

# ARTISTS & ARTISANS

Development and Network



**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

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@ArtistsnArtisan



@artistsandartisansnetwork



@AADN



Our website is built through funding support from the Government of Ontario

## A Message from the Co-Founder and President of the Board



Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present the First Annual Report for Artists and Artisans Development Network (AADN).

Artists and Artisans Development Network was established in 2014 as a not-for-profit organization which aims to enhance economic, social, cultural and civic engagement. It was established to create a platform which would support local artists and artisans through a community development framework.

It is committed to assisting immigrant and newcomer artists and artisans in embarking on new opportunities which would help them foster community development through arts, crafts and performing arts.

We are proud to be working with the newcomer and immigrant artists and with the successes and achievements to-date in spite of the challenges and difficulties encountered along the way.

Since its establishment to-date, AADN has been successful at growing and making progress with its partners. We've been constantly growing and learning through our involvement with other organizations. Our success is attributed to the community. We are grateful for the ongoing support and generous contribution of our donors, community partners, board of directors and volunteers which, makes us look ahead to new challenges and achievements.

I invite you all to check our website for a description of all programs, make a donation, volunteer at one of our events, or in any other way that would help support our cause and expand our programs.

*- Shirin Mandini*





## OUR VISION

To foster economic, social, cultural and civic development of Artists and Artisans.

## OUR MISSION

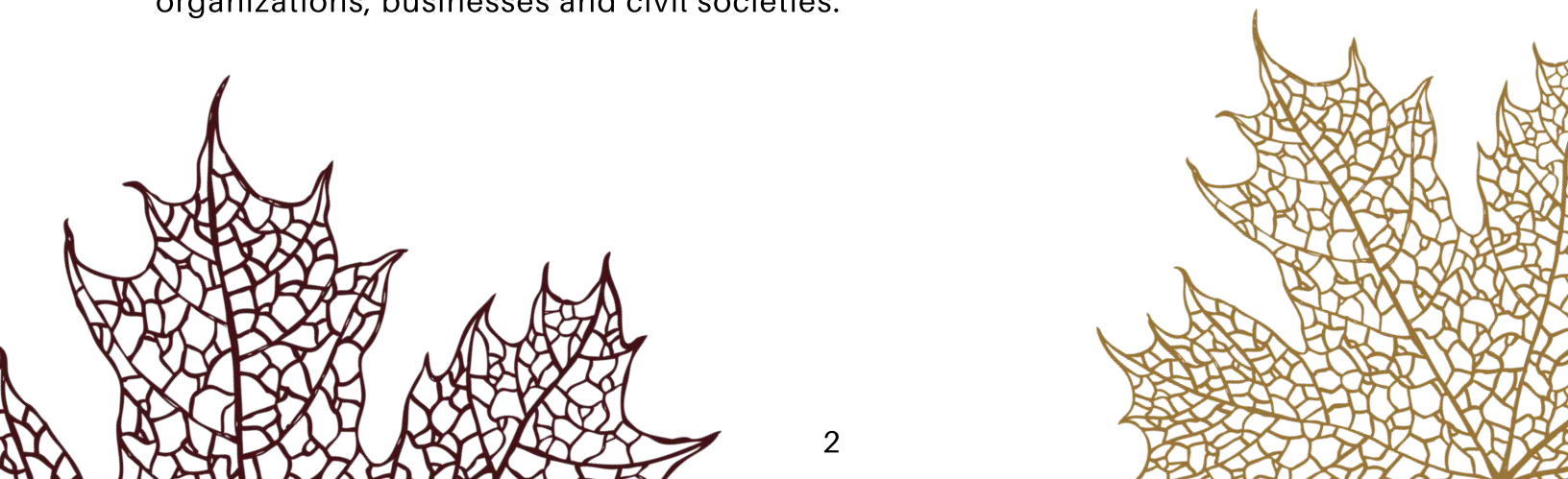
To provide support and opportunities for economic and social development of Artists and Artisans from Immigrant, newcomer and visible minority groups through programs, events and enterprises of arts, crafts and performing arts.

## OUR GOALS

- To support newcomer and immigrant Artists and Artisans by giving them a platform for training and development
- To involve local residents in building a cohesive and vibrant community through arts, crafts and performing arts.

## OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Our programs and services provide a platform for collaboration as well as educate the public through the showcasing of talents and by organizing trainings, workshops, exhibitions, and events in collaboration with social service organizations, businesses and civil societies.



## FINE ARTS WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

Our workshops and training programs bring together artists and community members who showcase their creativity through visual arts, written words and digital story telling.

In collaboration with local Agincourt Community Services, we work with seniors, refugees, youth, newcomers and women to empower them through arts and creative collaboration.





## WEEKLY SENIORS ART PROGRAM

### SENIOR ARTS CAFÉ

In partnership with Agincourt Community Services Association, weekly seniors' art classes are held for the seniors to help them connect, network and engage in different creative pathways. The classes provide them with the opportunity to work on and showcase their different pieces of art.



## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

AADN informs, organizes and encourages local artists and artisans in Scarborough and the Greater Toronto Area to partake in festivals and events which showcase their talents and creativity.

AADN encourage artists to send in samples of their art along with a short description of their projects and a biography to help promote and feature them through social media and different activities.

AADN aims to raise the awareness of communities about the rich cultural diversity in arts, crafts and performing arts through the organization of festivals and events that support the mandate of the organization. Our artists have exhibited their talents and have performed in many events such as local festivals, ice fest and afro fest.



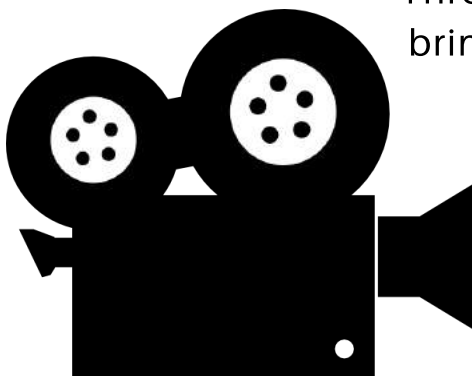


## INFORMATION & REFERRALS

Through its list-serve, community dialogues and focus group discussions with residents and artists, AADN provides information about the various existing support systems and platforms available to provide assistance.

AADN's strategic plan includes the development of its multi-lingual directory of service providers and institutions available for artists and artisans.

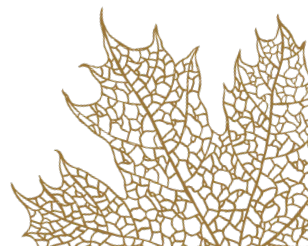
## DOCUMENTARIES



Through the medium of documentaries, AADN aims to bring social awareness to the issues related to the systemic, social and economic barriers facing artists and artisans from different immigrant backgrounds that challenge them in continuing to grow and nurture their talents. The short videos we put together also help artists and artisans promote their work as well as support their small business initiatives.

AADN makes community-action research-based documentaries on the social and economic issues of artists and artisans from different immigrant, newcomer and visible minority backgrounds.

Our recently produced documentary, funded by the government of Ontario, "In My Home Canada", unveils the settlement experience of newcomer and immigrant artists and artisans who have brought to Canada their rich experiences and unique skills. It highlights the challenges encountered and strategies used to overcome them.





## PROGRAM SUCCESSES & ACHIEVEMENTS



19 featured artists



50 artists have participated to-date in the different activities and festivals

Organized 3 festivals

55 participants to-date in the Senior Arts Program



50 volunteers



1000 attendees in all programs

## TESTIMONIALS



**Radhika  
Majumdar**

"During my internship with AADN, I gained professional experience in the industry and with non-profit organizations. AADN allowed me to apply my communication skills during events and during speaking with industry professionals. My internship gave me many hands-on opportunities to grow my career while gaining real-life experiences. AADN guided me every step of the way during my time there and ultimately gave me the essential tools I will need going forward in my career."



**Anusan  
Keetheeswaran**

"This opportunity with AADN provided me the chance to develop several skills while working with incredible individuals. Experiences in the field of marketing, communications, and public relations provided the opportunity to apply concepts from my educational background. However, the most enjoyable experience came in the form of community outreach events that I took part in helping. These events designed to provide a sense of community were a truly fulfilling experience. Working alongside others who shared this passion who were also incredibly supportive made the work much more enjoyable."



# CELEBRATIONS

In collaboration with various community organizations, AADN has hosted different festivals with the theme of inclusion and fostering talents of newcomers and immigrant artists and artisans. The objective of the festivals were to promote arts and culture as a platform to raise awareness and to promote an inter-cultural understanding, encourage the talents of immigrant artists and artisans, foster collaboration, and engage volunteers and students in community development models. The festivals successfully displayed a variety of art exhibits for newcomers and immigrants from diverse backgrounds.

## AADN hosted the following festivals, celebrations & competitions:

Inclusive Arts Festival  
December 2018

Canadian Multicultural Day  
June 2018

Inclusive Arts Festival  
2016 & 2017

Intergenerational Arts Festival  
July 2018

Inclusive Arts & Cultural Festival  
2018

Children Arts Competition  
at Hindu Heritage Month  
Celebration  
November 2018

Celebrating Canadian  
Multicultural Day  
2018

# FUNDERS & PARTNER

We are grateful and thankful to have the support of all our funders, donors and sponsors. We value each and every donation we have received that has enabled us carry out an event or activity or has helped us expand our work. We are humbled by your generosity and we continue to look forward to more collaboration and partnership.



## Federal

Canadian Heritage  
New Horizons for Seniors  
Service Canada

## Provincial

Immigration and International Trade  
Ontario Ministry of Citizenship

## Municipal

Cultural Hotspot  
City of Toronto

## Donors & Sponsors

Via Rail Canada

## Community Partners

Agincourt Community Services  
Association  
AWIC  
Canada India Foundation  
Canadian Museum of Indian  
Civilization (CMIC)  
Canada Services  
Friends of Gujarat  
Om Sai Cultural Association  
Shabdh Prathara  
Vraj Community Services

## Media Sponsor

Gujarat Abroad  
Gujarat Newslane  
Radio Muskhani  
Sheetal Sangeet



# TEAM

## Shirin Mandani

Shirin has over 20 years of leadership experience in Canadian and international not-for-profit organizations focusing on Social Enterprise. She received her Master's degree in Public Policy Administration and Law from York University, Master's degree in Educational leadership from Mumbai University in India and a Post degree diploma in Not-for-Profit Management from the University of Western Ontario.

She is the CEO of the Canadian Educational Opportunities Corporation and has served two terms as a national board of director for Aga Khan Education Services, in India, playing an active role in enhancement of primary education programs funded by European Union.

## Zatoon

Zatoon is a retired senior artist who was employed by the North York Board of Education, first as a teacher in special education and later as a teacher of gifted children. She also served as an adjunct professor at York University's Faculty of Education for 8 years where she supervised the teacher interns in math and science education. In 1991, she was seconded to York University as a full time associate professor in math education. At McGill University for four years, she taught summer courses in gifted education to graduate students and teachers from all provinces in Canada.

Zatoon continues to be a strong advocate for women's issues such as equity in the workforce, elimination of math anxiety in females, and empowering women to enter the science, mathematics and engineering fields.

# TEAM

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## Sahar

Sahar is an experienced finance professional with 10 years of experience in the banking, not-for-profit and public sector. Her specialization includes executing business cases to support investment decisions, M&A and divestitures, strategy and operations. Sahar holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business and has attained her CPA designation in March 2018. She is also a guest lecturer for BBA and IMBA classes at the Schulich School of Business.

Sahar has a strong passion for helping those in need and a passion for the arts. She had previously served on the board for other not-for-profit organizations focusing on education, poverty and hunger.

## Nermine Zohdy

Nermine Zohdy is a seasoned professional with extensive years of experience in development and not-for-profit work. She received her Bachelors Degree in International Relations and Economics, and subsequently a Master's Degree in Professional Development.

Her vast experience with donors, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and multi-stakeholders stemmed from her work with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Save-The-Children, the Arab Community Centre of Toronto and national NGOs overseas.



# TEAM

## Volunteers

The role of our volunteers cannot be underestimated as they have helped us build, expand and sustain our organization as well as contributed to the success of our programs and activities. Their role has helped the community members get a chance to feel a sense of ownership and pride by helping in having our local events succeed.



## MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

AADN depends entirely on the support of its volunteers, members and the community. We welcome the interest and participation of all who wish to contribute to the artists and artisans from immigrant, newcomer and visible minorities. Your donation can support many of our programs and events.

### **You can contribute by becoming our project or event sponsor**

If your mandate aligns with supporting community development through arts and culture then please partner with us. We request you to consider AADN for all your corporate donations, event sponsorships and gift-matching programs.

### **You can become a volunteer**

You can gift your time, talent and energy to make a difference in the lives of our community and people we serve. If you like to do your internship, join our committee or provide your expertise, please contact us.

Please visit the below link for any contribution through PayPal.

<https://www.artistsandartisans.org/donate/>







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