

Recent Events:

Lifeskills Through the Arts Day Camp

Children's Street Art Festival

Giant Steppes International Jazz Festival

Summer Survey on Cultural Tourism

Cultural NGO planning training with Carol Barbeito

Mongolian Cultural Evening during President Bagabandi's visit in Denver, USA

Myths and Truths: The Socialist Legacy in Mongolia Tours

Mongolian Buddhism Tours

Nasantsengel, a facilitator at the Lifeskills Through the Arts Day Camp, gives an introduction to art history to an enthusiastic group



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The mission of the Arts Council of Mongolia is to advocate and support the sustainable development of Mongolian arts and culture.

Lifeskills Through the Arts Day Camp

Learning and enjoyment are two things that Saraa has found don't often go together. When she was seven years old, she hated school so much that she stopped going. Now, at age 17, she is ashamed of the fact that she is just beginning to learn to read and write. But at the *Lifeskills Through the Arts* daycamp, she delved into making prints and abstract watercolors, finding paper and ink no longer obstacles to communication.

Saraa was one of a dozen at-risk adolescent students from Lotus Childrens Center in Mongolia's capital city Ulaanbaatar selected for this innovative pilot program, run by the Arts Council of Mongolia August 10-14. The Arts Council of Mongolia-US, an American 501(c)(3) nonprofit, engaged the Arts Council of Mongolia to implement the new week-long day-camp. The program was funded by a generous grant

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.

— Scott Adams
(b. 1957)
cartoonist

critical thinking, relationships, stress management, communication and self-confidence and esteem. The arts are a natural partner for this model—Dwight Gee, President of the Arts Council of Mongolia-US, said, "It has been demonstrated time and again that the arts can engage the interest and creativity of otherwise disaffected students, making them more receptive to learning in general and more likely to stay in school."

"The arts lessons added to the classes elements that are inherent in learning through the arts: risk-taking, self-perception, broadened perspective and creative thinking, which extends into other areas of study and life," said Alina Campana, who works at ACM and compiled the curriculum with Heather Andrews, a Peace Corps Volunteer. The Arts Council of Mongolia will continue developing its activities in the area of community and arts education.

International Forum on Cultural Tourism, October, 21-22

from the Seattle Rotary Club #4 in the state of Washington.

The curriculum, developed by the Arts Council of Mongolia, combines arts lesson plans and activities from the Mongolia-specific

Life Skills Manual developed by Peace Corps Mongolia volunteers in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This manual provides student-centered and active lessons for developing children's abilities in ten areas of life skills, including decision making,

The Arts Council of Mongolia, in collaboration with the Mongolian Tourism Board and Mongolian Tourism Association, will hold an International Forum on Cultural Tourism October 21-22, 2004 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. More than 80 participants from arts organizations, tour operators, and policy makers from Mongolia, Central Asia, Caucasian countries, Croatia, the Baltics, Turkey, Singapore, Macau and USA will attend the conference. Its main goal is to establish local and regional partnership between cultural and tourism sectors in order to promote cultural tourism as an important step towards making culture a viable economic asset when coupled with growing tourism.

Subjects to be tackled at the upcoming International Forum on Cultural Tourism will include the current situation of cultural tourism in Mongolia, Central Asia and world wide; best local and international practices for building



partnerships between cultural and tourism sectors; the development and implementation of cultural tourism policies that contribute to local and national economic growth and poverty reduction; and the issue of preserving cultural heritage as tourism develops.

Another aim of the conference will be to establish a Mongolian cultural tourism national steering committee and ensure regular and systematic leadership to coordinate policies and activities on cultural tourism, as well as initiating a cultural tourism development strategy to be integrated into national culture and tourism development plans.

Preparation for the Forum began at the beginning of the summer with a summer-long survey on cultural tourism conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Omnogovi, Hovsgol, Bayan-Olgii and Ovorhangai. A team headed by Senior Researcher Dolgorsuren gathered information from Cultural organizations, tour operators, and foreign tourists in these areas. Results are currently being compiled and analyzed, and will be presented at the Forum.

The Forum is made possible by co-funding from the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) Arts and Culture Network Program.

Children's Street Arts Festival

Hundreds of families attended this festival, which was held June 1 for International Children's Day in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of UB, the University of Culture and Arts, and Nairamdal International Children's Center, and with support from Save the Children, Agricultural Bank, and MCS. Its theme was "What Is It?" and encouraged children and families to creatively explore their city and backgrounds in an interactive and innovative way. The festival included



Performers at the Giant Steppes International Jazz Festival, July 29-31

performances, creation of public art pieces by children, games, contests, dancing, ceramics, face painting, and mask-decorating.

Giant Steppes Jazz Festival

Ulaanbaatar hosted the Giant Steppes International Jazz Festival July 29-31st with the purpose of promoting jazz to the Mongolian audience (over 700 people attended the Festival) and providing jazz education and career development opportunities for Mongolian musicians. The international jazz singer and

pianist Bob Bellows from the United States, vocalist Debra Rasmussen from Canada, saxophonist Dima from Ukraine and other musicians and performers attended the festival to share and collaborate with Mongolian jazz performers, including Khulan, Khaliun, Black and White Band, and Khuree Jazz Band.



Creating ceramics at the "What is it?" Children's Street Art's Festival, June 1, 2004

Jazz has been developing in Mongolia since the time when the first jazz

artist, an American representative of the Ford Motor Company, entertained at the Summer and Winter palaces for the Bogd Khan during his visits.

Since transition to democracy, Mongolians are freer to listen to and perform a wider variety of music and influences are coming in from many more countries and musicians.

The US Embassy in Mongolia and the Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar provided support for the festival.

Events Calendar

- October 21-22 ▶ International Forum on Cultural Tourism
- October 22 ▶ Deadline for applications to OSI-ACNP's grant competition "Partnership Mobility Scheme"
- November ▶ Board meeting
- November 30 ▶ Announcement of ACM Grant Competition
- November 15 - December 15 ▶ ACM Annual Fundraising Campaign