



Chicago visit highlights U.S.-French differences on public-private sector roles

French-American Foundation's Young Leaders briefed on City's strategies, meet with Mayor

Paris/New York, October 29, 2009 – A closely intertwined, “almost symbiotic relationship” in the U.S. between the private and public sectors and an impressive meeting with a big city mayor “more powerful than many governors,” were among the experiences for French-American Foundation Young Leaders during a whirlwind series of briefings in Chicago. The Young Leaders program is part of the Foundation’s efforts to improve working relationships between French and American leaders through annual exchanges of both countries’ rising young professionals.

The 40-member French-American delegation met with business leaders, academics, community organizers and local officials, including Chicago mayor Richard Daley, “widely viewed as the nation’s top urban executive,” according to a 2005 TIME magazine article. Presentations during the visit addressed Chicago’s cutting edge green initiatives, the broad scale of community development activities and the city’s approach to education, public safety and neighborhood development. In a visit to the University of Chicago, the group met with its President and was briefed on the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

Young Leaders said that they were particularly struck by the integral, direct role played by the private sector in advancing community-wide initiatives and promoting its development with both time and money. “I found it extraordinary that public action relies so much on private initiative, even when it comes to implementing social programs,” commented one of the French Young Leaders. “France is much more state-led,” said another, “and things don’t seem to happen as quickly as they do in Chicago.”

Another highlight of the visit was a one-hour, wide-ranging meeting with Mayor Daley who Young Leaders variously described as “direct,” “tough,” “charismatic,” “passionate” and “larger than life.” The city leader’s relative power, his openness and the scope of his activities, extending even to forging international partnerships, were remarked upon by participants. “It was surprising that a 20-year incumbent could be so creative and forward-thinking on behalf of his city,” commented an American Young Leader.

The 2009 class of Young Leaders will join the 2010 class in Marseilles next year for a program focusing on health care and social policy.

The French-American Foundation, with offices in Paris and New York, was established in 1976 with the mission to enrich and improve relations between France and the United States and to encourage an active dialogue between the two nations.

Press contact: William Mengebier -- Tel: +33 (0)6 29 62 03 04 -- e-mail: press@french-american.org

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION - FRANCE
21, Boulevard de Grenelle – 75015 Paris
Telephone +33 1 45 77 40 01

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
28 West 44th Street, Suite 1420, New York, NY 10036
Telephone: +1.212.829.8800

2009 French-American Foundation Young Leaders

American Young Leaders:

Greg Behrman - Member, Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State
Jonah Bokaer - Founding Director, Chez Bushwick
Reuben Brigety - Director, Sustainable Security Program at the Center for American Progress
Paula Broadwell - Research Associate, Center for Public Leadership, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Sewell Chan - Reporter/Bureau Chief, The New York Times
Dalton Conley - Dean for the Social Sciences & University Professor, New York University
Xenia Dormandy - Executive Director, PeaceNexus
John Gallagher - Major, U.S. Army
Auren Hoffman, CEO, Rapleaf
Roy Katzovicz - Chief Legal Officer, Pershing Square Capital Management, L.P.
Thomas Lee - Founder & CEO, 1Life Healthcare
Jennifer Newstead - Partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell
Adeel Qalbani - Senior Managing Director, Reservoir Capital Group
Douglas Raymond - Head of Monetization, Google China
Jamal Simmons - Principal, The Raben Group
Cynthia Smith - Executive Director, Public Policy, Payer Strategy & Operations, Affymax, Inc.
Matthew Turner - General Manager, Americas Renewables Projects, GE Energy
Marco Vicenzino - Founder and Director, Global Strategy Project

French Young Leaders:

Julie Battilana - Assistant Professor, Harvard Business School
Antoine Bello - Writer/Entrepreneur
Katrin Bennhold - Correspondent, International Herald Tribune
Emmanuel de Boisset - Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Prestigium Online Media Group
Julien Cantegreil - Directeur de la programmation, En temps réel
Magda Danysz - President, Galerie Magda Danysz
Rémi El-Ouazzane - Vice-President, Texas Instruments Incorporated
Thierry Gausseron - Deputy Director, Musée d'Orsay
Claude Grunitzky - Founder and Chairman – TRUE Agency; Founder, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief – TRACE Magazine
Pierre Kosciusko-Morizet - Co-founder and CEO, PriceMinister Group
Fatine Layt - President, Oddo Corporate Finance
Jérôme Leprince-Ringuet - Head of Strategic Planning and Market Intelligence, Total Refining and Marketing
Vincent Mahé - Director, Corporate Finance Department, BNP Paribas
Amélie Oudéa-Castéra - Executive Assistant to the Group CFO, AXA Group
François-Xavier Rouxel - Executive Vice-President, Enrichment Business Unit, AREVA
David Spector - Associate Professor, Paris School of Economics; Economist, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
Catherine Sueur - Deputy Executive Director, Musée du Louvre
Sébastien Veil - Investment Director, PAI Partners
Boris Zaïtra - Corporate Vice-President, Head of Mergers & Acquisitions, EADS

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION - FRANCE
21, Boulevard de Grenelle – 75015 Paris
Telephone +33 1 45 77 40 01

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
28 West 44th Street, Suite 1420, New York, NY 10036
Telephone: +1.212.829.8800

About the Young Leaders program

The French-American Foundation's Young Leaders program began in 1981 as part of an effort to improve working relationships between French and American leaders by providing exposure to their trans-Atlantic counterparts in government, business, media, the military and the non-profit sector. Past American Young Leaders include President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senators Evan Bayh and Bill Bradley, General Wesley Clark, former White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten, World Bank President Robert Zoellick, and business leaders Frank Herringer (Transamerica Corporation) and John Thain (formerly with Merrill Lynch). Past French participants include several business leaders, including Henri de Castries (AXA), Anne Lauvergeon (AREVA), and Michel Bon (formerly with France Télécom), in addition to a number of political leaders, such as former Prime Minister Alain Juppé, Minister for Higher Education and Research Valérie Pécresse, Minister for Forward Planning, Assessment of Public Policies and Development of the Digital Economy Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, former Minister of European Affairs Pierre Moscovici, former Minister of Defense Alain Richard and former Minister of Justice Jacques Toubon.

Young Leaders are selected by committees in France and the United States based on recommendations from past participants and members of the French-American Foundation as well as from other interested observers and from media reports about rising young personalities. Candidates are typically under 40 years of age and are considered to have the potential to rise to the highest levels of their profession. Selected Young Leaders are invited to participate in two annual meetings which alternate each year between France and the United States.

Click here for more information about the Young Leaders program: <http://www.frenchamerican.org/cms/node/449>

The Young Leaders program is made possible through the generous donations from the following sponsors:

Corporate Benefactors

Aforge Finance
Alpha Associés
D'Artagnan
Lazard Frères SAS

Individual Benefactors

The Honorable Anne Cox Chambers
Jean-Luc Allavena
Jennifer Koch Easterly
Frank C. Herringer
John N. Irwin, III
Raymond M. Jefferson
Sophie L'Hélias-Delattre
Jonathan S. Perelman
John A. Thain

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION - FRANCE

21, Boulevard de Grenelle – 75015 Paris

Telephone +33 1 45 77 40 01

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

28 West 44th Street, Suite 1420, New York, NY 10036

Telephone: +1.212.829.8800