

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION BELLAGIO CENTER

For more information, please visit [www.rockefellerfoundation.org/bellagio-center](http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/bellagio-center) or contact [Bellagio\\_NY@rockfound.org](mailto:Bellagio_NY@rockfound.org) or 212.852.8431.



THE  
ROCKEFELLER  
FOUNDATION

Bellagio Center | Conferences and Residencies



“For small ideas, you can go to any retreat, but to think expansive, fearless ideas and then design something innovative and courageous to put them into practice, there is no place like Bellagio.”

—Seth Berkley, *President and CEO, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, AIDS Vaccine Conference*



## THE BELLAGIO CENTER



Through conferences and residencies, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center brings together people of diverse expertise and backgrounds in a thought-provoking, collaborative environment to promote innovation and impact on a wide range of global issues. Since the Center's establishment in 1959, we have seen the powerful results of investing in and unleashing human capacity.

The Bellagio experience fosters a robust exchange of ideas between scientists and artists, theorists and practitioners, those who make policy and those who are affected by it. Located in northern Italy, the Center infuses unorthodox, radical thinking into searches for solutions to critical social, political, health, environmental and economic challenges.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON GLOBAL ISSUES

The Bellagio Conference Program provides space for framing debates on world issues, for translating theory into action and for devising creative responses to some of the most pressing issues of our time. Conferences must be consistent with the Foundation's vision, to expand opportunities for poor or vulnerable people. In particular, the selection committee looks for conferences that link to the Foundation's work in basic survival needs, global health, climate and environment, urbanization, and social and economic security.

The Foundation seeks applications from conference organizers who expect their conference to generate innovative yet concrete outcomes.



### Participants

Bellagio conferences (and the Bellagio community as a whole) benefit from the perspectives of a diverse array of stakeholders and decision makers. Conference organizers are encouraged to invite relevant key figures from multiple sectors (academic, public, private, nonprofit and multilateral organizations) and from a wide geographic area.

“Comprised of experts in different fields from both developed and developing countries, the meetings were friendly and open....As a result of the Bellagio eHealth conferences, palpable action is taking place.”

Catherine Omaswa, Chair of National eHealth Steering Committee, Uganda, eHealth Conference

### Facilities

The Center operates two buildings for meetings, one that can accommodate up to 19 participants, the other, up to 23. Due to these space limitations, conference organizers will need to manage invitations to participants carefully. Conferences are generally scheduled for five days or fewer, including arrival and departure days. Smaller groups working on intensive projects can arrange for more time, if space permits.

Conference center resources include DVD players, fax and photocopy services, printers, slide and LCD projectors, tape-recording equipment, VCRs and high-speed Internet access. Video conferencing is available in some meeting rooms.

### Applications

Conference applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but must arrive at least five months before the anticipated start date of the conference. For details, visit [www.rockefellerfoundation.org/bellagio-center](http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/bellagio-center).

## RESIDENCIES FOR SCHOLARS, ARTISTS AND PRACTITIONERS

The Bellagio Center provides a platform for developing new ideas and solutions to some of the most difficult global problems. Residencies allow for disciplined work and collaborative action on these issues, uninterrupted by the usual professional and personal demands. Bellagio residents include scholars, scientists, artists, journalists, writers, non-governmental organization practitioners and policy-makers from around the world.

Collegial interaction with other residents is an integral dimension of the Bellagio experience. Meals and informal presentations of residents' work afford an opportunity for dynamic discussion and engagement with each other. During special dinners, residents often interact with participants in international conferences hosted in various buildings on the Center's property. The Center also offers collaborative residencies for two to four people working on the same project.

### Length of Stay

Residencies typically last four weeks, but applicants may request a shorter stay by submitting a statement explaining why they would prefer an alternate length of time.

“My Bellagio residency convinced me that I wanted to devote the rest of my career to public-policy research... with a focus on energy, technology, and national security.”

John Deutch, Institute Professor at MIT, former Director of Central Intelligence, Bellagio Resident



### Accommodations and Travel Assistance

Residents are housed in two main buildings and each resident is given a private room with a bath and study/studio, either adjoining the bedroom or on the grounds. Internet access is available free of charge in all bedrooms and most studies. A small library includes basic reference books and online research tools. Spouses/life partners may accompany the resident. Accommodations are not available for children, other family members, friends, or pets. Room and board are provided to all residents, but they are responsible for their airfare and local transportation to and from Bellagio. However, the Foundation does have a limited travel assistance program, based on income level of invited residents.

### Applications

Deadlines vary for scholarly, practitioner, and artist residency applications. For details, visit [www.rockefellerfoundation.org/bellagio-center](http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/bellagio-center).

## THE HISTORY

The Rockefeller Foundation's proud history with the Bellagio Center began in 1959, when Ella Holbrook Walker offered her Italian villa “for purposes connected with the promotion of international understanding,” and Dean Rusk, the Foundation's president, accepted her generous donation and embraced its enormous potential.

During the more than 50 years since, the Bellagio Center has served as a backdrop for many meaningful advances. The Center was a launching pad for ideas that underpin modern systems of international finance. It was a staging ground for efforts to mobilize an agricultural revolution that saved a billion lives in Latin America and Asia. It was the setting for negotiations and agreements that make it easier for people suffering from HIV/AIDS and other devastating afflictions to access better vaccines and medications, more efficiently, in more places.

Today the world faces new economic challenges, different social strains, and unprecedented environmental threats. Therefore, the Bellagio Center's work—and way of working—has never been more significant. The Center cross-pollinates disparate traditions of expertise, inquiry and innovation. It brings people together from countries far and wide, inspiring them to find common ground and push the boundaries of collective knowledge and action.