



## Becoming a City of Peace



**If there is to be peace in the world,  
there must be peace in the nations.**

**If there is to be peace in the nations,  
there must be peace in the cities.**

**If there is to be peace in the cities,  
there must be peace between neighbors.**

**If there is to be peace between neighbors,  
there must be peace in the home.**

**If there is to be peace in the home,  
there must be peace in the heart.**

~Lao-Tse, b. 604 BCE (from Tao Te Ching)

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## BECOMING A CITY OF PEACE

*Envision a World Where Cities Define Themselves in the Language of Peace.*

Imagine a world of villages and towns dedicated to expanding their local peace economy and encouraging a global culture of peace. Safety, prosperity, and quality of life are universal values that bring peace to our lives.



Though the news is clogged with images of violence, we look to our cities and neighborhoods for what is really happening on our planet -- people working in their neighborhood, teachers teaching, mothers nurturing, artists creating, peace officers keeping us safe, sports figures inspiring greatness -- the cause of peace is carried by billions of people celebrating life and working for a better world.

First and foremost in this global adventure toward peace is to reject violence and define ourselves as people of peace. The International Cities of Peace initiative is creating a network of communities that, by history, resolution, or proclamation, are doing just this -- self-defining themselves as official Cities of Peace.

This can't be done in a polarized environment where the world is split into culprits and victims.

This redefinition will require building a consensus network of business, government and community leaders who value safety, prosperity, and quality of life.

## 10 STEPS TO BECOMING A CITY OF PEACE

There are as many ways to create a City of Peace as there are people to be inspired. This document includes some essential and optional steps for creating an effective organization. We hope these ideas and suggestions are of help.

### Essential Steps

1. Form a group of friends and colleagues who value peace.
2. Create a Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives (use other City versions as a template).
3. Produce promotional tools, such as a website and flyers.
4. Begin an area campaign to educate about a Culture of Peace.
5. Research, document, and publicize your area's legacy of peacemaking.
6. Hold peacebuilding events to foster a Culture of Peace.
7. Partner with like-minded organizations.
8. Recruit citizen liaisons for all constituencies and stakeholders groups.
9. Hold an exhibit at a venue, such as a library, and invite local dignitaries.
10. Gather signatures and submit a Resolution to your civic government.

### **Optional Steps**

- Incorporate in your state or province as a nonprofit corporation.
- File for 501(c)3 nonprofit status so donations are tax exempt.
- Establish a physical presence with an office and/or activity room.
- Secure venues for peace-related exhibits.
- Seek funding through grants and private donations for peacebuilding programs.

### **Ideas Other Communities Have Implemented**

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Peace Exhibits                       | • Gardens                  |
| • Musical events                       | • Labyrinth                |
| • Peace Camp                           | • Peace Tree Day, June 1   |
| • Educational programs                 | • Interfaith programs      |
| • International Day of Peace, Sept. 21 | • Peace trails             |
| • Peace museum                         | • Peace art gallery        |
| • Lectures                             | • Workshops                |
| • Dialogues on Community               | • Speakers' bureau         |
| • Mediation Center                     | • Peace Economy Roundtable |

Start small, grow large. Have fun. Enjoy the community.

Don't get frustrated. Always keep your eyes on the prize!

## **ONE ORGANIZATIONAL METHOD**

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.”

-- Margaret Mead

**Whether you have a small or large organization, the following organizational method is an easy, manageable means of getting all of the stakeholders in a community onboard.**

**1. Program Leaders** of individuals who coordinate and publicize Cities of Peace activities.

**2. A Group of Citizen Liaisons** who network within their area of expertise and reach (such as an artist contacting the arts community) The Liaison's would gather signatures and set up a Community Advisory Panel of ten community leaders who generate ideas and give support. The following Communities are important in every City, Town, or Village on the globe:

- The Local and Regional Civic Community
- The Faith-Based Community
- The Safety and Security Community
- The Sports and Entertainment Community
- The Environmental Community
- The Arts Community
- The Service Community
- The Wellness Community
- The Academic Community
- The Business Community

**2. An Executive Advisory Panel** of commercial leaders who generate ideas and give support.

**3. A Business Resource Panel** that offer support through in-kind donations.

## IS YOUR CITY ALREADY A CITY OF PEACE?

### Typology Table for Cities of Peace:

1. Cities where a particular war has been successfully concluded (through a peace treaty).  
(Münster, Osnabrück, Dayton)
2. Cities which are the seats of international institutions which are significant for the maintenance of world peace. (The Hague, Geneva)
3. Cities where important peace prizes are awarded/places where peace is being celebrated and honoured. (Oslo or the Nobel Peace Prize)
4. Cities which, having been destroyed in war, have used this tragedy to dedicate themselves to work for peace.. (Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Osaka, Coventry, Gernika-Lumo, Ypern, Antwerpen)
5. Cities which have rediscovered and now are reconnecting with historical impulses from the past, especially the remembrance of a prominent historical figure born in (or associated with) the city, and who was a great peace advocate. (Rotterdam, Atlanta)
6. Cities where important peace institutions once existed, or which once hosted important peace conferences, and which are rediscovering their peace past, and now want to remember this and build on it. (Luzern)
7. Cities where important peace research or peace training institutions have been created (and which have not been significantly affected by wars or conflict). (Stadtschlaining, Bradford)
8. Cities which have joined one or more important international peace organisations, and which are playing a significant role in them. (Manchester)
9. Cities of practical peacemaking, in ethnically diverse and polarised environments. (Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, Philadelphia)
10. Cities which have given their name to important peace documents... (Pugwash, Dartmouth, Göttingen, Talloires, Krefeld, Sevilla, Mohonk)

***Idee und Geschichte der neuzeitlichen; Friedensstadt. Skizze einer Typologie*** (With permission of Dr. Peter van den Dungen,

**Please note:** Many Cities of Peace are now being recognized by resolution or proclamation, or even by a community action campaign, but this topology shows that the City of Peace movement has deep roots. Yet every city and community has an untold legacy of peace.

## WHAT IS A CULTURE OF PEACE?

“The Culture of Peace is a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations.”

-- UN Resolutions A/RES/52/13 : Culture of Peace and A/53/243:

Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

**The U.N. has suggested that for peace and non-violence to prevail, our communities need to do the following:**

- Foster a culture of peace through education
- Promote sustainable economic and social development
- Promote respect for all human rights
- Ensure equality between women and men
- Foster democratic participation
- Advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- Support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- Promote international peace and security



The International Cities of Peace initiative supports the worldwide celebration of U.N. sponsored **“Peace One Day”** on September 21 each year. Plan a community event to coalesce support for an area City of Peace movement and to foster a culture of peace.

## WHAT IS PEACEBUILDING?

**“Peace we want because there is another war to fight against poverty, disease and ignorance.”**

-- Indira Gandhi, 1966

Through Cities of Peace organizations, citizens across the world are beginning to focus on building a long-term culture of peace. Peacebuilding entails fostering understanding and establishing new structures of cooperation. Whether it's government programs or the private sector, whether it's a single act of kindness, a school program to reduce bullying, or a sustainable agricultural system, citizens are realizing the economic and lifestyle benefits of a culture of peace.

**"We need to build not only geographical but spiritual bridges between people and strengthen the intellectual, cultural and communication linkages between our societies. (Let us) stand ready to participate in the effort to promote social integration and create a culture of peace."**

-- From UNESCO PRESS Report at World Summit for Social Development by Director-General UNESCO, Frederico Mayor



This photo is from a corporate program that allows employees to volunteer in the community for two days each year. (Thanks to Lexis-Nexis for their community participation!) Peacebuilding entails a partnership between all communities, including corporations, safety and security, justice organizations, faith-based, and more.

## HOW CAN WE CREATE A PEACE ECONOMY?

***“Peace is a never-ending process, the work of many decisions.”***

Oscar Arias

When people get up in the morning, they believe they are working for the safety of their children, the prosperity of their family, and the quality of life for their community. Whether it's a teacher, an artist, a soldier, or a plumber, they are part of the World Dream of peace.

We can debate on people's opinions and strategies, but the far greater majority of economic activity is dedicated to safety, prosperity, and quality of life. The choices we make everyday are the world's peace economy. Let's make our choices count. These ten sectors of the world's peace economy can be put to the work of making a better world.

- The Local and Regional Civic Community
- The Faith-Based Community
- The Safety and Security Community
- The Sports and Entertainment Community
- The Environmental Community
- The Arts Community
- The Service Community
- The Wellness Community
- The Academic Community
- The Business Community

With nearly seven billion people in the world, the world economy (in terms of Gross World Product, GWP) has risen to \$30 trillion. Due to our choices on spending, each Dollar, or Euro, or Yen plays an important role in creating peace in our lives. The Cities of Peace initiative is bringing to light these choices and their impact upon families.

What is the cost of violence? In addition to precious lives lost, we sabotage our livelihoods through loss of trade and personal income, through disruption and disease, through environmental depletion and worldwide recessions. According to the United Nations Development Program, the economic cost of violence is 11% of Gross World Product. That's over \$3 trillion lost each year to decisions of violence and war.

## DRAFT EXAMPLE

### Dayton City of Peace Resolution

September 19, 2007

**WHEREAS** the World Health Organization defines health as not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but achievement of a balance of physical, mental, and social well-being, and

**WHEREAS** peace is not merely the absence of war and violence, but a condition where society has achieved a balance of prosperity, security, justice and hope, and

**WHEREAS** peace is necessary for everyone to achieve health as defined by the World Health Organization, and

**WHEREAS** the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995 not only brought peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Balkan region of Europe, but also established Dayton internationally as a region committed to peace,

**WHEREAS** the community leaders of the Dayton region are committed to establishing peace in the region to promote economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of the people of our region, and

**WHEREAS** the United Nations has designated 21 September of each year to be the International Day of Peace, devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Dayton City Commission proclaims the City of Dayton, Ohio to be a City of Peace in perpetuity, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Dayton City Commission designates 21 September of each year to be the Dayton Day of Peace in perpetuity, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Dayton City Commission develops policies and procedures that promote establishing peace in our region in perpetuity.

## City of Peace Resolution

[Name of City, Town, or Village]

[Date]

**WHEREAS** the World Health Organization defines health as not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but achievement of a balance of physical, mental, and social well-being, and

**WHEREAS** peace is not merely the absence of war and violence, but a condition where society has achieved a balance of prosperity, security, justice and hope, and

**WHEREAS** peace is necessary for everyone to achieve health as defined by the World Health Organization, and

**WHEREAS** [Description of people, events, or geographical examples of why this particular location should be a City of Peace]

**WHEREAS** the community leaders of [Name of location] are committed to establishing peace in the region to promote economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of the people of our region, and

**WHEREAS** the United Nations has designated 21 September of each year to be the International Day of Peace, devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the [Official civic body] proclaims the [Name of location] to be a City of Peace in perpetuity, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the [Official civic body] designates 21 September of each year to be the [Name of location] Day of Peace in perpetuity, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the [Official civic body] develops policies and procedures that promote establishing peace in our region in perpetuity.

Note: This City of Peace Resolution can be used by any community, therefore it is released from copyright protection by Cities of Peace, Inc.



## Signatories for the “City of Peace” initiative

I believe this initiative can have a positive impact on our Region. By defining our central City as an official “City of Peace,” we promote the consensus values of safety, prosperity and quality of life.

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>		

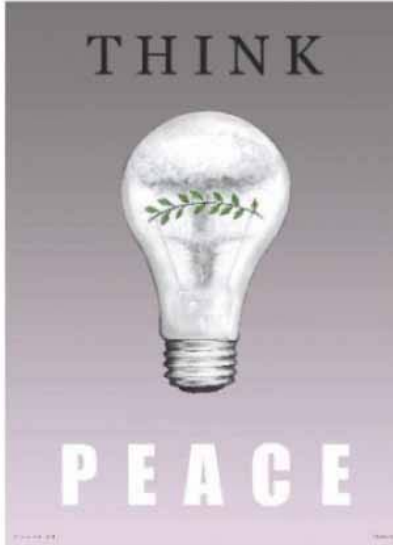
Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>		



**For more information,** resources, consultation on starting an organization, please contact the office of the International Cities of Peace. For the leader of each organization, the Advisory Council is a good way to connect and share in the good work of creating a world of Cities of Peace.

Please tell your networks about the International Cities of Peace Facebook site.

Other documents are available from the office, including City of Peace Signature Gathering Sheets and photos.

**Thank you for your peaceful nature!**

Sincerely,

J. Fred Arment

Executive Director