

## Fact Sheet

The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has served as the leading art and creativity organization for our children and their international counterparts since 1997.

**Mission:** We employ the power of the arts to nurture children's creativity and develop empathy. Social researchers and our own research indicate that creativity and empathy are key attributes of successful learners and leaders.

**Programs:** We train children and provide teachers structured lesson plans to: (a) cultivate children's imagination and creative critical thinking with the Arts Olympiad, the world's largest and most prestigious art program for children aged 8 to 12; (b) reduce violence in conflict zones by restoring young people's trust in humanity with Peace through Art programs; and (c) remediate suffering following major natural disasters by restoring the affected community's faith in nature with Healing Art programs.

**ChildArt magazine:** Our advertisement-free quarterly fosters children's creative development.

**Pedagogy:** We introduce children to the *Artist-Athlete Ideal*<sup>SM</sup> of the creative mind and healthy body. We inspire teachers to embrace *STEAMS Education*<sup>SM</sup> which integrates **Art** (and culture) and **Sport** (and play) with STEM disciplines for children's holistic development.

**Advocacy:** We advocate that every contemporary art museum should have one room devoted to children's art, that one wall in every business office should display the art of employees' children, and that the child's right to be creative and empathic be respected and honored.

**Educational Events:** The ICAF has the distinction of hosting the very-first national children's art festival in U.S. history (held in Washington, D.C. in September 1998). Since 1999, we have produced the World Children's Festival on The National Mall every four years as the "Olympics" of children's imagination and co-creation. A world leader in children's art exhibitions, we have arranged exhibitions at a White House event, the United Nations Headquarters, and in scores of countries and at several major conferences including the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings. In 2006, we organized the European Children's Festival at the Olympia Park in Munich, Germany.

**Impact:** Approximately five million children worldwide have participated in and directly benefited from our innovative programs to date. Nearly 170,000 individuals have participated in and benefited from our festivals, exhibitions and other events. Reports and articles on our impact have been published in the *Artist's Magazine*, *Arts & Activities*, *Canvas*, *Children's Voice*, *CyberTherapy Journal*, *Finance & Development*, *Journal of Urban Cultural Research*, *SchoolArts*, *START magazine*, *State Education Standard*, *UNESCO e-Journal on Arts Education*, *Vogue Bambini*, and the UK's leading medical journal *The Lancet*.

**Partners:** Our Education Partners for the 5<sup>th</sup> Arts Olympiad (2013-2016) include Americans for the Arts, the Association of Childhood Education International, the International Center for Studies on Creativity, and the United States Society for Education Through the Arts. We have program partners in nearly 100 countries. The U.S. Olympic Committee has granted the ICAF an exclusive license to use "Arts Olympiad" and related marks.

**Funding:** The ICAF's programs, festivals, exhibitions and events are free-of-charge for schools and children, and ChildArt magazine is free of commercial advertisements. Consequently, the ICAF relies on the generosity of creative and empathic individuals to support and fund its operations.