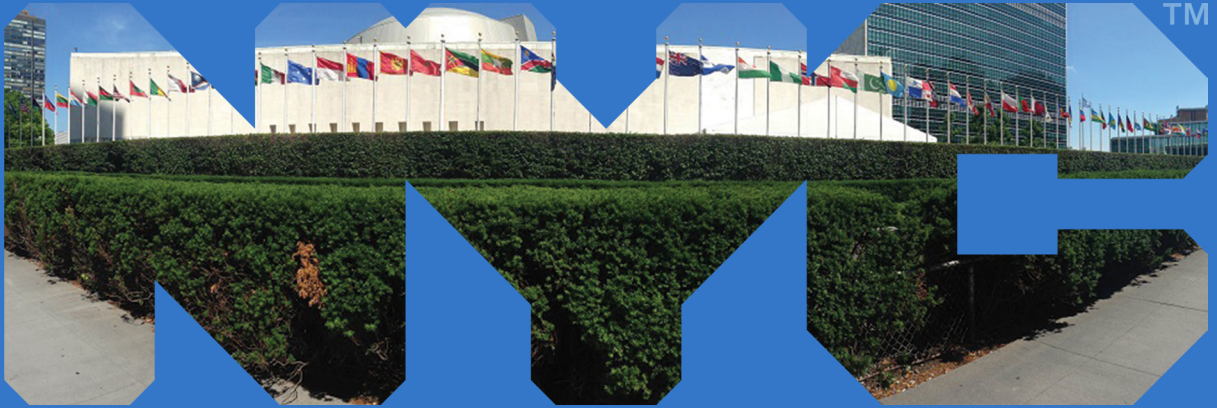


Global NYC

2016

MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

NYC
Mayor's Office for
International Affairs



The New York City Mayor’s Office for International Affairs serves as a global platform from which the City promotes its goals for a more just and equitable society, showcases the diversity of New Yorkers, and exchanges policies and best practices with the international community.

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Instagram: [nycinternationalaffairs](https://www.instagram.com/nycinternationalaffairs)



Mayor's Office for
International Affairs

Letter from the Commissioner |

Dear Colleague:

New York City is proud to be one of the most diverse and welcoming cities in the world. More than 8.5 million residents live and work side by side and we celebrate that every faith, race and ethnicity can thrive as a community in our global City.

It is a pleasure and great honor to serve as Commissioner for the Mayor's Office for International Affairs in this vibrant and multicultural city of ours. Mayor Bill de Blasio and I are proud that New York City is also home to the largest diplomatic community in the world: 193 Permanent Missions, 114 Consulates and the headquarters of the United Nations. We are also home to over 75 trade missions. The presence of this international community reinforces our City's status as a global center.

The Office works to provide the services necessary for our diplomatic community to do its important work as well as create opportunities for partnership and collaboration between New Yorkers, City agencies and the global community. We accomplish this by facilitating meetings and connections between visiting foreign delegations and City agencies on a range of urban challenges. I'm humbled to have personally met with over 75 leaders from the international community to foster positive relations and strengthen collaboration between the diplomatic community, New York City's agencies and local neighborhoods in 2016.

In the following pages, you will have the opportunity to review the innovative ways in which this Office engages the diplomatic community through our programming: from **Connecting Local to Global** and the **New Yorkness of the UN**, to **Global Vision | Urban Action**. In 2016, the inaugural cohort of **NYC Junior Ambassadors** graduated ready to take on global challenges by acting locally in their communities and we launched a new **international Business** website to help entrepreneurs ready to expand their businesses to New York City. We released the **UN Impact Report 2016**, a cost-benefit analysis of hosting the UN permanent headquarters and larger UN Community in New York City, announced a campaign that showcases how New York City is a **#CityofUnitedNations**, and held briefings and trainings on a plethora of topics with our New York City agency partners to help our diplomatic and consular corps learn about City services.

Through reading these pages I hope you are able to view the many ways my Office is a resource and a partner to you. There is a lot of work to be done in the coming year and I look forward to doing it with you. No matter where you are from, while you are in our City, you are a New Yorker and our City will continue to stand for inclusivity where ALL rights are protected. We are #AlwaysNewYork.

Best regards,



Penny Abeywardena



New York City is honored to host the largest diplomatic community in the world. Mayor Bill de Blasio and I believe that our City's diversity is our strength, and New York City will remain a safe and welcoming place for all, including our vibrant immigrant communities. I want to reaffirm that no matter where you come from, while in our City, you are a New Yorker.



Commissioner Penny Abeywardena
Office for International Affairs

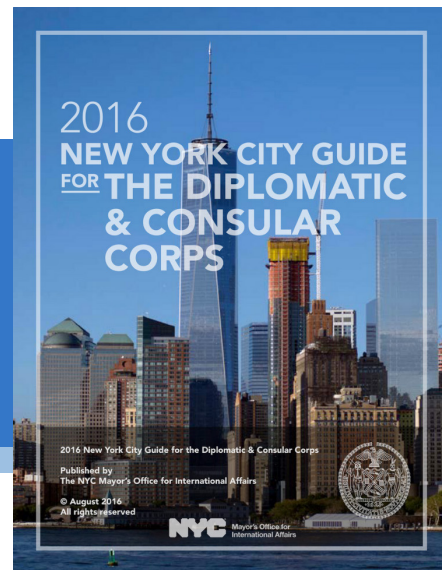
Resources

The Mayor's Office for International Affairs provides critical services and information to assist the diplomatic and consular community accomplish its important work.

City of New York/U.S. Department of State Diplomatic and Consular Parking Program: In collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, the Office administers the NYC diplomatic parking program, issuing parking decals annually and assisting diplomatic and consular offices with parking-related issues throughout the year.

Assisting the Diplomatic & Consular Corps: The Office assists Consulates General to obtain information regarding incidents involving possible injury or casualty to foreign nationals in NYC. In addition to consular notification, the Office assists the diplomatic community by working to resolve administrative disputes, ensuring that diplomats know how to comply with city rules and regulations and facilitating the work of the diplomatic and consular community in NYC as per the Vienna Conventions.

The New York City Guide for the Diplomatic & Consular Corps provides useful information for Mission and Consular officials on accessing a range of City services and addressing City-related issues.



Protocol: Our Office welcomes world leaders and foreign dignitaries to our City and seeks to further diplomatic engagements with international counterparts through meetings with Mayor Bill de Blasio and City leadership including Deputy Mayors and Commissioners.



Mayor Bill de Blasio hosts Italian President Sergio Mattarella at City Hall on Thursday, February 11, 2016. (Photo Credit: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office)

Delegation Visits: The Office facilitates meetings between NYC officials and visiting delegations of foreign government officials in order to foster learning and further engagement between NYC and governments around the world. These meetings help identify City programs and services that can be replicated in other cities, while helping NYC learn from international counterparts.



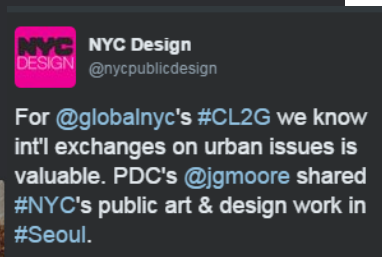
Aissata Camara, Strategic Relationships Manager in the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs, and the NYC Department of Transportation welcomed a visiting delegation from Ghana for an exchange of ideas on sustainable transport and inclusive growth.



Danny Kadishson, Director of Economic Development in the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs, and the Mayor's Office for Technology and Innovation met with representatives from the Shanghai Municipal Government to discuss smart cities and local leadership in technology.



Former NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton meets with Maina Kiai, United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedoms of association and of assembly at 1 Police Plaza.



Economic Development: The Office works with the diplomatic community, businesses, and City agencies to attract and create economic opportunities for New Yorkers. We assist international businesses and startups considering entering NYC, and assist NYC-based businesses and startups interested in selling internationally. The Office also works to connect businesses to government programs available to them, and helps promote NYC as a global hub of innovation.

Ensuring that the City's economic development remains inclusive, sustainable, and good for all New Yorkers is a priority. In 2016, the Office led the effort to ensure that the International Innovators Initiative results in the inclusion of women entrepreneurs; worked to create a connector between the employer pipeline of international startups coming into NYC and the employee pipeline of New Yorkers graduating from the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline; and identified new international sources of investment to bolster the economy of NYC.



In partnership with the NYC Economic Development Corporation, the Office launched a website to provide a one-stop resource for international businesses considering growing their businesses in NYC: nyc.gov/internationalbusiness



Connecting Local to Global (#CL2G)

The *Connecting Local to Global* (#CL2G) program connects NYC's diplomatic and consular community to the City in which they live and serve. #CL2G creates opportunities for diplomats in NYC to learn about the work of NYC agencies and to share NYC resources and programming with their diverse populations, while also sharing their own best practices.

The City's diversity is a pillar of our strength and the 114 Consulates that maintain residence in NYC are essential to our work in serving New Yorkers of all backgrounds across all five boroughs.

Giving Back



During the holiday season, in partnership with NYC Service and the Department of Homeless Services, the Office and NYC's consular and diplomatic community provided over 250 gifts and 120 winter coats for children and youth across NYC as part of the Secret Snowflake Toy Drive.



In partnership with the NYC Administration for Children's Services, the Office engaged the diplomatic and consular community to help provide school supplies for NYC school children as part of the back-to-school drive.



First Lady Chirlane McCray welcomes students from Ghana to Gracie Mansion. These students are global peers to NYC students in the Global Partners Junior program. (Photo Credit: Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Unit.)

Global Partners Junior

Global Partners Junior (GPJ) is an online exchange program that connects underserved NYC students age 9 – 13 to peers in cities around the world. The program runs in partnership with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development. Using the online platform, GPJ students partner with global classrooms to brainstorm creative strategies for making lasting changes in their communities. The 2016 curriculum focused on immigration, and highlighted the positive value that immigrants bring to communities around the world.

Celebrating Diversity in NYC



Attendees at the Children's Museum of Manhattan listen to presenters of the curated exhibit.

In May, the office partnered with the Children's Museum of Manhattan to host a private viewing of "America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far" for the diplomatic and consular community in NYC. Attendees and their young children participated in innovative hands-on experiences and had fun while learning about the diversity of Muslim cultures globally – and here in NYC.



Commissioner Penny Abeywardena and Consuls Generals with their IDNYC cards at an event hosted by the Society of Foreign Consuls.

Continuing our partnership with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Mayor's Office for International Affairs hosted an event at the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library to share information on three City initiatives: IDNYC, Know Your Rights, and We Are New York. Consular staff had the opportunity to hear how these programs could be of assistance to their constituencies and to sign-up for their very own IDNYC card!

IDNYC is NYC's FREE government-issued ID card for all residents 14 years of age and older and is an accepted ID for proof of identity and residency by NYC agencies. IDNYC gets you free memberships and discounts at museums, botanic gardens, zoos, Broadway shows, movie tickets and more! Find a list of IDNYC benefits and enrollment center locations at nyc.gov/idnyc! Same day appointments are available across the City at enrollment centers and it only takes ten minutes to enroll. If you haven't gotten your card already, what are you waiting for?



(L-R) Deputy Mayor Richard Buery and First Lady Chirlane McCray read *Love Is* to an audience of Korean-American toddlers; NYC interagency information session; Commissioner Penny Abeywardena, First Lady Chirlane McCray, and Consul General Gheewhan Kim; mother and child in the audience during *Love Is* reading.

In March, in honor of International Women's Day, and in partnership with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, the Office hosted the launch of the book *Love Is* into six languages as part of the Talk to Your Baby Campaign, an initiative of the NYC Children's Cabinet. The event featured First Lady Chirlane McCray, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Richard Buery, and the Consul General of the Republic of Korea, Gheewhan Kim. Hosted at the Queens Library in Flushing, the event included an information forum with NYC Agencies to bring information about City services to the Korean community in NYC. NYC agency representatives from six City agencies and offices provided information about City resources, including the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, the NYC Human Resources Administration, NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the NYC Department of Aging.



NYC Intl Affairs @... 19 Oct 2016
Thrilled that French Consul General @AClaireLegendre signed up for her @IDNYC! No better way to proudly say that you're a New Yorker!



Trainings and workshops

Through #CL2G the office hosts trainings and workshops to inform the diplomatic and consular community about NYC services and programs.



The Office hosted over 150 consular officials and City representatives at the NYC Emergency Management command center to discuss New York City’s emergency response strategies and programs.



Ambassador André Schaller, Consul General of Switzerland, Deputy Commissioner Deanna Bitetti of the NYC Mayor’s Office for International Affairs, Deputy Consul Georgio Pompei, Consulate General of Switzerland stand with representatives from NYC agencies.

Through this program the Office hosts training workshops, such as “Navigating Administrative Enforcement” in partnership with the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, and in partnership with the Office of Emergency Management, held a briefing on crisis response in order to provide valuable information to the consular community in NYC on how to access City services.

The Office collaborated with Consulate General of Switzerland and the Digital Diplomacy Coalition to host an event focused on social media strategies for emergency preparedness and crisis response featuring NYC agency representatives from the NYC Office for Digital Strategy, NYC Mayor’s Fund, NYPD, and the NYC Office of Emergency Management.



Consul Generals receive a briefing from the NYC Police Department about how they work to protect 8.5 million New Yorkers. In addition, participants had the opportunity to take a ride on the NYPD Harbor Boat used to patrol NYC’s 176 miles of coastline and 576 square miles of navigable waters.

The Office hosted a briefing in partnership with the NYC Police Department (NYPD) that brought together members of NYC’s diplomatic and consular community to learn about the many security and preventative law enforcement initiatives led by NYPD.

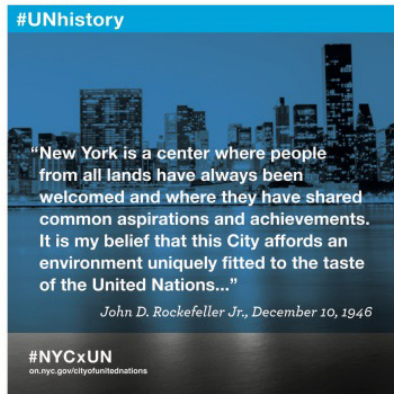
New Yorkness of the UN (#NYCxUN) |

New Yorkness of the UN creates opportunities for learning between New Yorkers and the United Nations, and is an effort to fully integrate the UN community into the fabric of our City.

#CityofUnitedNations: As the 71st UN General Assembly opened in NYC, welcoming world leaders from across the globe, the Mayor's Office for International Affairs kicked off the **City of United Nations** campaign which showcases NYC's history, shared values and unique relationship with the United Nations. The ongoing multi-dimensional campaign included the digital launch of a Tumblr site, bus shelter advertisements launched across the five boroughs, and asked New Yorkers to share why the UN in NYC is important to them.



New York City is proud to be home to the permanent headquarters of the United Nations and the largest diplomatic community in the world. The presence of the UN community in New York City is a testament to the City's status as a global center.



Together, we are greater.

Over 70 Years of the UN in NYC



The Office launched the #CityofUnitedNations bus shelters ads right in time for UN Day! The ad was also prominently displayed right outside the UN headquarters on 45th Street and 1st Avenue.



UN Day volunteers at Randall's Island Park included representatives from Missions to the UN and staff from across the UN system!

UN Day: NYC joined the world in celebrating the establishment of the United Nations. Mayor de Blasio proclaimed October 24, 2016 as UN Day and the City celebrated the establishment of the UN by unveiling the #CityofUnitedNations bus shelter advertisements across the five boroughs.

Service Day on Randall's Island: In recognition of UN Day, the office hosted a Service Day on Randall's Island in partnership with NYC Service and the Randall's Island Park Alliance for members of the consular and diplomatic community. The day was dedicated to making NYC greener, more resilient and more beautiful than it already is!



A rainbow crosswalk was painted to showcase solidarity with the LGBT movement globally.



Commissioner Penny Abeywardena and former UN Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi with NYC students.

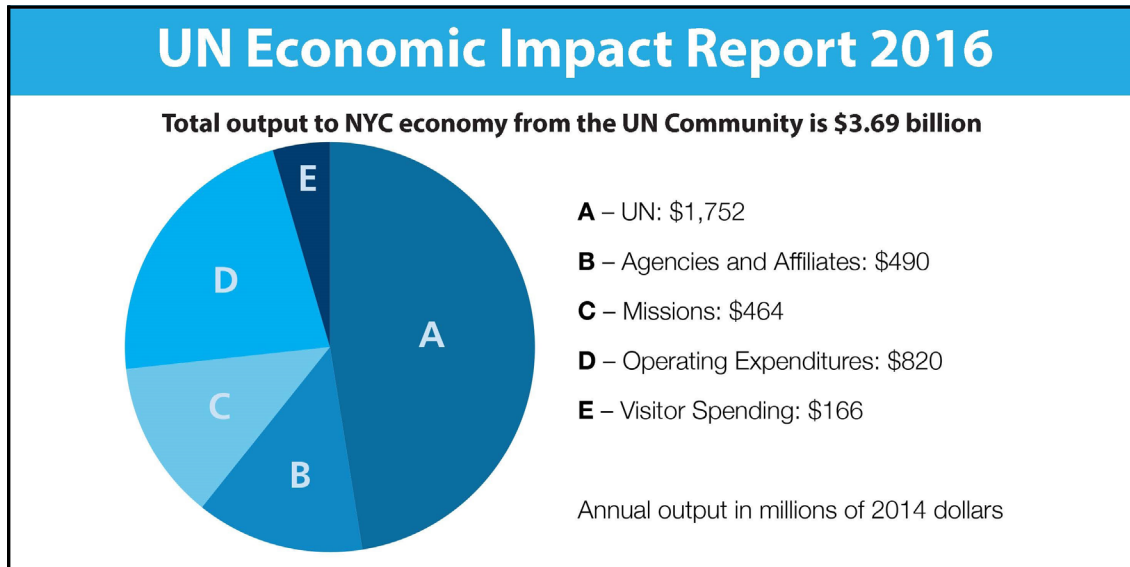
#Path2Equality Crosswalk: Timed for the opening of the 71st UN General Assembly, NYC and the UN LGBT Core Group, a group advocating for LGBT rights globally, partnered to paint a rainbow crosswalk leading into the UN headquarters to celebrate the diversity and resiliency of the LGBT community worldwide and to reinforce NYC's commitment to LGBT rights.

NYC Youth Participate in International Youth Day: The Office partnered with the United Nations Envoy for Youth and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development to facilitate the attendance of NYC schoolchildren at the UN's celebration of International Youth Day. NYC middle school students learned about the UN's work to eradicate poverty and further sustainable development.

UN Impact Report 2016 |

The Mayor's Office for International Affairs, in collaboration with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, released the **UN Impact Report 2016**, a cost-benefit analysis that outlines the concrete economic benefit to NYC due to the presence of the permanent headquarters of the United Nations and broader UN community. The report also reflects the costs to NYC and showcases how the City supports the UN community in its diverse metropolis.

The UN Community contributed \$3.69 billion in total economic output to the City of New York.



The Office launched the release of the report at the United Nations and held a briefing for international journalists on the report's findings at City Hall, facilitated by the Foreign Press Center.



L-R: United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Cristina Gallach, Commissioner Penny Abeywardena, Better World Campaign CEO Peter Yeo at the release of the UN Impact Report at the UN. (Photo Credit: UN Photo/ Mark Garten)



The Office held a briefing for members of the international press corps on the report at City Hall.

Coverage of the report:



NYC Junior Ambassadors |

NYC Junior Ambassadors (NYCJA) leverages the United Nations as a resource for NYC seventh graders and empowers students in all five boroughs of NYC to become actively engaged with the United Nations and its mission of addressing some of the most pressing challenges in the world.

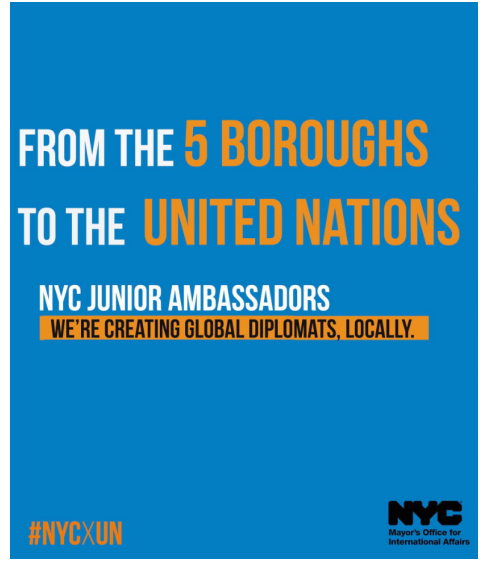
This initiative is made possible through partnerships with the NYC Department of Education, the Department of Youth and Community Development, the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation. Launched in October 2015, in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, and following a successful inaugural year with eleven sites around the City, the program expanded to twenty classrooms and after-school programs in 2016.



NYC Junior Ambassadors is premised on the idea that the United Nations offers an entry point for learning for any subject and provides a holistic experience of the United Nations and international affairs for 7th graders and their educators. The program is comprised of three distinct parts, which include:

- **Classes at the UN:** Each NYC Junior Ambassadors classroom participates in a curated guided visit of the United Nations Headquarters. These visits provide youth with an opportunity to visit a site of global importance and to engage with UN experts on their topics of interest.
- **UN Ambassadors visit NYC classrooms:** Senior United Nations diplomats visit each 7th grade classroom. These visits create an opportunity for dignitaries to visit New York City schools and to build a connection with the school community. It also helps to reinforce youth understanding of the UN system.
- **Graduation Ceremony and Year-End Projects:** All participating classes join together at the end of the program for a graduation ceremony attended by local and international leaders, parents, school administrators, partners and other stakeholders. The students exhibit their year-end projects ranging from art projects, video interviews, posters, and music about their topics of interest. They each also receive a certificate attesting to their participation in the program!

Meet the Cohorts:



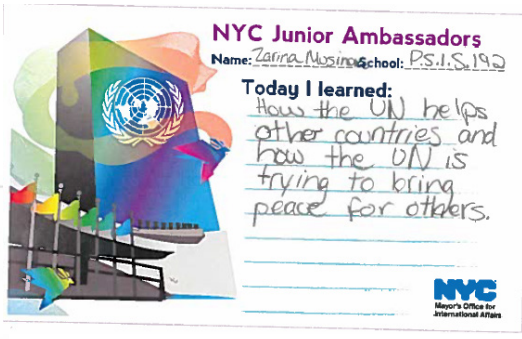
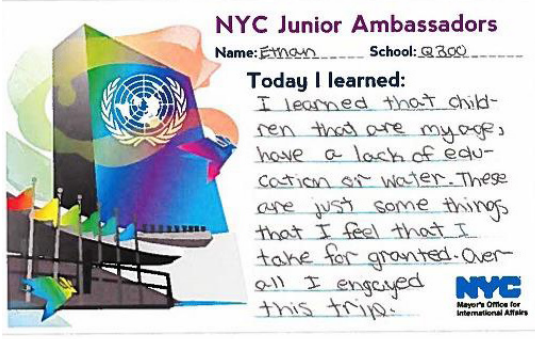
- 2015-2016 Inaugural Cohort**
- Castle Hill Middle School (J.H.S. 127), Bronx
 - St. Ignatius School, Bronx
 - P368 Star Academy (P368K), Brooklyn
 - Brooklyn Science & Engineering Academy, Brooklyn
 - Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented (I.S. 383), Brooklyn
 - NIA After-School Program (I.S. 192), Brooklyn
 - Shuang Wen School (P.S./M.S. 184), Manhattan
 - Anthony J. Pranzo School (P.S./I.S. 113), Queens
 - Hunter's Point Community Middle School (30Q291), Queens
 - The 30th Avenue School (Q300), Queens
 - Edwin Markham Intermediate School (I.S. 51), Staten Island
- 2016-2017 Cohort**
- Accion Academy, Bronx
 - Bronx Park Middle School (X556), Bronx
 - Castle Hill Middle School (J.H.S. 127), Bronx
 - Hyde Leadership Charter School, Bronx
 - Icahn Charter School 4, Bronx
 - One World Middle School At Edenwald, Bronx
 - The Academy of Applied Math and Technology (M.S. 343), Bronx
 - Children of Promise, NYC, Brooklyn
 - East New York Middle School of Excellence, Brooklyn
 - The Boerum Hill School for International Studies, Brooklyn
 - The Montauk (J.H.S. 223), Brooklyn
 - NIA Afterschool at the Christa McAuliffe School (I.S. 187), Brooklyn
 - Robert Fulton School (P.S./M.S. 8), Brooklyn
 - Nathan Straus School (P.S. 140), Manhattan
 - The Mott Hall School (M.S. 223), Manhattan
 - Al-Ihsan Academy (AIA/PSW After-School Program), Queens
 - Queens Collegiate: A College Board School, Queens
 - The Robert F. Wagner Jr. School (P.S./I.S. 78Q), Queens
 - Marsh Avenue School For Expeditionary Learning, Staten Island
 - Miraj Islamic School, Staten Island

Meet the Selection Committee:

The selection committee is comprised of local and international leaders who share a commitment to empowering youth through strong connections with the United Nations and its work.

- Meet the 2016-2017 NYC Junior Ambassadors Selection Committee Members**
- Penny Abeywardena, Commissioner, Mayor's Office for International Affairs
 - Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
 - Richard Buery, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives
 - Kathy Calvin, President and CEO, United Nations Foundation
 - Bill Chong, Commissioner, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
 - Carmen Fariña, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education
 - Paula Gavin, Chief Service Officer, NYC Service
 - Michelle Jennings, Science Teacher, NYC Junior Ambassadors Educator
 - Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker, New York City Council
 - Stephanie Suarez, ELA Teacher, NYC Junior Ambassadors Educator
 - Valerie Rockefeller Wayne, Chair Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Board Member of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

NYC Junior Ambassadors



Visits by Ambassadors to classrooms: Ambassadors to the UN representing Barbados, Denmark, the European Union, India, Mexico, Panama, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, traveled throughout the five boroughs to engage NYC Junior Ambassadors at their schools and discuss the importance of diplomacy and international affairs.

Trips to the UN: Through curated tours of the United Nations matched to their curricular interests, students made connections between themselves, the United Nations, and their communities.

Ambassador Laura Flores, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations, greeting students at St. Ignatius School in the South Bronx, offered these words of wisdom to the all-girls class: ***"Find your path, follow it and trust that the universe will conspire to get you there!"***



Follow the journey!



Ambassador Samantha Power, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, greets NYC Junior Ambassadors from NIA 192 in Brooklyn at the U.S. Mission.

Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, meets with students from Hunter's Point Community Middle School in Long Island City, Queens.

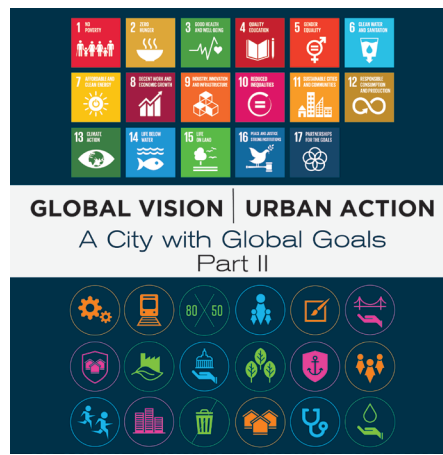
At the end of their journey, almost **275 students** from the inaugural cohort graduated from the program and had the opportunity to present their end of the year projects at their graduation ceremony at the Queens Museum! In 2017, nearly **600 New York City students** will graduate from the program.



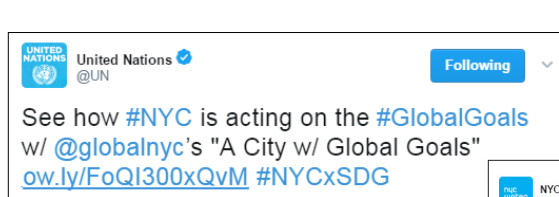
Global Vision | Urban Action

Global Vision | Urban Action is a program designed to highlight the connections between the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and NYC's innovative blueprint for the City's future *OneNYC: The Plan for a Strong and Just City* focused on growth, equity, sustainability and resiliency.

Through the **Global Vision | Urban Action** program, the office published a two-part booklet, *A City With Global Goals*, which provides an in-depth look at the synergies between the SDGs and *OneNYC*. The Office convenes local and global leaders to share strategies that have been effective in taking forward the global goals and to facilitate site visits for the diplomatic community around NYC.



A City With Global Goals: Part I, released in December 2015, uses NYC's local development strategy as a point of departure, while Part II released in April 2016 switches the focus and begins the comparison with the Sustainable Development Goals. We chose to provide perspectives from both angles so that no matter the reader's engagement, the synergies between the two groundbreaking plans are clear.



Check out a few of the great events we hosted in 2016:



Commissioner Penny Abeywardena holding up *A City with Global Goals* booklet.

Equity In and Through Tech: Moving from Conversation to Implementation

In recognition of Women’s History Month and the 60th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, the Office hosted “Equity In and Through Tech” to highlight the role of broadband and technology in achieving equity, with a focus on municipal and global development goals.

Confronting Climate Change Through Water Management

In celebration of the one-year anniversary of the launch of *OneNYC* and the signing of the historic Paris Agreement, the Office hosted a discussion on how cities are developing more efficient water distribution systems, expanding green infrastructure, and working to decrease global carbon emissions.



Tour of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility

In August, the Office hosted a tour of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection where members of NYC’s consular community learned about the City’s complex wastewater management system which treats 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater daily.

Tour of the Union Square Greenmarket

In partnership with GrowNYC, the Office held a Greenmarket tour in November for the consular and diplomatic community to learn more about how NYC is making healthy food more accessible while connecting over 230 small family farms to the residents of NYC’s five boroughs.



Representatives from the consular and diplomatic community receive a curated tour by GrowNYC staff of the Union Square Greenmarket and met with four local farmers.

NYC Welcomes the World |

Celebrating the NYC - UN Partnership: Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Mayor's Office for International Affairs said farewell to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at City Hall. This was an occasion to celebrate the strong partnership between the United Nations and NYC and to recognize Secretary-General Ban for his leadership on climate action.



NYC and the United Nations celebrate over 70 years of the UN in NYC. In December, the NYC Mayor's Office was proud to host outgoing UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and senior UN leadership at City Hall. (Photo Credit: Edwin Torres/Mayoral Photography)

Building Inclusive Cities: NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and London Mayor Sadiq Khan discussed their progressive vision for their cities and how they are implementing policies at the "Building Inclusive and Progressive Cities" forum held at LaGuardia Community College.



The two Mayors discussed their respective administrations' priorities with moderator Dalia Fahmy, assistant professor of political science at LIU Brooklyn. (Photo Credit: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography)

Paris Agreement signing at the UN: Mayor Bill de Blasio attended the Paris Agreement signing ceremony at the United Nations where he spoke at a high-level luncheon and affirmed NYC's commitment towards climate action to work against the threat of climate change.



Mayor Bill de Blasio and former Vice President Al Gore at the Paris Climate Agreement signing Ceremony at the United Nations. (Photo Credit: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography)

Collaboration with UN Women: New York City joined with UN Women to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to raise public awareness and mobilize people around the world. To honor the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Gracie Mansion and City Hall were lit orange – the color adopted by the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign - to symbolize hope for a violence free future in a show of commitment to ending violence against women and girls in New York City.



First Lady Chirlane McCray, Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and NYPD Police Commissioner James O'Neill commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women at City Hall. (Photo Credit: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography)



New York City Hall was illuminated in orange light to kick off the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Gracie Mansion, “the People’s House,” the official residence of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio was also lit in orange. (Photo credit: Ed Reed/ Mayoral Photography)

Mayor Meets with Foreign Dignitaries: Mayor Bill de Blasio and Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama met at City Hall and discussed the ongoing global refugee crisis, local tourism and innovation, and empowerment through education.



Mayor Bill de Blasio and Commissioner Penny Abeywardena met with Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Edi Rama, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ditmir Bushati, and Ambassador of Albania to the United States, Ms. Floreta Faber. (Photo Credit: Demetrius Freeman/Mayoral Photography)



NYC[®]

**Mayor's Office for
International Affairs**