

World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth

# President and Chief Executive Officer

## Organization Profile

The World Affairs of Dallas/Fort Worth was founded in 1951 “in the belief that better community education in world affairs is necessary for sound democratic citizenship, to present facts and realistic appraisals, and to foster free and informed discussion on world problems, including economic, political and social problems.” WACDFW is a member of the World Affairs Councils of America, and in 2019 was recognized as Council of the Year.

Over the ensuing seven decades, the Council has evolved into an ambitious community of learners, leaders and thinkers. To help us learn, we present authoritative voices who explain the global issues and opportunities that touch local lives. Our reach is not only into business offices and boardrooms, but into classrooms and car pools, conferences and conversations. We humanize headlines and partner with diplomacy to create beneficial connections and friendships around the world. Our speakers include heads of state, rising global thought leaders and experts on topics such as economics, security, development, human rights, health and technology to better inform our community on timely matters of global importance.

The World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth promotes open, balanced discourse and is North Texas’ preeminent forum to educate on global issues and public policy. Our podium is sought after by experts, policy makers and authors from a broad spectrum that encompasses foreign relations, American history, public policy and even spy novels. But this platform is not the only tool we use to meet our mission.

Since 2004, the World Affairs Council has participated in a unique public/private contract with the City of Dallas to manage its protocol and international activities and promote economic development. Other key activities include participating in the Department of State’s International Visitors Leadership Program, which brings more than 500 participants each year to our community and expands the citizen diplomacy skills of our members and volunteers. The Council also reaches approximately 10,000 students and their teachers every year, providing free speaker program admission, supplemental curriculum and training to the 70+ Junior World Affairs Councils participating in our Global Young Leaders program.

In addition to once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as conversing with a Supreme Court Justice or head of state, GYL provides students information on how international events affect their lives, community and country, and creates a pathway for students to achieve ambitions in international careers through our International Career Days. In the World Affairs Councils of America’s national Academic WorldQuest Competition, our regional team has placed first seven times in the competition’s 14-year history.

## About the Position

The World Affairs Board of Directors seeks a globally minded, dynamic, and innovative President and Chief Executive Officer who has the ability to connect to local, national and global thought leaders and build on the Council’s decades of providing global education programs for its members, high school students, teachers and the community at large.

Reporting to the World Affairs Council Board of Directors, the President and Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that our membership organization, volunteer board and professional staff deliver on our mission of educating and engaging our local community in national and international affairs. The Council’s reputation and function as a neutral form for peer learning and civil discourse across disciplines, generations and points of view requires careful attention and protection. The P/CEO must be a creative thinker of significant intellectual curiosity and depth. The next P/CEO will inherit a strong organization with

a healthy culture, a robust infrastructure, and an attractive programmatic agenda. The World Affairs P/CEO will have the opportunity to build on a premier brand and enhance the Council's visibility.

The Council is seeking a new P/CEO as the incumbent is stepping down after 19 years of successful service that saw the membership grow from 350 to more than 4,000.

## **Key Responsibilities**

The P/CEO is the leader of the organization, establishing a vision and plan that are achieved through the efforts of a high-performing team. The P/CEO must be a person who can attract significant resources to the Council, including funding from corporate relationships, major individual gifts, foundation investments, and government grants. The P/CEO is the steward of the brand and understands his/her role in growing and protecting the reach and reputation of the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth. S/he is responsible for building trust in the Council and its relevance in the community and is a highly visible and effective spokesperson for the Council within the community.

### ***Vision and Strategy***

- Continue to evolve the World Affairs Council's strategy and lead innovation that will increase membership, drive greater impact, and ensure sustainability.
- Have the vision required to steer the Council into the future and the visionary ideas to move the organization forward, defining organizational strategies and working plans.

### ***Leadership and Management***

- Manage the day-to-day operations of the World Affairs Council, ensuring that its financial, human, and intellectual capital are deployed to their highest and best use.
- Enable the development of the staff as individuals and its performance as a team.
- Build upon a culture characterized by ongoing learning, collaboration, and a high bar for quality and infusing it with the innovative, entrepreneurial spirit that will enable its ongoing evolution.

### ***Fundraising and Brand Advancement***

- Drive key results in fundraising: to identify, cultivate and solicit engagement with prospective donors and key leaders of prospective new corporate partners and foundations, to leverage personal and professional contacts and relationships into transformational fundraising opportunities; and to promote a culture of growth in the organization, both at the staff and board level.
- Expand the World Affairs community, developing and sustaining relationships with members, funders, partners, and other stakeholders.
- Lead the Council's Centennial (capital) Campaign.
- Cultivate and shape a diverse and engaged board of directors.
- Lead the Council's marketing and PR efforts, raising the visibility of the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth.

### ***Program Development***

- Assure continued excellence in thoughtful programming, unbiased educational content, and other initiatives that are of mutual interest to members and our audiences who share and interest in the World Affairs Council's mission and vision

### ***Outreach, Media, and Public Speaking***

- Articulate complex international issues to diverse public audiences through all forms of media and public speaking.
- Raise the visibility and reputation of the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth.
- S/he will establish and build relationships with top leaders in the community, including those representing the highest levels in business, government, and non-profit sectors.
- S/he is out front every day representing the Council, is an exceptional leader and communicator and forms important partnerships throughout all relevant sectors and organizations within the

community. The P/CEO represents the Council in a range of public speaking forums and serves as the principal media spokesperson for the Council, including hosting the Council's weekly podcast. The P/CEO promotes the Council's work throughout the region and, as appropriate, nationally and internationally.

## Desired Outcomes

- A higher organizational profile, achieved through comprehensive marketing and outreach that results in broader name recognition, increased membership, increased audience engagement and public support.
- A clearly defined value proposition for current and prospective audiences, donors, and partners that more deeply engages existing members and compels others to join.
- Increased funding from more diverse sources.
- Preservation and expansion of the World Affairs Council's core offerings and the development of programming that appeals in content and delivery to a broad and changing audience.

## Ideal Experience

This is an extraordinary opportunity for a leader ideally with multi-sector (corporate, private, public, and/or nonprofit) experience and a track record of driving innovation and delivering results. A professional who has strength of character, integrity, and the highest ethical standards.

### **Global experience**

Extensive exposure to, knowledge of and interest in global and national issues. Desire and ability to engage with policy makers, practitioners, authors, academics, etc. Desire to share with our members an informed, reasoned approach to complex international issues. Demonstrated understanding of the international and global affairs issues that invariably impact economic and workforce development issues and trends, secondary and higher education, and business growth.

### **Broad, active network**

The ability and willingness to "open doors" and engage with local leaders and key philanthropic and corporate supporters. Previous connections to, or experience with, the Dallas/Fort Worth region are considered a distinct advantage.

### **Interpersonal savvy and communication skills**

A clear ability to develop relationships and to build bridges with a myriad set of stakeholders and disparate groups and individuals with varying backgrounds, perspectives, and points of view is critical. The ability to work within the international community in North Texas, as demonstrated by previous accomplishments, is vital. An ability to engage with and work effectively with a motivated and distinguished Board of Directors so that each has a valuable role to play in securing the Council's objectives. A desire and ability to engage effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds, professions, and nationalities, whether they are visitors to the region, guests of the Council, or colleagues. The ability to address global issues in a public setting, including the ability to conduct media interviews as well as to make public presentations.

### **Entrepreneurial thinking and agility**

Evidence of an ability to develop new ideas, programs, and revenue streams.

### **Relevant professional experience**

10+ years of demonstrated accomplishment in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector, with particular emphasis on entrepreneurial transformation.

**Relevant education**

Undergraduate degree required, advanced degree preferred in International Relations, Public Affairs, Public Administration, Nonprofit Management or Business. Must have at least ten years of experience at executive leadership and management level in the for-profit or not-for-profit sector.

**Donor cultivation experience**

Experience raising significant and ongoing financial support from a range of donors.

## Application Information

**Please send a cover letter and resume via email ([mpowell@dfwworld.org](mailto:mpowell@dfwworld.org)) and addressed to by October 15, 2020:**

Mr. David Meyer  
c/o Martha Powell  
World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth  
325 North St. Paul Street, Suite 4200  
Dallas, TX 75201

**September 14, 2020**