



Philosophical Statement

The Dayton International Peace Museum is a space to make peace. It is everyone's place to learn, contemplate, dream, and work for realization of a more peaceful world. Like other museums, the Peace Museum is dedicated to displaying, preserving, creating, encouraging and celebrating the artifacts of peace that further its mission: to inspire a culture of peace.

Respect is a core value of the Museum. It is expressed in the inclusive welcome all people receive, no matter what creed, race, religion, idea, or other areas of the diverse worldwide peace community they represent. The only requirement when visitors and volunteers come to the Museum is openness to nonviolent solutions and showing respect for others.

As a cultural institution, the Peace Museum is dedicated to finding areas of unity and common ground. Rather than prescribing or sanctioning particular ways to peace, the Museum embraces the idea that conflict comes in many subtle forms, including imposing one "truth" over another. To that end, the Museum works to achieve consensus and to minimize the fear that closes minds. Polarizing symbols and unnecessary antagonisms are avoided. Politicization is absent.

Though a small part of the Museum is to be a witness to war and violence, the focus is on nonviolent solutions that can be used in the present and future to create peace. All ways to work for peace, both internal and external, are included in Museum sponsored exhibits, activities, and events. Sixteen specific nonviolent approaches to conflict and violence have been identified. They include education, relational, artistic, environmental, civic, and spiritual, among others.

Museum volunteers are living testimonials that this respectful and profound philosophy can change the world. Many have said that being associated with the Museum has led to a positive transformational experience in their lives. Whether it is working with the international peace community, or creating the next generation of peacemakers through local educational programs, volunteers put into practice the practical, nonviolent solutions the Museum represents. Help protect the Peace Museum's philosophy so that everyone can find their own path to peace.