

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022



"Learn more than a language!"

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Message from our leaders



Sonia Robin
Executive Director

I am delighted to present the annual report of the Alliance Française. This document reflects our commitment to excellence, curiosity & exploration, innovation and diversity in all our activities.

Over the past year, we have nurtured our mission to promote French language and francophone cultures in all its forms, offering high quality classes & events to our loyal audience and exploring new areas to expand our reach.

We have built strong partnerships with other cultural and educational organizations to strengthen our presence in the community and enrich our program offerings.

I want to thank our team members for their commitment, dedication and hard work throughout the year. We look forward, in the coming year, to serve our community with passion and determination, and manifesting our mission to promote francophone culture in the greater Philadelphia area.



Beth Diffley
Board President

As the daughter of teachers who spent my childhood poring over my parents' collection of National Geographic magazines, I have a deep love of learning and desire to expand my worldview. For me, the Alliance Française de Philadelphia is a continuation of that.

I am grateful for the excellent administration, high quality teachers and diverse community of people with similar interests and values.

As a long-time member of the Alliance Française de Philadelphia, I have been able to study the French language, attend in-person and virtual events where I have learned about topics as diverse as Haitian women entrepreneurs and community leaders, French culinary traditions, and a wide variety of art forms. Importantly, I have met so many engaging, open-minded people seeking to learn and grow. Through the Alliance, I have grown as a person and found a community.

I hope you also find the Alliance Française de Philadelphia welcoming and rewarding. Thank you for being a part of it. Let's continue to learn more than a language, let's thrive as a community.

BOARD MEMBERS, FACULTY AND STAFF



Beth Diffley
President



Amanda Barber
Vice-President



Sheree Petrone
Treasurer



Philippe Poirier
Secretary

Board of Directors

Danièle Cohen Grossman
Sheri-Ann Cowie
Thérèse Dolan
Michelle Erickson
Nancy Gabel
Cecil Jones
Stephanie Knopp
Catherine Kosman
Monique Laird
Lynn Miller
Alicia Porter
Zabeth Teelucksingh

Teachers

Myriam Adyadou, Zaza Benslafa, Sarah Boss, Claudia Brown, Caesar Dommar, Christiane de Boisseson, Monique Coval, Anna Chappell, Dominique Désir, Abigail DeSoto, Jean-Claude Djéréké, Norman Ellman, Alizée Gaben, Annette Goldberg Salinas, Tania Jelic, Catherine Kaplanski, Tinhinane Kebbab, Mehdi Khelfi, Monique Laird, Nicole Layseca, Anna Michel, Agnès Peysson Zeiss, Emily Rockhill, Anne Sophie Rouveloux, Maya Sise, Marie Tassy, Isabelle Tennenbaum, Caroline Texier, Ingrid Thuilière, Paulina Wiczorek



Alissia Hauteville
Director of Educational programs



Sonia Robin
Executive Director



Kany Sylla
Social Media Manager



Naomi Urey
Administrative Assistant



MISSION

Alliance Française de Philadelphie engages the greater Philadelphia community in the study and exploration of French language and Francophone cultures, in all their rich diversity, through welcoming educational and cultural experiences.

VISION

Our vision is to serve as the heart of Philadelphia's thriving community of Francophone culture and language enthusiasts. We achieve this by cultivating a sustainable network through collaborative engagement, strengthening personal and organizational connections, promoting equity, and nurturing cross-cultural appreciation.



VALUES

Excellence in Teaching

Our language instructors have experience and native or near-native fluency, as well as the opportunity for continued professional development.



Cross-Cultural Appreciation

Through classes, cultural programs, trips, scholarships and partnerships, we promote understanding of the diverse richness of Francophone cultures and heritage, including history, politics, gastronomy, the arts, literature, and sports, as they continue to evolve.



Curiosity and Exploration

We nurture a lifelong love of learning for people of all ages, backgrounds, language levels, financial resources and interests through a variety of offerings and a supportive environment.



Community

We build relationships, we connect people and we seek to be a welcoming, inclusive community.



OUR IMPACT

Our year, in a few numbers

- 1,300** Students
- 226** Members
- 56** Weekly classes
- 46** Events held online and in person
- 1,352** Guests attended our events
- 3** Bastille Day Events
- 91** Candidates to DELF-DALF & TCF tests
- 3** Scholarships granted for study abroad programs

WHAT WE DO

A French language institution, a Cultural center. We are committed to offering a wide array of programs and learning opportunities, because we believe our organization should reflect the diversity of our community.

TESTIMONIALS

AF Philadelphia was a lifeline connecting me to my dream of moving to France-- and connecting me to others during that frightening time of isolation. As an intermediate/advanced French speaker, what I needed most was to build more confidence in speaking and to learn about the local culture and news in preparation for my move. I'm so grateful that you have continued your online programs. What a lifeline! Theresa Conroy , student and member

I have not been a member of the Alliance for very long, but have enjoyed some of the events and activities from the rich and varied selection available. I have been particularly impressed with the welcome, the kindness, the humor and bonne conversation with such an interesting group of individuals! Victoria Skelly - Member

Anna Chappell is absolutely amazing, she is very engaging and effective in ensuring the pace and the outcome of the learning. My native french speaking husband was blown away with her teaching skills. Siew Lee Cheng, student

We are so happy that we found the Alliance for our family! Our 4-year-old daughter adores going to "French school" every week and her comfort using French at home has blossomed, as has her vocabulary. Tina teaches a wonderful class and Natalie always comes home able to tell us what they discussed. Collier family

Historically Philadelphia is blessed with numerous French connections. One of the city's best kept secrets is The Alliance Francaise de Philadelphie. Whether you are wanting to refine your French language skills, soak up some French culture or talk about French food, this is the place to go. Conveniently located on Walnut Street in the heart of the city, the Alliance welcomes all kinds of Francophiles through its doors."

Zabeth Teelucksingh - President, Global Philadelphia and Board member

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential for us to achieve our goals and effectively serve our community. By building strong partnerships, we have been able to create more opportunities for our members to learn and connect with French and Francophone cultures, as well as facilitate cultural exchange and understanding.



Contributions

Our sources of monetary support:

- Individual Contributions
- Donor directed funding
- Memberships
- Corporate sponsors
- Grants



Monetary donations enabled us to:

- Fund a full time instructor/ education director position
- Offer competitive teaching staff salaries
- Maintain affordable class tuition and program attendance fees
- Acquire educational material for online and hybrid classes
- Provide tuition assistance
- Offer more free and donation-based events
- Upgrade our library and childrens' materials

Looking ahead to 2023 and beyond

Looking back, we are proud of all the accomplishments we achieved together in 2022. Thanks to your support and commitment, we were able to achieve our goals and continue our mission to serve our Francophone and Francophile community. Looking ahead, we are determined to continue advancing our mission and meeting the needs of our community.



A commitment to teaching excellence

Our teaching method integrates French language and French and Francophones cultures with dynamic and current multi-media content. Our qualified and certified instructors will continue to learn and use updated and adapted methods.

New initiatives, for a broader community

This year, we launched a monthly series of thematic cultural programs for our young audiences, and a monthly dinner and cinema in partnership with Frieda for Generations. We also just started a monthly series of bilingual story time for toddlers at the Free Library of Philadelphia, and welcomed a theater company from Réunion Island for our March Francophonie festival.

Diversifying our programs

We strive to represent all the aspects and richness of the French language and francophone culture through a maximum of media: Cinema, literature, sports, food, history and heritage. Culture is everywhere!



OUR SUPPORTERS

We could not have done it without you!



We are deeply grateful to our community for their generosity and confidence in us. Your financial and in-kind support only inspires us to do better, reach more people and amplify our impact. In 2022, we received financial support, pro bono legal assistance, and the time and expertise of many willing volunteers across a variety of subject matters. We have been tremendously fortunate to receive multi-year funding to support a full-time instructor/educational director position, which has afforded us greater flexibility to use other available resources to increase our administrative resources and helps us manage our school activities more effectively, and to provide competitive compensation for our hourly, part-time instructors, which has helped us attract and retain our high-quality instructors.

Michael Bannerman
Amanda Barber
Lawrence Bass
Robert Boggs
Barbara Borak
Dina Brena
Elise Bruhl
Kerry Bryan
Baron Brockington
Sheri Ann Cowie
Charlotte Calmels
Jennifer Cardy
Patrick Chadd
Martine Chauvet
Suzanne Conway
Martha Cooper
Melody Damis
Cynthia Decrucq
Allitia DiBernardo
Beth Diffley
Terry Dolan
Meridee Duddleston
Christiane de Boisseson
Michelle Erickson
John Erickson
Sharon Erwin
Issy Esangbedo

Janet Evans and Jim Corrigan
Lawrence Fiorini
Gerry Fisher
Nancy Gabel
Joan Gmitter
Daniele and Jerry Grossman
Kate Hayes
Mur Hayman
Carla Hjelm
Mary Hemsley
Chris Hemsley
Cecil Jones
Miriam Kahn
Karen Kane
Stephanie Knopp
Kirk Kozero
Catherine Kosman
Gerard Lewis
Rachel Lewis
Kathleen and David Long
Monique & Craig Laird
Linda Lou Lopez
Amanda Matthieu
Gregg Matis
Debra Meltzer
Lynn Miller & Jim McClelland
Judy Novey
John Neefe

Liz Mednick
Maida Milone
Gerard Mitchell
Edward Moon
Marie O'Neill
Michael Scullin
Sharon Parnes
Sheree Petrone
Philippe Poirier
Stephen Page
Wendy Pfeffer
Sandra Portnoy
Frances Rafferty
Ken Richman
Lann Salyard
Nancy Smith
Agnès Shepard
Julian and Betty Slowinski
Victoria Skelly
Zabeth Teelucksingh
Paul Weisberg
Chantal Westby
Jeanne Wrobleski
Gerald Zubkoff

Donations in Memory

Joan Kuper
Joan & Jerry Millan

Odile d'Ornano Van Luipen
Vivian Kremer

Sandy Robin
Nancy Gabel
Sonia Robin

Donations in kind

Celeriers Cellar
Le Pain Quotidien

Donations matched

Merck Foundation
Comcast
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath

Volunteers

Aurore Lebrun
Lois Beck
Mia Suaudeau
Mohena Grimaud

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The donations and support we receive from our community promote a virtuous circle. We hope to continue that circle by using those donations to our cultural programming and offer budget-friendly activities for everyone.

The Alliance Française is a tax exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and eligible to receive tax deductible contributions.



Donate

Make a financial contribution, either one-time or recurring, at afphila.com/membership-support/donate/

Double your Donation

We are honored and tremendously grateful that one of our donors has generously expressed its confidence in us by pledging \$15,000 to match new and increased gifts to the Alliance Française de Philadelphie made through August 2023.

Ask your employer about Matching Gifts

Many companies in the U.S. match charitable donations made by their employees. You may send an email to the human resources department at your company to find out if they offer a matching gift program.

Volunteer

Volunteer to help with events or our library at afphila.com/about-us/job-opportunities/

Sponsor

Sponsor an educational or cultural programming series; sponsor a teaching position, or talk to us about how you can support us!*

*We welcome opportunities to discuss large or legacy gifts