

SESSION: Antarctic and sub-Antarctic earth science

MARS Themes:

Capacity Development

Title:

The Antarctic Youth Coalition (AYC), a core objective of the Antarctic Cities and the Global Commons project.

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1. Antarctic Legacy of South Africa
2. Antarctic Youth Coalition
3. SEAMesters

Abstract:

Ongoing youth-based programmes providing education-based expeditions to Antarctica have been developed by non-state actors, universities and national Antarctic programs since the early 2000's. Despite the successes and impact of these youth based educational programs, and despite the emergence and growth in recent decades of youth-led issues-based movements worldwide, there have been scarce opportunities for young people to have a voice in national and global networks for action on Antarctica. In February 2020, five young leaders representing each of the world-known Antarctic 'gateway' cities travelled to the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula to fulfil a dream: see Antarctica and find a common pathway for transmitting a sense of care and responsibility for this polar region onto their home communities. This endeavour is known as the Antarctic Cities Youth Expedition (ACYE), a global first youth forum that took place in Antarctica to address Antarctica's future challenges through the lens of young people. The ACYE members developed in situ the basis of collaborative work to progress the idea of Antarctic custodianship beyond the boundaries of the polar region's governance. The ACYE led to the formation of the Antarctic Youth Coalition (AYC), a core objective of the Antarctic Cities and the Global Commons project, an interdisciplinary, multimodal and international research project led from Western Sydney University (Australia). The Antarctic youth coalition (AYC) is a membership-based organisation for people living in the Antarctic gateway cities of Cape Town (South Africa), Christchurch (New Zealand), Hobart (South Africa), Punta Arenas (Chile) and Ushuaia (Argentina). Our vision is for cities to come together and embrace the principles of Antarctica for the protection of our shared futures. This coalition is not exclusive to the gateway cities but for anyone who has the passion, drive to take the baton of Antarctic custodianship. This plays hand in hand with our mission, which is to build a network of young custodians across the gateway cities, advocating for Antarctica's future, by promoting sustainable communities and connecting urban identities to Antarctica. We thus challenge our cities into practicing sustainability, using the model of Antarctic governance for instance, cooperation, diplomacy, science and best of all collaboration between countries to meet a sustainable end.

Format:

Oral presentation

Keywords: (add ; between keywords)

Antarctica, Gateway Cities, Legacy, Tourism, Governance, Capacity Development

