



World Interfaith Harmony Week 2019

UNITY EARTH, a global network of organizations and individuals standing together for unity and peace, recently completed a groundbreaking series of events in New York City to celebrate United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week. Building upon successful gatherings in Ethiopia, Australia and Canada, the series brought together a UNITY EARTH delegation of interfaith leaders, peacemakers, diplomats, indigenous elders, academics and musicians for a week of public engagements and community outreach.



UNITY EARTH *Lift Off* Saturday February 2, 2019

Highlighting the week was the UNITY EARTH Lift Off, a four hour showcase of peace and interfaith collaboration held at the historic United Palace, a breathtaking spiritual artistry center in Washington Heights. Featuring a diverse line-up of performers and esteemed speakers, the concert and live broadcast was a powerful nexus of culture, creativity, and inspirational stories woven together to celebrate our common humanity. The event attracted approximately 1,000 attendees to the theater and reached over 100,000 online via the Live Stream, promotional videos and related posts.

The concert featured a cast of globally-renowned touring artists including BELLA GAIA, a NASA-powered live concert that blends music, technology, and satellite imagery to illuminate our interconnectedness and turn the stage planetary. International artists include British reggae legend Pato Banton and Chinese meditative chanting artist Mystic Voice. The event also featured major NYC-based talents including holistic hip-hop legend Akim Funk Buddha (with his dance troupe the Bonsai Lab), Juilliard-trained vocalist Kristin Hoffmann, and indigenous Caribbean (Taino) & Spanish master percussionist William Ruiz.

Guest speakers included Audrey Kitagawa (Parliament of the World's Religions), Ambassador Mussie Hailu (United Religions Initiative), Jonathan Granoff (Global Security Institute), Dr. Mindahi Bastida (Center for Earth Ethics), Syed Salman Chishty (India), Sister Jenna (USA), Ramapough-Lenape Chief Dwaine Perry, Hereditary Dakota Chief Phil Lane Jr and many more.



"I commend the organizers of UNITY EARTH for convening such a rich and potent gathering of intertwining lives moving together through the power of our hearts to manifest culture, arts, music, film and speeches in a symphony of goodwill, harmony and joy. The experience served as a remembrance of the creativity of our inherent inner potential to bring forth sublime beauty while simultaneously having transcendence that returns us to the ground of sacred being from which we all arise." - **Audrey Kitagawa, Chair, Parliament of the World's Religions**

"It is a great pleasure for United Religions Initiative (URI) to join hands with UNITY EARTH on the occasion of the celebration of the 2019 World Interfaith Harmony Week on the event of UNITY EARTH Lift Off that brought together indigenous leaders, musicians, diplomats, artists, scientists, peace activists, interfaith and faith-based organization representatives along with youth, women and guests of all ages to stand together as unified beacons of hope that yearns for justice, healing, peace, compassion, harmony and the preservation of Mother Earth." - **Ambassador Mussie Hailu, United Religions Initiative (URI) Director of Global Partnership and Representative to the African Union & UN**

"UNITY EARTH's celebration in New York for UN World Interfaith Harmony Week was a beautiful tapestry of events. Visiting dignitaries from around the world joined local artists and communities for the pinnacle event - the UNITY EARTH Lift Off - at United Palace on Saturday February 2nd. This event was interfaith, multicultural and intergenerational and all the acts and presentations inspired hope and optimism, amidst the many challenges the global community currently faces." - **Ben Bowler, Executive Director, UNITY EARTH**

"I wish I was physically present with you today to thank all the co-sponsors for inviting me to participate in this event to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week in New York. This week is a very important moment, not only for the United Nations, but everywhere in the world. Events are held in numerous countries to honor religions diversity and interfaith dialogue as essential elements to peaceful and inclusive societies. The UNITY EARTH *Lift Off* event is of relevance as it celebrates our common humanity despite our differences." - **Adama Dieng, UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide**



UNITY EARTH

2.2.19 *lift off* N.Y.C.

NEW HARMONIES FOR A NEW BEGINNING



A multigenerational, intercultural, interactive concert and live broadcast featuring...

BELLA GAIA, PATO BANTON, CHIEF DWAIN PERRY, MING SHAN, LYLA JUNE
KRISTIN HOFFMANN, AKIM FUNK BUDDHA, MYSTIC VOICE, KARENNA GORE
DR. MINDAHI BASTIDA, CHIEF PHIL LANE JR, MUSSIE HAILU, WILLIAM RUIZ
IMPACT YOUTH, SYED SALMAN CHISHTY, MARY EVELYN TUCKER, JON GRIM



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2ND, 2019
DOORS 2PM | CONCERT 3:00-6:30PM



\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION
KIDS 12 AND UNDER FREE



UNITED PALACE 4140 BROADWAY
@ 175TH ST NEW YORK CITY

TICKETS & PROGRAM

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Free livestream via UNITY EARTH Facebook





Visit to the High School for Excellence and Innovation

Thursday January 31st, 2019

On Thursday Jan 31st, two days before the *Lift Off* concert, an international UNITY EARTH delegation visited the High School for Excellence and Innovation in Upper Manhattan, inspiring students and teachers with a message of cross-cultural collaboration and a call to leadership in the world. UNITY EARTH donated instruments to the school's music program and has kickstarted an innovative Marketing and Mindfulness Program for students to begin in March 2019.



Lyla June Johnston performing for students



Pato Banton & Antoinette Roots with HSEI students and Founding Principal Tyona Washington



New York Convergence - Leadership & Visioning Conference

Friday February 1st, 2019

The event series continued on Friday Feb 1st with UNITY EARTH New York Convergence, a leadership and visioning conference that brought together over 100 interfaith leaders, peacemakers, event producers and more to create increased opportunities for collaboration and impact, with a particular focus on the co-design of the UNITY EARTH Road to 2020 event series. Held at 4W43 near Times Square, the Feb 1st conference came to a climax with the Opening Ceremony for World Interfaith Harmony Week hosted in partnership with Compassion Games and OneSpirit Learning Alliance, as well as local and visiting Indigenous Elders. The Opening Ceremony was broadcast live on social media and distributed via the innovative SINE Network (Synerized Impact Network Exchange).





UNITY EARTH Visit to Ramapough-Lenape Nation

Monday February 4th, 2019

On Monday Feb 4th, the UNITY EARTH delegation was invited by Chief Dwaine Perry to visit the Ramapough-Lenape First Nations community. It was a powerful opportunity for our visiting representatives from many faiths and nations to participate in a time of cultural exchange and connection featuring traditional ceremony led by local elders in collaboration with Hereditary Dakota Chief Phil Lane Jr.





UNITY EARTH Pilgrimage to Philadelphia Tuesday February 5th, 2019

On Tuesday Feb 5th, a UNITY EARTH delegation led by Jonathan Granoff (Global Security Institute) and Syed Salman Chishty (India) embarked on a pilgrimage to Philadelphia to honor the legacy of Sufi master Hazret Bawa Muhaiyedeem and complete a powerful week of diverse interfaith activities that inspired thousands in person and on social media.





2019 World Interfaith Harmony Week Global Broadcast February 1st - 7th, 2019

In partnership with the Compassion Games and SINE Network, UNITY EARTH helped to facilitate the 2019 Harmony Week Global Broadcast, a week-long series of live-streamed events in and around New York City. By leveraging the growing community of SINE network members, the broadcast extended the New York-based World Interfaith Harmony Week events to tens of thousands of people all over the world.



ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



PARTNERS



LINKS

www.unity.earth
www.unity.earth/lift-off/

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