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.

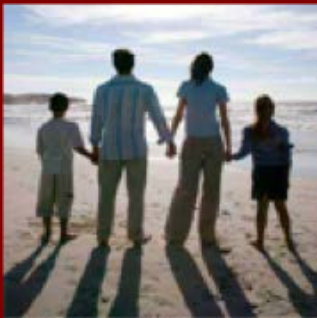If there is to be peace between neighbors,

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)

Contents

Why Become 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.

The International Cities of Peace initiative is creating a network of communities that, by history, resolution, or proclamation, are doing just that - - self-defining themselves as official Cities of Peace.

First and foremost in this global adventure is to reject violence and define ourselves as people of peace. The cause of peace is carried by billions of people: workers building bridges and roads, teachers teaching, mothers nurturing, artists creating, peace officers keeping us safe, sports figures inspiring greatness.

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.

IS YOUR CITY ALREADY
A CITY OF PEACE?

International Cities of Peace is an association of citizens, governments and organizations who have by proclamation, resolution, or by citizen advocacy established their communities as official Cities of Peace. Every community has a legacy of peace, whether it is by a historical event or by a local peace heroes or groups who have contributed to their citizen's safety, prosperity and quality of life.

No city is 100% a city of peace, rather all are on the path to "becoming" a more peaceful city. Establishing a community as a peace city recognizes past achievements, encourages current initiatives, and inspires future generations for practical peace building.

Check out the Typology Table for Cities of Peace on our website:

www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/about/what-are-cities-of-peace/

Executive Summary

Five steps to establishing your community
as an International City of Peace

To create an initiative is a profound process yet simple to accomplish and costs no money. You can emphasize the work you or your group are currently doing. Or you can create a new organization for community peace building.

Each community has a legacy of peace that can be highlighted, especially in terms of giving hope and encouragement to children and adults alike. International Cities of Peace is not a funding organization but individual cities of peace have the option of working with other cities through our Global Family Program.

One person, perhaps you, will be included on our Advisory Council of Leaders. We will make the announcement about your initiative when the following are received:

1. **Get signatures on the Letter of Intent (download from website, then print, get signatures, and scan to return)**
2. **Write a vision, mission, and goals statement**
3. **Send photos and captions of local events and locations**
4. **Submit a photo and bio for the leader of the group**
5. **Write a statement about the peace legacy of your community**

Once the unique web page for your community is created, we will make the announcement to our membership and the world. Get ready for a life-changing and world-changing experience. Imagine a world of 1000 cities of peace!

12 Benefits of Establishing a City of Peace

1. **Information:** resources/ links to "how to" materials
2. **Affirmation:** membership in a global association
3. **Connections:** alliances with important organizations
4. **Legitimacy:** a higher profile in the world community
5. **Education:** access to exhibits and teaching tools
6. **Funding Options:** links to funders/recommendations
7. **Online Learning:** video and hard-copy documents
8. **Online Presence:** free website page for your peace team
9. **Public Relations:** free news release through blog post
10. **Community:** receive and be featured in newsletters
11. **Database:** access to ICP database for connections
12. **U.N. Representation:** ICP has Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Cost: Free

Process: Letter of Intent as first step

WAYS TO ORGANIZE

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.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Form a group of friends and colleagues who value peace. Connect with Rotary or another civic, faith-based, or grassroots organization.
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.

IDEAS FOR PEACE BUILDING

- 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 programs.

Ideas Other Communities Have Implemented

- Peace Exhibits
- Gardens
- Musical events
- Labyrinth
- Peace Camp
- Peace Tree Day, June 1
- Educational programs
- Interfaith programs
- Int'l 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!**

Including Everyone

Inclusiveness, Diversity, Collaboration

"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. **Creat a Program of Leader** by encouraging individuals to coordinate and publicize your City of Peace activities.

2. **Form an Executive Advisory Panel** of commercial leaders who generate ideas and have connections to area support.

3. **Gather a Group of Citizen Liaisons** who network within their area of expertise (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:

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

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

Declaration and Program 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:

1. **Foster a culture of peace through education**
2. **Promote sustainable economic and social development**
3. **Promote respect for all human rights**
4. **Ensure equality between women and men**
5. **Foster democratic participation**
6. **Advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity**
7. **Support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge**
8. **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.

Sample 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.

Signature Sheet

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

Phone:	Email:

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip

Phone:	Email:

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip

Phone:	Email:

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip

Phone:	Email:

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip

Phone:	Email:

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip

Phone:	Email:

Imagine 1000 Cities of Peace
by Year 2015!

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.

International Cities of Peace
1740 E. Stroop Road; Box 291-761
Dayton, OH 45429 U.S.A.

Website: **http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/**

Email: :info@internationalcitiesofpeace.org

Executive Director: J. Fred Arment
arment@fredarment.com

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/internationalcitiesofpeace/