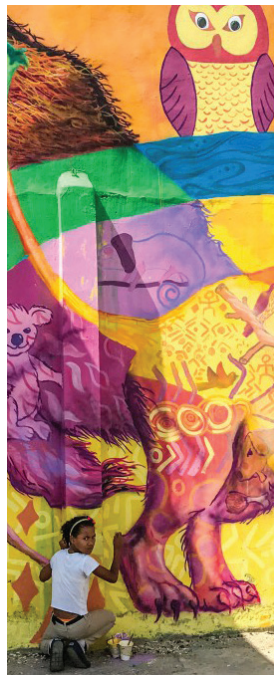


MERIDIAN ANNUAL REPORT 2017



GLOBAL REACH
NATIONAL IMPACT

ABOUT MERIDIAN



Meridian International Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan global leadership and public diplomacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. Building on more than 55 years of experience, Meridian prepares U.S. and international leaders for a complex global future through programs that help them understand critical issues and world cultures, exchange ideas, collaborate on solutions, and build valuable relationships.

OUR VISION

We envision a more secure and prosperous world characterized by mutual understanding, innovation, economic growth and inclusion. The path to realizing this vision is through more effective and connected public and private sector leadership at all levels.

OUR MISSION

Meridian builds innovative exchange, training, cultural, and convening programs that advance three goals:

- Strengthen U.S. engagement with the world
- Empower leaders to address global challenges and opportunities
- Drive collaboration across sectors, borders and cultures through a neutral platform

OUR APPROACH

Meridian's integrated programming approach provides leaders with a variety of platforms in neutral environments to develop an informed global view, cultural awareness and collaborative peer networks to produce better outcomes. When leaders return home and implement change, the impact of Meridian's programs is amplified across numerous arenas, including women and girls' empowerment, business and trade, human and civil rights, and energy and the environment. Directly impacting the quality of life for people around the globe, these issue areas are pivotal to Meridian's vision of a more secure and prosperous world today and for generations to come.

LEADERS



We bring together a cross-section of established and emerging leaders

PROGRAMS



Provide them with resources and insights on key global issues through our exchange, training, culture and convening programs

OUTCOMES



Leaders develop an informed global view, cultural awareness and collaborative peer networks that increase their effectiveness

IMPACT



Which translates into better decisions and outcomes benefiting individuals, communities and countries around the world

OUR PARTNERS

Meridian partners with the public, private and diplomatic sectors to develop exchange, training, culture and convening programs that help leaders address global challenges and opportunities.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY



MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS



EXCHANGES

BUILDING EXPERTISE
AND RELATIONSHIPS



We create tailored exchange programs that connect leaders from around the world with their American counterparts to foster collaboration on solutions to challenges facing their communities, organizations, and countries.

CULTURE

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES
AND COUNTRIES



We curate exhibitions, exchanges, and events that bridge cultural divides through the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy (MCCD). These programs increase understanding and strengthen relationships between the U.S. and countries around the world.

FORUMS

CONVENING NEUTRAL DIALOGUE
AND COLLABORATION



We connect Washington with the world by bringing business and policy communities together with the diplomatic corps through programs that provide insights on a broad range of issues. Our convening platforms create opportunities to build networks, exchange ideas, and forge sustainable solutions to shared challenges worldwide.

TRAINING

PREPARING LEADERS FOR SUCCESS
IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT



We customize training programs that combine instruction and experiential learning to ensure that our private and public sector partners are equipped to navigate global challenges and opportunities. We believe that the strength of a training program lies in its ability to connect people with issues as well as broader global networks.

OUR LEADERSHIP

01.01.2017 – 12.31.2017

MERIDIAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

* Indicates non-voting member

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Senior Counsel, Hogan Lovells US, LLP

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Senior Vice President,
Professional Exchanges Division

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Professional Exchanges Division

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Human Resources and Administration

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Professional Exchanges Division

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GlobalConnect

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Finance and Accounting

TERRY K. HARVEY
Vice President,
Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy

FRANK JUSTICE
Vice President,
Convening

MERIDIAN CAMPUS



Photo credit: Egomedia Photography

Meridian's campus features two historic buildings, Meridian House and White-Meyer House. Surrounded by gardens, it forms a city block of historic and architectural interest. The campus is the residential jewel of John Russell Pope, architect of the Jefferson Memorial, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Archives. Both houses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Photo credit: Egomedia Photography

MERIDIAN HOUSE

Built between 1921 and 1923 by Ambassador Irwin Boyle Laughlin, U.S. Ambassador to Greece (1924-1926) and Spain (1929-1933).

WHITE-MEYER HOUSE

Built between 1910 and 1912 by Ambassador Henry White, U.S. Ambassador to Italy (1905-1906) and France (1906-1909), and now home to Meridian's Cafritz Galleries.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



This past year marked a turning point for the United States and its role in the world today. A polarized political climate, the economic stagnation of a large segment of Americans, and the minimized importance of global alliances have fueled a false dichotomy between globalism and nationalism. Meridian believes that we do not have to choose one or the other. The United States is stronger at home when globally engaged, setting the tone for collaboration and consensus building across nations in order to build a more secure and prosperous world for all.

Every day, in every corner of the world, Meridian advances U.S. engagement and builds global leaders through exchange, training, culture and convening programs. While our work is global in reach, the foundation and impact of our programs is national.

Meridian's work on the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) last year brought 1,830 international participants on 244 exchange programs to 336 U.S. cities – from Guntersville, Alabama to Lawrence, Kansas to Rapid City, South Dakota. Americans coast to coast collaborated on these exchanges, benefiting from the millions of dollars of direct economic value generated in their local communities as well as the long-lasting relationships and reciprocal insights developed along the way. Congress reaffirmed the value of international exchanges by maintaining funding levels for public and cultural diplomacy initiatives, including the IVLP.

Entrepreneurship training continues to be a cornerstone of Meridian's work. The 2017 Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) brought 250 promising entrepreneurs from Latin America and the Caribbean to the U.S. for an exchange to equip them with knowledge, resources and networks to succeed in the digital commerce era. Since 2016, over 26 U.S. communities have hosted and mentored 500 YLA Fellows, while over 70 U.S. mentors have traveled to Latin America and the Caribbean to help fellows implement community projects. These trainings connect entrepreneurs across borders to stimulate commerce, create networks, and catalyze growth in both directions.

Beyond this year's professional exchanges, Meridian leveraged the power of American arts and culture to strengthen bilateral relationships, bridge cultural divides and address global issues. We curated a record number of exhibitions traveling from Canada to India, while arts professionals from Sweden and South Africa visited American cultural capitals like Austin, New York and San Francisco. In Japan, over 27,000 people learned about America's value of sports from ex-Major League Baseball players Warren Cromartie and Masanori "Mashi" Murakami at the *Pacific Pitch: U.S.-Japan Baseball Diplomacy* exhibition.

The global reach and national impact of our work also manifests in Washington, D.C. through Meridian's convening programs. As a non-partisan institution, Meridian offers the diplomatic community a neutral platform to accelerate collaboration with the public and private sectors on critical economic and security issues. Our convening programs enhance the foreign diplomats' understanding of America's democracy and their ability to effectively partner with the American people.

The challenges facing our world and our country are serious. We are thankful to our partners and supporters who share our belief that U.S. global engagement is vital for a more secure and prosperous nation and world. Our impact is possible because of your sustained support and dedication. Thank you again and we look forward to continuing our work together into the coming year.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MERIDIAN STAFF – THANK YOU!

SECRETARY CARLOS M. GUTIERREZ
Chairman

AMBASSADOR STUART W. HOLLIDAY
President and CEO



BRINGING LEADERS TOGETHER FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES

British American Parliamentary Group 40th Anniversary

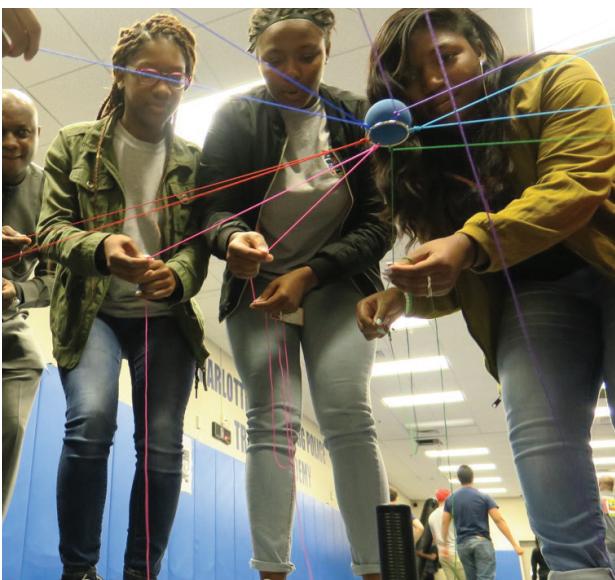
Meridian designed and implemented the 40th iteration of the U.S. Department of State's 10-day exchange, the "British American Parliamentary Group" project of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Founded in 1977, and implemented each year since, the project brings together British parliamentarians and Congressional members for discussions on governance and transparency, campaign best practices, and bilateral relations. Representing major parties in the British government, the parliamentarians made district visits with eight Congressional members including Representatives Robert Aderholt (Republican – Alabama, 4th District), French Hill (Republican – Arkansas, 2nd District), and Charlie Crist (Democrat – Florida, 13th District).



STRENGTHENING JOURNALISM ACROSS THE WORLD

New and Traditional Broadcast Media

In March 2017, Meridian brought together 22 radio, television, and online journalists and media professionals from different world regions to join the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) for a project on "New and Traditional Broadcast Media." The project examined the history, structure, and function of reporting in the United States. Participants explored the role of the media, including social media, in supporting democratic institutions and connecting civil society groups around the world. At the end of the project, participants created short films about the influence of the media on the local community's vision of the American Dream.



ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Youth Inspiring Leadership and Civic Participation

In June 2017, Meridian administered the "Youth Inspiring Leadership and Civic Participation" project of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), bringing 23 young leaders from all over the world to explore advocacy and leadership strategies and to facilitate empowerment and justice. During each local project, the participants volunteered with organizations including the Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte, North Carolina; Manan Food Pantries in Pensacola, Florida; and the Rotary Club in Cleveland, Ohio. Their itinerary also included a Gallup Strengths Finder workshop that helped participants identify their leadership aptitudes.



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative

For the second year, Meridian organized, with the U.S. Department of State, the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA), which brings 250 fellows from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States for entrepreneurial leadership training. Over 26 communities and 70 businesses in the U.S. mentored fellows who leveraged their experience to drive social and economic development in their local communities.



UNITING LEADERS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE COLORADO RIVER

The U.S., Mexico, and the Colorado River: A Binational Program on Water Use

Meridian hosted a U.S.-Mexico exchange for 32 leaders including consultants, grassroots advocates, and other water managers focused on the preservation and maintenance of the Colorado River. The program was designed in close collaboration with the Walton Family Foundation to identify gaps and solutions by facilitating conversations with leaders in the United States and Mexico, with the aim of increasing their understanding of the water management strategies on each side of the border.



CATALYZING EGYPTIAN ENTERPRISE

AECOM/SEED Egypt Entrepreneurship Program

The Strengthening Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (SEED) Project is a U.S. AID-funded initiative to improve the availability and accessibility of entrepreneurship services for women, youth and other marginalized populations. Last fall, 19 Egyptian entrepreneurs came to the U.S. to observe firsthand the operation and execution of high-functioning, public and private sector hatchery, incubator, and accelerator service providers. The program also introduced participants to federal, state and local officials, small business owners, and academic and nonprofit organizations who help shape entrepreneurial policy.



ADVANCING NATIONAL INTERESTS IN A GLOBALIZED SOCIETY

6th Annual Meridian Global Leadership Summit

Over 150 leaders across international business, foreign embassies, U.S. government and civil society gathered for the 6th Annual Meridian Global Leadership Summit to examine how the U.S. can be stronger at home when globally engaged. The speakers agreed that America's international engagement sets the tone for collaboration and consensus building across nations, which helps build a more secure and prosperous world for all. Featured speakers included Mexican Ambassador H.E. Gerónimo Gutiérrez, Finnish Ambassador H.E. Kirsti Kauppi, Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA), House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), BBC Anchor Katty Kay, Carlyle Group President and COO Glenn Youngkin, philanthropist David Rubenstein and U.S. News & World Report Editor Brian Kelly.



SHOWCASING U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS

Cultural Diplomacy Forum on India

In 2017, Meridian's annual Diplomacy Forum explored political, economic, and cultural ties between the world's largest democracy, India, and one of the world's oldest democracies, the United States. An afternoon of featured speakers and panel discussions segued to an evening cultural celebration showcasing Indian cuisine, dance, music and body art. Featured speakers included Indian Ambassador H.E. Navtej Sarna, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), actor and film director Omi Vaidya, and Ambassador Frank G. Wisner (U.S. Ambassador to India, 1994-1997). Indian Parliamentarian Dr. Shashi Tharoor's keynote address revolved around soft power, referencing India's tools such as yoga and Bollywood along with the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program as shining examples.



FOSTERING ECONOMIC INCLUSION FOR THE DIGITAL FUTURE

Digital Finance Future: Inclusive and Global Economic Growth

In partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Meridian hosted a nine-part convening series that brought together over 400 experts, influencers and decision makers to explore how digital tools can bring underprivileged populations around the world into the formal financial system and alleviate global poverty. Program topics explored access to agricultural finance, minimizing risks to cross-border financial flows, benefits of biometrics and digital identification, and the role of data and regulatory technologies. Communications initiatives and a scholarship program sustained participant engagement even after the in-person convening series came to a close.



PUBLIC ART IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND NIGERIA

Murals Engage Exchange

Building on the success of previous Community Engagement through the Mural Arts programs, Meridian designed two public art projects, in Santiago, Dominican Republic, and Lagos, Nigeria, with the support of local embassies. The projects addressed themes of environmental sustainability and peace and security, respectively. Both murals beautify their settings and serve as a tangible reminder of the collaborative process.



FIGHT THE POWER: USING HIP HOP TO EXPLORE CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Next Level USA

Through hip hop music and dance, Next Level fosters cross-cultural creative expression and exchange in diverse and underserved communities. In partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Next Level traveled to Morocco, Azerbaijan, and Egypt. The program empowers teams of multi-disciplinary artists to facilitate workshops on entrepreneurship and conflict resolution, as well as to collaborate with local audiences through live performances and jam sessions.

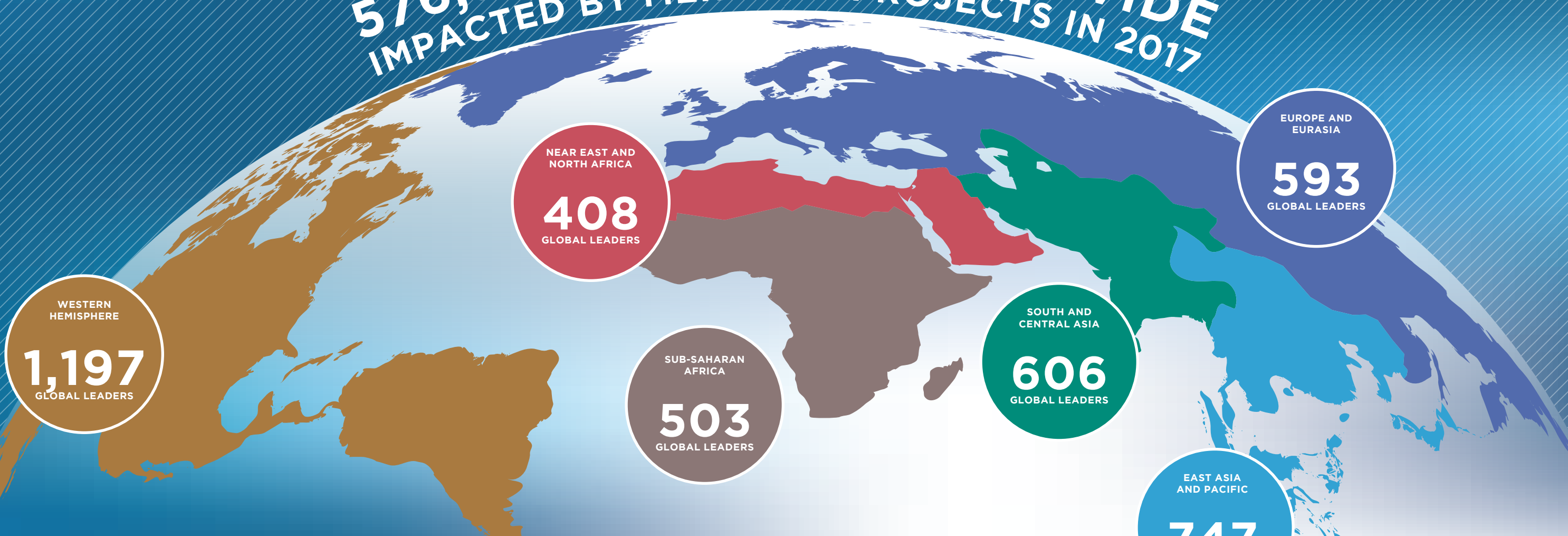


SHARING A NATIONAL PASTIME AND THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK

Pacific Pitch: U.S.-Japan Baseball Diplomacy

Curated by Meridian with support from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, *Pacific Pitch: U.S.-Japan Baseball Diplomacy* charts the history of our shared national pastime and the pivotal role it played in building our strong alliance we have today. The photo exhibition debuted at the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library and traveled to Osaka and Fukushima. The opening reception welcomed a number of distinguished guests including baseball player Warren Cromartie who played professionally with both the Nippon Professional Baseball and Major League Baseball.

576,500 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE IMPACTED BY MERIDIAN PROJECTS IN 2017



357 PROJECTS

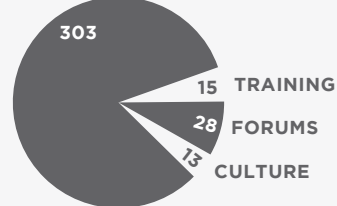
Produced and implemented by Meridian in 2017

TOP 10 COUNTRIES BY NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN 2017



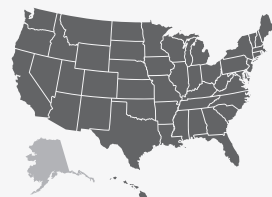
NUMBER OF MERIDIAN PROJECTS BY PROGRAM AREA

EXCHANGES



47 U.S. STATES AND 334 CITIES

visited by exchange participants



3,791 GLOBAL LEADERS

Participated in Meridian's 2017 projects

GLOBAL LEADERS FROM TOP 10 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



70,800 ATTENDEES of Meridian Programs Worldwide in 2017

2,685 ATTENDEES of Meridian Programs at Meridian Campus in Washington, DC in 2017

TOP 5 PROJECT TOPICS IN 2017



SINCE 1960, MERIDIAN HAS WELCOMED AND TRAINED

70,904 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATS, FORTUNE 500 EXECUTIVES AND OTHER EMERGING LEADERS

4 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

168 HEADS OF STATE

25% OF GLOBAL LEADERS

represented the top 10 participating countries

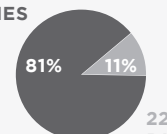
75% OF GLOBAL LEADERS

from the rest of the world

173 COUNTRIES

from all 6 Regions Represented in Meridian's 2017 projects

173 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



22 COUNTRIES DID NOT PARTICIPATE

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

"Informed ppl are vital to a democracy"- Turkish journalists explore @washingtonpost bullpen w/ editor @richleiby #IVLP #ExchangeOurWorld

8:58 AM - 27 Jan 2017

3 Retweets 9 Likes

1 IVLP

Meridian International Center February 24, 2017 · 🌐

Nigerian visitor David Anyaefe is no stranger to hardship. Mr. Anyaefe was involved in an attack that left him without hands. Since then, he has dedicated his life to addressing difficulties many disabled people face in securing health-care in his country. The culmination of his work is the Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), Nigeria's first NGO to fully concentrate on serving the disabled population. Mr. Anyaefe is now participating in an #IVLP focused on providing health care to marginalized populations. This photo shows him answering questions about his work in global health during a panel discussion hosted by the Washington Global Health Alliance and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

CC: International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Exchange Programs - U.S. Department of State

53 Likes 29 Comments 15 Shares

Meridian International Center meridianintl Meridian International Center

meridianintl welcome the Honorable Minister of Health to the National School of Dance to celebrate #MIDForum

18 Likes

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

Thank you to Finnish poet and First Lady Jenni Haukio for joining us at Meridian for a conversation on cultural diplomacy @usemfinland

1:18 PM - 18 Sep 2017

18 Retweets 45 Likes

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

Women parliamentarians from #Nepal pose at #Massachusetts State House after discussing women's political participation w/ @MAWomensCaucus

7:49 AM - 28 Mar 2017 from Washington, DC

15 Retweets 29 Likes

1 Exchange Alumni, IVLP and Exchange Programs

1

15 29

Gulf Coast Diplomacy @GCCDC_Pensacola · 28 Mar 2017

Replying to @MeridianIntl @ExchangeAlumni and 3 others

We can't wait to meet you #Pensacola!

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

Uni students from #Lebanon, #Belgium, and #Italy present local #CVE strategies in @facebook global digital challenge #ExchangeOurWorld

8:33 AM - 8 Feb 2017

4 Retweets 18 Likes

1 ReAct, YOU-mix, ACT and 2 others

Lcc Institute @Lccinstitute · 23 Feb 2017

Replying to @MeridianIntl @StateIVLP and 5 others

Mighty CVE way. Fight cultures of unity & look-alikes

Meridian International Center meridianintl Meridian International Center

meridianintl The tapestry in these photos was commissioned in 1882 by King Charles 6 of England, and later purchased by Irvn Langford. It has been the backdrop of discussions and exchanges between tens of thousands of international and U.S. leaders in the Meridian House dining room, which was designed around it.

#ir #tapestry #historichouse #international #internationalexchange #meridianhouse cool-media

18 Likes

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

Tourism industry pros from 22 countries learn about New Mexico's history & culture through its indigenous cuisine #IVLP #ExchangeOurWorld

1:34 PM - 30 May 2017

7 Retweets 14 Likes

1 IVLP, Santa Fe CR, Samuel Demaris and 2 others

Meridian International Center April 6, 2017 · 🌐

Nuestra directora del programa de Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative - YLAI tiene oportunidad de hablar sobre el programa en una entrevista en vivo desde Canal 2 en Español más sobre esta oportunidad de intercambio y postula ahora! ylai.state.gov/vivo

187 Views

Meridianhouse · Following Meridian International Center

meridianhouse Ending the night with a little #meridianhouse. Thank you for the lovely send-off @lindsaycristina @meridianintl @davidgranger!

¡¡¡¡¡¡¡¡ Beautiful! @grahamngolden See this down somewhere recently and planned to do it for something -- you beat me to it!

102 Likes

Album 2017 MLK Day of Service at Meridian January 24, 2017 · 🌐

Meridian International Center added 19 new photos — with Meg Clifford Poole at Meridian International Center.

For this year's MLK Day of Service, Meridian partnered with Upwardly Global and Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.(ECDC) to host a "Job Prep Career Fair" to benefit resettled refugees and immigrants looking for work in the DC area. Working with a team of 50 volunteers, the participants learned how to build their resumes, participated in mock interviews, and received valuable feedback to help them in their individual job search. We are grateful for the partners, participants, and volunteers who joined us for this incredible event!

2017 MLK Day of Service at Meridian

19 Photos

15 Likes 3 Shares

Album Great War Alliance Forum

Meridian International Center added 22 new photos — with United States World War I Centennial Commission and 2 others at Meridian International Center.

September 21, 2017 · 🌐

To commemorate the centennial of the entry of the United States in World War I, Meridian hosted a full-day forum to explore the enduring legacy of the Great War through panel discussions with war historians, Ambassadors, and public policy experts. The forum examined the transatlantic alliance among the United States, Great Britain and France formed 100 years ago as a result of this conflict, and the relevance of this trilateral relationship on today's geopolitical climate. Photos by Jenny Lehman

Great War Alliance Forum

22 Photos

14 Likes 1 Comment 2 Shares

BRINGING THE WORLD TOGETHER MERIDIAN.ORG

Meridian International Center meridianintl

meridianintl Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA) emphasizes importance of bipartisan collaboration on domestic & foreign issues #MeridianSummit

65 Likes

Meridian International Center meridianintl

meridianintl In December 2016, YLAI Fellows set up #meridianhouse, an auxiliary for refugees. The assembly was the direct result of their collaboration and interaction as part of the Young Transatlantic Leadership Initiative, implemented by Meridian International Center. This was the first 16 refugees graduated from the first #meridianhouse class. 🇺🇸 #ExchangeOurWorld

62 Likes

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

In #MICIndiaForum keynote, @ShashiTharoor asks enduring question about #India's great power status, emphasizing soft power advantages.

2:08 PM - 8 Jun 2017 from Meridian International Center

9 Retweets 23 Likes

1

9 23

DrThinkTank · 9 Jun 2017

Replying to @MeridianIntl @ShashiTharoor

India's Soft-Power/Call Comes From The East! www.drtank.org/article/2017/ WE EMPHASIZED IT WHEN ST'S PARTY WAS IN POWER!

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

Turkey? Mashed potatoes? Stuffing? Check, check, and check. #TBT to #Thanksgiving2017 when Japanese #IVLP visitors were invited into an American home for a classic Thanksgiving meal!

9:19 AM - 21 Dec 2017

2 Retweets 14 Likes

Meridian International Center added 3 new photos — with Bipin Babu. August 2, 2017 · 🌐

"I am widowed, but I am not vulnerable. I am widowed, but I am able to stand and be the voice of those widows who have none."

Yesterday, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alum from #Nigeria Chigozie Udemezue gave inspiring remarks about believing in herself, overcoming loss, and the impact of the #IVLP on her life.

"IVLP was a 360 degree change that took me from success to significance," Gozie said. The meetings during her 2006 program inspired her to found three nonprofit organizations dedicated to education for girls, as well as advocacy for the rights of widows.

Cynthia Willson, the liaison on her 2006 IVLP, gave her \$100 in seed funding at the end of the program. Cynthia and Chigozie were emotionally reunited this week for Chigozie's second program through the IVLP Gold Stars project.

Find out more about the IVLP Gold Stars project here: <http://www.meridian.org/.../meridian-hosts-gold-star-ivlp-.../> U.S. Department of State U.S. Embassy Nigeria

28 Likes 2 Comments 14 Shares

Meridian Int'l Center @MeridianIntl

Earlier from today's #RoadtoGES discussion, panelists and guests--including alumni from the @YLAINetwork--discussed how global entrepreneurship can help create more inclusive networks and pathways to success.

12:18 PM - 20 Nov 2017

5 Retweets 11 Likes

1 Stuart Holiday, Lee Satterfield, Lakshmi Challa and 5 others

1 5 11

Zahra Lakhani @StylebyZahra · 24 Nov 2017

Replying to @MeridianIntl @ChallaLaw and 8 others

Tell me you rocked it!

Meridian International Center meridianintl Meridian International Center

meridianintl "Bloom where you are planted." 🌸 Happy First Day of Spring! #springtime #sunshinedays #washingtondc cool-media 🇺🇸

72 Likes

MERIDIAN DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Meridian's digital engagement advances the global reach of our work by leveraging custom content that positions us as thought leaders on international exchange and public diplomacy. Through the power of visual and social media, we showcase the national impact of our international engagement through numerous platforms and apps. Connecting with the world beyond our Washington, DC campus also keeps our alumni networks actively engaged and our global influencer network excited to convert individuals around the world into champions of Meridian. This increased visibility of our programs that foster the exchange of people, culture and ideas helps make Meridian a more recognizable and trusted voice for global leadership.

[@meridianintl](https://twitter.com/meridianintl) [/meridianinternationalcenter](https://facebook.com/meridianinternationalcenter) [@meridianintl](https://instagram.com/meridianintl)

[/company/meridian-international-center/](https://linkedin.com/company/meridian-international-center/) [MeridianCommunity](https://youtube.com/MeridianCommunity)

blog.meridian.org meridian.org

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MERIDIAN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

MERIDIAN.ORG/MGLC

This year marked the launch of the Meridian Global Leadership Council, a network of leaders and advisors in Washington and around the country who are committed to broadening the depth and outreach of our important work through their financial support and engagement in our curated programs and events throughout the year. The Council exists at the center of Meridian's engagement among the diplomatic community, government policy makers and leaders from the business, cultural and philanthropic circles. Membership ranges from \$1,500 to \$10,000. Program highlights this past year included:



Entrée to Dialogue Salon Dinner hosted at Masseria on Food, Global Issues and Diplomacy with the Ambassador of Ireland, Ambassador of Singapore and Ambassador of Switzerland.



New Ambassadors Reception welcomed the Ambassadors of Bahrain, Colombia, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Swaziland and Togo to Meridian.



Tea with Finnish First Lady, Mrs. Jenni Haukio (right), who met with members for a discussion on the role of the arts and culture in diplomacy.

49TH ANNUAL MERIDIAN BALL

MERIDIAN.ORG/BALL

On October 20, 2017, Meridian hosted its 49th Annual Meridian Ball, welcoming the largest number of distinguished guests in the event's history. For nearly 50 years, the Meridian Ball has served as a special opportunity for leaders across the public and private sectors in Washington, D.C. and beyond to come together in the spirit of international collaboration and celebrate Meridian's ongoing efforts to prepare leaders for a complex global future through the exchange of ideas, people and culture.



BALL LEADERSHIP

Honorary Chair: First Lady Melania Trump
Congressional Co-Chairs: Senator Mark Warner and Ms. Lisa Collis, and House Speaker Paul Ryan and Mrs. Janna Ryan
Ball Chairs: The Honorable Tom C. Korologos and The Honorable Ann McLaughlin Korologos
White-Meyer Co-Chairs: Mr. Glenn Youngkin and Mrs. Suzanne Youngkin, and Mr. Andrew Florance and Mrs. Heather Florance



EMBASSY PATRONS

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iraq, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia.

MERIDIAN CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

MERIDIAN CORPORATE COUNCIL

MERIDIAN.ORG/CORPORATE

Meridian's Corporate Council is a platform for U.S. and international companies to dialogue and network on key global economic issues with diplomatic and government officials. In 2017, Meridian hosted 17 installments of its Global Business @ Meridian Downtown roundtable series, which facilitates off-the-record discussions among Corporate Council members, foreign Ambassadors and U.S. government officials on business opportunities and challenges in countries around the world. Highlights included:



Meridian welcomed The Honorable Raymond W. Washburne, President and CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a [Global Business @ Meridian Downtown](#) breakfast. Hosted by Mr. Robert Kapla, Partner and Chair of the International Policy Practice at Squire Patton Boggs, the program drew over 20 corporate leaders together to engage on economic challenges and opportunities in trade policy negotiations in the U.S.



Meridian partnered with AT&T to co-host a [Global Dialogue Dinner for His Excellency Gerónimo Gutiérrez](#), Ambassador of Mexico to the United States. The event gathered public and private sector leaders to discuss the U.S.-Mexico relationship, using the contentious NAFTA negotiations as a launching pad to elaborate on important political, economic and social ties between the two countries.



[Smart Governance, Smart Living: Opportunities and Risks in an Internet of Things \(IoT\) World](#) drew representatives from over 25 countries and nine commercial sectors to collaboratively discuss how IoT would affect their countries and communities in the future. Culminating the forum was a keynote address by Grace Koh, who served as The White House's Special Assistant to the President for Technology, Telecom, and Cyber-Security Policy.

MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER EXTENDS ITS THANKS TO MEMBERS OF THE MERIDIAN CORPORATE COUNCIL



RISING LEADERS COUNCIL



The Meridian Rising Leaders Council is a distinguished network of mid-career professionals in their 30s and 40s based in Washington, who come together for substantive exchange of ideas and support Meridian's mission of global leadership and non-partisan public diplomacy. These Rising Leaders are from diverse sectors of international relations, including the foreign diplomatic community, the U.S. government, the media, nonprofits, think tanks, the arts and the private sector. The Council offers members a neutral forum to explore key issues, share perspectives, engage in provocative conversation and strengthen peer relationships. The Rising Leaders Council's constituency continues to grow to include the next generation of global leaders in and beyond Washington.

MERIDIAN.ORG/RLC



2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 989,305
Receivables, net	3,626,328
Prepaid expenses	710,253
Investments	7,170,920
Property held for sale	1,055,937
Property and equipment, net	4,738,109

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 18,290,852

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Line of credit	\$ 600,000
Accounts payable	1,289,772
Accrued expenses	2,069,666
Capital leases	49,851
Deferred revenue – General	1,562,941
Deferred revenue – Property held for sale	2,500,000
Term loan	2,878,612

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 10,950,842

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 6,325,161
Temporarily restricted	331,242
Permanently restricted	683,607

TOTAL NET ASSETS 7,340,010

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 18,290,852

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

REVENUES

Grants and contracts	\$ 31,493,536
Contributions	2,297,456
Events and special activities	703,056
Investment income	901,034

TOTAL REVENUES \$ 35,395,082

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS:

International visitor leadership program	\$ 15,826,209
Other exchange programs	11,694,011
Cultural programs	910,241
Convenings	425,116

DEVELOPMENT

984,557

SUPPORT SERVICES:

General and administrative	\$ 3,025,626
Maintenance and operations	1,803,774

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 34,669,534

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$ 725,548

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR 6,614,462

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$ 7,340,010

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01.01.2017 – 12.31.2017

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