

## Professional Testimonials

*Your determination to communicate the ever-present message to the world that creativity is essential to the successful growth of a child is essential to the future of our youth and direction of humanity.*

*Jason A. Barnes, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana (November 7, 2008)*

*I believe that you have developed this wonderful program to inspire youth to tap into their creative talents, empathy, and self-expression in quite a powerful way. I truly resonate with the festival and organization you have created - and even more so, I resonate with what I hear as the underlying reason you have done this work. The arts as a bridge to peace, empathy, understanding - as a link between cultures, traditions, religions, classes - all the labels that we humans have created to tell ourselves that we are separate and unequal.* *Mariah Miller, founder, Kids for PEACE, Madison, WI (December 12, 2007)*

*What you are doing reflects such a refreshingly integrated view of children's development -- a much-needed perspective in a time when children's growth and learning often seem to be approached in a very reductionistic, fragmented way.* *Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., Director, Center for Early Education & Development and Co-Chair, President's Academic Initiative on Children, Youth & Families, University of Minnesota (December 8, 2007)*

*Words cannot express our gratitude to you! You made it possible to bring together the most gifted child artists in the world to meet each other, share experiences and develop their creative talents. The entire event exceeded our dreams! Our experience in the overall World Children's Festival was outstanding and unforgettable! It was a pleasure for us to experience meeting over 100 different people from many cultures and countries! We loved exchanging gifts, sharing ideas with the ultimate goal of creating peace in the world.* *Eszter Kovacs, sister of the winner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Hungary Arts Olympiad (Sep 2007)*

*The World Leaders Mural Project at the World Children's Festival was truly inspirational. In a short time of only about two and a half hours five thoughtful murals were created for influential people around the world. The murals which reflected themes such as peace and multiculturalism had a sense of freshness and creativity that only child created art can possess. It was a pleasure to help lead my team of young people from Latvia and the United Arab Emirates through the process. Although we did not speak the same language, we were able to communicate through the international language of art. As a professional muralist myself, this experience was one never to be forgotten. It illustrated the beauty and unity that can be created through the creation of art in our very diverse world.* *Augustina Droze, muralist, Chicago (August 2007)*

*I would like to thank you for your warm welcome and would like to express my gratefulness for your invitation and also would like to mention that everything was organized on highest level. I am sure that our cooperation in future will continue and together we can organize some event.*

*Lilia Nikoyan, Ministry of Culture, Armenia (July 2007)*

*Nina is so proud showing her friends and family the photos of the ICAF festival...she had a great time. The murals were definitely a highlight for us ... she loved being able to be part of the projects with the older artists whom she really admired and was inspired by. She says she learned new techniques from the ICAF board members which she will show her teacher when we're back in Brunei.*

*Wendy Mcilroy, mother of winner 3<sup>rd</sup> Brunei Arts Olympiad (July 2007)*

*Sora really enjoyed the festival. She got a chance to meet new friends around the world. She enjoyed the workshops to help other kids. Also the mural making was an opportunity for her to try using pastels for the first time. The award ceremony night was also amazing, we sat at the same table with kids from Turkey. Even though they couldn't speak English very well, but they all enjoyed the moment. That night Sora's art teacher mentioned to me that it was her honor to be in the event with such diversity from people around the world. In her own, she felt like she was in an UN event, which was unbelievable to her. Again, thank you so much for the efforts that were put in to organize such a big event for the kids around the world. I am pretty sure that those kids especially from aboard would have the most memorable moment in their lives.* **Surasit Nithikasem, father of winner 3<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Arts Olympiad (July 2007)**

*The Arts Olympiad was one of the most exceptional moments in Kate's life (and mine as well)...she still loves to share the experience with anyone who will listen. She is continuing with art throughout high school and has chosen to pursue an education in architecture following high school using both her artistic and mathematical loves as her profession.*

**Monika McKean, mother of winner 2<sup>nd</sup> Canada Arts Olympiad (April 15, 2007)**

*Thank you for the opportunity to review recent issues of ChildArt. I found the articles to be consistently well written, respectful of the young artists they profile, and illustrated with works of art that are memorable and stimulating. Not only is this professionally-produced magazine both visually and intellectually engaging in content and design, but in these days of steady cutbacks in U.S. arts education programs, it offers a cogent reminder of art's central role in linking world cultures, each to each. For its polycultural outlook and special focus, ChildArt is unique among magazines for children—but readers of any age will find it a rewarding way to broaden their cultural horizons.*

**John Peters, The New York Public Library, New York, NY (January 6, 2006)**

*Your magazine inspires me and gives me fresh ideas. For that, I am most grateful.*

**Karen McNamara, Art Teacher, North Providence, RI (September 20, 2005)**

*The Arts Olympiad, produced every four years by the International Child Art Foundation, presents each of us a unique opportunity to involve young artists from our Congressional Districts in an event with important national and international implications.* **Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Co-chair, Congressional Arts Caucus (January 7, 2003 letter to Members of the Arts Caucus and Arts Supporters)**

*The ICAF exhibition "clearly shows us that when we allow children to explore their creativity through the arts, they shine."* **US Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, Washington, DC April 19, 2000**

*I will always remember everyone in ICAF. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had.*

**Carmen Cestero, Art teacher from Puerto Rico and ICAF 2003 summer intern**

*For all of us, 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. Thank you so much for sharing these images with us and for the important work you do.*

**Jessica Hoffmann Davis, Director, Arts in Education Program, Harvard University**

*The positive message of peace and hope promised by the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) is commendable and worthy of great recognition.* Lt. Gen. Joseph Cosumano, Jr., Commanding General, US Army Space and Missile Defense Command (November 2, 2003)

*ICAF can help us seek and develop ways in which we can address the issue of arts programs in our individual schools and countries. In this endeavor, ICAF has had a positive impact in the Marshall Islands: by allowing us to become involved, and giving us a head start in re-thinking how we can further the arts in the Marshall Islands.* Lady Mary Note, First Lady of the Marshall Islands (September 9, 2003)

*The festival was truly a “once-in-a-lifetime” experience... The awards ceremony was clearly the highlight of the week, and of Dianna’s life, probably only to be rivaled in the future by her prom night and wedding day!* Deborah T. Mazzone, parent of winner of 2<sup>nd</sup> New York Arts Olympiad (2003)

*The Foundation clearly makes an outstanding contribution to international cultural understanding.* Patricia S. Harrison, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State (March 7, 2002)

*I have always been a supporter of enhancing the creativity and imagination of all the world’s children.* U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu (September 27, 2001)

*Hillary and I want to thank you for the role you played in making America’s Millennium such an overwhelming success.* President Bill Clinton (February 4, 2000)

*May the New Year bring you joy in your important work on behalf of all children.* Elie Wiesel, Nobel Laureate (January 1, 2000)

*I am grateful to organizations like the International Child Art Foundation that gives us the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of our nation’s young people. I encourage you to continue to support programs that help children to discover their talents and believe in themselves.* First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (June 29, 1999)

*It gives me great pleasure to be a part of this celebration of children’s art, creativity and imagination. I send my warmest welcome to all of you – artists, parents, teachers, First Ladies, and honored guests – gathered here in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the new millennium.* First Lady Betty Ford (June 29, 1999)

*Young people can gain a greater understanding of themselves and the world around them through their involvement in creative activities, and the efforts of ICAF to promote and celebrate children’s art is truly commendable.* Governor George E. Pataki, New York (June 29, 1999)

*I am honored to be a part of the International Child Art Foundation’s celebration of children’s art, creativity and imagination. I have always felt that through the arts, people gain a special knowledge of themselves, as well as others. You are to be commended for your contribution to this historical international event.* First Lady of Louisiana Alice Foster (June 21, 1999)



A celebration of this magnitude has the potential of heightening public awareness of the significance of the arts in education and community life. *Nancy S., Grasmick, State Superintendent of schools, Maryland State Department of Education (May 29, 1998)*

*It gives me great pleasure to join your efforts in using the arts to awaken and nurture children so they can successfully meet the challenges of being our best resources and architects of the future.*  
*Wilmer S. Cody, Commission of Education, Kentucky Department of Education (May 21, 1998)*

*On behalf of the congressional Member Organization for the Arts, we applaud your efforts to promote child art globally... We have seen firsthand the benefits that arts competitions can have for young people... Certainly, the ICAF art contests will similarly encourage artistic skills, imagination and confidence among young people.* *Rep. Louise M. Slaughter and Rep. Stephen Horn (January 5, 1998)*