



AGA KHAN MUSEUM

**Annual Report  
2022**

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## Letter from the Director and CEO

In 2022, as we gradually emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were ready to mend, recover, flourish, and reconnect with our loved ones and our communities. Our common experience offered us valuable personal insights and a crash-course in resiliency, creative exploration, and innovative thinking.

For the Aga Khan Museum as for all arts and culture organizations around the globe, 2022 was a reset year and a year of transformation. Moving from the digital realm into the physical space required internal recalibration of organizational resources, internal analysis, and an outward thinking. From this experience, we learned that we could inspire and engage with audiences beyond the Museum's walls, reaching communities across Canada and internationally through our #MuseumWithoutWalls digital platform. We learned to invest in people and resources, nurture and foster partnerships, connect meaningfully with our audiences, and offer more opportunities to individuals of all ages to engage with the arts through innovative programs.

In 2022, we produced events, festivals, exhibitions, and special presentations that welcomed over 80,000 visitors back to our site, while approximately 423,000 people engaged with our content online through #MuseumWithoutWalls. We presented hundreds of local and international artists and worked with a variety of national and international partners to co-produce and co-present special presentations, exhibitions, and events.

A total of 115 schools throughout and beyond the Greater Toronto Area joined us online and onsite for workshops, tours, and presentations, while many summer campers returned to the Museum to create art, using painting, sculpture, photography, and drama to express themselves. We also launched Season 2 of our *This Being Human* podcast in partnership with TVO. Slowly at first, our committed volunteers returned to the Museum to assist us and reconnect with their peers, excited to share the work presented with our audiences.

We wouldn't have accomplished all this without the immense support of our Friends, Patrons, and Donors, as well as our corporate, foundation and government funders. Your passion and investment in the mission of the Museum has been instrumental this year of reset and transformation – thank you.

As we grow our global impact, audiences, and financial sustainability, we commit to continue building innovative programming. Our public engagement will fully align with our audiences' needs as well as our vision - to positively impact lives and contribute to a more inclusive and peaceful society through the arts.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis

# About the Aga Khan Museum

As the first museum exclusively devoted to Islamic art and culture in North America, the Aga Khan Museum has become a leader in its field, renowned for its creativity, originality, and quality, promoting knowledge and fostering new relationships among diverse constituent communities nationally and internationally.

Founded in 2014, the Museum is home to a growing collection of over 1,200 masterpieces, including manuscripts, paintings, ceramics, and textiles from the 9th to the 21st century, and works from contemporary Canadian and international artists. From captivating performances to thought-provoking lectures, activities for children and families, innovative contemporary exhibitions, workshops, festivals, film screenings, and digital offerings, the Museum reaches millions of people worldwide, advancing pluralism, challenging perceptions, and galvanizing hope and opportunity to build intercultural understanding and a better world through the arts.

Our values of accessibility, collaboration, education, excellence, integrity and fairness, inclusiveness, leadership, pluralism, openness, sustainability, and respect encompass the Museum's operations, programming, and stakeholder relations. The Museum becomes a space for intercultural and intergenerational dialogue where diverse communities meet and share their stories.

**Mission:** Through the arts, the Aga Khan Museum sparks wonder, curiosity, and understanding of Muslim cultures and their connection with other cultures.

**Vision:** The Aga Khan Museum aspires to impact lives and contribute to more inclusive and peaceful societies.

## Board of Directors

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Dr. Sascha Priewe, Director, Collections and  
Public Programs  
Josée Bertrand, Interim Chief Financial  
Officer

## Key Performance Results and Highlights

The Museum welcomed **80,497** visitors through its doors, with **13,060** visitors attending the Museum through the Free Wednesdays program.

The Museum Friends and Patrons' Circle program reached **3,178** member households from **19** countries.

**406** artists took to the Museum stage in **45** performances, attended by **7,000** people.

**15,000** school-aged children participated in school visits, workshops, and online field trips.

**91** emerging artists from around the globe were provided a platform through the Pop-Up Performance program.

The Museum had a digital reach of over **8 million**, with **423,000** people engaging with our online courses, workshops, and audio and video content.

**11,000** people attended the Rhythms of Canada Festival, which featured activities for all ages, special programming, and entrancing musical performances by local and international artists.

Through the generosity of our members, donors, and sponsors the Museum raised **\$11 million** for its exhibitions, programming, and performing arts.

## Exhibitions

In 2022, the Museum's exhibitions showcased a diverse range of local and international artists working across artistic mediums. The exhibitions focused on exploring contemporary topics of great relevance, such as identity, migration, and the interconnectedness of cultures.

### ***IMAGE? The Power of the Visual***

April 9–September 5

*IMAGE? The Power of the Visual* explored image-making over the centuries through the lens of historic and contemporary artworks from diverse Muslim cultures.

The 62-piece exhibition reflected on humanity's timeless preoccupation with images and explored their capacity to project power, reflect inner spiritual or poetic visions, give expression to ideals held dear, or express key aspects of identity. *IMAGE?* opened the visitor's eyes to the power of images that surround us every day, be they in museums and galleries, on our smartphones or in the mass media.

The artifacts on display included exquisite folios, manuscripts, tiles, panels, drawings, paintings, bowls, photographs, textiles, and videos from the Museum's own Collection, including 17 international loans from North America, Europe, and the Middle East from institutions such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as well as from visual artist Shahzia Sikander.

Curator: Dr. Marika Sardar

*Presenting Sponsor: Sunray Group.*

### ***A Romance of Many Dimensions***

April 15–June 5

*A Romance of Many Dimensions*, an installation by renowned Canadian Iranian artist Ghazaleh Avarzamani, was inspired by the ancient game of cockfighting, a brutal sport deeply embedded within various religious belief systems and cultures. The installation featured chair-like structures made of traditional baskets typically used to confine the fighting birds. These selectively bred birds were trained and conditioned by humans to sustain attacks, despite severe injuries, broken bones, exhaustion, and ultimately, fatal outcomes. Avarzamani prompts deep introspection regarding the individual's perspective and role when confronted with division, conflict, and systems of control. The installation serves as a poignant reminder that each person, whether a passive observer or active participant, bears complicity and a vested interest in the "game" at hand.

Special Projects Curator: Marianne Fenton

*Presented in partnership with Toronto Biennial of Art.*

### ***Hakan Topal: The Golden Cage***

June 11–November 13

Blending video, sound, text, and artifacts, *The Golden Cage* explored the impact of human intervention on the life of one of the most endangered bird species across the terrain of the Turkish–Syrian border.

Considered sacred in ancient times, the kelaynak was thought to be the first bird released from Noah's Ark. With its bare red face and neck, and long narrow feathers, the kelaynak faces near-total extinction due to hunting, pesticides, and human conflict. In 2016, the state-operated Birecik Kelaynak Reproduction Centre – which has kept a small population in semi-captivity since the 1970s – decided not to release the birds from their cages during the migratory season. While the aim was to protect them, their entrapment resulted in a grave disruption to their fundamental instincts and habits.

Examining the line between protection and prevention, Hakan Topal's installation explored the notion of man-made borders as cages and questioned the autonomy of vulnerable people who must migrate and cross borders to survive – contemplating their ability to speak for themselves.

Curator: Dr. Michael Chagnon

### **Museum Collections Themed Installation: *Birds***

June 20, 2022–January 2023

Birds have long played an important role in the Muslim world, being cherished as messengers, companions, indicators of seasonal change, sources of nutritional and medical remedies, subjects of domestic and courtly sports and amusement, and even political gifts. The multifaceted presence of birds in human lives has also made them significant symbols in mythology, religion, folklore, cultural traditions, and the arts associated with them. The *Birds* rotation featured masterpieces from the Museum's Permanent Collection that evoke the splendour of the avian world – from a luxurious silk robe to paintings and ancient artifacts.

Associate Curator: Bitva Pourvash

### ***Afghanistan My Love***

October 8, 2022–April 10, 2023

Featuring the work of art collective ArtLords and Afghan Canadian artist Shaheer Zazai, the contemporary exhibition *Afghanistan My Love* demonstrated how art is a powerful medium for connection during times of adversity. The exhibition offered visitors a glimpse into an Afghanistan, which is more than a physical place – it is a home, a memory, and an identity.

Special Projects Curator: Marianne Fenton

*Supported by Texas Jasmine and Global Patrons of the Aga Khan Museum.*

## Outdoor Exhibitions

The Aga Khan Museum regularly activates the Aga Khan Park and the Museum's surrounding outdoor spaces with exhibitions that are free and open to the public.

### *An Ocean in a Drop: Muslims in Toronto*

May 2022–April 2023

Mahtab Hussain is a British artist (b. 1981) who, in the wake of 9/11, embarked on a series of photographic street portraits of Muslims – first in the UK (London, Birmingham, Bradford, and Nottingham) and then New York and Toronto – with the aim to address and challenge the stereotyping and poor visibility of Muslims in mainstream art and media.

Presented as part of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, *An Ocean in a Drop: Muslims in Toronto* was entitled after a poem about the uniqueness and universality of the human condition by the 13th-century Persian poet Rumi.

Hussain directed his camera towards the Muslim youth of the city, illuminating their distinct individual identities, contributions, and viewpoints. Each portrait was paired with personal statements derived from the artist's conversations with the subjects, offering a deeper understanding of their experiences – encompassing both the positive and negative aspects – within the fabric of everyday life in Toronto.

*Presented in partnership with Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.*

### **Aga Khan Architecture Awards**

October 1–November 5

Presented every three years to projects that set new standards of excellence in architecture, planning practices, historic preservation, and landscape architecture, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture seeks to identify and encourage building concepts that successfully address the aspirations of societies with significant Muslim presence. Particular attention is given to the innovative ways in which local resources and technology are being used, and how much aligned the project is with the people's physical, social, cultural, and economic needs.

As part of the award cycle in 2022, an outdoor exhibition at the Aga Khan Park showcased the 20 shortlisted projects.



## Travelling Exhibitions

### *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*

Art Gallery of Alberta  
April 15–June 19

Orlando Museum of Art  
December 3, 2022–March 20, 2023

The Aga Khan Museum in collaboration with Luciano Benetton Foundation's Imago Mundi created the travelling exhibition *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*, which made its North American debut at the Aga Khan Museum in 2020. The exhibition focused on the second-generation immigrant experience and showcased a variety of artistic commissions and loans that explore cross-cultural artistic realities. The exhibition featured notable artists such as eL Seed, Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, and Sukaina Kubba.

Curators: Marion Eele (Imago Mundi) and Marianne Fenton (Aga Khan Museum)

*Supported by Global Patrons of the Aga Khan Museum and Mohammad and Najla Al Zaibak (Bay Tree Foundation).*

## Publications

The Museum produces publications that share new research, inspire learning, and encourage a greater understanding of the Museum's Collection and exhibitions. Books published by the Aga Khan Museum in 2022 included:

### **Syrian Living: Medieval to Modern**

By Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip and Dr. Anke Scharrahs

*Syrian Living: Medieval to Modern*, authored by Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip and conservator Dr. Anke Scharrahs, casts an illuminating spotlight on various aspects of the interior decoration of the historic houses in Damascus. Among the focuses of the book are the wall panels, closets, decorative niches, and ceilings fashioned from elaborately painted and gilded wood as well as decorative features made from stone mosaic and glazed tiles.

Lavishly illustrated in full colour, *Syrian Living* provides a thorough investigation of the Aga Khan Museum's own Damascus Room in the Diwan restaurant and other Syrian artworks of the Museum's Collection.

### **IMAGE? The Power of the Visual**

Edited by Marika Sardar

Produced in conjunction with *IMAGE? The Power of the Visual*, an exhibition organized by the Museum and presented from April 9 to September 5, 2022, this publication included the voices of scholars, artists, and cultural commentators, who each provided unique perspectives on how image-making projects ideas of power, spirituality, ideals, and identity across cultures and over centuries.

## Public Programs

The Museum hosts a wide variety of onsite and online programming for learners of all ages, including symposiums, festivals, talks, special tours, online courses, and workshops.

### Night of Ideas: A World in Common

January 27

The Aga Khan Museum, the Consulate General of the Republic of France in Toronto, and the French Institute Toronto presented an evening of art, performance, and ideas rooted in humanity's defining challenge of the 21st century: *How can we make our planet inhabitable again?*

The event featured contributions from a diverse line-up of artists, activists, and leaders — thinkers who enrich our own understanding of our relationship with the natural world and how we can preserve it for future generations.

The program included an original performance by poet and Antiguan-Québécoise spoken-word artist Tawhida Tanya Evanson and Iranian *tanbur* and *setar* master Pooria Pournazeri, a lively talk inspired by the 2020 French documentary *Composer les Mondes*, and a special encore presentation of Radha Chaddha's *IAM: Dance of the Molecules*.

### Virtual Symposium: Hidden Stories: Books Along the Silk Roads

February 24–25

The online symposium celebrated the exhibition *Hidden Stories: Books Along the Silk Roads*, which featured books, scrolls, manuscript paintings, textiles, and objects spanning a 1,000-year history. The exhibition was both global — examining a vast network of trade routes spanning Asia, Europe, and Africa — and local, bringing together historical artifacts from collections across Ontario, Canada.

*The Hidden Stories symposium was organized by the Aga Khan Museum and the Institute for Advanced Studies and in partnership with the Book and the Silk Roads Project, the Institute of Islamic Studies, and The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of Toronto.*

### Nowruz Festival of Women Poets

March 26

Crafting and reciting poetry has been a vital part of everyday life in the Persian-speaking world for well over a millennium. In celebration of Nowruz, a spring equinox festivity marking the traditional Iranian New Year, the Museum presented the second annual Nowruz Festival of Women Poets. The festival included pop-up performances by Behnoosh Behnamnia, live and

filmed performances in the Auditorium, tours, and post-performance festivities throughout the Museum.

*Presented in partnership with the University of Toronto Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies.*

### **Massey College x Aga Khan Museum: The Power of Image Lecture Series**

May 15–August 7

In partnership with Massey College, The Power of Image Lecture Series brought together notable speakers from across diverse industries to discuss the prominent themes in our *IMAGE? The Power of the Visual* exhibition. Each lecture from the four-part series featured a different theme, moderator, and panel of speakers.

### **Rethinking Secularism Towards a Truly Inclusive Multicultural Citizenship**

June 15

Presented as part of the Museum's intellectual explorations around its *IMAGE? The Power of the Visual* exhibition, Tariq Modood, an internationally renowned scholar in the study of ethnicity and citizenship, explored new ways to conceive a pathway to greater understanding and inclusion in the face of rising populism, new forms of nationalism, and ever-greater polarization in society.

*Produced in partnership with Canada Excellence Research Chair in the Migration and Integration program at Toronto Metropolitan University.*

### **Birdwatching at the Aga Khan Museum**

September 18

In collaboration with the Toronto Ornithological Club, avid birdwatchers and the public enjoyed a morning full of birds, nature, and art as they took flight on a unique birdwatching excursion and Museum Collection tour.

### **Beyond the Divide: A Century of Canadian Mosque Design with Tammy Gaber**

October 5

In 2015, Dr. Tammy Gaber received a federal SSHRC grant that allowed her to embark on a 53-city expedition over the course of two and a half years, investigating the design and architectural history of more than 90 mosques. During her visit to each mosque, Dr. Gaber photographed the exterior and interior, documented the interiors so that measured architectural floor plans could be drawn, and interviewed members of governance, users, and architects to better understand the intricacies of each sacred site.

In her talk at the Museum, Dr. Gaber highlighted some of the most interesting mosques she encountered along the way, from the extreme north towns of Inuvik and Iqaluit to a community-based hub in the Maritimes. She explored how these spaces are used, why they are so important, and the people who shaped them along the way. Following her talk, Dr. Gaber signed copies of her book, *Beyond the Divide: A Century of Canadian Mosque Design*.

### **Light Up the Dark**

December 27–29

The stunning exterior of the Aga Khan Museum came to life with mesmerizing light projections created by a group of OCAD University students and graduates. Animations danced across the Museum's west façade as a captivating score composed by students at Humber College revealed the surprising interconnections between the cultures represented in the Museum's Collections and artistic traditions from around the world.

### **Winter Break at the Aga Khan Museum: Family Activities**

December 27–January 8

The Museum's young visitors and their families had the opportunity to partake in exciting artistic exploration through various workshops (clay-painting and weaving), and collective art installations during the winter break.

## **City-wide Programming**

### **Doors Open**

May 28 and 29

Doors Open is a free event that invites the public to discover Toronto's sites of architectural, historic, and cultural significance. Since its inception in 2000, Doors Open Toronto has attracted more than two million visits to nearly 700 unique locations. It is Canada's largest Doors Open event and one of the three largest in the world. The Museum opened the doors to its Permanent Collection and special exhibition for tours, family activities in the Education Centre, and Pop-up Performances, which activated the entire site, including the Aga Khan Park and Ismaili Centre, Toronto.

### **Nuit Blanche 2022: Collective Effervescence**

October 1 and 2

From sunset to sunrise, visitors experienced the joy of Collective Effervescence by embarking on a captivating journey of art, dance, and music at the Aga Khan Museum, Aga Khan Park, and the Ismaili Centre, Toronto. The event included site-specific installations *Colour of the Year*, by Meera Sethi, and *I will stay there, even if in pieces*, by Zahra Saleki, and performances by artists including Andrew Afework and Bombay, Bageshree Vaze (with Vineet Vyas), Borelson, Che, Indrajit Banerjee and Hindole Majumdar.

## Festivals

### **Rhythms of Canada Festival**

June 28–July 3

The second edition of Rhythms of Canada Festival featured delicious food, activities for all ages, special programming, entrancing musical performances by local and international artists, and the Museum's world-class collection of art from across the Muslim world. Participating artists included: Juno-nominated cellist and composer Cris Derksen performing alongside drummer Jesse Baird and hoop-dancer Nimkii Osawamick; Asiko Afrobeat, a nine-piece ensemble led by Foly Kolade, known for their funky blend of reggae, jazz, and Brazilian music, featuring Nigerian dance and percussion; Brazilian singer, multi-instrumentalist and DJ Jerusa Leão who drew inspiration from the music of Bahia, North American blues, and folk; choral conductor, composer and singer Hussein Janmohamed; hoop-dancing phenomenon Lisa Odjig; Gelax, an experimental "fantasy rock" band formed by Gelareh and Taarqazz, known for their dreamy vocals, powerful lyrics, and hypnotic guitar loops; and many others.

*Supported by the Government of Canada.*

### **Duende Flamenco Festival**

November 13–20

The eighth edition of the annual Duende Flamenco Festival featured a total of 13 workshops, masterclasses, and live performances by award-winning artists from around the world. The festival, curated by Compañía Carmen Romero, showcased the vibrant artistry of flamenco through various events, including lively dance performances by the National Ballet of Canada's RBC Apprentice Program and workshops led by world-class artists. Each evening's performance was preceded by the screening of a short Canadian flamenco film produced during the pandemic by a Canadian flamenco artist (seven shorts in total). From the heart of Toronto, Ontario, to the coastal town of Tofino, British Columbia, audiences enjoyed flamenco creations by a wide range of artists, from iconic community leaders to emerging trailblazers.

*Co-presented with FabCollab and supported by the Government of Canada.*

## Insight Tours

Insight Tours by the Museum's curatorial team complement the major exhibitions and installations on view and offer visitors a deeper insight into the artworks, encourage critical thinking, and foster meaningful connections between the audience and the art on display. Here are the 2022 Insight Tours:

### ***Hidden Stories* with Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip**

Dr. Çakır Phillip revealed thrilling connections between the cultures represented in the exhibition, tracing the spread of art, commodities, and beliefs across the Silk Roads. She dug into the fascinating origins of this exhibition, which is comprised exclusively of objects from Ontario-based collections.

### ***IMAGE? The Power of the Visual* with Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis**

Through the lens of fascinating ancient and contemporary artifacts like paintings, manuscripts, bowls, videos, photographs, and more, participants learned about how images have influenced and shaped our world. This Insight Tour was led by Museum Director and CEO Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis.

### **Sound and Music with Bitva Pourvash**

With Associate Curator Bitva Pourvash as guide on this one-time-only tour of the Museum's Sound and Music rotation, participants reflected upon the wide-ranging power of sound and music and feasted their eyes on paintings showing performing artists plying their craft. They also encountered seemingly mute artifacts that, once upon a time, added rhythmic texture to the soundtrack of people's everyday lives.

### **Image & Power with Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis**

From calligraphy and emblems to figural paintings and photographs, participants learned about the different strategies rulers have used in the past to promote an "image" of themselves and their ideas of what it means to rule and be powerful. This Insight Tour was led by Museum Director and CEO Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis.

### **The Making of *IMAGE?* with Dr. Hayley Andrew**

Aga Khan Museum's Senior Manager of Exhibitions and Collections, Dr. Hayley Andrew, walked participants through designing, planning, installing, and interpreting the *IMAGE? The Power of the Visual* exhibition.

***Hakan Topal: The Golden Cage* with Dr. Michael Chagnon**

Dr. Chagnon revealed the thought-provoking connections between the threatened species of the kelaynak bird and issues of human migration and touched upon the inspiration behind the installation and its use of multiple media to convey the underlying juxtaposition of confinement and autonomy.

***Afghanistan My Love* with Marianne Fenton**

Participants explored the stories of hope and resilience at the heart of the *Afghanistan My Love* exhibition with Special Projects Curator Marianne Fenton. They delved deeper on an exclusive tour as she revealed the inspiration behind the curation and creation of the exhibition and the thought-provoking contemporary art, murals, and textiles.



## ***This Being Human* Podcast**

The Aga Khan Museum and TVO collaborated to produce the second season of the curiosity-stoking interview podcast *This Being Human*, which relaunched on February 22, 2022.

The podcast featured interviews with influential Muslim voices, such as NASA scientist Farah Alibay and Zarqa Nawaz, the creator of *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. The season, composed of 21 episodes, was made available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music, as well as on the Aga Khan Museum and TVO websites.

The podcast explored a wide range of topics related to Muslim art, culture, history, and society, delving into subjects like prayer, politics, pop culture, love, education, feminism, film, sports, and more. The conversations provided insight into Muslim culture and identity in the modern world. Hosted by award-winning journalist and educator Abdul-Rehman Malik, the podcast entertained, informed, and inspired listeners while emphasizing hope, inclusion, and the power of diversity.

*The Museum wishes to thank Nadir and Shabin Mohamed for their leadership support to develop and produce This Being Human, Seasons 1 and 2.*

## Performances

The Museum's Performing Arts program features established and emerging artists from around the world. From dance and spoken word to unique musical collaborations, audiences are introduced to a wide variety of art forms showcasing traditional and contemporary practices.

### **Constantinople: Innovative Music Collaborations – Il Ponte Di Leonardo**

March 18

Musical works drawn from 16th and 17th-century manuscripts found in the national libraries of Istanbul and Florence were revisited by the solo musicians of the Constantinople ensemble and the Italian singer and specialist in Renaissance music Marco Beasley. Presented precisely 500 years after Da Vinci's death, this concert gave musical expression to his unfinished architectural project building the bridge he envisioned between East and West.

### **Kismet قسمت Transforming Fate to Destiny**

March 19 and 20

Celebrating the arrival of Spring and the commencement of a New Year, Kismet قسمت was showcased through Sashar Zarif's innovative reinterpretation of Mugham. This captivating presentation seamlessly combines dance, music, and storytelling, drawing inspiration from the Sufi and Shamanic traditions prevalent in nomadic Islamic communities. Prior to each performance, attendees had the opportunity to engage in an enlightening Artist Talk session with choreographer and performer Sashar Zarif.

### **Constantinople: Innovative Music Collaborations – From Castille to Samarkand**

April 8

Fahmi Alqhai, one of the great virtuosos of the viola da gamba, and his Accademia del Piacere, the leading ensemble of early-Spanish music, joined Ensemble Constantinople on a musical journey through Iberia, Persia, and Central Asia, revisiting music notable for its sumptuous colour and exceptionally rich beauty. This journey from Castille to Samarkand brought into dialogue the music of the Spanish renaissance with Persian/Ottoman masterpieces taken from manuscripts unearthed in monasteries and palace libraries.

### **Steve Oda: In His Guru's Footsteps**

April 23

Sarod maestro Steve Oda mesmerized the audience with the first of his five showcases, bringing forth the profound wisdom imparted by his revered guru, the late Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. With an astonishing 45 years of dedicated practice, Oda showcased his mastery of this intricate and traditional art form, delivering a captivating performance of North Indian melodies. Adding to the enchantment, Toronto-based Ravi Naimpally accompanied Oda on the tabla, further elevating the musical experience.

## **Tarana Featuring Bageshree Vaze**

April 29

On International Dance Day, the Aga Khan Museum presented a special performance from Indo-Canadian dancer and musician Bageshree Vaze, tabla musician Vineet Vyas, and *sarangi* musician Pankaj Mishra as they rhythm and rhyme their way through Kathak – one of the original forms of Indian classical dance originating from the Moghul period.

Co-produced by the Aga Khan Museum and Toronto-based dance company Pratibha Arts, Tarana was a video project focused on engaging audiences with South Asian dance, while equipping viewers with educational tools to further the awareness and appreciation of the Kathak tradition. Tarana was presented prior to Bageshree Vaze's performance.

## **Kinan Azmeh's CityBand**

April 30

Kinan Azmeh, a cross-genre Syrian clarinetist and composer, gave a powerful performance at the Museum in 2016. Six years later, Azmeh returned with his CityBand quartet in what was a moving and masterful performance, fusing jazz and classical music with rich songs and polyphonies of his sacred Syrian homeland.

## **Ustad Irshad Khan: Surbahar and Sitar**

May 14

The Aga Khan Museum partnered with the Raag-Mala Music Society of Toronto to bring the finest musicians performing Raag Sangeet (North Indian classical music) to Toronto audiences. In this iteration, they presented Irshad Khan, a child prodigy, who has emerged among the torchbearers of the iconic Sitar Gharana, the Imdad Khani Etawah Gharana. Having performed at major venues and festivals around the globe, Irshad Khan is considered among the leading *surbahar* and sitar players of today.

## **Mystic Music Of Pakistan: Abdullah Muhammad Manzoor Niazi**

May 15

A journey through a captivating performance of Qawwali music by Abdullah Muhammad Manzoor Niazi. Popular in India and Pakistan, Qawwali is a musical genre which expresses Sufi devotion. Originating in 14th-century India, Qawwali songs fall into two groups: *hamd* or *manqabat*, both devotional songs dedicated to Allah, and *ghazal*, which are secular songs celebrating wine or love.

*Presented in partnership with Small World Music and Centre Kabir.*

## **The Black Fish Project**

May 27

The Black Fish Ensemble presented the Black Fish Project, a cross-genre creation by Iranian Canadian composer Keyan Emami. The Project draws inspiration from the iconic Persian children's story, *The Little Black Fish*, which tells the tale of a little black fish who wants to know what lies on the other side of his pond. The Black Fish Project loosely follows the trajectory of its own protagonist, the composer, who draws on his broad and often conflicting experiences as an immigrant who left his native land.

## **This Tale of Ours**

June 3

This Tale of Ours is a quartet made up of two musicians based in Crete, Greece, multi-instrumentalists Ross Daly and Kelly Thoma, and two Toronto-based musicians, *tombak* player Pedram Khavarzamani and *tar* player Araz Salek. They play original and existing compositions, drawing on the modal musics of Iran, the former Ottoman empire, and the Balkans. In this performance they brought together Greek, Iranian, and Turkish instruments to create melodies rooted in a centuries-long tradition of cultural exchange.

## **Constantinople: Innovative Music Collaborations – Under the Persian Musical Sky**

June 8, 9 and 10

Two free thinkers and musical explorers, Kayhan Kalhor and Kiya Tabassian invited listeners to the point of convergence of their creative universes, for an impassioned musical voyage to the heart of their art, the Persian roots.

## **Ramneek Singh & Pankaj Mishra**

June 11

The Aga Khan Museum partnered with the Raag-Mala Music Society of Toronto to bring the finest musicians performing Raag Sangeet (North Indian classical music) to Toronto audiences. In this iteration, Vidushi Ramneek Singh, an internationally acclaimed Hindustani classical vocalist, was accompanied by Pankaj Mishra on *sarangi* and Gurinder Singh on tabla.

## **Pasoori: If Love Is Poison**

July 19 and 21

Audiences explored the poetry, power, and infinite nature of love with international artist Ali Sethi, and joined the globally recognized singer and writer as he performed his new work, including his acclaimed release, "Pasoori."

### **The Blues Everywhere: Padma Shri Lakha Khan with Friends**

September 9

Audiences spent a captivating evening with Sindhi sarangi master Lakha Khan and friends as they talked about their art and invoked beautiful melodies.

### **Searching For the Blues with Padma Shri Lakha Khan**

September 11

Audiences enjoyed mesmerizing sounds of the blues with Sindhi *sarangi* master Lakha Khan. Padma Shri Lakha Khan performed songs by some of the greatest poets of the Indian subcontinent from the 16th to 18th century – Baba Bulleh Shah, Ghulam Farid, Kabir, Surdas and Meerabai.

### **Intercultural and Creative Music Fellowship Of 2022: The Space Between Time**

September 21

An evening of creative exploration by emerging musicians and filmmakers brought together by Humber College and the Aga Khan Museum as a part of the Intercultural and Creative Music Fellowship of 2022. Each bringing their lived experiences, the seven musicians and three filmmakers explored interconnectedness across cultures with seven compositions of music, film, and poetry that delved into themes of belonging, time, and the shared culture of the modern age.

### **Rachna Bodas: Torch Bearer of A Timeless Tradition**

September 24

The Aga Khan Museum partnered with the Raag-Mala Music Society of Toronto to bring the finest musicians performing Raag Sangeet (North Indian classical music) to Toronto audiences. In this iteration, they presented Rachna Bodas, a highly accomplished Indian classical vocalist known for her rich, pure, and vibrant voice. Rachna was accompanied by Toronto-based artists Rigved Deshpande (tabla) and Hardeep Chana (harmonium).

### **Soul Stir with Zeshan B**

September 28

*Billboard* chart-topper and *Rolling Stone*-acclaimed singer Zeshan B and his band put on a show-stopping performance at the Museum. Zeshan B's breakout album, "Vetted," was released in April 2017 to commercial and critical acclaim with the album debuting at #8 on *Billboard's* Top 10 Albums (World Music) and peaking at #1 on iTunes' World Music chart. He has performed for two US Presidents, Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama, with the latter performance taking place at the White House's historic inaugural Eid Celebration in 2016.

## **Festival Of Arabic Music and Art: Diwan, An Ode to Love**

November 6

A wistful evening filled with sonatas of love, performed by the Canadian Arabic Orchestra and Choir and an Arabic *takht* – a standard Arabic ensemble. Poetry and lyrics written by legends like Antara bin Shaddad and Elia Abu Madi, intertwined with enchanting melodies composed by iconic musicians like Gaby Al Boutros and Husam Numan.

## **The Labyrinth Ensemble Returns with Lamia Yared**

November 12

Following their outstanding sold-out performance in 2021, the Labyrinth Ensemble returned to the Aga Khan Museum for an evening of mesmerizing rhythms and melodies with special guest Lamia Yared. Composed of 14 stellar musicians, the Ensemble is dedicated to the study and performance of sonic traditions rooted in modal music, experimenting with sounds that stretch from Afghanistan through Central and West Asia, and beyond.

## **Pop-Up Performances**

The Aga Khan Museum provides a platform for emerging and established award-winning artists to showcase their craft, initiate cross-cultural dialogue, and engage new audiences. Throughout each season, Museum visitors can experience poetry, music, and dance that reflects the rich tapestry of diverse world regions, from the Balkans to the Nordic countries, from the Middle East to Asia. Each informal performance takes place in the Museum's public spaces and galleries on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

*Pop-Up Performances are supported by TD Bank Group through the TD Ready Commitment.*

## School Visits and Summer Camps

The Aga Khan Museum offers a variety of educational programs for schools both at the Museum's Education Centre and virtually (synchronous and pre-recorded) for pre-schoolers (ages 2-5), primary (grades K-3), elementary (grades 4-8), and high school students (grades 9-12). The programs follow the Ontario curriculum and are designed to make a positive impact on the lives of children and youth and foster an inclusive learning environment. The programs stimulate students' critical-thinking, problem-solving and communication skills; improve their mental health, socialization skills and sense of belonging; encourage collaboration, synergies, and experimentation; and allow for hands-on artmaking and participatory activities.

The Museum acknowledges the Weston Family Foundation for their contribution to the Weston Family Foundation Growing Minds Program that supports free school visits annually.

From storytelling and situational improvisation to the chemistry of colour pigments and adventures along the Silk Roads, students explore intercultural connections beyond space and time. The Museum's Education Department works with educators, school boards and model schools, as well as organizations supporting newcomers and refugee families, to provide children with free, culturally diverse educational opportunities in which they recognize themselves and the culture of their home country.

Our approach is both curriculum-driven and innovative and we have created learning modules to teach the UN's Sustainable Development Goals through the arts, focusing on *Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being*, *Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality*, *Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation*; and *Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land*. The Museum's educational programs are a catalyst for intercultural dialogue, pluralism, equity, and representation, instilling a sense of belonging, cross-cultural respect, and understanding.

All courses include a tour (onsite or virtual) of our Museum Collections Gallery or a tour of our temporary exhibitions.

**Telling Stories:** students enjoy stories inspired by the Museum Collections, visit the galleries, and create their own masterpieces based on the stories they have explored.

**Pattern Play:** students create and design their own clay tiles inspired by the Museum Collections.

**Calligraphy:** students use pencils and colouring materials to create their own calligraphy inspired by the Museum Collections.

**Miniature Painting:** students experiment with traditional Mughal miniature painting techniques as they create their own paintings inspired by objects in the Museum Collections.

**Geometric Patterns:** students learn how to read geometric designs before creating two of their own, using a compass, ruler, and pencil.

**The Chemistry of Pigment:** students create their own natural pigments from a variety of materials while learning about how artists applied the scientific method to create their own paints.

**Silk Route Adventures (elementary):** students explore how luxury goods, languages, resources, and cultures were shared and traded in the ancient world. They play the Museum's custom-made board game, which simulates life along the Silk Roads.

**Silk Routes Adventures (high school):** students barter and trade with one another in a simulation activity that will provide them with a deeper understanding of the Silk Routes.

**World of Fashion:** students design a lavish garment for a historical ruler in a friendly competition where they must navigate materials, the personal taste of their assigned ruler, and their budgets to create something truly fit for the royal court.

Pre-recorded courses offer insights on the art of colour and writing, how to read visual stories, and traders and trading in the ancient world.

## 2022 Summer Camp

In this year's camp (July 4 to August 12) campers ventured into the dazzling world of images through the Museum's *IMAGE? The Power of the Visual* exhibition and learned about courageous heroes, powerful leaders, and loving people who always imagined a more hopeful future. They explored the themes of image and power, image and identity, image and core values, and image and communication. Campers reflected on their own identities and future as they created art, using painting, sculpture, photography, and drama to express themselves.

## Teacher Resources, Professional Development, and Outreach

Resources are available to teachers of all grade levels and aim to assist educators to broaden their students' understanding of the arts of the Muslim civilizations while developing core competency skills in arts, sciences, mathematics, literacy, and social studies, while fulfilling specific expectations in the Ontario Ministry Curriculum. Onsite customizable Professional Development workshops are available to teachers and have been designed around the themes of cross-cultural dialogue, interconnectedness, diversity, and pluralism. The Museum's Education Department works with various District School Boards, superintendents, and principals to help design in-school programs and materials.



## Adult Courses and Workshops

The Aga Khan Museum provides engaging opportunities for lifelong learning for people of diverse ages and interests. Our adult courses and workshops are based on the Museum's Permanent Collection, temporary exhibitions, and performing arts programs, and focus on the promotion of pluralism, the history and diversity of Muslim civilizations, and their contributions to artistic, scientific, and intellectual development of our shared world heritage.

### **Word and Image in Islamic Art**

Online

Available as self-paced units and presented by Museum Curator Dr. Michael Chagnon, this interactive course immerses learners in spellbinding works of art from the Aga Khan Museum and peer institutions. Participants explore the ways in which artists from the inception of Islam in the 7th century to the present day navigate the realms of the visual and the verbal.

### **Islamic Art 101**

Online

During this self-paced course, learners explore the geography and history of the Muslim world through the lens of arts and culture. With members of the Aga Khan Museum's curatorial team as guides, participants examine materials, techniques, and ideas that have defined Islamic art over the centuries. Focusing on objects in the Museum's Collection, this course will be a treat for people familiar with the Museum as well as with art lovers who have yet to visit.

### **Studio Sessions: The Art of Bookmaking**

Online

Participants discovered the secrets of making works on paper with this four-unit course led by Aga Khan Museum Associate Curator Bitá Pourvash.

### **Introduction to Water Marbling**

June 5 and November 6

This introductory workshop on water marbling – the art of floating paint on water and transferring it to paper – allowed participants to dive into its fascinating history while they mastered each technique and created paintings that reflected the different traditional patterns.

### **An Introductory Persian Calligraphy Workshop**

June 12

This introductory workshop, led by calligraphy artists Laleh Rasaei and Farhad Vatandoost, focused on *nastaliq*, an 800-year-old Persian script known for its legendary character and

eternal beauty. Participants were introduced to the script, materials, and techniques, and through guided demonstrations practiced this art form using various tools, ink, and paper.

### **Introductory Workshop on Miniature Painting of Persian and South Asian Tradition**

June 25

Participants enjoyed demonstrations of various techniques, including the making of *qalam* (brush) and worked through a drawing assignment to reinforce several different techniques, including *siyah qalam* (drawing with a brush), the *charba* (image transferring), creating a *jidwal* (traditional border), and *neem rung* (colour wash).

### **Classic Abbasid Kufi Taster Workshop**

October 2

Outlining a practical introduction to Manuscript Kufi, this workshop explored the rise of the first great Qur'anic script and the materials historically used for it.

### **The Visual Language of Islamic Geometric Design**

October 23

Author and artist Eric Broug shared masterpieces of design from across the Muslim world and explained how they were made. Participants learned how to design and understand geometric patterns from the Alhambra, Fes and Marrakech, Al-Aqsa, Afghanistan, Thatta, and beyond.

### **Adult Beginners Chess Class**

November 20

Presented in partnership with the Chess Institute of Canada, this two-hour workshop was an introduction to the basics of the ancient game of chess.

# Lapis Ball and Digital Benefit

A celebration of how the Museum harnesses the power of art to broaden perspectives, foster connections, and change lives, the 2022 Lapis Ball and Digital Benefit was the Museum's first hybrid fundraiser. Enjoyed by more than 250 guests at the Aga Khan Museum and thousands more online from around the world, the event raised a record \$1.1 million. These funds support the Museum's ability to continue to adapt to our ever-changing world and create unique and meaningful experiences for our community to connect with art and one another.

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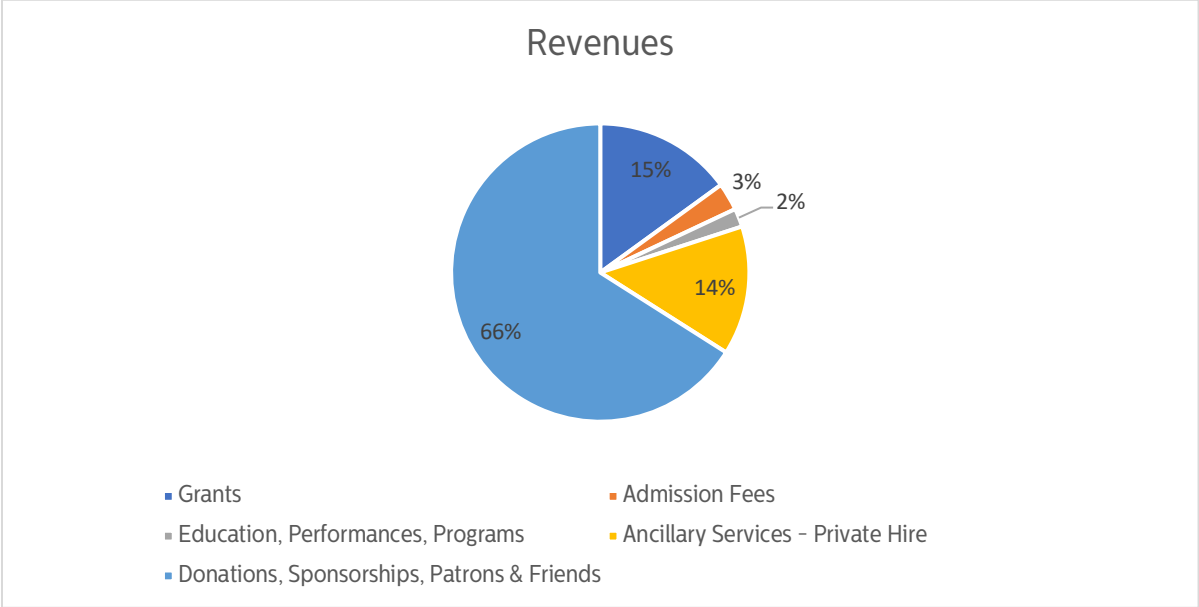
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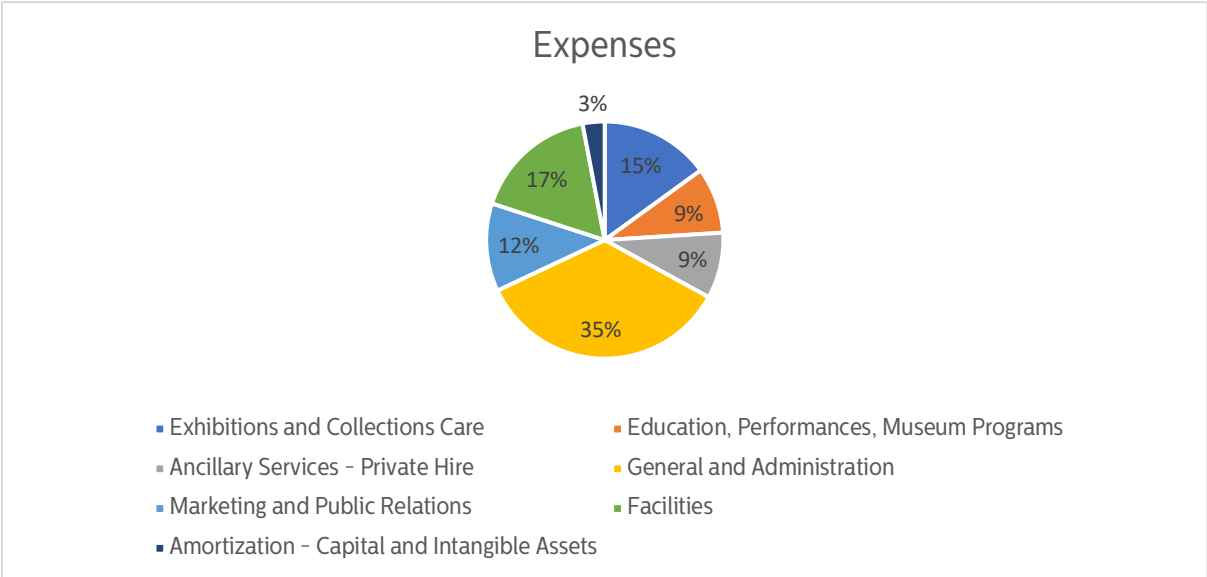
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# Operations

The Aga Khan Museum had a successful fundraising year raising \$11 million in sponsorships, through the Lapis Ball, individual, and annual donations. Private hire operations resumed, and business has been seeing an upward trend since February 3, 2022, when the Museum re-opened. Audiences slowly returned to the Museum for in-person public programs and performances, leading to an incremental increase in revenues from ticket sales and admission fees.



The Museum experienced increased employee turn-over in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. Starting in early 2022, new full-time positions have been added and part-time employees and contract staff have returned to the Museum. Facilities, operations, and other fixed expenses saw an increase due to inflation. Overall, in 2022, the Museum saw a surplus of \$650,000.



# Museum Supporters

The Aga Khan Museum is grateful for the support of our donors, sponsors, government, and foundations partners. Your dedication and impactful philanthropy play a vital role in the long-term success of the Museum. Thank you for your passion for our mission to spark wonder and curiosity through the arts of Muslim civilizations and connect communities through intercultural understanding.

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