

A low-angle, black and white photograph of several skyscrapers reaching towards the sky, creating a sense of height and urban density. The buildings are framed by a large blue rectangle on the right and a dark blue rectangle on the left.

World Debate Consulting



accelerating youth empowerment worldwide

2024



our vision

WDC VISION

A new and inclusive model of education for citizen empowerment focused on youth participation through debate. We plan to create projects with a national scope in which school and university students throughout the country are trained in civic values, critical awareness, and dialogue, to form a more empathetic, critical, and empowered citizenry capable of carrying out social transformations.

PRIORITIZING

- GROWTH
- OPPORTUNITY
- SUSTAINABILITY



WDC PILLARS

WDC is born out of individuals who have dedicated years of volunteer work to address the gaps in our democracy, our education, and our growth as a global society. Debate as a skill, a competition, and a community is a life-changing event for those privileged enough to encounter it in their path.

This company is proof of the type of transformative change and innovation fostered by it, which is why we do not forget where we come from when choosing the ideals that will pave the way forward:



GROWTH

Establish national debate associations where they don't exist; strengthen and accelerate the reach of those that do.



OPPORTUNITY

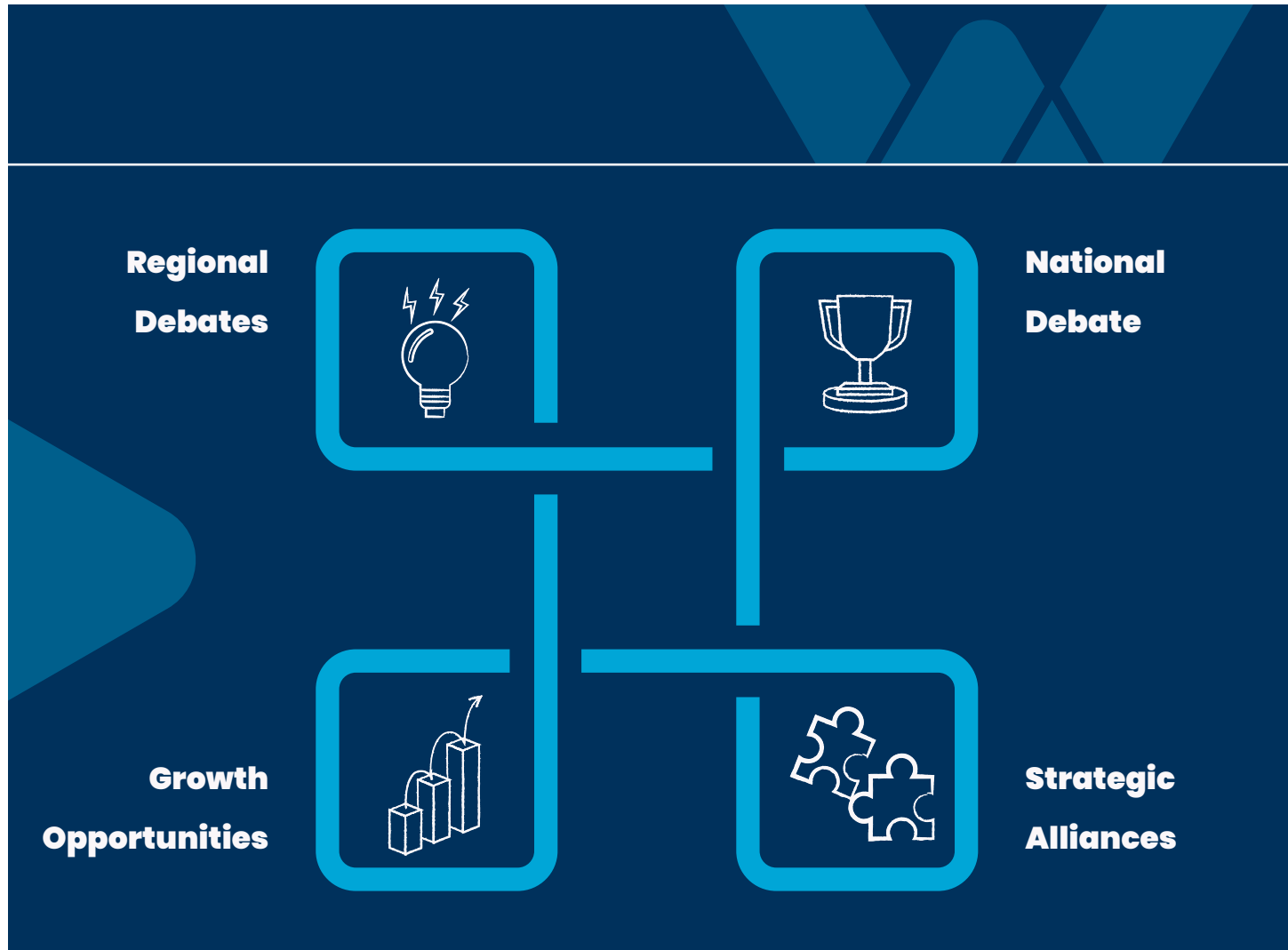
Bring the benefits of debate to all youth, regardless of background, focusing on giving opportunity to those who would otherwise not have access to it.



SUSTAINABILITY

With new and increasing partnerships, we make our projects beneficial for all those involved.

Our Model



1. Regional Debates

Through a national debate teaching program, we work with schools and universities in the different regions of the country to educate as many students as possible in debate and citizenship skills. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in debates in their region and network with the youth of the area to create a nurturing space for youth alliances around common causes.



2. National Debate

The summit of the debate teaching programs will be through a conference that has the national participation of all students in the program. Here, they will have the opportunity to put into practice the knowledge acquired, establish strategic alliances, form new friendships with their peers from other regions, interact with decision-makers, and learn from their experience in preparation for future leadership roles.



3. Strategic Alliances

For the activities to be possible and sustainable, it is necessary to establish strategic alliances with governmental and non-governmental organizations aligned with the principles and objectives of the project.

In our expertise, we consider it essential to establish alliances with the local electoral body, with educational and social development authorities, and with non-governmental organizations as well as businesses to both aid in financing the projects as well as provide growth opportunities for the participants.



4. Growth Opportunities

The goal is to prepare the next generations of youth leaders to generate change in their communities and their country, and for this, both the students and the organization itself need to grow.

For sustainable recruitment, partnerships with universities will enable them to establish official volunteering programs for their students, where students receive formal recognition for their service to the community.

We provide leadership opportunities for participants to put into practice what they have learned in the different programs and workshops. We also plan for gradual and reliable generational change. As the generations of debate alumni finish the program, they are encouraged to become instructors for the next generation or hold leadership positions within the organization.



The local debate association can become key in the construction of youth policy and the education of all youth. Beyond the classrooms and conferences, the organization can work with governmental and non-governmental bodies to create citizenship educational programs and execute youth policy on behalf of governmental entities.

Our previous success



The Panamanian Debate Association (ASPADA) has a nationwide team, that organizes projects that have decentralized debate throughout the country and have taken it from being an educational experience for a handful of private schools to being available to students from every province and indigenous territory. We educate the student population and put them in the presence and shoes of decision-makers to prepare them with real-life experience for when they become decision-makers in the near future.

The most notable of ASPADA's projects are: Regional Chapters and the National Debate Teaching Program, which seek to decentralize debate throughout the country by creating local teams in each educational region; the Model United Nations Intercollegiate Debate co-hosted with the Panamanian Foreign Ministry; the Summit of Presidents of the National Council of Debate Clubs, in collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO); and the National Debate Cup, which in its fifth edition had teams from all over the country debating on democracy, civic values and citizenship skills.

Additionally, in alliance with the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, the Association also provides democratic civic education and workshops for youth throughout the country to combat clientelism and misinformation, as a contribution towards strengthening Panamanian democracy.

Our proposal is to replicate the Panamanian Debate Association model with a local youth team in each country adapted to local context and needs. With our experience and expertise and the local team's knowledge of the context, we will be able to build a debate association model that promises to generate positive changes in citizen participation for the generations to come.

01

Increased debate clubs from <20 in two cities to 250 in every educational region in only 5 years.

02

Educated in debate over 3000 students and 400 teachers every year.

03

Established multi-year cooperation alliances with the Ministry of Education, Ministry for Social Development, and the Electoral Tribunal.

04

Participated in the elaboration of Panama's 2022-2027 Youth Public Policy and Panama's first Youth Law passed in the National Assembly.

05

Selected by the Electoral Tribunal to organize the official presidential debate for the 2024 General Elections.

06

Organized official public debates between presidential candidates and youth representatives in the 2019 and 2024 General Elections.

07

Hosted the Harvard World Model United Nations since 2018 and the 2023 World Universities Debating Championship in Spanish in Panama City.

08

Alliances with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the International Republican Institute, the Harvard International Relations Council, the Organization of Ibeoramerican States, the Latin-American and Caribbean Parliament, and over a dozen other national and international organizations.

Our Achievements

Electoral Incidence 2024

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE——

We were selected by the Electoral Court to organize the Second Presidential Debate of the 2024 General Elections.

This was the first public participatory debate in the region, also characterized by addressing questions directly from young people.

MUNICIPAL DEBATE——

We held the Municipal Debate of Panama City together with the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama (CCIAP) and the State Radio and Television System (SerTV).

This debate is characterized by focusing on the problems raised by the citizens who live in the city.

PUBLIC— DEBATES

Together with the State Radio and Television System (SerTV), we held official public debates between presidential candidates and their youth representatives.

Public Initiatives

Law 435 of 2024

The law establishing the National Debate Teaching Program has been enacted as a law in Panama.

Turning debate into a student's right.



