



ART SPEAK FOR PEACE – FESTIVAL /FORUM under UNESCO Patronage

The Event:

The Global Launch of the **International Peace Movement: Not by Force but by Art** under UNESCO Patronage is scheduled for the **20th to the 23rd of May 2018** for the twin observance of *UNESCO World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (May 21)*, and to usher *Arts Education Week* of UNESCO on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) to underscore the *UNESCO Decade for Cultural Rapprochement* and the ASEAN declared *Marine and Coastal Protection*

I. Nature of the Twin Program and Rationale:

*** The Festival:**

This cultural diplomatic initiative consists of a *Music-Dance-Theatre Arts Concert with* participants from claimant countries of the conflicted West Philippine/China Sea and the divided Korean Peninsula to help lower the decibel of confrontation and aggressive behavior.

Arts serve as the catalyst for interaction and people to people strategy. The universal language of the arts can bond and link people together considering the rising tension among contending parties with regard to islets in the West Philippine Sea-China Sea. Artists from conflicted areas in the world can model the pathway in recognizing the crucial cohesive, transformative role of culture in binding the social fabric of nations in generating trust, tolerance & respect of a cultural diversity to achieve peace to prevail on Earth.

The music peace theatre gathering can heal like a “Balm in Gilead” to help fertilize the ground for more conciliatory political rhetoric in determining a reasonable, ethical resolution of clashing interests. Effective communications can inform, sensitize and motivate all involved to refrain from the use of violence and to care for a peaceful resolution of disputes.

We must draw the lesson from history that war is insanity. Artist teachers can be harnessed as a creative army to combat poverty, prejudice, exclusion, isolation and ignorance that breeds armed conflict. We must remember that justice, equity, truth, tolerance, compassion and freedom are essential ingredients to live in peace.

*** The Forum:**

The Festival is complemented with an Interdisciplinary, Interfaith, and Inclusive Leaders Forum in education, culture, environment, science and communications. It will forge a *Manila Declaration* on implementing cultural rapprochement through the dynamic, inclusive application of arts and media for popularizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and scientific data for the protection of the ocean as a carbon sink from pollution and overheating of the waters to mitigate further climate change catastrophes. It is also geared to promote understanding of the oceans as a global commons to guarantee free unhampered access of the sea lanes with adherence to the Law of the Sea. Arts, likewise, has an inherent therapeutic character to help heal trauma of war victims and refugees of ecological disasters. **ART SPEAK FOR PEACE** is meant to showcase the dynamic possibilities of art mediation and cultural understanding for mitigating armed conflict and promoting reconciliation, unification and rehabilitation.

ART SPEAK FOR PEACE is a conscientizing force that touches the heart & mind to impact on global public opinion and pressure political leaders to negate armed conflict. We are in the UNESCO led decade of cultural rapprochement, an auspicious critical time to ease tensions underscoring the value of harmonious connectivity and co-existence in the Asia-Pacific region.

II. Brief Background:

This significant gathering **ART SPEAK FOR PEACE** was approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors and Artists for Peace in May 2016 affirmed in April 2017 it was unanimously agreed upon at the General Conference of the International Theatre Institute in July 2017, the World Performing Arts Organization in consultative status with UNESCO. (Attached is the letter of patronage of *UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay*, the endorsement of the International Theatre Institute, the UNESCO Philippine Delegation Office in Paris, and our UN Mission *Ambassador Teodoro Locsin, Jr.* as well as letter of endorsement of *Senator Loren Legarda*, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations and Climate Change as well as *Senator Cynthia Villar* that heads committees on Environment and Agriculture Other partners are Office of City of Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, Senate Spouses Foundation, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), United Nations Information Center, the Climate institute, the Senate Spouses Foundation, South South Cooperation Council, DOT/IA, Climate Change Commission Interfaith Dialogue, Radyo Balintataw, PAGCOR, DOTR, NCCA, DENR and NYC.

III. Mechanics: The artist's selection will be drawn from the roster of UNESCO Artists for Peace and ITI nominated artists and Government designated cultural groups from relevant countries.

Invitations Sent to:

- 1.) UNESCO National Commission & Embassies of targeted participants for the Festival & the Forum
- 2.) Directory of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors & Artists for Peace
- 3.) Our Ambassadors in Foreign Embassies
- 4.) Special Invitations to Panelists, ASEAN and Dialogue Partners
- 5.) Local participation of local artists through NCCA, teachers and students of Dep-Ed and CHED.
- 6.) Facilitation DFA-UNIO and strategic communications office

Government are requested to pay for the travel fare of duly selected participants while our Organizing Committee shall undertake the local hospitality of hotel accommodations, food and internal transport as well as rehearsals, production and documentation support for the performances – Public/Private partnership is the source of funding.

IV. Program Schedule:

The Forum will be held on **21st and 22nd of May** while the concert of individual country performances will be on the 20th as well as a collective collaborative interfaith, intercultural, theatrical liturgy for peace linked to the SDGs with a special focus on the protection of the oceans will be undertaken on the evening of the 22nd. The 23rd is the presentation of the Manila Declaration for peace and the SDGs to officials of the Philippine government and representatives of UNESCO, ASEAN and other cooperating U.N. agencies. Malacanang PCOO has been requested to host press conference hopefully to be followed by courtesy call with President Rodrigo Duterte.

As a prelude to the event, a radio Soap Opera on Peace and the SDGs will start its world premiere broadcast and webcast at DZRH in celebration World Creativity and Innovation Day as well as Earth Day (April 22)

FOR RSVP:

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Frank Rivera, Festival Coordinator

ORGANIZERS:

Earthsavers UNESCO Dream Center/Artist for Peace linked to the
UNESCO Office of Goodwill Ambassadors

International Theatre Institute Social Change Network and Philippine Center

FORUM HOST VENUE:

Senate under discussion, through Senate Spouses Foundation
with support of Senate Committees on Foreign Relations of Climate Environment & Agriculture,
Education & Culture,
Tourism and Public Information.

FESTIVAL HOST VENUE:

Tanghalan Yaman Lahi through Manila City **Mayor Joseph Estrada** and EAC **Chairman Danny Dolor**
with exhibit by **Nemiranda Art House**