



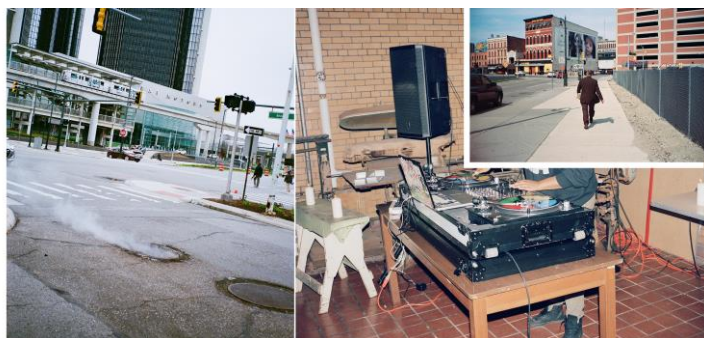
ATHENS MEETS DETROIT: THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A conference organized by: Christina Manolopoulou (MMF 2008), winner of a GMF Alumni Leadership Action Project

Monday, 25 September 2017

15:00 – 20:00

**Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center,
National Library of Greece
(Book Castle, ground floor)**



Co-organized in cooperation with:



With the kind support of:



*«The most important title is Citizen.
And in all of our nations,
it will always be our citizens
who decide the kind of countries we will be.»*

Barack Obama

*Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Cultural Center, Athens 2016.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - ATHENS MEETS DETROIT*

This event is an Alumni Leadership Action Project under the Transatlantic Theme: Global Engagement, and is made possible by the support of the German Marshall Fund of the United States as part of the Transatlantic Initiative. The goal of the project is to highlight, through a transatlantic lens, the power of civic engagement and social accountability during a period of financial crisis. Best practices and strategies from the city of Detroit will be shared with an Athenian audience. We wish to explore role models in local government, private foundations, the business sector and social networks. We aim to discuss how societies can build the future through understanding that by working together, we can solve some of our most intractable problems. Furthermore, this constitutes an opportunity for the Greek GMF fellows to interact as a network in Greece and as part of the GMF's rich global and engaged network, along with other participants that share their transatlantic values.

The event will be held in English on Monday, 25th of September (15:00 – 20:00) at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, at the Book Castle of the National Library of Greece. Opening remarks by the Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt, US Embassy in Athens and Dr. Thanos Dokos, General-Director, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). Session #1: Representatives from the cities of Detroit and Athens share with us positive strategies and outline the importance of civic engagement and the role of local administration in mobilizing citizens. Session #2: We discuss the role of private foundations. Session #3: We discuss the role of business in society during periods of financial crisis. The event ends with a presentation and discussion about Athens Women's Leadership Network affiliated with the Detroit Women's Leadership Network.

**Opinions expressed in this event will not necessarily represent those of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, or its partners.*

- 15:00 - 15:30** **Registration**
- 15:30 – 15:40** **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Christina Manolopoulou (MMF), Attorney at Law
- 15:40 – 16:00** **Opening Remarks**
Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt, [US Embassy in Athens](#)
Dr. Thanos Dokos, General-Director, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy ([ELIAMEP](#))
- 16:00 - 16:45** **The importance of civic engagement.**
Role models in societies and the role of local administration in mobilizing citizens
Alexis Wiley, Chief of Staff, [Mayor’s Office, Detroit](#)
Amalia Zepou, Vice-Mayor for [Civil Society and Innovation](#), Athens
Moderator: Aristotelia Peloni, (MMF), Journalist, [Kathimerini daily](#)
- 16:45 - 17:30** **Social Innovation: The role of Private Foundations and the community involvement of the private sector. Best practices, strategies, models, trends. Key factors in Athens and Detroit**
Gina Metrakas, Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Urban Revitalization for [Quicken Loans](#), Detroit
Katerina Triantafyllou, Program Officer, [Stavros Niarchos Foundation](#)
Alexander Theodoridis (MMF 2016), Co- Founder [BOROUME \(ΜΠΟΡΟΥΜΕ\)](#), Athens
Moderator: Margarita Pournara (MMF 2005) Journalist, [Kathimerini daily](#)
- 17: 30 - 18:00** **Coffee Break**
- 18:00 - 19:00** **The role of Business in society in times of crisis.**
Best practices, strategies, models, trends. Key factors in Athens and Detroit.
John Argento, Managing Director, Bedrock Manufacturing BV Europe ([Shinola & Filson](#)) Shinola, Detroit
Lukia Samata, Sales Manager [Yoleni’s](#), Athens
Yannis Nikolopoulos, Co- Founder [Clio Muse](#), Athens
Iasonas Panagiotopoulos, Co- Founder Athens [Noctua Microbrewery](#), Athens
Moderator: Yannis Mitsos (MMF 2009), Senior Advisor [SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises](#)
- 19:00 - 19:45** **Presentation of Detroit Women’s Leadership Network and Founding of Athens Women’s Leadership Network affiliated with Detroit Women’s Leadership Network**
Nicole de Beaufort, (MMF 2013) Founder & President [EarlyWorks, Ilc.](#) Founder, Detroit Women’s Leadership Network, Detroit
Christina Manolopoulou, (MMF 2008) Attorney at Law, Athens

Detroit Women’s Leadership Network: The Network is a group of women of all ages, races and careers stages, who are united by the belief that we must blur color, lines, mentor and be mentored and enjoy meeting new women who will support each other’s leadership.

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Detroit Women's Leadership Network and Athens Women's Leadership Network.

19:45 - 20:00

Closing Remarks

Christina Manolopoulou, (MMF 2008) Attorney at Law

Special thanks to:

Ms. Nicole De Beaufort and EarlyWorks LLC
for their kind support to the implementation of the project.

Mr. Nikolas Ventourakis, Visual artist
for the cover-page photos:

- (1) ATHENS: "Untitled 01, Leaving Utopia" 2013
- (2) DETROIT: "DETROIT MIXTAPE" 2016

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP ACTION PROJECT

A transatlantic initiative (TLI) by the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

“The project is part of the «Transatlantic Initiative» (TLI) and was made possible with support from the German Marshall Fund of the United States.»

*For forty years **the German Marshall Fund of the United States** has pioneered programs that offer rising leaders dynamic opportunities to hone their leadership skills. 3,000 alumni from forty nations on both sides of the Atlantic count themselves as part of GMF’s rich and engaged network.*

GMF offers fellowship programs and leadership development opportunities managed by the Transatlantic Initiatives (TII) team. TLI’s initiatives have helped alumni expand their professional networks, gain unique access to GMF’s policy expertise, and think, engage and act globally.