

NEWS



INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION

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Government shutdown pushes the World Children’s Festival to July 2020

WASHINGTON DC, January 15, 2019 – The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) announced today that the federal government shutdown and the resulting uncertainty about securing an event permit from the National Park Service on a timely basis has led to the *6th World Children’s Festival (WCF)* on The National Mall rescheduled for July 2020.

Originally scheduled for this July, the three-day WCF is a global celebration of “Creativity, Diversity, and Unity” in our nation’s capital. Scores of workshops and hands-on activities take place simultaneously in large tents while school troupes and young musicians and dancers showcase their talents on the “World Stage” set up for the WCF.

Student artists in elementary or middle school can become “Official WCF Delegates” by participating in the *6th Arts Olympiad*—a free school art program—before October 15, 2019 and winning their school art contest. Young performers in high school can apply to ICAF to be selected as the “Official WCF Delegates” scheduled to perform at the WCF.

Amazing creative students from the participating U.S. school districts and nearly one hundred countries will convene at the WCF, which is free and open to the public and draws thousands of attendees. The WCF imbues students’ creativity with empathy. Research shows that creativity and empathy are key attributes of successful learners and leaders in the 21st century. Special activities planned for the 2020WCF include:

- I) **“Children of the World’s Earth Flag.”** The 6th Arts Olympiad winners to design and collaboratively produce this flag for the first human mission to Mars.
- II) **“Children’s Heavens.”** The 6th Arts Olympiad winners from diverse cultures, nationalities and religions to co-imagine heaven and render their perspectives in ten co-produce murals, which will serve as building blocks for “VR Heaven” which virtual reality experts will create as a therapeutic journey or a transformative experience that benefits millions.
- III) **“Peace Everyone!”** The performing artists to fuse their music and performances to produce a grand finale which will become a 4-minute clip.

“In 2020, Tokyo will host the Olympics, Dubai the World Expo, and Washington will be home to the World Children’s Festival,” said ICAF Chairman Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq.

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