

Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.
Executive Chairman



Dear Principal,

The International Child Art Foundation is pleased to invite your school to participate in the 5th Arts Olympiad, our flagship program which is free of charge to students and schools.

The Arts Olympiad taps the inherent creativity in all children and builds community through the framework of a supportive "competition." Since first launched in 1997, the Arts Olympiad has grown into the world's largest and most prestigious program of arts and athletics.

The attached lesson plan introduces students aged 8 to 12 to the *Artist-Athlete Ideal*SM — the power of a creative mind in a healthy body. Students learn how art and sport are related, and how the power of these disciplines could be leveraged to make a brighter, more peaceful world. Students visualize themselves as *artist-athletes* and then render that vision in a painting, drawing, or digital piece in an art contest on the theme *My Favorite Sport*.

The lesson plan may take 2 to 4 class sessions to implement. We request that you kindly submit your school's entries (one best painting or drawing, and one best digital art) to us as soon as possible but certainly before May 15, 2014. We will then invite the Arts Olympiad winners from about 1,000 cities or school districts around the world to 5th World Children's Festival, to be held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in June 2015. You may enjoy this clip from the music portion of the last World Festival > <http://tinyurl.com/2011WCF>. The winners' artwork will be displayed right across from the National Gallery of Art, and will later tour the world, with a stop in Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

In our 17 years of bringing art to children around the world, we have found that our program breaks down divisions in a classroom between those known for their athletic abilities, their academic strengths, and their artistic inclinations. More importantly, the Arts Olympiad breaks down barriers within students' own minds: suddenly they feel liberated to be all of these things at once. Students who have completed our program typically show gains in academic performance; in addition evidence is emerging that they are more likely to make healthy choices in behavior and nutrition.

We look forward to your students representing your school and city on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. in June 2015. For updates please visit www.Facebook.com/ICAF.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashfaq Ishaq".



5th ARTS OLYMPIAD LESSON PLAN

Objective:

Students will learn:

- About the Olympic Art Competitions as part of the Olympic Games
- Connections between Art and Sport and how these are tools for building peace in the world
- To appreciate each other despite their personal passion for art or sport
- How Art and Sport can make one think differently of oneself as an Artist-Athlete
- About the risk in creativity (the 4th-grade slump) and the obesity risk (a global health problem)
- To evaluate art by students from around the world on the theme "My Favorite Sport"
- To visualize their "inner athlete" and depict it in a painting, drawing or digital art
- About the World Children's Festival and the need to be creative and empathic

Materials:

- Art supplies and 45cm x 60cm (18x24 inch) art papers
- Typical sport equipment (bats, balls, athletic wear) and art tools (brushes, paints, easel)

Online Resources:

For Activity **A**:

Smithsonian Magazine > <http://tinyurl.com/Olympic-Art-Competitions>

Richard Stanton (2000). The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions. Trafford: Victoria BC, Canada

For Activity **B**:

ChildArt Magazine > <http://icaf.org/artsolympiad/>

For Activity **C**:

The Arts Olympiad works > <http://icaf.org/gallery/>

For Activity **D**:

World Children's Festival > <http://icaf.org/whatwedo/wcf.php>

YouTube clip on the festival > <http://tinyurl.com/ICAF-WCF2011>

Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan

Part 1: Instructional Group Activities

The activities suggested below will allow students to develop connections between art and sport, express their opinions, and create their own individual artwork. You can select any combination of the activities described below and modify these to fit your curriculum.

Activity A. The Olympics Art Competitions

Have your students read the article on the competitions in the Smithsonian Magazine or the book, *The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions*, to discuss the role of art in sport. You may also have them answer these questions:

1. Should the Olympic Art Competitions be reinstated? Why? For what age group?
2. What is your favorite sport and sport event? Why?
3. In which cities will the Winter Olympics in 2014 and 2018 and Summer Olympics in 2016 and 2020 be held? What about 2022 and 2024?

Activity B. The Purpose of Art and Sport

Have your students read the *ChildArt* Magazine. Divide the class into two groups: “Artists” and “Athletes.” Students are to develop and write down their response to these questions:

Questions posed to “Artists”:

Question 1. *Why do people run, play soccer, climb trees, etc...?*

Question 2. *How would you feel if you were playing a Sport?*

Questions posed to “Athletes”:

Question 1. *Why do people draw, paint, sculpt, dance, etc...?*

Question 2. *How would you feel if you were creating Art?*

Once they have finished writing their answers, the students are put in Artist-Athlete pairs to discuss their responses with one another and to answer one final question: What are the similarities between why people create Art or participate in Sports? At the end, each group may present their answers to the class.

Activity C. Thinking Beyond the Stereotype

Have your students view some of the artwork on the ICAF website. Introduce students to the *Artist-Athlete Ideal™* of the creative mind and healthy body—*mens sana in corpore sano* (“a healthy mind in a healthy body”). Anyone be an artist and athlete, and anyone can be creative and athletic.

This activity is designed to encourage students to look beyond old assumptions and break stereotypes. Class should be divided into teams of three or four with each group assigned one of the following objects. The questions below ask students to reflect and conceive a sport using an art object, or conceive an art project using a sport object.



Groups with Art Object:

*What is the name of the sport?
What are the rules of the sport?
How is the object used in the sport?
How is the use of the object in the game different from its common usage?*

Groups with Sport Object:

*What is the name of the art project?
What materials are needed for the art project?
What are the steps for making the art project?
How is the use of the object in the art project different from its common usage?*

Activity D. Building Peace through Art and Sport

Have your students read about the World Children's Festival and watch the YouTube clip. Students are to discuss the following quotation by Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela:

"Art and sport have the powers to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Art and sport speak to people in a language they understand. Art and sport can create hope where there was once only despair. They are instruments for peace, even more powerful than governments."

Part 2: Independent Art Creation

Students are to create art on the theme, *My Favorite Sport*. They can select any sport to picture themselves as "artist-athletes." The sport can be a local, traditional or an Olympic sport, or one that they imagine. The students can produce a painting/drawing or digital art.

Traditional 2-D Art

A painting or drawing on paper, canvas, or silk approximately 45x60 cm (18x24 inches) in size

Digital Art

Static visual work created using digital tools or a collage (300+ dpi)

Part 3: Exhibition and Selection of School Entry

- Organize an exhibition of the artwork produced under the Arts Olympiad
- Form a panel of judges responsible for selecting the school entry
- Include a few students as judges to provide an intergenerational perspective on aesthetics
- The judges should give equal weight to originality/creativity as technical/aesthetic merit to select one best painting and one best digital art
- Complete the School Entry Form (attached as Appendix) and send the entries to the ICAF as early as possible but no later than May 15, 2014

Mail:

International Child Art Foundation, P. O. Box 58133, Washington, DC 20037, USA

UPS/FedEx:

International Child Art Foundation, 2540 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA

Email:

program@icaf.org



Sending School Entry

The painting or drawing should be mailed to the ICAF (packaged flat and not rolled up). The finalist digital art can be emailed, or a CD can be mailed along with the painting/drawing. The School Entry Form should be completed for both categories. This form could be taped to the back of the painting/drawing. For digital art, the form can be scanned and emailed to the ICAF at program@icaf.org.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO THE WORLD CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Held on the National Mall in Washington, DC every four years as the "Olympics" of children's imagination and co-creation, the 5th World Children's Festival will be a 3-day educational event free and open to the public to be held in the spring/summer of 2015.

A jury of eminent artists and educators in Washington, DC will select the winning entries (one in painting category and one in digital art category) from entries including that of your school. The Official Delegations to the World Children's Festival are these Arts Olympiad winners, their parents, the school principal and teachers.

The ICAF selects 50 school groups to perform at the festival. All types of performances are entertained. Your school can apply when the performance applications are posted on www.WorldChildrensFestival.org in January 2014.

Your school can also send a delegation to the festival, even if the school's entry or performance group is not selected.

The 5th Arts Olympiad Schedule:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jan-April 2014 | – Implement the lesson plan in the classroom |
| April/May 2014 | – Organize a school art exhibition for judging of best works |
| May 15, 2014 | – Mail the School entries to the ICAF |
| September 2014 | – The U.S. Arts Olympiad winners announced |
| November 2014 | – Finalize plans for the 5 th World Children's Festival |
| June 2015 | – Participate in the 5 th World Children's Festival in Washington DC |
| February/May 2016 | – Follow news on the traveling International Arts Olympiad Exhibition |

Optional Activities:

You can submit your school entry early for posting on the ICAF website and Facebook to cultivate global conversations on how the power of art can be a positive influence in children's lives.

You can make a video on the Arts Olympiad experience of your class and send it to the ICAF with release forms from parents for posting on the ICAF YouTube channel.

The ICAF:

An independent and nonpartisan 501(c)(3) non-profit, the ICAF has served as the leading arts & creativity organization for American children and their international counterparts since 1997. Our mission is to enhance academic performance and imbue global citizenship by nurturing children's creativity and developing their empathy—key attributes of 21st century learners and leaders.

The ICAF "clearly shows us that when we allow our children to explore their creativity through the arts, they shine." - Richard W. Riley, former U.S. Secretary of Education



School Entry for the 5th Arts Olympiad

I. School

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| School/Institution name | | Name of Organizer | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| City | State | Country | Zip code |
| Telephone (with area code) | Organizer's email | School/Institution email | |
| How many students participated? | | Comments on the lesson plan? | |

II. Student Artist

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| First name | Last name | Age | Date of birth |
| Title of work and medium | | | |
| Student's comments on his/her work | | | |
| Student's height in inches | Weight in pounds | Ethnicity or race (optional) | |
| Parent's Name | Email | Telephone | |

III. Agreement

I hereby certify that the attached "My Favorite Sport" artwork is the original work of the student artist named above. I further understand that the student's artwork becomes entirely the property of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) and cannot be returned. I agree that the artwork may be published, exhibited or reproduced by the ICAF or transferred or loaned to another organization or individual without further authorization from or any compensation to the student or his/her teacher and parent.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------|
| Name of Teacher | Signature | Date |
| Name of Parent | Signature | Date |