



A *PEACE* Initiative in support of the Matoaka Covenant

Since its conception in Gravesend, England in March of 2017, *The Pocahontas Project* (TPP) has embraced the same basic mission: ***Use the power of the life, legend and legacy of the woman most famously known as Pocahontas to inspire hope and purposeful action in a growing number of people around the world, collectively working towards a peaceful and sustainable future for all mankind.*** Through its ***Matoaka Covenant***, TPP is informing and inspiring people of all ages through the lens of the life example of Pocahontas, presenting her as an ***Ambassador of Peace and Cross-Cultural Understanding.***

A Piece of Peace

In support of the ***Matoaka Covenant***, and honoring Pocahontas as a ***Patron of Peace***, TPP announces a new creative arts initiative called ***A Piece Of Peace*** (APOP). This simple collaborative creative arts concept can go in a variety of artistic directions and involves a group of people participating in the creation of a work of art centered on the word **PEACE** (in the many languages of the world), and/or the symbols that have come to represent **PEACE** (as shown above). The bottom line for every APOP effort is to create art wrapped around **PEACE** that involves as many people as possible, with every participant then becoming ***a piece of peace.*** This APOP initiative intends to involve and inspire Matoaka Covenant Participants and help spread the power of **PEACE** and collaboration around the world.

There are many directions / mediums an APOP effort can embrace, starting with the simple example above – lots of pieces of art collectively filling the block letters **PEACE**, or **PAIX**, or **PAZ**. Another way to do this idea as a mural or banner is to have a number of artists fill the space outside the block letters, and have community members sign their name inside the letters, allowing for lots of people to become ***a piece of peace.*** Or it could be a quilt, a song, a dance, a sculpture, or a poem about **PEACE** with multiple collaborators – the possibilities are endless. Once created, these expressions of **PEACE** will be with us forever, continually spreading Pocahontas' powerful message of peace and cross-cultural understanding.

A Piece of Peace for March 21, 2021

TPP is currently working to inspire an initial set of APOP efforts from around the world to be virtually presented on March 21, 2021 – the 404th anniversary of the funeral of Pocahontas in Gravesend, England on March 21, 1617. Given social distancing guidelines and gathering restrictions, resourcefulness will be needed in working together to create an APOP work of art for this date. It is hoped and expected that Pocahontas, who persevered in times of uncertainty and adversity, will help inspire that needed resourcefulness.

As March 21st is a date so connected to Pocahontas, and because the concept of TPP was first conceived at St. George's Church in Gravesend, England on March 21, 2017, the 400th anniversary of her funeral there in 1617, TPP plans for this date and commemoration to become an important annual celebration for the Matoaka Covenant and an annual declaration for ***Peace on Earth***.

About the Matoaka Covenant

The founding focus of the ***Matoaka Covenant*** is to enhance the quality of life for indigenous, native and First Nations communities around the world while benefiting from their ancient wisdom. The Covenant collaboration is also focused on promoting and facilitating racial equality and social justice for all, in the name of remembrance, recognition, reconciliation and respect. And since all these efforts are fully dependent on a sustainable future, the Covenant collaboration is focused on promoting and facilitating environmental stewardship in an effort to sustain a positive quality of life on earth

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Presented by Rick Tatnall
The Pocahontas Project
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