13 entrepreneurs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. During their 10-week program, visitors met with local business, gleaned practices in building ecosystems, gained insight into the culture of the Kansas City community, and created life-long international relationships.

Thank you to everyone who interacted with this program, including the Kansas City Area Development Council, KCSourcelink, Quest Moffat from Block Knowledge, Rebecca Dove from Pennez, and Erin Zimmerman from EZVisibility. Additionally, to all who served as their fellowship placements.

2021 Fellows

Amira Elena Correa, Belize
Damian Nashly Lewis, Dominica
Daniel Esteban Conde Velasquez, Colombia
Daniel Martinez Macedo, Mexico
Elias Ahmed Serulle Aybar, Dominican Republic
Felipe Antonio Benites Correa, Peru
Gwendeline Germeline Lupita Leuteria, Curacao
Luis Fernando Pelayo Brambila, Mexico
Regina Vasquez Escalante, Mexico
Shawn Melville, Trinidad and Tobago
Stacy Lynne Yuriannie Nacarino Alva, Peru
Yasmim Barreto de Sousa, Brazil
Yoelvis Medero Lunar, Belize

2021 Host Organizations

Big Heavy World
Birdies
Block Knowledge
Connecting Dots Globally
GOEX Apparel
KC Latin Jazz Orchestra
Pennez
SnapIT Solutions
Textcaster



YLA! 5 YEARS OF IMPACT

After five different YLAI cohorts, we have hosted almost 50 incredible individuals through the program. Many of our YLAI participants have achieved incredible feats, but we wanted to highlight just a few participants who have started their own business. As entrepreneurs, their journeys are rarely linear, but it's special that Global Ties KC has been part of their adventures!

Max Casal, Founder of Nowports

When Max visited KC in 2018, his freight forwarding company was just getting off the ground. Since, they've grown their team of 2 to over 160+ staff members with offices in Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay, and ready to expand to China. In the last three years, they have raised over \$24 million, including \$16 million in Series A funding raised in 2021. They were featured in Bloomberg, as they are leading the Latin American shipping industry.

Yoelvis, Founder Allegro Music School

Since his virtual program in summer 2021, Yoelvis has continued the partnership with his Host Partner, the KC Latin Jazz Orchestra. Together, they continue bringing communities together across continents to showcase cultural music and methodologies. Specifically, they presented a six-class series for beginner music school age learners.

Andrés Gamba, sports entrepreneur turned brewery owner

Andrés came to KC in 2016 through his work as Co-Founder of Elegí Tu Deporte, a company that provides information about public and private facilities and sports initiatives in Costa Rica. In true entrepreneurial fashion, his work has since taken a big pivot. In 2017, he started distribution for a small brewer, and has since built a brewery and restaurant from the ground up!

Maria Alexandra Roper, Founder of Mi Maid Xpress

Maria Alexandra Roper is the Co-Founder of Mi Maid Xpress, a start-up that provides on-demand cleaning services. Going farther than breaking into the cleaning business, the company's mission is to provide job opportunities for low-income women. Since her YLAI experience in 2016, her business has continued to grow.

Jayne Hoyte, multi-talented entrepreneur in Trinidad and Tobago

Jayne Hoyte is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of SmartTerm Limited, an education management platform that provides efficient communication between schools, families, and the government. In the last year, she launched a travel and lifestyle magazine, *hellobeautifulworld365*, which is a platform for female travelers.



YOUTH PROGRAMS



ACTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUTH LEADERS

Global Ties KC believes that every student who wants to explore the world and grow in their cultural competency skills should have that opportunity. Being around people who are different than us makes us more creative and compassionate. Foreign experiences increase both cognitive flexibility and depth and integrativeness of thought, and the ability to make deep connections between disparate forms.



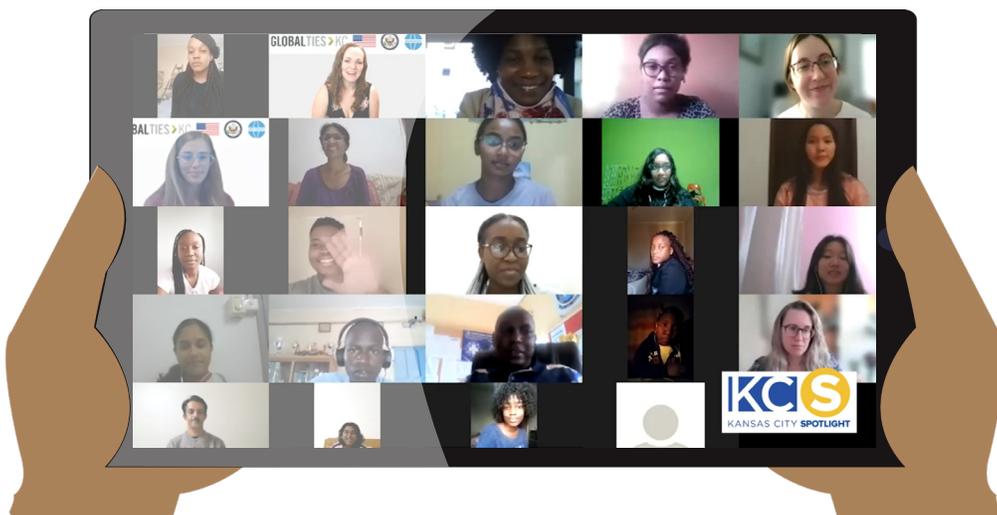
PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In May-June 2019, Global Ties KC digitally hosted 21 students and 5 adult mentors from Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, and Mozambique. Program components included 4 live Zoom sessions and an asynchronous pen-pal exchange via Canvas education platform. To engage in the pen-pal programming, 19 high school youth and professional adults to interact with PAYLP participants. These individuals acted as host families, pen-pals, and U.S. Ambassadors simultaneously.

The live Zoom sessions were a highlight of the host community portion of the program. Each week on Thursdays, Global Ties KC reconvened the Kansas City cohort for discussions and lessons surrounding citizen engagement, leadership, and skill building. From participant feedback, one of the most valuable sessions was a public speaking workshop, led by Toastmasters. The facilitator began with a demonstration from a Kenyan public speaker, then allowed for each participant to practice their own informational speech to the group.

The full list of Zoom activities includes:

- Digital Kansas City presentation tour, led by local University student, Beau Harris
- Leadership Styles panel, with a diverse set of panelists: Bianca Bevis, PJ Matulka, and Beau Harris
- Adult mentor session: Emotional and social learning, led by Bianca Bevis
- Toastmasters Public Speaking Workshop, led by Rick Chandler
- Pen-Pal live exchange
- Adult mentor session: Educator networking
- Civic Engagement presentation
- Spirit of Volunteerism panel, with nonprofit panel members: Harvesters Food Bank, Literacy KC, and Uncover KC
- Program reflection and debrief, led by Meridian International Center



CARIBBEAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM



From July 30-August 27, 2021, Global Ties KC coordinated and implemented five host-family Zoom sessions between 20 Caribbean participants and 10 American participants. Caribbean participants were from Grenada, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, the Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Trade supports roughly 20% of the jobs across Kansas and Missouri. At the same time, 11% of Americans have never traveled outside of the state in which were born, and 40% have never traveled abroad. There is a gap between the economic opportunity in our states and the experience needed to access it.

Our Caribbean Youth Ambassadors had a great time and learned a lot through the program. Here's some of what they had to say:

I have definitely become more appreciative of different cultures and I have also learnt how to turn my failures into growing points.

[I've become] more open-minded and respectful of others opinions. Also, I have become more confident in myself as a leader.

I am have gained more knowledge on other cultures and have become a better communicator.

I have learnt to be even more understanding of different people & their backgrounds. Stereotyping is never ever something you should do, ever!

I feel like I am a better communicator with different cultures now. I know how to be more sensitive to the idea that others may have differing opinions from me.

I have a greater understanding of the world and different cultures and have learned new techniques to dealing with certain situations and how to approach failure to turn it into success.

CARIBBEAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM CONTINUED..

Throughout the session, our students journaled and shared reflections through Padlet, an online visual message board. Here are some of their reflections:

Anonymous 5mo

Mikea's reflection



Culture separates and brings us together in a multitude of ways. It is what makes us unique. A culture can include food, clothes, hairstyles and even dances and festivals. Our culture is something that creates a way for everyone in the area to live similarly. It is important for us to know about our culture and educate others as well as learn about others.

4

Anonymous 5mo

Victor's Reflection



Culture can be defined as ideas, knowledge, behaviors, belief, art, values, morals that are passed along from one generation to the next by the way of communication. Indian culture is the heritage of social norms, ethical values, traditional customs, belief systems, political systems, artifacts and technologies that originated in or are associated with the Indian subcontinent.

1

Anonymous 6mo

Malaysia's Reflection!



Meeting my host family brought me great joy. I can speak for all of us when I say we created a very inclusive and accepting bond. We constantly asked questions and answered them respectfully. We even mentioned the Grammy's 🤩. I learned that another YA (Greta) attends a catholic private school which comforts me in a way. I say that because I like the fact that although we are all different we share similar aspects of our lives that allows us to sync our perspectives. I think that this picture shows the idea of unison no matter the color and/or background. Our differences may outweigh our similarities but we should balance that with acceptance and kindness. <3

2

Anonymous 5mo

Growth

This program has really helped me! I have learned to communicate with others, work with others on group projects efficiently, and voice my opinions. This program has been a step out of my comfort zone and I am really sad it's ending but I am thankful for the opportunity! I hope one day I can meet everyone in person ☺

2

Anonymous 6mo

Reflection! <3

I was really nervous to meet my host family, wasn't really sure how it was going to play out over zoom but in the end I really enjoyed it. We clicked instantly and it felt so easy to talk to everyone! There were several differences especially in regards to education and the freedom of teens in the US compared to the Caribbean. We all had similar interests in subjects, hobbies and even our schedules were alike. So excited to see my host family soon and make some more memories!

2

Anonymous 5mo

My Growth

This program has taught me so much. I have grown so much as an individual. I have learned to accept my failures and move on, to be more resilient, to be true to myself, and to be more present in life. I have evolved so much as a person, I feel so much better about myself.

4

chenillemundell 5mo

Reflection

It was soooooo amazing meeting new persons, even more cool that they are from different parts of the world. We were told to brainstorm a name for our group and we all agreed "4liferssss" which I think was really really cool. We spoke about many different stuff including but not limited to how covid was being handled in their country and their way of life. They were all so sweet and I enjoyed the breakout rooms with them. I am definitely looking forward to meeting many more amazing persons in the coming weeks. :)

2

Anonymous 5mo

Esli's reflection



Culture defines us, it makes us different from each other. Culture can be about art, the place you live, your ethnic, your behavior and also your religion.

The Surinamese culture is really beautiful, because there are a ton of different cultures in Suriname that learn from each other. You can see that thru our dishes, clothes and religion. An example, my mother has clothes from the Indian and the Javanese culture and as for dishes, we share recipes, everyone in Suriname knows how to make each others dishes.

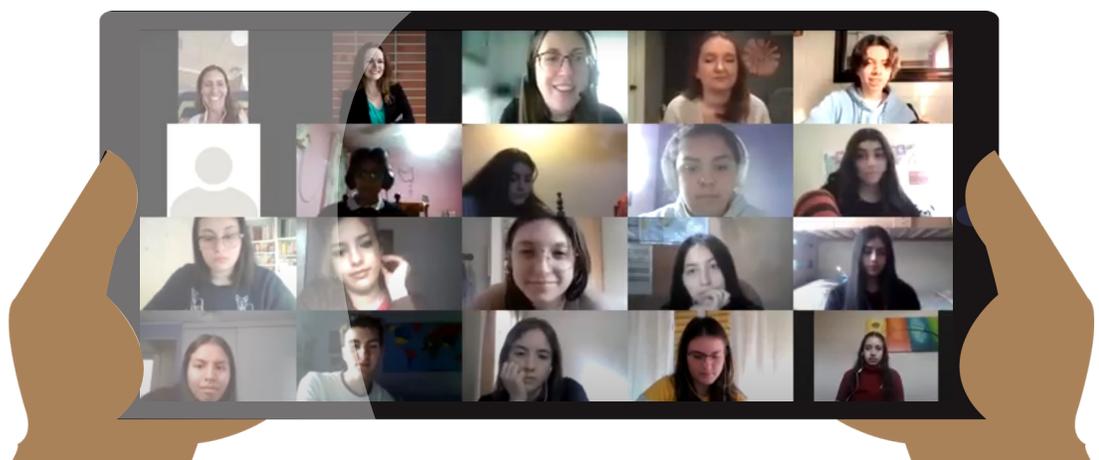
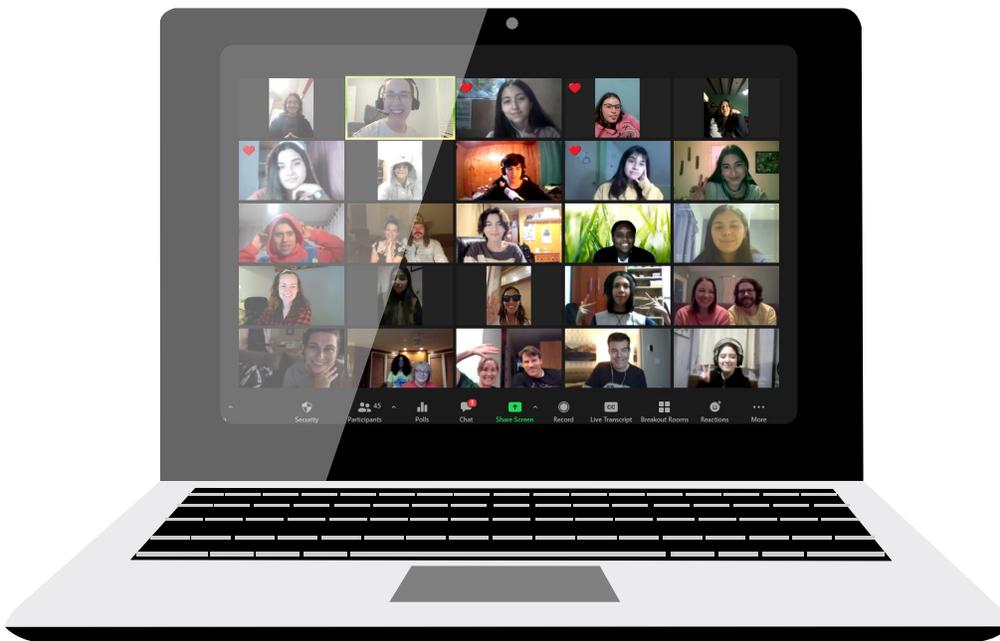
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ARGENTINA AND CHILE YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM



From July 19-August 1, Kansas City digitally hosted 33 students and 3 adult mentors through the Youth Ambassador Program for Argentina and Chile. This was the third module of their larger program, and the host community piece. Through live zoom sessions, slack engagement, and host family placements, students learned about the themes of civic engagement, volunteerism, leadership, and diplomacy. Additionally, participants took time to learn more about the Kansas City community.

The highlight of the program, as so many programs, was the host family portion. Students and Kansas City area families bonded through food demonstrations, dance lessons, online games, and coffee conversations. The authenticity of the experience resulted in life-long connections, which was most prevalently seen during the final session with the heartfelt and final goodbyes. The power of virtual exchange was demonstrated through these strong leaders and their commitment to mutual understanding.





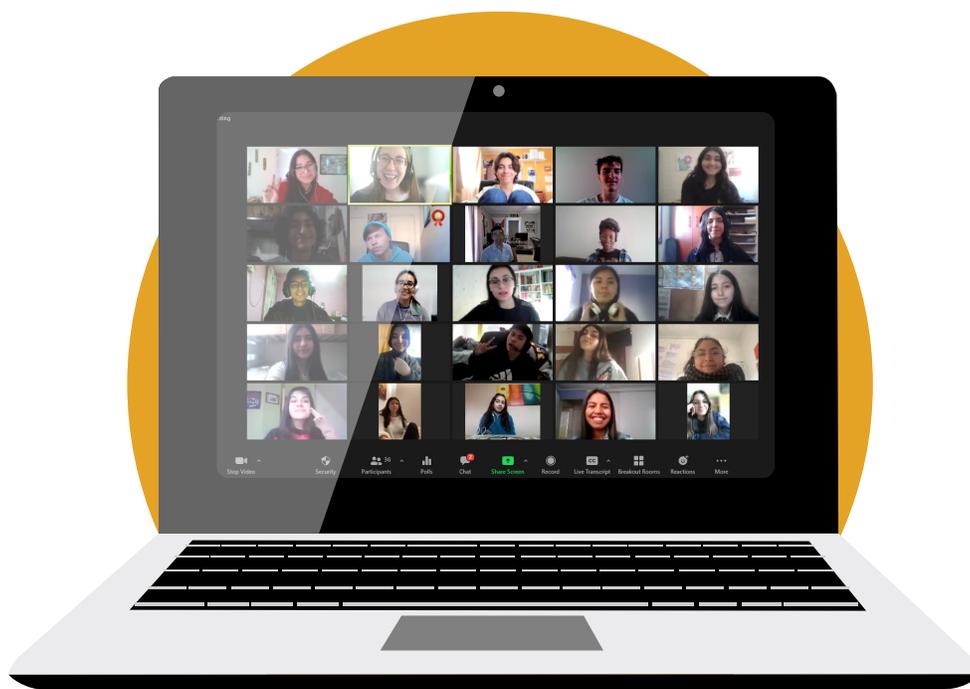
The Youth Ambassadors Program brings together high school students and adult mentors from across the Western Hemisphere to promote mutual understanding, increase leadership skills, and prepare youth to make a difference in their communities.

Through in-person or virtual exchange programs, Youth Ambassadors participants will engage in experiential learning activities; leadership trainings; civic participation at the community level; mentoring by community, business, and NGO leaders; engaging with local host families, and volunteering. Exchange subthemes include social inclusion, entrepreneurship, innovation and environmental protection. The Youth Ambassadors Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

Program Goals

(as defined by the U.S. Department of State)

- To develop a cadre of young adults who have a strong sense of civic responsibility, a commitment to community development, an awareness of current & global issues, and strong interpersonal leadership skills;
- To foster relationships among youth from different ethnic, religious, and national groups; and
- To promote mutual understanding, respect, and collaboration between the United States and our Western Hemisphere counterparts.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: BELARUS



The Community Connections Program in Belarus brings together professionals from Belarus with U.S. counterparts through tailored professional exchanges in communities across the U.S. Participants establish professional connections, learn about the advantages and disadvantages of a democratic, free-market economy, and examine practices and experience that may be adapted back home to address local challenges.

During 2021, Global Ties KC hosted two Community Connections programs for students from Belarus. In June, 30 students came together for a 3-week program, followed by another 27 students in October. Both projects focused on “Entrepreneurship Education for Belarusian Teenagers”. By the end, the teams created high quality business pitches for businesses that could realistically thrive in today’s economy.

Participants were ages 12-17. Through six Zoom sessions for each program, participants met with Kansas City-based entrepreneurs and created business ventures in student teams. Students learned about a variety of business topics, from social entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and the business model canvas.

A Special Thanks to:

Natalie Sheina, Belarus Center for Comfortable Communication
Michael Farmer, Blue Valley CAPS
Anthony Arquieta, youth entrepreneur
Cindy Laufer, UMKC Center for Nonprofit Leadership
Judy Sherry, Grandparents Against Gunviolence
Kristan Chamberlain, KC Can Compost
Kim Riley, The Transition Academy
Katie Mabry van Dieren, Strawberry Swing
Ilya Tabakh, Entrepreneur in Residence, Black and Veatch
Greg Brown, Blue Valley CAPS
Adam Fichman, Lifted Logic
Austin Jones, Drone Estate



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

BELARUS

DIVERSEKC.ORG

A GLOBAL TIES KC INITIATIVE

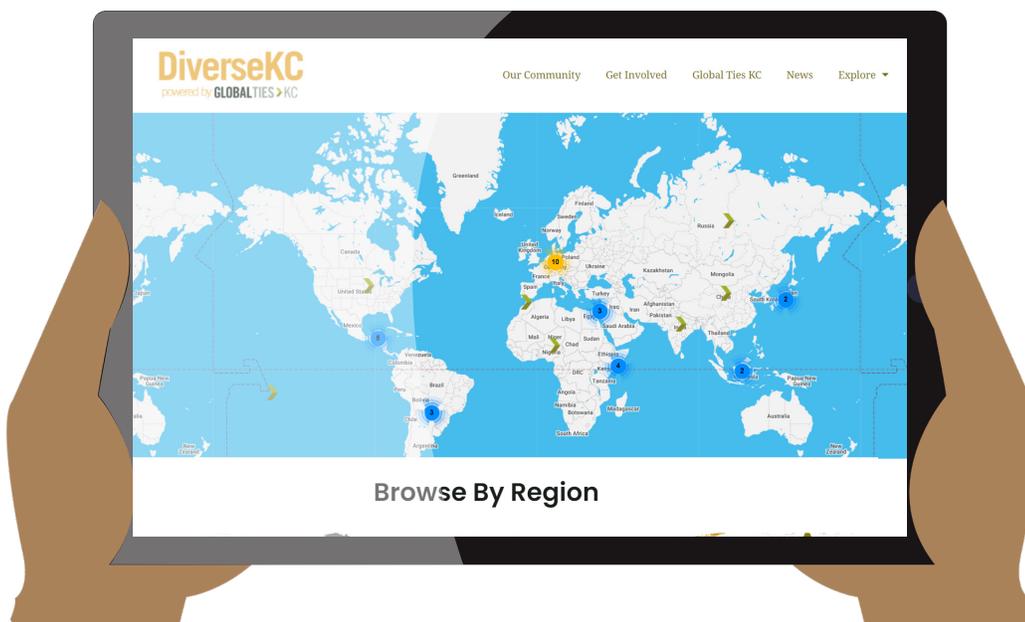
The Greater Kansas City area is a rich cultural tapestry, with a wide array of minority communities that play a key role in making the region grow and prosper. To shine light on these vibrant communities, Global Ties KC embarked on a 9-month initiative in the fall of 2020, #DiverseKC, to highlight these connections. Over the past year, we have chosen one country a week to showcase across social media, in our live virtual Global Spokes conversation series, and in our weekly emails. The entire Diverse KC series was designed to be accessible, educational, enlightening, and entertaining, with the goal to connect the local community to the world.

Kansas City is home to citizens from every corner of the world, with 6.5% of our community comprised of immigrants. Moreover, our economy is incredibly dependent on international trade: in 2018, the Kansas City area economy exported \$7.3 Billion in goods, making us the 47th largest exporter among US metro areas! Over the last five years, Global Ties KC has hosted over 1,870 visitors from 178 countries, and one of the values of this year-long series was creating the regular space to feature our alumni connections.

In part, the #DiverseKC initiative was inspired by the goal of supporting the Welcoming Kansas City Region plan, as a part of Welcoming America, a national organization that assists nonprofit and governmental entities interested in transforming their communities into more welcoming places.

Throughout this initiative, we highlighted international ties with the consular corps, sister cities, universities, local businesses, restaurants and festivals.

Learn more at: diversekc.org/



YOUTH DIPLOMATS



Global Ties KC began implementing Youth Diplomats programming in 2019 to encourage youth to become citizen diplomats right here in the Midwest. Citizen diplomacy is considered to be the right and responsibility that each global citizen has to engage across cultures to create shared understanding through meaningful personal encounters. Since then, Global Ties KC has provided developmental programming to over 100 high school aged students in Missouri and Kansas.

Global Ties KC Youth Diplomats Programming Includes:

1. 9-months Youth Dipomats Institute
2. Public youth-centric community events
3. Summer Washington D.C. conference



YOUTH DIPLOMATS

Youth Diplomats Institute 2021 by the Numbers

➤ 55 Students

➤ 11 Meetings

➤ 29 Schools

2019		2020	
24	Students	27	Students
7	Meeting	11	Meeting
13	Schools	14	Schools



YOUTH DIPLOMATS



The Youth Diplomats Institute is a nine-month real world program that equips teens in Kansas and Missouri with the tools necessary for success in a global society.

Selected participants meet once a month to explore topics in global affairs and diplomacy. These meetings will build your cross-cultural communication skills, help you discover college and career options, allow you to network with global experts, and participate in service projects alongside international visitors.

Global Ties KC graduated 22 high school students in the spring of 2021 and welcomed 55 new students in the fall - demonstrating our commitment to inclusion and accessibility through the expansion of the program to include fully virtual cohorts. From Udall, KS to Lamar, MO, this year has the greatest representation of our bi-state community. Program opportunities include diplomacy simulations, networking sessions, resume building workshops, and more.

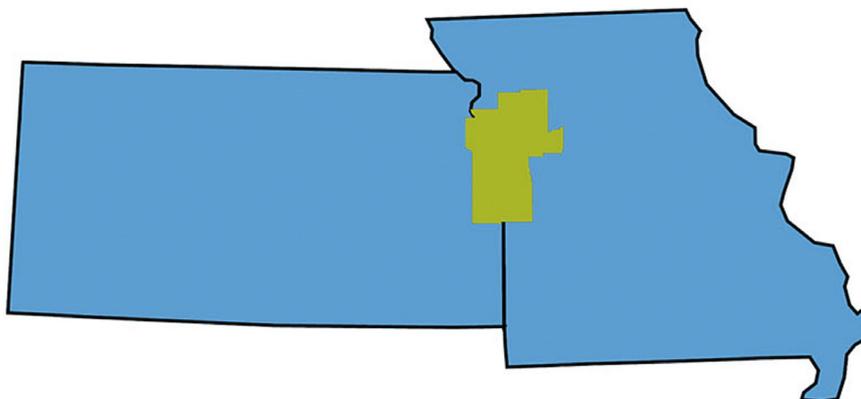
The Global Ties KC Youth Diplomats Institute

- Facilitates cultural connections and international exchange
- Develops skills for collaboration across diverse teams
- Increases representation of minority, female, inner-city and rural students to international career paths
- Provides access to international career paths in business and diplomacy

KANSAS
Virtual Institute

KANSAS CITY
In-Person Institute

MISSOURI
Virtual Institute



Program Objectives

- Expose students to different cultures to develop a higher understanding of diversity and inclusion
- Develops students' professional skills through networking and career tool discovery and personalization
- Create opportunities for students to learn about different global career paths burgeoning workforce for employees
- Connecting students with their peers from different communities and schools, and facilitate interactions to develop better understanding of their own surroundings

The YDI program has helped me support and become more involved in my community. From Volunteering to supporting local businesses and learning new cultures around me.

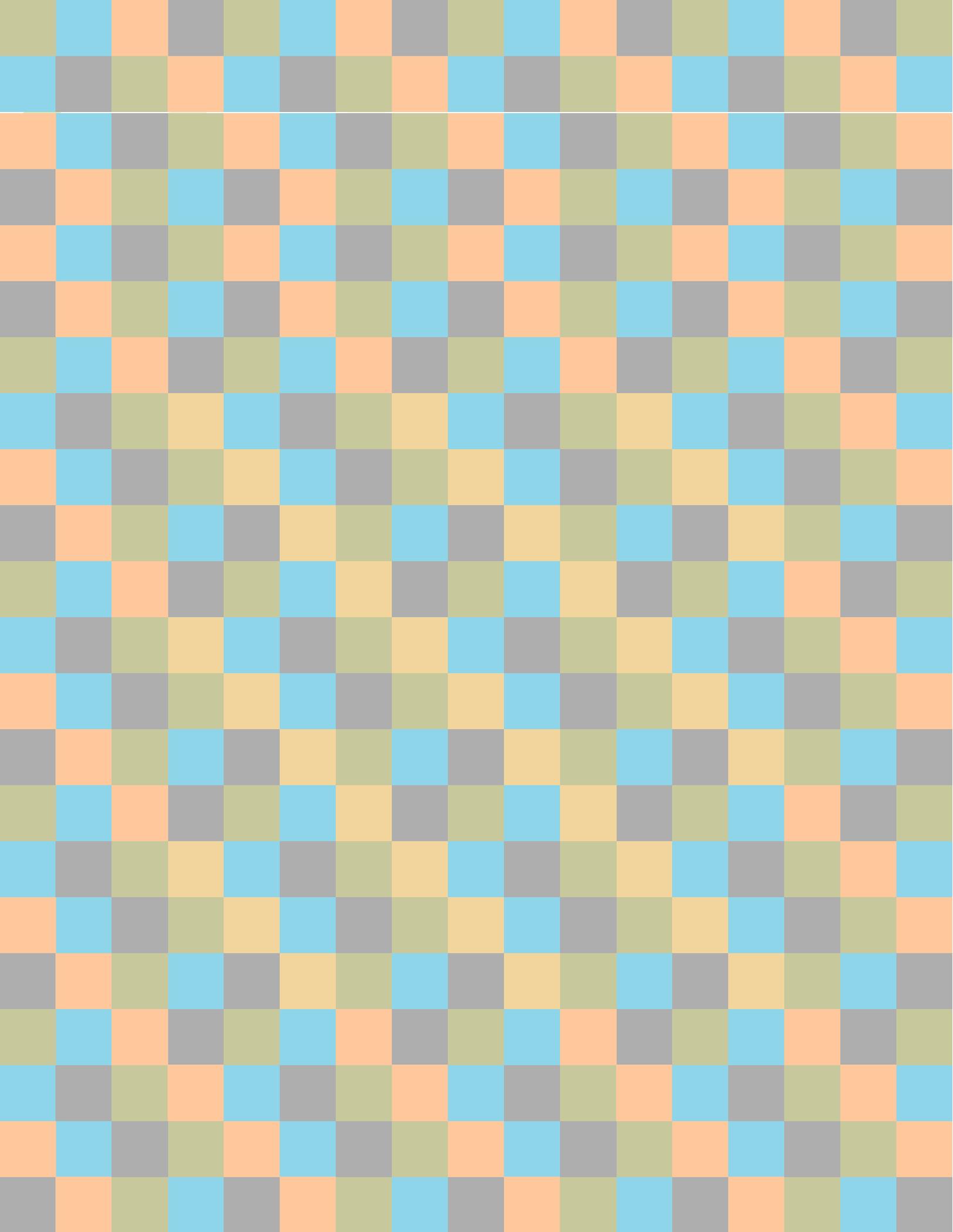
I met people I never would have met otherwise, listened to people with careers I didn't even know existed, and was given opportunities to grow as a person and a leader.

Through the Youth Diplomats Program, I have gained more pride in where I come from—KC—and had experiences in diplomacy that made me more passionate about sharing my story and learning others'.

A YEAR VIRTUAL...



**...A LIFETIME OF
CONNECTION AND
POSITIVE IMPACT**



BY CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL TIES KC, YOU ARE:

Attracting future talent
to your organization

Furthering diplomacy
right here in Kansas City

Promoting Kansas City as
an international competitor



Empowering youth to obtain
necessary professional skills

Fostering cultural competency
in the next generation

Nurturing peace
throughout the world

