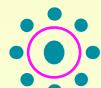


# childArt



Creativity  
DIVERSITY AND  
unity



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

The toughest and yet the most exhilarating and heartwarming responsibility I have is to organize the World Children's Festival (WCF) every four years. This issue bursts with the excitement of the festival and the magic it creates.

Also special about this issue is that *ChildArt* is now an eMagazine. By moving to the digital realm, we can honor our commitment to limiting children's exposure to advertisements while still providing a quality publication at a reasonable price. We hope you like reading *ChildArt* on your device as much as you liked reading the printed copy. We look forward to your comments, which can be emailed to [childart@icaf.org](mailto:childart@icaf.org) or posted at [www.Facebook.com/ICAF.org](http://www.Facebook.com/ICAF.org).

I hope you enjoy this issue and learn many new things!

With best wishes,

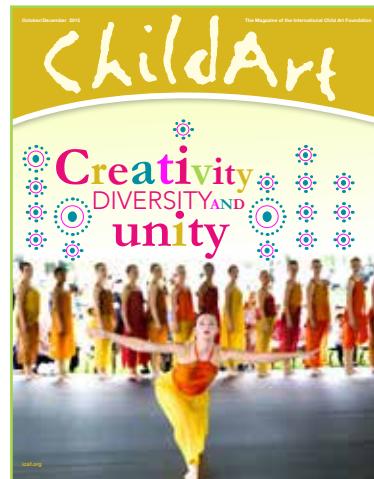


Ashfaq Ishaq Ph. D.  
Chairman

# ChildArt

The Magazine of the International Child Art Foundation

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a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that prepares children for a creative and cooperative future. ICAF is the only national art and creativity organization for children in the United States. ICAF is also the only worldwide umbrella organization promoting children's creativity and imagination through the arts. To subscribe to ChildArt magazine, call 202-530-1000, fax 202-530-1080, or e-mail [childart@icaf.org](mailto:childart@icaf.org).

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# 5th World Children's Festival

A global celebration of  
Creativity, Diversity,  
and Unity.

*by ASHFAQ ISHAQ*





Ballet de Barrio  
in Cali, Colombia.



"Lada," a Russian  
Children's Folk  
Group.

Indian Cultural  
Academy from  
Mumbai performed  
the Bharatanatyam, a  
temple dance.



The Mauri from  
Opotiki, New Zea-  
land, performed the  
haka, the traditional  
Mauri dance.



Welcome to the 5th World Children's Festival (WCF)! This global celebration of creativity took place in Washington, DC from June 30th to July 4th of 2015, and included visual and performing artists from across the U.S. and 50 countries.

First, some background. Every four years, the ICAF launches the Arts Olympiad in classrooms worldwide. Lesson plans introduce students to the "Artist-Athlete Ideal" of the creative mind and healthy body.

Students apply this knowledge by creating a personal work of art encouraged by the theme *My Favorite Sport*.

In the second year, exhibitions are held in schools and cities around the world, where the winning artworks are selected, and students' creativity is celebrated. The following year, Arts Olympiad winners travel to Washington, DC to join extraordinary performing artists selected by the ICAF from around the world to

showcase their talents on the "World Stage," a true gem and highlight of the WCF. Following the WCF, the Arts Olympiad exhibition spends the final year of the Olympiad cycle traveling to prominent venues across the globe. Together, this cycle of competition, exhibition, festival, and further exhibition draws public awareness to the importance of creative education.

The WCF is a unique event fostering creativity, empathy, and mutual



understanding in a global community setting. Over a hundred educators host workshops and activities integrating the arts with sports, and both with STEM disciplines to show the holistic nature of STEAMS Education—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Sports.

The WCF2015 started with a three-day celebration at The Ellipse, also known as the President's Park because it is right next to the White House. Though the festival got

off to a bumpy start with rain falling just before the festival opening by the U.S. Air Force color guard, the WCF brings a magic of its own. The rain soon stopped, and a double rainbow appeared, gracing attendees with the rarest of sights and hinting at the promising future they can make happen.

In addition to the performances and workshops at The Ellipse, the WCF honored participants with medals and certificates presented at

Children from Uganda performed the Rakaraka Dance.

Swedish World Ensemble.

the World Children's Awards Banquet. The festivities culminated with a firework celebration of the U.S. Independence Day at The National Mall on July 4th before attendees returned home the following day.

I invite you to join us in exploring the magic of Creativity, Diversity, and Unity as we introduce you to a few of the festival events. Together, we can build a world of incredible creativity and global understanding.



## Educational Workshop

Educational workshops at the WCF are based on STEAMS Education<sup>SM</sup>—the ICAF's pioneering approach to integrate STEM disciplines with art & culture (signified by the "A") and sport & play (the "S"). Here is a sample (photos 1, 2, 3, and 4): **Ms. Nozomi Kondo**, president ICAF Japan, and **Stanislav Nedzelskyi**, ICAF Youth Board Member, discuss a mural to be coproduced by delegates from Texas and Japan. Once produced, the mural became symbolic of how the arts can build bonds of understanding between peoples.



**Peter Foster** and **Daniel Fenwick** the Swatch Group conducted workshops on watchmaking (see photos 5, 6, and 7). The participants wore the Swiss watchmakers white coats and created a work of art which they took home.



Three famous artists host workshops: **Antje Tesche-Mentzen**, who has her studios in Munich and Venice; **Narmina Veliyeva**, who is an artist in Baku; and **Ngozi Akande**, president of Female Artists Association of Nigeria and deputy director of the National Council for the Arts and Culture (ICAF partner in Nigeria).



Narmina Veliyeva.



Top: Antje Tesche-Mentzen.  
Left: Ngozi Akande.



Danish artist **Martin Nore** entertained young artists with the motion painting of a mural (photos 3,4,5, and 6).



1



6



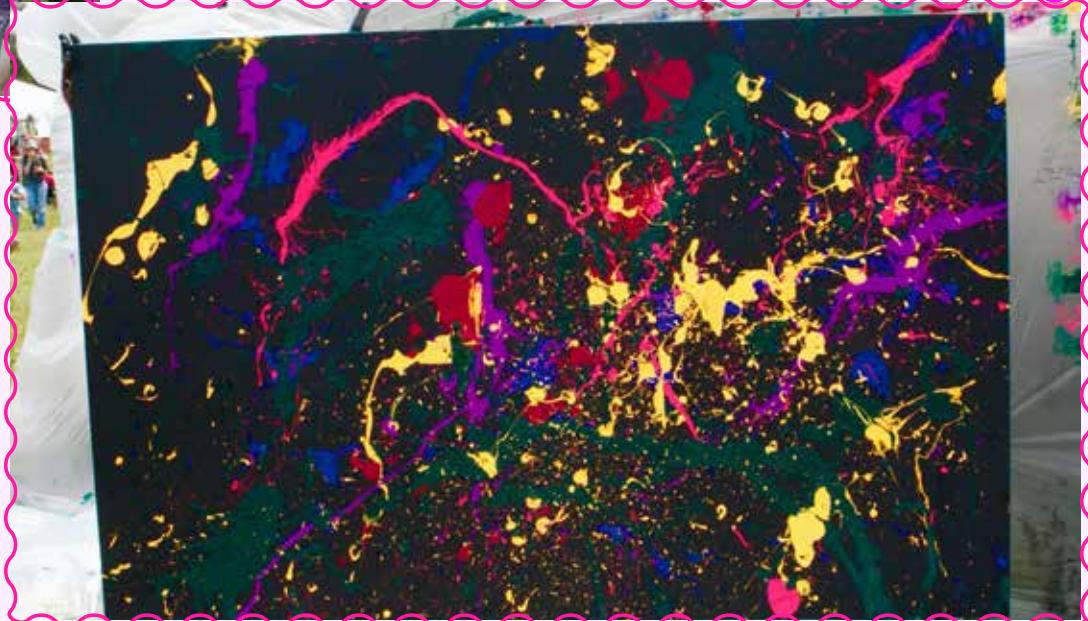
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4



5



The Pinhole Project of **Şenay Yaşsar, Sinem Poyraz and Bose Öngen** of Turkey showed the magic of light and photography to the delegates who took photographs and took home their rolls. The delegates from Azerbaijan produced a fashion show that showcased their culture (photos 1 and 2).



## Exercise and Friendship

Exercises at the WCF were organized by the United States Coast Guard and even an Olympian, **Dr. Liston Brochette**, showed up with his friends to celebrate Olympic Day at the WCF photos 1,2, and 3). New friendships were formed and email addresses and phone numbers exchanged. Even a delegation from Iran came for the first time in the 16-year history of the WCF (photo 4).



## Awards and Farewell

And then there was the World Children's Awards Banquet to receive the certificate and bid farewell.

The 6th World Children's Festival will take place in the summer of 2019, and some of the artists will participate again, some as the ICAF Youth Board Members.



## World Children's Award 2015

At their world festival, the children presented the “World Children’s Award 2015” to The Swatch Group (Switzerland) and Akira Foundation (Japan).

**Frank Furlan**, President of the Swatch Group (USA), accepted the award for The Swatch Group. “We are honored to have received The World’s Children’s Award 2015 as a tribute to companies and organizations that recognize creativity and promotion of art for art’s sake by children,” he said.

**Hirofumi Yokoi**, President, Akira Foundation, travelled from Tokyo to accept the award. “We are truly honored and humbled to accept the World Children’s Award,” he said.

At the World Children’s Awards Banquet, the Arts

Olympiad winners presented the “World Children’s Award 2015” to the educators they admired the most: Ms. Shona Hammond Boys (founder of the New Zealand Children’s Art House Foundation), Mr. Fato Wheremongar (founder, ChildArt Liberia), and Mr. Ssembiro Mike (ICAF representative in Uganda).

The WCF logo and the World Children’s Award The WCF logo resulted from a design competition among 19 countries at the Cannes Lions in Cannes, France. The winner was a German team from Kolle Rebbe in Hamburg. The award itself was designed by Sergey Eylanbekov, who is the sculptor for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial to be built in Washington, D.C. under the creative direction of Frank Gehry.

On the left,  
Ms. Shona Hammond Boys.



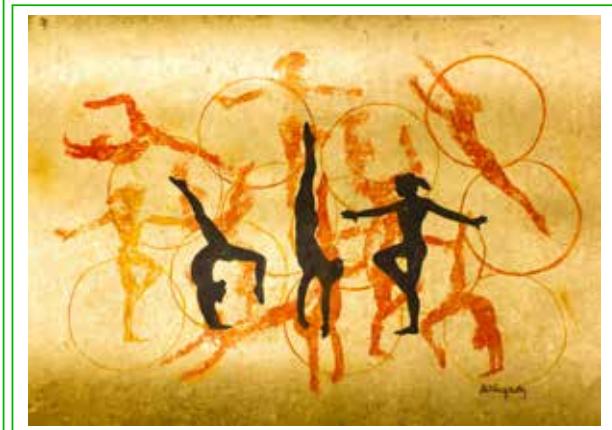
On the right, Mr. Furlan, on the right, Mr. Yokoi, kneeling down on the floor.



Hunter Foster (age 8, Indonesia). "Me and my mom are playing badminton. You must be confuse why there is a pony, because I like my pony. I like pony same as I feel like and excited when I play badminton. I like badminton so much, because it's fun and can make me taller."



Adan Maxwell (age 10, Morocco) "Quidditch" a competitive sport Wizarding World of the Harry Potter universe.



Aishling Kelly (age 11, Arizona-USA) "My artwork shows motion through gymnastics. I've always been inspired by the potential of the human body. Gymnastics shows a great use of this ability to its full extent. I've enjoyed gymnastics since I was very little. It's a fun way to exercise and become more flexible. I believe that combining art with sports is a great way to show different aspects that compose a healthy mind and body."

## Artists Selection for the WCF

The performing artists apply to the ICAF where a panel of judges selects the best performances and ensures that various forms and cultures are included. The visual artists are the winners of the 5th Arts Olympiad, the ICAF's flagship program which is organized in nearly 100 countries around the world.

At the Casablanca American School in Morocco, the Arts Olympiad was organized by art teacher Giselle Gruen. The students were given two articles to read from the materials about the Arts Olympiad and the body in motion as inspiration to art. Students learned that in ancient Greece, the Games were held every four years in Olympia in honor of the god Zeus. The Romans conquered Greece in mid-2nd century B.C., but the games continued but as a show. Emperor Nero fell off his chariot during the race but still declared himself the winner. In 393 A.D., Emperor Theodosius, a Christian, banned "pagan" festivals, ending the Olympic tradition after twelve centuries.

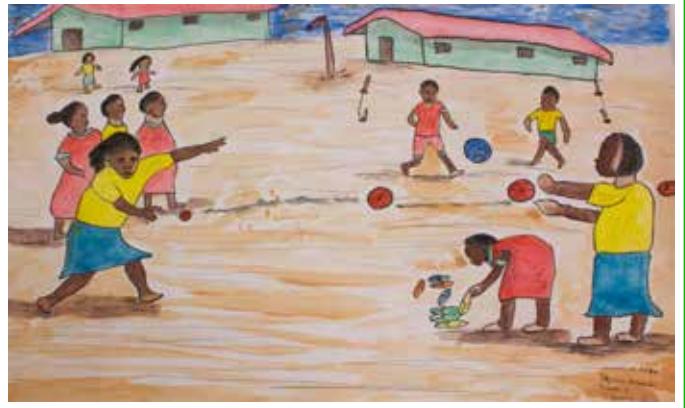
Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France revived the Games and the first modern Olympics was held in

Athens in 1896 with only 13 nations participating. The Baron, who also founded the International Olympic Committee, envisaged the Olympics to reunite "muscle and mind" for cooperation and peace among nations. An Arts Olympics was part of the seven Olympic Games held between 1912 and 1948. Gold medals were awarded to artists, musicians, sculptors, architects, and writers. At the Helsinki 1952 Olympics, the Arts Olympics was abandoned because of the controversy that the artists were professionals and not amateurs like the athletes.

Ms. Gi (as students call her) gave a quiz about art and sport in which the class did quite well. Students were introduced to the "Artist-Athlete Ideal" of the creative mind and healthy body. Then came the production of art on the theme, *My Favorite Sport*. In all, 130 paintings were produced, many successfully showing bodies in motion. On November 24, 2014, these works were exhibited in the school and distinguished guests were invited to select the winners. Twelve paintings were chosen and sent to Washington so that the ICAF judges could select the winner.✿



Ostap Bolyukh (age 11, Texas-USA) "Sky Ball is a phenomenal sport in which a baseball team protects the earth from any harm, overcoming asteroids and cosmic debris with the sheer power of will and a baseball bat. I feel empowered to be a hero by looking at my artwork. Determination and positive outlook serve as my inspiration throughout the day. Sky Ball reflects my dreams and vision of a world where each and every one of us will be a hero, doing only good to better the world."



Lovemore Moyo, Jr. (age 10, Liberia). "I love sport so much that I do my sport through farm work. I love my farm sport that I pray for good health every day to follow my parents. The interesting part of my farm sport is during the harvest time, it's interesting because I love to pick the remains of the crops, when my parents pack the crops, and I love to run through the farm, my siblings and me. Sport is good on the farm."



Alejandra Piaz (age 9, Guatemala) "I wanted to do a very special person: Mateo Flores because he was a fantastic runner that my great grandfather met. This painting is about running. But not just running, it's about never giving up no matter what!"



Regina Tagbashie (age 11, Ghana) "There have been war in most African countries and so far to what I know only games like this can bring us together in one unity. Let's play for unity and peace."



Elizabeth Tewsley (age 11, Kentucky-USA). "My drawing shows myself and others cheerleading at a basketball game in the school gymnasium. Students are sitting in the background watching as we perform a spectacular movement, raising another cheerleader in the air. The boys are shooting a goal in the background. Cheerleading is fun and I get to meet other new friends in the sport. We have to do lots of energetic exercises and keep fit so we practice a lot. We cheer at games to encourage and inspire the team to play, and most of all to win. We say ... 'Let's get fired up!'. Competition in sports is good for kids since it teaches them to use their minds and bodies wisely and also to stay out of trouble. It teaches them how to work together and to keep peace."



Adelina Rupolo (age 11, Australia). "True Blue Australians." After returning home from the WCF, Adelina wrote: "It's not every day you get chosen to fly to America and experience a once in a life time art extravaganza. I will remember the memories of America and the fun I had over the five days forever. I'm sure the same goes for everyone else who was able to share the most wonderful experience with me at the 5th World Children's Festival!"



Ellie Wrigley (age 11, Washington-USA) "Big snow-capped mountains loom high above you. Tightening the straps on your snowboard and securing the harness on a kite you are connected to. You are kiteboarding. Similar to snowboarding, the only difference is that you have a kite. Or a parachute above you. You jump off of a higher point of the mountain. Gliding through the sky, you take in the beautiful scene below."



Arjaa Raghu (age 11, Illinois-USA) "I chose Michael Phelps because he won the most Olympic Gold medals in a single sport in the history of Olympics, and he is my "Super Hero". Winning one Olympic Gold medal is one's lifetime achievement. Think of 5 Gold Medals in individual events and 3 Gold medals in team events—a total of eight, which is definitely amazing and mind blowing."



China.



China.



China.



Turkey.



Russia.



Japan.



Russia.



Russia.



Showing their works at the WCF are Japan's 12 year-old Momoka Ishiwata; Turkey's 10 year-old Dalya Kinsizer and her mom; Russia's 12 year-old Ksenia Oliferuk. Ksenia's other photos from the a workshop at the festival. The Arts Olympiad winners from different regions and cities of China show their artworks.

# Once in a Lifetime...Times Two



by TEODORA LAZAR



They say that the best things in life happen only once. The World Children's Festival is one of the most relevant examples of "best thing ever" for me. It seems surreal every time I retell it. Winning the 4th Arts Olympiad in 2011 proved to me that being passionate about something and working hard is the recipe to what people call success. Passion for art was not something I chose, but rather something that chose me at some point in my life, and has shaped me ever since. The moment I stepped on the National Mall and saw the 4th World Children's Festival unfold in front of me, all my insecurities and fears of being in that new place faded away. I realized that it wasn't a competition of talents anymore, it was a world of children, a place of knowledge and — most of all — a nation of friendship. The WCF helped me evolve as a young artist. Once I came home, I was more than happy to share my story and began encouraging talented children to participate to the next Arts Olympiad.

Imagine my surprise when, a few years after the event that changed my artistic and personal life, I was given the chance to represent Romania once again by participating in the 5th World Children's Festival as an ICAF youth board member and workshop leader. Since I am fascinated by Romanian traditional crafts, I chose to teach one of my dearest handicrafts, painting on ceramics. Not only does this technique add beauty to ceramic forms, but it also shows us that no matter how much the world has changed, we still find joy in things we helped create. Luckily, the County Council of Maramures was very open to my ideas and fully supported my participation at the 5th WCF. What awaited me was a long and terrifying flight

over the Atlantic Ocean, traveling alone for the very first time. On my way, I realized that as long as your motivation exceeds your fear, you are unstoppable.

When the skies finally took me to the WCF for the second time, I had the unique chance to speak on the world stage, right in front of The White House. The workshop I organized, "Painting of Singing Birds", had over 100 participants, made up of some of the most talented and creative children on earth. I was happy to see the shapes painted at my workshop worn with pride by the young artists in the following days. The speeches I prepared for the festival gave me the chance to share my experience, revealing how art changed me and how I view every artistic opportunity as a way to evolve. I admit most of my journey toward my goals is still to come, but step by step, I am building my own way. Some steps might be insecure and some decisions may not be the best ones, but I am sure that action, hope, passion, and enthusiasm can influence our path in a great way. Once again, Euro-Asia Promotion and Cultural Foundation (ICAF national partner) and the County Council of Maramures trusted me to represent Romania at the WCF. When I returned home, the media became interested in my story. Many newspapers published stories about the WCF and the photos I had taken. I was invited to a TV show to talk about my accomplishments at the festival. This coverage had an extraordinary impact. Many talented children, discouraged by the insecure life of artists today, gained courage to use their imagination to dream of perfection and work to make it happen.

The outcome of the WCF was more than just a festival. Hundreds of children discovered that art, education, and friendship are key values of an ideal world. As for me, I realized that no experience is the same, regardless of how often it is repeated. Now each time I have to make a choice about my future, I choose art every time.✿

***Teodora Lazar was a winner of the 4th Arts Olympiad and is a current ICAF Youth Board Member.***



Friendshipology workshop  
in New Zealand: making a  
fan for a friend.

For the 2015 World Children's Festival, Stephen Smuin, Chris Fiorentini and I designed a special workshop on Friendshipology—our term for the study and promotion of friendship. The plan: inspire approximately twenty highly motivated 11 to 13 year-old students from around the globe to promote friendships in their lives and communities. We wanted to begin by creating joy, optimism, and a comfort zone with our group hailing from many different countries, cultures, and backgrounds. By using imaginative artistic games such as Crayon Culture (in which we attach a line of crayons kids have pre-labeled with something they value to the top of a foam core board and use a hair dryer to melt them into a vibrant web of overlapping colors) we could encourage them to open up and find magic qualities in each other. Together, they could discover the enlightening power in group collaboration.

Once this was established, we could begin brainstorming. What is Friendship and why does it matter? How does it begin and how does it grow? What do we need to sustain it? With personal experiences, values, and traditions, we begin to see our differences and simi-

larities. Think of peace and war or love and hate. What can we all agree on? What do we all essentially want? What can we, as 20 young international students, do together to make a meaningful contribution to promoting friendship? Our thought was to put forth our feelings and our hopes by writing, decorating, and signing a Declaration of Interdependence. This was particularly historic during the Festival week of July 4th, which marks the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. We see this as a commitment for children and a challenge for their adult mentors. Together, we can create a world where friendshipology thrives.

Do you have your own ideas for friendshipology? What can you do to involve and challenge adults with serious discussions on what friendship means for our joint communities and world? Gather a group together and see what you come up with. We invite you to share (with your parent's permission) your ideas with ChildArt. Click on the Friendship Fans link on the ChildArt website to download a pdf file with a template for your own friendship fan.

# FROM Los Angeles

# WITH LOVE

by ART TEACHER Tracy Cheney and her students

**A**t the Berkeley Hall School in Los Angeles, I had never heard of the Art Olympiad until I received a call from the ICAF inviting the school to participate. When I laughingly mentioned the phone call to my students, they jumped on the opportunity immediately. I mean, at that very moment they whipped out sketch paper! They weren't daunted by the large size of the paintings they'd have to produce in three short weeks for the Arts Olympiad. It was a marathon that consumed every recess and lunch hour. Six students powered through to a finished painting, with others cheering them on just like a sports race. I sent the paintings by overnight carrier to D.C. just in the nick of time, and a group of us attended the WCF.

Once the school year began again, we made a movie about our trip. The students then narrated their highlights of the trip. Here are some impressions in the students' own words:

**Kaelan B. (5th grade):** "The theme of the Olympiad was appealing because it combined two of my interests – art and sports. My piece was called, "The Art of Baseball." I chose to do a piece about a baseball player who was the MVP of the World Games. The World Games in my artwork represented "Hope vs Fear." Hope won in the end. It was fun to interact with other kids from many parts of the world. I met a group of children from Japan who taught me how to write words, including my name, in Japanese characters. The piece looked like art."

**Emily L. (6th grade):** "One exciting moment at the WCF was when Marine One (the helicopter carrying the President of the United States) took off from the lawn of The



*White House and flew right over our heads. We waved to the President!"*

**Ashtyn W. (6th grade):** "Being surrounded by different cultures at the festival made me excited for the week ahead. While there we got to make friends from countries around the world like Uganda, Russia, Japan, Africa – and I even got to meet someone from Australia. I bonded with others over interests such as art, dance, and music. Each performance and workshop caught my attention. I never wanted to leave! On the last day of the festival, there was a big drum circle. We got to learn a dance while people played the music. We didn't care that the grass was wet from all the rain and my friend's feet turned green. Even though it was a tight space for people to dance in, and we got kicked and stepped on a little, it was a very fun way to end our trip." \*



# Managing the World Stage

by MEGAN SHINDLER

Heavy rain clouds quickly receded leaving behind an ivory sky and the festival grounds came alive with quiet anticipation.

**H**eavy rain clouds quickly receded, leaving behind an ivory sky, and the festival grounds came alive with quiet anticipation. From center stage, I watched children make their way toward me with a deep sense of purpose in their eyes. From the direction of the Old Executive Office Building, came a group of twelve, young, Ugandan boys from the Greenhill Academy in Kampala. Coming north, from the Washington Monument, came a troupe of Malaysian teenagers adorned in feathers and

beads and carrying large drums and a gamelan set from Kuala Lumpur. Heading south, with The White House to their back, came a dance ensemble clad in neon blue from Knoxville, Tennessee. As young performers from over 50 different countries converged in Washington, DC to revel in a moment on The World Stage, I felt the universe align beside me.

There was one performance that particularly captivated the audience, moving them onto their feet



to dance, and bringing me to tears. When a group of five blind children took the stage with their homemade wooden instruments, they played the sweetest, most consonant music I had ever heard. People rose from their seats and climbed onto the stage in a flurry of laughter and cheers. The gifted young performers smiled.

An overnight thunderstorm flooded the stage and damaged technical equipment, so that our second day began with a challenge – but it was one that, together, we could tackle. The Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble hiked up their dresses, dropped to their knees, and pushed puddles of rainwater off of the stage with their bare hands. Malachi Sameday, a talented young musician, selflessly offered his childhood drum set for all of the festival's children to play on. The courage of children in the face of adversity is remarkable. From them, we are encouraged to do the impossible in the name of passion and for the sake of art, as art is a universal language transcending linguistic and cultural barriers alike.✿



# **ElemMates, Live from Atom City!**



by LESLIE WALLANT

**S**cience inspires great art, such as fireworks displays and kinetic (motion-based) sculptures. Even science fantasy inspires the visual arts, as artists design entire imaginary worlds. ElemMates' story is also inspired by science. In fact, it's based on the very building blocks of the real world. That is, ElemMates' personalities and looks reflect those of the real atomic elements that serve as their inspiration. Picture for a moment what an oxygen atom might look like if it were a person. In Atom City, Octavia Oxygen is a breath of fresh air with her adventurous energy, creative ideas, and windblown hair. Her friendliness makes everyone breathe easy! Carl Carbon, meanwhile, has jet black hair and sparkling teeth since carbon is the element in coal and diamonds.

Scientists use a chart called the Periodic Table as a way to organize the real chemical elements. So, in Atom City, city blocks are laid out based on the chart's grid lines, and empty spaces in the chart become parks and a river. Buildings and businesses relate to the element that

would occupy the space on the periodic table represented by that city block on the Atom City map. Kids who attended the 2015 World Children's Festival entered Atom City through an online, interactive city map. They followed the ElemMates in their daily lives through videos and slide shows. Fired up by the stories, kids used paint and clay to create their own characters and adventures.

Imagine for a moment that you discover Atom City — an entire metropolis filled ElemMate friends. That's exactly what happened to Evie Sparks, our tween protagonist! An explosion on her town's beach rockets Evie into Atom City and leaves a beautiful garden to grow in her wake. In Atom City, Evie finds that the many parks are full of organic and crystal plants. With the ElemMate's help, Evie is able to repair the ozone shield and create an oasis in the Sahara Desert. The story led to a discussion of the large variety of real gardens, and workshop participants began painting fantasy gardens using their own ElemMates characters. You can try this at home. What will your garden look like? Gardens are wonderful, and very

# Atom City

The Periodic Table home of the ElemMates



important to our food supply and ecosystem, but Atom City has even more to offer. It is a thriving, growing metropolis filled with industrious, entrepreneurial, cultural, entertaining, and athletic characters. Attendees on the second day of our workshop were introduced to some of the ElemMates characters with short slices of their lives. Kids saw how the characters' personalities mirror real elements' behavior with real chemical information about element properties and materials. By embarking on a city tour of fun destinations, the ElemMates explain how each element functions in our daily lives.

Think for a moment about the elements in your life. Where is our oxygen produced so that we have fresh air to breathe? What happens to the carbon we use to power our homes? How do we mine gems for the jewelry we wear and what effect does that have on our land? The children thought about the challenges facing Atom City and discussed ways to clean the Primordial River, direct radioactive energy for power usage, and maintain the ozone shield to keep out harmful rays. They then

used paints, markers and clay to create new characters, tools and houses, expanding upon this fantasy world to create art inspired by science. What would your fantasy world look like? Would the characters in your city face the same challenges as Atom City or would they have their own obstacles to overcome? Can you create a painting or story to share your ideas?

By understanding the scientific foundation of the world around us and how different elements interact, we are better equipped to both address real life problems and create our own fantasy worlds with real or imagined elements. We would love to see what you come up with! If you have your parent's permission, you may post your ideas to the ChildArt Facebook page for other kids to see. 

*Leslie Wallant, creator of the ElemMates™ characters, is the author of *Evie & the ElemMates*.*

# SEEING THROUGH SOUND

by TRUST MUTEKWA

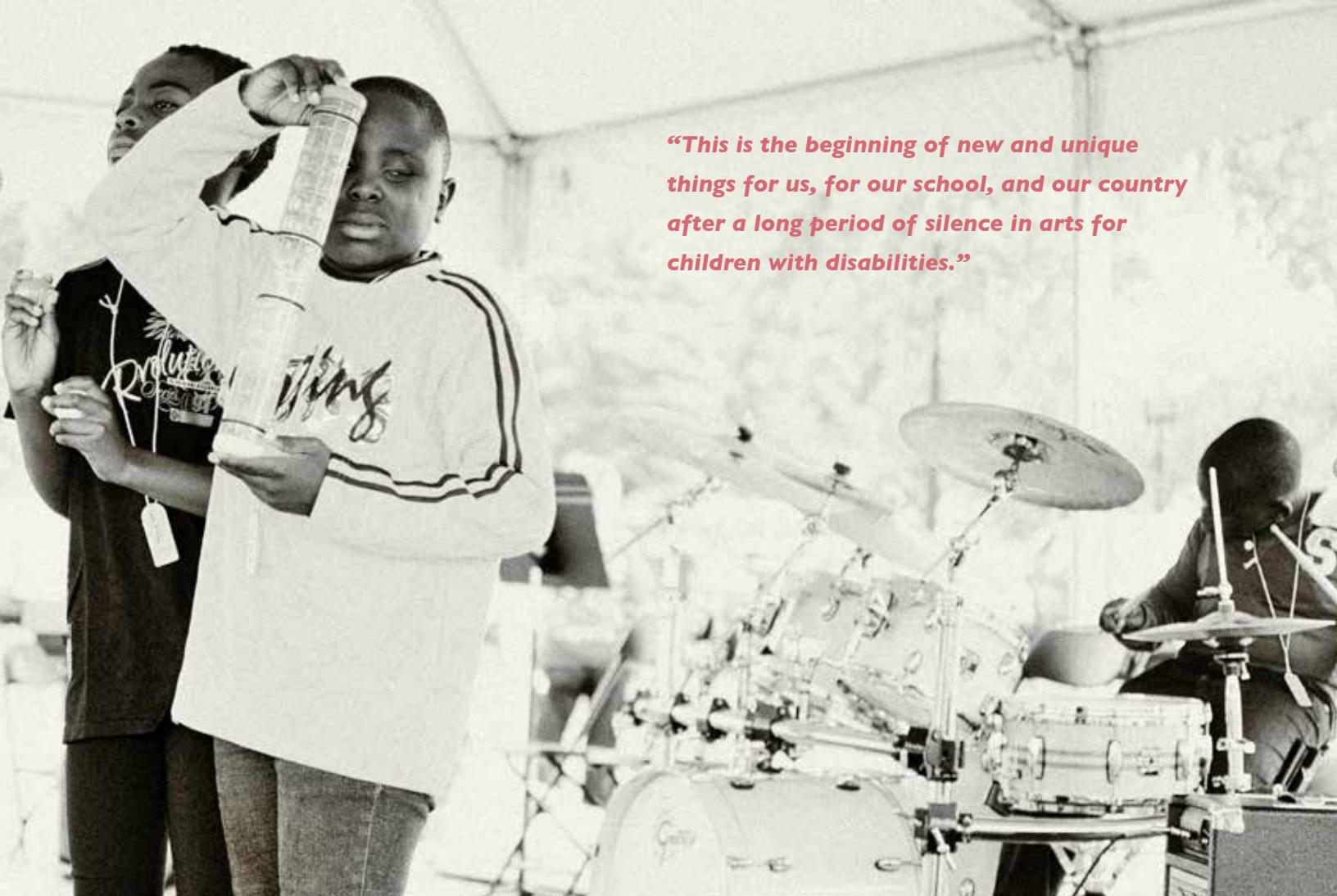
**I**magine traveling to a foreign country without a parent to hold your hand when needed. Now imagine that while there you step onto the World Stage with your group to perform in front of many Americans and people from across the globe but you cannot see their world. The five blind musicians of the St. Giles Special School were excited to be in Washington and a bit scared too. Theirs was the very first group from Zimbabwe ever to be invited to the WCF.

If you lose one sense, do the other four become stronger? This is true for them, as it was for blind singers like Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Andrea Bocelli and Jose Feliciano. Every band has its rock star, and Tanyaradzwa Gondo was the one for the Mbira Band. Age 12, he has



been a drummer for six years but can also play a bass guitar, a keyboard and the mbira (pronounced um-beer-uh, a small keyboard-like instrument mounted inside a gourd). Tanyaradzwa can reproduce musical rhythms after simply listening to a new song. He is a regular player at his church in Harare.

Florence Makuyana, age 11, is a singer and plays the hoshos (a Zimbabwean instrument similar to maracas). She also dances. For those who prefer humor to music, Rumbidzai Ndoro, age 12, is the band's comic relief. Multi-talented, she warmed up the festival audience by telling a joke. Beauty Ngwende, at 13, is the oldest member and a vibrant mbira player. She sang songs while her thumbs worked the mbira. Japhet Wirirai, the



***“This is the beginning of new and unique things for us, for our school, and our country after a long period of silence in arts for children with disabilities.”***

youngest at age 9, is an amazing conga player.

The five performing artists could not see the festivities but enjoyed every performance, the music from different cultures, and the many languages in which other children greeted them. They liked the smell of the WCF and they spoke softly in English with everyone they met. Though opportunities for children with disabilities are limited in some places, Tanyaradzwa and friends proved that given the opportunity, they could do great things. While in DC, they created music and fun for WCF attendees and performed as special guests at the World Children's Banquet. They even presented an mbira to the Embassy of Zimbabwe.

Most promising of all is the seed that was planted

for the future. St. Giles is committed to working hard to identify new talent and provide additional training. The WCF experience has provided the motivation and foundation to establish global networks with a common goal of supporting art and opportunities for children with disabilities. As the exuberant Rumbidzai said in a television interview after arriving back home, “This is the beginning of new and unique things for us, for our school, and our country after a long period of silence in arts for children with disabilities.” ♣

***Trust Mutekwa is an mbira teacher and performance poet at St. Giles Special School in Harare and a graduate of the University of Zimbabwe.***

# POSTS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE PROJECT

by KIRA CARRILLO CORSER

How can you be creative in the communication of love, family, hope and peace? What does peace mean to you? How can we have a stronger voice using color, composition, empathy and design?

Thunderclouds rolled over the White House, tugging at our nearby tent at the WCF. Energy sparked our imaginations as we excitedly painted colorful, creative, and meaningful Posts for Peace and Justice while discussing questions of human rights and social justice. Volunteer art teachers helped kids and adults paint on three 8-foot x 5-inch fence posts.



Over 100 students, teachers and families suggested inspiring words in Japanese, Russian, Turkish and Hindi to mix with English on the painted posts. People personalized their creative commitments to the future as they traced their own hands on the post with friends, family and strangers. They drew symbols of kindness and love: butterflies, hummingbirds, hearts, flowers and peace signs.

One young artist said, "I think peace is being kind." Another added, "We like the black and white starkness of our flowers as a symbol of peace and balance of harmony." A participant added, "I want to draw peace signs with my friends." They repeated the words of the ICAF Chairman Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq written on the top of a POST: "**Together, creativity and empathy are preconditions for a just, prosperous, and nonviolent world.**" ♡

*Kira Carrillo Corser and Lisa Parsons are Co-founders of [www.PostsforPeaceAndJustice.org](http://www.PostsforPeaceAndJustice.org)*



Eleven volunteers participated in Posts for ICAF, including: Kira Carrillo Corser, Lisa Parsons, Diane Dougherty, Dr. Sarah Lopez, Ellen Martin, Dr. Jennifer Colby, Carla Baldassari, Abby Drue, Kris Swanson, Nancy Polend, and Anna Pomaska.

# SEWING ELECTRICITY

by SOPHIA BENDER

Did you know thread can act as an electronic wire? It can if you're using special conductive threads. They allow for the integration of electronics with textiles. We call these e-textiles, and with them we can create some really cool artwork as well as some useful products.

Picture spreading a tablecloth covered with an array of tiny lights when preparing for a special occasion. By using conductive thread and applying basic circuitry concepts regarding polarity, connectivity, and current flow, items like that can be a reality.

We came to the WCF from the Creativity Labs at Indiana University, Bloomington, bringing along supplies to demonstrate these concepts to WCF artists. Armed with strips of felt on which we had hot-glued a battery holder and a sewable LED light, we were ready to tackle the task at hand: making light-up bookmarks.

But having the supplies on hand was only the first step. Attendees had to learn circuitry basics too. First, we explained the importance of polarity in circuits. That is, for a circuit to work, positives must be aligned with other positives and negatives must be paired with other negatives. The artists applied this concept by sewing one line from the positive end of the battery holder to the positive end of the LED, and a second line for the negative sides.

To make the connections stronger, they wrapped

the conductive thread around each of the components' holes three times. This demonstrated the importance of reinforcing connections to allow electricity to flow easily through the thread from one component to the next.

Artists noticed that the sewing itself forms a loop, demonstrating the concept of electric current flow. More specifically, a circuit must be a closed loop in which the current flows from the battery, through the load (which is the component using the energy – in this case, an LED), and back to the battery.

If the polarity is not properly aligned, if the connections are not strong enough, or if the loop is incomplete, then the LED will not light. So if the light-up bookmark works, it means all these concepts were correctly applied. Most problems arise in the form of short circuits, in which positive and negative lines cross or the thread is sewn directly through the LED so the current cannot go through the light.

E-textiles directly integrate the craft of sewing with circuitry, so that good sewing leads to a better circuit. For instance, tying a big enough knot at the end of the



thread is important so that the thread does not pull out of place and break the loop of the circuit. Just as sewing through the holes of buttons on clothes many times ensures they do not fall off, sewing through the holes of the e-components several times makes strong connections. Like in sewing, small stitches are ideal for a neat, sturdy product because large, loose stitches in e-textiles can allow positive and negative lines to more easily cross each other and cause shorts.

The participants learned about circuitry and sewing, but they also got to create! By using buttons, feathers, stickers, fabric markers, and other art supplies, the bookmarks could be customized to make them personally meaningful. At the WCF we saw incredible creativity, pride in accomplishment, and joy that transcended national and language barriers. While we could not be happier with the festival results, we would love to see even more creative ideas. With an adult's supervision, try making your own e-textile at home. If your parent agrees, you can share your creation on the ICAF Facebook page. We would love to take a peek! ♡

While it may be difficult to find e-textile supplies in your local craft store, they can be found online through companies such as SparkFun and Adafruit.

# The Dream Which is Bigger Than I Am

by SHONA HAMMOND BOYS

**What is a dream?** I like to define it as something we carry with us in our minds. We believe it, and it drives us.

If we start helping our dream by doing things to take us in the direction of our dreams, we begin to exercise our talents and energy toward a vision. Dreams and visions are natural for humans because we are a creative species driven to explore, invent, discover. We each have our own ideas to follow and dreams to create.

The WCF attendees had dreams ranging from having a wonderful festival to becoming an architect. Together, they represented just a small fraction of the millions of possible art dreams.

But a dream is just the beginning. If we only dream about an idea and do not act upon it by taking steps, even little ones, toward making it a reality, then our dreams can die. Sometimes, we are not sure we are on the right track. Like snails peeping from their shells, we try to find a path to follow. Obstacles may keep us from getting very far the first time, but we learn as we go. We learn to keep our dream with us no matter how long it may take. Big dreams are those that may take an entire lifetime to achieve.

So where can you turn for support with your dream? Festival participants were happy to share their ideas with each other, and those conversations allowed them to expand and refine their dreams. Just getting to Washington was part of a dream which had come true and helped them to see bigger possibilities ahead. Who can you share your ideas with to help nurture your



Ms. Boys with the New Zealand Arts Olympiad winners and ICAF board member Portia Davidson

dreams? Think about the people around you. Maybe your family, teachers, or friends can help. They might have good advice, or they might be able to give you information about other resources you can turn to. Look for clubs, camps, or schools that can support your dream. Reach out to businesses or other organizations that might help with support, advertising, or by giving you an opportunity to apply the skills you are developing as part of your dream.

Think about what you need to keep your journey on course for success. Dreams may guide us toward a goal, but it is up to us to map out a path for getting there. Baby steps can lead us in the right direction, breaking a large vision into a manageable process. However big your dream is, the path to getting there is made up of smaller steps, persistence, hard work, and support. ♣

*Shona Hammond Boys is founder of  
New Zealand Art House Foundation.*



A young Meera Trehan.

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not. ~ Dr. Suess from *The Lorax*



Meera Trehan.

by MEERA TREHAN

When you were younger, did you ever hear the Sesame Street song “One of These Things is Not Like the Other?” Someone lists three things, two of which obviously go together and one that doesn’t, and you just have to pick the odd one out. Let’s try it with the first three words that come to mind: Milk, Moth, and Butterfly. It’s clear which two match, right? It’s obviously milk and moth. Both words begin with the letter “M,” have four letters and the same consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant pattern. Done. Wait – that wasn’t your thought? Oh, I bet you’re a fan of The Lorax, Dr. Seuss’s famous story about the environment. In that book, the prized Truffula trees “had the sweet smell of fresh butterfly milk.” If that’s your perspective, then it makes perfect sense that butterfly and milk go together. So, maybe there are two good answers.

What’s that? You chose moth and butterfly? Well, I suppose both are winged insects that start their lives as eggs, hatch into caterpillars, and emerge from their pupas fully grown. Come to think of it, if you look at it that way, they’re quite similar. Hmm, maybe this game isn’t as straightforward as I thought. Let me try again: Creativity, Diversity, and Unity. Creativity is the act of making something new and original. To do that, you would have to imagine the art you’re creating or the problem you’re solving in a unique way. That requires bringing your own thoughts and experiences to the table, since they are different from everyone else’s. Your diversity enables you to create something that hasn’t been seen before. So, creativity and diversity are plainly the solution. Although, Steve Jobs (co-founder of Apple Inc.) once said that, “Creativity is just connecting things.” Connecting, joining, maybe even

uniting into one work? That makes it sound like the answer is creativity and unity.

After all, not only does art bring different ideas together in one work, it also brings people together. One of the most amazing things about visiting a gallery, attending a festival, or discussing a book is the experience of coming together to share our response to art. Whether our ideas are the same or different, sharing them helps us to connect and understand each other. So, creativity and unity go hand in hand, too. At least there are only two answers to this one. After all, diversity and unity can’t go together because well, they’re opposites, right? One is about being different and the other is about joining together. But, diversity and unity are both essential to the creative process. And both words together describe us, the people of the world: We have essential differences, but also an essential commonality. Our individual parts strengthen who we are as whole. Hmm, it looks like diversity and unity also make a great answer. So, it seems like all three of these things go together. In fact, once you start looking, you see examples everywhere: from the performances and presentations at the 2015 World Children’s Festival to the originator of the matching game song, Sesame Street, which had numerous co-productions in almost every continent. Closer to home, you might notice that creativity, diversity, and unity permeates the holidays you celebrate and the music you hear. Temple Grandin, an acclaimed author, autism activist, and inventor of stress-reducing tools for both people and animals, once said, “The world needs all kinds of minds.” Our creativity and diversity enables us to make this world a better place. ♡

Meera Trehan is a lawyer and writer whose recent work was featured in *Chess Life for Kids*.





# A SHAMAN'S PATH TO THE FUTURE

by JEAN CAMPBELL



Did you know that a Native American Shaman created a ceremony just for the World Children's Festival? It was Lakota/Dakota elder and spiritual teacher, Woableza, at the WCF2007. This year, as has been true since 2007, the WCF closed with this special ceremony, followed by the world's largest drumming circle for children.

The ceremony demonstrated the teachings of the circle in the Medicine Way, which is the Native American belief that Spirit holds all things equally and that we grow in wisdom as we understand our relationship with others in the circle of life. Woableza asked that we provide four "Grandmothers," from various traditions, and that the Grandmothers enter the circle of children from the traditional four directions (north, east, south, and west).

So the Grandmothers carried bowls containing seeds, water, flower petals and herbs, and these were given to the children. Each child in the circle held whatever he had selected close to his heart while making a wish for the future of all the children. As the child spoke, he symbolically released that which he held into the future. One young girl released a wish for unicorns for all. We might be surprised!

The World Dreams Peace Bridge is an international group of dreamers, most of whom first get involved online. Each time the WCF happens, members of the Peace Bridge create a global drumming circle. This year, the drumming circles started in Australia, California, Canada, Germany, and Iran, and then culminated at the WCF at The Ellipse. ♡

*Jean Campbell heads the World Dreams Peace Bridge which is based in Virginia.*

# Testimonials of Educators and Artists



“ Olympians around the world could not be more proud of the young talent involved in the International Child Art Foundation events. These talented young souls hold great promise for a tomorrow filled with “Higher, Swifter, and Stronger” leadership. No matter where life leads them we all know that success awaits their arrival with open arms!”

*~ Dr. Liston D. Bochette III, Olympian, artist, and educator*

“ I was so overwhelmed when Dr. Ishaq personally invited all of our children, from across the globe, onto the stage to just be themselves and come up with something of their own. While the children were innocently mingling and creatively performing, I thought to myself what a peaceful world we would have if humans were to ascend into adulthood as children.”

*~ Ambassador James Kur Muorwel, Republic of South Sudan*

“ The WCF is one of those uplifting experiences my students and I will never forget. My students left feeling encouraged to share their knowledge and creativity with the world. I thank the ICAF for making that happen.”

*~ Wook Choi, Founder of Oogie Haus, and Wook Choi Gallery, New York City.*



**“**The WCF gives children from around the world an opportunity to participate with and get to know many others of various nationalities, races and religions, and to join together in a growing friendship which manifests a model for World Peace.”

*~ Professor Fred Jeremy Seligson, Founder of the Children's Peace Train*



**“**It was a joy to attend the WCF, see familiar faces, make new friends, view the cultural performances from around the world and meet the young artists. I have attended the WCF from its inception in 1999 and found it to be culturally enriching, because of the variety of art styles on display, as well as the innovative ideas it encourages in the students. The WCF succeeded in the celebration of diversity, by sharing love and togetherness, while building friendship, self-esteem and creativity.”

*~ Judy Layne-Banks, Artist, Art Teacher, Louisville, Kentucky*

**“**I want to congratulate the ICAF for a successful festival. It was awesome! It is a very big inspiration for me and I am more determined to do more in areas of children art, peace and friendship. Nigeria will be well represented in the next Olympiad and WCF.”

*~ Ngozi Akande, Deputy Director,  
National Council for Arts & Culture, Abuja, Nigeria*





# ChildArt

The Magazine of the International Child Art Foundation

# 2016

WILL BRING

Magic of Music (Jan.-Mar. 2016)

Water? Water! (Apr.-June 2016)

Space Art (July-Sept. 2016)

Learning Design (Oct.-Dec. 2016)

# Thank you

TO ALL THE YOUNG artists and their parents and teachers, volunteers and interns, and the ICAF staff and board members for making the WCF2015 a great success. The next WCF will take place in 2019. To nurture creativity and develop global understanding through the arts, you can subscribe to *ChildArt* at <https://icaf.org/childart>

Please consider adopting the International Child Art Foundation as your charity this year. Since 1997, the ICAF has been nurturing our children's creativity through in-school programs like the Arts Olympiad and imbuing creativity with empathy in global community settings such as the WCF. The ICAF has been independently ranked among the Top 25 Children's Charities in the United States.

You could help the ICAF bring back *ChildArt* as a printed magazine as well. Free of commercial advertisements, this amazing publication is packed with innovative and inspirational ideas. Please help us raise \$24,000 by the end of 2015 to ensure that all four 2016 issues are available in both print and electronic formats so parents and schoolteachers have a choice. Whatever your contribution is, it will tremendously help.

Your tax-deductible contribution can be mailed to the ICAF or submitted online at <https://icaf.org/support/> using Amazon or JustGive. We wish you a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season!

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