To foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage. Through education, research, and collaboration, the Museum encourages dialogue and promotes tolerance and mutual understanding among people.

Creating a museum is a privilege enjoyed by very few. Creating one along entirely new lines — as is the case with the Aga Khan Museum — has given me, the Museum’s founder, the sense of exhilaration experienced by all those who venture into uncharted waters.

The central purpose of the Aga Khan Museum is to invite the public to explore the arts and cultures of the highly diverse civilizations that embraced Islam. It is the first in North America to be dedicated to this task. The faith which began to spread from the Arab peninsula in the 7th century AD only reached some areas of sub-Saharan Africa as recently as the 20th century.

With a territorial span that now spreads from the Atlantic shores of Morocco and Senegal to Indonesia and Malaysia in the Pacific Ocean, it is no surprise that the differences from one cultural area to another should be significant. Travellers do not need expert knowledge to see that the mosques of Isfahan bear little resemblance to those of Cairo in Egypt, or those of Istanbul in Turkey. The differences between their works of art are equally obvious.

Diversity has increased, not receded: in modern times Islamic lands interact with the Western world, each in their own way. The large Muslim communities of America and Europe respond to their environment with new art forms. In hosting performances of the living arts and holding temporary exhibitions, the Aga Khan Museum will cast light on a new world that is emerging. Despite persistent instability in many countries and areas, bridges between East and West are and must continue to be built around the planet, our common abode. It is my hope that this Museum will be one of those bridges, inducing visitors to discover the beauty and meaning of works of art, many of which I believe were unknown to the public until this institution opened in September 2014.

His Highness the Aga Khan
Developing context

Just as creation and thought mirror each other, museums in celebrating the artistic creations of past generations enable us to understand and rekindle the thoughts and ideals of those generations and, in so doing, to understand and to appreciate better the creations and ideals of contemporary artists. It is no surprise therefore that important museums have existed since the mid-1700s and there exist nowadays most excellent museums in the West, across Asia, and in Africa.

The Aga Khan Museum, too, was built with the aspiration to celebrate and enlighten. Yet in becoming the first museum in North America to dedicate itself primarily to presenting the arts of Muslim civilizations, it has taken on a particularly ambitious role.

In this very special place, not only are history and tradition in dialogue with the innovation and invention of artists today, but the Museum aims to foster and illuminate dialogues between different cultures, different aesthetic approaches, different art forms themselves, and all of these from different areas of our globe. Moreover, a permanent collection of beautiful objects in the Aga Khan Museum is enriched and animated by performances of live arts, by temporary exhibitions, and by public programs of all kinds. Providing context and illuminating connections between people and cultures, the Aga Khan Museum aims to build understanding in a time when it is clear that such understanding is especially needed.

Creating a museum happens only once; building understanding is a constant endeavor. I would like to extend my personal thanks to those who have supported this Museum in its first year, and I look forward to continuing our work of exemplifying and throwing light on cultural connection in the years to come.

Prince Amyn Aga Khan
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors
A year of many accomplishments

Since its opening in fall 2014, the Aga Khan Museum has quickly filled an arts and culture gap in North America. A Year in Review is an acknowledgment of what’s been accomplished in such a short time and a thank you to those who helped make it happen.

“The need to bridge the growing divide of misunderstanding between East and West is pressing and, therefore, I have chosen to establish a museum of Islamic Art, the Aga Khan Museum, in Toronto, Canada.”

— His Highness the Aga Khan (2008)
Sharing key milestones

Inaugurating the Museum in fall 2014 and the Park the following spring drew international attention. As we unveiled these beautiful spaces, we also shared our plans to host programming designed to encourage intercultural dialogue and inspire learning.

Aga Khan Museum Opening - September 12, 2014
The Museum was officially opened on September 12, 2014 by the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, then Prime Minister of Canada, in the presence of His Highness the Aga Khan. Attending the opening event were members of His Highness’s family, senior representatives of the Aga Khan Development Network, high level officials, international dignitaries, and the diplomatic community. Our auditorium hosted its first formal concert the following evening: The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma.

Aga Khan Park Opening - May 25, 2015
Eight months later, His Highness the Aga Khan and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne officially inaugurated the Aga Khan Park, a 17-acre landscaped green space between and around the Aga Khan Museum and the Ismaili Centre, Toronto.

Joining together for important moments

Our anniversary gala and exhibition launches enabled us to celebrate the arts of Muslim civilizations and thank our donors, supporters, and sponsors.

Anniversary Gala – September 17, 2015
The Museum’s first year was celebrated in fall 2015 with a return performance by the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma. The event reached its fundraising target with close to $500,000 in gross revenue.

Exhibition Openings
We hosted six opening receptions that celebrated a range of high-calibre exhibitions. These openings let donors, corporate partners, private-sector organizations, and government officials preview Museum content in the company of artists and curators, and build community among those who support us and our larger mission.

After the Anniversary Gala, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble stayed for two days and offered open rehearsals and hands-on workshops for 75 youth from the Greater Toronto Area. This unique outreach project was funded by some of the proceeds of the gala.
A dynamic collection

Opening the Museum with a Permanent Collection of 1,000 objects gave us a solid foundation upon which to build. An evolving collection, it has been enriched through rotating displays, loans, and acquisitions.

Since opening, the Collection has facilitated links with other institutions. The prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York borrowed the watercolour Cranes and Ducks, c. 1700, for its exhibition Sultans of Deccan India, 1500–1700. And Pearls on a String: Art in the Age of Great Islamic Empires at The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore borrowed three pieces, including the folio Musical Gathering, c. 1700.

Revitalized with new acquisitions

Our goal is to expand and develop our Permanent Collection to reflect the rich past and present of Muslim arts and cultures. In our first 15 months, we were able to add powerful pieces to the Collection, often with the support of our donors, and to expand our Collection’s reach from the 8th century to the present.

Your Way Begins on the Other Side, 2014
by Aisha Khalid
Gift of Leila Mohamed Rahim, Zul Mohamed Rahim, and Nurmohamed Aim Rahim, 2015
— A stunning, six-metre-long carpet depicting a classic Persian garden or chahar bagh. The work’s images are created with 1.2 million gold-plated and stainless steel pins. The title is fitting: this piece is fascinating to view from either side. This piece hangs from the ceiling in our atrium so that all visitors can enjoy it.

A Garden Within a Garden, 2014
by Imran Qureshi
Gift of the Jinah Family, 2015
— This delicate diptych is both a permanent record of an ephemeral work and an ode to traditional miniature painting. The Garden Within, a site painting in the Aga Khan Park, was commissioned by the Museum for our opening. This smaller piece depicts the artist creating the larger artwork.

Manuscript pages with calligraphy, 1832
by Vesal Shirazi
Purchased with funds provided by Anita and Zubair Lakhani, 2015
— Shirazi, who lived from 1782 to 1846, was a major Iranian poet and one of the greatest calligraphers during the Qajar Dynasty. These manuscripts were done in the Nasta’aliq style of calligraphy.

During our first 15 months, we welcomed to our Museum Collections gallery significant loans from these individuals and organizations:

Prince Amyn Aga Khan
Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Geneva, Switzerland
Husseim Alshar, Kuwait
Mr. Marshall and Mrs. Marilyn R. Wolf, Toronto, Canada
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
Iranzamin Collection, London, England

Acquisitions and Loans

A Year in Review • Aga Khan Museum
“Open less than a year, the Aga Khan Museum already feels like an important presence in the country’s cultural firmament.”

— James Adams, The Globe and Mail

Discoveries from the past and present

Temporary exhibitions at the Aga Khan Museum provide a way for us to explore the profound impact that Muslim civilizations had — and continue to have — on the world. They let us travel farther into the past, to different places around the globe, and they let us explore today’s intersections of religion, art, and life.

For our visitors, new exhibitions ensure the Museum is a dynamic, always-changing venue. As part of a larger arts and culture community, these exhibitions let us spark wide-reaching conversations. In our first 15 months, eight exhibitions drew connections between cultures and spanned both historical and contemporary eras.

Highlights:

In Search of the Artist: Signed Drawings and Paintings from the Aga Khan Museum Collection
September 18 – November 16, 2014, organized by the Aga Khan Museum — Celebrating the golden age of the art of the book and the rise of individual artists.

The Garden of Ideas: Contemporary Art from Pakistan

The Lost Dhow: A Discovery from the Maritime Silk Route
December 13, 2014 – April 26, 2015, organized by the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore — A groundbreaking exhibition revealing ancient connections between China and the Arab world.

Home Ground: Contemporary Art from the Barjeel Art Foundation
“As an artist, I struggle with being labelled. The museum allows for a multiplicity of identity. That’s why it’s so appealing to me.”

— Sheniz Jam Mohamed, poet and educator (Spoken Word Series 2015)

Highlights:

**Fareed Ayaz, Abu Muhammad Qawwal and Brothers**
September 2014
— 14th-century South Asian music for modern audiences.

**DakhaBrakha**
November 2014
— This so-called “ethnic chaos band” blended Ukrainian folk with world music sensibilities.

**Radik Tyulyush and Tanya Tagaq**
March 2015
— One traditional throat singer, one contemporary.

**Footsteps of Babur**
May 2015
— Three master musicians from Afghanistan, India, and Tajikistan.

**Focus on Flamenco Series**
October 2015
— An exploration of the Arab, Ladino, and Gitano influences on this evolving art form.

**Arab Jazz Series**
September – December 2015
— Jazz may have originated in the West, but these Eastern musicians take it to another level.

New ideas through relationships

Truly powerful performing arts come about when different groups join together to create something new.

**Harbourfront Centre** and the Museum joined to present the Montreal-based Moroccan gospel band Ayrad at the Canada Day Celebrations at Harbourfront.

**Raag-Mala Music Society of Toronto** brought a group of India’s finest traditional musicians together for the performance Miyan-Ki-Daane — Raags of Tansen.

Collaboration Highlights:

**Partners and Co-Presenters**
- The Ismaili Centre, Toronto
- Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma
- Royal Conservatory of Music
- Raag-Mala Music Society of Toronto
- Reel Asian International Film Festival
- Rumi Canada
- Harbourfront Centre
- University of Toronto Scarborough

**Marketing and Community Partners**
- Small World Music
- Canadian Arab Institute
- Turkuaz TV
- NOW Magazine

Innovation through connection

The 145 performing arts events at the Museum — including showcase performances, informal performances, artists’ lectures, youth programs, master classes, and film screenings — revealed the interconnectedness of theatre, music, dance, and film from around the globe.

Opposite page:
Anita Majumdar performs in the one-woman play Fish Eyes, on stage in February 2015.
Learning without barriers

Young people keep organizations vibrant – and what they learn about art, religion, culture, and community can linger for generations.

• More than 4,500 students from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 12 took part in our Schools Program.
• Every child under the age of 12 received a free Family Exploration Kit.
• Family Sundays offered free family activities themed to our current exhibitions.
• Tales of Wonder March Break Camp took students on a whirlwind trip around the world through art.
• Summer camps – which completely sold out – gave two different age groups the chance to both experience and create art.

Sharing ideas and expertise

The Museum became a forum for discussing complex ideas through its stimulating lecture series.

Highlights:

Treasures of the Aga Khan Museum: The Power of Cultural Personality in the Lands of Islam
Assadullah Souren Melikian-Chirvani, Curatorial Director, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, September 18, 2014

The Canticle of the Birds
Michael Barry, Princeton University, December 3, 2014

Green, Blue, and White: Chinese Ceramics, Shipwrecks, and Ninth-Century Indian Ocean Trade
John Guy, Curator, South and Southeast Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, January 21, 2015

Youth and Digital Media in the Middle East
Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, Barjeel Art Foundation, UAE, July 22, 2015

Faith, Culture, and Violence: Fields of Blood
Karen Armstrong (Aga Khan Museum Anniversary Lecture), September 22, 2015

The Aga Khan Museum produced a range of publications for children and adults.

Highlights include:

• The Lost Dhow: A Discovery from the Maritime Silk Route (Simon Worrall), 2014
• Home Ground: Contemporary Art from the Barjeel Art Foundation (Contributing Writers: Henry Kim, Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, Tina Sherwell, and others), 2015
• Learning at the Aga Khan Museum: A Curriculum Resource Guide for Teachers (Ruba Kana’an and Patricia Bentley), 2015
150,000 visitors came through our doors
10,000 households joined as Founding Members
Over 20 countries are represented by our membership
12,000+ attended performances in our auditorium
Performing artists came from nearly 30 countries
More than 4,500 students enjoyed our school programs

Membership in All Countries

CANADA 6042
AFGHANISTAN 1
AFRICA 1
AUSTRALIA 8
BANGLADESH 1
BERMUDA 1
BRAZIL 1
BRUNEI 1
BURMA 1
BURUNDI 1
BURYATIA 1
CAMBODIA 1
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 1
CHINA 1
CONGO 1
EGYPT 1
FRANCE 5
GERMANY 1
GUATEMALA 1
HONG KONG 1
HUNGARY 1
ICELAND 1
INDIA 5
INDONESIA 1
IRELAND 1
ITALY 1
JAMAICA 1
JAPAN 1
KENYA 3
KOREA 1
KUWAIT 2
LAOS 1
MALAYSIA 1
MARRAKECH 1
MEXICO 1
MOROCCO 1
NETHERLANDS 1
NIGERIA 1
NORWAY 1
PAKISTAN 16
PALESTINE 1
PANAMA 1
PERU 1
PHILIPPINES 1
PORTUGAL 4
QATAR 2
ROMANIA 1
RUSSIA 1
SAMA 1
SANDWICH ISLANDS 1
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE 1
SENEGAL 1
SINGAPORE 1
SIERRA LEONE 1
SLOVAKIA 1
SLOVENIA 1
SOUTH AFRICA 1
SOUTH KOREA 1
SUDAN 1
SWITZERLAND 2
THAILAND 1
TANZANIA 4
TAJIKISTAN 1
UK 28
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 19
USA 6686
US VIRGIN ISLANDS 1
UZBEKISTAN 1
VATICAN CITY 1
VIETNAM 1
YEMEN 1
ZAMBIA 1

Membership in North America

ALBERTA 509
ALABAMA 39
ALASKA 1
ARIZONA 42
ARKANSAS 28
CALIFORNIA 454
COLORADO 5
CONNECTICUT 12
DC 5
FLORIDA 361
GEORGIA 896
HAWAII 1
ILLINOIS 184
INDIANA 2
IOWA 3
KANSAS 98
KENTUCKY 1
KENTUCKY 1
LOUISIANA 6
MARYLAND 5
MASSACHUSETTS 36
MICHIGAN 9
MINNESOTA 13
MISSOURI 9
MISSISSIPPI 1
MISSOURI 9
MONTANA 1
NEBRASKA 1
NEVADA 4
NEW JERSEY 79
NEW MEXICO 40
NEW YORK 154
OKLAHOMA 33
OREGON 2
PENNSYLVANIA 13
PENNSYLVANIA 13
TEXAS 3883
VERMONT 1
WASHINGTON 103
WISCONSIN 6
WYOMING 1
YUKON 1
ZAPORIZHZHIA 1

By the Numbers
Part of the social media conversation:
26,680 “likes” on Facebook. 5,698 Twitter followers.
2,168 Instagram followers.
767,717 web visits and 3,255,672 page views.

Part of the conversation

While the opening of the Museum attracted media attention locally and around the world, both traditional and digital outlets continued to cover events and activities for the remainder of 2014/15.

Highlights:

• Close to 1,800 articles across all media: print, radio, television, and online.
• Coverage in 15 languages and in 49 countries, including Egypt, Kenya, Iran, Pakistan, India, the UK, and UAE.
• Covered by all major print, television, radio, and online Canadian media outlets.
• 97 per cent of coverage was positive in tone, with 90 per cent of coverage containing key messages.

Awarded for excellence

During its inaugural year, the Museum received honours from a wide range of well-known publications, including:

• Where Canada — Best New or Improved Attraction in Canada
• Condé Nast Traveler — One of the top 15 things to do in Toronto in 2015
• Travel & Leisure — Among the Top 25 New Tourist Attractions Worth Adding to Your Bucket List
• Air Canada’s enRoute Magazine — Among the World’s 14 Coolest Museums
• Architectural Digest — One of 10 Buzz-worthy New Museums in 2015
• NOW Magazine — Home Ground: Contemporary Art from the Barjeel Art Foundation named Top Art Show of 2015

Crossing of Cultures a Thing of Beauty — Toronto Star
Culture, Commerce and Carpets at the Aga Khan Museum — Review of A Thirst for Riches, Where Magazine
Contemporary Arab art exhibit at Toronto’s Aga Khan Museum isn’t afraid to provoke — Review of Home Ground, The Globe and Mail
Museum with a Mission — Rochester Magazine
The Aga Khan’s New Islamic Treasure Trove — Wall Street Journal
An experience of tranquility — The Arts Fuse
The Aga Khan Museum: A glimpse of magnificence — Dawn.com
A dramatic intrusion of elegance — Toronto Star
Tasting diversity

Master Chef Mark McEwan brings over 30 years’ experience to our restaurant Diwan, where his lunch menu showcases innovative approaches to traditional Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian cuisine. In fall/winter 2015, Chef McEwan also introduced themed dinners for the popular Arab Jazz Series.

Building relationships

To create a balanced community, everyone needs to be included. To that end, we worked with various outside organizations to enable better access to our programming and to celebrate art, culture, and excellence in different contexts.

Culinary events invited celebrity chefs to the Museum for talks and tastings.

Dining With a Celebrity: Tastings with Author Naomi Duguid
— Persian picnic cuisine served by traveller, writer, photographer and chef Naomi Duguid.

Art of Pakistani Cuisine
— Chef Mussa Khan from the Islamabad Serena Hotel introduced eight traditional dishes highlighting distinct regions in Pakistan.

Outreach

Building relationships

To create a balanced community, everyone needs to be included. To that end, we worked with various outside organizations to enable better access to our programming and to celebrate art, culture, and excellence in different contexts.

Doors Open — A two-day event that gave 14,000 visitors access to free activities and tours.

Museum + Arts Pass (MAP) — 9,130 adults and children visited via this program that allowed them to borrow family passes with the use of library cards.

Cultural Access Pass — 682 new visitors who were also new Canadians came under this complimentary admission program.

Free Wednesdays — This initiative waiving admission every Wednesday from 4–8 pm began in February 2015. Over the next 11 months, 19,850 took advantage of this program aimed at making the Museum more accessible. In fact, 40 per cent of these visitors were from priority neighbourhoods.

Girls E-Mentorship Innovation (GEM) — A mentorship program that pairs high-school girls with professional women.

Outreach

8,000 people attended Reflections — Celebrating our Communities and Cultures, a free event at the Aga Khan Park that culminated in the arrival of the Pan Am torch.

“There couldn’t have been a more inspirational place than the Aga Khan Museum to hold our GEM Arts Program and to be surrounded by such wonderful art and history.”

— Minakhal Rafi, GEM participant
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Mr. James Wolfensohn (to May 2015)

Advisor
Mr. Riaz Ahmed

Every effort has been made to provide an accurate listing of our Director’s Circle. We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have occurred.

For a complete list of our Founding Members who provided important early support to the Aga Khan Museum, please see our website: agakhanmuseum.org
The Museum relies on the support of many individuals and organizations, and would like to acknowledge our most generous supporters. The following have provided support of $25,000 or more between September 2014 and December 2015:

**Associations and Corporations**
- AlJomaih Group
- Asharys
- DUCA Financial Services Credit Union Ltd.
- Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Assoc. (GHRA)
- HollisWealth
- National Alliance of Trade Associations
- Royal Bank of Canada
- TD Bank Group
- Trimark Capital

**Foundations and Government Programs**
- Hal Jackman Foundation
- Hashoo Foundation
- Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund
- Anonymous (1)

Every effort has been made to provide an accurate listing. We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have occurred.

For a more complete listing of Museum supporters to December 2015, please visit our website: agakhanmuseum.org

**Individuals - Donations**
- Nadir Badruddin and Family
- Ainoor Remtulla Gulamani and Family
- Mr. Feroz Jassani and Mrs. Anita Jassani
- Jenny and Altaf Jina
- Nasir S. Noormohamed and Tazmin Merali
- Polykar
- Mrs. Roshan Rahim
- Amir Rupani
- Sewani Family
- Anis and Shiraz Sumar, Calgary, Canada
- Parin and Zahir Teja
- In Memory of Sadrudin R. Thawer
- The Hon. Hilary Weston
- Anonymous (6)

**Gifts for the Collection**
- Janmohammed Nagji Jinah Family
- Anita and Zubair Lakhan
- Leila M. Rahim, Zul M. Rahim, and Noor A. Rahim
- The Stuart Cary Welch Family

**The heart of the organization**

Volunteers are integrated into all aspects of operations. They work side-by-side with staff in departments ranging from visitor services and the retail shop to education, fundraising, and finance.
- The Museum has over 300 volunteers.
- Since September 2014, volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours to helping run the Museum.
- A volunteer is often the first person a visitor comes in contact with.
- Volunteers come from all walks of life, from stay-at-home parents to architects and service professionals to executive officers.
- Everyone is welcome in the volunteer program and the Museum does its best to match the skills and interests of the volunteer team with the needs of the Museum.

Our volunteers generously donate their time, energy, and expertise.