

**New Sustainability Nonprofit to host Peace Pole Dedication Ceremony on Earth Day Saturday, April 22, supporting Peace in Ukraine and honoring peace in 29 languages.**

Portland, Ore. This Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 3-4 pm, Sustainable Southeast Community Coalition (S2C2) will host a Dedication Ceremony for the installation of two new multi-lingual peace poles displaying 12 languages at Hawthorne Boulevard and SE 50th Avenue. Adjacent to this area are three existing peace poles, and a stone plaque comprising 17 languages. Together these will reflect 29 cultures in our community displaying “May peace prevail on earth“. The 12 additional languages on the new poles will include: Ukrainian, Norwegian, Chinese, Greek, Tibetan, Thai, Polish, Scottish-Gaelic, Persian, Hawaiian, Italian, and Romanian languages.

S2C2 is a new nonprofit organization working to foster sustainability and livability by collaborating across neighborhoods and districts in Southeast Portland. According to Roger Jones, S2C2 Event Coordinator, and founder of the Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association (HBBA), *“In these difficult times, the Southeast Community has come together around peace and education. The whole purpose of this new nonprofit and public charity is to elevate opportunities for communities to work more closely and find synergies that allow us to be more connected, sustainable, well-resourced, and resilient.”*

Darka Dusty Stebivka, who is a musician and activist, will play Ukrainian music at the event. She noted, *“Since February 2022, the people of Ukraine and their current fight for their existence has rallied all Ukrainian diaspora communities around the world, and Portland is no exception. In fact, the Ukrainian language is now one of the top five most spoken non-English languages in both Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. For Ukrainians and their beautiful language to be “seen” in a literal sense (having their language represented among the Peace Poles) as well as in the symbolic sense, matters greatly to the ever-growing Ukrainian community in Portland.”*

The existing peace poles were originally installed at the Hawthorne Hostel in 2019 with leadership from Hostelling International and the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN), however when the building was slated for demolition a few years ago, HBBA and the United Nations Association Portland Chapter (UNA-PDX) stepped up to help. In 2020, the poles were relocated to the public parklet at the corner of SE 50th and Hawthorne Blvd. An annual Peace Day Ceremony is held each year in September to honor our international commitments to fostering peace, compassionate care, and sustainable societies around the world. At the September 21, 2022 event, Sustainable Southeast Community Coalition (S2C2) hosted speakers and performers from the Ukrainian community to raise awareness about the atrocities happening in their country and elevate calls for humanitarian support.

*“We are particularly wanting to demonstrate our heartfelt support to the Ukrainian community and will be having songs and cultural sharing at this Earth Day event. When we realized we didn’t have a Ukrainian pole at the 2022 fall Peace Day event, we knew this was an important action to take, and an opportunity to represent even more cultures. We decided to help the project by contributing one of the poles as part of our PDX Main Streets placemaking work.”* said Heather Flint Chatto, S2C2 Board Member and Director of the Portland Main Streets Design Initiative.

The Peace Pole Project is a part of the "May Peace Prevail On Earth" movement, an initiative to foster peace in the world at large. Each Peace Pole bears the message May Peace Prevail on Earth in different languages on each of its four or six sides. There are estimated over 250,000 Peace Poles in every country in the world dedicated as monuments to peace. Flint Chatto with PDX Main Streets noted, *"Peace Poles are such a lovely way to engage your community. You can identify what cultures and languages are in your neighborhood and take action to honor and celebrate diversity in ways that help people feel seen and valued. We're excited that this is an art project any community can do and hope they will reach out to collaborate with this new Southeast Portland coalition to support more projects like this."*

S2C2 is grateful to our collaborating partners including: Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association (HBBA), Portland's Ukrainian Community, Portland Main Streets Design Initiative (PDX Main Streets), Richmond Neighborhood Association (RNA), Mount Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA) and other past and current sponsors, including the original founding leaders of Hostelling International (HIUSA), the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN), and United Nations Association - Portland Chapter (UNA-PDX).

Event Details: Saturday, April 22, 2023, 3:00 - 4:00 pm  
50<sup>th</sup> & SE Hawthorne Blvd. , Portland, OR 97215  
All Community Members Are Invited To Attend!

S2C2 is a 501(c)3 registered nonprofit and there will be an opportunity to donate to the Peace Pole Project and to Ukrainian relief on our website and at the event. Learn more at:

[www.s2c2pdx.org/peacepoles](http://www.s2c2pdx.org/peacepoles)

**CONTACT:**

Roger Jones, Peace Pole Project Coordinator, Sustainable SE Community Coalition (S2C2)  
[rcjones@s2c2pdx.org](mailto:rcjones@s2c2pdx.org) | 503.380.8770

**SUSTAINABLE SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COALITION**

The mission of the Sustainable Southeast Community Coalition (S2C2) is to obtain and provide resources to inner southeast Portland by working collaboratively across boundaries and organizations. The Vision is a non-profit community coalition that will allow fundraising for projects in the southeast district that promote sustainability, livability, safety, inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and the general well being of the community. This will assist neighborhoods and business districts to pursue projects and improvements beyond what our independent organizations can accomplish.

