



Two murals to make a difference

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In a one-of-a-kind venture between Art in the Park and the ISIS Foundation, a mural — created by schoolchildren in Bermuda — will travel to Nepal to decorate the walls of a school there. Conversely, schoolchildren in Nepal will create a mural — using the same art materials as those in Bermuda — and will send it back to Bermuda to be displayed for everyone to see.

Art in the Park have decided, in celebration of their fifth anniversary, to team up with the ISIS Foundation, a Bermuda based charity whose mission is to make a positive difference to the lives of children in the developing world. Art in the Park has been held annually in Victoria Park for the last five years, and includes music, story-telling, dance and, of course, art, all geared towards children under the age of ten. Local artist Gabriella Brunner has volunteered her time to create crafts for Art in the Park this year, using materials that children would find around their homes such as paper towel rolls and milk cartons. Volunteers will be on hand at the park to help children with their crafts. As in past years, The Friends of the Bermuda National Library will provide live story-telling during Art in the Park. Volunteers from the library — often dressed in costumes similar to those of the characters in the books — will read oversized books to groups of children. Dance is another well-enjoyed aspect of Art in the Park, with the In Motion School of Dance bringing both professional dancers and students to the park to both entertain children and encourage them to get up and dance.

The highlight of this year's Art in the Park, though, is sure to be the mural exchange project. During the past few years, the ISIS Foundation has partnered with the Tashi Waldorf School in Kathmandu, Nepal, to assist the school in completing their renovations and donating funding and art supplies to the school. It is to this school, where 60 children are now enrolled, that the mural from Bermuda's children will be sent. The blank mural canvas will be erected in Victoria Park, and children will be encouraged to paint whatever they want on it. Once Art in the Park is completed, the mural will be sent to Nepal to be displayed in the Tashi Waldorf School, and students there will create a mural using the same materials as the students in Bermuda. The mural from Nepal will then be sent to Bermuda and put on display.

Through this exercise, Art in the Park and the ISIS Foundation hope that children in Bermuda will be given a better awareness of the world around them and see how their art can make a difference in the lives of children around the world.

"Children are the same the world over," said Leonie Exel, General Manager of the ISIS Foundation. "Whether they live in rich or poor countries, speak another language, or look different to our children, they all love to paint, draw, and create — and laugh while they are doing it. This project will help the kids in Bermuda and Nepal to know each other a little better through their art, and in doing so to recognise that in our hearts we are all pretty similar, no matter where we live or what our life circumstances are."

Art in the Park will be held on July 7 and 14 in Victoria Park.