

# Manila Declaration of 2018

We, ambassadors, educators, parliamentary members and performing and visual artists of nations across the globe, as the delegates and participants of the Global Launch Peace Movement, “Not by Force, but by Art” under the patronage of UNESCO and the endorsement of the UNDP in celebration of UNESCO International Arts Education Week and marking the 70th Anniversary of UNESCO’s responsive post-World War II creation of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), and the ASEAN Decade of Marine and Coastal Environmental Protection, convened from May 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, at the Philippines Senate in Manila, Philippines,

*Recalling the UN’s Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Declaration on a Culture of Peace, UNESCO’s World Declaration on Education for All and Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, UNESCO’s Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, the Hangzhou Declaration Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies, the 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action, The Paris Agreement, and other relevant international instruments of the United Nations system, such as that which formed the UNAOC;*

*Acknowledging that “a key role in the promotion of a culture of peace belongs to parents, teachers, politicians, journalists, religious bodies and groups, intellectuals, those engaged in scientific, philosophical and creative and artistic activities, health and humanitarian workers, social workers, managers at various levels as well as to non-governmental organizations,” (Declaration on a Culture of Peace);*

*Reaffirming “the Right to Culture” under Article 27 of the Declaration of Human Rights, that “everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits”;*

*In concurrence with UNESCO’s Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, statement that “respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,”*

*And recognizing the constant and ever-pressing need for peace in our globalized world, as devastating deaths, destruction and disunity caused by war has been witnessed in all parts of the world;*

*Do hereby proclaim this declaration:*

The arts are a primary means by which all people, individuals and nations, can find ways to transform conflicts into collaboration, and to promote, attain and sustain peace.

Peace is a common aspiration of all nations, the means and end of which is a caring society founded on mutual respect, communication and trust.

We reaffirm the UN's declaration that art, under the greater umbrella of culture, is a human right, "fundamental to human dignity and identity," [3] and as such, everyone is entitled to its access.

Art is the universal language of humanity. It is, in its essence, empathetic and communicative; deeply rooted in history and culture; distinctly and uniquely human; and a trait and practice commonly shared by all peoples, simultaneously integral and transcendent over political affiliation, nationality, and creed.

It is appropriate and necessary for governments to foster artistic creations and to protect the freedom of artistic expression through material and environmental empowerment of artists in every sphere, including but not limited to: music, dance, theatre, martial arts, media arts, and all other artistic endeavors within the womb of culture.

We concur with the statement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations that "the safeguarding and promotion of culture is an end in itself, and at the same time it contributes directly to many of the [Sustainable Development Goals]."

We further enhance this statement to include the essential role of art, which links the ethos of environmental issues to the pathos of universal citizens, and is thus effective in mobilizing current and future generations to confront climate change toward a more environmentally aware and sustainable global society.

As such, the arts carry great potential power for various unifying endeavors, and thus may and should be utilized toward helping to alleviate social ills which plague communities, including poverty, inequity, addiction, inter-group conflict and environmental concerns by:

- Stimulating impoverished or developing communities' economies through promotion of creative industries;

- Enhancing awareness and engagement in environmental responsibility, and strengthening disaster resilience;

- Promoting inclusivity and diversity by providing an environment which cultivates mutual respect and challenges stereotypes;

- Prompting interfaith dialogue and collaboration, by providing a shared space in which the unifying similarities of beliefs are recognized and highlighted;

- Fostering unity between conflicting groups by promoting collaboration toward a common vision, creating a safe environment to address disputes and disagreements;

- "Uniting and engaging peoples of the world in pursuits that will establish solidarity and development" within and among all nations;

- Contributing its inherent therapeutic qualities to healing and rehabilitation processes for all individuals, especially those facing challenges resulting from war, poverty,

delinquency, drug addiction, displacement, climate catastrophes, trauma, imprisonment, and the like;

Improving the quality of life for the differently-abled, physically and mentally handicapped, helping them to discover their further potential through the arts, and facilitating their active societal integration and participation—thus realizing their true potential as *handicapable* artists;

Fulfilling academic curricula with the necessary components of creativity, passion, and skill, as well as knowledge of world cultures;

Developing and stimulating economic vitality, from small rural communities, to growing urban communities, to the global system at large;

Actively promoting social networks which are committed to nurturing the demand for socially responsible arts in the society.

**We, the signatories**, deeply believe and emphatically attest to the truth of these declarations, based on our own national experiences, with proof in the results of methodological artistic action and cultural mediation within our various communities. We have arrived at this declaration after extensive conference and consideration of various cases of successful application.

**We hereby pledge our commitment** to dedicated work alongside our national governments, various partner organizations and corporations, for immediate and effective legislation and action towards:

Re-integration, revitalization & renewal of the arts into the curriculum/agenda of educational programs;

Further governmental and capital investment in the performing arts and other cooperative cultural endeavors;

The organization of both extensive and intensive awareness campaigns which promulgate art as a vital tool for intercultural learning among the masses, to foster global citizenship towards peace;

Recognition and promotion of the arts, not only for their contribution to commercial entertainment, but for their great potential as a force for education, rehabilitation and social empowerment;

Dissemination and mainstreaming of indigenous artistic and cultural practices, not only across one's country but also overseas, through broadcast, cinematic and social media, to provide opportunity for the greatest number of people to appreciate them;

Dissemination and mainstreaming of indigenous artistic and cultural practices not only across one's country but also overseas to ensure that the greatest number of people can appreciate them;

Teaching conflict resolution to youth through various artistic and cultural genres, addressing issues of bullying, discrimination, depression and social isolation;

Coordination with local government units to ensure that they will enable policies and mechanisms for collaborative arts to thrive in their communities;

Orienting the private sector towards incorporating the arts as a means to success and collaboration, into their corporate social responsibilities;

The material and conditional empowerment of artists, who as the conduits of social change and as cultural diplomatic initiators, should be provided facilitation for visa requirements;

Actively engaging and facilitating the cooperation of artists, educators, religious officials and civic leaders.

**We additionally propose** that annually, during International Arts Education Week, UNESCO patronage will be given to the host for continuation of the International Peace Movement “Not by Force but by Art”, subsequent hosts being Colombia, Sri Lanka and Namibia.

**We, the signatories of the Manila Declaration**, abide by our declarations and hereby affirm our dedication to its consequent responsibilities. **We furthermore propose an action plan attached as an appendix, to be carried out on the local, regional and global levels.**

We submit this declaration to UNESCO, our state governments, appropriate local government agencies, the media, concerned business firms and foundations, other persons and bodies that can act on the issues mentioned above, in particularly, the ASEAN Secretariat for Social-Cultural Community Department, SEAMEO and United Nation Resident Coordinator of each country.

*This declaration was signed by participants individually and/or in behalf of their respective organizations on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year 2018, in observance of UNESCO International Arts Education Week.*

# Framework for Action

In our increasingly globalized world, all aspects of society are being experienced as an ever-tightening web. The solution to the problems which confront this nexus of society, must be a peaceful means which addresses its multi-faceted nature.

Art, along with its relatives media and sports within the family of culture, must further be applied as a promulgatory tool to the solution of the most pressing global challenges of survival, those of international conflicts and anthropogenic climate change.

We propose that in addition to the “Blue Army”, there is a larger Rainbow Army of creative people in various spheres, including those who mobilize via their artistic work, traditions and heritages. We must recognize and utilize these forces for peace, mobilizing them as an armour against division, prejudice, hate, greed and corruption, towards harmonious co-existence.

As the new wave of dynamic application of the arts, we hereby declare our goal to utilize the comprehensive value of art as a bridging mechanism in all areas of society, including but not limited to: governance, education, environmental learning, rehabilitation, and conflict resolution.

## **Local Implementation**

Instill a realization that an essential ingredient in governance is that of cultural communication, by which the local cultures are considered, respected and utilized as an instrument and bridge among peoples and their governments.

Allocate public works spaces for creativity throughout all regions, especially rural, impoverished, or underserved localities, in order to encourage artistic discovery within and among all cultures and peoples.

## **Governmental Application**

Recognize that culture be considered as a rich and worthy enterprise for governmental capital investment.

Promote the right to culture of every citizen by means of increased cultural caregiving services and high arts level training, accessible to every citizen—poor or rich, handicapped or able, throughout their lifetime—thus confronting the gridlock of poverty and underdevelopment.

Elevate the status of artists and granting due respect for their travel, so that their entrance into countries is not prevented by changes among political relations. Thus we uphold the value and importance of culture for peace and sustainable development.

We encourage the governments of all countries to host regional and global events, utilizing the UN observance of International Arts Week as a focal point of celebration, yet not limiting its promulgation in duration or distance.

## **Global/International Level**

Form linkages between and among individual nations' projects, thus furthering the global citizenship paradigm and unify our vision for a sustainable world.

In November 2018, our Art Speak for Peace Movement will be continued in Colombia through cooperation with the South-South Cooperation Council in liaison with InSEA; focusing on South Asia and small island states in the Pacific Sri Lanka through the ITI social change network with Janakarilya; and in 2019 a reprise for the African Region will be hosted in Namibia.

Co-integrate art and technology—utilizing visual, broadcast, and social media—as a means to popularize and actualize the Sustainable Development Goals.

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UNESCO Assembly of Goodwill Ambassadors and Artists for Peace (from Ecuador, Germany, Sudan, the Republic of Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines)

Hosted by

The Senate of the Philippines

Philippine Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Environment & Agriculture, and Culture & Education

City of Manila Mayor's Office/Universidad de Manila

Senate Spouses Foundation

Emilio Aguinaldo College Theater

Other Government and Affiliated Organizations of the Philippines:

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO)

National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)

Department of Education (DepED)

Philippines Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)

Department of Tourism, Intramuros Administration (DOT-IA)

Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

The DFA Office of United Nations and International Organizations (UNIO)

Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

Department of Public Works & Highways (DPWH)

Department of Interior & Local Government (DILG)

Goethe-Institut Manila

Philippine Information Agency (PIA)

Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)

National Commission for Culture & the Arts (NCCA)

Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)

Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR)

International Theatre Institute (ITI)

International Society for Education through Art (InSEA)

Asia-Pacific Performing Arts Network (APPAN), UNESCO-NGO

ZenDance Association

Cooperating Manila Hotels: Eurotel-Pedro Gil Suite, The Manila Hotel, The Pearl Manila Hotel, and Hotel Jen