

The Global Ambassadors Program

A Vital Voices & Bank of America Partnership

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Overview

For more than 15 years, Vital Voices has identified, invested in, and brought visibility to emerging women leaders who catalyze progress in communities around the world. These women are developing and growing businesses, safeguarding human rights, and creating opportunity for a rising generation. They are innovators who find creative solutions and promote stability and prosperity. They are leading path-breaking initiatives and truly are on the frontlines of change.

Through this work, the greatest lesson we have learned is that training and mentorship are critical to developing these leaders and that **women's leadership** is one of our world's greatest untapped resources. If we can enhance and leverage the measurable impact that women leaders are having around the globe, we create an extraordinary cadre of rising talent, creating an enabling environment that leads to transformational change.

And at the same time, throughout the world we have witnessed women leaders rise to the top of their profession and industry; women who understand the profound impact of investing in the next generation and their distinct responsibility to pay it forward.

In 2011, Vital Voices and Bank of America came together to develop a signature partnership to accelerate women's leadership development throughout the world. ***The Global Ambassadors Program, a Vital Voices and Bank of America partnership, connects women leaders who are a tipping point in terms of their professional, business and leadership paths with established women leaders for mentorship opportunities.*** The effort builds on Bank of America's and Vital Voices' history of investing in leadership development, which is guided by a belief that strong leaders are vital to healthy, vibrant communities and a core to creating economic growth.

Each year we select the top established international women leaders with a strong business background to serve as our **Global Ambassadors**, mobilizing their talent, skills and expertise to mentor and train the next generation of global influencers—women who are poised to have a transformational impact in their communities and beyond. **Designed to generate a ripple effect based on what we know to be true: women leaders share new skills and knowledge with those around them**, the Program leverages the experience and expertise of the Global Ambassadors to develop and elevate a powerful network of women leaders around the world.

Accomplished leaders such as Susan Chambers, Executive Vice President of the People Division at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; Geraldine Laybourne, Founder and former Chairman and CEO of Oxygen Media; and Candace Browning Platt, head of Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research have already joined us for past programs to name a few.

Global Ambassador Selection Criteria

All sessions are conducted in English and therefore we seek Global Ambassadors who are fully conversant and able to present in English.

LEADERSHIP

- Demonstrates a commitment to the core principles of Vital Voices' Leadership Model. Innovative, collaborative, and driven by a clear sense of mission, Global Ambassadors are committed to advancing the status of women and girls and supporting women's economic empowerment.

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- Demonstrates high success at a top leadership level and has held leadership roles both within and outside their organizations.
- Contributes to the global conversation and thought leadership on women's empowerment and leadership.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY

- Must have the capacity to serve as a mentor, share thought leadership and executive coaching on issues such as strategic planning, financial planning and management, marketing and communications, partner and funder strategy, team development and management, and provide tools to accelerate a mentee's leadership path.
- Have at least 15 years of senior leadership experience.
- Global Ambassadors may come from diverse organizational backgrounds. Previous Global Ambassadors have included senior executives from leading corporate industries including the financial sector, retail, manufacturing, technology, and communications; and non-profit executives.
- Global Ambassadors are committed to shaping the dialogue about women's advancement, wielding influence, providing access to networks, and sharing expertise as appropriate.

MENTORING RELATIONSHIP

- Global Ambassadors are committed to developing a mutually constructive, open and on-going relationship with one Mentee. The Global Ambassador will provide positive and constructive feedback and guidance to her Mentee.
- Global Ambassadors are able to articulate and discuss the Mentee's short term and long term goals and provide guidance to the Mentee, to help her to meet these goals.

How it works

The Global Ambassadors Program is a unique platform that provides strategic mentoring opportunities in conjunction with meaningful thought leadership opportunities in diverse regions of the world.

- This effort invests in the high potential of women leaders who are a tipping point in terms of their professional, business and leadership paths from countries in the developing world by connecting them with established leaders for mentorship. These mentorships focus on building critical communications, networking, advocacy and business skills, and enable a unique exchange of ideas and perspectives that helps guide a mentee towards her future growth as a professional.
- Each Global Ambassador Program carries a different theme which is driven either by regional or country-specific challenges and observations. In each country that hosts a Global Ambassador Program, we convene key influencers for thought leadership events such as public forums that initiate conversation around the challenge and opportunity of women's leadership, as well as economic and societal change.
- **We ask that our Global Ambassadors donate one week of their time to travel with us and serve as a mentor.**
- We bring together seven-eight Global Ambassadors at a time to participate in the week-long program that includes **leadership development trainings, public forums, collective discussion workshops and one-on-one mentoring sessions** with women leaders who are a tipping point in terms of their professional, business and leadership paths, from around the world.

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- We match each Global Ambassador's skills and interests with the needs of a woman leader who is making considerable strides in advancing women's economic participation. Vital Voices provides strategic support in the development and growth of each mentor/mentee relationship by facilitating pre-program introductions, providing on the ground support, and managing post-program engagement.

Commitment

The program takes place over a one week period which normally runs from Monday morning through Friday evening. During this time, Global Ambassadors:

- Participate in a number of 1-on-1 mentoring sessions with their matched mentees
- Co-present with their mentee a short overview of the mentee's organization to the entire group of Global Ambassadors and Mentees, inviting input and feedback from the group
- May be invited to participate as a panelist during a Public Forum, addressing an audience of approximately 120 people, analyzing women's economic empowerment in the country or region
- May participate in a site visit or a mentoring walk
- May be invited to participate in an on-camera interview with their Mentee, sharing their experiences, key takeaways, and thoughts on leadership and mentoring. The footage is used to share the stories of impact associated with the Global Ambassadors Program
- May be invited to give media interviews with local, regional and national press
- Are encouraged to "open doors" for their Mentee i.e. to make connections from their own established network of contacts that may assist their Mentee in achieving her goals

*** Important to note :**

- We are unable to accept Global Ambassadors who cannot commit to attending the full 5 days of the program starting with the Welcome Briefing session and ending with the final farewell dinner on the last day
- During the Global Ambassador program week, it is our expectation that each Global Ambassador will give her full attention to her mentee throughout all meetings and training sessions
- We request that Global Ambassadors arrive on time for each session and attend each session in full
- We request that Global Ambassadors attend to their "day job work commitments" outside of GAP training sessions and group meals

Prior to the commencement of the program, the Vital Voices team will:

- Schedule on average 2 conference calls with Global Ambassadors to provide a more detailed overview of the program;
- Facilitate an email introduction between each Global Ambassador and her Mentee; and
- Provide each Global Ambassador with a comprehensive briefing document which will contain logistical information, bios on the other Global Ambassadors and Mentees who will be participating in the program, preparatory materials for the public forum, overview and landscape analysis of issues to be discussed throughout the week, and other relevant information.

This program is an excellent opportunity to build relationships and contacts. We encourage Global Ambassadors to draw on and reference their business and professional experience in order to enhance and personalize the information they are giving to program participants.

For more information, please contact :

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