



## ***Asociación Venezolana de Conciertos: AVC***

### ***Laboratorio de Artes Integradas***

Asociación Venezolana de Conciertos is an organization founded in 1940, initially to sponsor the country's musical movement. Since then, one of the main goals of the AVC has been raising the cultural level of youth, through arts and science, promoting the generation of new civic values, quality of life improvement and spaces for social integration.

The current projects of the AVC focus on contributing to the formation of the individual through the study and dissemination of culture. We know that art helps children by increasing their chances of going to university and even obtaining employment, by developing fundamental cognitive abilities, critical analytical skills and providing learning experiences that have a significant impact on their academic environment and social development.

Considering the above, the Integrated Arts Laboratory was born, in operation since October 2005. It is an extra-curricular program that seeks to complement traditional education with the unique experience of appreciation for music, painting, poetry, ceramics, theater and dance.

Currently, it has the participation of 160 children from the Sucre municipality and Petare (South America's biggest slum. Nearly half a million people live there); the Corazón de María School, Jenaro Aguirre School, Fundo Agrario Maturín, a rural school, and from different schools of José Félix Ribas. These are children exposed daily to crime and insecurity, suffering not only economic but also affective shortcomings. These children are at risk of leaving school to find jobs that may help sustain their families, or even getting involved in crime, because they feel like it's the only option they have when education has lost its value.

We firmly believe that encouragement and empowerment through the practice of the arts, make it possible to dissuade this vulnerable sector of society from choosing crime as a way of life and expanding its potential and possibilities. Our goal is to educate our



students to be citizens with a wide vision of reality, integral individuals, with solid tools to face their life and contribute with their knowledge and abilities in the future to their country.

These workshops are held in our headquarters, Centro de Artes Integradas (CAI), on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., have the same duration of the school year and we have specialized teachers in each artistic discipline.

For the past few years, we have also supported Model United Nations preparation and conference attendance in our program, and it has quickly become a supporting pillar in our program for our older kids. Among the many advantages MUN training brings, we see it builds leadership skills, developing compromise and responsibility, builds confidence and helps overcome fears such as public speaking, learning about the world and countries other than their own, motivating the kids to learn at the same time it expands their horizons.

#### **After all these years of work we have achieved:**

- Classes and workshops of music and painting with Venezuelan musicians and artists of trajectory, creating together with them both individual and collective works.
- An annual exhibition, at the William Werner Gallery, entitled "Quiero MostrArte", where the students present their artistic works, using all kinds of techniques and materials such as wood, oil, ceramics and paper.
- Guided tours to museums, galleries and theaters of Caracas, and historical landmarks like the Legislative Palace and the Central Bank of Venezuela.
- Successful participation in various activities with Colegio Integral El Ávila, such as the Folkloric Festival and the Model United Nations.
- Reinforcement of values such as respect, discipline, tolerance, responsibility and commitment; we observed improvements in the academic performance, concentration, imagination and in the environment of the children.
- Benefitting approximately 1,000 children, their families and communities.
- We have verified the immense personal growth of the students, greater school performance, as well as a boost in their self-esteem.



## **2018 Program Expenses**

**\$ 600** - Personnel: qualified teachers, coordinators, and assistants.

**\$ 950** - Operational Costs: light meals and transportation: to and from their communities, and for visits.

**\$ 400** - Recreation: Christmas celebration, day trips and visits, graduation activity.

**\$ 500** - Plays and Art Exhibit: Once a year theater play and art exhibit.

**\$ 2500** - Materials and Equipment: Includes art materials, musical instruments and reparations, cameras, notebooks, and one laptop.

**\$ 500** - Academic Support and Model United Nations costs.