

REACH OUT!

World Artists Experiences (WAE) offers a chance to bridge people and cultures around the world. From its inception, WAE’s goal was to bring the “spirit of the people and their country” here while providing opportunities to bridge international understanding in communities, colleges, and schools.

Audiences, volunteers, supporters, embassies, artists, and others have seen the importance of this in a fragile world and have embraced groups. Artists, international organizations, institutions, and embassies recognized WAE’s uniqueness. Recently, we received a call: “Is WAE still in existence? Never let it disappear. We must keep people and their cultures connected in these uncertain times. It has been proven that this can change the course of time. We would like to reconnect and bring a group.”

From the moment people of the world enter the country, a welcoming and caring spirit prevails. Volunteers, host families, ambassadors, international education, cultural immersion, and communication team members reach out with kindness and commitment.

Keys to its success: Giving and receiving on and off the stage; listening and observing; learning from and with each person despite language challenges; taking time; and dialoging while embracing commonalities and respecting differences. Volunteers engage graciously as Citizen Diplomats as they open their home and hearts, welcoming “strangers” who often become lifelong friends. People

“It will be the people reaching out, continuing to talk and support one another, in our world that will change the present course.”

sharing their arts and culture is a powerful unifying force.

One may call this “Cultural Diplomacy.” When our country was founded, Benjamin Franklin went to France to expose the French to the U.S. culture; artists and traders traveled along the Silk Road; teachers came and brought their culture. Some consider this “soft power” in international relations. But, these experiences open the world to all people.

Citizen and cultural diplomacy can make a difference, as during the Cold War with the Soviet Union and in ping pong diplomacy between China and the U.S. Numerous WAE hosts and team members have made lifelong friends with cultural groups. Consider reaching out through emails, Facebook messenger, Instagram message, WeChat, and WhatsApp. Recently, a diplomat reminded us, “It will be the people reaching out, continuing to talk and support one another, in our world that will change the present course.” Life is busy. Consider serving in cultural diplomacy and be a Citizen Diplomat. Reach out! Reconnect!

NOTE: Thank you to all who have served in World Artists Experiences’ cultural and citizen diplomacy efforts. We hope you will consider being part of the World Artists Ambassador Team that hosts, locates venues, develops schedules, and cares for details. Be in touch with: Barbara Wynn (BWYNN21012@gmail.com) in Anne Arundel County; Linda Smith (Lrsmith17@verizon.net) in Western Maryland; or June Krell-Salgado(junekrellsalgado@outlook.com or JEKRELL-SALGADO@salisbury in Eastern Maryland. OR, be in touch with wae@comcast.net.

FESTIVALS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

This year, the Moon Festival falls on October 6th. This is when families get together to celebrate the family reunion, give thanks for the harvest, and pray for good fortune.

It is also the time to plan for the Spring Festival celebration. The Spring Festival is also called the Lunar New Year Festival, which falls on February 17 in 2026. It is celebrated by many countries in Asia and many areas in the United States and Canada. In 2023, the United Nations General Assembly designated Lunar New Year as a UN holiday. It is a great opportunity for the community to come together to welcome the spring and pray for another good year.

Why do we organize Spring Festival celebration events at the community when there are plenty of celebration events in the nearby area such as in Washington D.C. or Baltimore?

The Lunar New Year celebration at the local community enables an intimate relation-

ship among the organizers, the performers, and the audience. It brings people with different cultural backgrounds closer. It brought together the school students and seniors at the senior center when we hosted it at the Severn Senior Center for the last two years he celebration is organized by volunteers and engages local talents, such as musicians, dancers, and martial artists. We all work together and celebrate together as a big family. To celebrate is more than to watch a show. The participation in the planning and organizing of the event is as important as attending the celebration event itself. In one word, it strengthens the community through involving the community members.

Please reach out if you are interested in working with us to present a Lunar New Year celebration in your community in a school, church, or senior center. Contact: wae@comcast.net or benjing5@yahoo.com with subject “Planning Lunar New Year celebration.”

— Jing Wang

WAE EXPERIENCES FOR 2025–2026 SEASON

SEPTEMBER

September 10

Virtual : *From Pixels to Pyramids: Egyptian Cultural Heritage and AI* with Professor Yasser Elshayeb From Egypt

OCTOBER

October 8–16

Live: Italy, Federico Longo and Mariella Guerera

October 9–10

Schools

October 11, 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland

October 12, 4 pm

St. John’s College Great Hall, Annapolis

October 15, 7pm

Great Hall of Holloway Hall, Salisbury University, Salisbury

NOVEMBER

International Education Month

November 2–4

Live: Bulgaria Piano and Violin with Lora Tcherotova and Georgy Valtav

November 2, 4 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland

November 3, 7pm

Great Hall of Holloway Hall,

Salisbury University, Salisbury

DTBD

Live: Iran Musical and Poetry Ensemble

NOVEMBER

November 19

WAE Explorations into the Future

DECEMBER

December 3

WAE Exploration Groups

JANUARY

Virtual: Celebrating ASIAN New Year

Asia New Year Celebrations in Community settings

FEBRUARY

February 10–March 10

Tuesday 7pm

Virtual: Bridges to the World Film Festival

MARCH

DTBD, Brazil: Music Quartet

APRIL

DTBD

Festival of Harmony with Artists: China

MAY

JUNE

SALUTE TO A VOLUNTEER

BETH PENN has been a committed WAE volunteer since 2010. "I believe what WAE does is important to our society and the world as a whole," she says. Beth wants others to know and faithfully sends press releases and looks for new possibilities to "get the word out."

Beth also researches and organizes places to distribute the releases, ushers, organizes photographers, videographers, and recorders.

Beth was a clinical microbiologist, who taught and worked at medical centers. Her research knowledge spills over into WAE, as she looks into new possibilities by attending workshops, reaching out to ask poignant questions of audiences, and recruiting others she feels can build WAE.

Since a child, Beth has loved chimpanzees and can be seen with the chimps at the Baltimore Zoo. She has served numerous times with the Jane Goodall Institute in both South Africa and the U.S. She enjoys time in New Mexico attending performances of her daughter who plays five instruments and is a music therapist.

Thank you, Beth, for the many gifts you bring to World Artists Experiences!



Beth Penn

GLOBAL EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

As the District IB Coordinator for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, I have the privilege of supporting programs that inspire students to think critically, act compassionately, and engage with the world around them.

The mission of World Artist's Experiences (WAE) aligns deeply with the goals of the International Baccalaureate: fostering international-mindedness, cultural appreciation, and authentic connections across communities. I have seen the impact of WAE's programs firsthand in our schools. Performances and workshops by visiting artists have opened doors for students to experience diverse traditions — whether through music, dance, or storytelling — that bring classroom concepts to life in powerful, memorable ways. These moments invite students not only to witness cultural expressions but to feel part of a shared human experience that transcends borders.

My personal journey has further reinforced this connection. As both a past and current Fulbright recipient, I have experienced firsthand the power of cultural exchange to broaden perspectives, deepen empathy, and spark innovation in education. WAE embodies this same spirit — bringing the world to our local communities and classrooms through the arts, dialogue, and shared experiences.

The partnership between education and organizations like WAE ensures that our students not only learn about the world but also learn with the world. That shared mission makes my connection to WAE both natural and profoundly meaningful.

Mary Austin
District Coordinator
International Baccalaureate
Programme
Anne Arundel County Public
Schools

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **Assistance with communication and publicity.** Email Suzanne Jaques at suzanne-jaques29@gmail.com
- **Ambassador Team Coordinators** to host families, venues, schedule organizers, and welcome people in your area. Email Barbara Wynn at BWYNN21012@gmail.com in Anne Arundel County; Linda Smith at Lrsmith17@verizon.net

in Western Maryland, or June Krell-Salgado(junekrellsalgado@outlook.com) in Eastern Maryland. OR be in touch if you want to begin an Ambassador team in your area. Email Toppw@comcast.net.
• If you are interested in developing **cultural immersions**, for your community, group, etc., email wae@comcast.net

FORM A GROUP TO ATTEND BRIDGES TO THE WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

For the eighteenth year, WAE will bring five films from five countries in five weeks. From February 10–March 10, viewers will experience award-winning films from around the world in their own living rooms or other designated spaces. Each one will be introduced by a producer, artist, photographer, and diplomat from the country represented.

The pandemic forced the film festival to become virtual, allowing the entire world to join us. Seeing people in their own country adds a new dimension.

After the screening, the audience may ask questions and dialogue with someone associated with the film.

More than 85 countries have been presented in these eighteen years. A film guide is posted online so viewers can research each one beforehand. Virtual festival groups have formed in living rooms, college classes, libraries, clubhouses, and other places. Consider forming a Bridges to the World film group to travel the world.

EXPLORATION GROUP BUILDING WAE'S FUTURE
Join World Artists Experiences group as we study the organization, reach out and build toward the future; and develop more meaningful ways of bridging the world through mutual understanding, respect, trust and peace. Join us on November 19 via Zoom and December 3 in person. Follow-up explorations will be in January. Email wae@comcast.net for further information.

OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER

WAE's Newest Volunteer is Sofia Castro. Sofia brings a background in journalism and a passion for storytelling to WAE. Earlier this



Sofia Castro

year, she was introduced to the organization when her parents came home from attending a WAE Concert featuring Brazilian artists. She felt this was an experience that deepened her connection to the community

and its mission. With a keen eye for communication and a strong interest in cultural programming, Sofia called us to volunteer. She hopes to use her storytelling passion to support WAE's mission, as well as support WAE's efforts in building community through the arts. Please support Sofia if you would like to assist with the website.

NOTE: Sofia and Suzanne Jaques work together on the Communication Team. Consider writing press releases, documents, photography, videography, etc. Email Suzanne at suzannejaques29@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MONTH — NOVEMBER
Each November is designated as International Education Month. A Proclamation is distributed for the month through the state of Maryland. As well, resources, materials, workshops are held. Consider highlighting the world during this month.

SERVE WAE WITH FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES
Your financial contributions are critical to the livelihood of WAE. Please consider giving a donation. Other than an individual donation, consider:

- Research a family foundation, a company that matches your contribution, a company with international interests that supports our vision.
- Hold a creative fundraiser.
- Serve on our development team.
- Write a grant for WAE.
- Find those who will give inkind gifts.

WAE is a nonprofit 501 c 3 organization. Donations are tax deductible. Make your check payable to WAE, and send to: WAE P.O. Box 9753 Arnold, MD 21012. Join with the Individuals who help us reach our goals. An annual report can be found on the website, www.worldartists.org.

Many thanks expressed to the Anne Arundel Arts Council, Allegany Arts Council, and Winifred Gordan Foundation for their contributions. Thank you in advance to individuals, business corporations who give financial donations, and to inkind donors, who help build WAE's financial strength and sustainability. And, thank you to Margaret Rose Caro, Editor.

VISIT WORLD ARTISTS EXPERIENCES ON FACEBOOK!