



E N D O R S E S

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UNESCO Center for Peace (California and Baja) Director Proposes “Odyssey” Residency Cruise Ship as Global Flagship for Peace

Dr. Joanne Tawfilis, Director of the UNESCO Center for Peace and longtime advocate for the United Nations’ Culture of Peace initiative, has introduced a proposal to designate the residential cruise ship Villa Vie Odyssey as the world’s first **“Global Flagship for Peace.”** **The historical appointment of ship Odyssey will be officially inaugurated in Puerto Princessa, the Philippines during the week of May 27, 2026.**

The idea emerged during a 2025 voyage aboard the Odyssey, where Dr. Tawfilis and fellow resident and Nobel Peace Prize representative Barbara Figiel discussed how a global residential ship could serve as a traveling platform for peace education, cultural exchange, and international collaboration.

Following a series of meetings an historic on board meeting this past week in the Port of Melbourne, Australia was convened with principal investor Mr. Robert Fong, CEO MS Kathy Villalba of Villa Vie Residences, and Mr. Mike Peterson, Executive Chairman and CSO.

The historical inauguration ceremony will now be officiated in May 2026 in collaboration with international peace leaders: the Director of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Mr. Guy Djoken, former UN Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, and President of Endangered Planet Foundation, (One Earth One Dream) Mr. Charles Michael Murray.

The proposed **Global Flagship of Peace Odyssey** would connect volunteer ship residents, peace advocates, and international communities through activities at ports around the world, particularly near UNESCO World Heritage sites. Programs may include cultural exchanges, community outreach, and educational initiatives promoting peace and cooperation.

The project also builds upon Dr. Tawfilis’ decades of peace work, including co-founding the Art Miles Mural Project, which has engaged more than half a million participants from over one hundred countries in creating murals supporting the global Culture of Peace movement.

“Peace and cooperation are needed now more than ever,” said Dr. Tawfilis. “We are not just traveling the world; we are helping shape it and building peace along the way!”

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