

Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.
Executive Chairman



May 3, 2013

5th Arts Olympiad Invitation

Dear School Principal and Art Teacher,

The International Child Art Foundation invites you and your students to participate in the **5th 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 IdeaSM* of the creative mind and healthy body. It may take 2-4 class sessions 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 artistically inclined children (so they engage in physical activity more frequently and avert the childhood obesity risk). You are requested to form a jury for the selection of the School Entry; we recommend that the jury include a few students.

The ICAF does not charge any program fee for the Arts Olympiad, which provides an opportunity for you and your students to represent your city at the **5th 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 EducationSM*, which integrates **arts** (and culture) and **sport** (and play) with STEM disciplines of **science**, **technology**, **engineering** and **mathematics** for children's holistic development.

Prominent educators and artists will gather in Washington, DC in June 2014 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. Hence, your local sponsors and area businesses must cover 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>.

We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashfaq Ishaq", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

5th ARTS OLYMPIAD LESSON PLAN

Objectives:

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 4th-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 art paper with approximate dimensions 45 x 60 cm (18x24 inches)
- Typical sport equipment (bats, balls, athletic wear) and art tools (brushes, paints, easel)
- Any software program to produce digital art

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 5th 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 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 5th Arts Olympiad Schedule:

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| 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 th World Children's Festival |
| Spring/Summer 2015 | – Participate in the 5 th 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 5th Arts Olympiad progress and the upcoming World Children's Festival > <http://icaf.org/childart/>

School Entry for the 5th 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