

History of World Labyrinth Day

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The concept for World Labyrinth Day was first suggested to the Strategic Planning committee by Carol House and developed by the Board of Directors including Harriette Royer, Kimberly Saward, and Kay Whipple in 2007/8. Based on their recommendation for an 'Annual Worldwide Labyrinth Walk' at the 2008 Fall Board Meeting, an international committee of nineteen members chose the first Saturday in May as World Labyrinth Day (WLD).

The intention of WLD is to bring people from all over the planet together in celebration of labyrinths as a symbol, tool, passion, or practice. WLD is an opportunity to inform and educate the public, host walks, build permanent and temporary labyrinths, make labyrinth art, or explore the archetype in other ways. At the suggestion of Lynda Turloukis, participants are encouraged to **"Walk as One at 1"** in the afternoon to create a wave of peaceful energy around our planet as it turns in space.

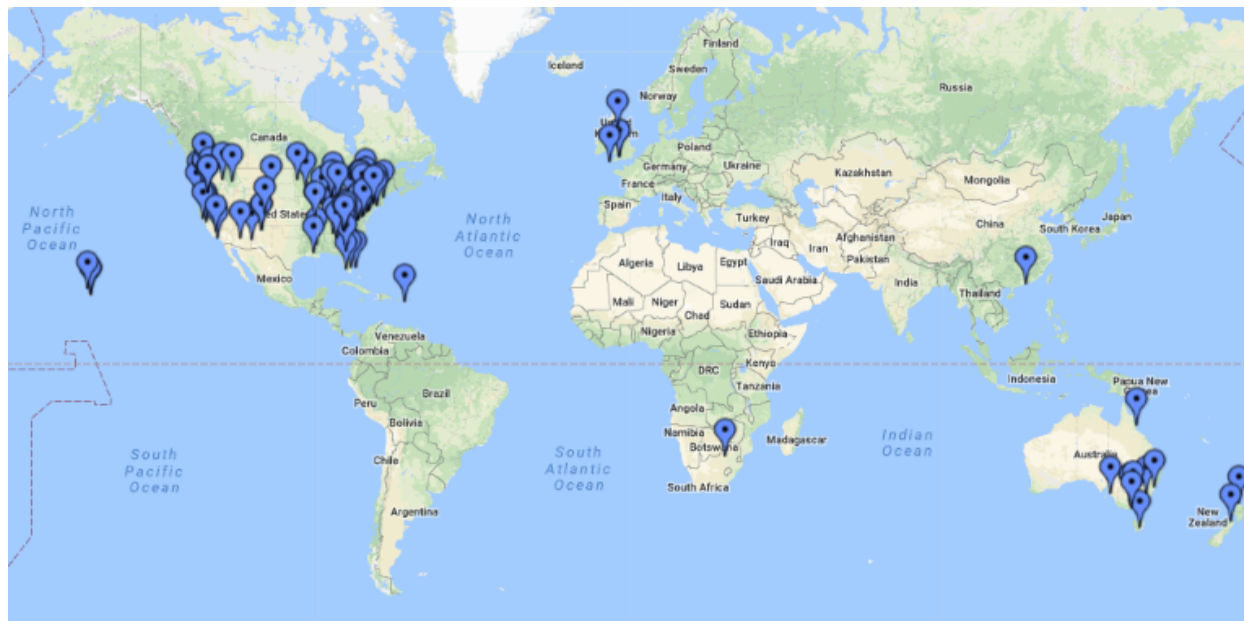
The initial celebration was planned at the 2009 Spring board meeting and Stephanie Blackton, the Publication Relations Chair at the time, became the first WLD Coordinator. The Labyrinth Society Facebook page and group were launched by Lisa Moriarty and Stephanie Blackton, who made [the first post](#) that weekend.



Pamela Kilbourne held the first World Labyrinth Day walk on May 2, 2009, offering Chartres and Classical canvas labyrinths on Mayor Island, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. John Ridder shipped a canvas labyrinth to Hong Kong to be used for an event. Randy Fillmore obtained permission to build labyrinths on the Ellipse near the White House. Working with Stephanie Blackton and Diane Terry-Kehner, among others, they created two temporary labyrinths in Washington, DC for the inaugural event.



Here is a [Google Map](#) detailing some of the participating locations from the first World Labyrinth Day:



Subsequent coordinators included Carol House (2011-13) and Lars Howlett (2014-present) who both helped lead steady growth in the participation of WLD. Our 10th Annual Event in 2018 included an estimated 5,000+ participants in at least 35 countries including Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, England, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, and USA!

[The Labyrinth Society Global Group on Facebook](#) continues to be the primary platform for sharing photos, videos and stories of walks and events. It has grown to become a vibrant labyrinth community of 7,500+ members from 99 countries. (see chart right) In a one month span including WLD 2018, there were 443 posts, 1,022 comments and 13,000 likes on the Facebook Global Group!

Top Countries		Top Cities	
United States	5,392	Houston, TX	99
Canada	440	Los Angeles, CA	79
Australia	325	New York, NY	78
United Kingdom	322	Melbourne, VIC, Australia	61
South Africa	127	Sydney, NSW, Australia	56
Netherlands	78	Minneapolis, MN	50
Italy	71	Portland, OR	50
Ireland	47	Denver, CO	49
Spain	45	London, England, United Kingdom	47
Brazil	44	Indianapolis, IN	47



Lars Howlett designed the WLD map and globe logos (above, right) for social media, merchandise and postcards. Since 2013 he organized an informal Google Survey to gauge the growth and spread of participation. Each year images posted on social media are collected for a slideshow and [YouTube video](#). In 2018 he launched the [World Labyrinth Sharing Circle](#) bringing people from around the world together to share their experiences to promote greater equity and inclusion in the labyrinth community.

