CELEBRATING A LEGACY
30 Years of the Melton Foundation

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
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30 years of the Melton Foundation is a time to celebrate. It is also a time to thank our founders Bill Melton and Patricia Smith, our former and current staff, Task Team Members, Fellows, presenters, trainers, donors, and so many more who have made the foundation what it is today. 30 years ago, the Melton Foundation started with the simple idea of connecting young people across the world. Today, this notion remains an integral part of our organisational DNA. Still, we have committed to deepening what that means in the Melton Foundation context and beyond.

Over the years, we have learned that truly connecting people includes a commitment to creating inclusive spaces. Inclusive are spaces where all members feel welcome, valued, and respected. Only in spaces where people can bring their full selves without fear of judgement or isolation, can true connection grow. For us, it is thus important that all members of our community internally and externally feel empowered to express themselves, are appreciated for their unique contributions, and be recognized for their accomplishments. At the same time, our programmes do not operate in a vacuum. Spaces are only truly inclusive if they facilitate and promote the participation of a diverse set of people. For our programmes, this means providing diverse ways of engagement, ensuring safe participation, and compensating for systemic inequalities.

To aid us in understanding how we may become better at promoting inclusive spaces, in 2021, the foundation underwent an external assessment. As a result, we are finetuning our programmes, allocating resources, investing in training, setting up new inclusive and anti-discriminatory processes, and critically reviewing all of our policies and internal structures.

The last 30 years of the Melton Foundation have not just been about connecting but also about empowering people to affect positive change. Real change only happens where action considers the unequal distribution of power and privilege. Otherwise, we run the risk of perpetuating inequalities, discrimination, and the status quo. Or yet still terrible, of becoming complacent in not addressing the very real nature and history of this complex issue within our Melton Foundation community. We refuse both scenarios. As fellows, global citizens, and humans.
Our Foundation started as an experiment. In 1991 our founder Bill Melton and Patricia Smith traveled through East Germany. They were amazed by the hope and ambitions of a young generation that just recently gained freedom. There was a scent of change in the air, an energy based on the belief that a better world is possible. Inspired by their experience, the idea of the Melton Foundation took shape: Connecting young people from different countries through an emerging new technology – the internet, without any clear pre-set goal. It was up to the young generation themselves to develop an idea and a path for the organization. Its estimated lifetime was set to about 15 years, after which it would show if the experiment had worked.

In 2021 we celebrated our 30th anniversary, and I believe that the founders and all fellows who went through our programs can be proud of the outcome. The spirit has not changed. We continue to believe in the power of connecting people. What has changed is that our programs have become more structured, and we have started to reach out more purposefully to new audiences. We build on the energy and spirit of young people to act towards building an equitable, sustainable, and peaceful world. The Melton Foundation stands for an ethic of care for the world and its people. We believe that as one human race, we need to collaborate across boundaries to tackle the challenges that are so well expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thirty years after the experiment started, the Foundation is now in the hands of its fellows. It is our responsibility to continue to shape this organization and to decide its course. Even though with age comes more maturity, our evolution has not stopped. As an organization, we continue to learn how to empower people to act as Global Citizens. In this journey, not only our fellows but all people believing in collaborative action are invited to work together with us. While we look back on the last year in this report, I invite us to also look into the future. Even though the challenges we face may look overwhelming at times, I believe in the spirit our founders saw when their idea to create this Foundation emerged.

A better world is possible. Let's make it happen.
Our Mission and Strategy

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.

Our Mission

Through our fellowship and collaborative programs, we promote and enable global citizenship as a way for individuals and organizations to work together across boundaries of place and identity to solve challenges in an interconnected world.

How we Implement our Mission

Our Fellowship programs, namely the Global Citizenship Learning Program and Global Solvers Accelerator, bring together young and passionate changemakers from around the world to mold them into global citizens capable of spearheading action in their communities. 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 Solvers Accelerator
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 Solvers Accelerator
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.

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.
A leading proponent of global citizenship practice worldwide, the Melton Foundation celebrated 30 years of shaping young minds through experiential learning, skill development, and intercultural exposure in 2021! We have built a 500+ network of Fellows who carry out impact projects around the world, and our association with the 17 UN SDGs further acts as an impetus for our Fellows and partners to join hands and carve a better future together through actionable, and sustainable programs.

Most recently, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the Melton Foundation reimagined Global Citizenship for a virtual era and transformed the calendar into an eclectic mix of online Townhalls, Panels, a Global Citizenship Week, Innovation Marathons, and digital performances! Join us as we journey into the thirty transformational years that have led us to where we are today, and as we define what the road ahead could look like.
30 Years - A glimpse into the journey

Relive the genesis of the Melton Foundation (1991-1996)

Before the over 500 fellows around the world, the dozen international events, and the impactful collaborations and projects connecting across continents, the Melton Foundation started little.

The Melton Foundation was founded in 1991 by entrepreneur William (Bill) Melton and activist Patricia Smith. In the same year, Westmar University (WU) in LeMars, USA, and the Friedrich Schiller Universität (FSU), in Jena, Germany, joined forces with the emerging Foundation to collaborate in its mission. Between the two universities, the first batch of eight Melton Fellows was born and taken under the stewardship of the first Foundation Directors: Chuck and Harriot Semke.

The BMS College of Engineering (BMSCE) in Bangalore, India, Zhejiang University (ZU), from Hangzhou, China, Universidad de La Frontera, based in Temuco, Chile, and Dillard University (DU), based in New Orleans, USA, joined the partnership before 1995.

As the 5th anniversary of the Melton Foundation approached, in 1996, Fellows organized the first Global Citizenship Symposium in Chile, where fellows from all five countries participated. Our Symposiums were an intercultural space for young leaders to learn, share experiences, work together, and nurture friendships within a global family. In these years, the Foundation took the first steps towards what would turn into decades of impactful collaboration and cross-cultural learning programs. As part of this development, the alumni (Senior Fellows) created their own Board to organize the Melton Foundation network further.

As the decade was marked by crucial events worldwide (economic and social change in India and China, the end of the dictatorship in Chile, the fall of the Berlin Wall, etc.), Patricia and Bill took the step to build an organization that would enable a cross-cultural collaboration towards the worlds' shared social, political and economical challenges: The Melton Foundation.
30 Years - A glimpse into the journey

Reminiscing the dawn of a new millennium (1997-2001)

As the Melton Foundation entered a new era, it continued to grow, incorporating new elements like New Melton Fellow Orientations, or the very first alumni meeting while strengthening the practice of symposiums, cultural presentations, and cross-boundary collaborations! Beginning in the late 90s, Melton Fellows embarked on a cathartic experiment that soon transformed into innovative impact: local Social Service Projects. Melton Fellows from Chile led the way in our ‘Social Service Projects’, by working on a project involving the construction of a greenhouse in a rural school. Melton Fellows from our other partner regions such as India and China soon followed suit! The Social Service Projects have transformed over the years into the ‘100 Acts of Global Citizenship’, where Melton Fellows and partners around the world perform small ‘acts’ in their local communities putting their global learning into practice.

The late 90s also marked a pivotal milestone in our journey as members of the Melton Foundation crafted the following statement as our first-ever ‘Guiding Principle’, with the aim to orient the organization’s development and growth. Developed by a general consensus, the statement was a result of Melton Fellows working together in a collaborative and participative atmosphere.

Our first Guiding Principle:
"The Melton Foundation is committed to bringing positive change in the world through a network of people from diverse cultures empowered by lasting bonds of friendship, open communication, and mutual respect."

Unlocking avenues of collaboration and growth (2002-2006)

In the years 2002-2006, the Melton Foundation moved towards a new governance system. Our Founder, Bill Melton stepped down from the Board of Directors and marked the first step to hand over the Foundation to its fellows. Over the year the number of fellows on the board increased until they became the majority. In 2006, the Foundation came under the leadership of Winthrop Carty, who steered the Foundation very ably for the next 13 years.

As the Melton Foundation transitioned into the first decade of the millennium, it initiated Senior Fellow Orientations and Intercultural Travel Groups. Notably, it opened up to organizations and external speakers and guests, setting in motion the formation of partnerships that last up to this day!

Symposia continued to be our annual meeting point. One of the more significant changes introduced was to define themes, like “Integrating Cultures by Leveraging Technologies”, or “Overcoming Grenzen (boundaries)”. The themes allowed for more focused discussions and intercultural learning. The Senior Fellow Orientations aimed to prepare our Fellows for their next steps in life and to foster the relationship with the Foundation after graduation.

Melton Fellow Navneeth quotes: “Milestones are memorable. They signify the end of one phase and the beginning of the next. My Senior Fellow Orientation at Dresden in 2007 was one such milestone. I fondly recollect the letter each of us wrote to our future selves. This letter arrived five years later. I was pleasantly surprised by the optimism and aspiration I was filled with as a greenhorn stepping into the corporate world.”
Global Citizenship Innovation for a new decade (2007-2011)

With the inception of social media, wider avenues for networking, and reaching out to newer audiences, the Melton Foundation started the process of scripting its journey into the second decade of the millennium. Incorporating major innovations along the way and continuing to uphold initiatives that furthered its vision, the years 2007-2011 were defined by enthusiasm and action!

One of the main milestones for the Foundation was a Foundation-wide strategic development process, which led to the formation of a mission and vision around the concept of Global Citizenship. With this step, the Foundation formalized its commitment to work towards a sustainable, peaceful, and just world. As a consequence, the Symposia were re-labeled as Global Citizenship Conferences (GCC). The foundation also became more purposeful in creating strategic partnerships with other organizations in the field and signed its first formal collaboration agreements. Another landmark was the first TEDx conference organized by Melton fellows in China during global GCC in Hangzhou in 2010.

Melton Fellow Divya Tyam shares:
"The 2007 Symposium in Jena was my first one as a senior fellow. We had lots of field trips! I remember going to a local recycling plant, museums in Leipzig, the Carl Zeiss factory! But what I remember the most is one-on-one conversations – about life, career, and Germany."
A new vision on the horizon - Global Citizenship: 2012-16

The year 2016 marked 25 years of the Melton Foundation's existence and was a milestone in its evolution as a community of global citizens. The years 2012-16 witnessed conferences, local impact projects, workshops, TEDx seminars, and much more. With a new generation of enthusiastic individuals who brought with them their innovations in the field of social change, the Melton Foundation continued its march of propagating global citizenship across boundaries.

The year 2012 is special for the Melton Foundation. It was the first year the Global Citizenship Celebration (later Global Citizenship Conference) was conducted. Side by side, a new mission, and strategy, affiliated with global citizenship, was adopted for the organization with our focus shifting to adapt, practice, and enable Global Citizenship as a way of life.

In 2014 a long-held dream of the Melton Foundation came true, the integration of an African University in our network. For many years, our network wanted to have a more global representation. After a long period of analysis, a process, and visiting 7 universities in Ghana and South Africa, the Melton Foundation invited Ashesi University in Berekuso (Accra, Ghana) as its sixth University partner, to form a permanent alliance with the Foundation. In the same year, the Melton network also started to experiment with new meeting formats - 'Deep Dives'. These meetings were smaller, and more impact-oriented, inviting a selected group of fellows to apply their knowledge to support local community projects. The first deep dive took place in Haiti. Later another group went to Chile to work a week-long with a rural school with Mapuche children.

The years 2012-16 transformed the Foundation entirely. We adopted a Global Citizenship mission & new strategy, our vast ‘Alumni Network’ transitioned to the more sophisticated ‘Senior Fellowship’, and the Melton Foundation’s community, which started as a small coterie dedicated to intercultural understanding, had by now swelled to a 500-strong network of active Senior and Junior Fellows.
Paving the path for a reimagined future: 2017-21

The years 2017-21 were rife with challenges, new opportunities, and unforeseen adversity with a global pandemic! When the Covid-19 pandemic struck at the turn of a new decade, the Melton Foundation, like many other organizations, had to evolve overnight. By envisioning a virtual future for Global Citizenship, it shifted its activities to the online world and connected with individuals remotely in massive numbers. The period also led to leadership changes within the organization, with a transfer of executive leadership from Winthrop Carty to Steffen Bethmann, completing the transition of the Melton Foundation in a 100% Fellow-led organization.

A few highlights: ‘Samagra’ was born – A jubilant celebration of Technology, Sustainability, and Social Innovation, in Bangalore, India! The advent of the Global Solvers Co-Lab with Co-Lab: 489 UN-limited, a convening of the brightest minds to advance the SDGs! As a result, today we have a new entry into the Melton Fellowship, the ‘Global Solvers Accelerator’.

In September 2019, we enabled 300 Global Citizenship practitioners, 25+ Collaborators, to celebrate a first-of-its-kind ‘open’ Global Citizenship week! The year 2020 was a year of metamorphosis. Our network adapted, evolved, and transformed. Melton 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, Digital Events such as our Global Citizenship Ideathon, SDG Innovation Challenges, Climathons, Townhalls, Virtual Global Citizenship Week took shape and brought us all together!

While we celebrate the highlights of the last THIRTY years, we also reflect on our journey, and each one of us contributes to shaping a better tomorrow. Thank you for coming on this nostalgic journey with us! We will continue paving the path for a reimagined future in the years to come!
Highlights from the 30 Years Anniversary Celebration

TownHall with Bill Melton, Founder

When the Melton Foundation started its operations in 1991, the internet was still young. There was no Facebook, Instagram, WeChat, or Weibo. The first eight fellows from Westmar University and the Friedrich Schiller University communicated with a “speed” of 0,0024 Mb per second. Our founders Bill Melton and Patricia Smith started a bold experiment, creating a network that was allowed to form its own identity. All this and more was uncovered in our first Townhall to celebrate the Melton Foundation’s anniversary! Fellows from different batches and world regions shared their experience of being Melton Fellows.

Meet and Greet

On November 13th, 2021, we invited Melton Fellows across generations to reconnect on an interactive platform called wonder.me. The event was a wonderful opportunity to 'meet and greet' Melton Fellowship friends and to get to know new people from our network.

Closing Celebration Gala

After reconnecting and walking down the memory lane together as we celebrated our 30 year anniversary, Melton Fellows and the Melton community participated in the ‘30 Year Gala’ on 11th December 2021, recounting experiences, insights and growth trajectories while acknowledging the pivotal role that the Melton Foundation has played in bringing diverse, talented individuals together from different corners of the world! Featuring an Open Mic and other performances, the Gala turned out to be an event that strengthened and reinforced our network and showcased the collective prowess of Melton Fellows!
Annual Fundraiser 2021

Part of our celebration was a Fundraiser. We asked our Fellows to give back to the Foundation and to support younger generations on their path to becoming Global Citizens. And they responded!

With almost 100 donations, our giving back rate is about 20%. The average college giving rate in the US tends to be around 7-8%. As our rate is almost three times higher, this shows a great appreciation for our network by its members! We are very thankful to all donors - your support will go directly into the fellow’s network.

A huge Thank You to our donors!

95 Donors
$36,687 Donated
Victor Valenzuela (Chile)

"The Melton Foundation shaped my life and attitude a lot, I will forever feel gratitude and love for so many open-minded people from whom I learnt so much. It was way too much fun but also, I consider it made me a better version of me, and continues doing so!"

Jana Leidenfrost (Germany)

"Starting off in 1992 with new technical opportunities through the Melton Foundation, it opened the world wide communication for me. And while meeting with the founders, the board, the other fellows it also opened my heart for new horizons and my ambition for new achievements. I owe the members of the Melton Foundation endless gratitude for their open minds, warm hearts and strong energy. Together we have created a wonderful spirit and a great global capacity for the next coming young professionals."

Jonathan Lou (China)

Jiayi (Jonathan) Lou, one of the first batch of fellows from Hangzhou China, was a shy boy from a remote village who never had the chance to see a plane. The Melton Foundation opened the door to the world for him. "Without the Foundation, I would just be another version of my father. There is so much more than just job and family." Jonathan runs a consulting business both in China and the US.
30 Years Anniversary Celebration
Exemplary Melton Fellows

Ranjini Rao HS (India)

"As a Computer Science engineer, and now a fellow of Skill development and entrepreneurship working with the bottom-of-the pyramid beneficiaries, I now understand more profoundly how societal transformation starts primarily by the people, and for the people, and I am happy to share that my first-hand experience of solving local problems for global impact started with my journey as a Melton Fellow, which has continued to fuel and support my passion for initiating change."

Clement Ngosong (Ghana)

"As a Melton Fellow, I have had the opportunity to e-meet and engage with changemakers across the globe. I have honed my cross-cultural communication skills by learning about different aspects of cultures. I have also won the MF Action Grant to support the work I do towards building changemakers in Cameroon. Thanks to the network and skills I am building at the Foundation, I am continuously refining my work as a changemaker while promoting a culture of Global Citizenship."

Jerome Bailey Jr. (USA)

Global citizenship was an innate desire of mine, though unknowingly when I joined one of the most extraordinary fellowships of my life. The Melton Foundation has genuinely changed my life for the better, and I would not have nearly any personal or professional success without my experiences in this organization. I am forever grateful to this truly unique group of outstanding global changemakers. I'm honored to call those affiliated with the Melton Foundation, my family."
Global Citizenship Learning Program

The Global Citizenship Learning program, our legacy ‘Melton Fellowship’, experienced a transformative year in 2021. As we have met the rapidly changing landscape of intercultural communication in a virtual space, we have responded with fervor in iteration and innovation to continue to meet fellows' needs. Where once, in-person visits were the connection anchor for fellows to cement relationships, we've had to unpack and develop ways to mimic in-person connection through amplified online activities that appeal to the Fellows' deep desire to connect beyond the surface.

Learning Director Alafia Stewart shares, "Over the last year, we have had difficult conversations regarding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI). We began designing ways for us to unpack the topics of discrimination as an organization. We recognize that we as an organization have historically approached subjects of this sensitive nature informally, but need now more than ever to set intentions around DEI as a necessary theme to increase global citizenship capacity and is a core component of ethical Leadership. The Learning program has built a conceptual framework to pilot in 2022 that aims to “call-in” fellows as co-creators of the Melton Foundation's global Village ecosystem."

The Melton Foundation's Global Citizenship Learning Program is the ideal Fellowship for university students who aim to emerge as Global Citizens! Melton Fellows are emerging change agents who are committed to serving their communities and, through the Global Citizenship Learning Program, can build their capacity! Learn more at meltonfoundation.org
Arun Joseph Raj (Graduated in 2021): “I can't say enough about how much the fellowship impacted me in my life as an activist, but also as a student. Although most of the journey happened virtually, the promise of the Melton experience was never compromised upon. It was an exposure that put me in a room of like-minded people and offered techniques to solve problems on a global scale. And to realize that this is for a lifetime, is the cherry on the cake.”

Our aim is that all members of our community internally and externally feel comfortable expressing their opinions and ideas freely, are appreciated for their unique contributions, and are recognized for their accomplishments.

We believe in incorporating new policies and practices that create inclusion and make all fellows and community members feel welcome, valued, and respected.
Rosemond Edem noticed a learning gap in the education sector, and centered her Act of Global Citizenship to expose young people within Africa to innovative skills needed to empower and prepare them for the world of work through programmes on leadership and Life skills, Digital skills, Literacy skills, STEM skills, Employability Skills, and Entrepreneurship.

Trinity James

Trinity James, Melton Fellow from Dillard University (USA), decided to do a campus cleanup and gardening event for her Act of Global Citizenship. Associating her project with SDG3: Good Health and Well-being, her moment of realization hinged around her recent experience with a hurricane. The result of her act was a cleaner campus and more involvement from the community.

Clement Ngosong

Clement Ngosong, Melton Fellow from Ashesi University (Ghana) noticed that, despite having excelled in the academic field, most people lacked soft skills which are vital for their success on a global scale. Combining his passions for education, mental health, and women empowerment, his 100Act comprised a session in which he advocated for SDG4: Quality Education.
Melton Fellows Arun, Shravani, Palak, and Clara from the Bangalore HUB held a virtual Yoga fundraiser on World Yoga day! With over 25 event attendees and 35 donors, the junior fellow team raised Rs.15,000 and contributed towards covid relief efforts in Bangalore.

Melton Fellows from Hangzhou, China (Steven Xu, Ge Xinyi, Tang Yiying, Zhao Yun) held an event for 150 people to raise awareness on mental wellness and diseases. A cross-regional group of Melton Fellows from Ghana, the USA, and China (Trish Maduche, Tang Yiying, Ge Xinyi, Amari McAllister) raised awareness to tackle the stigma of mental health in men.

Melton Fellows from Ghana (Clement, Simba, Malcolm, and Clara) held a workshop for 40 attendees, educating the audience on self-awareness, global opportunities, and women empowerment.

Melton Fellows from Jena, Germany (Jakob, Matthias, and Laura) held an ‘Unseen Human Stories in a Globalised World’ movie screening for 21 attendees, followed by a discussion on responsible consumption and production.

A cross-regional group (Claris, Lajeanne, Tobias, and Bakiye) published a ‘Green Zone’ pamphlet in their regions on Climate.

Melton Fellows from Hangzhou, China organized a Climate Ideation Marathon on rural sustainable development.

Melton Fellows from Temuco, Chile (Jose and Lissette) held a composting workshop for 6 people, where attendees were able to learn about the importance of responsible consumption and how to perform different composting methods.

Melton Fellows from New Orleans, USA (Trinity James, Kyla Mayo, Marissa Pittman, and Akilah Northern) organized a campus clean-up drive after Hurricane Ida.

Cross-regional team (Kennedy, Jared, Marianna) advocated to educate the next generation of young change-makers on global citizenship and how they can make a difference no matter their age, race, religion, or background.

Melton Fellows from Bangalore, India (Shreya and Prathiksha) organized a tree plantation drive to target land degradation. They had 50 people join their campaign and planted 70 saplings in Bangalore.

Learn more about our #100ActsOfGlobalCitizenship at meltonfoundation.org
The Global Solvers Accelerator brings together talented young individuals who have a common goal of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative and actionable projects. Within an intercultural and cross-domain setting, participants plant seeds for novel approaches and build upon frameworks to solidify comprehensive and transformative project impact. An open and diverse platform for the exchange of ideas facilitates networking and creation.

Melton Foundation Director of Strategy, Lars Dietzel, who leads the program, shares: “We recently completed a prototype version of a daring Global Citizenship Leadership Program that is tailored to young SDG practitioners from around the globe with the desire to leverage global citizenship practice for more transformative and sustained progress towards sustainable development.

In January, we embarked on a collaborative learning journey with 12 community leaders, 8 Senior Fellow trainers, and many more supporters behind the scene to test-run the "Global Solvers Accelerator" as we called our prototype, and the insights and feedback we got have been uniquely valuable. We're still distilling the learnings, but one’s for sure: the program is timely, adds value to participants' projects, and has the potential to foster transformative change. We're ready for more!”

Learn more about the Global Solvers Accelerator at meltonfoundation.org/global-solvers-accelerator
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.

One of the aims of the Melton Foundation is to strengthen its local presence and impact in the places that the foundation operates. We partner with local organizations and engage with local ecosystems to organize impact-driven activities in our Global Citizenship Hubs. In 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**

![Map showing locations of Global Citizenship Hubs](image)

2021 saw great progress in our hub activities and expansion in Bangalore, India, and Temuco, Chile with local climate innovation marathons, town halls, and Melton Fellows' gatherings. We also formed partnerships with local non-profit and impact organizations in the execution of our hub activities. Melton Fellows came together to organize our classic 'Weekend Seminars' in Bangalore, Temuco, Jena, Accra, and other regions. We are currently establishing hubs in Accra, New Orleans, and Jena.

Melton Foundation Executive Director Steffen Bethmann shares, Over the last two years, we made much more intentional efforts to increase our impact in regions with a physical presence. We aim to build vital Hubs, where the Melton Foundation is known as convener and enabler. It is where the global and the local intersect where we see the most significant potential for transformative change. By hiring our first Hub Coordinator in Accra, we make a solid commitment to the region. Stepwise we continue to increase our reach.
Climathon Bengaluru 2021 was held under the banner of “Solutions to build Climate Resilience” from Oct 29th to Oct 31st, 2021, with a 50-hour online idea marathon, where students and researchers from educational institutes and universities developed practical prototypes to combat climate change, highlighting the role businesses and youth could play in promoting SDG 12.

For Climathon Temuco 2021, the theme was “Zero Waste”. Three groups participated in this initiative where they worked and collaborated to develop practicable ideas that sought to improve waste management in Temuco. The event was inaugurated by an online panel discussion that featured eminent experts, followed by the mentoring sessions led by Senior Fellows.

Our Climathon Partners
To amplify our impact locally and develop more skills on how to facilitate the learning of global competencies, the Melton Foundation launched its first university course. Led by the Melton Foundation’s Director of Operations Patricia Ortiz, and Executive Director Steffen Bethmann, the elective was open to all students from the Universidad de la Frontera in Temuco, Chile. The 25 spots in the first edition of the course filled up quickly. Due to the pandemic, the course was taught online. The curriculum started with setting the context about the idea of Global Citizenship and the necessity to develop global competencies in today’s interconnected world. The classes then focused on different dimensions of culture, aiming to show the value of diversity and provide tools for intercultural communication. Students had the chance to interact with fellows from Germany, Zimbabwe, and India. They also heard from Chileans about their experience living and working abroad.

Patricia Ortiz shares, “In the second part of the course we introduced the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to show shared global challenges that need to be solved collaboratively. As part of their evaluation, students were asked to present how global solutions can be transferred into the Chilean context. The course also addressed different leadership styles, and guest speakers from social organizations showed strategies of social change. As final evaluations, the students produced podcasts about topics from the course. After a successful first iteration, we are looking forward to teaching the course in person next semester.”
Melton Foundation
Grants and Projects

At the Melton Foundation, we offer grants to Melton Fellow-led projects based on an impact-oriented evaluation process to allocate funds that serve as a crucial financial backbone, while helping shape and refine the desired end result, which can be monitored and supported going forward. The projects can be based in any part of the world, as long as it is spearheaded by one of our Fellows, we are eager to support it.

Our grants encourage collaboration across domains, regions, and backgrounds in pursuit of leveraging Global Citizenship practice to advance the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In 2021, The Melton Foundation has revamped the Grants program in keeping up with innovations and a changing social landscape. We have updated our monitoring and evaluation metrics in order to allocate and follow up on our grants in an improved manner with higher efficacy.

2021 was a particularly impactful year as the Grant Committee supported six very diverse projects in Cameroon, Kenya, Chile, India, and Pakistan. It is very encouraging to see the strong grassroots level impact these granted projects continue to have. We, in the Grant Committee, look forward to supporting more such Global Citizenship projects and enabling Fellows to amplify their impact around the globe.

Melton Fellow and Grant Committee Chair Jaikar Mohan shares,
**Goodwill Fellowship Program** empowers young people between 16 –24 years old in Cameroon with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to transform their social impact ideas into valuable, feasible, and sustainable projects that will bring about positive change within communities.

**Lighthouse** is intercultural storytelling platform for writers and creators stories of empowerment, struggle and passion are shared. Lighthouse is a media enterprise aiming to connect the dots across the globe through diverse, inclusive, intercultural narratives.

**Life Lifters Kenya** is a girl-Centred Programming - a one-year intensive training and mentorship program that would work closely with 20 teenage girls from rural communities in Kenya to empower and build them. The program plans to deliver 2 conferences, training, and mentorship sessions through a tailored girl-centered approach.

**Inspire for Peace** raises awareness about the crisis in Cameroon and supports the education of internally displaced primary school pupils to prevent them from dropping out of school. Through her project inspire for peace, she aims at providing school bags, notebooks, and school stationery in Douala Cameroon.

**Beyond the Borders** is an Indo-Pak Campaign - A campaign aimed at showcasing true, engaging and motivational stories of love and friendship between India and Pakistan in the hopes to promote peace and celebrate unity.

**Badili Zone Organization** is equipping young people in slums with appropriate technological training and access; scale-up plan to fully digitalize the community library and connect it with the rest of the world.
In a series of carefully curated activities, we explored the practical dimension of Global Citizenship in the Virtual Global Citizenship Week 2021. Through dynamic and interactive sessions, we worked collectively to solve today’s challenges. Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we pursued opportunities to make a difference in the following arenas:

- The pulse on global issues – delves into practitioners’ discussions on cutting-edge topics
- The richness of different cultures, enhancing knowledge of the world, and networking with a diverse crowd
- Exploring root causes of systemic inequalities and discrimination and deliberating on how to overcome them
- Connecting skills and networks with peers from around the world as part of the Global Citizenship virtual ideation marathon
- The most-liked factors across the events by our attendees, as evident by the feedback surveys, were the content delivered/speaker’s contribution, diversity of the panel as well as the audience, and the format of the sessions conducted.
2021 witnessed many people and organizations declaring themselves as allies for the cause to condemn racism and other forms of discrimination. In an attempt to confront discrimination in all forms, we inaugurated our Virtual Global Citizenship Week 2021 with an Anti-Discrimination Townhall. It featured inspirational educators, trainers, and activists in the exploration of how individuals and organizations can successfully fight discrimination together!

Unity in Diversity: An Open Mic was an experience in Global Citizenship and Intercultural dimensions through Art! A Melton Foundation Bengaluru Hub event, it was curated for artists to converge for a virtual evening of creativity, and self-expression unfurling hitherto unknown layers of Global Citizenship. Eight artists from different countries came together to perform at the Open Mic, leaving behind an audience awed by their talent and swayed by their performances! Our open mic night proved to be a stage for local artists to showcase their talent, and share intercultural perspectives with a diverse audience.

Global Citizenship is a concept which intertwines our identity with the interconnected, interdependent world of today. The Global Citizenship Townhall revolved around the theme of “Putting Global Citizenship into Practice”, where we explored ways to elevate the concept from the realm of theory to the realm of action. The Townhall left behind a rich collection of newly gathered experience and information which will help propel Global Citizenship into tangible effort-based practices!

Highlights from the Virtual Global Citizenship Week 2021

Unity in Diversity: An Open Mic

1000+
Changemakers as audience

20+
Countries represented
Global Citizenship Practice and Engagement

White Paper: State of Global Citizenship

How do we reconcile local, and global requirements? How do we change the rising tide of looking inward into a rising awareness of integrating with the global community to solve one’s problems? Our maiden White Paper, The State of Global Citizenship debates, discusses, and proposes the future for Global Citizenship, taking into account the changing dynamics of a world in flux and the conflict between regional and global interests worldwide. We seek to debunk the misperceptions surrounding Global Citizenship and invite people everywhere to question, reflect and join the discourse.

The SDG Innovation Challenge is a powerhouse for young people from across the African continent to come together in developing and connecting practical solution ideas to grassroots challenges while pushing the needle of sustainable development on a global scale. The SDG Innovation Challenge 2021 had two events and took place from 18 - 20 October 2021, and 21-23 October for the first and second round respectively. Embracing SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals), the second edition of the SDG Innovation Challenge was a collaborative effort between GrassRoots Hub, Melton Foundation, TECHFARM Hub, Youth Advocates Ghana, the African Youth SDGs Summit, and numerous supporting and collaborating organizations.

2021 edition of the Pan-African SDG Innovation Challenge

700+ Applicants from across Africa

20 Successful Solution Ideas
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.

**Featured Podcasts from 2021**

### What is holistic female empowerment?

In this podcast Melton Fellows Clara Forbuzo and Marissa Pittman discuss the meaning of holistic female empowerment. Driven to address the educational, mental, and economic aspects of female empowerment, Forbuzo and Pittman give listeners a chance to get involved as well. It discusses how active engagement and education turns a cycle of poverty into a cycle of prosperity. Situated in the context of the coronavirus pandemic which has forced millions of girls to drop out of school, this episode explores how holistic empowerment contributes to the lives of women as well as society.

### Building a generation of leaders in Cameroon

This podcast anchored by Melton Fellows Clement Ngosong and Claris Nadini from Ashesi University is simple, insightful, and inspiring. One gets to learn more about the GoodWill Fellowship program that Clement has initiated with the aim of inspiring young people from Cameroon to be the drivers of change. He also shares some of his experiences as a change-maker and reflects on the journey he has taken so far. This edition deliberates on how the youth can be pioneers and engineers of positive impact when provided with the right skills and resources.

**Featured Story**

### Creating Peace: Another World of Care

Following the escalating crisis that is being precipitated upon Afghanistan, human rights at large, and especially the rights of women and several other vulnerable groups are critically threatened. 'Creating Peace' has been penned by our co-founder, Patricia Smith who is actively involved in the global fora in the areas of conflict resolution. This article talks about the profound sense of our collective conscience which forces us to act towards alleviating the plight of our fellow human beings trapped in the crisis, crafted eloquently as ‘another world of care’.

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**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PRACTICE AND ENGAGEMENT**

Storytelling can be used to craft powerful narratives and voice is a powerful medium to that end. Our Podcast and blog series is an extension of our Storytelling for Change initiative. It is a program that seeks to bridge the distance between people through the medium of conversations, interviews, and dialogues.
Global Citizenship: Foundations for an Interconnected World

On 9 July 2021, during the first week of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, the Cluster for Global Citizenship of the NGO Major Group hosted a parallel event entitled “Global Citizenship: Foundations for an Interconnected World”. The event was a fast-paced 90-minute session featuring four impulse speakers who created context and stimulated discussion, and engaging musicians to set us in the proper mind-frame, lively break-out sessions for open dialogue, and a Mentimeter survey to help coalesce the knowledge.

Rethinking Sustainable Consumption and Production – A Townhall

The Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) from India, the Center for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP), and the Melton Foundation joined hands for a panel discussion on the topic “Rethinking Sustainable Consumption and Production: Shifting Business and Consumption Patterns”. During this session, we identified ideas and solutions to further sustainable consumption and production in the current scenario along with highlighting the role businesses and youth could play in promoting sustainable development goals, specifically SDG 12.

Global Storytelling Festival 2021

The Global Storytelling Festival 2021 comprised a Mini Story Contest, Impact Storytelling 101 workshop, and a Storytelling for Change showcase! Having seen the positive catalyst that storytelling can be first-hand, the maiden edition was held from July 20 – August 31st, 2021, with the theme, Stories across Boundaries: Bridging Intercultural Gaps. The festival served as a platform for budding storytellers and social impact leaders to participate in a global initiative that challenges and boosts their skills, as well as showcases their skills to an international audience.

Grateful to be a Woman – International Women’s Day 2021

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, The Melton Foundation hosted a TownHall dedicated to the cause of women empowerment and gender equality. The Townhall featured inspirational women who narrated their tales of debilitating disabilities, physical, social, and economic. Their experiences also highlighted how women in different parts of the world freed themselves from the bond of discrimination and rose above all imponderables to achieve the impossible.
OUR PARTNERS IN 2021
"Together we are building a community of global citizens, based on mutual interests, synergies, and complementary experience."

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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.

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Support our Mission

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