

The 5th Arts Olympiad

2013-2016



Young artists at the 4th World Children's Festival

We need creative, empathic and healthy children to build a just, prosperous, and peaceful world. The Arts Olympiad of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) nurtures children's creativity, develops empathy, and promotes healthy lifestyles.

A typical classroom in today's world is divided between physically active and inactive students. Young athletes might believe in brawn not the brain, and hence not fully develop their creative critical thinking. In contrast, non-athletically inclined students may face the obesity risk. These two

groups—"jocks" versus "nerds"/"artsy" students)—may not exhibit empathy for each other.

The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan aims to break old stereotypes by introducing students to the *Artist-Athlete Ideal* of the creative mind and healthy body—*mens sana in corpore sano*. Classroom activities include young artists painting sport goods, and young athletes painting art supplies. Students visualize and then depict themselves as "artist-athletes." Sharing of these artworks develops empathic understanding.

The first phase of the 5th Arts Olympiad

will commence in classrooms worldwide, starting in March 2013 when the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan can be downloaded from the ICAF website. Any child between the ages 8 and 12, or any school or club can participate, free-of-charge.

In 2014, communities will come together to celebrate the creativity of their children with art exhibitions in cities (or regions) dotting the globe. Elders begin to appreciate the imagination of children and the role that the arts can play in their creative development and good health.



Performer from Malaysia at 4th World Children's Festival



Exercising at the 4th World Children's Festival



Emete Hornyak (Age 9, Hungary)

In 2015, the Arts Olympiad winners from each participating city or region will be honored at the 5th World Children's Festival, to be held on the National Mall in Washington, DC. In addition to young artists, one-hundred musical and performances groups from schools and youth organizations are selected to showcase their talents on the National Mall, with the U.S. Capitol as their backdrop. With hundreds of workshops and activities hosted by artists, scientists, Olympians, and educators, the festival becomes a showcase for *STEAMS Education* —integration of Art (and culture) and Sport (and play) with STEM disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, for children's holistic development.

In 2016, a traveling exhibition will be held at major venues that may include the Rio 2016 Olympics. The exhibitions will promote Nobel Laureate Nelson Mandela's perspective: *"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."*

Thus far nearly five million children worldwide have produced art under the previous four Arts Olympiads. The 5th Arts Olympiad is expected to reach and benefit two million children, some of whom never gain the opportunity to freely express themselves creatively unless presented with the Arts Olympiad experience.

To participate in or support the 5th Arts Olympiad, please visit: www.icafo.org



Alexandra Geer (Age 12, Germany)



Erkut Atik (age 12, Turkey)