INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL 2013 COMING TO SEATTLE
Fourth Annual International Children’s Friendship Festival, April 27 – 28

SEATTLE (March 18, 2013) – The Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington (TACAWA) will partner with the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute (LHPAI), to bring the 4th Annual International Children’s Friendship Festival 2013 (ICFF) to the Emerald City Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28. The ICFF is an opportunity to witness our children honors their respective cultures through performance and education, as well as pledge their commitment to international peace and brotherhood.

“This year’s festival will take place at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute in Seattle’s Central Area and this new performing arts partnership is exciting and welcomes all,” said Melike Yucel Koc, spokesperson, TACAWA. “April 23rd has been celebrated as Children’s Day in Turkey for over 80 years and it is our goal to nurture cultural exchange and friendship amongst our children.”

The origin of the ICFF dates back to 1920 when the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, laid down the foundations of a new, independent, and modern republic and dedicated April 23rd to the children to emphasize that the future belongs to and is protected by future generations. The event was recognized by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1979. This year’s Festival is an opportunity to commemorate this important effort and continue Ataturk’s legacy of peace at home and peace in the world.

Seattle will again host the International Children’s Friendship Festival. Over the two days, Seattleites will have the opportunity to witness children groups representing more than 40 countries around the world perform unique dances, songs and musical performances.

In addition to stage performances, the festival will feature cultural displays by local ethnic communities, providing an opportunity for children to mingle and learn about their cultures from one another. There will be arts, crafts, face painting and other free activities for children.

Leading up to the festival, there will be a children’s forum in which participants representing various countries will discuss a topic of interest for all children. This year's topic is “Bullying in Schools.” The children will discuss effects, identify the causes, and develop potential solutions for bullying in schools.

On Sunday, April 28th, the festival will shift gears and have additional non-stage activities for children, such as sports and outdoor activities. The Seattle Sounders and Seahawks teams will participate to promote a healthy diet and active lifestyle for children. Event organizers are very excited to have the support of two of Seattle's biggest professional sports franchises.
Some of the expected participating countries are Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libya, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Seychelles, Scotland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, U.S.A., Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Come join us at the 4th annual International Children’s Friendship Festival to witness our children pledge their commitment to international peace and brotherhood!

**Saturday, April 27th, 2013** 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, 104 17th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144, (206) 684-4758  
[www.langstoninstitute.org](http://www.langstoninstitute.org)

**Sunday April 28th, 2013,** 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Rainier Community Center 4600 38th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

**Free Parking & Free Admission**

For additional International Children’s Friendship Festival information and photos, visit [http://childrensfest.tacawa.org/](http://childrensfest.tacawa.org/). The International Children’s Friendship Festival final schedule along with specific event information is available on the ICFF website and social media sites. For updates follow ICFF on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

TACAWA is a non-profit cultural organization devoted to promoting awareness of Turkish art, culture, art and history. One of the objectives of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington is to support Turkish and Turkish-American friends of Turkey in Washington State and the surrounding Pacific Northwest area. You are invited to the fourth annual International Children’s Friendship festival to witness our children pledge their commitment to international peace and brotherhood.

The Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute celebrates, nurtures, presents and preserves African American and Diaspora performing arts, cultural wealth and iconic legacies. Executive Director Royal Alley-Barnes.

ICFF 2013 has been made possible by generous grants from:

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ICFF 2013 is organized in partnership with:

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