

# Lexington's Second Annual Peace and Global Citizenship Fair

## May 19, 2007 at the BCTC Cooper Campus

### An Invitation to Participate

#### Background:

On May 20, 2006, Bluegrass Community and Technical College's Peace and Justice Coalition, in cooperation with the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, the BCTC Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Franciscan Peace Center, Community Farm Alliance, the Clergy and Laity Network, and many others, hosted Our Little World: The First Annual Lexington Peace Fair.

The Peace and Justice Coalition students' purpose in hosting the event was to model a joyful alternative to exploitation, corporatization, and consumerism. Emphasis was placed on valuing global knowledge and understanding as well as valuing local production, community, and knowledge of place. Music, art, locally grown food, workshops, and themed booths were aimed at raising awareness of the peaceful possibilities for a socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable future.



We hosted a Children for Peace contest, where K-12 students were asked to answer the question: "How can you help to spread peace from your backyard to our little world?" The many lovely and thoughtful responses received were compiled in booklet form. A limited number of these handmade booklets is available, upon request.

On the day of the event, there was live music (Reel World String Band, Water, La Banda, and Born Cross-eyed) during the day and a wonderful closing peace ceremony led by Pangaea Drums.

Workshops on sustainable living were held throughout the day. In addition to a number of children's activities, there were booths on peace and spirituality, wellness, the environment and ecological sustainability, peace and justice, global awareness, and fair trade. Local farmers and artisans also had wonderful booths with fresh spring produce and unusual handmade items.

#### This year's event:

This year, for the second annual event, we have broadened the name to better reflect the dual local/global emphasis: creating an ecologically sustainable community and building global understanding and knowledge. Lexington's Second Annual Peace and Global Citizenship Fair will be held on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, on the grounds of Bluegrass Community and Technical College's Cooper Campus. This campus is directly north of Commonwealth Stadium. Bus routes #3, 33, 34, and 35 come by the

campus or close to it. The event will begin at noon. There will be a break in the action from about 5:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. An evening concert will begin at 5:30. This concert will be a benefit for Howe Charities (see <http://www.howecharities.org>), a Lexington non-profit.

The students are working on some fascinating ideas for this year's event. There will be a peace bridge and a world pinata. When untied, the pinata will release an earth-friendly surprise that supports the idea of local sustainability. A Children for Peace art contest and Creating a Culture of Peace essay contest for adults is open for entries.

Music will again fill the air. This year, Reel World String Band, Water, and Pangaea Drums will be returning. Joining us this year will be Alma Gitana, Mitch Barrett, the Dialectics, and others.

Food, from local sources, will be provided by Stella's. Last year, there were no small meals for the children so this year the Peace and Justice Coalition will have a food booth serving Peace and Justice sandwiches (aka peanut butter and jam), grilled cheese, and a surprise or two. The prices will be very reasonable.

The Sustainable Cities Network is coordinating workshops on sustainable living throughout the day. The University of Kentucky is hosting an exhibit on alternative transportation. Booths will again focus on citizenship – local and global.

Our invitation to you:

We would like for you/your group to have a booth at the fair. There is no charge for participation. The booths may be set up between 10:45 and 11:45 a.m. and taken down at 5:00 p.m. We hope that you'll stay for the evening concert featuring Alma Gitana (see <http://www.almagitanamusic.com>), Mitch Barrett (see <http://cdbaby.com/cd/mitchbarrett>), and Pangaea Drums. The event will end at about 8:00 p.m.

We want people to come to the fair and find it so energizing, informative, and fun that they stay most (if not all) day. To engage people in such a way, we would like for all of the participants to plan one (or more) activity for the day. The activity doesn't have to be anything fancy, just informative and enjoyable. If you'll be selling farm products, native plants, or handmade items, then that's your activity. Otherwise, you might consider engaging attendees in some sort of ecological knowledge quiz, discussing medicinal plants or how to have a productive urban garden, encouraging children to contribute to a collage about peace, leading tree ID tours, training small groups about how to get involved in promoting social justice issues in Kentucky, or creating any number of other activities. There are certainly many options that will help fairgoers "Think. Act. Discover. Peace."

For those who plan to sell something at the fair, we ask that it be some combination of local, organic/ecologically sound, handmade in a sustainable manner, fairly traded, and educational and that a portion of the proceeds be earmarked for a non-profit that does good works or for local farmers. It would be nice to post the name of the beneficiary at your booth.

If you can bring your own canopy, tables, and chairs, that would be most appreciated; however, if you cannot, we can provide tent space, one table, and two chairs per group. Space is somewhat limited. We ask that you complete and return the application form as soon as you can.

Contacts:

A second-year BCTC student is currently designing a webpage for the Peace and Justice Coalition. This webpage should be operational by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Check that page, <http://www.peace2day.org> for event updates.

Please direct your questions to Rebecca Glasscock, faculty advisor for BCTC's Peace and Justice Coalition. Her email address is [rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu](mailto:rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu) and telephone number is (859) 246-6319.

We hope to hear from you soon. Thank you so much.

Recycled paper!

It is possible to live in peace. (Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948)