

## GLOBALIZE DC 2022 OVERVIEW

Globalize DC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated in Washington, DC, dedicated to expanding access to high quality global education, language learning, and study abroad opportunities for DC public school students, particularly those from our most underserved schools and communities. The organization was originally created as a vehicle to support international programming within DC Public Schools, but since then has expanded to work across both traditional DCPS and charter sectors. Its founder and Executive Director, Sally Schwartz, has over three decades of experience in this arena.

### Our Vision

We believe that at this point in history all K-12 students need to be equipped with the knowledge, skills, experiences, and mindsets that will prepare them to compete and engage fully in our culturally diverse and globally interconnected world. We have a special imperative as residents of Washington, DC, home to an unparalleled wealth of globally connected individuals, organizations, and resources (government agencies, embassies, think tanks, cultural institutions, businesses, NGOs, international organizations, universities), with a rich local landscape of career opportunities requiring global competencies and language skills. But in a hometown sharply divided by race and class, far too many of our local students – mostly Black and Brown, lower income, socially and geographically disadvantaged – simply have no connection whatsoever to the global dimensions of their own city. We believe our failure to see DC’s young people as our nation’s future diplomats, international business leaders, and global changemakers is both a failure of imagination and will. Globalize DC believes that by leveraging the city’s globally connected resources for the benefit of our local students, and working with collective purpose and determination, DC can and should become a national model for providing meaningful and equitably available 21<sup>st</sup> century global education and language learning to its K-12 student population.

### Our Mission and How We Work

Globalize DC was created to provide the impetus, thought leadership, determined focus, expertise, and institutional capacity to move DC’s K-12 global education efforts to the next level. Our mission is to mobilize the city’s wealth of global resources to increase access for DC public school students to high quality global education, language learning, and study abroad opportunities. At all times we promote a **strategic, systemic, and equity-focused** approach, working collaboratively and creatively with partners, schools, and the public education system. We are particularly committed to creating innovative solutions that will reduce structural barriers to **ACCESS** for underserved students and schools, and that will support sustainable **PATHWAYS** to college and careers in global fields.

Globalize DC uses two primary approaches to advance this mission:

#### **TRACK 1: We work with and through others.**

We encourage and help others to advance K-12 global education for DC’s young people, using advocacy and partnerships to push for expanded opportunities and systemic change, including:

***Making the case for DC K-12 global education and language learning*** to decisionmakers at all levels (educators, students, parents, policymakers, partners, and community members), and directly challenging mindsets that impede our students’ progress in this area.

***Serving as an information clearinghouse*** for free and almost free global education and language learning opportunities, resources, and best practices for DC’s K-12 students, educators, and schools.

***Working with globally focused partners*** to expand opportunities; to address barriers to access; to facilitate connections to DC students, teachers, and schools; to help develop strategic approaches; and to provide a platform for partner communication, collaboration, advocacy, and programming.

***Promoting and supporting systemic reforms*** that advance quality, equity, and sustainability of global education and language learning within DC schools and other youth-serving agencies and organizations.

## **TRACK 2: We develop our own innovative programs where an unmet need exists.**

We have focused most of our program work on out-of-school time (afterschool and summer) programs for DC high school students citywide (rather than based at individual schools). We have a long history of assisting partner organizations with the design and administration of specific program components, such as student recruitment, selection, pre-program orientation and post-program follow-up.

In 2016, we elevated this aspect of our work when we launched a menu of our own Japan-related programs as a way to address the absence of DC school-based Japanese language programs in spite of a very high level of student interest. We developed three interlocking programs for DC high school students – for school year (Japanese Plus), summer (Japan in DC), and study abroad. The success of the innovative model we created for Japan studies has persuaded us that out-of-school time programming represents a hugely promising and underutilized strategy for expanding access for secondary school students to for-credit academic offerings not available in their home schools. We want to significantly expand our work in this area, working as always in collaboration with partner organizations.

## **Why Global Education Now?**

The convergence of COVID-19, which has caused so much upheaval in our schools and daily lives, and the long overdue attention to structural inequality and systemic racism in the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder, has created the space and the moral imperative for us to think deeply about the work we are doing. Global education may seem peripheral to the central concerns of the moment, but we would argue otherwise. Both the global pandemic and our current global racial reckoning remind us of the many ways that our histories, our present circumstances, and destinies on this planet are inextricably shared with others around the world. We believe that helping students understand their place in the wider world and the broader context for their own lives is empowering, and an important contribution to the current conversations around identity, systemic racism, and social justice. As our schools and communities begin to rebuild in the aftermath of the COVID disruption, we need strong advocacy to ensure that a global vision for K-12 education is firmly embedded and not marginalized.

## **Meeting the Moment**

Since mid-March 2020, pandemic restrictions have forced Globalize DC to scale back its operations and convert to virtual programming only. We are now looking forward to a return to more normal operations this year, motivated not only by our deep desire to resume meaningful face-to-face interactions, but also excited by the convergence of circumstances that create unique opportunities to significantly alter the global education and world language landscape in DC. We know we must immediately get to work to build our capacity to take full advantage of this critical moment.

- DC is now in the middle of rewriting its **social studies standards** which will determine what is taught in all public PK-12 social studies classrooms in the city. We participated in the State Board of Education’s advisory committee to ensure that global content and perspectives would be adequately represented in the new standards. Moving forward, Globalize DC and its partner network have a real opportunity to help shape standards and curriculum (and associated professional and student learning experiences) for years to come. This is hugely important work.
- Globalize DC has spent five years (2016-2021) developing a menu of **Japanese language and culture programs** for DC high school students (Japanese Plus, Japanese Tamago, Japan in DC, TOMODACHI US-Japan Youth Exchange). We believe these demonstrate the tremendous untapped potential of out-of-school time (afterschool and summer) for offering academic content (specifically global education and languages) not available in schools.
- The huge disruption to PK-12 schooling that we have experienced over the past year is creating an unprecedented reimagining and openness to new approaches to delivering education to students, especially in ways that address barriers to equity and access. We believe this is a uniquely opportune time to test and **promote innovative strategies**, like competency-based credit and use of for-credit out-of-school time learning, to augment school-based offerings.
- The lessons of the last 18 months motivate us to intensify our long-standing **focus on equity** and our determination to remove structural barriers that impede our city’s most disadvantaged students from accessing and reaping the many benefits of global education, language learning, and study abroad. Addressing the challenge of increasing “diversity, equity, and inclusion” is on the agenda of companies, organizations, and government agencies across the US, and certainly in the international education and international career space. Globalize DC’s experience in this area position us to play an important role in helping organizations move beyond words to action.
- It appears that significant new K-12 education funding opportunities, particularly in the public sector, may be forthcoming. We need to immediately **build our organizational capacity** to enable us to apply for new funding and manage potential growth. The pandemic has seriously diminished our financial resources.

These moments don’t last very long. We feel an urgency now to take full advantage of this historic period of deep disruption and reimagining of public education to advance our collective vision and mission. Despite the breadth of our work and record of accomplishment, Globalize DC has always operated on a very small scale; we have never had a full-time staff member. We know we need to focus this school year on building our organizational capacity, and creating the effective, sustainable, and growing organization that can make a significant difference in the PK-12 global education landscape in DC moving forward.

### **Our Big Work Ahead for 2022**

1. **To build our community** of partners, advisors, educators, parents, students and alumni, community members, and funders who will be essential in informing, promoting, and implementing our work.
2. **To raise sufficient funds** to support our administrative expenses and Track 1 work described above through 2023. We will be asking DC-based organizations, companies, foundations, and individuals, especially those with a global focus or mission, to help support our work as sponsors.