

Today more than ever, the future of the world and its inhabitants depends on people working together to peacefully solve the challenges we face collectively. We can all play an important role in this and shape the world we live in.

One way in which this can be achieved is by dedicating specific spaces for such actions. Open spaces full of natural beauty are especially appropriate, since these landscapes restore the being and create a perfect space for reflection oriented towards positive change. A special place within the Jardín Botánico de Vallarta recently received the distinction of Mexico's International Peace Garden by the International Peace Garden Foundation.

The mayors of Puerto Vallarta and Cabo Corrientes jointly requested this recognition by integrating their communities in favor of peace and selecting the Botanical Garden of Vallarta as the site for this International Peace Garden. This election took into consideration both the award-winning beauty of the Vallarta Botanical Garden and its leadership to connect people of different nationalities and cultures for peace activities.

The first public event in this new space is scheduled for Monday, January 16 (2:00 - 3:00 pm) called "Sharing Peace" - a time of reflection and peacemaking for this New Year and future years. Everyone is welcome. Ministers of all doctrines, musicians and community leaders are particularly invited to contact Garden staff or volunteers to participate in the activities during that afternoon.

The Distinction Event is scheduled for Thursday, February 16 (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.). It will be a time to recognize the power and potential of our individual and collective actions to bring about positive change in our communities and in the world. The friendly and welcoming communities of Puerto Vallarta and Cabo Corrientes will be specifically recognized as models for the rest of Mexico and the world.

Distinguished guests for the February 16 event include, among others: - Officials of the International Peace Garden Foundation. - The mayors of Puerto Vallarta and Cabo Corrientes. - Representatives of the board and management of the Botanical Garden. - Cheryl L. Wheeler, principal sponsor of this recent landscape addition to the Vallarta Botanical Garden.

The new International Peace Garden in the Vallarta Botanical Garden adorns the slope that rises towards the entrance of the recently constructed Chapel of multiple doctrines, Our Lady of the Garden. It will show Mediterranean plants and the Holy Land, together with Mexican wildflowers. The intention is to use plants that represent the geographical region that gave birth to some of the most prolific religions in the world and cultivate them harmoniously among them, as well as with the lovely native species of Mexico. The Botanical Garden of Vallarta is known as a place of calm, comfort and healing of body, mind and spirit. Now a new sanctuary has been designated in the vicinity of the Garden to provide a space for meditation, prayer or contemplation without disturbance - a place where seeds for world peace can be sown and cultivated - An International Garden of Peace.