Creativity, Diversity and Unity
EDITOR’S NOTE

Dear Reader,
The toughest and yet the most exhilarating and heartwarming responsibility I have is to organize the World Children’s Festival (WCF) every four years. This issue bursts with the excitement of the festival and the magic it creates.

Also special about this issue is that ChildArt is now an eMagazine. By moving to the digital realm, we can honor our commitment to limiting children’s exposure to advertisements while still providing a quality publication at a reasonable price. We hope you like reading ChildArt on your device as much as you liked reading the printed copy. We look forward to your comments, which can be emailed to childart@icaf.org or posted at www.Facebook.com/ICAF.org.

I hope you enjoy this issue and learn many new things!

With best wishes,

Ashfaq Ishaq Ph. D.
Chairman
## 5th World Children's Festival
Ashfaq Ishaq

## Once in a Lifetime...Times Two
Teodora Lazar

## To Promote Friendship, Be a Friend
William Lee

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Tracy Cheney and her students

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Jean Campbell

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Educators and Artists
Picture spreading a tablecloth covered with an array of tiny lights when preparing for a special occasion. By using conductive thread and applying basic circuitry concepts regarding polarity, connectivity, and current flow, items like that can be a reality.

We came to the WCF from the Creativity Labs at Indiana University, Bloomington, bringing along supplies to demonstrate these concepts to WCF artists. Armed with strips of felt on which we had hot-glued a battery holder and a sewable LED light, we were ready to tackle the task at hand: making light-up bookmarks.

But having the supplies on hand was only the first step. Attendees had to learn circuitry basics too. First, we explained the importance of polarity in circuits. That is, for a circuit to work, positives must be aligned with other positives and negatives must be paired with other negatives. The artists applied this concept by sewing one line from the positive end of the battery holder to the positive end of the LED, and a second line for the negative sides.

To make the connections stronger, they wrapped the conductive thread around each of the components’ holes three times. This demonstrated the importance of reinforcing connections to allow electricity to flow easily through the thread from one component to the next.

Artists noticed that the sewing itself forms a loop, demonstrating the concept of electric current flow. More specifically, a circuit must be a closed loop in which the current flows from the battery, through the load (which is the component using the energy – in this case, an LED), and back to the battery.

If the polarity is not properly aligned, if the connections are not strong enough, or if the loop is incomplete, then the LED will not light. So if the light-up bookmark works, it means all these concepts were correctly applied. Most problems arise in the form of short circuits, in which positive and negative lines cross or the thread is sewn directly through the LED so the current cannot go through the light.

E-textiles directly integrate the craft of sewing with circuitry, so that good sewing leads to a better circuit. For instance, tying a big enough knot at the end of the conductive thread around each of the components’ holes three times. This demonstrated the importance of reinforcing connections to allow electricity to flow easily through the thread from one component to the next.
thread is important so that the thread does not pull out of place and break the loop of the circuit. Just as sewing through the holes of buttons on clothes many times ensures they do not fall off, sewing through the holes of the e-components several times makes strong connections. Like in sewing, small stitches are ideal for a neat, sturdy product because large, loose stitches in e-textiles can allow positive and negative lines to more easily cross each other and cause shorts.

The participants learned about circuitry and sewing, but they also got to create! By using buttons, feathers, stickers, fabric markers, and other art supplies, the bookmarks could be customized to make them personally meaningful. At the WCF we saw incredible creativity, pride in accomplishment, and joy that transcended national and language barriers. While we could not be happier with the festival results, we would love to see even more creative ideas. With an adult’s supervision, try making your own e-textile at home. If your parent agrees, you can share your creation on the ICAF Facebook page. We would love to take a peek! 🎅

While it may be difficult to find e-textile supplies in your local craft store, they can be found online through companies such as SparkFun and Adafruit.
Thank you to all the young artists and their parents and teachers, volunteers and interns, and the ICAF staff and board members for making the WCF2015 a great success. The next WCF will take place in 2019. To nurture creativity and develop global understanding through the arts, you can subscribe to *ChildArt* at [https://icaf.org/childart](https://icaf.org/childart)

Please consider adopting the International Child Art Foundation as your charity this year. Since 1997, the ICAF has been nurturing our children’s creativity through in-school programs like the Arts Olympiad and imbuing creativity with empathy in global community settings such as the WCF. The ICAF has been independently ranked among the Top 25 Children’s Charities in the United States.

You could help the ICAF bring back *ChildArt* as a printed magazine as well. Free of commercial advertisements, this amazing publication is packed with innovative and inspirational ideas. Please help us raise $24,000 by the end of 2015 to ensure that all four 2016 issues are available in both print and electronic formats so parents and schoolteachers have a choice. Whatever your contribution is, it will tremendously help.

Your tax-deductible contribution can be mailed to the ICAF or submitted online at [https://icaf.org/support/](https://icaf.org/support/) using Amazon or JustGive. We wish you a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season!