



## FINAL REPORT 2014

### OVERVIEW

2014 was a year of beginnings, endings, and transitions — and all to the good. Because 2014 was also the Congress year and because SICA played a big role in much of what went on at the Congress, it was an extremely busy year for all of us. But all that effort also had its rewards: SICA engaged the most people ever — Subud and non-Subud — in its activities at Congress. SICA successfully raised the most money it had ever raised to cover the costs of its activities. And now more members want to be part of what SICA is doing, SICA is growing in more countries than before, and where SICA is active, it's attracting support from and becoming a respected member of its surrounding non-Subud community.

### SICA SUMMIT AND STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Fortunately preparations for the transition had been in place since early 2014 when, thanks to a grant from MSF, members of the outgoing board — which included 3 members of the current board as it was in the bylaws that there be staggered board terms to ensure smoother transitions at congresses, together with the WSA Exec, helpers, and two zone reps at Adi Puri, in Wisma Subud, Cilandak to craft a vision and strategy for how SICA would go forward in the future. We called the meeting a SICA Summit, and Harvey Peters, a professional organizational consultant, led the sessions. We also were able to meet with Ibu Rahayu and receive guidance from her as well.

Rather than take a more traditional approach to creating a strategic plan, we chose to develop a more adaptive strategy for the future. This approach puts the emphasis on learning and control.

We identified key priorities to address and created a roadmap for the future with some navigational tools, and recognisable landmarks to tell us when we have arrived. But we know that that there may be unforeseen challenges as we head down that road, so our strategies have to be adaptive to the needs of our times.

#### **Our Strategic Priorities (Vision, Impact, and Change):**

##### **1. Inclusive Representation and Programming**

Ensure that the SICA Board reflects and caters to the diversity of talent and cultural expression represented by SICA: Education and Training; Arts, Architecture, and Design; Music and Performing Arts, Writing, Film, Publishing and Media; Health and Healing; Science and Technology, Interculturalism and Interfaith; — and that it work to include participation and interaction with Subud Youth, Enterprise, Social Projects as well as the helpers. Moreover it should work towards language and cultural inclusiveness in programming and communications.

##### **2. The Kejiwaan and International Helpers**

Ensure recognition of SICA in the kejiwaan agenda of all levels of helpers rather than viewing SICA as peripheral or in any way unnecessary to the main aim and basis of Subud. Help to awaken and nourish a greater understanding of the source of the culture that is within us, the culture the power of God, the Budhi, can awaken with in us. Explore

individual talent development and how to put it into practice as well as stimulate a greater understanding of the wide cultural brief of SICA. Encourage commensurate SICA Board liaisons with IH's.

Since the congress, SICA has adopted the tagline "Feel the difference" to enunciate what is an essential difference of feeling of a cultural expression that is moved by the power God, the Budhi, or the Great Life Force.

### **3. Agents of Change to Build Awareness of All that SICA Is**

Lead on being 'agents for change' — awareness of creativity as the expression of a true human being. Convey the need for a change in perception of SICA's role in Subud and in the world. Hold close to the inner intention of SICA. Ensure appropriate profiling of SICA — its work, its value, its energy, its breadth — to the Subud membership and the general public via stakeholder management and professional sector as well as cross-sector affiliation, networking, and representation.

"SICA is here to build a human future through art, culture and creativity"

"Be a vessel for expressing the Latihan in the world"

(Bapak reminders)

### **4. Financial Independence**

Develop SICA enterprises and earned income initiatives — individual and organizational efforts — that can support SICA's work, along with grant funding and donations. Encourage members to develop cultural enterprises that in turn can contribute something back to support SICA. Make measured move towards developing some kind of SICA Foundation.

### **Breadth of Scope of SICA and its Importance for individuals' progress**

Ibu Rahayu, in a talk to the Board, underlined Bapak's view of the broad compass of SICA, as embracing the arts, health, education, business and all areas of human creative endeavor as well as being an integral element and gauge of our inner development requiring our attention.

In moving forward the SICA Board is reminding everyone to read Bapak's and Ibu's talks on SICA and to be aware of what SICA can contribute to the development of our ourselves, our communities, and our world.

## **WORLD CONGRESS PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES**

### ***Conversations with Puebla, SICA's International Cultural Festival for Subud World Congress, Puebla, Mexico, August 2 - 17, 2014***

The idea of conversation, from the Latin, *conversare*, to turn around with, was key to the overall program SICA designed to foster our actively engaging with one another — and with Puebla at Congress. Key to exploring new ideas and feelings and then sharing them. And this sharing managed to go beyond the Subud attendance at World Congress.

The SICA International program in Puebla demonstrated SICA's breadth of programmatic vision, its cultural vitality, its inclusiveness on many levels and its strength and stability as an organisation capable of connecting with the broader public. The sense in response to the program was that people were proud of SICA in a way that had not quite happened before, because it had succeeded in opening our door to the world in a tangible and convincing way.

The Program featured concerts in a range of genres, theatrical performances, visual art and photographic exhibitions and installations, films, seminars, workshops, processions and impromptu musical presentations.

There was an impressive installation and photographic exhibition in the public Mall, in the public theater, in the public galleries, in the parks and in the Zocolo.

### Highlights included:

- **Legend of the Half Boy** - Erica Sapir's beautiful black box puppet theatre performances in the Teatro Principal, Puebla; A world premiere.
- **Perspectivas: Seeing with New Eyes** - a photographic exhibition in the Mall del Paseo San Francisco, Puebla;
- **Concert for String Sextet** - a Mexican Premiere in the Teatro Principal featuring six world class musicians performing the Mexican premiere of the Mozart-Erdélyi Sinfonia Concertante K.364 for String Sextet.
- **Creativity in Captivity** - a Mexican Premiere - in the Teatro - featuring music created by prisoners of war - on all sides - during World War II, poignantly portraying what it means to be human in the most challenging of circumstances;
- **SICArte 2014** an exhibition of visual art - organised by the UK's Green Chair Gallery - with an online exhibition as well as a physical exhibition in Puebla, the opening night of which was extremely well-attended by Subud members and public alike.
- **Angel of Peace** - A significant and symbolic occasion for the SICA Program at World Congress was the public installation of the Angel of Peace statue, bequeathed to the City of Puebla. The Governor of Puebla unveiled the Angel to reveal a symbolic cultural mark that was encountered by many people during Congress and will continue for years to come.
- **SICA Prize**  
The SICA Prize is a significant cash prize awarded at World Congress through a competitive submission process to a young person, age 19- 28, active in Subud, who demonstrates an extraordinary talent in some field. Eligibility and submission guidelines are on the SICA website. This was jointly awarded (\$5,000 each) in 2014 to dancer Mahalia Ward and jazz musician Frances Madden.
- **The Lantern Parade**  
Designed by directed by Raphaela Sapir, the lanterns were created and designed in workshops over the course of the congress and provoke oohs and ahs from all as the lanterns and their makers paraded through the grounds of the Convention Center and into the Main Hall to begin the closing ceremony.

Rohana Salom, one of the helpers present when Pueblans came to be opened advised Latifah Taormina that many of them came because they saw that Subud was an organisation that valued art and culture.

The residual energy for SICA in Latin America post congress is a clear indicator that the cultural aspect of World Congress was effective in its ambassadorship for Subud.

*NB: A full listing of all the activities as well as a copy of the Congress Festival program is attached.*

## POST CONGRESS TO YEAR-END.

### Board of Directors

Sebastian Flynn, Events Manager for Multicultural Development Agency in Brisbane, Australia and former Manager of Australia's National Folk Festival in Canberra, was selected as the new SICA Chair in Puebla. Three board members stayed on: Felix Juan Prieto, Vice-Chair, Erica Sapir, Director, and Latifah Taormina, Past Chair. New Board members appointed after the Congress include Michael Menduno (Media & Communications), Rusydah Ziesel (Programming) and Sandra Harrington (Treasurer). Sandy, the last to come on board is also an accountant.

WSA Ex-Officio Membership of SICA: Elias Coragem Dumit and Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg automatically join the SICA Board ex-Officio in their capacity as WSA Chair and WSA Executive Chair respectively.

Previous Board member Rosario Moir became International Helper and continues as Honorary Board Advisor and International Helper Liaison along with Sanderson Topham and Isti Jenkins.

SICA is currently looking for a Secretary (preferably within Australia).

### Programs and Services

The Board also created an international framework for SICA activity, beginning with three new initiatives: Cultural Capitals, launched in Puebla is designed to grow lively SICA hubs around the world via creative cultural projects of their own initiative; Keys to Creativity relates to workshops for Subud and non-Subud members to discover and develop their own creative core; and Culture Compass in which participants explore the cultural environment of their past and present in order to create a positive vision (origination) for their future. The Culture Compass, designed by Sebastian Flynn with input from Arifa Gebhart, will be a threefold process of: Exploring, Workshopping, and Presenting.

These SICA initiatives begun last term continue as part of SICA's overall programs and services:

- Poems for Peace and its website: <http://www.poems-for-peace.org>
- Peace Day Austin and its website: <http://peacedayaustin.org> (this grew out of Poems)
- Conversation Café and its website: <http://www.conversation-café.com>
- SICA Prize (Awarded every World Congress; Amount of award subject to change.)
- SICA's Seed Grant Program (up to \$500 to assist with projects designed to create public value through art, culture, and/or creativity.)
- **SICA Website: <http://www.subud-sica.org> (16,000 unique visitors in 2014) \***
- **SICA Update (e-news) \*\***
- **Technical Assistance and Consulting \*\*\***
- SICA Social Media (Twitter and Facebook for SICA and Poems for Peace)
- Free membership in Fractured Atlas.org
- Fiscal Sponsorship for start-up organizations (Uraidah Hassani's The Women Worldwide Initiative is fiscally sponsored by SICA and is at the same time a Susila Dharma project.
- Network for Good's Donate Now is SICA's tool for collecting donations from members world over. It can also serve to raise funds for earmarked causes and initiatives of SICA's.

\* **The SICA website - [www.subud-sica.org](http://www.subud-sica.org)**, the public face of SICA in the world, celebrates the achievements of Subud members in the fields of Visual Art, Architecture and Design; Science and Technology; Health and Healing; Education and Training; Human Values and Development: Interfaith and Interculturalism: Kids and Creativity: Writing, Film and Digital Media; Music and Performing Arts. The site also features excerpts of talks by Bapak and Ibu that relate to SICA and the development of human culture as well as inspirational creatives who are not in Subud but whose work and ideas are in line with SICA's mission and values. The site also provides resources

for people seeking scholarships and/or grants, etc. as well as general information about what we do and how to contact us. A special section of the site honors our sponsors and donors.

**\*\* The SICA Update is an email newsletter** to subscribers full of the latest news and information re members' creative endeavours and other SICA related news. Constant Contact, the service provider for the emails has given SICA an award for two years running for the high open rate we have for our emails. Persons wishing to subscribe must self-subscribe via the link at the bottom of the SICA site homepage.

**\*\*\* Technical Assistance, Program Development and Consulting.** At different times members approach SICA for help with an initiative of their own. Because of the range of talents within the SICA board as well as our own connections, we regularly connect members with people who can assist them with their own initiatives.

### **Memberships**

SICA is a member of

- Americans for the Arts: This is for SICA Board Members and gives them access to AFTA's online webinars and publications in arts administration/program development/marketing best practices
- Charter for Compassion: SICA's peace initiatives have also led it to become a member organization of the Charter for Compassion in 2014. This also gives the Board and interested members access to the Charter's online presentations and webinar
- Interpeace Coalition of NGOs working with Peace One Day.

### **Acknowledgements**

SICA gratefully acknowledges its donors and sponsors on the SICA site, and it also honors its Congress donors and sponsors inside the SICA program.