

Our future depends on what children imagine to be possible and how they work together to make it happen.

Since 1997 the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) has served American children and the world's children as their arts and creativity organization. We employ the power of the arts to nurture creativity and imbue it with empathy. Children's creative and empathic development are also preconditions for a just, prosperous, and nonviolent future.

Our flagship program, the Arts Olympiad, inspires every child to embrace the *Artist-Athlete Ideal* of the creative mind and healthy body—*mens sana in corpore sano*. To honor the Arts Olympiad winners, we produce the World Children's Festival on The National Mall in Washington, DC as the "Olympics" of children's imagination and co-creation. The festival's pedagogy is based on *STEAMS Education*, our pioneering approach to integrate *art and culture* (signified by the "A") and *sport and play* (the "S") with STEM disciplines for children's holistic development.

Our approach is based on a simple premise: that by spending a small amount on creative education today, we can reap outsized benefits tomorrow in both creativity-driven economic prosperity as well as in reducing the incidences of expensive social ailments such as obesity and crime. The program works by targeting 8- to 12-year-old children, a cohort vulnerable to what is called the "4th-grade slump"—a risk that is well-documented about innate creativity declining as children begin to conform to the adult world. We use creativity education, empathy exercises, and a promotion of the linkage between body and mind to inoculate against this drop in creativity. We think bringing art and sport to children today who would otherwise have little opportunity to partake of these is worthwhile just as a quality-of-life improvement, but we fervently believe that this is also a necessary and sufficient step to ensuring the widespread and robust creativity tomorrow that will drive entrepreneurship and innovation to develop creative and healthy communities.

Accomplishments

- The first ever national children's art festival in U.S. history we hosted in 1998 in Washington, D.C.
- Every four years since 1999 we have produced the World Children's Festival on The National Mall
- Thus far we have inspired approximately 5 million children to produce art through our programs
- We have elevated children's art to a whole new level by urging contemporary art museums to dedicate a room for works produced by children and by requesting businesses to display in offices paintings created by their employees' children

Current Goals

- To bring the Arts Olympiad experience to 2 million children worldwide in 2014
- To produce the 2015 World Children's Festival as the greatest children's celebration ever
- To take the International Arts Olympiad Exhibition to the Rio 2016 Olympics

Join our Mission

As a 501(c)(3) independent non-profit, we believe that every child is creative and adults are responsible for nurturing children's creativity and developing empathy. We receive no funding from the U.S. government and we refrain from engaging in partisan politics. We do not organize charity galas and have never conducted mass mailings. While the world's most creative and empathic companies have supported us in the past, we depend primarily on contributions from responsible individuals who ensure that our programs remain free of charge, our *ChildArt* magazine free of advertisements, and our events free and open to the public.