

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PEACE BOAT US 2019 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT



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GREETING

In 2019, Peace Boat US continued its mission to promote sustainability and peace education through advocacy and working with the United Nations, especially on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and disarmament-related programs, youth empowerment, and coordinating Peace Boat programs during the ship's visits to New York City. This report highlights key activities conducted in working toward the Peace Boat US mission.

Peace Boat US is comprised of a small staff but, thanks to our many supporters including program donors, interns, volunteers, and academic and institutional partners, was able to make great accomplishments again in 2019.

OUR WORK IN 2019

Peace Boat US's work in 2019 focused on three primary areas:

- United Nations Advocacy for the SDGs and Disarmament Education
- Empowering young people to act for the UN SDGs and Disarmament
- Programming and organizing during the Peace Boat's visits to New York City

ADVOCACY AND UNITED NATIONS PARTNERSHIPS

Peace Boat US participated in many UN events on a wide range of topics, both advocating for issues and strengthening relationships with agencies and UN Permanent Mission representatives that enable close cooperation. Following are some of the key UN-related activities.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF) - JULY 9-18



The UN HLPF was held July 9-18 at UN Headquarters under the theme of “empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.” Peace Boat US staff and interns participated by conducting the following activities:

- Hosted an exhibition in partnership with the UN SDG Action Campaign. Presented at the side event: “Youth Climate Action for Small Island Developing States”
- Advocated for SDG 16, highlighting peaceful and inclusive societies, justice, and functional institutions (Peace Boat US is a member of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict)
- Participated in several side events



UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE WEEK - SEPTEMBER 23-29

As a committed campaigner for the UN SDGs, Peace Boat US participated in activities coinciding with the UN General Assembly, the UN SDG Summit and the Secretary General's Climate Action Summit during the month of September. Climate week NYC ran from September 23-29 in coordination with the UN and the City of New York, and served as a showcase of the growing climate action movement.

Peace Boat US held three Climate Week events:

SEPTEMBER 20

Climate Week kick-off event
"Creating the Future we Want – Working Towards the 2030 Agenda and Climate Action"



SEPTEMBER 24

"Nature's Climate Hub" – Film Screening of "Against the Tide: A Journey for Climate Hope" and EcoShip Introduction

SEPTEMBER 26

Intergenerational panel on
"Youth Mobilisation for Climate Action and the SDGs"



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68TH UNITED NATIONS ANNUAL CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE - AUGUST 26-28



Peace Boat US held an exhibition highlighting its unique international programs for SDGs education and Peace Boat's EcoShip, and held a workshop entitled, "Youth in Action: Global SDGs Education and Social Innovation for Sustainable Communities."

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2019 UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP25) IN MADRID, SPAIN - DECEMBER 2-13

Peace Boat US, in partnership with NYC-based Global Kids and the Sustainable Ocean Alliance, organized an event highlighting climate action and empowerment of youth from Small Island Developing States as well as introducing Peace Boat's EcoShip.

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COORDINATING PEACE BOAT PROGRAMS IN NYC AND CO-ORGANIZING ADVOCACY EVENTS

The ship's call to New York is always a highlight of Peace Boat US' work. The Peace Boat's visits to New York provide an opportunity for Peace Boat US to create unique large-scale programs with our United Nations partners and other local organizations. Peace Boat visited NYC twice in 2019, first on June 7-8, coinciding with UN World Oceans Day, and again on October 10-11, coinciding with the annual UN First Committee on Disarmament and International Security. Events organized onboard Peace Boat and at the UN included the following:

UN WORLD OCEANS DAY SIDE EVENT "GLOBAL YOUTH PERSPECTIVES: FROM AWARENESS RAISING TO ACTION FOR OUR OCEAN" - JUNE 7

Peace Boat hosted a panel to highlight the role of youth in ocean conservation and climate action, including members from the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors, Daniela Fernandez from the Sustainable Ocean Alliance, Tre Packard, Founder of the PangeaSeed Foundation, to Fabian Cousteau, renowned aquanaut and Founder of Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center. [READ MORE](#)



WORLD OCEANS DAY CELEBRATION - JUNE 8

June 8th was designated by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day" to raise global awareness of the benefits derived from the oceans and the current challenges faced by the international community. As an official partner of UN World Oceans Day, Peace Boat welcomed hundreds of people on board our ship as it was docked in New York City for a range of events, together with partners from the United Nations and civil society working to protect our oceans. Each part of the program encouraged youth and citizen engagement in raising awareness of the importance of our oceans, providing a venue for civil society to come together to discuss local initiatives on the SDGs, including but not limited to Goals 5, 13 and 14. Highlights of the day were keynote speeches by "Her Deepness" Dr Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Founder of Mission Blue, together with Mr Fabien Cousteau of the Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning center and Ms Daniela Fernandez of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance.

BLUE INNOVATION SUMMIT RECEPTION - OCTOBER 10



The Blue Innovation Summit Reception was held onboard Peace Boat following the inaugural SeaAhead Global Bluetech Summit in New York, and was attended by hundreds of high-level stakeholders from the UN, civil society, and technology companies.

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HIBAKUSHA APPEAL FOR THE PROHIBITION AND ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS - OCTOBER 10 AND 11 EVENTS

While the ship was in New York in October, Peace Boat held side-events to the UN First Committee on Disarmament and International Security. Peace Boat collaborated with the Hibakusha Appeal International Signature Campaign (Hibakusha Appeal) and other partners to advocate for nuclear weapons abolition at the UN and beyond.

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EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACT FOR THE SDGs

The “Peace Education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals” experiential study program is held 1-2 times per year onboard Peace Boat’s Global Voyages. The program is geared toward participation by young scholar-activists from around the world who are engaged in implementing the SDGs. Most participants receive partial or full financial support through the “Youth for the SDGs” scholarship, awarded through a highly competitive application process.

Through onboard and in-port study experiences, this program provides participants with:

- Intensive educational experiences that deepen their knowledge about the SDGs
- Opportunity to build strong partnerships with their peers around the world
- Engagement with UN agencies implementing the SDGs
- Participation in high-level SDGs advocacy events
- Professional development that strengthens their efforts and leads to greater impact



PEACE EDUCATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SOUTH AMERICA PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 19-28

The 2019 program took place February 19-28, during the South America segment of Peace Boat's 100th Global Voyage, beginning in Ushuaia, Argentina, passing through the Patagonia fjords, and ending in Valparaiso and Santiago in Chile. The emphasis was on SDG 13 for Climate Action and SDG 14 for Life Below Water.

Participants:

- Hansier Rodriguez (United States)
- Carol McDonnell Schmidt (Chile)
- Sara Van Eerde (United States)
- Mareeka Dookie (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Michael Valdivieso (Ecuador)
- Silvia Cantu Bautista (Mexico)
- Donovan Tremor (Saint Martin)



While sailing at sea, participants gave presentations about their own activities to advance the SDGs in their home countries, led workshops, joined cross-cultural dialogues, and learned about diverse cultures through workshops and interacting with other participants onboard.

In ports of call, participants partake in learning about sustainability and co-organize education and advocacy events with local partners. In Ushuaia, Argentina, the SDGs scholars teamed up with local NGO Asociación Mane'kenk and Peace Boat partner NGO Liter of Light for an educational event for the local community about renewable energy. In Valparaiso, Chile, the scholars met with journalists and representatives of the Ministry of Energy to share ideas and promote the SDGs. In Santiago, the capital of Chile, participants spoke at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL), presenting their program and individual activities.

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"Peace Boat has given me learning experiences the size of the ocean" - Sara Van Eerde

"I brought back with me the amazing bonds and memories, but also an awakening affirmation that this is the kind of work I want to dedicate myself to in the future." - Hansier Rodriguez

"I am more convinced than ever that we need to take action." - Michael Valdivieso Muñoz

"...A life changing experience that has given me even more impulse to keep working in the field of environmental conservation and peace education." - Silvia Cantú

YOUTH CHAMPIONS FOR SECURING OUR COMMON FUTURE - OCTOBER 11

Held during Peace Boat's visit to NYC, the Youth Champions event was co-organized with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) as part of their "Youth4Disarmament" initiative. In view of the upcoming 75th anniversary of the United Nations, 75 young people joined leading experts and policy makers for a daylong program. The morning session was held at the UN, and afternoon session held onboard the Peace Boat while docked in Manhattan. It was a valuable opportunity for young people, to gain insight about how they can work for disarmament and to network with experts in the field.

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INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Peace Boat US' Internship program is for university students and others to gain valuable experience participating in SDG-related events at the UN, with civil society counterparts, and other areas while supporting the organization's work. In 2019, students from Hollins University, Pace University, the University of Michigan and other youth participated in Peace Boat US's internship program, attending UN events supporting office administration, assisting with programmatic work, and various other duties.





SUPPORTERS

Peace Boat US expresses our deep gratitude and appreciation to the many individuals and organizations who supported Peace Boat US programs in 2019 through donations and/or in-kind services, volunteering at Peace Boat US events, and other ways. In particular, many young people from the US and around the world were able to join our “Peace Education and UN Sustainable Development Goals” onboard programs through full or partial “Youth for the SDGs” scholarships. This scholarship was made possible by two substantial private donations and many smaller contributions made during fundraising events. Also of note, dozens of local volunteers came out to support the smooth and successful operation of events organized during Peace Boat’s visits to NYC in June and October of 2019. This financial and in-kind support is critical to the continuation of our programs and in 2020 we look forward to expanding our network of people involved with and supporting Peace Boat US activities.