Art produced by children is the most honest and purest form of human creative expressions.

As an embodiment of their imagination, child art unveils the underlying creativity and perspectives that will shape the future.

The viewing of art produced by children can awaken the “inner child” – curious, creative, compassionate, and courageous.
“Children’s America Mural” at the World Children’s Festival on The National Mall in Washington, DC in September 1999.
Children’s Visions of the New Millennium Exhibition at the Capitol Children’s Museum in Washington, DC in October 1999 opened by the ICAF Board Member Peter Schwartz.
A specially constructed structure built by the ICAF to display children’s art on The National Mall in September 1999.
Children’s Visions of the Millennium
Exhibition as part of the “First Ladies Forum on Children” hosted by the ICAF at the New York Hilton during the United Nations Millennium Summit in March 2000.
Heart of Our Nation. Host to the World.

Washington, DC 2012: Bringing the Olympic & Paralympic Games to the Chesapeake Region

Reception and Dinner Honoring the United States Olympic Committee Site Evaluation Team

June 28, 2002

Organization of American States
Washington, DC

Children’s Utopia Exhibition
at Haus der Kunst
Munich, Germany, in October 2004
The 3rd Arts Olympiad Exhibition at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, Tel Aviv, Israel in October 2005.
The 3rd Arts Olympiad Exhibition in Sharjah, UAE in February 2006.
European Children’s Festival and display at the Olympia Park in Munich, Germany, in May 2006.
The Arts Olympiad Exhibition at Palace of Stupinigi in Turin, Italy at the 2006 Winter Olympics
The Kinder Grüsse exposition at the Galleria department stores in Germany in May/June 2006.
The Children of Katrina Exhibition at The City Museum, Lisbon, Portugal in October 2006.
Children’s Visions of the Future Exhibition at Yeungjin College, South Korea in April 2007.
The 3rd Arts Olympiad Exhibition at The National Mall in Washington, DC in June 2007.
These artworks were produced by children living along the US Gulf Coast within a week after Hurricane Katrina devastated their homes and communities in September 2005. These works demonstrate children’s resilience in overcoming tragedies and attest to the healing power of art. Linking Bulgaria to the United States, this art exhibition is taking place concurrently with the World Cultural Economic Forum in New Orleans, Louisiana. Please visit www.wcefculture.com for more information.

Children of Katrina Exhibition at the Central Military Club in Sofia, opened by Bulgarian Minister of Defense and U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria on October 27, 2008. Click for Vimeo
Exhibition at “Education Without Borders” in Dubai, UAE, in March 2009.

Programmatic experience of the International Child Art Foundation as well as scientific studies and research attest to the immense psychological impact on children by natural disasters and war. Children who experience death and devastation are at high risk for a variety of mental health problems including anxiety disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and childhood traumatic grief (CTG), a condition affecting those who experience a death under traumatic circumstances. Preventing and treating the distress experienced by children as soon as possible is crucial for optimal long-term health and recovery.

Eleven year old Katrina survivor, Chad McDowell, says:

“When one experiences a sudden dramatic event, your brain may have a hard time dealing with it. It is kind of too much for your brain to grasp all in one moment. Sometimes it feels like it might have been a dream, even though you know it was real.”
Exhibition and art creation at the Hewar Art Gallery, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in January 2010.
The 4th Arts Olympiad exhibition at The Uganda National Museum in Kampala October 2010.
Encouragement Art Exhibition at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa to commemorate the first anniversary of the earthquake/tsunami in Japan in March 2012.
The 4th Arts Olympiad Exhibition at the “Global Summit on Childhood” in Crystal City, Virginia in March 2012.
Denim Art Exhibition at Madewell in Georgetown, Washington DC in March 2012.
Photography: http://www.frankdoorhof.com/site/2012/03/icaf/.
The International Child Art Foundation organizes the Arts Olympiad, the world’s largest art & sport program for children. Mr. Nelson Mandela has said:

“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.”

In the structured lesson plan for the Arts Olympiad, students are asked to comment on this quotation before they render their favorite sport into an artwork, like the one above by Sophie Strazella, age 9, a DCPS student.

Please join us at the reception celebrating the children's artwork inspired by Mr. Mandela on Thursday 11 July from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at THEARC.

RSVP: Amanda Holder info@icaf.org or (202) 530-1000

Children’s Tribute to Mandela on view July 5–July 14, 2013
Corcoran Community Gallery at THEARC
1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20020
Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri, 11am-7pm and Sat, 10am-2pm
An interactive exhibition the Cleveland Park Library in Washington, DC in April 2015.
Displays of art at the 5th World Children’s Festival on The Ellipse next to The White House in June/July 2015.
Founded in 1997, the ICAF celebrates its twentieth year of service to American children as their national arts organization and to the world’s children as their international arts organization.