



**March 10, 2015 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sunni Fass, Executive Director  
[sunni@lotusfest.org](mailto:sunni@lotusfest.org), 812-336-6599

**The Lotus Education & Arts Foundation Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar  
Presented by the Raymond Foundation**

**Bloomington, Indiana** –The winter snow is slowly starting to melt away and soon the earth will be in full bloom to welcome spring. As we continue the 2015 season, we are pleased to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the single largest Lotus Blossoms event: The World Bazaar, a free cultural discovery experience for elementary school children and families. This year’s Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar will take place over two days – exclusively for school classes on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and free and open to the public on Saturday, March 28 from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at Binford Elementary School.

World Bazaar programming is lively and immersive, including demonstrations, displays, performances, and a wide range of art-making opportunities. Kids get their hands on the world at over 30 different activity stations run by Lotus, community organizations, and 100+ volunteers – examples include block printing and mask-making, experiencing sand mandalas and singing bowls, trying Middle Eastern dance, folding origami musical instruments, tasting fruits of the world, and much, much more. The excitement also includes special performances by local artists throughout both days.

Lotus transports MCCSC 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students by bus to Friday’s Bazaar and welcomes all ages and families on Saturday. Blossoms and the Bazaar are also specifically designed to conform to the Indiana Department of Education Standards Initiative, which helps teachers meet their classroom goals. According to Whitney York of Fairview Elementary, the World Bazaar is “a chance for the student to explore aspects of other cultures. It is so eye opening for them.”

The World Bazaar is the foundation of Lotus outreach programming—the first Bazaar took place in 1996 and eventually blossomed into the full-fledged Lotus Blossoms program, which started in 2001. Since 2001, Lotus Blossoms school visits and the Bazaar have reached a cumulative audience of more than 110,000 students, families, and community residents. Educators throughout Southern Indiana cite the value of the program’s capacity to enrich students’ appreciation of diverse cultural traditions through direct, hands-on experience and to bring world-class performers into schools where students often do not have opportunities to participate in multicultural activities. “This is definitely the most exciting fieldtrip connection MCCSC has with our community,” said Vicki Darby of University School. “It provides hands-on, unique opportunities to learn, and actively engages students. They always leave wanting more!”

Complete details about the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar and World Bazaar Family Day are available on the Lotus website at [www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org).

*2015 Lotus Blossoms is presented by The Raymond Foundation and is made possible with support from these sponsors: Mathers Museum of World Cultures, IU African Studies, IU East Asian Studies, Bloomingfoods, Star of Indiana, and IU Ethnomusicology Students’ Association. The Lotus Education and Arts Foundation also receives grant support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Indiana Arts Commission, Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, and the Indiana University Student Association.*

###

*Lotus Education & Arts Foundation*

[www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org)

*PO Box 1667, Bloomington, IN 47402*

*812-336-6599 / [media@lotusfest.org](mailto:media@lotusfest.org)*