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Executive Chairman



May 2, 2013

### **5<sup>th</sup> Arts Olympiad Invitation**

Dear School Principal or Art Teacher,

The International Child Art Foundation invites you and your students to participate in the **5<sup>th</sup> Arts Olympiad**, the world's largest and most prestigious arts and sport program for children ages 8 to 12.

The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan introduces students to the *Artist-Athlete Idea<sup>SM</sup>* of the creative mind and healthy body. It may take 2-4 class sessions this fall to complete the lesson plan and organize an art competition on the theme *My Favorite Sport*. Students can produce paintings, drawings or digital art. The program awakens the "inner artist" in young athletes (so they express them more creatively, averting any creativity risk they might face) and the "inner athlete" in young artists (so they engage in physical activity more frequently and avert any childhood obesity risk). You are requested to form a jury for the selection of the School Entry; we recommend that you consider including a few students in the jury.

The ICAF does not charge any program fee for the Arts Olympiad, which provides an opportunity for you and your students to represent your school district at the **5<sup>th</sup> World Children's Festival** in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2015. Held every four years on The National Mall, the World Children's Festival is the "Olympics" of children's imagination and co-creation. The festival is also a global showcase for *STEAMS Education<sup>SM</sup>*, which integrates arts (and culture) and sport (and play) with STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for children's holistic development.

A year before the festival, prominent educators and artists will gather in Washington, DC to select the winners in each of the two competition categories (painting/drawing & digital art). You will receive a formal notification if your student's artwork is selected as finalist. The ICAF does not charge any registration fee for participation in the World Children's Festival. Parents, the PTA or area businesses must sponsor your delegation's travel and accommodation expenses. The winning artworks, both painting and digital art, are exhibited at the World Children's Festival and at other major international venues thereafter: <http://icaf.org/whatwedo/exhibitions.php>.

Even if the Arts Olympiad winner is not from your school, you and your students are invited by the ICAF to participate in the World Children's Festival, a three-day celebration that is free and open to the public. You may also be interested in our amazing *ChildArt* magazine for children's creative development <http://icaf.org/childart/>.

We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashfaq Ishaq".

## U.S. ARTS OLYMPIAD LESSON PLAN

### National Visual Arts Standards:

The Arts Olympiad meets the following standards:

- Content Standard 1: Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
- Content Standard 2: Using knowledge of structures and functions
- Content Standard 3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas
- Content Standard 4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Content Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
- Content Standard 6: Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

### Objective:

Students will learn:

- About the Olympic Art Competitions as part of the Olympic Games
- Connections between Art and Sport and how these are tools for building peace in the world
- To appreciate each other despite their personal passion for art or sport
- How Art and Sport can make one think differently of oneself as an Artist-Athlete
- About the risk in creativity (the 4<sup>th</sup>-grade slump) and the obesity risk (a global health problem)
- To evaluate art by students from around the world on the theme “My Favorite Sport”
- To visualize their “inner athlete” and depict it in a painting, drawing or digital art
- About the World Children’s Festival and the need to be creative and empathic

### Materials:

- Art supplies and 18 inch by 24 inch art papers
- Typical sport equipment (bats, balls, athletic wear) and art tools (brushes, paints, easel)

### Online Resources:

For Activity **A**: Smithsonian Magazine > <http://tinyurl.com/Olympic-Art-Competitions>  
Richard Stanton (2000). The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions. Trafford: Victoria BC, Canada

For Activity **B**: *ChildArt* Magazine > <http://icaf.org/artsolympiad/>

For Activity **C**: The Arts Olympiad works > <http://icaf.org/gallery/>

For Activity **D**: World Children’s Festival > <http://icaf.org/whatwedo/wcf.php>  
YouTube clip on the festival > <http://tinyurl.com/ICAF-WCF2011>

## Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan

### Part 1: Instructional Group Activities

The activities suggested below will allow students to develop connections between art and sport, express their opinions, and create their own individual artwork. You can select any combination of the activities described below and modify these to fit your curriculum.

#### Activity A. The Olympics Art Competitions

Have your students read the article on the competitions in the Smithsonian Magazine or the book, *The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions*, to discuss the role of art in sport. You may also have them answer these questions:

1. Should the Olympic Art Competitions be reinstated? Why? For what age group?
2. What is your favorite sport and sport event? Why?
3. In which cities will the Winter Olympics in 2014 and 2018 and Summer Olympics in 2016 and 2020 be held? What about 2022 and 2024?

#### Activity B. The Purpose of Art and Sport

Have your students read the *ChildArt* Magazine. Divide the class into two groups: “Artists” and “Athletes.” Students are to develop and write down their response to these questions:

Questions posed to “Artists”:

Question 1. *Why do people run, play soccer, climb trees, etc...?*

Question 2. *How would you feel if you were playing a Sport?*

Questions posed to “Athletes”:

Question 1. *Why do people draw, paint, sculpt, dance, etc...?*

Question 2. *How would you feel if you were creating Art?*

Once they have finished writing their answers, the students are put in Artist-Athlete pairs to discuss their responses with one another and to answer one final question: What are the similarities between why people create Art or participate in Sports? At the end, each group may present their answers to the class.

#### Activity C. Thinking Beyond the Stereotype

Have your students view some of the artwork on the ICAF website. Introduce students to the *Artist-Athlete Ideal™* of the creative mind and healthy body—*mens sana in corpore sano* (“a healthy mind in a healthy body”). Anyone be an artist and athlete, and anyone can be creative and athletic.

This activity is designed to encourage students to look beyond old assumptions and break stereotypes. Class should be divided into teams of three or four with each group assigned one of the following objects. The questions below ask students to reflect and conceive a sport using an art object, or conceive an art project using a sport object.

### Groups with Art Object:

*What is the name of the sport?  
What are the rules of the sport?  
How is the object used in the sport?  
How is the use of the object in the game different from its common usage?*

### Groups with Sport Object:

*What is the name of the art project?  
What materials are needed for the art project?  
What are the steps for making the art project?  
How is the use of the object in the art project different from its common usage?*

### Activity D. Building Peace through Art and Sport

Have your students read about the World Children's Festival and watch the YouTube clip.

Students are to discuss the following quotation by Nobel Laureate Nelson Mandela:

*"Art and sport have the powers to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Art and sport speak to people in a language they understand. Art and sport can create hope where there was once only despair. They are instruments for peace, even more powerful than governments."*

### Part 2: Independent Art Creation

Students are to create art on the theme, *My Favorite Sport*. They can select any sport to picture themselves as "artist-athletes." The sport can be a local, traditional or an Olympic sport, or one that they imagine. The students can produce a painting/drawing or digital art.

#### Traditional 2-D Art

A painting or drawing on paper, canvas, silk, etc. and approximately 18x24 inches in size

#### Digital Art

Static visual work created using digital tools or a collage (300+ dpi)

### Part 3: Exhibition and Selection of School Entry

- Organize an exhibition of the artwork produced under the Arts Olympiad
- Form a panel of judges responsible for selecting the school entry
- Include a few students as judges to provide an intergenerational perspective on aesthetics
- The judges should give equal weight to originality/creativity as technical/aesthetic merit to select one best painting and one best digital art
- Complete the School Entry Form (attached as Appendix) and send the entries to the ICAF as early as possible but no later than December 10, 2013

#### Mail:

International Child Art Foundation, P. O. Box 58133, Washington, DC 20037, USA

#### UPS/FedEx:

International Child Art Foundation, 2540 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037

#### Email:

program@icaf.org

### Sending School Entry

The painting or drawing should be mailed to the ICAF (packaged flat and not rolled up). The finalist digital art can be emailed, or a CD can be mailed along with the painting/drawing. The School Entry Form should be completed for both categories. This form could be taped to the back of the painting/drawing. For digital art, the form can be scanned and emailed to the ICAF.

### OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO THE WORLD CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Held on the National Mall in Washington, DC every four years as the "Olympics" of children's imagination and co-creation, the 5<sup>th</sup> World Children's Festival will be a 3-day educational event free and open to the public to be held in the spring/summer of 2015.

A jury of eminent artists and educators in Washington, DC will select the winning entries (one in painting category and one in digital art category) from entries including that of your school district. The Official Delegations to the World Children's Festival are these Arts Olympiad winners, their parents, the school principal and teachers.

The ICAF selects 100 school groups to perform at the festival. All types of performances are entertained. Your school can apply when the performance applications are posted on [www.WorldChildrensFestival.org](http://www.WorldChildrensFestival.org) in January 2014.

Your school can also send a delegation to the festival, even if the school's entry or performance group is not selected.

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Arts Olympiad Schedule:

May-December 2013	– Implement the lesson plan in the classroom
March-June 2014	– Organize an art exhibition for judging of best works
July 2014	– Mail the School entries to the ICAF
September 2014	– The Arts Olympiad winners announced
November 2014	– Finalize plans for the 5 <sup>th</sup> World Children's Festival
Spring/Summer 2015	– Participate in the 5 <sup>th</sup> World Children's Festival in Washington DC
February 2016	– Check the Arts Olympiad Exhibition schedule for your area

### Optional Activities:

You can submit your school entry early for posting on the ICAF website and Facebook to cultivate global conversations on how the power of art can be a positive influence in children's lives.

You can make a video on the Arts Olympiad experience of your class and send it to the ICAF with release forms from parents for posting on the ICAF YouTube channel.

You can subscribe to the *ChildArt* magazines—an advertisement-free quarterly for children's creative development—so you can keep yourself updated on the 5<sup>th</sup> Arts Olympiad progress and the upcoming World Children's Festival > <http://icaf.org/childart/>

### The ICAF:

An independent and nonpartisan 501(c)(3) non-profit, the ICAF was founded in 1997 to fulfill the twin roles of the national art and creativity organization for American children and the international art and creativity organization for the world's children. The ICAF has the distinction of hosting the very first national children's art festival in U.S. history, held on the National Mall in Washington in September 1998. Every four years since 1999 the ICAF has hosted the World Children's Festival on the National Mall as the "Olympics" of children's imagination and co-creation. The next World Festival will take place in 2015.



School Entry for the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Arts Olympiad

**I. SCHOOL**

School/Institution name Name of Organizer

Mailing Address

City State Zip code

Telephone (with area code) Organizer's email School/Institution email

How many students participated? Comments on the lesson plan?

**II. STUDENT ARTIST**

First name Last name Age Date of birth

Mailing Address

City State Zip code

Telephone Parent's name Parent's email

Title of Artwork & Medium

I hereby certify that the attached "My Favorite Sport" artwork is the original work of the student artist named above. I further understand that the student's artwork becomes entirely the property of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) and cannot be returned. I agree that the artwork may be published, exhibited or reproduced by the ICAF in myriad of ways, or transferred by the ICAF to other organizations or individuals, without further authorization from or any compensation to the student and his/her parent, guardian or schoolteacher.

**II. TEACHER AND PARENT**

Name of Teacher Signature Date

Name of Parent Signature Date