

Fact Sheet 08/10/12

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: To employ the power of the arts for the development of creativity and empathy—key attributes of successful learners and leaders.

Programs: Global art programs to cultivate children’s imagination (the Arts Olympiad), reduce violence (Peace through Art Programs), and remediate suffering (Healing Arts Programs).

ChildArt magazine: A full-color, advertisement-free quarterly published since 1998 to enhance children’s understanding of themselves, their position in the world, and their place in the universe.

Pedagogy: Introduce children to the *Artist-Athlete Ideal*SM of the creative mind and healthy body and introduce educators to *STEAMS Education*SM which integrates Arts and Sport with STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for children’s holistic development.

Advocacy: Every contemporary art museum must dedicate a single room to art by children, that corporate offices should devote one wall to display children’s art, and that every child’s right to be creative and empathic ought to be respected and honored.

Events: After hosting the very-first national children’s art festival in U.S. history (held on the National Mall in Washington in September 1998), the ICAF has successfully produced the World Children’s Festival every four years as the “Olympics” of children’s imagination and co-creation. The ICAF is a world leader in children’s art exhibitions, organized the European Children’s Festival in Munich in 2006, and has arranged children’s panels at major conferences dealing with the future.

Impact: Nearly 5 million children worldwide have participated in and directly benefitted from the ICAF’s innovative programs and about 125,000 individuals have participated in the festivals and exhibitions organized by the ICAF to date. In the nation’s capital, inner-city youth gain the opportunity to connect with their peers from across the nation and around the world. At the national level, imaginative children are inspired to co-imagine and co-create to broaden their horizons. At the global level, the world’s creative children are brought together on the National Mall so they transform themselves into creative global leaders.

Partners: The ICAF’s Education Partners for the 5th Arts Olympiad (2013-2016) include Americans for the Arts, the Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI), and the International Center for Studies on Creativity. The ICAF works closely with the United States Olympic Committee, which has granted the ICAF an exclusive license to use “Arts Olympiad” and related marks.

Funding: Creative and empathic businesses support the ICAF while philanthropic individuals adopt the ICAF as their charity. Since many children do not get the opportunity to freely express themselves through the arts unless presented with the Arts Olympiad experience, the supporters help bring the Arts Olympiad to public, private, charter, and special education schools as well as orphanages and juvenile detention centers.