

**Video Transcript:  
Annual Report 2020  
A Video Message from our Programs Team**

**THOMAS ZIMMERMAN, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS:**

Hello everyone, Thomas Zimmerman here, Director of Programs at the Pacific Council. While we miss seeing you in person at the Beverly Hilton or the Intercontinental or the other locations where we've been lucky enough to host our previous conferences and events, I'm glad that we can still bring you expert, nonpartisan content through video and audio platforms. I hope you agree that Council programs remain interesting, timely, and interactive especially at a time when we all crave a better understanding of what is happening in the world. Our team works hard to find speakers who can offer unique perspectives while also challenging assumptions and overly simplistic media narratives.

I want to take you back – wayyy back – to highlight some memorable programs from the past 18 months, including the days when we could gather around a table with strangers and shake hands. What a time.

**SUMAYA QUILLIAN, PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE:**

In spring 2019 we held our second Global LA Summit in Downtown Los Angeles, the perfect location to discuss how the city is globally interconnected. The summit looked at how the city's history and diversity has made it a leader in innovation, trade, technology, entertainment, and culture. We heard keynotes from the Consuls General of Mexico and Canada as well as Souad Mekhennet, national security correspondent for *The Washington Post*, and author of the memoir *I Was Told to Come Alone: My Journey Behind the Lines of Jihad*. The Global LA summit helped to launch the Council's strategic focus on local-to-global issues and how LA is a leader in subnational diplomacy.

In October last year we hosted PolicyWest, our annual fall conference dedicated to debate and discussion about the most pressing global issues of our time. We kicked off our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at PolicyWest 2019 and haven't stopped partying since.

You might also recall it coincided with breaking news about President Trump and the Ukraine which for many feels like centuries ago. We featured three experts who helped unpack the implications of what became a several month impeachment process.

This year we are switching things up and will host PolicyWest a bit later in the fall to engage members around the outcome of the quickly-approaching 2020 election.

Of course, 2020 overall has looked very different at the Pacific Council, and we are proud to say we have been able to host over 60 virtual events since going remote in March. Many of you joined us for the Global Summit which was the highlight of our summer programming, and you can watch clips from that above.

Another special feature we've continued virtually is the Edgerton Series on Responding to a Rising China, which aims to provide proactive and forward-looking solutions to some of the most complex issues facing the United States and China today. We have been able to host experts on Chinese affairs from around the world in a way that would have been much harder to do if we were gathering in person.

The *Edgerton Series* is made possible by generous support from the Edgerton Foundation. We thank Brad and Louise Edgerton for their continued support and dedication to the Pacific Council.

**THOMAS ZIMMERMAN:**

We know it's going to be a bit of a wait until we all feel comfortable gathering at a conference again but rest assured that we are working tirelessly to keep our content and programs fresh and relevant. Thank you for your continued attendance and engagement with the Pacific Council – hope to see you on our next virtual event!

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