**ICAF BOARD**  
  
**Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq, Founder**  
A multidisciplinary thinker, Ashfaq has written for the Journal of Conflict Resolution, the UNESCO Observatory Journal, the National PTA's "Our Children," The State Education Standard, The Lancet, Cybertherapy and Rehabilitation Journal, and Dynamische Psychiatrie. He co-authored a book on small-scale enterprises published by the Oxford University Press in 1987. His 2013 book, The Creativity Revolution, is available on Amazon. Before founding ICAF, he was President of USA International, Inc., an Associate Professor of Economics at The George Washington University, and a Researcher at the World Bank.   
[](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashfaqishaq/)

**Katty Guerami, Co-Founder**Cofounder of ICAF, Katty has served as Board Secretary and Director of Community Relations since 1997. She supervises ICAF outreach and development efforts. Previously, she was Vice President of marketing and strategic planning for a Washington, DC-based financial advisory company. She later founded the ChildArt Gallery and managed its operations. She holds a B.S. in biology and a MHSA (Masters in Health Services Administration), both from The George Washington University. Katty represents the ICAF at high-level meetings in D.C. and internationally. She was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times in June 2022.   
[](https://www.linkedin.com/in/katty-guerami-74a99014/)  
  
**Dr. Ngozi Akande**  
An accomplished artist and former president of the Nigeria Female Artists Association, Ngozi organized the Fifth Arts Olympiad in Nigeria and hosted workshops at the 2015 World Children’s Festival. She organized the Nigerian delegation to the 2021 World Children’s Festival and continues to represent ICAF in Nigeria. She is director at the National Council for Arts and Culture in Nigeria and ICAF Advisory Board Member.   
[](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ngozi-akande-2214926b/?originalSubdomain=ng)  
  
**Professor Maria Claudia Albini**Teaching children, teenagers and adults in primary and in secondary schools and at a university for the past 35 years, Maria holds a BA in Education, a BA in Arts, and is completing her doctoral studies in Art at the Universidad Nacional de las Artes in Buenos Aires. As a lecturer and a researcher, her main interests are the interrelation between music and language and applied linguistics. She attended the 1999 and the 2007 World Children’s Festivals and represents ICAF in Argentina. <https://artesol.org.ar/maria-claudia-albini-2-5885>   
  
**Yuxuan Chen**   
A Rhodes Scholar with double Masters from the University of Oxford in Environmental Change & Management and Public Policy, Yuxuan has diverse professional experience working in think tanks, business consultancies, and international organizations. She loves child art and innovative ways to explore human creation. While an undergrad at the Tsinghua University, Yuxuan worked at ICAF for several months in 2013 and continues to represent ICAF in China.   
[](https://linkedin.com/in/septemberyuxuan/) （not working）

**Sergey Eylanbekov**  
Admitted to the prestigious Moscow School of Fine Arts at the age 13, Sergey entered the Moscow Surikov Academy of Fine Arts at the age of 17 and graduated with honors. In 1989, he immigrated to New York, speaking no English and without funds or contacts and had to start all over again. In 2004, his sculpture “Five Continents” officially represented the United States in the International Olympic Committee’s global Art and Sport Contest and was awarded first place. Most recently, he was the sculptor for the National Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Sergey is ICAF Advisory Board Member. <https://eylanbekov.com>   
 **Professor Sohail Inayatullah**  
The inaugural UNESCO Chair in Futures Studies, Sohail teaches at the Tamkang University in Taiwan and the University of Melbourne’s Business School in Australia. In 2017, he helped put together and contributed to ChildArt’s issue on Future Pathways. In 2021, he was virtual futurist-in-residence with the Government of Abu Dhabi, Culture and Tourism. He teaches courses on personal futures and becoming a futurist. Sohail is ICAF Advisory Board Member. [www.metafutureschool.org](http://www.metafutureschool.org)

**Sora Nithikasem**The Third Arts Olympiad winner from New Jersey, Sora participated in the 2007 World Children’s Festival. Since then she has participated in every festival, and most recently in the 2021 World Children’s Festival.  She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Neural Science with Minors in Chemistry and Studio Arts from New York University and is currently a medical student at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In both my academic and extracurricular activities, she has focused her efforts on the intersection between the sciences and the humanities.   
 (not link)

**Judy Layne-Banks**  
An art teacher in Louisville, Kentucky for the past twenty-five years, Judy holds an MS degree from University of Louisville and BA from University of West Indies in Barbados. An artist, she specializes in tie-dye, batik, and fashion design and has held several exhibitions nationwide. Her students have participated in the past three Arts Olympiads and she has held workshops at the World Children’s Festivals in 2007, 2011, and 2015. <https://facebook.com/judy.laynebanks.9>   
  
**Frederick Marks**  
Currently a Visiting Scholar and Research Collaborator at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, Frederick has been a licensed architect for over thirty years and has a planning & design specialty in healthcare and laboratory science facilities. He holds degrees in architecture and business administration with a major in real estate & urban land economics. A founding Board member and former President of the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture in San Diego, CA, he has served as advisor to The American Institute of Architects Board Knowledge Committee and Mental Health Incubator Group. He is a current advisor to the Johns Hopkins University Medical Center Pedersen Brain Science Institute on neuroaesthetics. He was guest editor of *ChildArt* magazine on architecture and is ICAF Advisory Board Member.

**Professor Mihai Nadin**  
A scholar and researcher in electrical engineering, computer science, aesthetics, semiotics, human-computer interaction, computational design, post-industrial society, and anticipatory systems, Mihai has over 200 publications and he has lectured throughout the world. He has made it his mission to connect new science and technology with the arts, literature, and design. He is widely recognized as the leading expert on anticipation and anticipatory systems. He is Ashbel Smith University Professor and Director of Institute for Research in Anticipatory Systems at the University of Texas at Dallas. Mihai is ICAF Advisory Board Member. <https://nadin.ws/>   
  
**Charlie O’Shields**Charlie O'Shields is the creator of Doodlewash®, founder of World Watercolor Month, host of the Sketching Stuff™ podcast, and a big kid at heart. He’s currently the Executive Creative Director at Venn49 Creative Lab, a packaging design studio, and has also published several books, including activity books and interactive picture books for people of all ages. His true passion is inspiring as many people as possible to create something new and help artists of all ages reconnect with their inner child, natural creativity, and just have tons of fun! Charlies is ICAF Advisory Board Member. <https://sketchingstuff.com/>

**Dr. Daniela Radovanovic**  
An international internet tech professional, and a senior advisor on digital inclusion and digital literacy, Danica serves as an expert on the Child Online Protection program for the International Telecommunication Union. and she is a project associate at the University of Oslo, working on the NURTURE project for digital social innovation in education. As a Chevening Scholar, she earned her doctorate from University of Oxford) after studying at University of Novi Sad. Daniela is ICAF Advisory Board Member. <https://www.danicar.info>  
  
**D Paul Schafer**Having worked in the cultural field for more than fifty years, Paul has undertaken many projects and missions for UNESCO. He is an author, advisor, educator, and administrator, and was Assistant Director of the Ontario Arts Council from 1967 to 1970. Paul taught arts administration and cultural policy at York University and the University of Toronto. He is founder and director of the World Culture Project at present. His books include Culture: Beacon of the Future, Revolution or Renaissance: Making the Transition from an Economic Age to a Cultural Age, The Age of Culture, THE ARTS: Gateway to a Fulfilling Life and Cultural Age, and, most recently, THE WORLD AS CULTURE: Cultivation of the Soul to the Cosmic Whole published in 2022. He lives and works in Markham, Canada, and is ICAF Advisory Board Member.  
  
**Dr. Aurora Sidney-Ando**  
A counselor for children and adults with mental and behavioral disorders, Aurora holds a Ph.D. in Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychology from Saybrook University in California and Masters in Counseling from Alaska Pacific University. Born in Mexico, she travels to remote areas of the world finding inspiration in places ranging from the jungles of Peru to the windswept cliffs of the Himalayas. She spends her evenings painting and occasionally illustrates children's books. Her Ph.D. dissertation included analysis of ICAF’s programs and methodologies. <https://sidneyando.com/>   
  
**Ahava Silkey-Jones**  
Executive Director of the DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science in Minneapolis, Ahava has an extensive portfolio of experience in arts administration, school administration, and nonprofit leadership and a passion and track-record for building equitable access to high-quality arts programming in educational systems. An Ed.M. in Arts in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education and an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Roosevelt University, Ahava is a licensed school superintendent. She is a Policy Fellow at the Humphrey School for Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, a Commissioner with the Minneapolis Arts Commission, Co-Founder of Professional Theatre and Dance Youth Academy, and Board Secretary for the ROHO Collective, a non-profit that focuses on elevating voices of artists of color. Ahava is ICAF Advisory Board Member.  
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**Mike Ssembiro**At the Uganda Ministry of Education and Sports, Mike serves as Senior Inspector of Schools for Art and Crafts. An art educator and a muralist, he is founder of African Peace Murals Uganda. He has represented ICAF in Uganda since 2010. Twenty-four Ugandan students accompanied him to participate in the 2011 and 2015 World Children’s Festival. In 2015, he received the World Children’s Award for devoting his life to children and their art, thus uplifting the children and making a huge difference in their lives. <https://facebook.com/africanpeacemurals/>

**Narmina Veliyeva**The winner of the Second Arts Olympiad in Azerbaijan, Narmina participated in the 2003 World Children’s Festival and has been involved with ICAF ever since, organizing the Azerbaijan Arts Olympiads and leading the Azerbaijan’s delegation to the World Children’s Festival. She has become a prominent artist in her country and has exhibited her works in several European cities.

Narmina Veliyeva –a professional artist and arts educator, Narmina won the 2nd Arts Olympiad and participated in the 2003 World Children’s Festival. A member of the Azerbaijan Artists Union, she paints and teaches at her studios in Baku and Venice, Italy, and represents ICAF in Azerbaijan. A European Association of Women Artists member, she has won dozens of international painting competitions. She has held solo exhibitions in several countries, including Italy, Great Britain, and China.