Open World Program 2020

Hosting Themes

Armenia

Emerging Leaders: Youth-led Social Change (February 26th)
Youth played a key role in galvanizing the political transition in Armenia in May 2018, and during the past year, this sense of empowerment to change "business as usual" has matured. Young people wish to remain engaged and have their say in decision-making, both at the local and national levels. A customized Open World program will benefit these emerging voices by providing first-hand exposure to local politics in the United States, how strategies/plans of action are developed, and how networks are formed. The program should provide insight as to strengthening institutional capacity, incorporating issue-based planning, and how to increase exposure for increased influence and impact. The delegation would benefit from exposure to grassroots issues started at the local level that have gained traction at the state and national level.

Combatting Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (May 6th)
Armenia faces strong challenges in empowering women and combating abuse. Armenia’s Velvet Revolution ushered in a new generation of political leaders that are willing to tackle complex human rights issues that do not always enjoy popularity. Reducing domestic violence is one such issue that the new Minister of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA) has prioritized, but public support for the matter does not go beyond the civil society members and activists that have come together under the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women. Even though Armenia adopted the Law on Prevention of Violence within the Family in December 2017, in practice women and children remain at risk since the enabling environment for the implementation of the law is lagging. Sexual assault is a related issue as women often hide the fact that they have been victimized due to the social stigma and victim blaming prevalent in society. Law enforcement is currently neither competent nor willing to consider domestic violence and sexual assault according to normal criminal investigative practices. The notoriety of being a sexual assault victim can ruin a young person’s future for marriage or profession. Armenia lacks government-sponsored victim shelters and professionals trained to assist victims, and the country relies solely on NGO operated-shelters and staff. Currently, there is a window of opportunity to initiate strategic communication and behavioral change campaigns for the Ministry to be able to garner broader public and stakeholder support in defense of women. The Open World program will be designed for a joint group consisting of one relevant individual from MLSA, one member of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women, one media representative, one investigator, and one prosecutor to closely observe and learn the approaches and treatment of women’s issues in the United States. Meetings with organizations working in this field will expose the delegation to best practices and tested approaches/models on how to communicate complex policy change and how to strategically engage interest groups. One key focus of this group will be to form/join a network through which they can address these issues upon return to Armenia to assist with the initiation of real reform.
Judicial Rule of Law - Impact of Precedent on the U.S. Judicial System (June 11th)
Under the Armenian Constitution and Judicial Code, decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Cassation (Supreme Court) create binding precedents for all instances in the Armenian Judicial system. The purpose of this program is to demonstrate to Armenia’s judges – who have been using case law only for 11 years – how courts in the U.S. apply and use case law precedents. Since the wording in statutes and constitutions is often very vague, case law is a critical component of legal decision making impacting policy in the United States, and it would be beneficial for the Armenian judicial delegation to see this impact.

Think Tank Specialists (October 21st)
A new generation of Armenian opinion leaders would benefit from exposure to U.S. think tanks to better understand the use of diverse approaches to deliver messages and to influence public opinion and policy. This program will expose the delegates to current trends and technologies used in influencing public opinion, as well as combating disinformation. The delegates will learn how policymaking works in the United States, including the role of government agencies, lobbyists, NGOs, opinion leaders, and traditional and social media. This will help demonstrate how think tanks can directly affect local communities and generate grassroots activism, as well as how domestic political factors influence decisions about trade, border issues, immigration and refugee policies, and other issues of national importance.
Azerbaijan

Judicial Rule of Law-Judiciary Reform (April 16th)
The government of Azerbaijan is in the process of conducting judicial reform. On April 3, 2019, President Ilham Aliyev issued a decree “On Deepening Reforms in the Judicial Legal System,” making judicial/legal reform a national priority. Through the Open World program, this judicial/legal delegation will look closely at the judicial system and its processes in the United States, to learn best practices and see what processes they might adapt for the Azerbaijan judicial system.

Youth Leadership and Community Involvement (December 2nd)
In September 2018, youth and adult leaders from 30 countries gathered in Baku for an inclusive Youth Leadership Forum in an effort to usher in a new era of youth-led social impact. This Open World program will expand on this effort and will focus on emerging youth leaders in a variety of professions by providing them with insight and hands-on experience on how to navigate local government and civil society. Participants will connect with their U.S. counterparts and learn first-hand about impactful social activism, and how to maximize the role of youth leadership in community development.
Belarus

Social Entrepreneurship: Looking at the U.S. Model (May 27th)
Belarus government and business entities are not actively engaged in supporting society’s needs through their activities, and the success of social entrepreneurship depends on many factors related to positive social impact that traditional corporate businesses do not prioritize. This program will demonstrate how social entrepreneurs (less so social entrepreneurs in the government sector) develop, fund, and implement activity to find solutions for social, cultural, political and environmental issues.

Smart Cities/Environmentalism (October 21st)
The President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has indicated the need to create comfortable and livable cities in that country. He indicated that future developments should be coordinated by relevant agencies so that parking, social facilities and other urban amenities are included in their design and execution. This Open World program will focus on smart city design in the United States, with a focus on serving the population and minimalizing the environmental impact of development and lifestyles.

Social Inclusion (December 9th)
In February 2019, Belarus’ Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrei Dapkiunis served as a keynote speaker at a U.N session called “Addressing Inequalities and Challenge to Social Inclusion through Fiscal, Wage and Social Protection Policies” in which he reported on Belarus’ experience in overcoming inequality in the context of achieving its sustainable development goals. In order to improve the effectiveness in dealing with internal inequalities, he suggested exchanging experiences and strengthening coordination. This Open World program would be responsive to that suggestion and would demonstrate to the program delegates how efforts to improve social inclusion are made in the United States, including the best and most effective practices that are used to advance inclusion.
Georgia

Urban Planning and Cultural Preservation (April 1st)
Georgian society is increasingly aware of the historical and cultural treasures that exist throughout the country. There also seems to be growing concern about losses to Georgian heritage through development, including the destruction of buildings and historically important landmarks and cultural artifacts. The field of Urban Planning in the context of cultural preservation has become central to the design, adaptive use, and management of buildings, cities, and regions in Georgia. An Open World delegation would work with their American colleagues to identify and analyze cultural places of significance and other places important to the historic fabric of Georgia. The program would focus on methodologies and practices that determine the significance of important cultural legacies and the design of appropriate conservation and management measures.

Inclusion, Diversity, and Equality (October 7th)
There is an increasing need for Georgia to demonstrate its acceptance of societal diversity and to implement inclusive strategies aimed at improving productivity and morale. This program will demonstrate the value of diversity, including how differences in styles and values can be constructive. This delegation will include some impacted by the aggression against Georgia (refugees or those with PTSD) and/or National Minorities. This program will demonstrate effective inclusion programs in the United States, and will include meetings with leaders on this subject matter.
Kazakhstan

Educational Change Management (March 4th)
Kazakhstan is a massive country undergoing a sweeping educational overhaul and is seeking to achieve trilingualism in English, Russian, and Kazakh by 2030. The massive scale and ambitious timeline for this initiative was impacted by the sudden resignation of President Nazarbayev in March 2019, as many initiatives such as this have fallen off. An Open World program in this theme is aimed at assisting Kazakhstan in the design and implementation of sweeping educational reforms. A diverse delegation will visit educational leaders to learn more about needs assessment, educational policy formation and execution, curriculum design, educational reform, bilingual education, dual immersion programs, teacher training, professional development for in-service training, and distance education. Participants would examine various programs aimed at elementary, secondary, and higher education settings. Optimally the timing would align with the International TESOL Association Conference in March 2020 in Atlanta.

Judicial Rule of Law (March 26th)
The government of Kazakhstan is currently working to strengthen the rule of law and reform of the judiciary in Kazakhstan through supporting the implementation of a national policy of “humanization” of the justice system in an effort to enhance the protection of individual rights, particularly in the wider criminal justice system. Reforms are being made in the penal process and with other judicial procedures. The goals are improvement and humanization of the criminal justice system, modernizing sentencing, and improving the training and capacity building within the judicial system. An Open World judicial program for Kazakhstan would feature these aspects of the American judicial system to compare notes, discuss best practices and share experience among colleagues with the goal of forwarding Kazakhstan’s judicial reform efforts and improving the judicial system in both countries.

NGO Management and Civil Society (September 23rd)
This program is designed to teach NGOs in Kazakh speaking communities, particularly in the media sphere, to establish strong viable organizations. The delegation will meet with NGOs and other non-profit organizations and examine their role as a cornerstone of democracy. The delegation will also explore innovative non-profit management strategies for engaging communities, defending civil rights, and fundraising, as well as strategic planning, use of social media and new technologies, board development, and the effective use of volunteers. The delegation should also look at public-private partnerships. Participants will see how small, domestic NGOs obtain local support to ensure sustainability. The program would also highlight examples of successful cooperation with private or government sectors to foster a new generation of NGO managers in Kazakhstan, particularly those working with Kazakh-speaking communities and regions. Participants would be high-profile activists in the country who are running NGOs, representing regions of Kazakhstan and Kazakh-speaking communities or media-oriented NGOs.
Kosovo

Judicial Rule of Law – Corruption and Economic Crimes (October 1st)
Through this program, anti-corruption and anti-organized crime efforts in Kosovo will be strengthened by looking at specific ways Kosovo law enforcement can monitor and see the process the United States uses in confiscating illegally obtained assets and utilizing the proceeds. In January 2019, the new Kosovo Law on the Extended Powers of Confiscation, aimed at strengthening the tools of prosecutors to confiscate assets, entered into force. Kosovo judges and other participants will be exposed to U.S. models and techniques to monitor how courts and other bodies implement legislation related to confiscation and how the proceeds or assets themselves are used for the benefit of the public and/or marginalized/affected groups. This program would be beneficial to participants looking at best practices in prosecuting economic and other serious crimes, including those linked to high-profile individuals, politics, or business.

Designing a Successful Entrepreneurial and Innovation Zone / Incubator (November 4th)
Entrepreneurship and innovation are some of the most cherished characteristics of the American economy. Stories like that of Silicon Valley have inspired many countries around the world to try and replicate the policies and required investment and to encourage innovative centers of their own. In an attempt to spur innovation and entrepreneurship in its own economy, the Government of Kosovo has supported several business incubators and has created a Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. However, it still lacks the required expertise and knowledge on the workings of innovation ecosystems and policies that encourage creativity in business. This program will bring officials involved in the Special American Economic Zones (SAEZ) and other innovation and entrepreneurship policymakers together to learn more about the American innovative ecosystems, government policies and the culture surrounding these economic activities. In addition to innovation and entrepreneurship policies, the Government of Kosovo has also established Special American Economic Zones (SAEZ), through which it aims at both promoting American foreign direct investment and local business incubation and innovation. The Government of Kosovo is still working on suitable SAEZ design and the zone policies that would best suit its mission. This program would look at lessons learned that these participants can implement in Kosovo.

Engagement of Youth in Volunteerism and its Techniques (December 2nd)
In Kosovo, volunteerism is a field that needs to be developed, especially organized volunteerism. There is a crucial need to increase the number of people engaged in voluntary work/community service, to reach youth through volunteerism, and best techniques on training those volunteers. This project will explore and introduce the American tradition of volunteering for civic activities, NGOs focusing on youth issues, cultural activities, and festivals. The first program goal is to introduce Kosovo participants to best practices for volunteer recruitment, retention, and management, and will include visits to non-profit organizations, foundations, community groups, and corporations. The second goal is to present the impact of voluntary work to the people volunteering and to the communities they serve. The third goal is to emphasize and present the importance of technology, especially social media, on creating online platforms for civic engagement and participation.
Kyrgyzstan

Information Technology – Education to Employment (February 12th)
This program will send Ministry of Education Officials, along with university and secondary school teachers and/or administrators to the United States to observe the role of public-private partnerships, vocational and technical schools, and community colleges in creating a pipeline to teach IT skills that lead to employment.

Judicial Rule of Law – Anti-Trafficking in Persons (March 26th)
This program will send a group of judges and civil society experts to the United States to learn more about U.S. laws to convict offenders of trafficking in persons, and best practices for police, judiciary, and prosecutors, and the support structures, which exist in the United States to assist the victims of TIP.
Moldova

**Judicial Rule of Law (October 1st)**
While several significant legislative acts were passed, and important progress has been made having to do with judicial system reform, judicial independence in Moldova is far from complete. What is needed is a change in the mindset and working culture of many of the judges. In addition, the implementation of the most crucial legal reforms is lagging behind and often lacks political will and conviction. This Open World program will expose a group of Moldovan judges to the U.S. judicial system to observe all aspects of the work of the judiciary, to observe best practices and to discuss common problems/solutions with their colleagues.

**Regional Economic Sustainable Development (November 4th)**
Moldova is a small lower-middle-income economy. Although it is the poorest country in Europe, Moldova has made significant progress in reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth since the early 2000s. The economy has expanded by an average of 5 percent annually, driven by consumption and fueled by remittances. The latter account for a quarter of GDP, among the highest share in the world. European integration has anchored successive governments’ policy reform agendas, but reforms that are good on paper have yet to materialize. A vulnerable political system, polarized society, adverse external environment, and skills mismatch in the labor market, along with climate-related shocks, are Moldova’s biggest economic challenges. To meet these challenges, models of development, financing, public-private partnerships and other developmental tools will be explored during an Open World program with the participation of Moldovan leaders tasked with identifying means to Moldova to grow economically and to find means to sustain such growth.
Mongolia

Judicial Rule of Law (July 16th):
For the last six years, Open World has worked closely with the Foreign Affairs Department of the Judicial General Council of Mongolia, which is an organ of the Mongolian judiciary mandated by the Constitution of Mongolia to maintain the independence of the judiciary, to represent the Mongolian judiciary and to advise on the selection and removal of judicial officers. Through this relationship, Open World will field two standard Open World delegations of judges for a program providing a broad overview of the American judicial system and processes and hosted by a U.S. Federal Judge. Although Mongolia uses a civil law system (based on codification) while the United States uses a common law system (based on precedent), these programs have provided opportunities for judicial professionals to improve their processes and systems by providing an opportunity for direct contact and interaction between peers, especially as the distinction between civil law and common law lessens.
Russia

Business and Innovation (February 12th)
As the global economy evolves, businesses have been forced to be more innovative in order to grow the economy, increase revenue and find new sources of investment. This program will focus on the role of government, private enterprises, professional organizations, and universities in fostering innovation. The program will demonstrate how innovation and entrepreneurship is encouraged and supported in the U.S. in both the private and public sectors. Delegates will experience firsthand what drives innovation in the U.S.

Business and University Hubs/Incubators (February 12th)
Just as in the U.S., many Russian universities are focusing efforts on innovation and developing entrepreneurs, providing young students with the knowledge of how to start a business, commercialize an idea, and providing favorable conditions such as workspace and mentorships. This program will share the U.S. experience of university entrepreneurship programs, innovation hubs and incubators. Delegates will come from Russian universities with similar programs or those looking to setup similar programs.

Small and Medium Enterprises (February 12th)
Small and medium sized businesses in Russia have a unique opportunity to realize their potential due to many of the current economic sanctions on Russia. The sanctions have resulted in the development of many small Russian companies to fill the gap created by sanctions on certain imported goods. However, there is still a lot of room to grow, and smaller Russian cities and towns are in desperate need of economic development. The participants of the program, consisting of policy makers and business leaders, will experience American best practices in supporting the development and sustainability of small and medium enterprises as the backbone of the U.S. economy and a way to further regional economic growth and achieve a higher standard of living.

Women in STEM (March 4th)
A Russian-American initiative began at a Graduate Women International Conference in Cape Town, South Africa in August 2016 aimed at expanding women’s professional contribution in the STEM fields. Changing societal norms and increasing women’s ability and representation in technical fields will help to ensure the application of technological thinking to the exercise of finding solutions for issues that particularly affect women, and the development of opportunities that would particularly benefit them. These Open World programs will look at U.S. programs designed to create opportunities and encourage girls/women to participate in STEM education and careers and would be targeted to government officials and civic leaders charged with development of school curriculums and outside activities, youth leaders, and advocates of increased opportunities for girls and women.

Women Entrepreneurs (March 4th)
In Russia today, as in many countries, gender equality in business still has a lot of room for growth. This program will focus on women innovators and business leaders. Delegates will explore the U.S. experience in entrepreneurial education, university start-ups and the role of government, private enterprises, professional organizations and communities in promoting,
sustaining and incentivizing entrepreneurship. Organizations such as the National Association of Women Business Owners could provide valuable information on creating supporting associations back home in Russia.

Domestic Violence (March 4th)
According to the Russian Public Opinion Research Center, one woman among four has experienced domestic violence in Russia. In spite of this fact, in 2017 the Russian State Duma shifted the legal status of violence committed by family members from a criminal offense to an administrative offense. In the past year, news sources reported a significant increase of domestic violence. The Open World program will focus on how to reveal cases of domestic violence when a woman or a child first resorts to consultation at the level of the general practitioners, gynecologists, or social workers. USG health institutions and NGOs will share their experience creating interviews and questionnaires that allow doctors or social workers to uncover domestic violence if a doctor or a social worker suspects it may have taken place, without crossing privacy borders or traumatizing a client. The participants can also learn how to help victims deal with the shame and social stigma, and where to refer them for further help. Target audience would be health care practitioners, social workers, and NGOs working with high risk female groups, including HIV positive or drug-dependent women.

Rule of Law-Judicial Training (March 26th)
The Open World program’s historic relationship with the Russian Judiciary, which has been absent in recent years, has been rekindled by its alumni occupying key leadership positions in multiple branches of the Russian Judicial Academy. This program will share best practices of judicial training, continuing education, and an in-depth overview of the U.S. judicial system. Depending on the delegates individual subject areas, the program while also focus on specific aspect of jurisprudence.

Combatting False Information (April 22nd)
In today’s world of fake news, organizations and journalists who have made it their mission to combat false information with fact checking services, such as Snopes.com, FactCheck.org, Polygraph.info and many others, have become a valuable tool in navigating a complex media space. This program will focus on investigative journalism, fact-checking and evidence-based reporting. The program will also show an example from the local community of how organizations, businesses, and/or local governments are working to provide better access to public information and combat the dissemination of false information.

Regional/Investigative Journalism (April 22nd)
In today’s world of fake news and limited independent news outlets in Russia specifically, there is a need for better trained and equipped local and regional journalists to report the news accurately, keep the public informed and bring some transparency to the authorities. This program will focus on best practices of investigative journalism, journalistic ethics, university journalism programs and new ways of sharing content. Delegates will get an overview of the various forms of journalism in any given local media market.

Media Literacy (April 22nd)
Now more than ever, producers and consumers of news must be able to process information, identify biases and inconsistencies, check sources and make decisions quickly. As such, the concept of “media literacy” has become a theme all over the world, which is dealing with new phenomena like “fake news,” “troll factories,” and other aspects of the “weaponization” of information. Access to public information is also a key tool in gathering facts and reporting fairly. Through this Open World program, participants will visit media outlets, civil society organizations, educational institutions and online companies that host news aggregators in order to observe and explore how the various players create, distribute, and analyze the news in a broadly open society.

Sister Cities / Partnerships (May 27th)
Agreements, both formal and informal, between American and Russian sister cities/regions/clubs have long existed, and these relationships are waning in the current environment of worsening relations between the United States and Russia. Many of the cities/clubs that still maintain such relations were formed during the Soviet era, and in the early days of the Russian Federation (1990s). As these partnerships matured, the focus changed to sustainable development of economic and human resources, and the promotion of trade. These Open World programs will be aimed at hosts that either have ongoing partnerships with these cities/region/clubs or indicate that they are able to rejuvenate and sustain such relationships. These programs must be clearly defined and be goal oriented. The partnership representative(s) from Russia that will participate must be integral to the future ability to sustain and grow the partnership, as well as be a leader in the proposed partnership activity. In your proposal please indicate if you are able to provide nominations, although this is not a guarantee that grantee nominations will be needed.

Public Defenders (May 27th)
In Russia, there are often large numbers of arrests of protesters who face prison time because they lack information about their rights as accused. Many of these are young public activists who are campaigning for a legitimate cause on a legal basis. The term public defender here does not refer to a court appointed attorney, as in the U.S. system, but rather lawyers who work pro bono defending those in need. In Russia they aren’t necessarily appointed by the court, but they can volunteer and be confirmed by the court. This program will focus on those young lawyers working either for NGOs or other movements to defend the rights of citizens with little knowledge of the system.

The Senator Ben Nelson Fellows – TB and HIV (September 23rd)
The Center’s Board of Trustees created the Senator Ben Nelson Fellows program to honor Senator Nelson's contribution to the Open World program and to improve ties between the U.S. and Russia in the medical field. The Open World program has hosted six annual delegations of Nelson Fellows. The 2020 program focus will be on TB and HIV. Despite certain successes in TB control that have been achieved in Russia over the past 15 years, two problems pose the risk of reversing this success: a growing share of the multidrug resistant TB cases (close to 30% of new cases in 2017), and TB/HIV co-infection (reaching 21% of new cases in 2017). TB is also the leading cause of death in HIV-infected people, with the number of deaths growing each year. The problem of TB/HIV co-infection is exacerbated by the fact that a lot of those patients are also active drug users, which makes their adherence to treatment and retention in care a big problem. Integration of TB and HIV care has yet to happen in Russia where systems of care for
each of the diseases used to be strictly separate in the past and started to interact only recently. Close collaboration among clinicians, health care institutions, and public health programs involved in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV-infected patients with active TB disease is necessary in order to integrate care and improve medication adherence and TB treatment completion rates, address drug interaction and reduce drug toxicities, and maximize HIV outcomes. This program will expose Russian doctors to U.S. practices of treating patients with TB and TB/HIV coinfection with the focus on retention in care and adherence to treatment. The delegates will be able to improve the system of care back home and be able to develop important contacts that could lead to future partnerships.

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**Think Tanks/Innovation (October 21st)**
This program will share experiences and best practices between Russian and U.S. think tanks and how they operate and interact with the community and policy makers. The main focus of this delegation will be university research centers, think tanks, and working groups whose professional work is aimed at the analysis, moderation and development of political and social technologies at the regional level and how they interact with the federal level. Delegates will be leading sociologists, experts and analysts working on strategies for the development of society and the public-state contract, as well as political processes.

**National Parks/Conservation (October 21st)**
Russian nature preserve managers see the U.S. system of national parks as a model and many Russians are working to create a culture change within their system in relation to how public lands are maintained and enjoyed. Younger Russian Park Managers are seeking to help the Russian national park system better develop its outreach and visitor education programs, including the use of visitor centers. This program will help develop environmental tourism in and around national parks in Russia. The program will also help support Russian civil society, by fostering the establishment of “friends of parks” associations and societies, which are organized to assist national parks and nature reserves through volunteer work and the collection of private donations. This visit would give Russian experts a better understanding of how U.S. park management works. The hosting location should be situated near a national park/refuge/reserve with recognized excellence in outreach and visitor support activities, and ecotourism.
Waste Management (October 21st)
Russians throw out almost 60 million tons of garbage annually, but Russia lags behind much of the world in waste management and recycling. It is estimated that 70-80% of was can be recycled, whereas 90% of all waste in Russia is sent to landfills, many of which are illegal. There have also been reports of children poisoned by toxic landfill emissions. Russian legislators have called for the development of waste-to-energy technology and recycling programs to address the issue, but budgetary issues and community resistance have proved troublesome. This program will share the U.S. experience and best practices with Russian professionals charged with regional and city waste management about available options for waste management and public outreach strategies. The participants will see firsthand how local communities facilitate waste management in comparable environments, through public-private partnerships and other methods.

Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities (December 9th)
This program will highlight the U.S. experience in providing programs, training and support for people with intellectual and development disabilities seeking employment, as well as employers hiring people with disabilities. The program will explore how local governments, employers and NGOs work together to promote employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Participants will include staff of Russian NGOs working on employment issues, such as Best Buddies Russia, and employment agencies from the city of Moscow. Delegates will gain new knowledge and best practices in order to effectively implement disability employment programs and policies in Russia.

Public/Community Engagement for Organizations Serving the Disabled (December 9th)
The disabled community in Russia faces numerous obstacles, many with physical accessibility, but also with a negative public perception and stigmatism of people with disabilities. This program will focus on the ways U.S. NGOs work to fight for the rights of those with disabilities. Program content will cover how NGOs serving the disabled engage with the local community and government, as well as how they develop PR and social media campaigns, get funding, and other related activities. Participants will be PR/Outreach Managers from Russian disability organizations. The delegates will develop valuable connections with their U.S. counterparts and will return to Russia inspired with new ideas and knowledge to share with their colleagues.

Access for Migrant Communities to TB and HIV Care (December 9th)
Russia ranks second in the world in the number of migrants, 10-12 million per year (10% of the population). Access to healthcare for migrant communities is a challenge, especially for those with certain infectious diseases such as HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) or Hepatitis. According to the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), only 7% of migrants in Russia have proper health insurance. The IFRC has been working with regional branches of the Russian Red Cross to provide access to healthcare for migrants, particularly those with HIV and TB. This program would build the capacity of ongoing efforts of the Russian Red Cross and the NGOs they are partnering with by sharing the U.S. experience in addressing migrant public health issues.

Education and Social Adaption of Children with Disabilities (December 9th)
The number of children with disabilities in Russia has been increasing over the past several years. However, specialized training programs for professionals who work with those children
and assist their families are few and far between. Nevertheless, there are some organized groups of parents of such children who have established an association and a unique school for children with severe multiple developmental disorders. This program would allow Russian psychologists, teachers, musical therapists, and parents to experience the U.S. model of education and development of children with disabilities. The delegates would make connections with parents’ associations and educational organizations for children with special needs in the U.S. which will help them apply new ideas to improve their own organizations back home.
Serbia

Economic Development through Preservation/Presentation of Cultural Heritage (February 26th)
Serbia’s rich cultural heritage presents a strategic opportunity for Serbia. The country has rich, vibrant musical and other artistic traditions. Locations that attract visitors range from the Neolithic site at Vinča to Roman and medieval ruins to architectural gems from periods of Ottoman and Austrian dominance. This Open World program will expose Serbian participants to the U.S. experience in leveraging cultural heritage, including a country’s or region’s historical sites and traditions, to attract more visitors of various ages (both domestic and international), promote an area’s economic development, and provide an enriching and educational experience. As part of the program, participants should be exposed to U.S. experience and best practices in the areas of cultural resource management. Participants in this project will see how the combined efforts of individuals and organizations to promote their historical sites and local culture helps promote community cohesion and civic engagement, in addition to helping the local economy grow.

Judicial Rule of Law – Judicial Efficiency in Criminal Proceedings (June 11)
Inefficiency and case backlogs plague Serbia’s judiciary. In the criminal context, efficient case and trial management practices are needed to deliver justice fairly and speedily to accused persons, as well as to ensure that crime victims and society see justice carried out in a reasonable period. The inability of a judicial system to deliver justice efficiently, consistently, and evenhandedly is an obstacle to improving the rule of law and tackling crime. Judicial inefficiency can also undermine the public’s trust and confidence in democratic and judicial institutions. This Open World program is designed to improve case and trial management skills of criminal court trial judges and will expose them to best practices in high-volume American courts.

U.S. Education in the 21st Century: Trying to Create Engaged Learners, Problem-Solvers, Innovators, and Good Citizens (October 7th)
Serbians are generally well-educated with excellent language and virtual skills. In recent years, however, Prime Minister Ana Brnabić herself noted that something is lacking. She noted that one of the strengths of the U.S. system is the way that Americans teach kids how to solve problems and to be innovative. As a result, the Prime Minister has turned to the U.S. for guidance in transferring these skills. In addition, in Serbian schools there is a lack of tolerance towards “the other,” limited social cohesion, and low levels of civic engagement. Improved civic education and the promotion of learning would help make progress in this area and spur youth leadership to have greater involvement in their communities and in solving societal problems. This Open World program aims at sharing best practices in the field of K-12 education with the aim of strengthening civics education in Serbia and promoting critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation among Serbian students. The program should also expose Serbian participants to American approaches to other topics such as the inclusion of children with disabilities; use of technology inside and outside the classroom; and, constructive extracurricular activities.
Tajikistan

Women and Entrepreneurship (March 4th)
The untapped potential of women in Tajikistan is a lost opportunity for economic growth and development. This program is aimed at illustrating the impact of women-owned businesses in the U.S. economy and participants should explore the progress of women in participating more fully in the global economy. Participants should visit private companies, business incubators, financial institutions, schools, and mentorship institutions. They will discuss the social, economic, and political factors that influence and encourage women as entrepreneurs and owners or managers of small, medium, and large-scale businesses. Organizations such as the National Association of Women Business Owners could provide valuable information on creating supporting associations back home in Tajikistan.

Sports for at Risk Youth (May 27th)
The Government of Tajikistan realizes the importance of athletics and sports for its youth and has established a Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports to manage facilities for sport and exercise. The purpose of this program is for the delegates to learn how to use sports to encourage young people to focus on improving their lives and communities, and especially how to use sporting activities to inspire young people to stay away from gangs, extremism, drugs and crime.

Education in the United States (September 23rd)
This program for university educators, faculty and administrators of colleges and universities, and ministry of education officials. The program will examine the U.S. system of university education, its structure, and administration and support services. Participants will explore the systemic and local administration, curriculum development, and overall management of university education in the United States.
Turkmenistan

Vocational education and Job Readiness Program (February 12th)
This program will introduce education administrators to existing partnerships between nonprofit organizations, local school districts, colleges and universities, and the public sector to provide job skills and career counseling to students in high school, college and technical school students, and recent graduates. The program will also highlight initiatives tailored to individuals with disabilities, women, or Native American communities and tribal areas. Vocational training is a stated priority area of the President of Turkmenistan.

Sustainable Tourism in Rural Environments (May 27th)
This program will explore both the commercial and environmental impact of developing tourism in rural areas. The delegation should see how local tourism bureaus, state and federal government entities, and private businesses work together to fund infrastructure, make sites accessible to visitors with special needs, and put in place measures to protect local natural resources. Some of this program’s participants will likely come from Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation-supported historic sites in remote areas of Turkmenistan and with extremely limited tourism infrastructure. In the United States, they should compare notes with their peers and with tourist agencies and other professionals that serve the tourist industry.
Ukraine

Urban Development/City Planning (February 26th)
Under the “Drive Ukraine 2030” strategy, it is envisioned that a budget of $60 billion – half of the countries annual gross domestic product – is to be invested in range of national projects in the next decade. Much of this funding is for core infrastructure like railroads, roads and ports, but cities and amalgamated communities (small communities that have united to increase revenue and lower costs) are also finding budgets for development and lack sorely in their planning capacity. Through this program, a delegation of city planners and development professionals will participate in the Open World program to meet with U.S. city planners and those working to develop urban centers to compare best practices and most effective/efficient ways to improve the life of constituents/residents.

Emergency Management/Response (February 26th)
The Ministry of Emergency Situations in Ukraine is the main authority for civil protection in Ukraine, and it is responsible for rescue activities, firefighting, industrial security and other important tasks. With the casualties and emergencies connected with the aggression in Crimea and the Eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, the responsibility of the Ministry and other related bodies (including private organizations and NGOs) has expanded greatly. This program is aimed at having first responders and other emergency management personnel connect with their American counterparts to discuss how best to achieve their missions and to take advantage of any new technologies or systems that can be identified through meetings between colleagues.

Corporate Social Responsibility/Community Development (February 26th)
The most significant external barriers in the course of implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs/activities in Ukraine are the volatile political situation in the country, an inadequate legal framework to encourage such activity, and tax pressure. Internal barriers hampering implementation of CSR programs/activities include: lack of financial resources, lack of personal experience, untested mechanism of social responsibility implementation, inability to control use of allocated funds, and lack of time. Through these Open World programs, delegations will look at the impact of effective CSR efforts in the United States and work closely with CSR leaders in various companies and at the community level to learn best practices from another. The program will also include ways in which the government/tax code can promote CSR in the development of communities.

Women in Agriculture (April 1st)
Women not only account for more than half of the rural population in Ukraine, but also contribute significantly to many dimensions of family farm businesses. Focusing on women, the backbone of rural agricultural communities, means making sure they are heard, recognized as economic resources, and invested in as valuable partners. Open World programming for Women in Agriculture will provide leading Ukrainian woman agricultural leaders with opportunities to discuss optimum policies (political) and methods for increasing yields and maximizing the impact of government support and policies, with a focus on improving the lives of the woman who make up this critically important sector of the Ukrainian economy.
Amalgamated Territorial Communities (ATC) – Economic Development/Public-Private Partnerships (April 1st)
In recent years, the government of Ukraine has made extensive efforts to decentralize the responsibilities of governance. This has led to the formation of Amalgamated (or United) Territorial Communities, wherein several communities join together to maximize the use of resources and to have greater control of local tax revenue and budgets. Recent policies have promoted the development of ATCs as “new growth points” that make Ukraine’s regions important to the economic development of the nation as a whole. The government of Ukraine has committed to financially support the ATCs and has developed a long list of infrastructure projects to implement. An Open World program will benefit the participants by providing insights to the development of public private partnerships aimed at sustainable development and increased investment. The delegations will also explore strategies for attracting investment and in the best use of public resources.

Amalgamated Territorial Communities (ATC) – Agriculture (April 1st)
This program is similar to the ATC Economic Development projects, but the focus will be on programming in the agricultural sector due to the key role that agriculture plays throughout Ukraine’s rural communities and cities. This programming will focus on the role of agriculture in economic development policy and in the attraction of investment funds.

Combatting Disinformation (June 3rd)
The trivialization of media content is a direct negation of the concept of an “informed citizen,” and it has become a global trend. The impact of disinformation/false information has been significant in Ukraine during this time of hostilities and Ukraine has been a primary target of an aggressive Russian propaganda operation. This program will cover trends and technologies to discern and respond to deceptive, biased or false news and to combat disinformation. Ukrainian editors and journalists will be able to learn about efforts in the United States to educate the public on the issue, to encourage professional and responsible journalism, and to counter misinformation – including state-sponsored disinformation and propaganda. The program will highlight the serious threat that mis- and disinformation poses to democracies, programs that promote media literacy, the importance of fact checking and myth busting, as well as the response from government, nonprofits, and traditional and social media.

Media Literacy (June 3rd)
Now more than ever, producers and consumers of news must be able to process information, identify biases and inconsistencies, and make decisions quickly. As such, the concept of “media literacy” has become a global theme all over the world, which is dealing with new phenomena like “fake news,” “troll factories,” and other aspects of the “weaponization” of information. Access to public information is also a key tool in gathering facts and reporting fairly. Through this Open World program, participants will visit media outlets (including the United States Agency for Global Media and U.S. based foreign outlets like BBC and Al Jazeera America), civil society organizations, and online companies that host news aggregators (Facebook, Google, etc.) in order to observe and explore how the various players create, distribute, and analyze the news in a broadly open society.
Local Legislators – Anti-Corruption (June 3rd)
As part of the Open World program’s efforts to ensure programming for legislatures and legislators/staff, this program will emphasize the role of legislatures/legislators in promoting transparency and fighting corruption. This program is aimed at strengthening anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine by looking at specific ways that country and its legislative bodies can detect and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse. The Open World program will help expose legislators and legislative staff to laws, techniques, and models to detect corruption.

Community Center for Seniors and Families (July 8th)
According to the Ministry of Social Policy, there are 286 residential institutions in Ukraine, of which only about ninety of them are designed for the elderly, which is slowly increasing to about 25% of the population. These are geriatric boarding houses, care facilities for elderly people and persons with disabilities, as well as residential facilities for war and labor veterans, which have become a new home for almost 13,000 elderly people. Almost all elderly people who have moved into nursing homes do not have close relatives or do not receive proper help from them. The only way out for such people is living in a geriatric boarding house or a residential care facility; however, it does not always provide comfortable living conditions. This situation is reflective of the lack of a social safety infrastructure that provides the elderly and families places to turn to when in need or to simply spend quality time together. This Open World program will highlight the role of community centers and other gathering places that are available to the elderly and families in an American community and it will explore the range of services available, as well as best practices in serving this key element of society.

Health Care Management/Hospital Administration (July 8th)
Ukraine is in the midst of undergoing significant reform of its healthcare system. One of the main goals of this reform is an efficient allocation of funds. The current reforms envision a healthcare system that reforms primary, emergency, and palliative care simultaneously. The new National Health Service is an independent body in the executive branch under the Cabinet of Ministers. The reforms also aim to introduce medical insurance into the daily life of Ukrainians. Such a radical transformation of the healthcare system in Ukraine will benefit if healthcare managers and practitioners have an opportunity to learn from the American experience and current health care debate to see what works best for Ukraine. In addition, a great majority of Ukrainian clinics and hospitals are state-owned. Due to complications in Ukraine’s economy, medical enterprises often have to use old or even outdated equipment and practitioners have little opportunity to develop new skills. Medical workers lack opportunities to obtain new knowledge and keep up with changes in global health care. With health care reform underway in Ukraine, now is a critical time for Ukrainian health professionals (administrators, managers, practitioners, and government officials) to familiarize themselves with the experiences of their American counterparts.

Combatting Infectious Diseases/Outbreak Response (July 8th)
In today’s globally connected world, disease threats can spread faster and more unpredictably than ever before. Ukraine has one of the lowest immunization coverage rates in the world. With vaccination rates at 19% for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, and 42% for measles, mumps and rubella, Ukraine remains vulnerable to new outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. This Open World program will provide Ministry of Health and other Ukrainian health care
professions with examples of outbreak response leadership, management, capacity building techniques, successful collaborative efforts with partners, and best practices in coordination with other key stakeholders.

**National Park Management and Mapping (September 16th)**
This project will explore the efforts of park management, planning, and administrative staff in using geographic information systems and other spatial technologies to address recent environmental challenges and preserve the ecological and historical integrity of these parks. An essential component of this project will be the inclusion of environmental groups, university representatives, and other stakeholders (e.g. Volunteers-In-Parks and non-profit organizations) to discuss how collaboration can assist in decision-making and build support for park programs. Participants will observe how actors at the local, state, and federal levels engage in strategic planning, find innovative solutions for natural resource management, use geographic information systems and technologies wisely, and implement resource stewardship efforts. Other topics that to explore include park protection, conservation, restoration, recreation, and volunteerism.

**Energy Security (September 16th)**
The energy sector is key to the success of Ukraine’s economic reform, battle with corruption, and independence from Russia. Energy represents one of Ukraine’s greatest vulnerabilities, as well as a source of potential strength; it must be central to a broader, more comprehensive economic reform plan. Energy is the linchpin of Ukraine’s dependence on Russia. The Kremlin has used energy (including pipelines) as a weapon to exert leverage over Ukraine. As such, the energy sector is a critical pillar in building an effective, stable national security and economic strategy for Ukraine. This strategy must be long-term, and yet have an immediate positive impact. Getting the energy sector right—eliminating subsidies, ensuring that public revenues are not diverted to private pockets, enhancing energy efficiency, and reinforcing Ukraine’s national security—is essential to transforming the Ukrainian economy. Ukraine possesses large energy resources, but this sector has been poorly managed and has been permeated with high-level corruption. This program will focus on implementing and improved, transparent, and more efficient energy policy, including strategies to combat corruption in the sector and the use of energy efficiency initiatives.

**Energy Diversification/Renewable Energy (September 16th)**
Ukraine’s law *On Electricity Market* improved the outlook for the country’s renewable energy industry and stabilized the legal framework, having enshrined all key components of the support mechanism introduced for power production from renewable energy sources (RES). This support mechanism, and the guaranteed channels for the sale of electricity, provide additional security and protection against the market challenges relating to the search for buyers and sale markets, as well as against currency and/or price fluctuations. With the introduction of market-based incentives for renewable energy production, more complex, Ukraine renewable energy producers to take advantage of these opportunities are exploring diversified and flexible approaches. In Ukraine, there are already proposals to consider new approaches to selling electricity produced from RES, such as power sale auctions, which are increasingly coming into focus, or feed-in premiums. It can be foreseen that incentives for power production from RES will become more diversified in Ukraine in the years to come, and will not be solely limited to a feed-in tariff (FIT). In light of these developments, Ukraine renewable energy experts participating in the Open
World program will learn of energy market opportunities and development to further the profitability and use of renewable fuels in Ukraine, further moving towards complete energy independence.

Inclusive Education (October 7th)
Inclusive education is a component of the humanitarian policy of every modern state. With the recent passage of Ukraine’s “Law on Education”, which calls for innovative reforms and for the implementation of an inclusive approach in the education system. In Ukraine, there have been several initiatives to support the development and implementation of inclusive education in Ukraine and significant state funding was allocated to create a level playing field for children with special educational needs. In addition, the Ministry of Education and its partners have created inclusive resource centers to serve non-traditional students, and other efforts are being made to determine the special educational needs of children not based on the international classification of diseases, as before, but based on the international classification of functions of children with special needs. This is a much more modern and less discriminatory approach. In addition to it, these centers will be territorially more accessible, as they are created based on population. Last year, the Ministry of Education developed and approved the concept of the “New Ukrainian School,” a strategy for reforming secondary education by 2029. In the new Ukrainian school, every teacher will be able to work with children with special educational needs. This Open World program will focus on providing the educational experts that participate with the tools to meet the challenge of making Ukrainian schools more inclusive and better prepare them for the ambitious work ahead.

Education/STEM (October 7th)
In June 2019, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine held an all-Ukrainian round table looking at STEM-education in Ukraine, from preschool through college. The participants planned to provide proposals to the Institute of Modernization of Educational Content for STEM-education, in particular, to review the content of curricula, textbooks, methods and techniques of teaching in the system of pre-school, and school education for their compliance with current requirements and synchronization of thematic areas of the principles of science and technology. In response to Ukraine’s emphasis on improving and expanding STEM education, this Open World program will emphasize effective STEM programs in the United States and will provide opportunities for the delegation to see all aspects of how STEM education is managed in the United States with special attention to be paid to successful innovative programs.

Public Service (October 7th)
There is great demand in Ukraine for civil servants to have an understanding of public policy and an appreciation of the impact that policy has on the people that they serve. New institutions and curricula focusing on training public servants are being created during this period of extensive reform and it is important that those working on such reform understand the role of a public servant. This program will focus on the role of the public servant and how a public servant is responsible for the policies and programs he/she implement and not just a face behind a window.

Women Entrepreneurship (November 4th)
Women in Ukraine account for 54% of the population and 47% of the labor force. Additionally, over 60% of Ukrainian women have higher education, yet the unemployment rate of women is
very high compared to men with the same educational background. Ukrainian women also on average earn 30% less than men occupying similar positions. Promoting gender equality and encouraging women to start businesses is key to the economic development of Ukraine. Women’s involvement in business is especially important because entrepreneurs and small businesses are the foundation of the middle class, which is the social basis of civil society. This program will focus on women business leaders in the U.S. and illustrate the impact of women owned businesses on the U.S. economy. Organizations such as the National Association of Women Business Owners could provide valuable information on creating supporting associations back home in Ukraine.

Business Infrastructure/Investment Promotion (November 4th)
The Ukraine Investment Promotion Office (UkraineInvest) was established on October 19, 2016 by a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as an independent advisory body with a mandate to attract and support foreign direct investment and to help improve Ukraine’s image as a secure investment destination. Open World’s programming will look at the macro issues of investing in Ukraine, but will also focus of the development of solid business infrastructures and investment promotion for all levels of investment. Special attention for this program will be paid to identifying best strategies to promote investment.

Organizational Infrastructure/Creation of Boards/Financial Transparency (November 4th)
Proper corporate governance in Ukrainian companies can contribute to economic growth of individual companies and the economy in general by attracting domestic and foreign investors and raising investments. While Ukrainian companies have greatly improved in the way that they are organized, overseen, and handle their financial records, there is much room for improvement if Ukraine is going to be more successful in increasing direct foreign investment. This program will look at best corporate practices and corporate transparency and provide tools and information as to how these practices are conducted in the United States for all sizes of enterprise, including multi-nationals.

Advocacy for People with Special Needs (December 2nd)
In Ukraine, many people, particularly children, with disabilities are abandoned by their families to institutions. In the absence of any community-based support, therapy services or educational opportunities, families see the future of a child with a disability as bleak and hopeless. Doctors often advise parents to give their child up to the state and try to have another one. Despite the difficulties, there are signs that Ukraine is starting to dismantle this system and move towards a brighter future. There are great non-governmental organizations that provide important community based early intervention services, and also create support networks among families to break down the feelings of isolation and stigma. An Open World program focusing on advocacy for people with special needs will demonstrate how a full and vital life can and should be lived buy those with special needs. The program will highlight innovative methods and practices, and will include a dialogue on what role government, both on the national and local level, can play to support those with special needs. Another focus of the program will be on the role of NGOs and private sector representatives in working to improve the lives of those with special needs in response to those advocating for such rights.

NGO Development – Fundraising, Volunteerism and Oversight (December 2nd)
Ukraine’s thriving civil society sector played a major role in the Euromaidan Revolution (the Maidan) and has since mobilized to support efforts to resist Russia’s hybrid war in Crimea and eastern Ukraine and help facilitate the reform process initiated on the Maidan. The country’s NGO environment is widely acknowledged as being far more dynamic and buoyant than its counterparts elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, yet it continues to suffer from limited resources, management issues, and restricted access to state structures and private sector financing. The Open World delegation under this theme will look at best practices in the NGO sector in the United States and will work with their colleagues to explore all aspects of fundraising, volunteerism and transparency/oversight.
Uzbekistan

E-Governance and Governmental Accountability in the Digital Age (April 22nd)
This program will focus on how the United States has incorporated a variety of technologies and policies to increase government-citizen accountability and transparency. Delegates will focus on the systems and programs that the United States uses to automate and digitalize its bureaucracy, so that they can improve upon their own e-governance systems in Uzbekistan to support the government’s array of ambitious reform programs.

Judicial Rule of Law (June 11th)
Strengthening the rule of law and the judicial system in Uzbekistan is a key component of President Mirziyoyev’s “Five Point Development Strategy Plan.” Also, the United States and Uzbekistan are working together to develop new laws and regulations, advance the legal profession, and expand the legal enabling environment for civil society and non-governmental actors in Uzbekistan with the goal of improving Uzbekistan’s citizens’ access to justice and to make the court system more transparent and effective. This program will provide a delegation of judges from Uzbekistan with direct access to key players in the U.S. judicial system to discuss first-hand issues like judicial independence and judicial governance and processes.

Agriculture in the Modern Market (October 21st)
This program will introduce lead farmers and other actors in the Uzbek agricultural market to American methods of marketing their products. Delegates will meet with their American counterparts to see how they are able to succeed in the local, regional, and international agricultural market.