



Isfahan International Children's Painting Festival

Secretariat

The Secretariat of the festival is based at the Children's House managing by the Cultural, Social, and Sports Organization of Isfahan Municipality.

History

Children's House as a professional center is dedicated to providing children aged 2-12 years old with programs, events and training courses. With a long history in supporting children and nurturing their talents, this center has attempted to create an opportunity in different areas for all the children of the city to achieve what they desire.

Kid Artists Club

Established in 2014, the Kid Artists Club helps children grow their talents in visual arts. It has provided an opportunity for children to continue learning for many years and present the results of their learning in exhibitions. In this regard, for two consecutive years, they participated in the Shanghai International Painting Competition as well as Japan and achieved good rankings. All these led us, the festival organizers, to provide a platform for discovering children's special talents in visual art. In 2019, therefore, a proposal to hold a national-level festival, to

discover the talents of children, on painting and sculpture, was presented and approved.

The 1st Edition

Isfahan was chosen as the main theme of the festival in the first year for the following reasons:

- Given that Isfahan was recognized as the first “Child Friendly Candidate City” in Iran by joining UNICEF's Global Child Friendly City Initiative (CFCI) Network, the children should know that they live in such a well-known city all over the world, and try to preserve its valuable cultural and historical heritages.
- Isfahan has many ideas for its 5-year Development Plan, and the children's points of view can definitely show its flaws.
- Introducing the potentials of Isfahan to the Iranian children and those in world.

The 2nd Edition

For the 2nd edition of the festival, we chose *The Future of My City* as the main theme and requested the children and youth to share with us their view on how will their cities change in the future? Do they care about the people of the city? Are the historic sites of the city important to them? Do they like the present architecture of the cities, or do they want their cities to be changed in the future? How do they see the landscape and beauties of their cities? What do they want their cities to look like in the future? Do they think life in the future is still on earth, or it is possible to live in other places, such as space, sea and desert? They could fantasize about all the elements of the city, including architecture, social relations, transport system, and even the pollution that threatens cities, and depict what they like most. With all the cultural and artistic diversities among the cities of Iran, this edition was an opportunity to describe childish fantasies and inspire the future planning.

The 3rd Edition

This year, at the suggestion of the Deputy Mayor of Isfahan Mojtaba Shahmoradi, the third edition is held at the international level with a new theme: *My City, The City of Life*. In other words, we aim to receive children's views on their ecosystem and understand how they look at and feel about their neighborhood and city where

they live and what is important to them. In the third edition, children will help us to prepare and design cities from their points of view and consider their welfare as well as physical and mental health.

Objectives

- Promoting the position of Isfahan as a child-friendly city at the national and international level;
- Supporting the artworks of talented children in order to promote art and apply it in urban spaces;
- Taking advantage of children's artistic ideas to develop human values in the society;
- Attracting specialist and highly efficient people in f children's visual arts;
- Creating an opportunity to motivate children increasingly and discover and develop their cultural and artistic talents;
- Collaborating with organizations, institutions and agencies working on children's visual arts; and
- Teaching children to demand and request their rights from officials.