

# 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 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.

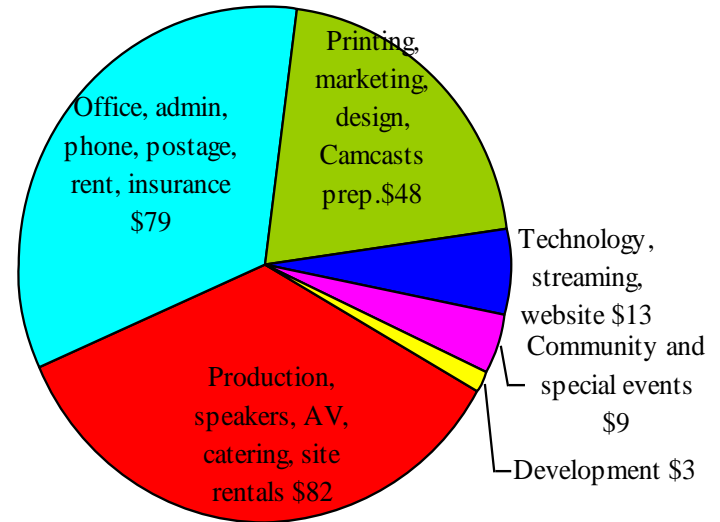
**The Conference** created a Community Events Program to expand its impact and to better prepare people for the experience of the main February event. An Educational Outreach Program was initiated to directly involve university and high school students. An Energy Symposium attracts interested attendees annually to the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. Rapid sell-outs of the Opera House starting in 2006 led to venue expansion via live streaming to sites in Rockland, Belfast, and, in concert with the World Affairs Council of Maine in 2008-9, in Portland. The Conference now attracts close to 800 people each year (in Maine in February!) 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. Scholarship funds enable students to attend the Conference at reduced rates. The Conference collaborates with local libraries, the University of Maine, College of the Atlantic, Unity College, the Watershed School, Exploritas (Elderhostel), and the Farnsworth Museum.

**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.

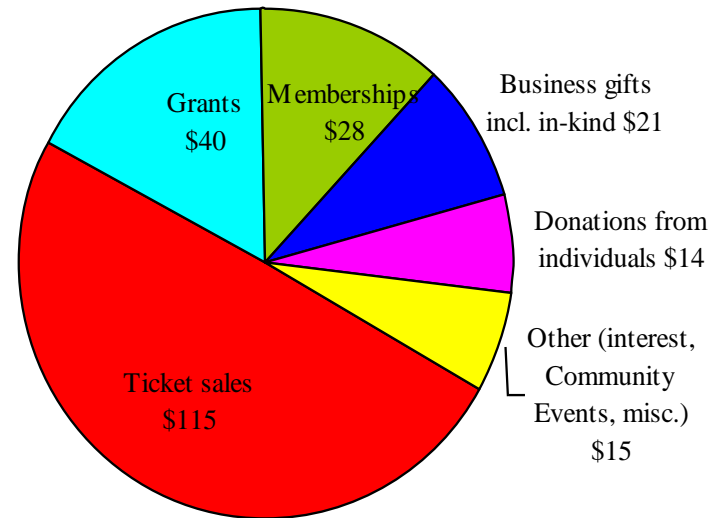
**The annual budget** for the Conference now exceeds \$230,000. The pie charts show sources of revenue and cash expense for fiscal 2009. It is expensive to bring superb speakers from all over the world, to rent the facilities and equipment needed to produce a quality program, to arrange 60 Community Events, to have professional production, to ensure reliable live streaming, to supply needed catering, and to market the Conference and the Community Events in ways that effectively inform potential attendees. Our goal is to cover 70% of costs via ticket sales. Reduced attendance in fiscal 2009 precluded reaching that target. The Conference must raise the remainder from grants and from donations by individuals, 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](http://www.camdenconference.org).**

## Fiscal 2009 Expenses \$233K



## Fiscal 2009 Revenue \$233K



## Past Camden Conference Topics

- 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**