

INTERNATIONAL  
CHILD ART  
FOUNDATION



March 13, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) is National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007, and will be hosting the World Children's Festival on the National Mall on June 23-25, 2007. You are invited to open the festival on any of the festival's three days (June 23, 24 or 25) at 10:30 am, with welcoming remarks from the "World Stage" across from the U.S. Capitol. In the past hearing the hopes and dreams of members of congress has been a highlight for children at our festivals.

The World Children's Festival is a culmination of our third Arts Olympiad - a free global program in which more than three million children in about 100 countries have participated to win the honor to represent their country or U.S. state at the Festival. Based on our previous festivals in 1999 and 2003, delegates from more than 40 U.S. states and territories and nearly 100 countries are expected to gather in Washington this June. As the native language of children, art can be employed to build bonds of trust and understanding between American children and children around the world. Our children are our finest ambassadors, and through hosting their foreign counterparts they will enhance America's image abroad as they come to better understand foreign cultures themselves.

In recognition of the fact that children and young adults now comprise a majority in the world population, the ICAF has instituted the *World Children's Awards*. In addition to your opening remarks, we invite you to the awards ceremony on June 26<sup>th</sup> evening during which the children will honor those business, cultural and political leaders who would have inspired and guided them through their Festival experience.

Since 1997, the ICAF has been serving as a leading national art and creativity organization for American children and children abroad. In 1998, we produced the first-ever national children's art festival in the United States, and in May 2006 we organized the first European children's festival in Munich.

Today, we request your support for our programs, festivals and exhibitions, so we can continue to employ the power of the arts for the development of children's creativity and empathy – preconditions for a better world.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ashfaq Ishaq.

Ashfaq Ishaq, Ph.D.  
Founder and Executive Director