



DETROIT RENAISSANCE PEACE CENTER/IXTAPA ZIHUATANEJO PEACE PROGRAM

The community of Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico, with the help of the Detroit Renaissance District Peace Center, has partnered with the United Nations to develop a program to create a “Culture of Peace,” especially among our children.

Each year, the community celebrates the UN International Day of Peace and conducts Peace Education activities for an annual certification as a “Culture of Peace Community.”



The Peace Pole Monument of Zihuatanejo

Donors and Sponsors:

Detroit Renaissance District Peace Center, Southfield, Michigan
Club SKAL Ixtapa 646
Dorado Pacifico Resort – Ixtapa
Teresa Rodríguez Laurel
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IZ Properties - Ixtapa
Sister Cities of Zihuatanejo
Club Rotario de Zihuatanejo
Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero, Ext. Zihuatanejo

Inscription:

“May Peace Prevail on Earth” in Nahuátl (native language), Spanish, French and English to represent our diversity

2010

In 2010, with the help of the [Detroit Renaissance District Peace Center](#) in Southfield, Michigan, public officials, business leaders and community members of Ixtapa Zihuatanejo participated in Peace Seminars on non-violence. Donors contributed funds to construct a Peace Pole Monument in Olof Palme Park in Zihuatanejo as a reminder of the commitment to work towards peace.

2011

In 2011, the United Nations paid tribute to the contributions of Africans to the world. With the help of the Peace Committee, the Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero, Facultad de Turismo in Zihuatanejo consulted with universities and museums in Michigan, USA to develop an educational exhibit and website about President Vicente Guerrero and Afro-Mexicans in Guerrero. The project was funded by a grant from the [Michigan Humanities Council](#) and [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.](#) The exhibit is touring schools, libraries and universities in Michigan. The exhibit will open at the Chrysler Center in Detroit in October. The website is available for student education: www.FreedomPathways.org. To date, over 30,000 people have visited the website and exhibit.

2012

In 2012, Francisco Huitron Morales, a graduating student from Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero (Zihuatanejo’s tourism university) wrote a thesis on how to develop a culture of peace in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo that included many ideas now being used to teach peace in our schools and to promote peace to the international community.

2013

The theme for the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21st was “Education for Peace.” Ixtapa Zihuatanejo conducted a commemoration ceremony on that date. From September 2013 until February 2014, students will participate in workshops and activities for Peace. Educational materials are on-line at: www.Imagine-Mexico.com. The UN announced Ixtapa Zihuatanejo’s Peace Program through its worldwide communication network.

2014

In February 2014, the community will host a [Celebration of Peace](#) and receive re-certification as a “Culture of Peace” community during the [Zihuatanejo Sail Fest](#) (February 4-9) sponsored by the ["Por Los Niños" Charity](#) that raises funds to build schools in Zihuatanejo and to provide student scholarships. The international community is invited to attend.



DETROIT RENAISSANCE DISTRICT PEACE CENTER
Requirements for Certification as a
“Culture of Peace Community”

Latin American Coordinators: Patricia Ann Talley de Tucker, pattalley@imagine-mexico.com
William (Bill) Tucker, billtucker@imagine-mexico.com
Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, México

In 2010, the [Detroit Renaissance District Peace Center](#) in Southfield, Michigan created a **“Culture of Peace Certification Program” in partnership with the United Nations**, to implement a peace education program in the tourist town of Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico. Uplifting the local community’s image means more tourism; tourism means jobs; jobs mean education and provisions for families; happy families are at peace.

Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico was the first community to be certified under this “Culture of Peace Certification” program and serves as an example for other communities throughout the world. (See the history.)

Requirements for Certification:

1. The community should form a Peace Committee (municipal representatives, educators, civic organizations, local volunteers, etc.) to organize and implement its annual Peace Program.
2. Local government officials, civic organizations, educators, residents and students must attend a Peace Education Seminar(s) conducted by a local peace organization or by the Peace Center.
3. The community must raise funds to construct a Peace Pole Monument, and place it in a highly-visible location, as a reminder of its commitment to work together towards peace. This Peace Pole Monument connects the community with over 250,000 others throughout the world.
4. The community must commemorate the International Day of Peace on September 21st of each year.
5. The community must implement an on-going, Peace Education program that can include a variety of activities regarding any of the 5 Spheres of Peace: Personal, Social, Political, Institutional or Environmental.
 - Art, conservation, music, health, diversity, peace gardens, festivals, etc.
6. The local Peace Committee should submit a quarterly report to the Peace Center of its activities.
7. Re-Certification will be conducted annually or upon the change of local government administration, currently every four (4) years. (To be decided by the local Peace Committee.)