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To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept my highest recommendation for the Bali Center for Artistic Creativity (BCAC) for their ability to work with and inspire student groups. Our school recently visited Bali and the BCAC based upon a recommendation from an international school colleague of mine. It more than lived up to that recommendation and was exactly what our developing off-campus trip program was looking for.

Each year in the high school and middle school, we plan a *Week-Without-Walls*. Groups of students (led by teachers) head off to destinations in Asia to participate in experiences linked to our school curriculum in the hopes of "authentic" experiences. It is not always easy to find experiences that connect nicely with what our school curriculum and standards demand. For schools, this is the most difficult aspect of developing a rich program. The BCAC is a true treasure and gave the utmost attention to our safety and curricular expectations. Most importantly, our students came back from that trip buzzing, beaming, and wanting more. Many students came to Bali not knowing what to expect and came back open-minded having "discovered" the art within themselves. Almost all the students did not have a strong background in art prior to the trip.

The program was centered around art experiences and letting students discover their talents in that area. Whether through the instruction of Bruce Sherratt, an experienced and well-known International School teacher and Director of the Center, or local Balinese artists, our students had rich experiences and expert instruction. The students were immersed in art and encouraged to draw. Bruce's manner instantly was a hit as his guidance is certainly student-centered and encourages students to take ownership of their drawings and develop a sense-of-self. As one student proclaimed, "Bruce knew how to bring the art out of me!"

In addition, the program allowed our students to get a taste of Bali (downhill biking through the countryside, dining in a Balinese home, teaching art techniques to local "street children", attending a Balinese Kecak dance, touring museum and speaking with notable Balinese community members, etc.) The activities were all excellent and previewed/planned in advance to make sure they were of a high standard and relevant. It is obvious that there was much work behind-the-scenes in preparation for our school's visit.

In short, I would highly recommend the BCAC to schools wanting a top-notch experience for their students. The trip was an excellent value as well. If I can further highlight how Bruce and the BCAC met our needs with this trip, please do not hesitate to call me. It would be my pleasure.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Johnson  
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