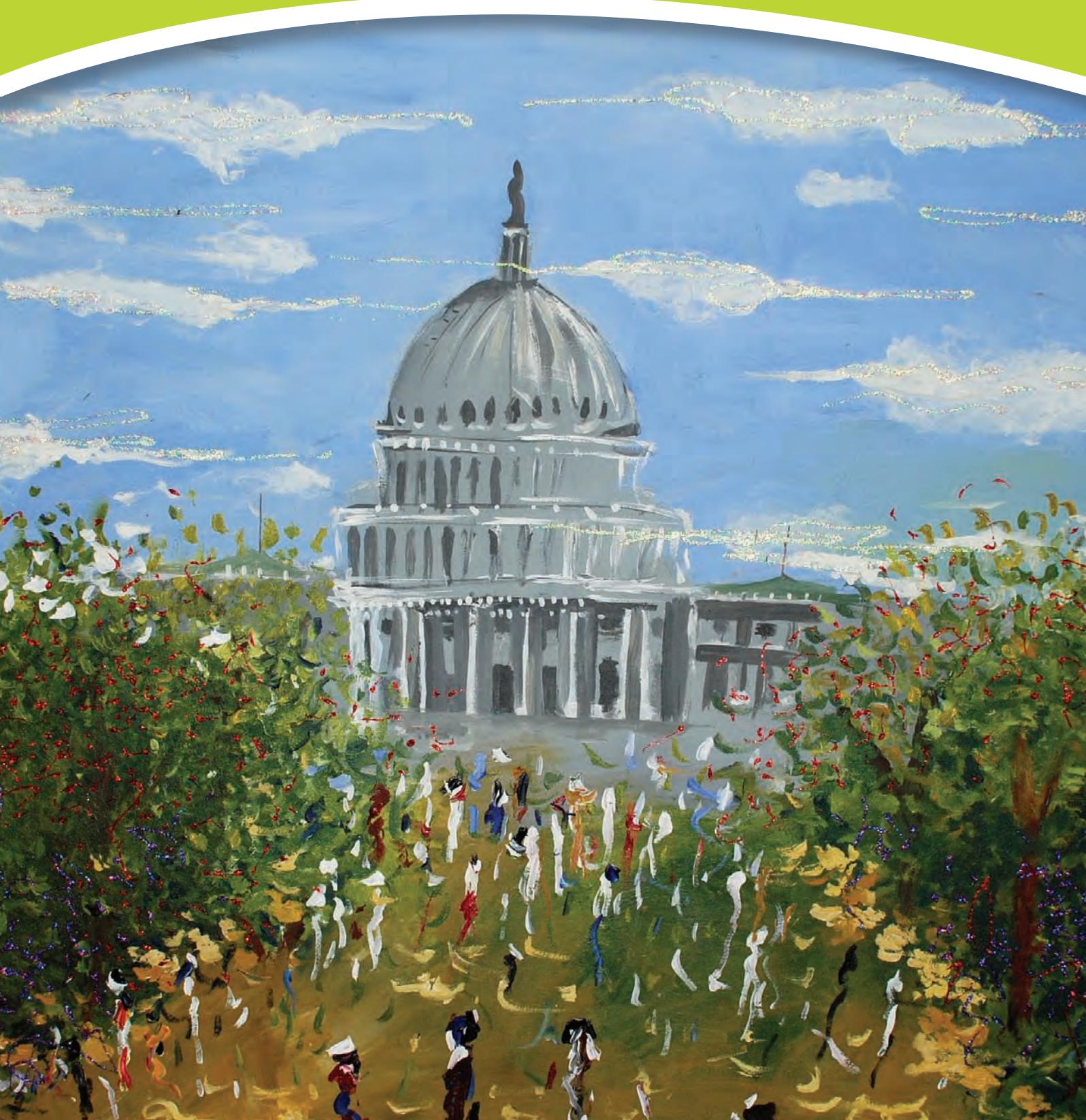


Jan-Mar 2008

The Magazine of the International Child Art Foundation

# ChildArt





“Art and sport have the power 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.”

- Nobel Laureate Nelson R. Mandela



# ChildArt

## Editor's Corner

Dear Readers,

Every four years we host a festival that is no short of a miracle. The U.S. Department of State, the government of the District of Columbia, global American corporations and rich Americans or their private foundations have yet to provide financial support to the World Children's Festival. Grassroots support is the basis of the festival's success.

Creative Americans from all walks of life come together to plan and stage the World Children's Festival. College students join the ICAF as interns while professional event planners become festival volunteers. Educators pay their own way to offer free workshops at the festival. Teachers and parents somehow find the means to travel to Washington, DC from across America and from around the world to participate in the festival. Child advocates and concerned global citizens offer whatever help they can. Pentagon families open their homes to host the international Arts Olympiad winners and their families.

We thank the nearly 10,000 individuals who came to the National Mall to enjoy the festivities. We are grateful to our international corporate sponsors, especially LEGO. The evidence of the festival's impact in this special issue of ChildArt will help convince you to support the 4th World Children's Festival to be held in 2011.

If you participated in the festival, this issue is a keepsake for you. If you were unable to attend the festival, you will learn how some of the most creative children in the world can create their own magic.

Happy reading!

Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.  
Editor



**editor**  
Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.  
**managing editor**  
Rebecca Proctor  
**assistant editor**  
Sarah Nodelman  
**contributing editor**  
Carrie Lee  
**graphic design**  
Shannon Smith

**writers**  
Salma Hasan Ali, Saanya Hasan Ali, Matthew Bastion, Jean Campbell, William Cherry, Barbara Koltos, Karmel Wong  
**contributing photographers**  
Aasil Ahmad, Salma Hasan Ali, David Bastion, Liza Gibhart, Sarah Nodelman, Anastasia Krylova, Sergey Gagauzov, Farida Wijaya

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### INTERNATIONAL CHILD ART FOUNDATION

The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that prepares children for a creative and cooperative future. ICAF is the only national art and creativity organization for children in the United States. ICAF is also the only

worldwide umbrella organization promoting children's creativity and imagination through the arts.

To subscribe to ChildArt magazine, call 202-530-1000, fax 202-530-1080, or email [childart@icaf.org](mailto:childart@icaf.org).

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International Child Art Foundation  
1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036, USA  
Tel: (202) 530-1000  
Email: [childart@icaf.org](mailto:childart@icaf.org)

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# WorldChildren'sFestival

Celebrating 10 years of children's creativity and imagination.



The **World Children's Festival** took place in Washington, DC in June 2007. The five-day festival started with a private event for the Arts Olympiad finalists on June 22 and ended with an awards banquet for them on June 26.

The interim three days were a public celebration, free and open to all, held on the National Mall across from the U.S. Capitol. Nearly 10,000 people participated in the festival, which marked the tenth anniversary of the International Child Art Foundation.

The ICAF produced its first festival in 1998, which was the first-ever national children's art and creativity celebration held in the United States. In June 1999, the ICAF produced the first international festival to celebrate the First Arts Olympiad (1997–2000). Four years later, the Second Arts Olympiad (2001–2004) led to a global celebration in Washington, DC in September of 2003. The Third Arts Olympiad (2005–2008) became the world's largest global program for children, in which about three million 8 to 12 year-olds participated by producing paintings and digital art on the theme, My Favorite Sport. The ICAF organized the first-ever European Children's Festival, at The Olympia Park in Munich in June 2006. The 2007 World

2006 World Children's Festival



Children's Festival was the largest international celebration for children ever held.

The ICAF festival model can be replicated around the world by organizations' interested in guiding children on how to lead us into a more just, prosperous and non-violent world. The model is unique and different from traditional children's festivals in which adults lead and entertain the children. At the World Children's Festival, from the onset the children understood that this was *their* World Festival. The adults were around to help and guide them but not to lead. For example, workshop leaders were aided by the children, but some even led their own workshops. At this event, the kids were the innovators and the artists.

The ICAF Youth Board Members (alumni who had participated in previous Arts Olympiads and festivals, and now 16 to 20 years old) became the Masters of Ceremonies. They made the introductions, served as spokespersons, and guided the Arts Olympiad finalists (ages 8 to 13). The youth performance groups (ages 6 to 16) took control of the World Stage. No adult performers or entertainers were invited.

Teachers and parents and other festival attendees were amazed that they had come to a truly children's celebration. Every activity in all the nine pavilions on the

National Mall was oriented towards the children. The World Stage—the largest pavilion and the one closest to the U.S. Capitol—was for young performers to showcase their talents. The Arts & Crafts Atelier featured various creative arts that gave the necessary tools and inspiration to children to become lifelong creative learners. In the Festival Classroom international educators discussed children's mental and emotional development. In the Health & Environment Arena children learned about leading healthy lives and protecting our environment. The Art Therapy Studio instructed the children in the power of employing the arts for healing and recovery. The Peace through Art Workshops demonstrated how the children could develop empathy for others in order to create a nonviolent world. At the exhibition pavilion across from the National Gallery of Art the Arts Olympiad finalists' masterpieces on the theme My Favorite Sport promoted the 'artist-athlete' ideal of a creative mind and healthy body. The Digital Media Lab, across from the National Air and Space Museum, integrated the arts with multimedia for children to acquire new digital skills such as animation. Finally, closest to the Washington Monument was the LEGO Creation Nation area where children used nearly two million LEGO bricks to build a map of the United States the size of a basketball court.

2006 European Children's Festival

1998 U.S. National Children's Festival



1999 World Children's Festival



2003 World Children's Festival



2006 European Children's Festival



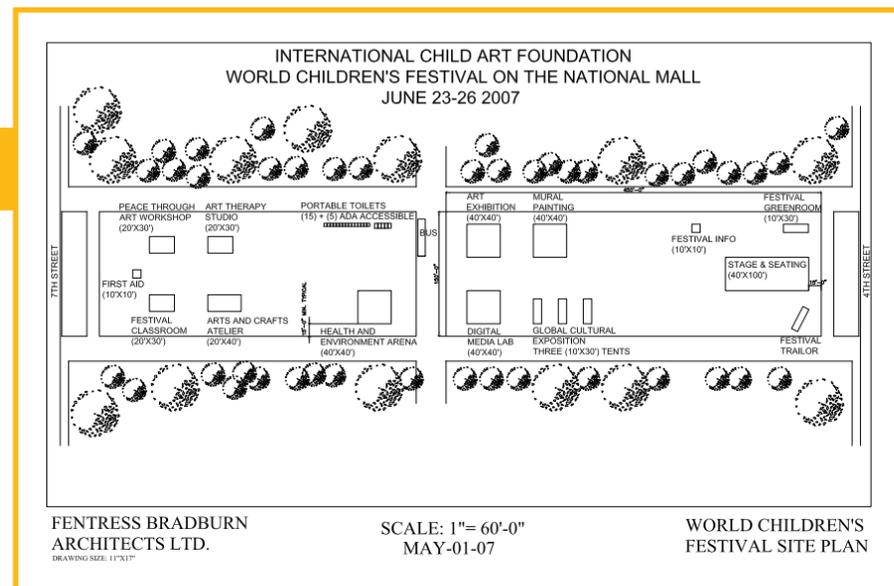
2007 World Children's Festival



# Planning & Staging

The planning and staging of the World Children's Festival draws upon the innovative Peace through Art approach of the ICAF. According to the approach:

- First, encourage the children from different countries, cultures and religions to feel comfortable with each other so they can develop initial bonds of friendship from the very first day they meet. On Friday 22 June—Orientation and Friendship Day—the Arts Olympiad finalists, their parents and teachers came together from 32 countries, 25 U.S. states, and the District of Columbia. Art therapy was used as a way to help heal and unify the children.
- Second, channel the celebration and educational programming to what bonds children—their shared interests. The public festival commenced on June 23 with Health & Environment Day. The Arts Olympiad finalists were joined by more than 200 child and youth performers, musicians and dancers representing 22 countries. For three days these local and foreign talents exhilarated audiences with their spectacular performances. In addition, about 200 international experts and prominent educators hosted 3 days of workshops on 67 subjects that ranged from art therapy to animation, folklore to Olympic ideals.
- Third, nurture children's creativity and imagination so they can create and realize new opportunities. On the festival's third day (Sunday 24 June)—Creativity and Imagination Day—workshops and activities focused on the development of creativity and talents so every child can positively contribute to the global community.
- Next, draw upon children's creativity and imagination to build a more peaceful and beautiful world. On the final day of the public festival (Monday 25 June)—Peace & Leadership Day—workshops and activities focused on the development of empathy and creative leadership skills.
- Finally, honor the children for their achievements and success. On June 26 the Children's Awards Banquet was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City where children were presented The Creativity for Peace Awards.



Initial plans for festival grounds →

## festival highlight



← Eunice Wu

**Preparing to Seize the Day:** The festival opened each day with a special ceremony led by one of the Arts Olympiad finalists from the Greater Washington Area. Christine Balcer (age 10) and Aaron X. Davis (age 11), co-finalists from DC, opened the festival on June 23. Victoria Tovic (age 11) and Eunice Wu (age 12), co-finalists from Virginia, led the ceremony on June 24. The 12-year-old Maryland finalist, Tyler McGillivray, opened the festival on June 25.

# A LONG ROAD TO THE FESTIVAL

The Arts Olympiad is a free global program. The World Children's Festival is also free and open to the public. As an independent arts charity not supported by any government, the ICAF manages to host the festival with the support of creative individuals and creative businesses. The festival budget does not allow for travel expenses for the Arts Olympiad finalists. The ICAF does arrange for international delegates to stay free of cost with host families, mainly Pentagon families in the Greater Washington Area.

Many Arts Olympiad finalists in the United States and around the world were disappointed because they could not secure the funding to purchase their air-tickets. Others were disappointed because they could not obtain visas to visit the United States. The Festival missed participants from Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, and Yemen who could not attend because of sponsorship and visa problems. Even some of the youth performance groups that the ICAF had invited could not participate.

Mathew Bastion, the Arts Olympiad finalist from New Zealand, tells the story of how he traveled nearly 10,000 miles to the festival. (pages 10–11)





# Creating Friendships

Arts Olympiad finalists meet on the National Mall



Art says a lot of words. It helps us cross language barriers. When art encourages team contribution and original expression, it can also help us cross barriers of unfamiliarity, and even fear and hostility.

- Nina McIlroy, Brunei Arts Olympiad finalist

On the morning of Friday 22 June, the Arts Olympiad finalists, their teachers and families made their way to the National Mall for the beginning of the festival.

They gathered on the World Stage under a large 100x40-foot tent. The ICAF Youth Board Members introduced themselves and talked about their participation in the previous ICAF's festivals in 1999 and 2003. Anguel, from Los Angeles, talked about the interlinks he sees in his art and his chemistry studies at the California Institute of Technology. Sisylia, from Indonesia, discussed her progress at the Emily Carr Institute of Arts and Designs in Vancouver. An Azerbaijan native, Tamara talked about studying law at Strasbourg. Fadhil from Indonesia, shared his dream to study architecture in Singapore. Claudia, a

Romanian, told participants she was excited about recording her own CD. Narmina talked about studying at the Azerbaijan State Academy. Philbert explained his shift from medicine in Malaysia to a more creative career.

Then it was the turn of the Arts Olympiad finalists. They anxiously walked on to the stage. Some of them were terrified to speak in front of a large, unfamiliar audience. Others were natural orators.

These introductions later led to extended conversations or, in cases when language was a barrier, simple handshakes. Most importantly, the children understood that they were participating in their World Festival. They were the moderators, the master of ceremonies, and the celebrities.

## festival highlight



**Global media coverage.** The festival was covered by major media outlets including Al Jazeera, Fox, PRNewsWire, the Washington Post, the Washington Times, Voice of America, and scores of blogs and websites of art and cultural organizations and embassies in Washington, DC. Dr. Ishaq of the ICAF and Fox News.

# My Favorite Sport Exhibition

The first public exhibition of artworks on the Third Arts Olympiad theme, *My Favorite Sport*, took place at the festival on the National Mall. For three days, the works were displayed in a specially constructed pavilion across from the National Gallery of Art. Finalists' artwork depicted scenes and themes in every genre of sport, from baseball to gymnastics, skiing to swimming. The exhibition promoted the "artist-athlete" ideal of a creative mind and healthy body. It also emphasized the Olympic ideals of international understanding and cooperation.

Dr. Jessica Hoffmann Davis of Harvard University commented on an earlier ICAF exhibition: "The beauty and thoughtfulness of these works offer powerful evidence of the breadth and depth of the global conversation that is cultivated and perpetuated through children's art."

### Making Connections

Many visitors at the exhibition pavilion were surprised at how much creativity and effort went into each piece and were stunned to learn how young the Arts

Olympiad finalists were. Families strolling through the exhibition made connections between particular paintings that showed how children living oceans apart could share ways of perceiving the world around them. For example, Connor Fabian's painting from Illinois and the painting by Maria-Fernandez Aguirre Broca from Aruba. To view paintings from across the world in the same pavilion, displayed together, shows that we are all connected

The Art & Sport Exhibition shows how children from all cultures appreciate athletics and sportsmanship. The works are both simple and complex. They challenge us to evaluate sports in broad social terms, beyond the celebrity sportspeople to the way that sports can be creative fun, promote health, and even build peace and cooperation.

### Picking a Favorite

Picking a favorite among the paintings is difficult. Every piece is unique and fantastic in its own way and each artist is equally special.

## festival highlight

**Distinguished Speakers:** Dignitaries invited to give welcoming addresses included Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo; Director of the U.S. Army Staff General Jim Campbell; U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail R. Kimbell; and President of the Maryland Institute College of Art, Fred Lazarus IV.

General Campbell greeting Arts Olympiad finalists →



- 1 Renato and his mother Keiko Tanabe from Southern California, next to Renato's work.
- 2 Katia Lazar from Belarus next to her artwork.
- 3 Kira, from Maryland, and her three daughters—Alex (7), Alysse (5), and Allison (4)—had a hard time deciding on a favorite. When they were asked to pose for a picture in front of a painting that they liked, each girl scattered in a different direction and stood before different artworks. The family finally found a lively and colorful piece that they all agreed upon liking a lot.

# One Mother's Song

Ms. Ivy Keizerweerd, mother of Suriname Art Olympiad finalist Djennes had a story of inspiration to share with festival attendees. She said that when she found out that her daughter was chosen to represent Suriname, she could not sleep that night. In her head, a sweetly tuned song with expressive lyrics formed. The next morning, she sang it for Djennes. A few days later Ms. Keizerweerd had forgotten her song and regretted she had not written down the lyrics. To her surprise, Djennes came into the house that day singing that song. Now the mother and daughter could sing that song for the world to listen. Moved by her beautiful words and singing, the audience gave Ms. Keizerweerd a standing ovation.



## Festival highlight

**Children's masterpieces to honor their global leaders:** The Arts Olympiad finalists led by the ICAF Youth Board Members produced 15 murals to honor their creative global leaders: David Beckham, Jeffrey Bezos, President and First Lady Bush, former President Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Bill Gates, Herbert Hainer, Robert A. Iger, Jeff Immelt, Steve Jobs, Nelson Mandela, Sheikha Mozah Al Missned, Pierre Omidyar, Larry Page, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and Jerry Yang.

Festival participants painting murals →



## Festival highlight



**The Kennedy Center Performances:** The ICAF arranged a special performance at the Millennium Stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on the evening of June 25, and selected Carpe Diem from Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia to showcase their talents at this prestigious venue.

← Carpe Diem

## Discovering the Peace Within

Dr. Rebecca Di Sunno, art therapist and ICAF Advisory Board Member, organized an introductory group project to demonstrate the uniting force of art for participating children and parents from many different cultures.

She briefly spoke about art as a universal language that we learn by viewing each other's art, and we grow emotionally, physically, and psychologically through the creative process. Art helps us communicate with others from different backgrounds. By making and viewing art with others we begin to develop empathy for those around us.

The project instructed participating artists to draw their individual wish for the world. Each participant was given a 12x12-inch tile and they were free to draw whatever they wished. Prior to the exercise, all the tiles had been assembled into a large square (and numbered on the back) with the black outline of a large dove drawn on the assembled square. Without knowing what the partial line on their tile represented the dove's outline, they were simply asked to incorporate the line into part of their drawing. The adults received tiles without any markings.

All of the participants were told that a hidden image would be revealed when all of the tiles were assembled at the end of the exercise.

Beautiful works of art were created with oil pastels on the tiles. When the tiles were joined, the resulting image was a masterpiece of style and color. The dove, faintly recognizable because some artists had chose to use the blank side of their tile, was a surprise to all when they searched for the hidden image. Once the project was completed and assembled it remained in a pavilion for everyone to view for the remainder of the festival. At the end, participants exchanged tiles with each other or kept their piece reminding them of how art brings people together

## Thousand Word Pictures

Seven Arts Olympiad finalists equipped with their very own instant cameras went around taking pictures and giving interviews to document their experiences at the festival.

The young investigators were Arts Olympiad finalists: Aleksey from Russia, Bogdan from Kazakhstan, Darryl from Indonesia, Eunice from Virginia, Julia from Texas, Matt from New Zealand, and Nina from Brunei. They used the pictures they took as springboards for discussion about their experiences and observations.



1



2



3

## What kinds of bonds do you develop?

By Karmel Wong

### NEUTRAL BONDS

**Coexistence/Awareness:** acknowledge with minimal or vague contact

“I noticed some people were walking in...so I just left,” says Nina.

**Observation:** consciously involved with the presence of others

Eunice spoke about some kids at a workshop but she “Was just watching and taking pictures.”

**Mild Interest:** engaged by something about the other

“They got a funny accent,” says Nina.

“It’s pretty cool seeing them all (performers),” says Matt.

**Acquaintance:** direct interaction at a single defined encounter

“This small Japanese girl is drawing.. Later I spoke with her,” says Aleks.

“It was a little bit hard to understand her because she didn’t speak very much English,” says Nina.

**Conversation:** enter into dialogue

“One girl from Israel talked with me for about an hour about the war of the Hamas and Israel. About an hour she talked with me,” says Matt.

## HOW DO YOU MAKE FRIENDS?

### a) Appearance

Nina observes about Lisa: “Her clothes are so multi-colored. Every day its that color and this day its this color... it’s so cool.” Matt says: “He’s wearing a stripy shirt. A really stripy shirt!”

### b) Personality

“She’s a really nice girl,” says Nina.

### c) Commonality

“Like you meet somebody here who’s from your city also. That’d be awesome,” says Julia. “Take me and her for instance. We’re both thinking the same thing,” says Julia. “He just liked the same stuff I liked...He likes playing and I like playing,” says Matt.

### d) Ability

“I’d actually want to talk with the people that looked nice, and they did the lead guitar or something,” says Matt.

4



### NEGATIVE BONDS

**Conflict:** enter into some sort of antagonism

Julia and Nina describe an instance at a workshop: “We just put the skirt on the statue without even asking the boys. And when they came back, they were like—What happened? We didn’t want this! And they got all mad.”

**Apathy:** lack of interaction because of lack of interest or motivation

“It’s just...yeah, I d’nno. It’s just not really that interesting. All I’ve seen is just like normal people, yeah,” says Matt.

### POSITIVE BONDS

**Cooperation:** participate in something that combines abilities and skills

Julia and Nina sang the same song with some kids they did not like at first.

“Afterwards we kinda got a little better at it...we just started working together.”

**Collaboration:** work together and decide on the outcome of a creative product

“She was going to be a turtle and I was going to be a monkey, originally by ourselves, but we decided to put it together,” says Julia.

**Admiration:** observe qualities or characteristics in another that one likes

“I asked them to repeat their performance a bit.” Says Aleksey about an American musical group. “It was easy to talk with them. They were kind, good.”

**Fun and Fondness:** enjoy commonalities and time spent together

Julia and Nina say they “made a new game up...that was really fun!” Matt says, “Also I met a kid an’ we liked each other...he just liked the same stuff I liked.”

**Companionship:** Seek out each other consistently in general circumstances

Aleksey and Bogdan, together with Ukrainian-American Stanislav, went around the workshops together and built a big American flag with LEGO. “It’s very nice, with Stanislav, Aleksey,” says Bogdan.

Aleks says his “favorite friend is Stanislav and Bogdan.”

- 1 “Me & Aleks”
- 2 Taken by Karmel
- 3 “Everyone” by Eunice
- 4 “For Peace” by Aleks



# for a Beautiful World

## Sharing health and environmental concerns

Better health and a safe environment are concerns shared by children across the globe. On Saturday, June 23rd, the first public day of the festival, art projects at various workshops taught children about the relationships between creativity, good health, and the environment. Kids learned how good health and a clean environment can enhance a child's creative potential. Equally important, they learned how a child's creativity can be used as tools to ensure a healthy world and body. Educators came from the Adler School of Professional Psychology, Columbia University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Nazareth College, and the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center. The U.S. Forest Service made an appearance with the characters of Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear. Children worked together to make a sculpture out of recycled goods. The Recycled Sculpture Project demonstrated the truth behind the old adage, "one man's trash is another man's treasure,"—or work of art in this case!

## festival highlight



**67 free workshops by international educators.** Sergey Gagauzov, Director Art School, Vorkuta, Russia, hosted workshops on silk painting at the festival.

## From Loss to Hope

At the Festival Classroom, Tambra Stevenson from Plant Hope conducted a two-part seminar of a discussion for parents and a workshop for children. In the discussion, Tambra told the audience how she began Plant Hope after she experienced the emotional distress and pain following the loss of her father. She showed how arts-related activities can help individuals recover from tragedies and natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina, which destroyed parts of the southern region of the United States in 2005, and the Tsunami, which occurred only a year before in South-east Asia. Tambra encouraged feedback from audience members. One mother who had lost her home in Hurricane Katrina expressed concern for her children. They discussed ways of using art as a form of therapy. They recognized that when children may have difficulty verbalizing stress, artistic expression can serve as a way for young people to tap into emotions.

For the workshop, Plant Hope provided postcard paper and materials to children and instructed them to create an original piece of art that would be sent to victims of Katrina. The postcards that were made became part of an online gallery to encourage conversation and action, specifically among children whose voices often go unheard during difficult times. To contribute your postcard, visit [www.postcardsfromkatrina.com](http://www.postcardsfromkatrina.com).



# WOODSY OWL AND SMOKEY BEAR HELP KIDS CARE FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Passers-by could spot the well-loved U.S. Forest Service icons Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear among a crowd of chattering children and parents. Excited children and adults gathered to meet the friendly characters, get a warm bear hug or a pat on the head, and learn about the environment. Since 1944, Smokey has reminded children “Remember, only YOU can prevent wildfires!” Woodsy Owl is America’s icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has been helping parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to “Lend a Hand—Care for the Land!”

Smokey and Woodsy were on hand to help celebrate children and art and the winner of the 2007 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest. This nationwide contest is sponsored each year by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Forest Service. Sukanya Mittal, a third grader from Tennessee, was chosen as this year’s winner for her poster of Smokey Bear delivering his message of “only you can prevent wildfires.”

To this day, these characters bring forth joyful memories for those adults who recall the characters from their own childhoods. Most importantly, Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear continue to advocate environmental awareness by leaving kids with clever and memorable messages to take care of the Earth. For conservation education, visit: <http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/ce>



## The Recycled Sculpture Project

An ongoing mission throughout the day was to complete the Recycled Sculpture Project in the Health & Environment Arena. Directed by Augustina Droze, the sculpture started with a simple base made out of recycled goods constructed by Augustina’s husband. As the day went on, children added features to the sculpture that culminated in a robot sculpture made solely from recycled objects. One child from Texas worked diligently to glue pieces on to the sculpture. The final sculpture showed a complete transformation and utilization of materials. The last addition to the piece, a poster that boasted a collage of amazing robots built from recyclable materials, proclaimed the message “Reusing...before recycling.”



### Festival highlight

**World Children’s Awards:** The ICAF Youth Board and nominated the following creative leaders in the fields of business, academia, politics, community relations and volunteerism to receive the inaugural World Children’s Awards, designed by Tiffany & Co.: LEGO Systems Inc. (creative company), UC State College of Design (creative institution), Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (supportive politician), Portia Davidson (community outreach), and Salma Hasan Ali (volunteerism).



Presentation of World Children’s Award to LEGO →

Aluminum, cardboard, glass, and plastic are materials that the earth has difficulty breaking down into waste. So before sending them off to a recycling plant, or even setting them out in the recycling bin, you can reuse your old recyclable materials for yourself. Take an egg carton for example. Use the small cupped sections to mix paints in the next time you’re working on a painting. Or paint on the carton itself. Decorate it, and use the small cubbies to hold beads or jewelry. Or make it into a hide-away for that insect collection which disgusts your little sister. Done with that toilet paper roll? Make it into an instrument called a “shaker” by securely taping wax paper to both ends after dropping 5–10 beads or beans inside. Paint the outside in colorful zigzags, stripes, or polka dots and you have a maraca type instrument. Have you outgrown some old clothes? If you can’t donate them or hand them down to a younger sibling, cut them in pieces and use the fabric for a new project. Make a quilt by gluing the edges of different fabrics together. You can find new ways of being creative, even with old materials.

**Have fun!**

# Inspiring Creativity & Imagination

The powers of discovery and exploration

“We are thrilled to bring a LEGO building experience to the world’s largest celebration of creativity and imagination on the National Mall. What the International Child Art Foundation does to encourage a child’s inner creativity is something we passionately admire and are proud to support, because we believe children who are exposed to creative activities from a very young age go on to become the world’s most meaningful contributors.”

- Michael McNally, Brand Relations Director, LEGO Systems, Inc.



## All of us can make better use of our natural creative abilities.

Today, it is a force that propels creative economies. Some experts even equate creativity with national income. The United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization has found that the instinctive capacity for creativity and imagination found in young people has often been denied or suppressed in their education. Albert Einstein observed that imagination is more important

than knowledge. The festivities on Sunday, June 24

focused on nurturing children’s innate creativity and inspiring their imagination. Experts included Moss Kardener from University Games Corporation in San Francisco, Daniel Azulay from Grow with Art in Rio de Janeiro, and Dr. Valentia Gurinovich from Talents of the Third Millennium in Minsk.

Workshops celebrated children’s creativity with an aim to increase participants’ ideas for innovative artistic projects. Popular workshops included the Arabic Design and Calligraphy: Henna Tattoos and Calligraphy, peace through art workshop, and various performances staged by children from India, Mongolia, and Nicaragua.

## Follow the LEGO® Brick Road!

Festival participants made their mark on the National Mall. With at least 10,000 5x5 inch green LEGO plates and nearly two million colorful LEGO bricks, participants challenged their creativity to come up with designs to fit into a mega map of the United States. After the final plate was laid, the map filled a platform the size of a basketball court.

Free to build what they wished, the festival participants spelled out their initials, made symbols, or constructed their state or national flag. Some went much further, creating three-dimensional national landmarks.

“Whoa!” shouted Isabelle from Virginia as she, her mom, and brother Josh joined in the building process. Families came from near and far, thousands of people at a time, standing shoulder

to shoulder around tables topped with

buckets of LEGO bricks. Each group worked like a surgery operation team. “I need a yellow!” someone announced, and soon enough a yellow bricks was found and passed down the table. Adults lent a hand to fingers too little to manipulate a brick and placed it in the way their child envisioned.

LEGO Creation Nation energized a flow of creativity which spread to other festival activities. Participants added to the flow with inspiration from workshops and performances. The manifestation of creativity in the fluid mosaic became the talk of the town, a national media story, a topic in blogs, an inspiration for all, and a touchstone of collective creativity in young hearts which shall fire children’s imaginations for a long time to come.

[www.legocreationnation.com](http://www.legocreationnation.com)





1

Technology can enhance a child's creativity, a fact proven by the festival's wonderful activities at the Digital Media Lab. Instead of the typical paint, brushes, markers, paper, or glue, the Lab was equipped with laptops, mice, printers, digital cameras, and green screens for people to play with their imagination.



2

## Techno Art in the Digital Media Lab

Green screen technology can give the illusion that a character in a movie is perched on a cliff edge or flying through the sky. Electronic games create a

virtual reality that lets players feel as if they were actually "in" the game. Video games are fun, but rarely give users the freedom to create. In the Lab, computer software experts from North Carolina State University College of Design showed children how to use popular technological toys to give life to creative ideas.

"We have an opportunity for students and guests to experiment with short animation stories and world building to create a sense of place and perspective for creative exploration," explained William Lee Cherry, Manager of Advanced Media Lab at NC State. Like participants at the Lab,

anybody too can create digital storyboards and comics, tying the visual arts with a narrative structure. Some parents enthusiastically participate, helping their children create funny and offbeat projects. At the festival, parents held the green screen material, a few others brainstormed story ideas or character selection, and others translated. Mom and dad even became part of the stories as characters.

It is often thought that technology is an imagination block, an obstacle in the path to creative exploration. The Digital Media Lab challenged this notion and put the 'fun' into 'function' by making technology the key ingredient in the creative learning experience. Children learned that the computers they use for everyday tasks such as homework, electronic mail, and web surfing can also produce creative designs. Children left this workshop with a physical keepsake—a comic book or flipbook that they made themselves with digital art.

1 Sarah from Georgia worked with William Lee Cherry. Her family held a color screen behind her which appeared on the computer screen as a magical backdrop. Sarah grabbed at the air, but on the laptop she was picking up an umbrella and moving it around.

2 Liam and Lucy from Washington DC were captivated by the animation they created. Liam maneuvered the mouse and with simple clicks of a button had figures moving on the screen.

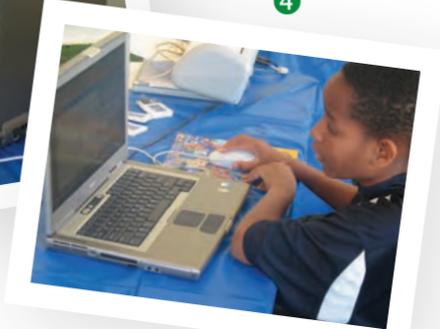
3 Arts Olympiad Finalists Julia Alvarez Ramirez (Texas) and Nina McIlroy (Brunei) met at the festival and became friends. Together they created an animation of a monkey talking to a turtle.

4 Emmanuel Hayes from Virginia worked solo on an animation project that simulated the human form and physical movement. Emmanuel's parents looked on as he worked on the program.

3



4



## Henna or Calligraphy...It's All Arabic to Me

The Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Virginia was invited to participate in the World Children's Festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC on Sunday 24 June to teach calligraphy and henna painting; two traditional Arabic artistic forms. Fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students volunteered for the event. The students were divided into two groups; the boys worked on calligraphy and the girls practiced traditional henna painting.



Arabic is a phonetic language, and the boys had a great time interpreting and writing names of people from all over the world. All of the boys were from Saudi Arabia and wore their traditional dress. Children and adults alike enjoyed having their names written in Arabic. Participants were impressed with the students' ability to perform this complex calligraphy.



The most popular event of the students' participation came from the girls creating henna designs. Henna is a temporary tattoo lasting anywhere from eight hours to forty-eight hours on the skin. Henna is used to celebrate special occasions like weddings in the Middle East. The girls were busy from beginning to end. They drew traditional henna designs from the Arabic culture plus any additional requests from the participants, like stars, logos, and names—even spiders!

By Barbara Koltos



# LEARNING PEACE & LEADERSHIP

We must start with the education of our children in order for the following leaders to effectively handle the geopolitical and international problems that our world currently faces.

*Lt. Gen. Jim Campbell, Director of the U.S. Army Staff*



## Creating a Nonviolent World

**Latest research by neuroscientists reveals that empathy is hard-wired in human brain and is most likely the result of evolutionary processes.**

The brain recognizes that people need to work together to improve life and protect our fragile planet. But too often selfish instincts take control. It is important to use common sense and try to understand those we love to hate.

Empathy is the ability to understand and enter the feelings, thoughts and motives of another. It does not imply acceptance or agreement, nor losing oneself to become another, but rather identifying with and understanding another's reasons and reactions. Empathy has been found to be a key attribute of successful learners and leaders. By freeing us from hatred, stirring our soul, uplifting our imagination, and inspiring our creativity, empathy and creativity set the stage for building a more just, prosperous and nonviolent world.

The arts provide the possibilities for connecting self to other and for creating sympathetic awareness. Fred Lazarus, president of Maryland College of Arts, addressed the children at the festival and said, "Today, we need the arts more than ever, especially between the East and the West, perhaps one of the greatest sources of cultural and religious conflict today."

### *festival highlight*

#### **Arts Olympiad finalists as spokespersons.**

The Arts Olympiad winners are interviewed by local and international media outlets. Jerrika Shi (age 10) from the Philippines is recording an interview in front of her winning artwork.



Monday 25 June was Peace and Leadership Day. Workshops encouraged children to demonstrate their ability to think independently and help others around them. Several educational organizations, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Journeys for Peace, the Peace Corps, Peres Center for Peace, Roots of Empathy, Totem Rhythms, and World Dreams Peace Bridge organized different programs.

Dr. Rebecca Di Sunno led a workshop on kites as symbols of hope and peace. Dr. Melek Koray from Ankara infused art with history in a workshop that brought the old and the new continents together through paper statues of the continents.

A multi-talented group of children from the United Arab Emirates sang in Arabic and English, performed mime and puppetry, and played traditional musical instruments showing that music and art can bring people together. The energy from these performances literally pulled the audience to the stage, who also started singing and dancing.

Khuloud AlHouli of the Children and Girls Centers in Sharjah, UAE, said that the children's message at the festival was one of peace, in the hopes of altering negative stereotypes that resulted from the 9/11 attacks in the United States. "After the

events that happened here, people think Muslims and Arabs are dangerous, but we are not. We love the entire world, and this is what we have found here. We found the Americans very receptive," she said.



# Drum, Dance, & Dream for Peace



By Jean Campbell

When we were asked to create 'the world's largest-ever drumming circle for children' at the 2007 World Children's Festival, our first response was disbelief. Who were we? Primarily we were an online group of dreamers from around the globe, exploring together how peace might be dreamed into the world. We were not drummers. Yet, the idea of contributing our dream to the festival was too intriguing to ignore.

As we made connections with Native American groups in the Americas and other Peace Bridge members worldwide, we saw remarkable support for the World Festival. Our "Dance, Drum and Dream for Peace" program really got a boost when the Los Angeles UpBeat Drum Circles donated 40 hand drums to be given away at the Festival. We discovered that an increasing number of people worldwide have begun to once again listen to the heart beat of the Earth and incorporate drumming as part of their spiritual practice.

After striving to get donations, we finally stood on the National Mall with thousands of children and parents. Native American Elder, Wovoka, opened the drumming event by describing the Ceremony for the Future of the World's Children. Children followed Valley Reed, a native from Texas, to a grassy area where flowers and earthenware bowls filled with

maize, rice, tobacco, and water rested on the altar of an Earth flag as she played her Native American flute.

Wearing headbands representing the colors of the four directions of the Medicine Circle, each child took a substance from the bowls, held it to their hearts, and said a prayer aloud for the future of the world's children. They wished for clean air, food for everyone, and peace on earth.

Children from Mexico drummed next to children from China. A World Dreams Peace Bridge member from Korea with his daughter discovered that a young woman interning with the ICAF was his neighbor in Seoul. Young men with dreadlocks and body piercings drummed next to grandfathers teaching toddlers how to sound the drum. A group of preschoolers kept to the rhythm on tambourines, triangles, and shakiras in the center of the circle. Drum Dance and Dream for Peace was an event that happened not only in Washington, but also around the world.

People gathered in cities across the globe to drum. From Ontario, Canada to Bridgewater, Massachusetts to the mountains of California to Baghdad, citizens of the world drummed in ceremonies to build peace.

## All Aboard the Children's Peace Train

By Jeremy Seligson

Helped by my 13-year-old daughter Eloisa, I asked children to address the question, "If you could put peace on a train and send it off to children in a country at war, what would it look like?"

When I arrived at the workshop venue, I met the previous presenter, Sergio, a famous Mexican painter. As we talked, I soon learned that he knew my cousin Silvia, whom I met last year on a Korean Island. Sergio promised to bring her a Children's Peace Train (CPT) book, and we talked about putting our Peace Trains together, endorsing that Peace Trains around the world would unite into one vast group.

While our CPT workshop was scheduled for only an hour, it went on for three, with a

steady stream of children throughout the session. At one point a whole class of 21 DC students and their teachers came to sit in waves at the work table to draw peace in their lives. Eloisa kept busy supplying each newcomer with fresh paper and a wide range of drawing materials.

It was a very moving experience to sit next to a little child and watch how deeply concentrated and patient he or she could be in creating a very personal and singular work of art. Each one was therapeutic to me and the child. Especially toward the end of the workshop as I sat quietly by, this became more deeply impressed on me.

We had children from all over. Over 50 children participated and all but one of the certificates were handed out that stated the child was a CPT conductor. DC, Latvia, and Mexico were only some of the home places for workshop visitors. Even the 16-year-old Miss Teenage Washington D.C. came.

It was something special to work with both the coloring child and the waiting parent and to give each of them a valuable gift. The appreciation flowed back. Now the CPT has come to Washington D.C.



[www.worlddreamspacebridge.org/drumming](http://www.worlddreamspacebridge.org/drumming)

# Children Helping Children

Saanya Hasan Ali, a sixth grader in Bethesda, Maryland, lead a workshop on how young people can use creativity as a way to promote good. She talked about how she combines her passion for arts and crafts with her desire to help educate children around the world. Two years ago, Saanya started her own non-profit organization. She makes cards out of all sorts of materials—like rubber stamps, glitter, paint and recycled supplies—and sells these to friends, family and the community. All the money she raises goes to different children's charities. So far she has made over 2000 cards and raised over \$6,000!

Saanya gave some tips on how other children can also help and get started. "The will must be in you before you start," says Saanya, "otherwise your plan won't go far." Then you have to think of a cause to support, like homelessness, global warming, or child labor. After that, you have to find something creative that you like to do to raise money—like beading necklaces or tie-dyeing t-shirts. Next, you have to get publicity and tell people what you are doing. Saanya's motto is "mix in a little heart and help, and smiles will churn out!"

[www.pehchildren.org](http://www.pehchildren.org)



## A Grand Goodbye Children's Awards Banquet

An enchanted evening in a beautiful ballroom sounds like a fairy tale scene, but on 26 June, it was an exciting and real event for the many finalists who arrived at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, Virginia for the Children's Award Banquet. This closing ceremony was held to wrap up the successes of the World Children's Festival and to thank the participants for the hard work and dedication they contributed to the festival. Escorted by their parents and accompanied by art teachers and ICAF team members, the children were the honorary guests.

Dining together in the ballroom, finalists and their families were presented with words of appreciation from both ICAF representatives and those parents and teachers who wished to express final thanks. Guests ate a three course meal and were entertained by some of their fellow artists who showed off other, less-known talents. ICAF Youth Board member Narmina Veliyeva from Azerbaijan, known for her skills in painting, wowed the audience with a song. Painter, pianist, and poet Claudia Suteu sat behind a baby grand and played before an impressed audience. During the ceremony, teaching efforts continued to share information about lesser known places. For example, representatives handed out information about the culture, economy, and politics of Oman.

Finally, the moment everyone had been waiting for, arrived. The finalists were going to be called to the stage and presented with a personalized certificate of congratulations. As they waited for their names to be called, the delegates looked up toward the stage in anticipation. Bouncing in their seats, they waited until their names were called and then approached the stage with broad smiles and confidence in themselves. Back down at the large tables with their families and other finalists, the children had one last chance to strike up conversation, to exchange contact information, and to take photographs with one another. The ceremony was an evening for the children to remember forever.

## Singing for hope: Coro Fabrettino

By Salma Hasan Ali

Coro Fabrettino performed a mix of folkloric, native Nicaraguan music and modern arrangements at the festival. The group also sang at the Kennedy Center's Millenium Stage and at several other venues during their weeklong visit to Washington, DC.

For most of the twenty children, ages 11 to 21, it was their first time in the United States, and for some it was even their first time on a Metro, elevator or escalator!

The children participate in the education, nutrition, and health programs at the Fabretto Children's Center in Cusmapa, a poor rural village in country's northern mountains near Honduras. Fabretto believes that music and other forms of artistic expression are an integral part of the human experience, which can enable us to find common ground.

Website: [www.fabretto.org](http://www.fabretto.org)



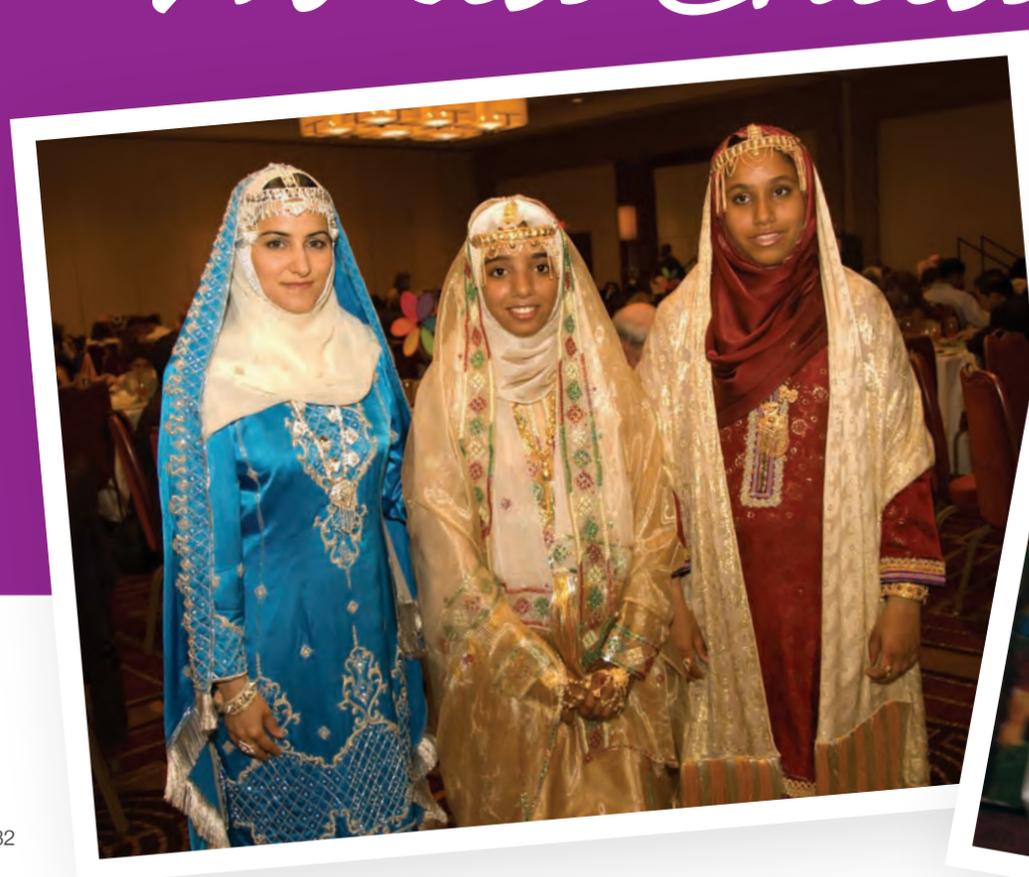
## festival highlight



Thanks to the Host Families Scores of **Pentagon** families volunteered to serve as host families for the international Arts Olympiad winners, their parents and teachers. We thank these families without whose support many foreign children could not afford to participate in the festival.



# 2007 *World Children's Festival Banquet*





# 2007 World Children's Festival

For the creative development of children, subscribe to *ChildArt* or make online donation at [www.icafe.org](http://www.icafe.org).



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1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
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