

The Citizen Diplomat

FALL 2021



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Upcoming Fundraiser

CIVIC will be hosting a fundraiser for Afghanistan on January 12th, 2022. This event will help Afghans in need following the wake of the Taliban take over. Please stay tuned for more details!

Congrats, Graduates!

Belated congratulations to **Hannah Huisman**, our Program Intern, and past interns **Emilie Wilson**, **Tess Knickerbocker**, and **Grace Bryant** for graduating from the University of Iowa this past Spring! We know you will continue to do great things!



WHAT'S NEW AT CIVIC?

A lot has happened since our last newsletter! We've hosted **13** online programs with over **150** virtual visitors since last October. Keep reading to meet our new executive director and interns, see board member changes, hear about our recent programs, and take a look at our new office!



Meet Our New Executive Director, Ebonique Boyd

Ebonique Boyd is the executive director at the Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities. In this role, she helps support the organizational goals towards supporting citizen diplomacy initiatives in Eastern Iowa Corridor.

Formerly, she worked for the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office before matriculating at the University of Oxford, St. Antony's. After her time abroad, she's worked in political and business consulting for over ten years. She has partnered with the US Small Business Administration to organize a pitch competition for more than sixty small businesses in an underprivileged area in a consulting capacity. She was also invited to the White House to speak with

senior administration members about opportunity funds, Community Development Financial Institutions, and opportunity zones.

She is a second-generation American. Her father came from Costa Rica as a teenager. She's visited several countries in Europe, Latin America, and Africa.

She is also an Iowa-based art technology entrepreneur who founded an artificial intelligence mobile app. Her start-up was awarded several grants from Stanford University, National Science Foundation, and Fiverr in the last 12 months. In addition, she is a senior adviser with RightNOW Women PAC and treasurer with the Teaching Artists Guild.



Thank you, Janice!

The CIVIC staff would like to thank former executive director Janice Weiner, who stepped up to the position at a critical time last year.

"Janice has shown herself to be a real leader in the face of adversity during COVID-19. Her support for the organization and the students has helped me tremendously in this new role."

Ebonique Boyd

"Thank you so much, Janice, for stepping in as ED and adapting to the changes both CIVIC and the world were undergoing. I appreciate all the time and resources you dedicated toward CIVIC. We could not have been able to accomplish what we did this year without you. It was a privilege to be able to work and learn with you!"

Holly Harris

"Janice is an incredibly dedicated individual who is an asset to our community. I think Janice was just the director we needed during the pandemic, and I am so grateful to have been able to work with her!"

Hannah Huisman

"Janice, thank you for stepping in and stepping up when CIVIC needed you. Your breadth of experience on the world stage brought tremendous insight and compassionate leadership to our organization and community. We are honored that you chose to serve in the role of ED and that we continue to count you among our supporters and wish you well in all your public service endeavors."

Board of Directors

"I cannot thank Janice enough for welcoming me into her organization. Her dedication towards CIVIC was clear to me, and it was a genuine pleasure to work with her."

Abby Fowler

"Janice was an incredibly welcoming and kind executive director to me when I joined CIVIC. She always knew what she was doing and guided others effectively. During my orientation, she had us go around and tell our coolest international experiences. She had so many, but I think she said Austria was neat. I had no idea she spoke so many languages!"

Dylan Morgan

"Janice welcomed me with open arms into the CIVIC community and showed me the ropes of what it means to work collaboratively towards a common goal."

Katie Kustes

Online Programing

After a six-month pause, CIVIC resumed programs online in October 2020. Since then, we have hosted 13 programs virtually.

"I believe online programs have been vital in keeping person-to-person diplomacy alive in these uncertain times," said Amy Chastain, CIVIC Board President. "They have enabled our communities to continue to connect, largely professionally, with peer organizations, businesses, and groups."

Like many other things impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, however, virtual programming cannot quite compensate for all aspects of regular CIVIC programs.

"Our beloved Iowa Table opportunities when our members welcome visitors into their homes to gather around their tables and share a meal and stories, this kind of interaction just cannot be substituted for boxes on a computer screen!" said Chastain.

While we currently have no plans to resume in-person programs, stay on the lookout for opportunities to participate in future online programs!



Participants from the Americas attend a panel discussion for the program "Global Economic Cooperation."



Members of the Mandela Washington Fellows from across sub-Saharan Africa participate in a virtual home hospitality session with local volunteers.

Board Changes



Amy Chastain
President



Peter Gerlach
Vice President



Andrew Farley
Treasurer

If you are interested in getting involved with any of CIVIC's committees, let us know at civic@iowacivic.org. We welcome anyone with ideas about communication, membership, or fundraising initiatives. Committees meet once every month on Zoom.

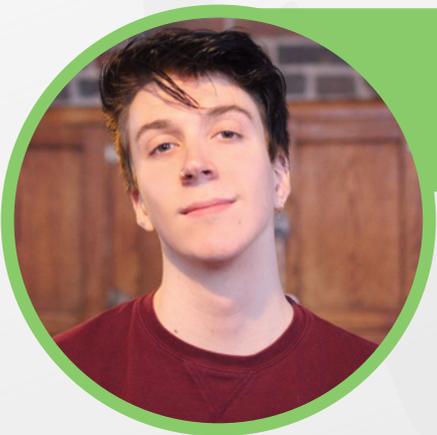
Meet our New Interns!



Abby Fowler
Communications
Coordinator



Katie Kustes
Membership and
Fundraising Intern



Dylan Morgan
Communications Intern



Bailey Shafer
Intern

We're in a New Office!



This past June, we moved into a new office. While we didn't move far, as our new space is within the same building, we are excited about the change in environment!

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