

# 4 The Boulev'Art



7<sup>th</sup>  
WORLD  
YOUTH  
CONGRESS  
GUINEA 2014

The Boulev'Art will be the beating heart of the World Youth Congress experience in Conakry.

The Congress will create a Youth City which will host the Boulev'Art: a Festival of Culture that will be a feast for the minds, bodies and spirits of every delegate.

At its heart will be entertainment and the arts: Peace Child Intl. is originally an Arts organization - taking its name from the musical plan, "Peace Child" - which brought the first Soviet youth to the USA on a Youth Exchange: an action which helped hasten the end of the Cold War back in the 1980s. The Arts have been a central feature of all its World Youth Congresses - and, here in our first Congress in Sub-Saharan Africa, we want to make the vibrant artistic culture of West Africa the dominant memory that all our young delegates take away with them.

Youth City will be peopled with stages and booths, mini-cinemas and concert halls; theatre and dance spaces and rock concert platforms - open mike Comedy cafés, art galleries, sculpture studios, open drumming sessions - and a whole cornucopia of places where young people can present their talents and cultures from every corner of the world.



Let's be honest: the major goal is to ensure that the young delegates have fun and enjoy themselves. So - comedy, dance, singing, group activities - will be at the heart of the Boulev'Art. But - reflecting the seriousness with which most young people come to our Congresses - many of the songs, dances, plays and films presented will address the issues raised by the Congress themes and objectives - to be captured in the Conakry Commitment. That commitment is designed to launch a campaign for Full Youth Employment that young people will carry around the world. And that campaign can be driven and informed by the energy, vision and talents of the young artists assembled along the Boulev'Art.

The Boulev'Art has another, very practical role to play in the Congress. Feeding 1000 young delegates in the short periods scheduled for meals in our Congress Programmes is challenging for even the most experienced international catering operation. In the Boulev'Art, this challenge is overcome by inviting the small restaurants and food-sellers from around Conakry to come and provide the food for the young delegates and VIPs. The Boulev'Art will thus become one huge, International Café - with booths and barrows serving traditional African food, couscous from Morocco, falafels from Palestine, Kebabs from Turkey and Greece, Pizza and Pasta from Italy, curries from India and noodles and stir-fries from the Far East. Young Delegates will be able to wander from café to café, sampling the different cuisines of their wonderful world every day. Some delegates themselves will want to bring food and drinks from their own countries - and, on one evening of the Congress, we shall encourage them to do this.

Youth City will also host an important legacy of the Congress: the International Peace Park. Reprising an initiative taken at our First Congress in Hawaii, each delegate will be invited to bring a plant, a rock or an artifact from their home country - and, with the help of professional gardeners and park designers - they will place them in a corner of the Youth City as a permanent legacy of the Congress and the agreements reached there.

The Youth City created for this Congress will not just be for the Young Delegates: while the delegates are away on the Action Projects in other parts of Guinea, all the citizens of Conakry - young and old - will be invited to come and experience the food, the culture - and the exhibitions and the Peace Park created by the young Delegates. In this way, every citizen will benefit from the hosting of this important Congress in their city.