



Fact Sheet

15 Dec 10

Did you know when a child starts to lose his or her creativity, it may be lost forever?

The longitudinal and cross-cultural studies conducted by E. Paul Torrance (regarded as “father of creativity”) discovered the 4th-grade slump in creativity. When children begin school their level of creativity is flourishing and evident, but by the time they reach 4th-grade, they are more conforming, less likely to take risks, and less playful or spontaneous than in earlier years. This trend in behavior continues throughout the school years and into adulthood.

The arts convey a dynamic medium and cost-effective channel for the development of children’s creativity, and possesses a distinct communicative power that can ease the development of empathy in children.

The Children



Child artists in Uganda
Nigeria

India
Sri Lanka

and in Washington DC

Mission

To employ the arts for the development of children's innate creativity and intrinsic empathy
– preconditions for sustainable prosperity and peace.

Strategy

An integrated approach that focuses on the 8 to 12 age group statistically known to be at risk with their natural creativity threatened. Design and organize art-based programs that fuel children's imagination and help awaken their need to learn to nurture their own creativity over their lifetime. Encourage communication amongst children and reap the benefits of peer-to-peer learning by employing the visual arts as a shared universal language.

Approach

- Provide free innovative programs and creativity- enhancing experiences that engage children to explore their world and their place in it
- Develop socially- and emotionally-conscious programmatic efforts that remediate suffering (Healing Arts), unlearn intolerance and violence (Peace through Art), and grow imagination (Arts Olympiad)
- Publish a world class, ad-free periodical for children's creative development
- Break prevalent stereotypes by introducing children to the "artist-athlete" ideal of a creative mind and healthy body
- Produce the World Children's Festival every four years in Washington, DC as the nation's leading children's event that showcases programmatic results

Healing Arts

Based on the knowledge and experience gained from the treatment of child survivors of the September 11, 2001 tragedy and other disasters, ICAF launched a program in January 2005 to aid child victims of the Asian tsunami. Later that year, ICAF art therapists applied their tsunami experience and knowledge to help children affected by Hurricane Katrina in the U.S. Gulf Coast.



Artworks created by 11-year-old U.S. Gulf Coast residents – Darin Martel, Breanna Paige, and Joshua Santamore – right after Katrina

In 2010 ICAF organized a Healing Arts Program in [Chile](#). In 2011 ICAF plans to organize a program to help the children of [Haiti](#) cope with the earthquake trauma and its aftermath.

Peace Through Art

In response to the September 11, 2001 tragedy, ICAF developed an innovative methodology in collaboration with psychiatrists and psychologists. The methodology inspires children to use their own creativity to reduce trans-generational transmission of trauma and hatred and build a vision of peaceful coexistence. The methodology was field-tested in 2002 in a program, partially funded by the Cyprus Fulbright Commission, which brought Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot youth to Washington, D.C. for three weeks of training. The UK's leading medical journal [The Lancet](#) featured the ICAF approach in its December 2006 issue.



Nathania Caroline Candra (age 8, Indonesia); Soema Abdullaeva (age 12, Tajikistan); and mural co-created by American children with child artists from Malaysia and Oman

The Art Olympiad

Every four years ICAF launches the Arts Olympiad, a free school- and community-based program for 8- to 12-year-old children irrespective of their location worldwide.

Commencing in classrooms with structured lessons plans, the [Arts Olympiad](#) introduces students to the 'artist-athlete' ideal of a creative mind and healthy body. By visualizing their favorite sport and depicting it in an artwork, children become inspired to engage more frequently in that physical activity, which helps them adopt healthy life-long habits.



Owen Omozore (age 10, New York) and Kelli Styron (age 10, Louisiana)

Exhibitions

The Arts Olympiad provides schools across the United States and participating countries the opportunity to celebrate the creativity of children by locally exhibiting their Arts Olympiad works. The ICAF [interactive exhibitions](#) of selected artworks aim to develop empathy invoked through art and team spirit instilled by sport in host communities across the globe.



Clockwise from top left: ICAF events in Kampala, Uganda; Sharjah, United Arab Emirates; Jerusalem, Israel; Turin, Italy; Munich, Germany; and Tokyo, Japan

Special Needs

Many children never have the opportunity to make art unless presented with the Arts Olympiad experience.

Forty-four students with physical and mental handicaps at the Spring Branch Independent School District in Houston, Texas participated in the 3rd Arts Olympiad. The organizers, Jody and David Butler, had traveled to Greece and Italy to study ancient sculptures and their relationship to modern Olympics. Children participated in twelve activities that combined art and sport. USA Track & Field 2000 Olympian, Eric Thomas, presented awards to the “artist-athletes.”



L to R: A disabled girl lying flat to paint on canvas; Olympian Eric Thomas with “artist-athletes”; and a disabled boy creating art

Under the 4th Arts Olympiad in early 2010 the Maryborough Special School in Queensland, Australia organized the program for its special needs students. A 48x36-inch framed canvas was divided into 48 equal squares, one per child. The students painted their favorite sports, from cricket to jogging to horse-riding. Some students painted their boxes very differently, just one solid color for example. All the students enjoyed being called “artist-athletes.”

World Children's Festival

ICAF is a world leader in designing, planning and staging children's educational festivals, with the distinction of organizing the first-ever national children's art festival in the United States, held on The National Mall in Washington DC in September 1998. ICAF also organized the first-ever European Children's Festival, held at the Olympia Park in Munich in June 2006.

Since 1999 ICAF has hosted the [World Children's Festival](#) (WCF) every four years as "Olympics" of children's creativity and imagination. Traditionally held on The National Mall, the WCF has grown into the largest international children's celebration and a permanent quadrennial event in the Nation's Capital.

"I am grateful to organizations like the International Child Art Foundation that give us the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of our nation's young people. I encourage you to continue to support programs that help children to discover their talents and belief in themselves."

- First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (WCF 1999)

"The positive message of peace and hope promised by the International Child Art Foundation is commendable and worthy of great recognition."

- Lt. Gen. Joseph Cosumano, Commanding General, US Army Space and Missile Defense Command (WCF 2003)

"We must start with the education of our children in order for the following leaders to effectively handle the geopolitical and international problems that our world currently faces."

- Lt. Gen. Jim Campbell, Director of the U.S. Army Staff, The Pentagon (WCF 2007)



Children's Panels At Conferences

ICAF elevates children and brings their voices to major international conferences that focus on the future. [ICAF](#) has developed unique expertise in conducting international search for talented panelists, public speaking training, and designing panel discussions on pressing issues.



Clockwise from top left: Cyrus Alexander Jalinous (age 13, Washington DC) presenting at the World Cultural Economic Forum 2008 in New Orleans; the panelists with Louisiana Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu; the young panelists with H.E. Amr Al-Dabbagh, Chairman of the Global Competitiveness Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and Nick Goyette (age 14, Mississippi) presenting at the GCF 2010.

ChildArt Magazine

Published since 1998 without any commercial advertisement revenues or support, the quarterly ChildArt magazine serves as a teaching tool to foster children's creative and empathic development.

"Not only is this professionally-produced magazine both visually and intellectually engaging in content and design, it offers a cogent reminder of art's central role in linking world cultures, each to each. For its poly cultural outlook and special focus, *ChildArt* is unique among magazines for children, but readers of any age will find it a rewarding way to broaden their cultural horizons.

- John Peters, Supervising Librarian, Central Children's Room, The New York Public Library



Past contributors to *ChildArt* include:

Nane Annan
 Dr. Terry Barrett
 Eric Carle
 Dr. B. Stephen Carpenter, II
 Christo and Jeanne-Claude
 Chuck Close
 First Lady Betty Ford
 Jane Goodall
 Major General Gaylord Gunhus
 Dr. Mira Reisberg
 George Rodrigue
 Patricia K. Shinseki
 Carol Tanenbaum

WORLD CHILDREN'S AWARD

Selected from among millions of program participants, the Arts Olympiad winners at the World Children's Festival express their personal selection of creative global leaders and empathic corporations as recipients of the WORLD CHILDREN'S AWARD. ICAF's inaugural award, designed by Tiffany & Co., was presented by the 3rd Arts Olympiad winners at the WCF 2007 to LEGO in recognition of the company's support of their creativity.

The WCF 2011 award is commissioned to Karim Rashid, a world-renowned designer. The children will select the their creative global leaders and empathic corporations and present them the award at the World Children's Award Banquet in Washington, DC on June 20, 2011.

"We are thrilled to bring a LEGO building experience to the world's largest celebration of creativity and imagination on the National Mall. What the International Child Art Foundation does to encourage a child's inner creativity is something we passionately admire and are proud to support, because we believe children who are exposed to creative activities from a very young age go on to become the world's most meaningful contributors."

- Michael McNally, brand relations director, LEGO



ICAF Calendar

Jun 2010	Chile Healing Art Program
Jan 2010	ICAF International Children's Panel, Global Competitiveness Forum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Jan 2010	ICAF Children's Masterpieces Exhibition, Hewart Art Gallery, Kingdom Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Nov 2009	ICAF presentation, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference, Washington, DC
Sep 2009	ICAF presentation, "Towards a Future World Without Violent Radicalization" Conference, Banten, Indonesia
Mar 2009	ICAF Katrina Art Exhibition, Education Without Borders, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Mar 2009	ICAF presentation, World CEO Forum, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Nov 2009	ICAF presentation, Aspen Cultural Diplomacy Forum, Paris, France
Oct 2008	ICAF International Children's Panel, World Cultural Economic Forum, New Orleans, Louisiana
Oct 2008	ICAF Katrina Art Exhibition, Central Military Club, Sofia, Bulgaria
Jun 2007	3 rd World Children's Festival, The National Mall, Washington, DC
Mar 2007	ICAF National Co-sponsor, Arts Advocacy Day, Washington DC
Oct 2006	ICAF Katrina Art Exhibition, Museu da Cidade, Lisbon, Portugal
May 2006	ICAF European Children's Festival, Olympia Park, Munich, Germany
Mar 2006	ICAF Katrina Art Exhibition, Kids Marketing Mega Event, Huntington Beach, CA
Mar 2006	ICAF Arts Olympiad Exhibition, United States Sport Academy, Daphne, Alabama
Mar 2006	ICAF presentation, UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education, Lisbon, Portugal
Mar 2006	ICAF keynote address and Arts Olympiad Exhibition, International Society for Education through Art Conference, Viseu, Portugal
Sep 2005	ICAF Arts Olympiad Exhibition, XIII World Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, Egypt
Jun 2005	ICAF presentation and Arts Olympiad Exhibition, 10 th Cybertherapy Conference, Basel, Switzerland
Jun 2005	ICAF presentation and Arts Olympiad Exhibition, The Cumberland Lodge, The Great Park, London, United Kingdom
Apr 2005	ICAF presentation, AAHPERD National Convention and Exposition, Chicago, Illinois
Dec 2005	ICAF co-sponsor, "Destruction, Reconstruction, and Prevention Program", The World Bank, Washington, DC
Nov 2004	ICAF presentation, "Visual Culture of Childhood Conference", Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
Oct 2004	ICAF Children's Utopia Exhibition, "Utopia Station", Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
Apr 2004	ICAF presentation, World Summit on Media for Children, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Mar 2004	ICAF Co-sponsor, "Chinese Children's Art on the Environment Exhibition", Capital Children's Museum, Washington, DC
Oct 2003	ICAF Co-organizer, "Innovation in Education Conference", The Qatar Foundation, Doha, Qatar
Sep 2003	ICAF Arts Olympiad Exhibition, The World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Sep 2003	2 nd World Children's Festival, The National Mall, Washington, DC
Sep 2003	The Mayor of DC issues a special proclamation for ICAF dedicating September 11 as <i>Children's Peace Day</i>
July 2002	ICAF Peace through Arts Exhibition, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC
Sep 2000	ICAF First Ladies Forum on Children, United Nations Millennium Summit, New York Hilton, New York, New York
Dec 1999	ICAF Arts Olympiad Exhibition, The White House Millennium Celebration, Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC
Jun 1999	1 st World Children's Festival, The National Mall, Washington, DC
Sep 1998	ICAF ChildArt USA Festival, The National Mall, Washington, DC

Impact

Since 1997 ICAF has served as the national art and creativity organization for American children and as the international art and creativity organization for the world's children.

- The Arts Olympiad has expanded in scope to become the world's largest and most prestigious program for children's creative development
- The World Children's Festival has evolved into the "Olympics" of children's creativity and imagination and a permanent quadrennial event on The National Mall in Washington DC
- The United States Olympic Committee has granted the ICAF an exclusive license to use "Arts Olympiad" and related marks, and the USOC is an insured party at the WCF
- ICAF is respected internationally as a pioneer in deepening public awareness of the importance of children's creative and empathic development and the rights of the child to be creative (particularly in stifling environments) and empathic (especially in conflict zones)
- To date over 5 million children worldwide have participated in the Arts Olympiads, approximately 1 million individuals have attended ICAF's festivals or ICAF partners' exhibitions and events, and more than 2,000 Arts Olympiad winners trained by ICAF are making a difference in their communities everyday

"What you are doing reflects such a refreshingly integrated view of children's development -- a much-needed perspective in a time when children's growth and learning often seem to be approached in a very reductionist, fragmented way."

- Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson, Director Harris Programs, Center for Early Education and Development, University of Minnesota

How You Can Help

- a) Foster children's creativity by encouraging your local school to adopt ICAF's free programs
- b) Promote arts education by subscribing to *ChildArt* magazine as a year-round gift for your family, local school or library
- c) Come join the children on June 17-19, 2011 at their World Festival on The National Mall and bring your family and friends along
- d) Select ICAF as your charity of choice and make a tax-deductible donation today by mail or online www.icafe.org/support

