

**Subud International Cultural Association
Midterm Report to WSC
Jan 2010 - June 2012**

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES LAUNCHED:

SICA website: www.subud-sica.org.

Launched in August 2011. The site features information, resources, news, event listings, and networking opportunities for members, plus member stories, an online magazine, Celebrate, and guidance from Bapak and Ibu regarding the development of talent, art, culture, and the purposes of SICA. The site also facilitates online donations for SICA via Network for Good. (Since replicated on WSA and MSF sites)

SICA Update

The Update is an opt-in e-news publication, utilizing Constant Contact, a marketing and communication tool for businesses and nonprofits that tracks results and stores our growing database of subscribers. CC also offers marketing webinars and tutorials that we can share with our members. Slightly over 500 current opt-in subscribers.

SICA Fan page on Facebook. <http://www.facebook.com/SICAorg>

All SICA board members as well as the national SICA chairs are administrators on the fan page so they can all add items of interest. Some of our sponsored projects as well as Green Chair Gallery can also post on the fan page. The SICA Update regularly posts to the fan page as well, so members who might have a slow internet connection can more easily read the Update from the fan page.

Fractured Atlas Free Associate Membership for Subud members.

SICA created a partnership with Fractured Atlas, a national arts service organization in the USA, so Subud members can have an FA membership for free. (\$95.00 value) Benefits include visa help for artists wishing to perform in the USA, free online courses in marketing and establishing a creative business, etc. (A Subud member from Germany is currently working with FA on a visa to do healing arts workshops here in the USA.)

Fiscal sponsorship program for emerging artists and cultural start-ups.

Current projects:

- Uraidah Hassani's project, The Women Worldwide Initiative, a mentoring program that connects, inspires, and educates women and girls. Featured on MSNBC June 2, 2012. 500,000 people saw the feature.
- Hamilton Pevec's project, The Water Handler's Association, which is behind his documentary film project on the oil sands extraction process known as "fracking."
- Salahuddin Brownfield's project, *Testimony and Shelter*, is in the process of being sponsored. This is an arts and cultural event in the city of Columbus, Ohio, September 2012. The exhibit honors Brownfield's late brother, John

Brownfield, and all those who have been neglected, shunned, abused, or ignored in our society.

Venues for the event include The Columbus Museum of Art, the Columbus College of Art and Design, as well as the First Congregational Church of Columbus. Events surrounding Testimony and Shelter include a month of visits by school art classes, concerts, and the presence of panels from the AIDS Quilt of Columbus, Ohio. This builds on an earlier event on Art and Healing at Emory University's Center for Ethics in Atlanta, Georgia.

Grant Program

Established a grant program to provide seed funding for individuals whose talents are worth nourishing and/or whose initiatives contribute to the public valuing of art, culture, and creativity in our communities. Grantees to date include:

- Benjamin Jacob Drazin, jazz artist, to support the production of a professional CD of his work
- Sinfonia de Camera, Krannert Center, Urbana, Ill, to support world-premiere concert and recording project of Csaba Erdelyi's new string sextet arrangement of Mozart's Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for solo violin, solo viola, and orchestra in E-flat major, K. 364
- Hadani Ditmars, writer, to support her work in relation to the architecture of Iraq as well as related publications, magazine articles, and exhibitions
- Miranda Wilson, performing artist, to support her participation in a digital story telling workshop.
- Paul Nelson, poet, to support his stay at a writer's retreat so that he would have focused time to develop his book length narrative poetry project on The Pig War.
- Aminah Ulmer, for the purchase and placement of "Tango," a stone sculpture by her late husband, Rachman Ulmer, in the new Subud center being built in Washington DC.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Board Expansion

Sebastian Flynn, Managing Director of the Australia's annual National Folk Festival in Canberra and Outgoing Chair of SICA Australia has now joined our Board of Directors. Sebastian has also just participated in a cultural exchange program that took him to Washington DC to become more familiar with the folk collections of the Smithsonian and the National Folklife Festival hosted by the Smithsonian every summer.

SICA Meeting in Vancouver

SICA applied for and received a capacity building grant from MSF to bring SICA to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, and organizational maturity in order to more effectively and efficiently fulfill its mission. The grant enables SICA to

bring the full board and active SICA chairs and representatives from other countries to Vancouver for substantive meetings on how we can more effectively work together.

Prior to our grant application, SICA reached out to national SICA chairs and others doing SICA work to begin a dialogue and build the beginnings of a cooperative partnership ethic. We also established a SICA listserv where people doing the national SICA work can share with one another. In general, it seems that people doing SICA work are often alone in doing the work. We hope building more effective partnerships will change that.

**What we will address together in Vancouver is the content of what we do.
What we will create together is the framework for how we do it.**

The framework we seek to establish is one

- that will measure effectiveness not just by annual reports and budget outcomes, but by the community impact we have on the ground.
- where “governance” is a function more than a structure,
- where responsibility for governance is shared across the organization — including our member countries, our creative communities, and our constituents.

The above meeting sessions will be facilitated by Harvey Peters

SICA Organizational Development and Capacity Building Meeting Attendees:

The entire board will be attending along with Isabella Moroni, SICA Italy; Lorraine Tedrow, SICA USA; Elfrida Schragen, SICA Canada; Ridwan Treacher, SICA UK. Consuelo Lepe, Chair of SICA Chile, could not get time off from work (she teaches).

In addition to the above, the following will also be in attendance: Ivan Cozzi, who began SICA Italy and is now KC for Subud Italy; Farrah Karapetian, artist who will be working on SICA’s visual arts presence at the World Congress; Alexandra and Peter TerHorst, marketing and public relations people who will help with our messaging and communications.

SICA Participation and Networking with Other Arts and Cultural Agencies

In addition to being a member of the Fractured Atlas Open Arts Network, SICA is now a member of Americans for the Arts, and as a member, participated in the recent AFTA conference in San Antonio, Texas. This has opened the door to a possible cultural exchange program that could be of benefit to Subud members in many other countries.

SICA is also a subscriber to newsletters of the US National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), The International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA), the Americans for the Arts (AFTA), the Parliament of World Religions, the

SHIFT network (inspired by The Great Turning), The Arts and Business Institute, The Blue Avocado (nonprofit management); Board Source (nonprofit board development); etc.

We also participate in the webinars offered by the Parliament of World Religions, IFACCA, the NEA, and Americans for the Arts.

Bylaws

SICA also revised its bylaws to be more in keeping with the resolutions passed about the structure of SICA at the Spokane Congress in 1998. (That SICA organize itself more like Susila Dharma International Association.)

Staff and Administrative Chores

We have hired one part time staff person, Colin Denby Swanson, to maintain our books and accounts. Colin is not a Subud member. She is a local playwright who also happens to be certified Quick Books Advisor and Consultant in Austin, Texas.

We also have set up nonprofit accounts for SICA with Office Max, a local office supply house and Tech Soup. This allows us to purchase office supplies and computer software tax free and at big discounts.

OTHER DUTIES AND INITIATIVES

Wisma Subud Heritage Protection Project (WSHPP): This is an initiative begun prior to the last World Congress and supported by the last world congress to gain UNESCO heritage protection status for the intangible assets (universal human values) of Subud (and therefore the locations relevant to the beginnings and growth of Subud: Wisma Subud as well as the house where Bapak was born and his house in Semarang.)

Because it is cultural designation being sought, and because SICA is the relevant cultural affiliation of the WSA, and because SICA was established for the development of human values and to fulfill the cultural aims of the WSA, SICA was asked to actively participate.

As a result of the meeting held at last summer at Adi Puri in Wisma Subud, Cilandak, to address these issues, SICA was assigned the position of chair for the Steering Committee for this initiative. Its charge, was to develop Terms of Reference (TOR) for subteams charge with:

1. Developing a concept paper for the future of Wisma Subud and the various buildings of Wisma Subud;
2. To develop a plan to achieve cultural protection under Indonesian law (“Cagar Budaya”); and
3. To see ways to consolidate the 60 plot owners/YS etc. and, at minimum strategic properties

SICA has just appointed Stuart Cooke as the Concept paper coordinator, and he has accepted this brief. Stuart is the Principal of ENDEV Development Consulting, a company specializing in Urban design and Landscape Architecture, Real Estate Development and Construction with principal offices in Shanghai. He is also a long time Subud member. We are very grateful for his participation in this important work.

His initial assignment is to write a concept paper which includes the ideas, inputs, options, and needs expressed to date from all concerned for the upcoming July, 2012 meeting of the Advisory Board, Steering Committee, MSF, WMS and GGFP at Wisma Subud, which he will be attending.

There are also discussions scheduled for the upcoming meeting in Cilandak in July regarding the issue of land consolidation.

SICA at Americas Gathering and at World Congress 2014.

SICA will be hosting a small art exhibition, reception, and fundraiser in Vancouver. We are extremely grateful that the bulk of the cultural program in Vancouver is being very well organized by SICA Canada.

Exhibitions, presentations, performances, conversations, and workshops for the World Congress in Puebla in 2014 are very much in early stage development. We hope to have discussions in Vancouver that will give more focus to the work ahead.

The Forum and Related Initiatives that were part of 2010 External Relations.

Inspired by the work that has already begun via the dialogue and interfaith efforts of the GHFP and the WSA External Relations team of the previous administration, SICA is working on a way to take this work to the next level in order to engage a broader public via music, art, performance, film, conversation, and TED type presentations. It is our hope that such efforts shall serve to build bridges of understanding and respect across traditional cultural and political barriers.

SICA's initiative follows a three-stage plan over the next two years.

The first stage has already begun on three fronts. Online video interviews, Online Profiles, and SICA sponsored public events.

- **Creative Conversations:** This is a pilot project of video interviews with Subud members doing high quality work that impacts others and that lives at the intersection of creativity and spirituality. The pilot has been completed and is posted online on the SICA site. Lilliana Gibbs and Lilian Simonssen did the pilot series. Dirk Campbell, Adrienne Thomas, and Hermione Elliott were featured in the pilot.

- **The Inside Story:** This is a parallel series of in depth audio and online interviews under that will be published online on the SICA website. Melinda Wallis will be conducting these interviews.
- **World Premiere Concert and Recording Project:** We awarded a grant at the beginning of this year in support of a concert and recording of Csaba Erdély's new string sextet presentation of the well-known and loved Mozart Concerto, Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major, K. 364 for Violin, Viola and Orchestra, at the Krannert Center for the Arts in Urbana, Illinois. The concert took place February 11, 2012, under the baton of Ian Hobson, Director of Sinfonia da Camera, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Csaba Erdély, a Subud member, and Federico Agostini are the Solo Viola and Solo Violin respectively. Csaba was the one chosen to play for this piece for the soundtrack of the film, Amadeus; he also performed it many times with Yehudi Menuhin.
- The Subud International Cultural Association was acknowledged as one of the lead sponsors for the above concert and recording. This begins to position SICA as a serious presenter of cultural content.
- **Testimony and Shelter Event in Columbus, Ohio.** (See above under Fiscal Sponsorships)

The second stage is aimed at producing a larger event in Austin, Texas. This effort, now in the planning stages, is to present the program Dahlan and Honora Foah developed in Atlanta, Georgia, called "Creativity In Captivity" that grew out of a concert and exhibition they staged at Emory University in Atlanta in 2010 under the title, "Testaments of the Heart."

"Testaments of the Heart" presented music composed by prisoners in Nazi prison camps during World War II. The music exists through the dedication and work of Italian pianist and conductor, Francesco Lotoro, who has spent the last 22 years racing against the dissolving history of the Holocaust to find, document, copy, and record this music. In fact, Lotoro was so overwhelmed when he first came across this music, he converted to Judaism then and there, and dedicated his life to this work.

The Foahs worked very closely with Lotoro in presenting and staging "Testaments of the Heart." The program also helped support the work Lotoro is doing to save these works. But what emerged from the concert was the awareness that the story and music of these prisoners is not about victims. It's about victors. Those prisoners were not victims; they are our teachers. Their amazing creativity is a response to suffering and despair that shows us what it means to save the soul when one cannot save the body. This is why the focus of the program is more on Creativity than on Captivity.

As a result of the Atlanta concert, the UN has initiated discussions with the Foahs to have the concert performed on the floor of the UN in 2015 in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

SICA and the Foahs agree that "Creativity in Captivity" would be an excellent program to present in Austin, possibly at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, prior to its being performed at the UN. It's not a pre-packaged tour; it can be cast and staged locally. This also gives the Foahs an opportunity to expand the parameters of the presentation.

Presenting such a program significantly strengthens the cachet of SICA as a valuable presenter of creative programming with genuine inner content. The fact that Latifah Taormina, chair of SICA, is also on the Board of the Long Center for the Performing Arts, serving at the pleasure of the City Council for the City of Austin, is also a plus. Latifah, a life-long arts and cultural activist and advocate, has spent the last eleven years running an arts service organization in the City of Austin and is quite familiar with both the philanthropic and creative communities in Austin.

Presenting "Creativity in Captivity" in Austin next year would not only help build momentum for the UN event, but would also position the Subud International Cultural Association as a serious presenter of significant cultural programming that addresses global issues of faith, human rights, and human values. As Honora writes:

"How is it possible to retain our humanity in the worst of all circumstances? When everything is taken, what remains that allows us to survive, not just in body, but also in spirit? . . . Terrorism, genocide, and torture are not simply tools of physical extermination. They are meant to destroy the soul through fear, pain, and despair. What are the forces we must cultivate to counter them? What does it mean to be a true human being?"

"Creativity in Captivity" is an excellent fit for SICA that works at the intersection of creativity and spirituality and whose mandate demands that we constantly look at the question of what it means to be human.

We have already begun the work of meeting with potential backers and sponsors for this event. Steve Adler, a colleague and friend who is the head of the Anti Defamation League, as well as Rabbi Niel Blumofe, Rabbi and Cantor for Congregation Agudas Achim and a leader in Austin's interfaith community are working with us to help us connect with other likely backers and supporters of such an event. Blumofe works with the local Islamic Community as well.

The third stage: The culmination of our effort will be a subsequent festival, possibly in Austin, TX, in 2014 modeled after the Lincoln Center's White Light Festival. White Light is a month long festival that addresses what it means to be human through art, music, performance, and conversation. Katherine Marshall,

active with the Parliament of World Religions and the Berkeley Center at Georgetown University, served as an advisor to the development of the 2012 White Light Festival.

Lincoln Center's White Light Festival could have been called a Sacred Arts Festival or an Interfaith Festival of Music and Art, but they chose not to use such narrowing titles. By calling it White Light, they opened the possibility of spiritual experience to a much wider audience. There is a wonderful quote from Arvo Pärt that begins the White Light Festival program brochure:

"I could compare my music to white light, which contains all colors. Only a prism can divide the colors and make them appear; this prism could be the spirit of the listener."

The concerts/events in 2012 and 2013 are key to positioning SICA to host such a Festival. Moreover, the combination of SICA's track record of performances and exhibitions — at the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Center in conjunction with the annual Festival of Sydney, as well as its subsequent concerts, performances, and exhibitions in Spokane at the Opera House, Chase Gallery, Met Theatre, and Riverfront Park — and Latifah Taormina's role in producing those events, her strong professional background in the arts, and her active role in Austin's creative community, gives SICA a unique opportunity to move forward as a significant presenter of cultural content.

We have to establish who we are, and our credibility as a presenter, in a significant way to have a significant impact in this area.

Please forgive me for any omissions or anything I've said which is out of place.

Latifah Toarmina,

Chair, Subud International Cultural Association.
June 14, 2012