



The Arts Olympiad Exhibition on the Ellipse at the World Children's Festival.

# An Invitation to Repair the World

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Arts-based interventions that motivate students from the inside, fostering their creativity and imbuing it with empathy, can bring peaceful resolutions to conflicts and celebrations of diversity. This overarching objective of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) is operationalized through the Arts Olympiad, the world's largest art program for children in which you are invited to participate at no charge.

## Empathy Imbuement

Human creative development comes with two quirks: First is the well-documented "fourth-grade slump" that poses the risk of diminishing creativity and which students can overcome through arts education. Second is the idea that creativity alone is "morally neutral" and can result in Machiavellian terrorism or cutting-edge Ponzi schemes. When creativity is imbued with empathy, it turns posi-

tive and advances human civilization.

Empathy has its roots in art. The word is derived from the German term *emföhlung* (literally "feeling into" something), which can describe

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what a beholder might feel when viewing a painting. The aesthetic pleasure from the art arises from taking in, or "feeling into," the work.

Empathy is hence a vicarious experience of the feelings of others, and at its finest, those of one's enemy.

## The Arts Olympiad

The Sixth Arts Olympiad (2017–2020) commences in classrooms this year with lesson plans that can take two

to four sessions to complete. Connections are made between art and sports as students are introduced to the artist-athlete ideal of the creative mind and healthy body—*mens sana in corpore sano*.

To inspire students to embrace this ideal, a school art contest for students ages 8 to 12 is organized on the theme "My Favorite Sport," which excites young athletes to make art and draws young artists into physical activity. The self-image as artist-athlete solidifies when students create personal works of art, transforming the class into creative, empathic artist-athletes.

## Exhibition Competition

Schools arrange exhibitions, often in cooperation with area schools that are also participating in the Olympiad. Prominent cultural and educational leaders as well as student representa-

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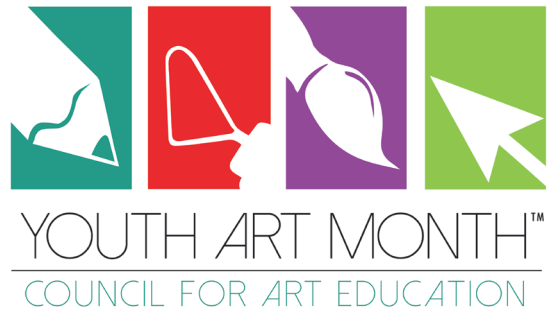




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### Youth Art Month

Youth Art Month (YAM) is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. To learn more about how you can get involved in and support Youth Art Month activities in your area, contact your state chairperson. Information is available through the Council for Art Education website or your state art education association.

[Councilforarteducation.org](http://Councilforarteducation.org)



**An Invitation to Repair the World**

**Introduction**  
 A new and exciting initiative that invites students from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to participate in a global art project called "Repair the World." This project is a response to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The project is designed to be a global art project that will be displayed in the National Mall in Washington, DC, in 2019. The project is a response to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The project is designed to be a global art project that will be displayed in the National Mall in Washington, DC, in 2019.

**When is the project?**  
 The project will run from June 1st to June 30th, 2019.

**Who can participate?**  
 The project is open to all students in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

**How to participate?**  
 Students can participate by creating a piece of art that addresses one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The project is a response to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The project is designed to be a global art project that will be displayed in the National Mall in Washington, DC, in 2019.

**Benefits of participation**  
 Students who participate in the project will receive a certificate of participation and their work will be displayed in the National Mall in Washington, DC, in 2019.

**For more information**  
 Visit the website [www.repairtheworld.org](http://www.repairtheworld.org) for more information.

**Partners**  
 The project is supported by the following partners:

Festival (WCF), which takes place every four years in Washington, DC. The Sixth WCF will take place at the National Mall around June 2019.

### Repairing the World

Following the WCF, the Arts Olympiad exhibition will travel to host cities to grow awareness of the importance of educating the next generation to be creative and empathic. ICAF's *ChildArt* magazine, published ad-free since 1998, also nurtures students' creative and empathic development, as well as global education through the arts. The ICAF is independently ranked by More4Kids among the Top 25 Children's Charities in the United States. Let's work together to repair our world and brighten it.

*Ashfaq Ishaq is the founder and chair of the ICAF. [childart@icaf.org](mailto:childart@icaf.org)*

### WEB LINKS

[www.icaf.org](http://www.icaf.org)  
[www.WorldChildrensFestival.org](http://www.WorldChildrensFestival.org)

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tives choose the most outstanding works to be mailed to ICAF. Schools also have the option of arranging a digital art competition (finalist entries are e-mailed). The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2017. The Sixth Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan can be downloaded from our website (see Web Links).

Winners are invited to represent their school and district or state and country at the World Children's