

Peace Tree Sculpture Project

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The Peace Tree Sculpture Project is a collaborative, global project that uses sculpture to promote a plan for global peace authored by Professor Jean Lipman-Blumen. The intent of the project is to create a multi-piece sculpture through a collaborative process which will tour internationally before being installed at a permanent site, perhaps in Oslo.

The impact should be global, with participants from a variety of institutions and countries, and opportunities for anyone to see/experience aspects of the project world-wide. Secondary school and higher education clubs, curriculum and activities can be developed to invite communities to participate locally while following the Peace Sculpture globally. The project will invite participation from multiple communities: arts, education, institutional, and peace advocates.

The message of the sculpture should express the desire for, and fragility of, peace. The concept for using a tree began with a magnificent Magnolia tree in the garden of Prof Lipman-Blumen. Now dying, the tree must be cut down, but using wood from this tree in the sculpture makes a statement about revival, hope, and life. The reminder that one individual can lead significant change is important, and it incites others to take action. The intimidation of solving an overwhelming problem leads to paralysis, and this is a message not just of hope, but a call to action.

The sculpture could take many forms, but having multiple parts which can be created and then travel alone, but later be reunited as a whole, conveys the message that collaboration created the project and is needed to create peace. Action at disparate sites can be united for collective achievement. Having multiple pieces also allows for the possibility of multiple artists creating the sculpture at different locations, with the whole meaning more than the parts. Some possibilities would be to involve art institutions as sponsors of pieces. Art schools such as The Art Center, in Pasadena, could make the sculpture a studio project, using wood from the tree. Or professional artists could collaborate. The process itself will be an outgrowth of collaboration among sponsoring institutions.

The vision of the sculptures will develop out of the process, but a few ideas have been suggested: an ensemble of figures reaching for or supporting a physical representation of a fragile peace; lightweight geometric forms as a reference to nature and multi-culture symbols of ancient and universal mythology, as suggested by sculptor John Mangan; a reference to the original tree and the repairing of a broken world.

The sculpture could potentially be an Energy Sculpture -a sculpture which generates renewable energy to inspire sustainability leadership- which expands the message as well as connects to participants of the Energy Necklace Project. Peace is needed to make a sustainable planet, and the work for peace needs to be renewed and sustained forever. The messages support each other and can be expressed in one project.

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The Peace Tree Sculpture Project is a collaboration between Professor Lipman-Blumen and architect Susan Israel.

Jean Lipman-Blumen, Ph.D., is the Thornton F. Bradshaw Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Organizational Behavior at CGU's Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management. Professor Lipman-Blumen is director and co-founder of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Leadership at the Drucker/Ito Graduate School of Management. She has served as assistant director of the National Institute of Education and as special advisor to the Domestic Policy Staff in the White House under President Jimmy Carter. Professor Lipman-Blumen has consulted to various governments and private sector organizations and is president of the Connective Leadership Institute, a leadership development, training, and research firm in Pasadena, CA. Professor Lipman-Blumen has published seven books, three monographs, and more than 150 articles on leadership, crisis management, public policy, organizational behavior, and gender issues, including her peace plan: "A Connective Leadership Strategy for Global and Enduring Peace." In 2012, she was awarded the International Leadership Association's (ILA) Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the development of the field of leadership.

Susan Israel, AIA, LEED AP, is a principal of studio2sustain which develops inspirational projects to support a healthy planet. The mission-based practice includes sustainability/innovation/leadership training and consulting, green architecture, sculpture, and education. Susan also is a founder of the Energy Necklace Project, a sculpture project which promotes sustainability and innovation leadership through workshops, art and education. The Energy Necklace was selected to be used as a leadership exercise in Harvard Business School's new FIELD curriculum, and will be used by Harvard's Innovation lab. Studio2sustain is located in Newton and New Bedford, Massachusetts.