

The Camden Conference: Did You Know?

The Camden Conference is a nonprofit, non-partisan, educational organization whose mission is to foster informed discourse on world issues. A small group of State Department and CIA retirees founded the Conference in 1987. It quickly established itself because of interested, educated communities and academic institutions. While the original Conferences were held in the Camden Library, it soon expanded to the First Congregational Church, and then to the historic Camden Opera House.

Early Conferences set important precedents for the future: World-class speakers would focus on topics that shape major areas of U.S. foreign policy. The Conference would be non-partisan and balanced. There would be significant audience participation and student involvement. Importantly, a volunteer organization would run the Conference and its activities. Today the Conference has only one paid employee. Volunteers annually contribute more than 5,000 work hours on Conference projects.

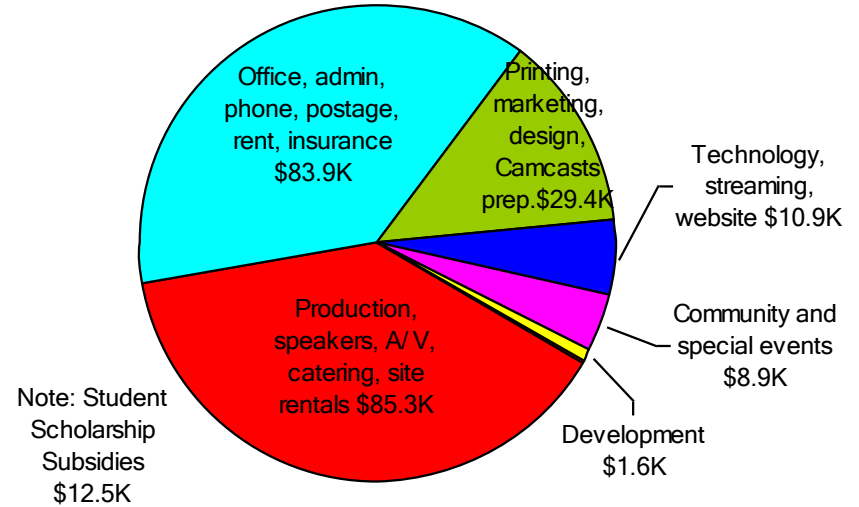
The Conference created a Community Events Program to expand its impact and to better prepare people for the experience of the main February event. An Educational Outreach Program was initiated to directly involve university and high school students. Special Symposia are arranged around the theme of the Conference. Rapid sell-outs of the Opera House starting in 2006 led to venue expansion via live streaming to sites in Rockland and Belfast. In 2011, The Grand Theater in Ellsworth will become a new venue. The Conference now attracts more than 800 people each year. The 50-60 Community Events attract over 2,500 attendees. These are largely free and open to the public as a service to Maine communities from Damariscotta to Mount Desert Island. Increasing numbers of students attend the Conference via scholarship subsidies. The Conference collaborates with local libraries, the University of Maine, College of the Atlantic, Unity College, the Watershed School, the Farnsworth Museum and Road Scholars (Elderhostel).

The Camden Conference has a significant positive financial impact on Maine: Attendees patronize local hotels, restaurants, and shops (in February!). The Conference uses local theaters, caterers, printers, designers, production, and streaming companies. Conference speakers become global ambassadors for MidCoast Maine based on their experiences here.

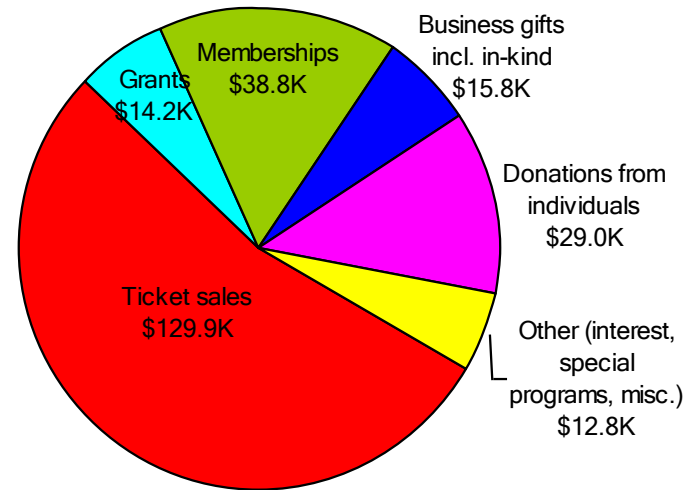
The cost of the Camden Conference annual program exceeds \$220,000. The pie charts show sources of revenue and cash expense for fiscal 2010. It is expensive to bring superb speakers from all over the world, to rent the facilities and equipment needed to produce a quality program, to arrange 50-60 Community Events, to have professional production, to ensure reliable live streaming, to supply needed catering, and to market the Conference and the Community Events effectively to potential attendees. Our goal is to cover 70% of costs via ticket sales, memberships and individual donations. The Conference must raise the remainder from grants and from donations by foundations and businesses. The Camden Conference Membership Program is critical to help sustain the Conference: Members receive benefits like reserved seating, reduced subscription rates to foreign affairs publications, special invitations, and other benefits.

Please consider supporting the Conference via membership, donation, and volunteering. Encourage your friends to attend. You can find information about the Camden Conference, including membership and volunteer opportunities, at www.camdenconference.org.

Fiscal 2010 Expenses \$220.0K



Fiscal 2010 Revenue \$240.5K



Past Camden Conference Topics

- 2011 **The Challenges of Asia**
Keynote speaker: To be announced
- 2010 **Afghanistan, Pakistan, India – Crossroads of Conflict**
Keynote speaker: Ahmed Rashid, “Pakistan, Afghanistan, and US Policy in the Region”
- 2009 **Global Leadership and the U.S. Role in World Affairs**
Keynote speaker: Brent Scowcroft, “Foreign Policy Challenges Facing the New Administration”
- 2008 **Religion as a Force in World Affairs**
Keynote speaker: Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, “Religion, World Politics, and United States Foreign Policy”
- 2007 **Europe: Old Continent in a New World**
Keynote speaker: David Calleo, “The U.S. and the E.U.: Dissonant Visions of the New World Order”
- 2006 **China on the World Stage**
Keynote speaker: James Lilley, “China, Japan, and the Korean Peninsula, Can it work?”
- 2005 **The Middle East: Compromise or Conflagration?**
Keynote speaker: General Tony Zinni, “The Middle East: The Way Ahead”
- 2004 **Foreign Policy for the 21st Century: Seeking a Balance?**
Keynote speaker: Robert Kaplan, “Global Security in 2010: Fighting a Worldwide Counter-Insurgency”
- 2003 **Two Worlds Under Pressure: The Growing Crisis of Population and Movement**
Keynote speaker: Phyllis Oakley, “A Tale of Two Worlds”
- 2002 **The Politics of Energy and Water**
Keynote speaker: Matthew Simmons, “Nightmares and Dreams About World Energy Crises”
- 2001 **Globalization: Its Impact on You and Me**
Keynote speaker: Michael Sandel, “Globalization’s Impact on the Nation-State, the Community, and the Individual”
- 2000 **Southeast Asia**
Keynote speaker: David Wurfel, “Southeast Asia: The Past in the Present”
- 1999 **Africa: South of the Sahara**
Keynote speaker: Margaret Dongo, “Change in Africa: From the Eyes of a Participant”
- 1998 **Latin America: Troubled Past, Uncertain Future**
- 1997 **The World’s Only Superpower: Challenge or Curse?**
- 1996 **Islam and Politics in the Middle East**
- 1995 **China**
- 1994 **Russia: Today and Tomorrow**
- 1993 **The United States and Japan: A Critical Relationship**
- 1992 **The New World Order ... What Will It Be?**
- 1991 **The Global Environment ... A Foreign Policy Agenda**
- 1990 **U.S. Foreign Policy and International Trade: The Mutual Impact**
- 1989 **The Influence of the News Media in shaping U.S. Foreign Policy**
- 1988 **The Making of American Foreign Policy ... Myth and Reality**