# ChildArt



# Preserving Creativity

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

During discussions with Ashfaq Ishaq, Executive Director of the International ChildArt Foundation (ICAF), it became apparent to me that many of the qualities ICAF is promoting through their art program — empowerment, teamwork and collaborative innovations — are the same qualities that I see in many of the people I deal with in the architectural historic preservation community.
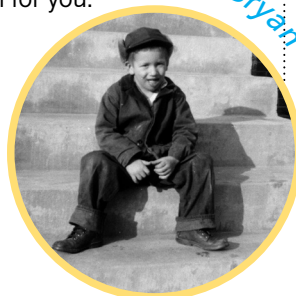
The diverse field of architectural preservation is constantly looking for members of the next generation that are fascinated by the hands-on aspects of interacting with their physical world. In an effort to show career options that may be somewhat outside of the normal path that is usually outlined by school counselors and parents. This issue of ChildArt has fourteen articles introducing the reader's to some of the outstanding members of the architectural preservation community. As you'll read, these are people that have allowed their passions to delineate the course of their lives. Over time and through experience they have trained themselves to see and understand the details of the built world. They have learned to not just look at the obvious but to see the details and nuances. This ability to be aware of variations in details is developed over time with guidance of mentors, a passion to understand the past and a desire to experience the thrill of creating a finished product that to others appears to be magic.

I hope in reading these articles you can imagine the world that can open up to you, whether through looking at the multiple layers of paint on the surface of a building, or creating plaster that rivals the finest marbles, or how the purchase of a house led to a career in architectural preservation, or finding that being a brick mason is so interesting that you ultimately earn a PhD in the subject. Here are fourteen stories of lives that followed paths that took them to careers that they look forward to each and every day. Can you imagine a career where you get to build the forts that you cobbled together as a child but now in grand scale as an adult?

Each story and path is different; the common threads are passion, mastering the eye/hand/mind process and the curiosity that knows there's always more to learn. Hopefully you will find these articles of interest and find comfort in knowing that a path less followed may be exactly the right path for you.

Enjoy,

J. Bryan Blundell,
Guest Editor
Preservation Resource Group

Bryan 1955

# CONTENTS

## Preserving Creativity