Reinventing Global Citizenship in a Virtual World
# Reinventing Global Citizenship in a Virtual World

The Annual Impact Report covers the top highlights, events and activities. Use our Table of Contents to navigate through the Report and visit the sections you wish to read!

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JULIAN KLAUKE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHAIR

As humans, we are creatures of habit and routine. From a morning ritual to start the day to an evening routine to help us wind down, our lives are packed with well-rehearsed behaviors. They give our lives a sense of predictability, order, and security. 2020 put an end to many of our routines. As the pandemic spread, so did restrictions on our daily lives. Previously normal everyday behavior suddenly had to be seen in a different light.

With routines disrupted, many parts of the world saw panic-buying of essential goods, a surge in scapegoating, and a spread of conspiracy theories as people tried to make sense of the new situation and regain control of their lives.

At the same time, the world saw the emergence of inspiring forms of solidarity, of neighbors, looking out for each other, of people risking their own health to help others. As the new chair of the Board of Directors, I was proud to see the wonderful reaction by our staff and fellows. Faced with a new existential threat, they rallied together, checked in on each other, and created new routines of spending time together. But they did not stop at that. Amidst the chaos in their lives, they continued to think about how they could effect change in the world and created new online formats, new projects, and new events.

The pandemic showed us how vulnerable we all are in a globalized world, but it also showed us what the practice of Global Citizenship can achieve. The pandemic reminded us once more of the power of empathy, understanding, and collaboration. Our staff and fellows have truly proven that they have the skills to adapt, to make the best of a difficult situation, and to work together across boundaries, even when faced with an extraordinary disruption in their lives. When it was most important, they knew how to be Global Citizens.

I thank the out-going Jason Liu and Pedro Poblete Lasserre for their services as chair and vice-chair of the Board of Directors. I am grateful to all our fellows, staff, board members, and partners for making 2020 a very special year. Not a year of crisis, but a year of new routines, collaboration, and Global Citizenship.
In June 2020, a group of researchers established a new term in an article published in the journal Nature, Ecology, and Evolution. Interested in understanding how the sudden slow down of global human activities influences wildlife recovery and human wild-life interactions, they coined the word Anthropause. The neologism describes the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyday activities such as meeting friends and relatives, going shopping for groceries, or even recreational outdoor activities have all been reduced to a minimum. International air travel fell by more than 75%. The reduced mobility can be understood as a pause in human activities. The world slowed down, taking from us but also giving us some time for reflection.

What the pandemic showed us with great force again is our global interconnectedness. There has not been a single country without Covid cases. And what is true concerning the pandemic is also the case for most of today’s grand challenges. Their consequences are global in nature and hence require joint approaches and collaboration to deal with them. In Hannah Arendt’s words, Global Citizenship can be described as “an ethic of care for the world”. At the Melton Foundation, we want to translate this ethic into tangible actions. We support young people in developing global competencies and impacting their communities. Normally, part of our operations would be to convene in-person encounters. We incentivize collaboration across boundaries and intercultural interaction. The Anthropause has forced us to reflect on our operations and to innovate. We had to think of ways to translate Global Citizenship into the virtual world. Even though we are still learning, many of the new formats we developed during the year are here to stay. Activities like SDG Innovation Challenges, Climathons, or interactive Townhalls strengthened our community and enabled us to reach way beyond our traditional institutional borders. These experiences allowed us to build new avenues to increase our impact.

Even though our physical meetings are truly missed, I feel we are on the right track. With the challenges come new opportunities. I am sure we will be even stronger post-pandemic. Part of this year’s work will be to build on the new formats we developed and hopefully see each other in person again. Even more important, though, will be our efforts to become a truly anti-discriminatory organization. Triggered by the horrible death of George Floyd, we also recognized that our own organization still has a long way to go to ensure that no kind of discrimination occurs within our walls. We will walk this path with humbleness but also with determination and pride in our mission. The Melton Foundation thrives on the talent of its fellows and the many partners we work with. I want to thank everybody that has been involved with us over the last year. Your Amor Mundi is an inspiration. Let’s continue to take care of the world and for each other for the years to come.
The beginning of 2020 coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As lockdowns and quarantines became the norm everywhere, our civilization was left reeling from the crippling consequences wrought upon it. The status quo was not only disrupted but also questioned, and a befuddled world finally had the time to pause and reflect. Across the globe, communities had to quickly acclimatize to a new ‘normal’ and deal with the heavy emotional toll that the pandemic inflicted upon us.

For us, 2020 was the time to rise to the challenges and use the presence of obstacles to create a positive impetus for action around sustainability and Global Citizenship. Despite our schedule being disrupted and offline events postponed or canceled, our calendar was packed with events, discussions, orientations, and workshops.

We leveraged our network of Fellows, Global Citizenship practitioners, experts, and advocates and unified our forces to counter and replace the grim narratives with stories of resilience and compassion. Our Fellows in Chile raised a COVID-19 Response Fund to provide immediate assistance to the vulnerable population who were severely impacted by the pandemic-induced restrictions. We hosted multiple Virtual TownHalls, centered around topics ranging from mental health to education, which turned out to be vibrant online forums for discussions and evoked thought-provoking ideas. Our Online Workshops engaged our Fellows in meaningful conversations and equipped them with a variety of skills to deal with emerging challenges. We conducted Climathons that energized and connected the youth to design prototypes that combat climate change and environmental disasters. The SDG Innovation Challenge highlighted our commitment towards achieving the targets set by the 17 SDGs before the 2030 deadline. Our intercultural Podcast series, Global Citizenship in Practice, which streams stories stitched together from a colorful fabric of cultural diversity continued to attract listeners and advance the discourse on collaboration and powerful actions. 2020 is a year destined to be entrenched in history for posterity. It was a year of rapid metamorphosis - both for us at the Melton Foundation and for the world at large. By adapting to drastic changes and breaking out of traditions of the past, diverse minds from across the globe synergized to produce transformational solutions for a mutating landscape. In hindsight, while 2020 was a year entangled in challenges, issues and handicaps, more significantly it was a year that unlocked the indefatigable spirit of the human collective, yielding narratives of solidarity and positive impact from around the world.
At the core of our activities lies the mission to promote Global Citizenship. We believe in the power of collaboration to solve today's pressing challenges. Throughout our programs and activities, we advocate for awareness that our actions have implications globally, responsibility towards our community and planet, and action-driven initiatives that produce tangible impact.

**Mission & Strategy**

*Shaping tomorrow's global problem solvers*

The Melton Foundation promotes and enables global citizenship as a way for individuals and organizations to work together across boundaries of place and identity to address global challenges.

**Strategic Goals**

On the organizational level, we are following a 5-year strategic plan to be implemented by 2025. Our main goals include amplifying our impact, increasing our accessibility & visibility, continuing to align our structures with our mission, and diversifying our income.

In 2021 our strategic goals are clustered around four main areas:

1. We *consolidate* started processes such as the development of a coherent impact measurement system, finalizing legal changes to allow for more flexibility in grant-making
2. We continue to *innovate* in fostering Global Citizenship in the virtual world
3. We strive to *scale across*, increasing our reach and scope beyond our traditional stakeholders.
4. We ensure that our organization complies with the highest *anti-discriminatory* standards

**Core Programs to Implement our Mission**

To implement our mission to promote and enable Global Citizenship we organize our work around five main areas. For each area, we have defined specific impact goals that we track through a number of indicators. We follow an emergent approach adopting to changing circumstances while staying true to our core mission objectives. Communications and administration support our program areas.

*Global Citizenship Learning Program*

*Global Citizenship Leadership Program*

*Global Citizenship Practice & Engagement*

*Global Citizenship Hubs*

*Global Citizenship Conference*
MISSION & STRATEGY

Shaping tomorrow’s global problem solvers
The Melton Foundation promotes and enables global citizenship as a way for individuals and organizations to work together across boundaries of place and identity to address global challenges.

Global Citizenship Learning Program
In our 1.5 years flagship program, we shape young minds in developing a global perspective in addressing today’s pressing challenges. Through experiential learning paired with concrete action, our fellows make an impact from the beginning of their Melton journey.

Global Citizenship Leadership Program
Our latest program is tailored to young SDG practitioners from around the world with the desire to leverage global citizenship practice for more transformative and sustained progress towards sustainable development. With the "Global Solvers Accelerator" as we call our Prototype we also bring new actors into our community.

Practice & Engagement
We put Global Citizenship into practice through a variety of formats such as TownHalls, SDG Innovation Marathons, Podcasts, and more. We act as conveners and help impact-oriented partnerships to emerge. We aim to be a shaping force in developing Global Citizenship as a guiding principle for human action.

Global Citizenship Hubs
In our Global Citizenship Hubs, we collaborate with diverse actors to work towards the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals from the grassroots level up. We organize and participate in activities that positively impact the local communities in and around our partner universities.

Global Citizenship Conference
We create meaningful learning opportunities for our fellows and collaborators by gathering them in our Hubs. We engage with the local communities during our Global Citizenship Conferences and create safe spaces for in-depth intercultural exchange.

We periodically review our strategy advancements and strive to become a reference in the field of Global Citizenship. In today’s world, the idea of Global Citizenship as an ethic of care for the world and each other is more important than ever. The Melton Foundation stands for collaboration across boundaries and aims to increase its reach and impact continuously.
Our Global Citizenship Education goals are:

- **Fellows view Global Citizenship as a choice**, a way of thinking and engaging with the world around them.
- **Fellows become active change agents within their local communities** through local projects and collaborations with local organizations to create a sustainable positive impact.
- **Fellows are equipped with experiences that teach principled decision making** (ethical leadership).
- **Fellows are able to exercise more empathy** with what happens around the world because of the cultivated human connection between themselves and other Fellows.

In order to achieve these goals, the Global Citizenship Learning Program utilizes the following framework:

- **Lectures** that introduce concepts of local civic engagement projects as a means for one to act locally to address the most pressing issues of their locality.
- **Tasks** that give Fellows an opportunity to take the concepts learned and apply them in their Act of Global Citizenship.
- **Reflection** spaces where Fellows can recap obstacles and learnings of the task, build rapport with other fellows, and discuss global issues.
2020 was a challenging year for many reasons. We had to cancel all travels and in-person events as the safety of our Fellows is our top priority, and our programs quickly adapted and became purely digital. With the inability to meet their peers and to experience other cultures through their own experiences, it was tough to maintain motivation and high performance throughout. However, we are also proud of the resilience of our Fellows and their creativity to bring Global Citizenship into the virtual world.

The Fellows in the Learning Program successfully completed 25 Acts of Global Citizenship. They also developed three toolkits under SDG 3, 4, and 5 that we hope will turn into legacy projects and built upon further by the future generations of Fellows. Here are some examples:

**New Fellow: Bakiye Icik, Jena HUB**

*How might we engage more intentionally in the equal and accurate representations of cultures?*

Bakiye shares, "You can see the issue for example in the media, movies and TV-Shows. People of color are often misrepresented and a white actor is simply chosen instead. Cultural Appropriation is also something that is seen often in music videos."

"I created @theoneaboutdiversity to bring social media, and cultural representation together with the introduction of global cultural wear as art. 110 people followed the account in a span of two and a half weeks. The content was shared with other people 48 times total. The posts have 1401 Impressions so far."

**Highlight: Archishman Zanzaney, the Lead Melton Fellow of our Bengaluru Hub,** spearheaded the creation of a collaborative agreement with the Raspberry Pi Foundation to bring a tech education and Global Citizenry curriculum to underprivileged youth in 2021. Through Archishman’s initiative, the Raspberry Pi Foundation also partnered with the Melton Foundation for Climathon BLR.

**Project Team: Girls Education**

*How might we induce a paradigm shift on the view of rural communities sending a girl child to school?*

Shreeguro Shreshti- Bangalore, Major Kadonzvo - Accra, Ren Yixin- Hangzhou, Fabiola Norambuena- Temuco

The team produced 4 books, adapted to each region for cultural relevance. The goal of this project was to help girls in rural contexts make a much more informed decision about what to study, without a gender bias. This legacy project is slated to be picked back up for completion in 2021.
With over 30 years of experience in developing young people's Global Citizenship capacity, we understand the unique opportunity and transformative potential that emerges when young people from diverse backgrounds come together to encompass solutions that help tackle issues in an interconnected world. As an organization dedicated to promoting and enabling global citizenship as a framework for cross-boundary collaboration, we are developing a program that aspires to connect the hearts, hands, and minds of young SDG leaders in order to further their ability and collective capacity to drive sustainable development from the grassroots level up.

The "Global Solvers Accelerator" as we call our prototype is oriented at committed SDG practitioners (20-30 years) from across the globe to connect, transform and collaborate on disruptive solutions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals - in their local community and in communities across the world.

Building on our Global Citizenship paradigm **Awareness - Responsibility - Action**, the program is peer-driven, action-based, and seeks to activate and empower participants in these four fundamental areas:

- **Build capacity** to drive and sustain change
- **Encompass bold, transformative SDG projects**
- **Converge networks** for social change
- **Enact novel ways to pool and mobilize resources** across sectors

**Driving sustainable development together**

Because the program aims to inspire societal change towards sustainable development from the grassroots level up, our approach is cross-cutting and eco-systemic:

- **Participants** impact their local communities through the projects they are accelerating as part of the program. At the same time, they indirectly affect the communities of their peers by helping them further their respective endeavors.
- **Mentors & trainers** bring subject-matter advice, help facilitate individual and group processes, further personal and collective wellbeing, and more. As catalysts of growth and impact, they contribute to the advancement of the SDGs from the grassroots level up.
- **Local and/or global partner organizations** engage in purpose-driven collaborations and help potentiate the program in areas such as content curation, youth engagement, impact network, resource development, process monitoring, and more.
The Global Solvers Accelerator Program customized for emerging SDG leaders taps into the potential of young people to connect and unleash their ideas, skills, and capacity for disruptive solutions which cut across barriers of place, identity, and paradigms.

The 8-month program comprises of three consecutive stages, which correlate to the process of change and its manifold methodological adaptations:

- Challenge and Inquire
- Reflect and Generate
- Transform and Maintain

These three stages are broken down into monthly thematic units, which are made up of thematic impulses, plenary sessions, focus group encounters, practical assignments, tool & skill development, mentee-mentor exchange, and ample opportunity for exchange and serendipity. With each thematic unit, participants explore and exchange approaches, experiences, and strategies that are sourced from and connect to their projects to identify, tap into, and propel the transformative potential of their SDG work. By contributing from and to the SDG project they are co-developing as part of the program, participants help connect local realities and needs across virtual and physical spaces.

2021 Prototype - at one glance

With the conceptual development finalized in November 2020, we are taking the prototype to the test together with our pioneering cohort of Global Solvers 2021. Out of over 40 potential candidates, we selected 22 well-suited individuals from 11 different countries to test the program as participants, trainers, and mentors. 40% of the slots available for the prototype cohort have been reserved for non-Melton Fellows with the goal to grow our community, reach and increase access to our network.

The test phase will tell where we need to adjust or even rethink, what (additional) resources are required, and which tools and methods are most appropriate to accomplish the envisioned goal to drive local action while building a global movement that can change the way we drive impact together!
One of the aims of the Melton Foundation is to strengthen its local presence and impact in the places that the foundation operates. We currently work with partner universities in six different cities around the world. We are now building Global Citizenship Hubs within these cities. We partner with local organizations and engage with local ecosystems to organize impact-driven activities. By doing so we are respectful of the local political, socio-economic, and cultural circumstances but are also firm in actively promoting a global mindset when addressing local problems.

Our Global Citizenship Hubs

Hubs are defined geographical regions where the Melton Foundation actively supports initiatives and collaborations to further Global Citizenship Development and the attainment of the SDGs at the local and/or regional level. Global Citizenship Hubs emerge in regions where the Melton Foundation has strong associations with local partner organizations.

Hub Development

As part of our hub development, we have concentrated our efforts in 2020 on Temuco, Chile, and Bangalore, India. In both locations, we have staff on the ground which showed to be a major success factor. In Temuco, we are actively participating in an ecosystem that fosters entrepreneurship, an executive director’s group of NPO, and an alliance of Institutions that work for the “right to breath” - battling the air contamination during winter in the city. We organized a virtual Climathon to search for solutions for the problem. Together with partners, we organized a full day Innovation seminar with a full day workshop about the Mapuche Cosmovision and Innovation.

In Bangalore, we connected to local organizations and beyond by organizing a Climathon about Waste Management and a very well-received virtual Townhall about Mental Health. In the future, we aim to strengthen our presence in all our locations and eventually add new ones. We also strive to increase collaboration across our Hub regions.
Our Local Hubs are the sources of impacts that influence and galvanize local communities to solve their own problems in a sustainable, inclusive manner. See some of the examples of local projects that fellows and staff of the MF implemented.

**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP HUBS**

**Mental Health Care TownHall**, held in collaboration with the White Swan Foundation, Mental Health Talks India, and The Minds Foundation, in Bengaluru, India.

Melton Fellows from Chile volunteered to build a house with the Mapuche inhabitants using discarded trash, mud, and other materials. The project was done in collaboration with InnovaPais Foundation under the expert guidance of Glenn Martinson, an Industrial Civil Engineer.

The Global Citizenship Educational Week in Chile - in conjunction with AFS Chile and Alfaduc.

Melton Fellows organized a fundraiser to help the most affected communities in Temuco, Chile.
The Melton Foundation has its roots in the pioneering moments of the internet. We were early adopters and among the first to communicate across continents through Email groups in the 90s. This legacy and imprinted culture has helped us to quickly adapt to the challenges that Covid-19 has brought to us. We had to think quickly about how to re-invent many of our activities. Even though our physical meetings are missed, we also realized that there is much potential in re-discovering how to leverage technology to bring people together in a meaningful way.

As a result, besides moving some of our regular programs to new platforms, we introduced three new formats that are here to stay:

**Ideathons**

Ideathons focus on providing a hackathon-like environment for the passionate youth and changemakers. They bring together minds across different domains and geographies and provide a common platform for them to brainstorm and emerge with innovative solutions for global issues. Virtual teams work together for a short period of time on problems they choose under a common framework. During the duration of 50-72 hours, the teams receive support from mentors and are introduced to design-thinking methods. At the end of the marathon, the teams submit a solution prototype in form of a 2-minute video. Independent judges choose the winning team that is then supported to develop the solution further.

**Climathons**

Climathons are very similar to Ideathons. They follow the same methodology but focus on ideas that solve environmental challenges and especially problems related to Climate Change. Inspired by EIT Climate-KIC, a European initiative to combat climate change, the Melton Foundation organized three Climathons in our local Hubs in Temuco, Bangalore, and Hangzhou.

**Townhalls**

Very early in the pandemic, we started to launch interactive TownHalls. Digital TownHalls are virtual spaces for congregations where we discuss, debate, and talk on a variety of topics bearing significant impact on communities. Our TownHalls touched upon topics like mental health, economic & social consequences of the pandemic, racism and education.

**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PRACTICE AND ENGAGEMENT**

Re-inventing Global Citizenship in the virtual World

**Ideathons, Climathons and Townhalls**

Within our program area Global Citizenship and Engagement, we aim to increase our reach and engage with new people and organizations. We want to build strong and meaningful partnerships and create opportunities for our fellows to engage with the us.

**1200+**

New entrants engaged across our annual digital activities
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PRACTICE AND ENGAGEMENT

Global Citizenship Virtual Ideathon - Global, May 2020

The seeds of social impact take birth as mere ideas which grow and evolve into projects that create tangible impact on a visible scale. The Global Citizenship Virtual Ideathon convened SDG advocates, social impact crusaders, and Global Citizenship practitioner to work together on low/medium-fidelity prototypes that resolve global crises.

Some of the final prototypes from our Virtual Ideathon have gone on to become full fledged missions. The experience and lessons it imparted has gone on to become actualized - Women Work Wonders, a winning prototype, is a prominent example.

SDG Innovation Challenge 2020 - Pan Africa, September 2020

The SDG Innovation Challenge was a pan African event. Devised around the theme of ‘Securing the 2030 commitment beyond the post-COVID-19 Era’, the solutions were linked with mainly three SDGs - Good Health and Well Being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4) and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9). The Challenge also called attention to the role of young social innovators in sustaining the momentum towards the 2030 deadline and securing a bright future beyond this decade.

Climathon Temuco, Bengaluru, and Hanghou

Over the course of 2.5 days, multiple teams worked together to frame prototypes that ameliorate the air quality in Temuco, Padre las Casas and other cities in southern Chile as part of Climathon Temuco. The theme of Climathon Bengaluru was ‘Urban Waste Management’. Hosted in collaboration with CSTEP and EIT Climate-KIC from 5-7 November as an online event, the event produced innovative prototypes designed by teams consisting of diverse, multidisciplinary members. Climathon Hangzhou was hosted in our Zhejiang University campus. The theme for the event was ‘Waste management & Community involvement’, which involved segregation, recycling and many other problems congruent with the rise of urbanisation.

750+ active change-makers reached as part of SDG Ideathons
In 2020, we organized multiple Virtual Townhalls that revolved around a range of issues. From discussing the long-term implications of the pandemic, delving into the existing lacunae in the Mental Health Care system, and converging together to exchange stories on how different regions have coped with COVID-19, our TownHalls were vibrant spaces for open and authentic discourse. Here is a brief description of a few of our TownHalls that dealt with local responses to the crisis and the roadmap to recovery for our planet.

Our COVID-19 TownHalls concentrated on the ramifications of the pandemic, and observations about the new normal. We also commemorated Melton Day with 86 guests and our founder, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Bill Melton. While the discussions were dominated by the global and local implications of COVID-19, the exchanges prompted radical responses that acknowledged the necessity to redefine values, perspectives, and systems that stand resilient to rapidly changing landscapes.

In the afterward of the killing of George Floyd the Melton Foundation issued a public statement condemning racism. This spiked a very important internal discussion about experiences of racism and discrimination within our network. Based on these discussions we organized a Townhall for reflection and for discussing steps on how to move forward. As a consequence, we hired a consultancy firm that helps us to review all of our operations through anti-discriminatory lenses. We are developing policies and practices that will ensure coherency in our mission and organizational behavior.
This Spanish edition of HotPod brought together Belen Rodriguez, Paula Castillo, and Gustavo Ciudad, three Chilean environmental experts. Premised on the air pollution crisis in Temuco, Chile, this Podcast was an evaluative discussion of health, local governance, and social innovation. Representing multiple stakeholders, Belen, Paula and Gustavo steered the dialogue while addressing concepts like ‘energy poverty’ and ‘district energy system innovation’. Focussed on the spillover effects of climate change in the fields of health and economy and society, this episode revealed hitherto lesser known ideas and solutions aiding sustainability.

2020 was a year fraught with distress and uncertainty. The foremost casualty during these trying times was mental health. To emphasize the gravity of the problem we dedicated a HotPod podcast to Mental Health in addition to a TownHall. This podcast was designed as a conversation between our Fellow, S. Sangeetha, and Manoj Chandra, CEO of the White Swan Foundation. It aimed to unearth the problems that plague Mental Health care through a series of dialogues and exchanges. This session highlighted our attitude towards emotional distress and seeking help. On a positive note, it also acknowledged an increase in awareness and acceptance over the last few years.

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Daphne Chebesi, Melton Fellow, Cameroon

Having witnessed the impact of COVID-19 in her homeland, Daphne Chebesi felt strongly about the human rights violations and four years of unending struggle in Cameroon. This story narrates how oft neglected issues, like racial discrimination and domestic violence have started receiving limelight during the last few months even though the Cameroonian crisis continues to get a cold shoulder from the global community. Through this story, the crisis, as well as its impact on the Cameroonians, is brought to the fore. Read the complete narrative here: https://meltonfoundation.org/when-do-we-draw-the-line/

Looking into our own backyard

Ashitha Nayak, Melton Fellow, India

Pen ed by Ashitha Nayak, ‘Looking into our own backyard’ is a poignant narrative that talks about racism closer home. She weaves a picture of colorism in India through an interview with Tryphine Clara Dzimbanete, a student from Zimbabwe who has been residing in India for the past five years. With many parts of the world fighting against polarization along racially divisive lines, this interview sheds light on how far and deep racism has spread its tentacles in multicultural countries like India too.
Our Podcasts are dialogues based on the latest news, covering citizen initiatives, technological innovations, Mental Health, and many more such themes that impact our daily lives. We have two main Podcast series: (a) the Intercultural HotPod which features conversations that challenge and transcend cultural boundaries to create meaningful connections and (b) the ‘Global Citizenship in Practice’ series which showcases action and progress in the field of Global Citizenship. We also ensure diversity thematically - the episodes range from interviews to candid conversations to an exchange of ideas.

Storytelling is one of the most powerful tools in relaying the message of sustainability and Global Citizenship. Our flagship program, Storytelling for Change, spins creative narratives across a smorgasbord of topics sourced from different corners of the globe. Our stories continue to acquire a burgeoning base of readership. Mentioned below are summaries of three such blogs written by our Fellows.

**Featured Stories from 2020**

**A Ruptured Cultural Identity - How Africans and African Americans Struggle To See Eye-to-Eye**

*This podcast* was a thought provoking conversation between Melton Fellows Tobias Woode from Ghana and Kennedy Musgraves from the USA. The discussion revolved around the cultural disconnect between the African American community in the USA and the Africans residing in the African continent. Through an exchange of information and perspectives, our Fellows realised that racial discrimination affects and influences the lives of both the communities and decoded that racial equality has to be built on the twin pillars of an intense educational campaign and the process of revamping institutions.

**Demystifying Design Thinking**

*This podcast* was hosted by Melton Fellow S. Sangeetha, who over the course of the session interviewed Mana Taheri, a Design Thinking Educator and Coach. The conversational interview sought to explore the concepts, methodologies and practices propagated by pedagogies based on design thinking. This episode unravels how with greater dissemination of knowledge and integration of multiple cultures and disciplines within workspaces, design thinking is set to be a tool used by communities around the world to design, hone and refine solutions. The Podcast also underscored the need to view design thinking as a mindset rather than an isolated process distinct from an individual’s perspective.
Since its inception, the Melton Foundation’s Grants Program has translated small ideas of social impact into functional local and global projects led by Melton Fellows. Over the last decade, these Global Citizenship initiatives which received funding and support through our grants program have touched hearts, minds, and lives everywhere.

**Action Grant makes a big splash on Global Giving!**

Over the last decade, more than 15 Melton Fellow led projects have been realized as tangible grassroots initiatives around the globe, due to the support of our Action Grants and mentorship of the grant committee. Here is a deeper look into 'Women Work Wonders' - our 2020 success story!

'Why shouldn't the services of a professional networking platform such as LinkedIn be extended to women from low and middle-income groups through the establishment of physical spaces?' This was the problem statement penned by a team of 5 members including Senior Fellows from India, Ranjini Rao HS, and Vijay Viswanathan, and public health educator from Lagos Nigeria, Margaret Afolake at the 2020 edition of the Global Citizenship Virtual Ideathon.

After claiming the winner's place, Ranjini, and Margaret, under the guidance of Vijay, have been working towards the implementation of Phase 1 of the project in the Agbado community of Lagos, Nigeria. The project team aims at creating a robust local network of mentors, trainers, counselors, and women who wish to start, resume, or provide career opportunities to others. Read the full report on 'Women Work Wonders' here: [https://meltonfoundation.org/women-work-wonders-lagos-nigeria/](https://meltonfoundation.org/women-work-wonders-lagos-nigeria/)

**The Road Ahead**

In 2020, the Melton Foundation became a vetted and trusted organization, joining some of the world's best non-profits at Global Giving, as a result of the 'Women Work Wonders' campaign.

This platform will help us immensely in procuring funds and financial resources for the further development of our projects and initiatives. We look forward to bringing to light some of our foremost projects, advancing Sustainable Development one step at a time!
25 new Acts of Global Citizenship in the realms of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals reaching more than 24 local communities and reaching an audience of 1000+ people online and offline.

30+ new Intercultural podcasts, stories, and performances by Melton Fellows from six world regions reaching more than 1,000 listeners and viewers.

8+ pathbreaking solutions to achieving the SDGs through our maiden Virtual Global Citizenship Ideathon (global) and SDG Innovation Challenge (pan Africa).

13 new prototypes for solving pressing challenges developed during our Climathons: 4 in Urban Waste Management in Bengaluru, India; 5 for improving the air quality in Temuco, Chile; and 4 novel approaches to waste disposal in Hangzhou, China.

10+ new hands-on Townhalls, Panels, and virtual events for Global Citizenship practitioners and community at Melton Foundation events reaching close to 2,000 participants.
I could not feel more inspired to watch Fellows keep the Melton Foundation’s mission alive during 2020. In times of need, uncertainty and deep change around us, we found new ways to help each other and our communities. I simply never stop learning with this family. My aim is to keep on supporting Fellows with all the knowledge, creativity and compromise the Foundation has always inspired in me.

**Isabel Jaki**  
*Melton Fellow since 2016, Germany*

I applied to the Melton Foundation some years ago being incredibly enthusiastic about having found an organisation and network which represents my values, convictions and my vision for the world. With time, it turned out that being a Fellow also provided me with unique learning opportunities to broaden my mind and continue developing and testing my skills in different areas and roles- whether as a Junior Fellow, a Trainer for the NFO or now learning and contributing as SF-TT at the FSU Campus. But overall, what I most appreciate about the MF, are the interactions with the passionate, reflective, emotionally competent and inspiring people who are part of this network or collaborating with us.

**Camila Huecho**  
*Melton Fellow since 2016, Chile*

Recently, I had the opportunity to reflect on my association with the Melton Foundation spanning across a decade and on what lies ahead for the Foundation. It was wonderful to see that, despite the unusual circumstances of the year gone by, MF has continued its work with the launch as well as funding of many new projects across the world. I was fortunate to be a part of some, including the first ever virtual Climathon BLR event. Closely observing these projects, I witnessed the sea-change improvement in the quality of initiatives championed by Melton Fellows, with an ever-greater focus on inclusiveness and wide-reaching impact in local communities. This has been inspirational to me and hopefully to aspiring fellowship candidates for the cohort of 2021.

**Stephanie L. Woodard**  
*Melton Fellow since 2005, USA*

The Melton Foundation was my window into the world. The friendships, discussions, and collaborations I have experienced as a Melton Fellow and now as a Senior Fellow are valuable beyond words. I am forever grateful for being a part of the Melton Family.
Global citizenship is both attitude and action. Millions of people around the world would like to be part of the solution, to be the change they wish to see, and countless organizations and institutions are working on these issues. Here’s the impact we created with our outreach in 2020.

**1500+ Global Citizenship Practitioners**

Convolved at our virtual events all year, including TownHall Sessions, Panel conversations, Ideathons, Climathons, Workshops, Intercultural showcases and more!

92% of our global audiences have been new change-makers looking for an entry point into the Global Citizenship paradigm in the year 2020.

**Our Digital Reach**

- A community of 3000+ and growing with posts gathering up to 4000 impressions, 800+ new visitors every week.
- A community of 7000+ users, with 500+ post engagements monthly and high visibility in changemaker forums. 120% increase in audience base in 2020.
- Organization page with 1100+ engaged accounts; Strong presence within Melton Foundation Alumni groups
- A network of 2200 Twitter users - primarily engaging with our partners and collaborators across the globe. 145% increase in engagement in 2020.

Publication with 250+ subscribers and 78% read ratio. Melton News reaching 2000+ subscribers bi-monthly.

HotPod Intercultural Exchange and ‘Global Citizenship in Practice’ Podcasts reach 1000+ listeners.
Today, the Melton Foundation is the only global Fellowship program specifically designed to develop global citizens and integrate them into a lifelong global network, and here are the people who make that possible.

"Together we are building a community of global citizens, based on mutual interests, synergies, and complementary experience."
The Melton Foundation gives you a new perspective on the world and a global platform to make a difference in your community and beyond. Our dedicated team works hard every single day, to transform these possibilities into reality.

Dr. Steffen Bethmann
Executive Director

Lars Dietzel
Director of Strategy

Alafia Stewart
Director of Learning

Patricia Ortiz
Director of Operations

Ashitha Nayak
Head of Communications

Sonali Keshwa Murti
Program Manager

Henrika Amoafo
Program Intern

Rosemary Kotei
Dr. H.N. Suma
Dr. Lana Chambliss

Dr. Álvaro Fernández Villazón
Claudina Uribe
Prof. Huilan Ying

LOCAL SUPPORT TEAM

MEET THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE!

OUR TEAM
The Melton Foundation gives you a new perspective on the world and a global platform to make a difference in your community and beyond. Get involved with us and let's advance Sustainable Development together.

"Join us as we embark on a journey towards Sustainable Development and enabling Global Citizenship to collaborate across boundaries"

Donate
Your donation will directly support our Global Citizenship Program that gives deserving problem solvers worldwide the tools, experience and skills they need to work autonomously and in collaboration with others to achieve impact and become role models for a generation of global citizens. Reach us at: meltonfoundation.org/donate

Partner
Together we are building a community of global citizens, based on mutual interests, synergies, and complementary experience. Partner with us - we are seeking partners and collaborators that share our interest and passion to transform perceptions of how global problems are approached and solved. Find out more here: https://meltonfoundation.org/our-partners/

Connect
We are always looking to connect and listen to any feedback, ideas or suggestions. Your support and constant involvement is crucial for any progress we make and encourages us to build upon our missions and develop ties with a wider audience. Engage with us on our social media pages or contact us here: meltonfoundation.org/contact/

Reach out to us at meltonfoundation.org/contact and/or email us at communications@meltonfoundation.org