

ART SUMMER CAMP – ART RESIDENCE

CONCEPT NOTE



Theme: Kid's Vision of Peace, Future and Sustainability

Duration: 1 Week, 5-11 August, 2024

Target Age Group: 13-21 years old

Capacity: 27 Young People and Art Educators

Location: Pestalozzi Children's Foundation, Kinderdorfstrasse 20, 9043 Trogen, Switzerland.

Organizers: [Ukraine Culture Network](#), operating under the Swiss nonprofit association [LEGATO Bern-Odesa](#), in partnership with the Ukrainian Charity Fund "[Lviv Children's Art Gallery](#)"

The Ukraine Culture Network was established as a result of the Conference "Renaissance of Arts and Culture in Ukraine" held in Bern, Switzerland, on April 26 and 27, 2023. Its Coordination Office operates under the umbrella of the Swiss nonprofit association LEGATO Bern-Odesa. Legato Bern-Odesa has been supporting and maintaining partnerships in education and culture between the cities of Bern and Odesa, Switzerland and Ukraine for 20 years.

The Ukraine Culture Network (UCN) operates as a platform facilitating the connection of Ukrainian artists with cultural institutions, curators, event organizers and sponsors. It contributes to the protection of Ukraine's cultural heritage in Ukraine and abroad, and to the international visibility of and awareness for Ukrainian culture, as well as to the promotion of Ukrainian artists and art abroad. It also supports the development of Ukraine's educational system.

Charitable Foundation "Lviv Children's Gallery" was founded in 2003, being the first children's art gallery in Ukraine. Its aim is to develop the talents of young people, including children with special needs. Since 2018 the Foundation runs an annual children's art competition "Golden Easel" inviting participants from all over the world. Summer camps called Art Residencies are integral parts of this competition, where children work together with artists and educators, establishing collective art works and monumental paintings on hundreds of meters long. In 2023 the winners of the competition in Ukraine had an art camp in Germany, co-creating with local kids. In 2024 the camp will take place in Switzerland.



Objective: To provide a nurturing and therapeutic environment for young artists and educators from Ukraine, amidst the backdrop of conflict in their homeland. By immersing participants in Swiss values of sustainability, peace, gender equality, impartiality, and inclusiveness, the camp aims to inspire visions of a peaceful and sustainable future. Through art, participants will express these ideals, fostering healing, understanding, and hope. The camp aims to inspire a new generation of empathetic leaders and change-makers.

Theory of change/ impact hypothesis: Through its unique blend of art education, emotional healing, and advocacy for global values, the camp creates a powerful platform for change. The immediate outcomes in art skills development and the public exhibition set the stage for lasting impact, fostering a network of young ambassadors for peace and sustainability equipped to inspire and enact change within their communities and beyond, fostering a global movement towards a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable world, expressed in the art. Collaborative projects that promote cross-cultural understanding and solidarity are not only meant to provide healing and hope for Ukrainian children affected by war but also to instill a deep sense of global responsibility and shared values among Swiss children and those of Ukrainian descent living in and visiting Switzerland.

Expected Results¹:

- **Art Empowerment:** The camp will assemble an exceptional cohort of renowned Ukrainian artists and educators alongside with talented young participants from Ukraine, and unite them together with the Swiss and Ukrainian kids residing in Switzerland with the primary purpose of creating a dynamic and immersive environment where all attending children receive direct mentorship and instruction in advanced art techniques and creative expression from these distinguished professionals. This collaboration aims to foster a rich learning experience, encouraging cultural exchange and diversity, artistic development, and mutual inspiration among all camp participants.
- **Art Skills and Public Exhibition:** Participants will develop new art techniques and skills, with a special emphasis on sustainable materials and methods. The camp will culminate in a public exhibition on the last day, showcasing the artwork created by the participants. This exhibition will serve not only as a platform for participants to express their visions and learnings but also as a means to engage the broader community, attract sponsors, and generate interest for future iterations of the camp.
- **Emotional and Artistic Expression:** Ukrainian children, including those living in Switzerland, as well as Swiss local children, will demonstrate increased understanding and appreciation of peace, sustainability, gender equality, and inclusiveness through their art. Participants will also show signs of emotional healing and improved mental well-being through art therapy and supportive community interactions.
- **Awareness and Empathy:** Swiss children will gain a deeper understanding of the Ukrainian conflict and its human impact, fostering empathy and a global citizenry perspective. This awareness is further amplified through the shared experience of creating and presenting art that depicts visions of peace and a sustainable future.
- **Professional Development for Educators:** Teachers and educators will acquire new teaching methods and content related to peace, sustainability, and art therapy, enriching their professional skills and educational approach. This includes integrating art as a medium for teaching complex subjects like sustainability and peace.

Features²:

- **Healing through Art:** Workshops designed to use art as a form of therapy, helping participants process trauma and envision a peaceful future.
- **Masterclasses on Swiss values and Sustainable practices:** Interactive sessions on sustainability, clean environments, gender equality, impartiality, and leaving no one behind, led by Swiss experts and activists.
- **Diverse Artistic Expressions:** Creative sessions in various mediums, encouraging participants to envision and articulate their hopes for a sustainable and peaceful world.
- **Cultural and Environmental Exploration:** Activities that highlight the beauty of Swiss culture and landscapes, reinforcing the connection between environmental stewardship and global peace.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Group art projects that blend diverse perspectives and ideas, symbolizing unity and shared visions for the future.
- **Empowerment through Education:** Specialized sessions for teachers on incorporating themes of peace, sustainability, and social justice into art education.

¹ Additional Notes

- Throughout the camp, emphasis will be placed on creating a safe, supportive environment that respects and acknowledges the experiences of participants from conflict-affected areas and kids with special needs.
- The camp will promote sustainable practices, emphasizing the role of each individual in contributing to a healthier planet and sustainable development agenda.

² Daily Camp Program Overview, Profiles of Teachers and Artists coming from Ukraine are available on request