

UNESCO ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS PROGRAMME NETWORK (ASPnet)

Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

Finding peace with ourselves and our planet

Introduction & Launch

Jannette Cheong

UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

‘What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.’

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

(1869-1948)

UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

- The 3 Coventry Pilot Projects, and their origin
- Why the three UNESCO ASPnet Action Areas are important to everybody
- Arts & Culture for Peace Activities
- How schools can participate. *Who? Does what? With whom? With what effect?*
- Next steps
- Questions

Pilot Projects (Origin)



Kinue Oshima performing *Between the Stones*, World Premiere, at the Southbank Centre, London, 31 January 2020.

Photograph by Clive Barda

- The Coventry projects were part of the Japan-UK *Between the Stones Project* education & outreach programme (2018-2021)
- Three peace projects by five UK Primary Schools (Coventry's Young Ambassadors)

www.betweenthestones.com/schools-project

The Coventry [Cities of Peace Schools Projects](#) combined art, culture and education to inspire peace, reconciliation and the sustainability of our planet.

from tragic loss to peace...

TANZAKU PEACE POEMS

- Objectives
- Introduce noh theatre and *Between the Stones*, and study the history of Coventry and Hiroshima
 - Write peace poems and create tanzaku and furin wind chimes from recycled materials
 - Display tanzaku peace poems on 'Peace Tree' for the 2018 Armistice Centenary at Coventry Cathedral



Coventry Young Ambassadors
CITIES OF PEACE SCHOOLS PROJECTS



from tragic loss to peace...

NOH THEATRE

- Objectives
- Learn key aspects of movement, poetic texts and masks from noh theatre workshop
 - Write dramatic poetic songs and decorate card masks inspired by noh
 - Perform noh-inspired work on Hiroshima Day 2019 at Coventry Cathedral



Coventry Young Ambassadors
CITIES OF PEACE SCHOOLS PROJECTS



from tragic loss to peace...

KARESANSUI GARDENS

- Objectives
- Study karesansui gardens
 - Discuss how such gardens reflect peace, respect nature, and protect our planet
 - Inspire and learn from building a karesansui garden that reflects Coventry's ethos of peace



Coventry Young Ambassadors
CITIES OF PEACE SCHOOLS PROJECTS



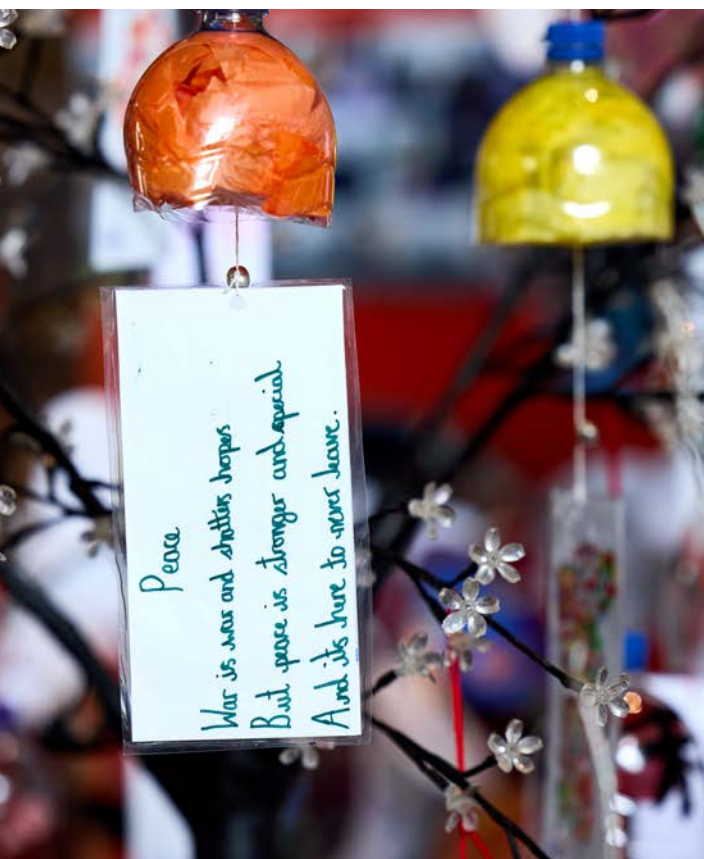
Pilot Projects (2018)



KEY ELEMENTS

1. Coventry Young Ambassadors Exhibition of 'Peace Trees' *'from tragic loss to peace'*

- Relatively simple project for teachers and children to undertake in the classroom
- 180 Coventry Young Ambassadors (CYAs) created individual peace poems (*tanzaku*) hung from hand-made wind chimes (*furin*) made from recycled materials.
- Efforts of all the children put together added value/strength to the children's messages of peace & reconciliation by creating CYA (Reusable) 'Peace Trees'
- Opportunities for shared learning of the children's peace messages at appropriate & timely public events/exhibitions in both Coventry and London.



Pilot Projects (2019)



2. Coventry Young Ambassadors' Perform Peace & Reconciliation Stories/Songs

KEY ELEMENTS

- Studied the impact of WW2 on Coventry & Hiroshima, now International Cities of Peace, (including virtual session with Keiko Ogura)
- Learned about another cultural art form (noh theatre) from two workshops organised with the *Between the Stones* team, working with professional noh actor (Kinue Oshima), mask maker (Kitazawa Hideta) and the Japan Society
- Created travel songs and a short noh-influenced play about conflict, peace and reconciliation and examples performed at Coventry Cathedral twice 1) Hiroshima Day, 6 August 2019, 2) Coventry City of Culture, Japan Arts Festival 2021.



Pilot Projects (2020-21)



3. Coventry Young Ambassadors' Japanese Peace Garden - 'Islands of Peace' - a children's legacy

KEY ELEMENTS

- Children created a beautiful 'mindful' space from 'idea to reality' (involved in design, planning and delivery - including the opening ceremony) which supports all Action Areas
- Benefits communities locally and internationally
- Supported by many collaborators (including the Japanese Garden Society, expert construction workers and many funding partners, and in-kind resources (mostly people's time) primarily because of the children's involvement
- Transformative project for all involved, which would not have been possible without local leadership



Pilot Projects - some additional thoughts

Coventry Young Ambassadors

コヴェントリー子ども大使

Cities of Peace Schools Projects

平和都市学校教育プロジェクト

Contributing to the 2019-2021 Japan-UK Season of Culture and the *Between the Stones* project, and incorporating the UNESCO vision to inspire peace in the minds of men, women and children



Working in association with the *Between the Stones* Team, Japan Society and Japanese Garden Society, with support from Coventry City Council, National Lottery Fund, Eurovia, Chiel Construction, Mitsubishi Corporation and many others

The pilot projects provide a number of generic points that may be useful to others - in different ways - as part of the UNESCO Arts & Culture Initiative.

Some additional thoughts:

We were reminded that young people:

- have a good understanding, and can synthesise effectively, humanitarian concepts such as the need for peace, reconciliation and sustainability
- have the capacity to accept and learn from cultures very different from their own
- are also keen to keep an open mind and positively seek out opportunities and additional benefits that may appear, or can be created, along the way
- appreciate projects that can work on a number of levels to add value and benefit - and that this is not only possible, but critically important.

UNESCO ASPnet - Three Action Areas

Why the three UNESCO ASPnet Action Areas are important to everybody?

It is vital for the world to tackle three of the greatest challenges facing humanity. These are also key UNESCO ASPnet Action Areas:

- achieving a culture of peace and non-violence and a meaningful sense of global citizenship
- delivering sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles
- and learning across cultures and appreciating cultural diversity and heritage.

UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

'The UNESCO ASPnet Action areas are vital, interrelated and urgent for everybody. Without peace we cannot achieve sustainability, and without having a tolerant relationship between cultures we will not have peace. Without peace, all of our human rights are at risk.

Art has the potential to provide a creative mirror through which we can reflect on our impact on society.'

The Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative encourages action that supports the three UNESCO ASPnet Action Areas and at the same time will benefit individual children and our wider communities.

UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

Project activities

Your school could develop any of the following 'transformative' arts & culture for peace projects **to benefit individual students and the wider community:**

- **e-forest for Peace** – the development of artistically dynamic peace trees (real or imagined) involving the creation of peace poems and/or peace images **to highlight the importance of living in peace with ourselves, our communities and our planet**
- **Performing Arts for Peace** – the development and performance of stories, plays and songs **that reflect our global citizenship, cultural diversity and the challenges of ensuring a more peaceful world**
- **Gardens for Peace** – the creation of peace gardens that **support the well-being of others, as well as convey the critical and urgent importance of living more peacefully and sustainably with nature, ourselves and our planet.**
- Outcomes will be shared internationally.

UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace

How can you participate?

- **Who?** The Initiative is open to pre-primary, primary, secondary, technical or vocational education, (in formal or non-formal settings), and to teacher training
- **Does what?** Schools can work flexibly on one, two, or all three of the Arts & Culture for Peace activities - or any combination of these - in support of the ASPnet Action Areas
Schools are asked to begin by undertaking their own study of 'conflict and peace'
In realising their ideas, Schools are asked to use a 'less is more' creative and philosophical approach to reflect the spirit of sustainability across diverse cultures
- **With whom?** Schools can undertake new work, or join a project to add further value to existing work.
Schools could collaborate with artists and other partners
- **With what effect?** The results of these activities should aim to benefit local and (by sharing outcomes, also) international communities as well as represent the ASPnet Action Areas.

UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative



UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

Success criteria: High quality impact/benefits of activities supporting the Action Areas for as many students and communities internationally as the National ASPnet Coordinators believe is possible. Outcomes brought together by UNESCO Paris to add further collective value.

The Coventry Schools Peace Projects laid the foundation. This included the children's legacy 'Islands of Peace' garden, benefitting local communities and visitors, and adding value to Coventry International City of Peace and the three UNESCO Action Areas.

Where are we now?

Where are we going?

How will we know if we have been successful ?

NEXT STEPS:
For the Initiative
(to be reviewed each year for the next 3 years)

How will we get there?

Inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes:
Identifying a local person to take the lead is critical to galvanising others (and other resources) as needed. Those supporting schools will need to understand the artistic & cultural opportunities to help schools find the most impactful ways of delivering the Action Areas.

The aim is to encourage this kind of impact to benefit other regions and countries; and collectively to give children's voice to the UNESCO ASPnet Action Areas greater international volume, depth and meaning.

UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

Our opportunity

- To demonstrate that **peace can prove to be stronger than conflict & division**
- To illustrate that **'from acorns mighty oak trees do grow'** - individual creative elements from each student can be enjoyed, shared, discussed and combined **to produce creative group outcomes** which can be shared to benefit our wider communities locally and internationally - by working together as global citizens...
- To give voice to our children - **the future belongs to them** - their ideas about how we can **strengthen the ASPnet Action Areas matter** and can support the international community effectively by creating opportunities from the challenges which lay ahead...



UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

We look forward to your questions and to learning about your work and from the discussions today - and how you will put this to good use in the future.

We very much hope your work can be incorporated into the UNESCO ASPnet Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative.

We declare this Initiative officially launched!

More information related to joining the Initiative is on the website: _____
<https://unesco.org.uk/arts-culture-for-peace-initiative/>

Arts & Culture for Peace Initiative

Finding peace with ourselves and our planet

<https://unesco.org.uk/arts-culture-for-peace-initiative/>