Biennial Report
2018-2019
In 2019 AGBU-AYA inaugurated a new sports field with a youth festival in Beirut, Lebanon.
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Behind the scenes, AGBU facilitated the success of these and other outward-facing opportunities, not only by providing financial and technical support wherever gaps arose, but also by serving as a channel for educational and cultural exchanges that could grow Armenia’s international profile to outlast the fleeting fanfare of these weeklong summits. Our investment in educational resources over the years proved helpful as our AVC platform, ebooks and AGBU Webtalks along with our special publication of AGBU Magazine all served as support literature augmenting knowledge transfer to wider audiences beyond the Armenian world.

The same is true for other unprecedented exposure and opportunity to showcase Armenia as more than a trending destination, but rather as an ancient civilization with an astounding cultural and artistic pedigree. Two such milestones that exemplified the profound Armenian contribution to human progress was the 2018-2019 Armenia! exhibition at New York’s world-class Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on The Mall in Washington DC.

In both cases, AGBU played an important role in ensuring that our national inheritance was presented accurately.
comprehensively, and with quality production values, all with the understanding that first impressions are crucial to building lasting positive images of our people, our place in world history, and our homeland as a must-see tourist attraction.

As the world was taking in the richness and relevance of both our history and intellectual potential, Armenians led the way with positive news headlines once again with the peaceful Velvet Revolution. AGBU, ready to serve as always, welcomed the post-revolution government during its maiden international diplomacy tour and beyond. AGBU delivered the audiences and industry experts for Armenia to present its credentials and enlist the support of partners and prospective foreign investors. One such fine example was the August 2019 tour in Silicon Valley whereby our chapter and volunteers leveraged their longstanding presence in the tech industry to make important links for our country. AGBU once again proved itself an effective connector of people and ideas—giving ample credence to the newly coined descriptor of Armenia as a “tiny republic that is a global nation.”

The following pages detail these turning points for image making, supported and reinforced by AGBU’s network of districts and chapters, Young Professionals groups, partners and friends. Each made extra efforts to share the treasures of Armenian heritage, history, and tradition with general mainstream audiences in their respective countries.

This report also describes other major theme that defines what 2018-2019 meant to our nation-building efforts in the homeland—with particular focus on women and Artsakh.

While women’s empowerment is a challenge worldwide, in Armenia, women struggle with a unique set of impediments to self-realization. AGBU decided it was high time to help unleash the economic potential of Armenia’s women not only to reshape the future of their nation but also to liberate them from the shackles of outworn traditions. One way is to become financially self-sufficient small business owners, respected in their communities, and able to serve as role models for other women and young girls. This perspective inspired the first step toward that goal, with launch of the groundbreaking AGBU Women Entrepreneurs (W.E.) program.

For Artsakh, AGBU reaffirmed and accelerated its strategy for helping win peace in the region by adding extra layers of support behind the sustainable development initiatives we started two years earlier, but now under the umbrella of the newly established AGBU Fund for Artsakh. A strong foundation for a diversified, growth economy is the key to retaining and increasing population, which is essential to legitimizing Artsakh’s ambitions for international recognition as a sovereign republic. By gaining the skills and opportunities for secure career-bound jobs through new AGBU projects, the people are on track to live, work and raise their families on their ancestral lands.

As in previous biennial reports, we also have many reasons to applaud the spirit of community and leadership infused into the AGBU mission during 2018-2019. Throughout this cycle, the dynamic energy of AGBU regions, districts, offices, and chapters reinforced the broader strategic goals of our mission on the community level. The numerous local engagements that filled the 2018 and 2019 calendar were designed to enlighten, inform and entertain across a range of relevant themes, special causes, and milestone occasions.

As always, I am proud to report the continued progress of AGBU programs, which never grow stagnant in meeting the needs of our diverse constituencies at every stage of life. Our programs, projects and products not only keep AGBU relevant across generations but also ensures a ready source of capable new leaders to step up to the challenges and opportunities in Armenian life, be it education, culture, humanitarian relief, or socio-economic development. It is all the more reason for Armenians across the globe to look to AGBU as a proven and trusted resource for uplifting and improving their lives in all spheres of endeavor.

Finally, the vital importance of our loyal donors, volunteers and staff cannot be overstated. So many of our shining moments in these highly productive two years are owed to all those who so generously shared their largesse, their time and their talents and expertise to bring opportunity, hope and progress to the beneficiaries and constituents we serve around the world.

In summary, 2018 and 2019 underscored AGBU’s substantial capacity to seize opportunity and turn global trends in favor of Armenians in broad-reaching and innovative ways. Through these efforts, AGBU remains a pre-eminent organization for governments and institutions seeking a reliable collaborator and partner. In turn, AGBU helps bring Armenia and Armenians into the fold of global culture, international commerce, and socio-economic growth.

Nonetheless, the impressive strides made in 2018 and 2019 yielded to a series of unfortunate events concerning both Armenia and the Diaspora in 2020. The global pandemic compounded by the tragedy of the Azeri invasion of Artsakh and the explosion of the Port of Beirut took the Armenian Nation in unforeseen directions. The AGBU response to these momentous events will be covered in the next biennial report.

Sincerely,

Berge Setrakian,
President, AGBU
Current AGBU Central Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
Berge Setrakian

VICE PRESIDENT
Joseph Oughourlian

TREASURER
Nazareth A. Festekjian

ASSISTANT TREASURER
Yervant Demirjian

SECRETARY
Sarkis Jebejian

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Arda Haratunian

HONORARY MEMBER
His Holiness Karekin II,
Catholicos of all Armenians

MEMBERS
Armenia
Vasken Yacoubian

Canada
Lena Sarkissian

France
Aris Atamian
Nadia Gortzounian

Switzerland
Vahé Gabrache

United Kingdom
Arnaud Attamian
Vartkess Knadjian

United States
Haig Ariyan
Eric Esrailian
Ari Libarikian
Ani Manoukian
Lori Muncherian
Levon Nazarian
Yervant Zorian

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
Chairman
Vatche Manoukian

Members
Eric Esrailian
Armen Sarkissian
Sam Simonian
Sinan Sinanian
Berge Setrakian, Ex Officio
# Financial Reports 2018–2019

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 31, 2019</th>
<th>December 31, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Certificates of deposit</td>
<td>$31,148,925</td>
<td>$26,334,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments, at cost</td>
<td>8,566,435</td>
<td>14,819,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>1,900,756</td>
<td>3,550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>4,191,415</td>
<td>5,041,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$45,807,531</strong></td>
<td><strong>$49,745,750</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long term investments, at cost</strong></td>
<td>229,187,961</td>
<td>225,120,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate, at cost</td>
<td>98,545,815</td>
<td>98,809,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>4,498,589</td>
<td>4,480,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements, net</td>
<td>3,389,846</td>
<td>2,896,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$381,429,742</strong></td>
<td><strong>$381,051,908</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 31, 2019</th>
<th>December 31, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and other liabilities</td>
<td>$8,773,275</td>
<td>$8,033,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable—current and long-term debt</td>
<td>99,979</td>
<td>121,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,873,254</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,154,523</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General purpose</td>
<td>47,049,758</td>
<td>48,323,524</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special purpose</td>
<td>61,559,784</td>
<td>64,694,855</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>263,946,946</td>
<td>259,879,006</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>372,556,488</strong></td>
<td><strong>372,897,385</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 31, 2019</th>
<th>December 31, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$381,429,742</strong></td>
<td><strong>$381,051,908</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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(1) Consists of the consolidated financials for 2019 and 2018 of AGBU (Delaware Corporation) and of the subsidiaries, branches, districts, chapters and schools.

(2) As of 12/31/2019, total fair market value of the investments and endowment investments were $266,512,719 versus cost of $237,754,396.

As of 12/31/2018, total fair market value of the investments and endowment investments were $240,401,925 versus cost of $239,939,233.

(3) The Central Board of Directors estimates that the current market value of the real estate properties are significantly higher than the historical cost reported above.

(4) General purpose are unrestricted assets.

(5) Special purpose are temporarily restricted assets designated for specific purpose.

(6) Endowments are permanently restricted and include real estate endowments.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Biennial Financial Report: 10-Year Comparatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 (a)%</th>
<th>2018 (b)%</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Yearly % Increase (Decrease) (b) 10-Year % Increase (Decrease)
# Financial Reports 2018–2019

*All figures are in U.S. Dollars.*

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES—YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Purpose</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Support and Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$8,786,475</td>
<td>$12,661,125</td>
<td>$21,447,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events and other income</td>
<td>5,880,889</td>
<td>7,040</td>
<td>5,887,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,667,364</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,668,165</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,335,529</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>9,286,947</td>
<td>1,584,316</td>
<td>10,871,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>1,511,658</td>
<td>4,172</td>
<td>1,515,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and other school income</td>
<td>15,706,123</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,706,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,504,728</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,588,488</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,093,216</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events and other income</td>
<td>5,880,889</td>
<td>7,040</td>
<td>5,887,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and other school income</td>
<td>15,706,123</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,706,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,564,032</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,864,713</strong></td>
<td><strong>55,428,745</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Satisfaction of specific program funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program and Administrative Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>26,587,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26,587,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>19,486,724</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19,486,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>1,259,239</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,259,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian</td>
<td>2,208,555</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,208,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>49,541,918</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>49,541,918</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>4,837,260</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,837,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising, Development &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>1,208,300</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,208,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange/Translation adjustment</td>
<td>182,164</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>182,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program &amp; Administrative Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>55,769,642</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>55,769,642</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets from Operations</td>
<td>(4,205,610)</td>
<td>3,864,713</td>
<td>(340,897)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter Fund transfers/ Appropriations &amp; Restatement</td>
<td>2,931,844</td>
<td>(2,931,844)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(1,273,766)</td>
<td>932,869</td>
<td>(340,897)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</td>
<td>48,323,524</td>
<td>324,573,861</td>
<td>372,897,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, End of Year</td>
<td>$47,049,758</td>
<td>$325,506,730</td>
<td>$372,556,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Consists of the consolidated financials for 2019 and 2018 of AGBU (Delaware Corporation) and of the subsidiaries, branches, districts, chapters and schools.
# Financial Reports 2018–2019(1)

All figures are in U.S. Dollars.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES—YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>General Purpose</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Support and Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$10,836,914</td>
<td>$11,781,872</td>
<td>$22,618,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events and other income</td>
<td>5,238,149</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5,238,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$16,075,063</td>
<td>$11,781,872</td>
<td>$27,856,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>5,711,677</td>
<td>1,767,401</td>
<td>7,479,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>2,032,856</td>
<td>6,105</td>
<td>2,038,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and other school income</td>
<td>15,483,378</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>15,483,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$23,227,911</td>
<td>$1,773,506</td>
<td>$25,001,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Satisfaction of specific program funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>(7,928,942)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$47,231,916</td>
<td>$5,626,436</td>
<td>$52,858,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program and Administrative Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>25,198,141</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>25,198,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>15,356,007</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>15,356,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>1,218,174</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,218,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian</td>
<td>2,138,325</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2,138,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program</strong></td>
<td>$43,910,647</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>$43,910,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>5,139,904</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5,139,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising, Development &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>810,547</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>810,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange/Translation adjustment</td>
<td>(565,068)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>(565,068)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program &amp; Administrative Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$49,296,030</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>$49,296,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets from Operations</strong></td>
<td>(2,064,114)</td>
<td>$5,626,436</td>
<td>$3,562,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inter Fund transfers/Appropriations &amp; Restatement</strong></td>
<td>(387,261)</td>
<td>1,590,994</td>
<td>1,203,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>(2,451,375)</td>
<td>$7,217,430</td>
<td>$4,766,055</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>50,774,899</td>
<td>317,356,431</td>
<td>$368,131,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, End of Year</strong></td>
<td>$48,323,524</td>
<td>$324,573,861</td>
<td>$372,897,385</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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(1) Consists of the consolidated financials for 2019 and 2018 of AGBU (Delaware Corporation) and of the subsidiaries, branches, districts, chapters and schools.
2018-2019 Themes and Trends

Sharing Our Gifts With the World

In 2018, AGBU Performing Arts Department organized a concert tour in Asia with Armenian-Japanese ensemble Arev Arts.
The 2018-2019 cycle presented groundbreaking opportunities for the world to explore the rich heritage, culture and economic competitiveness of the Armenian people. AGBU was proud to participate in the planning and organizing of multiple world-class events through collaborations, partnerships, and co-sponsorships as well as leveraging its in-house alternative education offerings. Our array of offerings from the flagship Armenian Virtual College (AVC) online learning resources, combined with AGBU signature products, programs and collaborations, created the synergy to raise global awareness and appreciation of Armenia’s unique contributions to world civilization—from ancient times to the post-modern era.

At the same time, the AGBU Performing Arts Department (PAD) continued to expand its international outreach, exposing non-Armenians in far-flung regions to authentic Armenian music and instruments. These efforts were fortified by AGBU’s regional chapters, which organized general-public events showcasing Armenian culture through the visual arts, music, traditional crafts, cuisine, language and literature.

**Armenia! At The Met**
Without question, the coalescing point of the 2018-2019 Armenian event calendar was the showstopping opening of the major art exhibition *Armenia!*, organized by the world-renowned Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Running from September 2018 to January 2019, it was the first time Armenian medieval artistic treasures were on display in the prime space of the museum’s high-traffic main floor. The exhibition showcased over 140 objects, spanning the 14th to 17th centuries, on loan to the museum from public and private sources. Over one million visitors passed through and critical reviews in respected media and art world publications attested to Armenia’s place in pantheon of ancient cultures that have influenced world civilization.

AGBU was honored to be a co-sponsor of Armenia! As a key collaborator with museum leadership, we provided ancillary cultural and educational events including concerts, activities for children and young adults, as well as a lecture series that supplemented curatorial commentary from the main installation.

TAV HANZIAN, NATALIE GABRELIAN
In each month throughout the five-month installation, AGBU WebTalks released its special series of interviews with the leading curators of the exhibition. Three highlights from the exhibition: Armenian Art and Creative Exchange on Medieval Trade Routes; Armenians in the Medieval World; and Trade, Religion and Art in Medieval Armenia. All were available on both the The Met and AGBU websites.

La Francophonie 2018 in Armenia

From October 7-12 2018, delegates, media and attendees from over 88 countries gathered in Yerevan for the international 17th La Francophonie 2018. This biennial celebration of the francophone world helped raise awareness of the diplomatic, cultural, and historical ties between the French and the Armenians as well as enhanced Armenia’s image as the winner of the highly competitive bid to host and organize such a prestigious event. In conjunction with the main events with heads of state and official delegates, a series of lectures, musical performances, artistic displays, educational programs, and a concluding gala was co-sponsored by AGBU along with the Francophonie organization, IDeA Foundation, and Centre Aznavour.

In addition, AGBU Montreal and the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) announced their latest agreement to create scholarships and educational opportunities for Armenia’s doctoral students who attend French-language universities. AGBU France launched a prestigious French language short story competition in partnership with the French Embassy in Armenia. The summit left its mark not only in the streets of Yerevan, but also in the minds of the French delegates who bid adieu to a nation renewed with democracy and international potential.
AGBU Alternative Education also brought its savoir-faire to the proceedings. During the Forum Economique, AVC presented on eLearning Technologies: How Armenian Virtual College Serves a Global Nation. A special issue of Découvrons Erevan (French language version of AVC’s Exploring Yerevan e-book) featuring Francophonie logos on the cover was made available as an e-guide to all delegates via the AVC booth at the 47th Session of the International Union of Francophone Press, the official Francophonie website and Le Courrier d’Erevan Summit website. The AGBU Im Armenia app, which offers a French-language option, was featured in the special French-language edition of AGBU Magazine, distributed to all summit attendees.

1 Gala concert dedicated to Charles Aznavour at the finale of La Francophonie 2018, co-sponsored by AGBU.

2 Smithsonian Institution’s Armenia: Creating Home
In the summer of 2018, the Smithsonian Institution featured Armenian traditional culture in its annual Folklife Festival on the Mall in Washington DC. AGBU was instrumental in providing the organizers with educational resources and advisory services before and during the event. The Armenian pavilion turned out to be one of the most well attended in the Folklife Festival’s recent history.

AGBU proudly continued its long-term partnership with the Institution by developing the interactive e-book on Armenia’s Vayots Dzor region, launched in 2019 in conjunction with the My Armenia program. Both Vayots Dzor and Gegharkunik regions had been added to the Im Armenia app for younger travelers to Armenia’s regions in the previous year.

The Smithsonian FolkLife Festival (2019). 3 Demonstration of traditional stone carving. 4 Master class in Armenian calligraphy techniques.
AGBU London Gifts Khachkar to Canterbury Cathedral

In 2019, in a historic move to share Armenian culture with the world, AGBU facilitated the arrival and unveiling of a khachkar to be installed in the Canterbury Cathedral. AGBU London played a key role in supporting the creation of the stone cross, crafted in Canterbury by artist Brigadier John Meardon using Armenian tufa stone. This symbolic gesture ensured the Armenian story would leave its mark in the United Kingdom.

Polish Senate Celebrates Armenian Accomplishments

At a conference held in September 2018, the Polish Senate commended the accomplishments of the Armenian community over the past 650 years. Held in collaboration with the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Armenian Cultural Association, and AGBU Europe leadership, the conference brought together Polish and Armenian scholars to highlight the Armenian cultural and religious heritage in Poland.

Armenian Village in the Heart of Paris

AGBU France organized the first-ever open-air Armenian festival on March 22-24, 2019 at the Place du Panthéon. The Region of Paris awarded 50,000 euros to make the Armenian Village project possible to showcase rich Armenian cultural heritage and folk-art traditions. A weekend of conferences, food stands, vendors, art demonstrations, and culture shows accomplished the original mission to raise public awareness of the geopolitical dynamics faced by Armenia and Artsakh.
Uruguay Promotes Armenian as Second Language
In 2019, thanks to the steadfast efforts of AGBU Uruguay, the Department of Language Policy of Uruguay’s National Public Education Administration (ANEP) incorporated Armenian language instruction as part of its flagship campaign Uruguay Plurilingüe 2030. The campaign hopes to foster multilingualism among Uruguayans, providing access to second language learning on a national scale while highlighting the country’s diverse communities.

AGBU Melbourne Harmony Day
The annual multi-cultural event showcased the best of Armenian traditions, cuisine and crafts to thousands of diverse attendees.

AGBU Sofia Participates in Solidarity Festival
In 2018 and 2019, AGBU Sofia participated in the Solidarity Festival on June 24. Organized by Caritas Sofia, Multi Kulti Collective, and CVS Bulgaria, the event promotes solidarity among different cultures and ethnic groups. The AGBU Sofia booth displayed traditional Armenian costumes, showed visitors how to write their names in Armenian characters, and offered Armenian folk dance lessons.

AGBU France Organizes Musical Weekend in Brussels
In 2018 and 2019, the Performing Arts Department of AGBU France/Europe held an annual Musical Weekend in Brussels in partnership with the Boghossian Foundation—Villa Empain and the Armenian community of Belgium to showcase Armenian musicians of various genres to a broad audience of music lovers. In 2018, in partnership with the City of Brussels, the AGBU String Ensemble performed in the prestigious Gothic room of the City Hall in front of a packed auditorium to celebrate the centennial of the 1st Republic of Armenia. VIP guests included representatives of the Belgian government and of the European institutions.

In 2019, AGBU Europe started a partnership with Bozar Center for Fine Arts, the most visited cultural venue in Brussels, to co-curate and promote the Armenian film program of its annual “Bridges. East of West Film Days” devoted to the cinema of the Eastern Partnership countries. In 2019, the Belgian media coverage of the event included two special focuses on Armenia and its film program.

Weekend in Brussels featured duduk legend Levon Minassian.
2018-2019 Themes and Trends

Accelerating Nation-Building

Harvesting the abundance of premium grapes for a winery in Artsakh (2018).
By the year 2018, Armenia and Artsakh had reached a turning point in their socio-economic development, emerging from years of dire poverty and widespread unemployment and pivoting toward a new phase of industrial growth in key sectors. AGBU leadership decided it was time to play a more proactive role in creating momentum behind these positive trends. Working with economic and business experts in and out of Armenia, AGBU identified strategic shortfalls that could benefit from programs that foster generational transformation and greater foreign interest in the promise and potentials of a more competitive Armenia—whether through tourism, high technology, agriculture and greater efficiencies in government, trade and business.

Promoting Armenia’s High-Tech Industry
In August 2019, AGBU was instrumental in introducing the impressive capabilities of Armenia’s high-tech sector to Silicon Valley’s industry royalty. Paving the way for a special high-ranking delegation from Armenia, led by the prime minister and the minister of high technology, AGBU provided the financial support, professional know-how, and industry connections to arrange visits with the CEO of Nvidia and the Co-CEO of Synopsis Inc., as well as the legendary venture capitalist Tim Draper.

Capping the visit was the town hall, organized by the Silicon Valley Chapter of AGBU with leaders of the tech community, academic professionals and scientific thinkers. During this event, the AGBU Virtual Bridge initiative was announced. The project would provide Armenia’s tech entrepreneurs with the tools and resources to access client and venture capital networks as well as the office space and residential accommodations to plant a stake in the Silicon Valley community.
WCIT 2019 in Yerevan

Tech enthusiasts, aspiring entrepreneurs, students, business leaders and innovators were given the opportunity to discover Yerevan with the three day 23rd annual World Congress on Information Technologies (WCIT) event, which took place in October of 2019 in the Karen Demirchyan Sports Complex. AGBU played an indispensable role in providing financial support to the conference, in addition to securing a booth for interns and young professionals to receive hands-on experience with AGBU digital products on display.

Big names in the tech sphere spoke at the various panels, shedding their expert knowledge on social media, cybersecurity, E-health, artificial intelligence, startups and more. Ambitious visionaries were also given the chance to pitch their business ideas in the first ever Lightning Round pitch battle and receive a grant to pursue their project. With over 20 panel discussions, attendees were privy to a wide selection of tech topics and were given the chance to rediscover innovation.

AGBU and AUA High Tech Research Group

In 2019, a research group was established by the American University of Armenia (AUA) and AGBU to study areas in which Armenia could dominate in innovative technologies space. The findings would be the first step in formulating strategies based on objective analysis of the national assets, including educational, economic and technological resources.

AGBU France Armenia Pavilion at VivaTech Conference

In May 2019, AGBU France helped put Armenian high-tech prowess on display at the annual Paris VivaTech Conference, a gathering dedicated to global innovation and startups. Organized in partnership with HyeTech Europe and G2iA (International Armenian Interprofessional Group), the event, representing 13,000 startups and attracting over 124,000 visitors, 3,300 investors and 2,500 journalists, highlighted 15 exemplary Armenian-owned startups as well as established IT ventures like TUMO and Armath Engineering Laboratories at the “Inspiring Armenia” pavilion, organized by AGBU Armenia.

© Davit Hambatyan; Areg Kozmoian
1 President of AGBU Armenia, Vasken Yacoubian (Left) participates in press conference at WCIT 2019. 2 The Inspiring Armenia pavilion at the 2019 VivaTech conference, organized by AGBU. 3 Pastry producer and W.E. entrepreneur Shushan Avetisyan. 4 Kim Kardashian and sister Kourtney visit AGBU Armenia to learn more about the AGBU W.E. program, meet the participants, and sample their products.
AGBU Women Entrepreneurs Program
Recognizing that financial independence is the key to unlocking Armenia’s female potential, the pilot of AGBU Women Entrepreneurs (W.E.) was introduced in 2018 by AGBU Armenia. Based on a one-year cycle of support for a cohort of 25 women selected from all regions of Armenia, the program offered them tools and resources to start or scale up a small business enterprise in industries as diverse as food, fashion, education, tourism and even construction. During the cycle, women were enrolled in free university level coursework, participated in pitch battles for mini-grants, and engaged in networking and mentoring opportunities by local and foreign experts. After the highly successful pilot, along with word-of-mouth popular demand, 2019 added 75 women to the program. It also introduced the first W.E. cohort for the women of Artsakh.

AGBU Extends Scholarships After Closing of Luys
In August 2018, AGBU decided to coordinate with the newly established Armenia-based My Step Foundation to extend scholarships to select students recently accepted to some of the top universities in the world. Many of these high achievers were in jeopardy of deferring their dream of a high-quality education, after the Luys Foundation, established by the previous Armenian administration, closed its doors after the Velvet Revolution. At the request of the My Step Foundation, which had recently assumed the responsibilities, AGBU stepped up with the funds to keep the students on track with their academic goals.

Bridge for CSO’s
AGBU Armenia concluded the three-year BRIDGE for CSO’s program, funded by the European Union, to bring impact to Armenia’s growing civil society organizations through diaspora engagement. Together with the EPF (Eurasian Partnership Foundation), AGBU implemented this three-year program (2017-2019) with the goal of strengthening civil society in Armenia using diaspora talent and expertise. Over the years, AGBU helped deliver sector-specific trainings, a university certificate program and small grants of 20,000-30,000 EUR. The Good Will Ambassador component attracted high-profile influencers from the Diaspora to help raise awareness about the CSO they were matched to represent. The program proved to succeed in its goals.
Promoting Armenia as a Must-See Destination
AGBU actively supported the innovative ideas and products that contribute to the development of tourism as one of the most promising sectors in Armenia. Acknowledging a quiet but steadily growing trend in foreign tourism to Armenia that went far beyond the Diaspora, the March 2018 issue of AGBU Magazine took a fresh look at Armenia as a destination that could offer authentic experiences not only in history and folk traditions but also more contemporary attractions from fine eclectic cuisine and diverse musical fare to spectacular vistas for hiking, mountain climbing and skiing, along with western-style hospitality and high marks for safety and friendliness. Readers from the Armenian world were armed with compelling proof points to recommend Armenia as the next big discovery for the well-traveled visitor.

Off-the-Beaten Path Travel Campaign
AGBU’s series of educational travel tools peaked the interest of the over 150 US travel industry representatives present in the last week of June leading up to the Smithsonian Institution Folklife Festival. Encouraging travel industry insiders’ and Armenia enthusiasts’ interest toward Armenia is key to promoting tourism and putting it on the map for travelers.

AGBU Alternative Education staff joined Hripsime Grigoryan, the newly appointed chair of Armenia’s State Tourism Committee, and representatives from the Armenian tourism industry to participate in a series of meetings and events with local media and travel representatives of the US trade industry to increase awareness of Armenia’s cultural heritage tourism offerings. Statistics showed an increase in downloads soon after the events were held.

The three-city tour of events, which started in Boston then traveled to New York, culminated in Washington, D.C. with a visit to the Folklife Festival. The events were organized by My Armenia, a cultural heritage tourism program funded by USAID and implemented by the Smithsonian Institution, in collaboration with AGBU.

Promoting Armenia’s Wine Industry
The April 2019 issue of AGBU Magazine put the premium wine industry on notice that a new competitor was now on the map of the world’s best wine countries: Armenia. With an in-depth exploration of the various aspects of the Armenian wine industry, the Armenian grape was becoming the new gold for wine connoisseurs and aficionados around the world. Readers followed suit, organizing Armenian wine festivals locally and serving as ad hoc trade ambassadors for Armenian wines.
Economic Growth Strategies for Artsakh
Understanding that a sustainable growth economy is indispensable to the survival of Artsakh and its bid for international recognition, AGBU established a special fund called AGBU Fund for Artsakh in 2018 to support existing and new programs designed to deliver socio-economic opportunities.

The strategy for accelerated development was built on the inherent assets and strengths in the republic, including agriculture, education, culture, and a budding class of professionals in administration and tourism, not to mention the 20-year-old AGBU-supported Artsakh Chamber Ensemble, and humanitarian medical supplies. Such popular programs as TUMO X AGBU for teens, the AGBU-supported AUA Extension School for adults, educational resources and digital training for military officers and cadets, plus other existing initiatives now fell under the umbrella of the AGBU Fund for Artsakh, creating a bulwark of interlocking opportunities to move the republic forward.

Fields of Hope
In 2018, AGBU launched a new agricultural development project, initially to help provide a livelihood for Syrian-Armenian refugee farmers resettled in Artsakh. AGBU provided land, and a cooperative arrangement for shared use of a tractor and other farming machinery free of charge. The program centerpiece was providing loans for the purchase and storage of seeds and the protection of crops. In 2019, the program was extended to native farmers in Artsakh, helping them leverage the great agricultural bounty derived from Artsakh’s favorable climate and soil conditions.
With the undeniable success of Fields of Hope, in 2019, AGBU launched the Olive Tree Program with the long-term view of turning Artsakh into a powerhouse for olives and olive oil for both domestic use and foreign export. Some of the same Syrian-Armenian refugees signed up to break new ground for this potentially lucrative agro venture. AGBU provided high quality olive tree saplings, understanding that it takes years of cultivation for the orchards to yield marketable produce.

AGBU W.E. in Artsakh
In 2019, the Women Entrepreneurs (W.E.) program was expanded to the women of Artsakh, creating the first cohort of 25 individuals interested in scaling up or starting their own small business enterprise.

AGBU LEAP
Introduced in 2019, this professional development initiative was designed to help locals from different educational backgrounds and skill sets to create more sustainable and remunerative sources of income through self-employment and enhanced employability. The program also aimed to support public servants in delivering quality administrative services and strengthening the skills of those interested in the tourism and hospitality sector. Other beneficiaries, from youth to adults, are also eligible to receive English-language instruction, a prerequisite for international business, to help Artsakh attract foreign investors as part of its economic growth and job generation strategy.

Dialogue and Democracy
Shortly after Armenia’s Velvet Revolution of 2018, the AGBU Central Office helped set the stage for a reset in Diaspora-Armenia relations through open forums with AGBU community members. The newly appointed President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian conducted open dialogues in both New York and California, and then Armenia ambassador to the United Nations Zohrab Mnatsakhanyan (subsequently appointed minister of foreign affairs) visited the Central Office in New York to update the community on the impact of the Velvet Revolution on the New Armenia. In September 2019, the new High Commissioner of Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan met with new generations of American-Armenians at a breakfast organized by the Young Professionals of Greater New York to help identify shared goals in democracy-building and explore mutually beneficial ways to boost Armenia’s socio-economic opportunities.
Connecting Points

The years 2018-2019 were vibrant with diverse events initiated throughout the AGBU global network—from international summits like the biennial AGBU General Assembly in Paris and AGBU Focus in São Paulo to local commemorations of Armenian historical turning points and beloved heroic figures. There were also celebrations of AGBU school and district anniversaries as well as other firsts that showcased the creativity, dynamism and proactive spirit at every level of AGBU community leadership to strengthen their communities and expand connections globally.

AGBU Biennials

90th AGBU General Assembly in Paris
In February 2019, the 90th AGBU General Assembly gave members and friends of AGBU a chance to reflect on AGBU’s achievements during the 2016-2017 cycle. The official assembly convened at Les Jardins de Saint Dominique as the centerpiece of a three-day line up of activities and events that included global leadership meetings and workshops with AGBU districts, chapters, young professionals, and special committee representatives, an elegant kick off event at the top of the Eiffel Tower, an all day panel discussion at Station F, a concert dedicated to the late Charles Aznavour, and a gala extravaganza at the Pavilion Ledoyen, which honored Sarkis and Seta Demirdjian and Vatche and Tamar Manoukian.
AGBU FOCUS 2019 São Paulo

The 10th AGBU FOCUS Weekend was held in South America in 2019. Brazil hosted guests from 26 countries, including leadership from the Young Professionals (YP) network, who participated in a conference and brainstorming sessions for future projects and collaborations. After a lively idea pitch battle, conference participants voted to award the first ever grant of the Noubar Nazarian YP Young Innovators Fund.

The FOCUS Weekend Gala and advance fundraising were dedicated to the AGBU Womens Entrepreneurs (W.E.) program in Armenia. The combined efforts generated $120,000.
Historical Commemorations

1 30 Years Since the Artsakh Liberation Movement
In 2018, the AGBU network came together to commemorate the 30th year since the mass rallies in Stepanakert and Yerevan ignited the Artsakh Liberation Movement.

The AGBU Central office hosted Armenia-based photographer Davit Hakobyan’s exhibition of works from his publication The Trembling Soil Under Their Feet depicting the lives and service of Armenian soldiers over the span of eight years. Europe, and the European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA) followed the commemoration with a conference at the European Parliament to continue the conversation about the world’s connection with Artsakh. AGBU Milan and the Union of Armenians of Italy held a discussion at the Armenian House to remember victims of the Sumgait Pogroms.

2 100 Years Since the First Republic of Armenia
The year 2018 marked the centennial of the Battle of Sardarabad, which allowed for the creation of the First Republic of Armenia and the 28th year of the Third Republic of Armenia. AGBU celebrated this momentous anniversary across three countries—first a musical weekend in Brussels organized by the Performing Arts Department of AGBU France in partnership with the Boghossian Foundation, the City of Brussels, and the Armenian community of Belgium. Armenia celebrated with a lecture series by Professor Richard Hovhannisian, planned in partnership with the American University of Armenia (AUA). Los Angeles rounded off the celebration with a documentary screening with the AGBU Asbeds and the Western Diocese of the United States.

3 30th Anniversary of Sumgait
In April 24, AGBU Sofia HayLer Sunday School and Plovdiv’s Malvina Manukian Theater commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Sumgait Pogroms. Attendees lit candles and laid flowers near the city’s Armenian cross-stone located next to Sofia’s Yerevan Garden.

4 150th Birthday of Komitas
The Gurdjieff Ensemble performed at the Peter Jay Sharp Theatre at New York’s renowned Symphony Space, organized by AGBU’s Performing Arts Department in 2019. A Canadian Tribute was held in Canada’s famed Telus Centre for Performance and Learning, featuring the Amici Chamber Ensemble and Canadian Children’s Opera. Meanwhile, AGBU Sofia celebrated Komitas with a concert at the Armenian Community Center organized with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia. AGBU Armenia displayed artist Ani Hovak’s solo exhibit, entitled Komitas, at the AGBU Gallery in Yerevan, accompanied by a performance by the HOVER Choir.

South American audiences were treated to the music of the Armenian legend. AGBU Buenos Aires organized an eclectic concert in collaboration with the Armenian Embassy in Argentina and Yerevan’s Komitas State Conservatory. Gathering hundreds at Kirchner Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, the event featured a performance by AGBU Uruguay’s Grung Choir.
**Milestones**

1. **Hye Geen Marks 25th Anniversary with Conference**
   Los Angeles, 2019: The 13th Annual Hye Geen Conference focused on the digital era and its effect on today’s youth, a phenomenon experienced both at home and in schools. Chairwoman Sona Yacoubian moderated and presented a concise history of AGBU Hye Geen and its accomplishments over the past quarter century. The event took place at AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian Center’s newly opened theater complex.

2. **AGBU Antranig Celebrates 50 Years of Dance**
   New York, 2019: The AGBU Antranig Dance Ensemble celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a milestone performance at the French Institute’s Florence Gould Theater. The show, titled “Sunrise,” paid tribute to the new generation in Armenia, with almost 20 original dance numbers.

**HAIK German-Armenian Students Club 10th Year**
Rostock, 2018: HAIK German-Armenian Students Club organized an event devoted to the 10-year anniversary of its partnership with the AGBU. The event hoped to foster stronger bonds of friendship between Germans and Armenians.

**South America Celebrates Multiple Milestones**
AGBU chapters in the region had a variety of significant historical markers to appreciate in 2018 and 2019. First was the centennial of AGBU Córdoba in 2018, followed by 55 years since the founding of AGBU Brazil in 2019. The AGBU Buenos Aires Armenian Cuisine Week and AGBU Uruguay’s Grung Choir both reached their 25th year in 2019, bringing the joy of Armenian cuisine and the gems of Armenian song to their respective communities.

3. **Artsakh State Chamber Orchestra Celebrates 15 Years**
   Influential politicians and music-lovers gathered in Stepanakert, Artsakh to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Artsakh State Chamber Orchestra in 2019.

4. **AGBU Satamian Theatre Marks 40th Anniversary**
   Los Angeles, 2019: AGBU Satamian Theatre Group celebrated its 40th anniversary at the Nazarian Hall of the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School. With over 500 people in attendance, the evening was full of laughs as Krikor Satamian recounted the last four decades of performances around the world, taking a trip down memory lane with guests.

5. **AGBU New England 110th Anniversary**
   Boston, 2018: Over 300 guests attended the AGBU New England weekend celebration with a gala held at the Samberg Conference Center at MIT to celebrate the Global Excellence Awards. The New England district raised a record $1.22 million, with $1 million from the Armenian-American war veterans’ group to support local and global AGBU youth programs.

6. **Far Left: AGBU New England District Chair Ara Balikian. Fourth from Left: AGBU President Berge Setrakian with members of the Cpl. Paul Marsoubian AMVETs Post 41, an Armenian American war veterans group that donated one million dollars for the AGBU scholarship program.**
Manoogian School 50th Anniversary
Detroit, 2019: The Detroit community celebrated the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School’s 50 years of success with a gala on October 19th. Richard Manoogian, son of the school’s founders, was in attendance representing the family. The overwhelming support for the school was evident by the sold-out crowd of 600 attendees.

AVC Marks 10th Anniversary
This global online resource, which has developed in leaps and bounds from 2009-2019, celebrated its achievements, including over 13,000 students from 107 countries to date, over 27,000 readers engaged with AVC’s five multimedia eBooks, and over 150 instructors and facilitators trained in AVC’s various disciplines.
Regional Conferences

1 AGBU Nubar Library International Conference
In 2019, under the leadership of its Executive Director Boris Adjemian, the AGBU Nubar Library co-organized Comparative Lenses: Video Testimonies of Survivors and Eyewitnesses on Genocide and Mass Violence, an international and interdisciplinary conference at the American University of Paris in conjunction with the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention (American University of Paris), Yahad-In Unum (Paris), and the University of Southern California (USC) Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research (Los Angeles).

2 AGBU Western District Inaugural Conference
In March 2018, the AGBU Western District held its inaugural conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. AGBU Western District board members, chapter chairs, and members from Las Vegas, Phoenix and Los Angeles were in attendance.

Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh Policy
In 2018-2019, AGBU Europe co-organized a conference in the European Parliament to encourage the European institutions to become more pro-active in their contribution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution to reduce tensions in the region.

3 United Nations Genocide Prevention Day


Lebanon: In 2019, the theme was Incitement to Genocide, Freedom of Expression and Social Media: The Balance of the Unbalanced? The Director of the International Center for Human Sciences (CISH-UNESCO, Byblos) Dr. Darina Saliba Abi Chedid presented “Hate Speech Used as an Incitement to Genocide under International Criminal Law.” The event took place in collaboration with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs and in partnership with UN-OHCHR, CISH-UNESCO, Facebook, Smex, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch Lepsiushaus Potsdam (Germany), L’Orient le Jour and the Foundation of Human and Humanitarian Rights.

Toronto: AGBU followed the history of Western Armenia with their presentation of Sharing the Journey and discussion of Grit and Grace in A World Gone Mad: Humanitarianism in Talas, Turkey in 2019.
Community and Culture

Art exhibition held at the AGBU gallery during La Francophone Summit in Armenia (2018).
In addition to implementing its vast socio-economic development initiatives and supporting some of the largest national events, AGBU Armenia also served as a local hub for enhancing cultural exchange and important forums and conferences. Some events took an international turn with the International Contemporary Art Exhibition: Armenia 2018, representing artists from 25 countries and attracting patrons and foreign and national dignitaries. Convergence: A Collective Fine Arts Exhibition and the AGBU Armenia “Civil Society Talks” discussion series put the spotlight on homegrown talents and thought leaders. Many events were held at AGBU’s state-of-the-art building in the heart of Yerevan, raising public awareness of its capacity to bring people and ideas together.

2 AGBU hosted a welcome dinner for Dr. Karin Markides, the incoming president of American University of Armenia (2019).
AGBU Sponsored Programs and Projects in Armenia and Artsakh

### ONGOING PROGRAMS

**Armenia**
- Antranik Scout Camp
- American University of Armenia (AUA)
- Armenian Virtual College (AVC)
- Arménie Térre de Vie
- Claudia Nazarian Polyclinic
- Children’s Centers (3)
- Discover Armenia
- Global Leadership Program
- Green House Project
- Humanitarian Programs
- Hye Geen Pregnant Women Centers (5)
- Interschool Chess Tournament
- Musical Armenia (MAP)
- Senior Dining Centers (3)
- Scouts
- Syrian Armenian Relief Projects
- Together 4 Armenia
- TUMOxAGBU Gyumri
- Women Entrepreneurs (AGBU W.E.)
- Yerevan State University (YSU)

**Artsakh**
- Agricultural Support to Syrian Armenian Families
- Artsakh Chamber Orchestra
- Artsakh State University Reconstruction
- AUA—Extension
- Fields of Hope
- Learn to Earn (LEAP) Program
- Olive Tree Program
- TUMOxAGBU Stepanakert
- Women Entrepreneurs (AGBU W.E.)

### MAJOR PROJECTS

- Holy Etchmiadzin—Candle Chapel Construction
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Cathedral
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Clergy Support
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Elderly Homes
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Georgian Seminary
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Grants
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Old Veharan Maintenance
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Pontifical Fund for Pastoral Development
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Pontifical Legate of Western Europe
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Vagharshapat Children’s Center
- Holy Etchmiadzin—Vahdanor Children’s & Senior Dining Center
- Izmirlian Hospital (Formerly: St. Nersess Hospital)
- Vaskenian Theological Seminary

### SPECIAL GRANTS

- Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra (ANPO)
- AYB School
- BRIDGE4CSOs
- Cilician Armenia Book Publication
- Cultural Programs and Festivals
- Drinking Water System in Sarigyugh Village
- Educational Advancement—Army Cadets
- Francophonie Conference
- Irind School, Community Center & Irrigation System Renovation
- Kindergarten Renovation, Village of Marz, Ararat
- Matenadarn Research
- Meronq TV Program
- Nvirir-Kyank (Gift of Life) Organization
- Office of the Human Rights Defender, Armenia
- (Public Sector Capacity Building)
- Office of the Human Rights Defender, Artsakh
- (Website Construction)

### RENOVATION PROJECTS IN COOPERATION WITH ARMENIA TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ATDF)

- Cultural Center Renovation
- Lori Region, City of Spitak
- Kindergarten Reconstruction
- Shirak Region, Anushavan Village
- Drinking Water System Renovation
- Voyots Dzor Region, Agarakadzor Village
North America

In 2018-2019, the United States and Canada gained momentum in pursuit of youth education and human development, focusing on school conferences, sports championships, camping trips and more. The efforts of AGBU Montreal were notable for helping Syrian-Armenian youth accelerate second language learning at the École Alex Manoogian d’Armen-Québec de l’UGAB. The success of the program caught the attention of the wider Montreal school system which adopted the AGBU methodology city-wide. Throughout these proactive and productive years, high-quality cultural experiences, from concerts and talent shows, abounded. The culmination was in 2019 with the multi-city tour of the internationally acclaimed Gurdjieff Ensemble. Sold-out concerts were held in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles with the cooperation of AGBU chapters in each city.

Pasadena, United States: AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian and the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian schools came together to celebrate the 113th anniversary of AGBU (2019).

AGBU Presence in North America

*Denotes the Presence of a District, Chapter or Young Professionals Committee

### CANADA
- **Montreal***
  - Athletics
  - Ecolé Alex Manoogian
  - Garni Dance Ensemble
  - Hayortyats Camp
  - Hayortyats Or Saturday School
  - NOVA Summer School
  - Scouts
  - Toronto***
  - Athletics

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### CALIFORNIA
- Asbeds
- Generation Next Mentorship Program
- Hye Geen
- Hye Geen TV Program
- Krikor Satamian Theater
- Los Angeles Choir
- Los Angeles Media Internship Program (LAMIP)
- Manoogian-Demirdjian School
- Camp Amaras
- Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School

#### ARIZONA
- Scottsdale***

#### MASSACHUSETTS***
- Boston***
  - Global Leadership Program

#### ILLINOIS
- Chicago***
  - Sisag H. Varjapetian Saturday School

#### OHIO
- Cleveland***

#### MICHIGAN
- Detroit***
  - Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School

#### PENNSYLVANIA
- Philadelphia***

#### NEW YORK
- AGBU Insider
- AGBU News Magazine
- Antranig Dance Ensemble
- Camp Nubar
- Global Leadership Program

#### NEVADA
- Las Vegas***

#### TEXAS
- Houston***

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.***

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3 Montreal, Canada: AGBU Montreal Armenian Youth Town Hall (2019).
4 Toronto, Canada: AGBU Toronto talent show (2018).
5 Pasadena, United States: AGBU Hye Geen explored Armenian youth priorities at its 12th international conference (2018).
6 New York, United States: In New York City, AGBU Performing Arts (PAD) showcased the role of women in the arts (2018).
South America

2018 and 2019 were pivotal years for culture, cuisine, and community-building in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Armenian arts became a focal point with tribute concerts, curated exhibitions, film screenings, and the production of an original online series, Armênia em 1 Minuto. While AGBU Córdoba launched the Ari Barenk Project, making Armenian dance accessible to all, AGBU Uruguay continued its #UGABTalks series on contemporary Armenian life. AGBU Brazil hosted generations of alumni for the AGBU Paren and Regina Bazarian School reunion. As the Liga de Jóvenes (Youth League) of AGBU Buenos Aires broke the world record for preparing the biggest dish of basturma, to support the city’s Garrahan Hospital, AGBU Córdoba’s Restaurant Armenio was featured in an international documentary, Así es (come) Argentina, profiling the ethnic food of Argentina in 2019. Continuing to build community in ways unprecedented, all four chapters partnered to support Argentina’s National Agricultural Technology Institute and Armenia’s National Agrarian University in a joint agricultural development project in Armavir, Armenia.
AGBU Presence in South America

*Denotes the Presence of a District, Chapter or Young Professionals Committee

**ARGENTINA**
- Buenos Aires*
  - Athletics
  - General Antranik Scouts
  - Colonia de Vacaciones
  - Generación 3
  - Global Leadership Program
  - Instituto Marie Manoogian
  - Krikor Satamian Theater Group
  - Liga de Jóvenes

**BRAZIL**
- São Paulo*
  - Ararat Dance Ensemble
  - Colonia de Vacaciones

**Córdoba***
- Ararat Dance Ensemble
- Colonia de Vacaciones

**URUGUAY**
- Montevideo*
  - Athletics
  - Colegio Nubarian
  - Erevan 50 Scouts
  - Grung Choir
  - Liga de Jóvenes

4. São Paulo, Brazil: AGBU Brazil produces Armênia em 1 Minuto, a vibrant online series dedicated to Armenian heritage and history (2019).
Europe

From London, Brussels, Paris, and Milan to Sofia, Plovdiv, and Nicosia, the districts and chapters under the AGBU Europe umbrella continued to cultivate thought leadership with diverse conferences, lectures, and educational forums in 2018-2019. These events helped raise awareness of Armenian-related issues among European institutions, covering diverse topics as the historic movements of Armenia and Artsakh, new insights on the Armenian Genocide, equal access to education in Armenia and its challenges integrating youth with disabilities into the Armenian educational system. Meanwhile, the arts continued to flourish through sold-out performances and concerts, dance recitals, art shows and more. AGBU Plovdiv and AGBU Sofia dazzled audiences with an array of Armenian cultural events that showcased the great versatility of Armenian talent in Bulgaria.

1 London, United Kingdom: Henrikh Mkhitaryan (right) with French-Armenian footballer Youri Djorkaeff was honored at the AGBU London gala to benefit the TUMOxAGBU Centers (2018).

2 Milan, Italy: The Naregatsi Folk Instruments Orchestra performed at an Armenian folk music concert co-hosted by AGBU Milan (2019).
**AGBU Presence in Europe**

*Denotes the Presence of a District, Chapter or Young Professionals Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City*</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUSTRIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vienna*</td>
<td>Ani Choir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BELGIUM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brussels*</td>
<td>Goriz Leadership Program</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CYPRUS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Larnaca*</td>
<td>Nicosia*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BULGARIA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burgas*</td>
<td>Dobrich*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Haskovo*</td>
<td>Krikor Azaryan Theater Group</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Plovdiv*</td>
<td>AGBU Voice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Hayler</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HayLer Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varna*</td>
<td>Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arménie Téte de Vie</td>
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<td>Colonie de Vacances</td>
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<tr>
<td>HyeTech</td>
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<td>Nubar Library</td>
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<td>Études Arméniennes Contemporaines</td>
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<td>Paris Summer Internship Program (PSIP)</td>
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<td>Séjour de Ski</td>
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<tr>
<td>UFAR Internship Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyon*</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marseille*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nice-Côte d'Azur*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paris*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aghazank Theater Group</td>
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<td>Alex Manoogian Saturday School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kotkian Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Nubar Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valence*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vienne*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GERMANY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfurt*</td>
<td>HAIK (affiliate)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GREECE</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens*</td>
<td>AGBU Artaki Kalpakian School Youth</td>
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<td>Thessaloniki*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ITALY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Milan*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LUXEMBOURG</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Luxembourg*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NETHERLANDS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Almelo*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amsterdam*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RUSSIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPAIN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asociació Cultural Armenia de Barcelona (ACAB) (affiliate)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWITZERLAND</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Geneva*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNITED KINGDOM</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>London*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Leadership Program</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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AGBU district and chapters of the Middle East and Africa, including Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria, excelled in uplifting, engaging and enlightening their communities through wide-ranging cultural events. Ongoing programs and initiatives were continued and new projects launched in addition to hosting visits by dignitaries and luminaries from the Armenian World such as Armen Sarkissian, the president of Armenia and Bako Sahakyan, the then-President of Artsakh. Major players in the local and global community were celebrated at luncheons, tributes, and a special concert dedicated to the legendary Charles Aznavour who passed away in 2018. There were also collaborations for diverse lectures and panel discussions with distinguished international scholars on subjects such as Armenian history and human rights.
AGBU Presence in Africa and the Middle East

*Denotes the Presence of a District, Chapter or Young Professionals Committee

EGYPT*
Alexandria*
Youth (HMEM Nubar Sports Club)
Cairo*
Deghegadou Quarterly
Dziadzan Children’s Choir
Heliopolis*

ETHIOPIA
Addis Ababa*

IRAQ
Baghdad*
Yerchanik Tajrishian Summer School

LEBANON*
Amanos/Antelias/Sin el-Fil/Zahle*
Asbeds
AYA Antranik Sports
AYA Antranik Scouts
AYA Antranik Youth
AYA Arine Dance Ensemble
AYA Lebanon e-Newsletter
AYA Vahram Papazian Theater
AYA Schools
Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School
Demirdjian Center Summer Camp
Khosnag Monthly
Medical Dispensaries
Vahram Papazian Theater

SYRIA*
District Committee*
Aleppo*
Aram Khachaturian Conservatory
AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble
AYA Antranik Scouts
AYA Antranik Sports
AYA Big Band
AYA Spendiarian Choir
AYA Bedros Alatian Theater Group
Gomidas Chamber Orchestra
Hayatik Quarterly
Lazar Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School
Pountch Children’s Dance Ensemble
Mardiros Sarian Academy

Damascus*
AYA Sports
AYA Youth
Gullabi Gulbenkian School
Kamishli*
Summer School
Kessab*
Kessab Camp
Latakia*
Karoun Children’s Choir

TURKEY
Istanbul
UTI (affiliate)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Dubai*

AGBU Melbourne opened new doors with the long-awaited opening of their new center at 30 Rocco Drive, Scoresby. With this more spacious facility, communities were better able to host more diverse events. Celebrating Armenian artistic triumphs, the Melbourne chapter held its annual Harmony Day at the center, dedicated to showcasing the many facets of Armenian traditions. The Sydney chapter accommodated a diverse mélange of arts groups—extended on an international level—with an impressive performance at the Concourse Theatre Hall in Chatswood. Both years brought about athletic triumphs, broadened networks, and strengthened bonds, demonstrated by every active member of AGBU Youth.
Programs, Products and Sponsorships

ATLAS® by AGBU, the latest product innovation from the AGBU Education Department. Launched in 2019, this online resource for Armenian-related content and learning tools is ideal for students, educators, and parents.
AGBU Central Board members visit Quebec to promote cross-cultural education. From left: Hagop Arslanian, AGBU Canada Executive Committee member; Berge Setrakian, AGBU President; Chahe Tanachian, Chair of AGBU Montreal chapter; Christopher Skeete, member of the National Assembly of Quebec for Sainte-Rose; and Francois Legault, Premier of Quebec. Earlier, Tanachian signed an MOU with the Québec Chess in the teaching of chess in the Quebec schools through the AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC).

Education
AGBU Schools 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Schools</th>
<th>Primary, Secondary, Preparatory, Summer, 1-Day Schools: 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
<td>Over 3,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Instituto Marie Manoogian (PreK-12)

Sydney, Australia
Alexander Primary School (PreK-6)
Alex Manoogian Saturday School (K-7)

France
Paris
Alex Manoogian Saturday School

Vienne
Wednesday School

Bulgaria
Haskovo
Saturday School

Plovdiv
Saturday School

Sofia
HayLer Sunday School

Montreal, Canada
École Alex Manoogian (PreK-8)
Hayortyats Or Saturday School
NOVA Summer School
Digital Offerings

**Online**
AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC)
AVC Hybrid Education Program
AVC eBooks
AGBU Apps
  - Armenian Holidays and Traditions
  - Gus on the Go: Armenian for Kids
  - Im Armenia
AGBU ATLAS
AGBU WebTalks

**After-School Programs**
3 AGBU Children’s Centers (Yerevan: Nork, Arapkir, Malatya)
4 TUMOxAGBU (Artsakh)

**Athens, Greece**
Artaki Kalpakian School (PreK-6)

**Baghdad, Iraq**
Yerchanik Tajrian Summer School

**Antelias, Lebanon**
Demirdjian Center Armenian Studies Saturday School
AGBU Schools in Lebanon (PreK-12)

**Syria**
2 **Aleppo**
Lazar-Najarian-Calouste Gulbenkian School (PreK-12)
**Damascus**
Gullabi Gulbenkian School (PreK-12)
**Kamishli**
Summer School

**Montevideo, Uruguay**
Colegio Nubarian (PreK-6)

**United States**
**Canoga Park, CA**
Manoogian-Demirdjian School (PreK-12)
**Costa Mesa, CA**
Orange County Saturday School
**Pasadena, CA**
Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School (9-12)
**Chicago, IL**
Sisag H. Varjabedian Saturday School
**Southfield, MI**
Alex & Marie Manoogian Charter School (PreK-12)
## AGBU Scholarships 2018-2019

### AGBU Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Scholarship</th>
<th>Number of Scholarships Awarded</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Graduate</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Scholar Grants</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>486</strong></td>
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### Scholarship Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Scholarship</th>
<th>Number of Scholarships Awarded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$904,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Distribution for Institutional Scholarships in Armenia</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Scholarship Recipients</td>
<td>2018: 486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Countries in Which Studies Were Pursued</td>
<td>2018: 28</td>
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</table>
### Institutional Scholarships in Armenia 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to Syrian Armenian University Students</td>
<td>$137,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUA-NKR Extension Project</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUA Scholarships</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French University of Armenia</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUA-MOD Cadet Scholarships</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yerevan State University Endowments</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matenadaran Scholarships</td>
<td>$7,580</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$348,580</strong></td>
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### Institutional Scholarships in Armenia 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to Syrian Armenian University Students</td>
<td>$77,016</td>
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<td>AUA-NKR Extension Project (5-Year Commitment Completed)</td>
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<td>AUA Scholarships</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>French University of Armenia</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<td>AUA-MOD Cadet Scholarships</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUA-MOD Officers &amp; Civil Servants</td>
<td>$23,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yerevan State University Azeri Language Courses</td>
<td>$18,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matenadaran Scholarships</td>
<td>$6,550</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$221,273</strong></td>
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</table>

### Heritage Scholar Grants

**Top Four Fields of Study:** Physical Sciences, Public Health, Engineering, English  
**Undergraduate Schools:** University of California (Several Locations), University of Michigan

### AGBU US Graduate Scholarships

**Top Five Fields of Study:** Public Administration & Policy, Medicine and Health Sciences, Law, Business, Armenian/Russian/Middle Eastern Studies  
**Sampling of Schools:** Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Georgetown University, Tufts University, MIT, Stanford, New York University, University of Chicago, University of California (several locations)

### AGBU International Scholarships

**Top Five Fields of Study:** Computer Science & IT, Political Science & International Law, Economics & Finance, Applied Mathematics & Physics, Architecture.  
**Sampling of International Schools:** University of Cambridge, University College London, Sorbonne University, EPFL-EPF Lausanne, American University of Beirut, McGill University, Polytechnic Institute of Milan.

### AGBU Performing Arts Scholarships

**Sampling of Schools:** The Juilliard School, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Munich Hochschule fuer Musik und Theater, Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography, Royal College of Music, University of London, Berklee College of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music

### AGBU Religious Studies Scholarships

**Sampling of Schools:** St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, University of Oxford, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Harvard Divinity School
Socio-Economic Development

Armenia

1 Bridge for CSOs
   Claudia Nazarian Polyclinic for Syrian Armenian Refugees
2 Levon and Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center
   Hye Geen Pregnant Women’s Centers in Armenia
3 Senior Dining Centers in Armenia
   Women Entrepreneurs Program (W.E.)/Armenia

Artsakh

4 Learn to Earn in Artsakh (LEAP) Program
   Olive Orchard Program
   Fields of Hope
   Women Entrepreneurs Program (W.E.)/Artsakh
Culture
Summer Programs

Overnight Camps
- Armenia, Vanadzor: Antranik Scout Camp
- Bulgaria, Plovdiv: Camp HayLer
- Bulgaria, Sofia: Camp HayLer
- France, Haute-Savoie: Colonie de Vacances
- Syria, Kessab: Kessab Camp
- USA, New York: Camp Nubar

Day Camps
- Argentina, Buenos Aires: Colonia de Vacaciones
- Argentina, Cordoba: Colonia de Vacaciones
- Canada, Montreal: Hayortyats Camp
- Iraq, Baghdad: Yerchanik Tajirian Summer Camp
- Lebanon, Antelias: Demirdjian Center Day Camp
- USA, California: Camp Amaras

Homeland Voluntourism Experiences
- Youth Trips to Armenia
  - Terre de Vie
  - Discover Armenia
Leadership Programs

AYA Scouts
Generation Next (GenNext)
Global Leadership Program (formerly AGBU Summer Internship Program)
  • Boston
  • Buenos Aires
  • London
  • Paris (2018)
  • New York
  • Yerevan

Goriz Leadership Program
Los Angeles Media Internship Program (LAMIP)
UFAR Internship Program

Global Publications

AGBU Magazine
AGBU Insider
Arts and Culture Groups/Programs

Art and Music Academies

**Aleppo, Syria:**
- Aram Khachaturian Conservatory Music School
- Mardiros Sarian Academy

Choral Groups

**Aleppo, Syria:** Spendianian Choir
**Baghdad, Iraq:** AYA Choir
**Cairo, Egypt:** Dzaiadzan Children’s Choir
**Montevideo, Uruguay:** Grung
**Paris, France:** Koghtan Choir
**Pasadena, USA:** LA Choir
**Latakia, Syria:** Karoun Children’s Choir
**Vienna, Austria:** Ani Choir

Choral Groups

**Aleppo, Syria:** Spendianian Choir
**Baghdad, Iraq:** AYA Choir
**Cairo, Egypt:** Dzaiadzan Children’s Choir
**Montevideo, Uruguay:** Grung
**Paris, France:** Koghtan Choir
**Pasadena, USA:** LA Choir
**Latakia, Syria:** Karoun Children’s Choir
**Vienna, Austria:** Ani Choir

Music Groups

**Aleppo, Syria:**
- AYA Antranik Marching Band
- AYA Big Band
- Gomidas Chamber Orchestra
**Plovdiv, Bulgaria:** Erebouni Musical Ensemble
**Sofia, Bulgaria:** Chamber Orchestra
**Stepanakert, Artsakh:** Artsakh Chamber Orchestra
**Varna, Bulgaria:** Chamber Orchestra

Dance Ensembles

**Aleppo, Syria:**
- AYA Antranik Dance Ensemble
- AYA Pountch Children’s Dance Group
**Beirut, Lebanon:** AYA Arine Dance Ensemble
**Cordoba, Argentina:** Ararat Dance Ensemble
**Montreal, Canada:** Garni Dance Ensemble
**New York, USA:** Antranig Dance Ensemble
**Plovdiv, Bulgaria:**
- Astghighner Children’s Dance Group
- Nreni Dance Group
- Yerazank Dance Group
**Sydney, Australia:** Tamzara Armenian Dance Group

Talent Development

1. Creative Armenia
2. Musical Armenia Program MAP
3. Sayat Nova Competition

Theatre Groups

**Aleppo, Syria:** AYA Bedros Atamian Theater
**Beirut, Lebanon:** AYA Vahram Papazian Theater
**Buenos Aires, Argentina:** Krikor Satamian Theater
**Haskovo, Bulgaria:** Krikor Azaryan Youth Theater
**Melbourne, Australia:** Hagop Baronian Theater
**Paris, France:** Ahazank Theatre Troupe
**Pasadena, USA:** Satamian Theatre
**Sydney, Australia:** Vahram Papazian Theater
AGBU Young Professionals

New YP Groups

2018
Frankfurt
Luxembourg
South Korea

2019
Egypt
Madrid
New Zealand
Valence
Zurich

2018-2019 YP Groups
1. Montreal, Toronto
2. Arizona, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Greater New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Northern California, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C.
3. Brazil
4. Buenos Aires
5. Madrid
6. Paris, Lyon Rhone-Alpes, Marseille, Valence
7. London
8. Belgium
9. Amsterdam
10. Luxembourg
11. Geneva, Zurich
12. Frankfurt, Germany (HAIK)
13. Austria
14. Athens
15. Istanbul (UTI)
16. Sofia
17. Moscow
18. Egypt
19. Cyprus
20. Lebanon
21. Yerevan
22. Tehran
23. United Arab Emirates
24. South Korea
25. New Zealand

YP South Korea literature event at Yeouido Hangang Park, Seoul (2019).
YP Moscow #Cycle4Women (2019).
YP Luxembourg first anniversary event (2019).
Young Professionals Chairs and Coordinators

*Denotes Affiliate

AMSTERDAM
Vahag Avakian

ARIZONA
Zari Panosian (2018)
Shoushan Kaprielian (2019)

AUSTRIA
Dalida Ghazelian

ATHENS
Setrak Abassian

BELGIUM
Nadya Movsisyan (2018)
Gevorg Demurchyan (2019)

BOSTON
Vrej Pilavdjian (2018)
Rebecca Shahverdian (2019)

BRAZIL
Natália Ortiz Hazarian

BUENOS AIRES
Maria Sol Torosian (2018)
Raffi Ghegchidjian (2019)

CHICAGO
Ani Grigorian (2018)
Tara Mikaelian (2019)

COPENHAGEN
Tatevik Revazian (2018)

CYPRUS
Natasha Der Avedissian (2017)

DETROIT
Naera Haghnazarian

FRANKFURT
Sahak Artazyan

HAÏK (GERMANY)
Shusnakan Aprikyan

GREATER NEW YORK
William Nazarian

HOUSTON
Anais Babajanian (2018)
Armen Merjanian (2019)

ISTANBUL (UTI)*
Katya Kaya and Aren Semerciyan

LEBANON
Natacha Keuchgeurian

LONDON
Nathalie Piranian

LOS ANGELES
Carin Kellzi and Tenny Khachatourian

LUXEMBOURG
Rafayel Gevorgyan

LYON RHONE-ALPES
Viken Kojakian (2018)
Emma Varosyan (2019)

MARSEILLE
Parastoo Hekmat (2018)
Mikael Guéviguian (2019)

MONTREAL
Olga Markarian (2018)
Karl Guiragossian (2019)

MOSCOW
Anna Sharoyan

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
David Ojakian

PARIS
Hermine Samuelian

PHILADELPHIA
Sara Selverian

PLOVDIV
Haïk Garabedian

SOFIA
Eliza Bakardjieva

SOUTH KOREA
Narine Haroyan

SWITZERLAND
Rubina Yacoubian-Balyozyan

TORONTO
Eliz Kaltakjian and Nyrie Kouyoumdjian (2018)
Naziq Gabriel and Aren Sroujian (2019)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Vilen Khlgatyan

YEREVAN
Inga Vardanyan (2018)
Haykaz Nahapetyan (2019)

UAE
Arina Maljian

Note: Names without dates served in both 2018 and 2019.
AGBU Honorees

AGBU Honorees
2018-2019

AGBU Boghos Nubar Award
Sarkis and Seta Demirdjian
Distinguished with the Boghos Nubar Award in 2019, Sarkis and Seta Demirdjian have been pillars of the global AGBU community for generations. Honoring the legacy their own families had established within AGBU, the Demirdjians have set the synergistic tone of AGBU Lebanon with their activism and philanthropy. Founding the AGBU Demirdjian Center in Beirut as a social enterprise and welcoming the broader Lebanese community, they pioneered a space for cultural exchange and mutual growth. Ardent patrons of the arts, the Demirdjians have invested in numerous musical organizations and festivals, most notably the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra. Their investment in the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in California stands as a testament to their boundless service.

AGBU Boghos Nubar Award
Vatche and Tamar Manoukian
Vatche and Tamar Manoukian were honored with the Boghos Nubar Award in 2019 for their decades of selfless generosity. Invested in community empowerment and faithful to the global Armenian nation, the Manoukians have been benefactors to numerous institutions, notably the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School and Cultural Center in California. Active in the diaspora, Mr. Manoukian was first to facilitate key investments and partnerships in Armenia, broadening development prospects. While Mrs. Manoukian is an alumna of Aleppo’s AGBU Lazar-Najarian School, Mr. Manoukian has served on the AGBU Council of Trustees since 2017 and was elected Chairman in 2019.

AGBU Boghos Nubar Award
Patrick Devedjian †
Awarded the Boghos Nubar Award in 2019, celebrated politician Patrick Devedjian dedicated decades of his life to public service in France while dutifully advocating on behalf of the global Armenian nation. The son of an Armenian father who survived the Genocide, Devedjian helped pass an amendment to French holocaust law in 2016, making the denial of all events classed as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or slavery punishable crimes. As the President of the General Council of Hauts-de-Seine, he partnered with the All Armenia Fund of France to develop agriculture in Armenia’s Tavush region, investing nearly 4.5 million euros since 2019. Throughout his prolific career, he never abandoned the mantle of defending the voiceless.

AGBU President’s Award
George Boynarian
Recognized for his collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment, George Boynarian was honored with the AGBU President’s Award in 2018. Engaged in numerous organizations within Syria, his humanitarian work throughout Aleppo is particularly notable. As a long-standing member of the AGBU Syria District Committee and Education Committee, and the treasurer of the Emergency Relief Body of Syria, Boynarian served selflessly throughout the devastating war that uprooted the Syrian Armenian community, delivering aid at the AGBU Center in Aleppo.
AGBU Honorees
2018-2019

AGBU President’s Award
Herminé Duzian
With nearly three decades of service, Herminé Duzian serves as the AGBU Diaspora Youth Programs Chief Coordinator throughout Europe and in Armenia. As the founder and director of the popular Discover Armenia program, she has been responsible for introducing young Armenians to their homeland every summer since 2003. Integral in initiating the AGBU scouting movement in Armenia, she has also worked in administering the AGBU summer camp in Bulgaria. For her boundless efforts in engaging youth and connecting new generations to their identity, she was honored with the AGBU President’s Award in 2019.

AGBU President’s Award
Tamar Khabaian
Bestowed the AGBU President’s Award in 2019, Tamar Khabaian was distinguished for her impassioned service and her steadfast dedication to the AGBU Aleppo community in a time of great need. Acting as head secretary of the Syria Central Committee and Education Committee since 2002, presiding over the chapter’s Health Care Committee, and sitting on the Editorial Board of the Hayatsk publication, she continues to provide urgent support as part of the Emergency Relief Body in Syria.

AGBU President’s Award
Monica Nalbandian
Regarded as the “armeniapedia” of AGBU Brazil and a vital figure in organizing the chapter’s beloved Armenian volunteer kitchen, Monica Nalbandian was honored with the AGBU President’s Award in 2019. As one of the longest serving members on the AGBU Brazil Board, she has supported the chapter’s multitude of needs throughout the decades. An exemplar of service, Nalbandian continues to use her extensive knowledge to connect Armenians all over the world, bridging generational gaps and constantly welcoming new faces into the community.

AGBU President’s Award
Maral Tchorbadjian
Distinguished with the AGBU President’s Award in 2019, Maral Tchorbadjian has sustained a commitment to the Armenian community for decades. Since 2003, she has acted as the AGBU Melbourne Chair, building networks across the Australian continent and across the world, whilst uplifting the legacy of AGBU in her pursuits. With the support of a dynamic and dedicated committee, her leadership was instrumental in raising funds and mobilizing community members to build a brand-new facility, which now acts as both a social space and an administrative center for AGBU Melbourne.
AGBU Honorees

2018-2019

AGBU President’s Award

AGBU Buenos Aires

Serving a thriving and dynamic community of Armenians in Argentina, the AGBU Buenos Aires chapter was honored with the AGBU President’s Award in 2019. Home to a myriad of programs, a robust scouting and sports culture, and an integrative spirit, this chapter supports the Marie Manoogian Institute, Liga de Jóvenes, YP Buenos Aires, the Global Leadership Program, the Krikor Satamian Theater Group, the AGBU Restaurant, the Generación3 publication, and much more. Working harmoniously within our global network of chapters and functioning independently as a unifying force in Argentina since 1911, AGBU Buenos Aires continues to demonstrate how unity is strength. Accepted by Rubén Kedikian, AGBU Buenos Aires President.

AGBU President’s Award

AGBU YP Greater New York

The AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York were recognized with an AGBU President’s Award in 2019. Celebrated for inspiring a unique approach to giving, YPGNY has donated $400,000 to AGBU programs in total—the most raised by any one YP group—and established the AGBU YP Endowment Fund in 2002 to benefit AGBU Children’s Centers, which has since become a pan-YP endeavor, raising $185,000 to date. YPGNY has also raised nearly $125,000 for relief in Syria and Iraq. The group continues to work in the spirit of service and mentorship, collaborating with both the Global Leadership Program and the AGBU Central Office, mobilizing their networks to support local events and programs. Accepted by William Nazarian YPGNY Chair.

AGBU President’s Award

YP Northern California

One of the first YP groups established and a beacon for the global network, the AGBU Young Professionals of Northern California were honored in 2019 with the AGBU President’s Award. For over two decades, AGBU YPNC has been instrumental in uniting Armenians across disciplines and galvanizing generations to invest in their identities, both personally and professionally. The Winter Gala, a bedrock of the group’s organizing efforts, has gathered thousands of Armenians throughout the years, annually publicizing AGBU initiatives and raising funds to support them. Utilizing their unique location in Silicon Valley, YPNC continues to organize a robust community characterized by networking and knowledge sharing. Accepted by David Ojakian, YPNC Chair.
District and Chapter Chairpersons
2018-2019

ARGENTINA
Buenos Aires: Ruben Kedikian
Córdoba: Nicolas Analian (until June 2019); Ariel Vartanian

AUSTRALIA
Melbourne: Maral Tchorbadjian
Sydney: Toros Boghossian (until August 2019); Mihran Lepejian

AUSTRIA
Vienna: Louis Balmanian

BRAZIL
São Paulo: Haig Apovian

BULGARIA
Burgas: Hagop Movsesian
Plovdiv: Roupou Chavoushian
  Chapters Associated with Plovdiv:
  Dobrich: Eduard Kokonyan
  Haskovo: Srpshi Derandonayn
  Rousse: Boghos Garjarian
  Sliven: Arshavir Hulian
Sofia: Arno Kuiumdjian

CANADA
Montreal: Chahé Tanachian

CYPRUS
Larnaca: Tikran Kalaydjian
Nicosis: Missak Kouyoumdjian

EGYPT
District Committee of Egypt, Cairo: Onnig Belekdanian
  Alexandria: Berj Jebejian
  Cairo: Viken Dijmedjian

ETHIOPIA
Addis Ababa: Vahakn Karibian

EUROPE DISTRICT
Nadia Gortzounian

FRANCE
France District: Nadia Gortzounian
  Lyon: Viken Koajian
  Marseille: Patrick Malakian
  Nice-Côte D‘Azur: Chakhté Hagopian-Clausen
  Paris: Raphaël Der Agopian (until June 2018); Grégoire Soukiassian
  Valence: Philippe Panossian (until September 2019); Kevin Markarian
  Vienne: Philippe Beylerian (until July 2019); Nazar Tatevosian
  St-Chamond-St-Etienne: Edmond Anemian (until April 2019); Leonardo Basmadyan

Greece
Central Committee of Greece, Athens: Hampig Sahag Manoukian (until June 2018); Ovsanna Karayan
  Thessaloniki: Haigouhi Portualkan

IRAQ
Baghdad: Pakram Movses Derhagopian

ITALY
Milan: Gueguel Khatchadourian

LEBANON
Lebanon District: Gerard Tufenkjian
  Antelias: Krikor Keshishian
  Sevan (Sil e-Fil): Varoujan Margossian
  Zahlie: Shant Tchinrchian

NETHERLANDS
Almele: Harout Dermovsesian

SYRIA
Syria District: Nerses Nersoyan
  Alappe: Manuel Varjabedian
  Damascus: Ara Yacoubian
  Kamishli: Zareh Simonian
  Kessab: Vasken Tchaparian
  Latakia: Nicola Madani

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Dubai: Hratch Borghosizian

UNITED KINGDOM
London: Armine Afrikian

URUGUAY
Montevideo: Jose Geozucarai

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Chicago, IL: Vahan Janjigian
New England District: Ara Balikian
Cleveland, OH: Sebouh Setrakian
Western District: Talin Yacoubian
  Scottsdale, AZ: Karekin Kaprelian
  Fresno, CA: Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian
  Glendale/Pasadena, CA: Krikor Demirjian
  Hye Geen, Los Angeles, CA: Sona Yacoubian
  San Fernando Valley, CA: Hrag Ohannessian
  Silicon Valley, CA: Yervant Zorian
  Las Vegas, NV: Vaznian Makarian

While AGBU has made every effort to achieve complete accuracy in all the content provided herein, we apologize in advance for any inadvertent errors that may appear in this report.