To International Cities of Peace Committee,

Re: Application for City of Peace Toowoomba

I am writing this application on behalf of Pure Land Learning College Association (PLLCA) and Heartfulness Institute, which is the major supporting partner. I personally am a Director and Volunteer for Heartfulness Institute Australia, (Toowoomba Branch).

We have been made aware of this initiative through Mrs Christine Ann- Marie Jones who has successfully applied for Cleveland and Beavers Creek, Ohio. On hearing our story, Mrs Jones has encouraged us to apply.

I will give you a background on our journey. Venerable Master Chin Kung AM decided to start a centre in Toowoomba in 2001. He created the vision that Toowoomba would become a “Model City of Peace and Harmony”.

It has been over 20 years of work that focused on multicultural and interfaith work that has significantly contributed to the growth of this region. The Local Government, Queensland Police, Multicultural Queensland and recently United Nations Association of Australia have been supportive of this work. In fact, Toowoomba was declared a refugee safe zone, where we have welcomed thousands of displaced people. Our community has over 80 different ethnicities and many schools have embraced this change.

PLLCA has been key to establishing Toowoomba Youth Peace Group, Goodwill Committee and Toowoomba Interfaith working Group. This model is now being emulated in Moreton Bay Region. We have had many visitors come to learn from our region, they have travelled from Singapore, Malaysia, France, Taiwan and Brunei to name a few.

The Core programmes have been Peace Education Forums, Dialogues, Community engagement Programmes, Community and Leaders Network and Building Bridges. This approach has enabled all involved organisations and individuals to take ownership and this lead to the sustainability of all initiatives.

Heartfulness Institute is privileged to be a major supporter for over 8 years and together we like to see this City be recognised as an International City of Peace.

On behalf of Pure Land Learning College Association and Heartfulness Institute Australia, we thank you for this consideration.