

Brave Kids 2019 Call for Groups



Brave Kids 2018 Grand Finale

Brave Kids is a unique cultural-educational project dedicated to uniting children from different parts of the world in a common creative endeavor. Children and youth participate in the exchange of their artistic skills, traditions, and cultures, while also creating a platform to discuss the problems that affect many communities around the globe.

Brave Kids is organized by the Song of the Goat Theatre Association in Wrocław, Poland and by our great Partner Organizations in different European cities.

bravekids.eu

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Brave Kids Mission

Our mission is to bring together children and youth from all over the world in an atmosphere of friendship and respect for each other's cultures. We do so by joining children together in artistic experiences aimed to inspire them to imagine a better future for themselves and their communities and providing them with the tools to help realize their aspirations.

The Brave Kids creative process provides young participants with the opportunity to express themselves and their culture. **Participants are supported to discover their own unique potential and value, which raises their confidence and aspirations.** Under the guidance of professional artistic instructors who serve as facilitators, young participants teach and lead each other, encouraging them to exchange ideas, skills, and approaches. By collaborating with other young people from diverse backgrounds on a common creative project, participants develop their ability to communicate and learn to understand difference and celebrate common experience. **This valuable and exciting artistic process nurtures the emotional and social development of its young participants, helping them to make steps towards positive transformation in their own lives and in their communities in the long-term.**

Brave Kids promotes cross-cultural understanding amongst the next generation by connecting young people from different countries and backgrounds in a shared creative endeavor. By providing a platform for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and the teachers, mentors and activists who champion their rights, **Brave Kids hopes to stimulate debate and positive change to help address the inequalities facing children and youth around the world.**

Brave Kids Project Infographic



Groups are separated into Brave Kids Cities



Children and their group leaders stay with local host families in Brave Kids Cities.

Kids participate in artistic workshops, teaching one another their songs, dances, and other arts and collaborating on a common performance.



After two weeks of hard work and play, groups in each Brave Kids City present their City Final Show.



Next, the kids either
travel back home



or move to the second stage of the project.



For one week, all kids work
together to create one
common performance.

The kids travel together with their leaders
and artistic instructors to Wroclaw to
present the Brave Kids Grand Finale Show.



BRAVE KIDS GRAND FINALE!



Since 2016, we also have also produced Brave Kids in Slovakia, Georgia, Ukraine and Romania.

What Does It Mean to Be a Brave Kids Group?

Brave Kids Groups are made up of 4-6 young artists accompanied by one adult Leader. The participants should be between 8 and 16 years old. Leaders must be at least 18 years of age, have strong English language proficiency, and know the children in the group well. They can be a teacher or supervisor at the children's local organization or a person that used to participate in the children's group. During the project, Group Leaders

participate in their own artistic program of activities and run workshops for local children, in addition to supervising and supporting their groups.

Our project has a priority to serve the most disadvantaged children, especially those who are orphans or who are marginalized in some way in their communities (because of socioeconomic status, race, religion, ability, etc.). However, we also welcome participants from more stable backgrounds who are interested in intercultural friendship. We partner with strong, socially-minded, mission-driven organizations, but we also welcome informal groups of children who have started to practice some form of art as a way to improve their lives and their communities.

By becoming a Brave Kids Group you commit to:

- **Sharing your skills and culture**

We welcome groups of children and youth who regularly gather in their local environment to practice any kind of performing arts and are open to share their skills with peers from different parts of the world. During 2 to 3 weeks artistic groups from different countries meet in a European city in order to exchange their skills, stories and cultures.

Brave Kids Model of Working

The program consists of artistic workshops based on our unique "kids teach kids" model. The workshops last usually 8 hours (from 10 am to 6 pm) with 2 hours lunch breaks every day in order to prepare the common performance. With the help of professional artistic instructors who serve as facilitators, all groups teach one another the skills they have developed in lessons, workshops or classes in their home countries. There is the shift in the roles of a teacher and students in Brave Kids Project. The teacher-centred learning has been replaced with the so-called **child-centred learning** and **peer tutoring**. Children are the ones to stay active during the workshops. Students are no longer perceived as receptive and passive; instructions going from the teacher to children are reduced. Child-centered learning emphasises the learner's critical place and role in both being in charge of the educational activities and therefore achieving educational goals. In Brave Kids Project children are the ones responsible for teaching each other. Artists and group leaders create the educational situations in the way that children could perform actively and make own decisions. All children are skilled in their art forms and are ready to teach their skills to other Brave Kids participants. These skills can be diverse: traditional music and dance, break dance, circus arts, classical music, acrobatics, among others.

It is very important for us that the Group Leaders are open to our approach towards children during workshops and are able to learn and understand our model of working to support the learning process during Brave Kids and after the project.

ARTISTIC INSTRUCTORS

Artistic instructors are a passionate and experienced group of pedagogues, performers, artists who, with great sensitivity, harness the elements of childlike creativity and embody it in the beautiful performances. Everyone here teaches the other person, exchanges skills in the atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

The role of the Artistic Instructor is to create a space for kids participants to act with their talents and to learn from each other. We LET THEM DO IT which means that we are trying to give to the participants as much responsibility for the artistic work as possible.

We don't "teach" in the sense of imposing. Instead, we show, we propose, we help. We show the field of opportunities and possible solutions, but don't give them straight away. We give kids the chance to figure things out themselves. We can "rescue" them from difficulties if needed but only through dialogue and common agreement.



- **Being hosted by local families**

All participants (children and their leaders) stay in pairs with local families who volunteer to host Brave Kids. The host families provide not only accommodation and food, but also a great heart and openness to Brave Kids Participants. The host families are an important part of the project and extend our mission of intercultural dialogue and learning.

Before becoming hosts for Brave Kids, these families go through a selection process which includes: a general meeting with the host families coordinator, single meeting with the coordinator to assess conditions for hosting, a first aid course, and workshops on intercultural communication, conflict resolution, and English language, among others.

The children are hosted in the families in pairs. Therefore, we guarantee that they are never left alone with people they do not know.

If you would like to learn more about Host Families, you can watch a [short documentary](#) created after Brave Kids 2013.

When and Where Does the Project Take Place?

Brave Kids 2019 will take place in Poland between 16 June and 10 July 2019*. We plan to organise Brave Kids in different periods during the summer time (Romania and Georgia). While we generally match groups to locations, we also welcome group input on their desired location.

* the dates and locations might be changing, we will have the confirmed list of Brave Kids hosting cities and dates by January 2019.

Costs

Brave Kids covers the cost of food, accommodation, and local travel during the project and workshops. For groups from the Global South and from disadvantaged backgrounds, Brave Kids also can cover the costs of international travel and the Schengen visa, when needed. However, we are not able to pay for issuing passports.

Our ability to cover costs is determined for each group on a case by case basis. In addition, we always encourage our groups to have an active role in the search of sponsors to be able to co-finance their international travel.

Our project enjoys Honorary Patronage from UNESCO and is organized with financial support from the Municipality of Wrocław, the Polish Ministry of Culture, and the European Commission, as well as from other local municipalities where the project takes places.

Our Growing Network



Brave Kids is a thriving initiative which is continuing to develop its reach and impact. Since its foundation, participants for Brave Kids have grown from 15 in 2009 (Brave Kids Pilot Edition) to 322 in 2018.

We have cooperated with groups and organizations from Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia:

Chamwino Arts Centre, **Tanzania**
Sunflower School Theatre, **Ukraine**
Aldebaran Theatre, **Norway**
Ukuleles for Peace, **Israel**
Banana Kids, **Czech Republic**
Breakdance Project, **Uganda**
Hope4Street, **Poland**

Mizero Children, **Rwanda**
OPEN SPACE Foundation, **Bulgaria**
M.Y.T./ROKPA, **Zimbabwe**
ROKPA CHILDREN, **Nepal**
Tismania Village, **Romania**
Teatr PUK PUK, **Poland**
Caritas, **Georgia**

Awake Youth, **Sweden**
 Freespirit Foundation, **Ghana**
 Case Molino - Qui Ternape, **Italy**
 Red Nose Foundation, **Indonesia**
 Kathputli Colony, **India**
 Mais Caminhos, **Brazil**
 Butterfly Children, **Laos**
 Act4Art, **Romania**
 Haliganda, **Slovakia**
 Association for Returnees, **Burundi**
 Guija Ting African Art, **Uganda**
 Rajasthan Folf Legacy Society, **India**
 MiniArtShow, **Romania**
 Estudio21, **Spain**
 Ashtar Theatre/The Gaza Monologues, **Palestinian**
Autonomy
 Wałbrzych Song and Dance Group, **Poland**
 Association of Culture Practitioners, **Poland**
 Ein –dor, Nazareth Folk Dance Group, **Israel**
 Hong Kong Youth Drama Ambassador Scheme, **China**
 In Movement - Art for Social Change, **Uganda**
 Sdruzeni Petrov/MiniMerci, **Czech Republic**
 ROKPA ZIMBABWE/ Chiedza Child Care Centre, **Zimbabwe**
 Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Association “Toleranti”, **Georgia**
 Terme Romani Bacht, **Poland**
 Centre for family and children support “Kelechek”, **Kyrgyzstan**
 Youth Association for Culture and Development, **Morocco**
 Mongolfieri Theatre-Circus, **Russia**
 Hastor Foundation, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
 Sirguline Folk Group, **Estonia**
 Zahessi 5 - Fifth Zurab Anjaparidze Art School, **Georgia**
 Casa Hogar Nueva Vida, **Mexico**
 Reverence Dance School, **Moldova**
 Foundation of Good Roma Fairy Kesaj, **Slovakia**
 Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, **Macedonia**
 Donya Children’s Research Institute, **Iran**
 Armenian Youth from Akhaltsikhe, **Georgia**
 Naregatsi Art Institute, **Nagorno-Karabakh**
 Center for Child Advocacy and Life Planning, **Uganda**
 “Arktika” Boarding School. Jacutia Republic, **Russia**
 School nr1. Republic of Buryatia, **Russia**
 Community House Zboyischa, **Ukraine**
 Dance Effort, **Poland**
 Folk Dance Ensemble Seltinis, **Lithuania**
 Group RIDETO, **Poland**
 Theatre “Under the Bridge,” **Ukraine**
 The Buds, **Romania**
 Novy Kadr, **Ukraine**
 Group TFD, **Turkey**
 Klub Cordex, **Poland**
 CircEsteem, **USA**
 The Song and Dance Show Group, **Romania**
 Koinonia Children Team, **Kenya**
 “Colourful Children”, **Poland**
 Wałbrzyznian Talent School, **Poland**
 Shevardeni Ensemble, **Georgia**

How to Apply

If you are interested in sharing your artistic skills and traditions and learning from others or for more information, please contact:

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