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February 16, 2015

SICA Founding Documents

Introduction

The attached two documents, *Proposal for a Subud International Arts Foundation* and *Culture Working Party; Report to the 7th World Congress* are the ground on which the Subud International Cultural Association, was established at the 7th World Congress in Windsor, England in 1983. Bapak chose the first Chair and Vice–Chair of SICA, Richard Engels from Wolfsburg, Germany and Latifah Myerson (later Taormina) from Los Angeles, California as Vice–Chair.

Before the Congress, I drafted the *Proposal for a Subud International Arts Foundation* out of frustration at the lack of opportunities for cultural expression within Subud at all levels. By the time of the Congress preparations, I had been in Subud for twenty years. During those years, the emphasis outside the latihan was on enterprises and to some extent social service. Although there have always been many artists in Subud, there was no vehicle to foster artistic or general cultural activities on an any level.

To address that situation, I drafted a *Proposal for a Subud International Arts Foundation*, which I planned to bring to the Congress and introduce in some manner yet to be determined. As fate would have it, when the time came at the beginning of the congress to nominate chairs for the Working Parties, Salamah Pope nominated me to chair the Culture Working Party. This gave me the opportunity to introduce my proposal to the other members of the group as a starting point for a discussion about ways to foster culture within Subud. Consequently, the Working Party recommended to Congress that an organization entitled the Subud International Cultural Association be established. Its proposed aims and purposes are spelled out in the Working Party report.

August 1983

PROPOSAL FOR A SUBUD INTERNATIONAL ARTS FOUNDATION

Prepared by Victor Margolin, Subud Chicago

Background

In recent years, Subud has begun to achieve worldly recognition through two principal avenues - enterprises and social welfare projects. The S. Widjojo Building, Anugraha, and now Kalimantan and Project Sunrise have begun to give evidence that Subud members can develop large scale business projects in a way that incorporates many people worldwide. At the same time social service projects such as YUM in Indonesia, the Fountain Housing Association in England, and the Pestalozzi Schools in Ecuador have established community roots and in some instances are receiving support from agencies outside Subud. Within the Brotherhood, the enterprise and welfare activities have received increasing support, particularly from Subud Enterprise Services (SES) and the Subud Brotherhood International Foundation (SBIF).

Concept

It is now time to demonstrate Subud capacities and achievements in a third field of endeavor - the arts. Many Subud brothers and sisters already have public recognition as singers, musicians, visual artists, architects, actors, and filmmakers while others, through talent testing, have been guided to work in the arts. Many of us are also interested in participating in the arts for our own pleasure.

To foster individual and collective arts projects within the Brotherhood, encourage the training of aspiring artists, and foster enjoyment of the arts by all Subud brothers and sisters, I propose that the Subud Brotherhood establish an international arts foundation, which would function similarly to SBIF in the social welfare field.

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To achieve this, a proposal needs to be formulated at this Congress and submitted for adoption to the Brotherhood. The ideas in this document do not constitute a completed proposal but rather are intended to form the basis for discussion.

Goals

1. Provide support for practicing artists (The term "practicing artist" rather than "professional artist" is used to avoid unnecessary limitations on who can apply for support)
2. Encourage and support Subud brothers and sisters who wish to prepare for careers in the arts
3. Encourage participation in the arts by all brothers and sisters

Scope

1. Visual Arts: painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, mixed media, performance, crafts, architecture, design, urban planning
2. Literary Arts: fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, criticism
3. Performing Arts: theater, dance, film, video, music
4. General: folk and ethnic arts, galleries, arts administration, networking, conferences

Organization

The initial model would be the SBIF organization. There would be an international body with a Chairman and Board of Trustees. They, with the aid of consultants, would propose the initial structure for the new organization. This could then be published and comments can be solicited from the Brotherhood before it is made final.

At the same time national committees may want to establish culture committees that can be converted to non-profit organizations following the model of the international organization.

The selection of the foundation Chairman and Board of Trustees would be determined by the Congress.

Activities

Elaborating the foundation's activities will be a topic for discussion at the Congress. Listed here are only some possibilities.

1. Support for practicing artists

- a. Provide funds for artists' projects. Artists would submit proposals with budgets. These would be funded on the basis of merit.
- b. Maintain a computer file of Subud artists. Information would be gathered by questionnaire and then published in an annual directory. Files of slides, tapes, etc. could be maintained and copies sent to interested clients.
- c. Play a coordinating role between Subud projects and artists who might undertake commissions for them. Facilitate communication in all ways among Subud artists and between Subud artists and Subud/non-Subud clients.
- d. Commission artworks for Congresses and other Subud gatherings. These might take the form of music, design, art, performances.
- e. Coordinate cooperative projects by Subud artists for which non-Subud funding might be sought.

2. Support Subud members who wish to pursue careers in the arts

- a. List Subud artists who would take on apprentices or assist aspiring artists in other ways
- b. Provide scholarship support for aspiring artists
- c. Publish information about education and training opportunities in the arts outside Subud

3. Encourage participation in the arts by all members in Subud

- a. Help organize arts programs for Congresses, camps, treks etc.
- b. Publish ideas for arts activities for local groups
- c. Administer international arts competitions and contests for Subud brothers and sisters

Funding

It is premature to specify where funds would come from but the following are possible sources:

1. ISC: A budget line item for operating support
2. Subud enterprises, particularly those that receive services from the foundation

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Funding, cont.

3. Individual contributions which might take the form either of non-specific funds or funds earmarked for special purposes such as a music scholarship
4. Outside agencies: Funding for special projects

CULTURE WORKING PARTY
REPORT TO THE 7th WORLD CONGRESS

In recent years, the Subud Brotherhood has begun to achieve recognition in two principal areas - enterprises and social welfare. It is now time to bear witness to our Brotherhood's capacities and achievements in a third area - culture. There is general agreement that the world is experiencing a crisis of values. In response to this crisis, Subud artists can offer a new and vigorous cultural expression. Many Subud brothers and sisters have already achieved public recognition in music, film, theater, design, painting, writing, architecture, and other fields. Many have also been recently guided to express their true talents in the arts.

To foster individual and collective projects in the arts, encourage the training of aspiring artists, and to effect the enjoyment of the arts by all Subud brothers and sisters, the Culture Working Party of this Congress proposes the formation of the Subud International Cultural Association. The goals of the association are as follows:

- a) To stimulate the activities of practicing artists and arts management professionals in Subud
- b) To assist Subud brothers and sisters who are preparing for careers in the arts
- c) To encourage participation in the arts by all Subud brothers and sisters

The scope of the Association embraces all art forms as well as management and business practices that support the arts.

The Culture Working Party proposes to Congress an organization which has, in fact, already been approved by Bapak. As a result of testing, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the new Association are Richard Engels from Wolfsburg, Germany, and Latifah Meyerson from Los Angeles, USA. The Working Party recommends that this new organization take the form of a separate body that exists within the international Subud structure under the umbrella of the World Subud Council. At present we do not recommend the legal incorporation of this organization.

The Subud International Cultural Association will be self-supporting but, in order to begin its work, requests modest financial support from ISC, subject to its discretion. Operating funds for the Association are expected to come from the following sources:

- a) Fees and subscriptions
- b) Contributions
- c) Proceeds from arts enterprises, royalties, and benefit performances
- d) Bequests

Although the Association will primarily serve the needs of artists and related professionals, we welcome as members all in the Brotherhood who wish to express their support and solidarity for a new cultural life.

The structure of the Association will consist of a committee,

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headed by a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, and a world-wide group of coordinators who will act as a vital network of artists to facilitate a quick flow of information and communication services.

The Association will be an action organization whose principal purpose is to stimulate cultural projects. Among its first tasks, it will form a computerized data bank of arts professionals with their various specialties and interests. The availability of this information is intended to be a means of collaboration among artists. There are already several instances where Subud arts professionals have received or will receive non-Subud funds for major projects. One example is the UNESCO-sponsored presentation of the Mesopotamian epic Gilgamesh where many Subud artists can be included. The availability of the Subud artists data bank will make this possible for the first time.

The Association will generate an international registry of all Subud artists and arts management personnel, building on the work that has already begun with the ARS Project, a Subud artists registry initiated by Sachlan Momo in Rome. Many artist's names are also entered in the SES Specialist's register. Another initial project will be the publication of a newsletter to facilitate communication among the members of the Association.

The new organization will give its full support to major enterprises and welfare projects in Subud. It plans to work closely with the Project Sunrise team to help formulate the role that the arts can play there. It will also work with SBIF to help raise funds for welfare projects through benefit performances, exhibitions, and other activities.

Specifically, the work of the Association falls into three categories:

1. Support for practicing artists and arts professionals

- a) Maintain a computer data bank of Subud artists and arts professionals. This information will be published in an annual register.
- b) Maintain a collection of slides, audiotapes, videotapes and other material that represents the work of Subud artists. This material would be duplicated for a fee and sent to parties who may want to use the artist's services.
- c) Publish a newsletter that provides information on project opportunities, management services, employment possibilities, funding ideas, publications, and other information useful for professional exchanges.
- d) Play a coordinating role between Subud projects and artists who might undertake commissions for them. Facilitate communication in all ways among Subud artists and between Subud artists and Subud, as well as non-Subud, clients and funding sources.
- e) Commission artworks for Subud Congresses and other gatherings. These might take the form of music, art, design, and performances.
- f) Coordinate cooperative projects by Subud artists for which non-Subud funding might be sought.

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2) Assist Subud brothers and sisters who are preparing for careers in the arts

- a) List Subud artists who would accept apprentices or who would assist aspiring artists in other ways.
- b) Collect information about education and training opportunities in the arts generally.

3) Encourage participation in the arts by all members in Subud

- a) Organize arts programs for Congresses, camps, treks and other Subud gatherings.
- b) Administer international arts competitions such as the recent writing and song competitions for Subud brothers and sisters.

The Association will publish information about its activities in all Subud publications so that the Brotherhood can be continually informed. The Chairperson will maintain a close liaison with the Association's fellow organizations, SES and SBIF, and will seek to collaborate in all matters of common interest.

We are grateful to Bapak Jang Mulia for recognizing the value of our efforts, even before the completion of our report. and we hope that this new Association will involve all Subud brothers and sisters as practitioners or supporters. In conclusion may I convey to Congress the enthusiasm and high hopes that members of the Working Party have for this new organization which offers so many exciting possibilities to contribute to our cultural life.

Anugraha
August 13, 1983

Victor Margolin
Convenor