

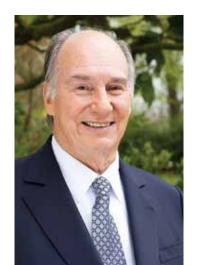




Introduction from His Highness the Aga Khan

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

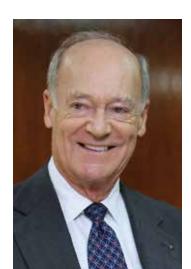


15th-century Syrian Pharmacy Jars (*Albarelli*) displayed with a tile from the same period in the Museum Collections gallery.

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 endeavour. 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

Connecting cultures through art

I am grateful for the opportunity to reflect on what has truly been an exhilarating year. This began on September 12, 2014, when His Highness the Aga Khan inaugurated the Aga Khan Museum (designed by Fumihiko Maki) and the Ismaili Centre (designed by Charles Correa) in Canada's largest city. Over a decade had been required to transform a beautiful concept into an incredible reality – all within a 17-acre Park designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic. When the Aga Khan Museum opened its doors to the public on September 18, Toronto became the permanent home to masterpieces of Islamic art collected by the Aga Khan and his family over generations. It also became a remarkable venue where music, dance, film, and poetry could be experienced in conjunction with visual art.

Opening the Aga Khan Museum was itself an achievement. But the real achievement — and great challenge — for this, and in fact any museum, lies in creating a living, evolving institution that inspires visitors who come through its doors day after day, year after year.

The Aga Khan Museum's *A Year in Review* offers highlights and, I hope, captures the spirit of our first year. It shows the fruits of many labours — including eight exhibitions, 145 performing arts events, and a thriving education program for all ages. It also recognizes those who made such successes possible: artists and scholars; patrons and members; donors, community partners, and sponsors; and volunteers and staff. Not least, it celebrates our visitors, who have come from all areas of the globe and who provide the incentive to keep improving everything we have to offer in this magnificent building.

Connecting cultures through art is not only our institutional mission, it is an expression of commitment to our local and global communities. I hope you will join us as we find new ways to inspire and engage in 2016.

Henry Kim

Director and CEO

Director and CEO Henry Kim celebrates the Museum's first anniversary at a public cake-cutting in September 2015.







His Highness the Aga Khan and the former Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, inaugurate the Museum on September 12, 2014.

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)



The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma inaugurating the Museum auditorium on September 13, 2014.

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

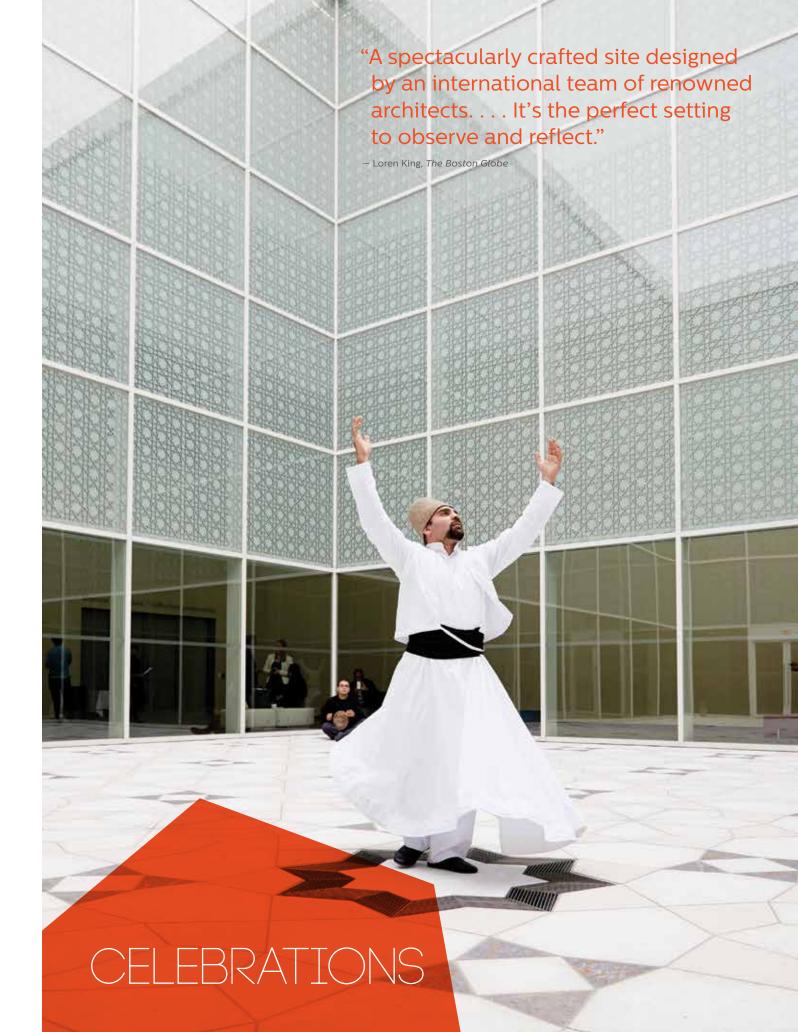
The Museum's first year was celebrated in fall 2015 with a return performance by the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma. The event reached its fundraising target with close to \$500,000 in gross revenue.

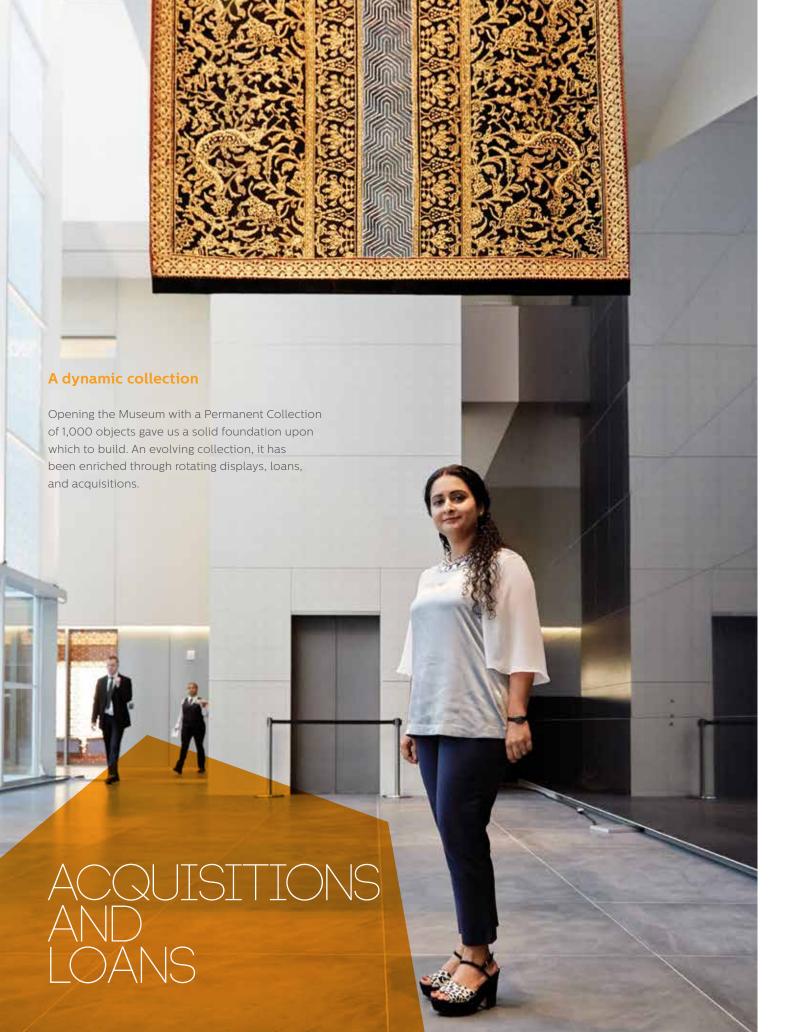
Exhibition Openings

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.

Opposite page:
Semazan Farzad AttarJafari
performs in the Museum's courtyard.





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
Hossein Afshar, Kuwait
Mr. Marshall and Mrs. Marilyn R. Wolf, Toronto, Canada
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
Iranzamin Collection, London, England

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.

Opposite page: Artist Aisha Khalid with her tapestry Your Way Begins on the Other Side, one of the Museum's new acquisitions.



Your Way Begins on the Other Side,

by Aisha Khalid
Gift of Leila Mohamed Rahim,
Zul Mohamed Rahim, and Nurmohamed Amir 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.

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.



Opposite page: Visitors enjoying artifacts from 9th-century China in The Lost Dhow: A Discovery from the Maritime Silk Route.



Imran Qureshi using the Park's formal garden as a canvas for *The Garden Within*, commissioned for the exhibition *The Garden of Ideas*.

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

September 18, 2014 – January 18, 2015, organized by the Aga Khan Museum – Six Pakistani artists – Bani Abidi, Nurjahan Akhlaq, David Chalmers Alesworth, Aisha Khalid, Atif Khan, and Imran Qureshi – celebrate and reinterpret the meaning of the garden.



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

A groundbreaking exhibition revealing ancient connections between China and the Arab world.



Home Ground: Contemporary Art from the Barjeel Art Foundation

July 25, 2015 – January 3, 2016, jointly organized by the Aga Khan Museum and the Barjeel Art Foundation – A timely exploration of how politics shapes lives in the Arab world.

Named by NOW Magazine as the best exhibition in Toronto in 2015.

"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."

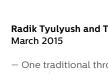
- Sheniz Janmohamed, poet and educator (Spoken Word Series 2015)

Highlights:



Fareed Ayaz, Abu Muhammad **Qawwal and Brothers** September 2014

14th-century South Asian music for modern audiences.



Radik Tyulyush and Tanya Tagaq

One traditional throat singer. one contemporary.



Focus on Flamenco Series

An exploration of the Arab, Ladino, and Gitano influences on this evolving art form.



DakhaBrakha November 2014

This so-called "ethnic chaos band" blended Ukrainian folk with world music sensibilities.



Footsteps of Babur May 2015

- Three master musicians from Afghanistan, India, and Tajikistan.



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

Opposite page Anita Majumdar performs in the one-woman play Fish Eyes, on stage in February 2015





Workshops and courses explored traditional techniques of paper-making, gilding, and manuscript illumination and introduced the history of Islamic art in all its forms.

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

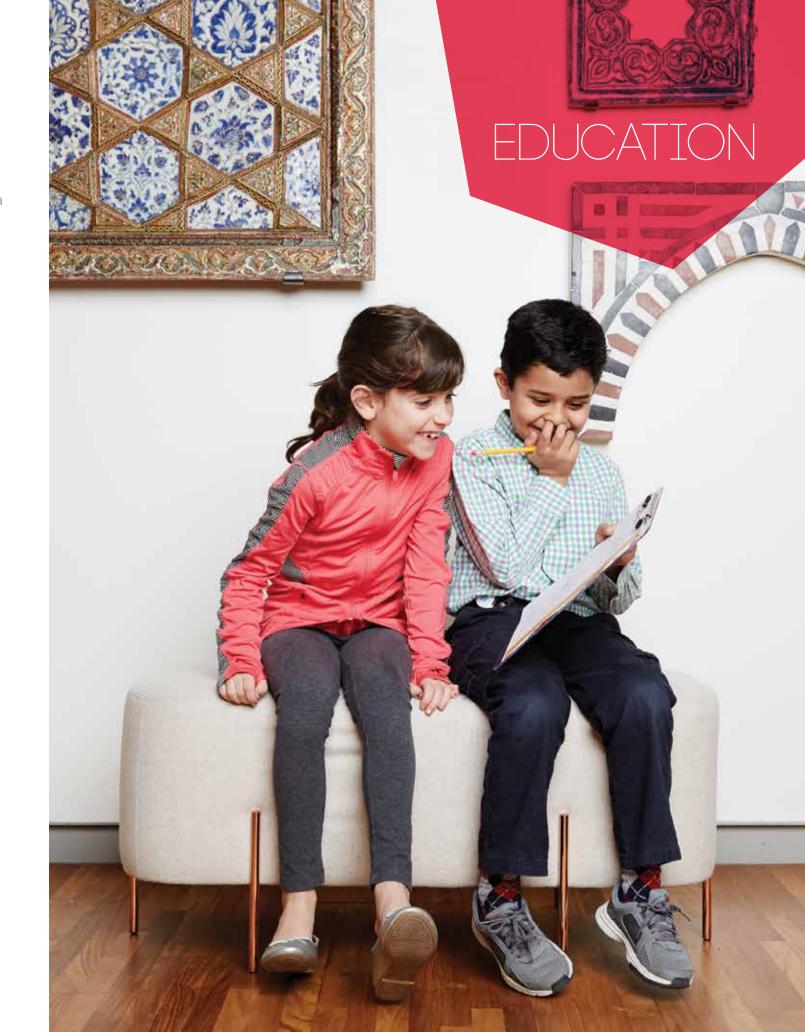
Faith, Culture, and Violence: Fields of Blood

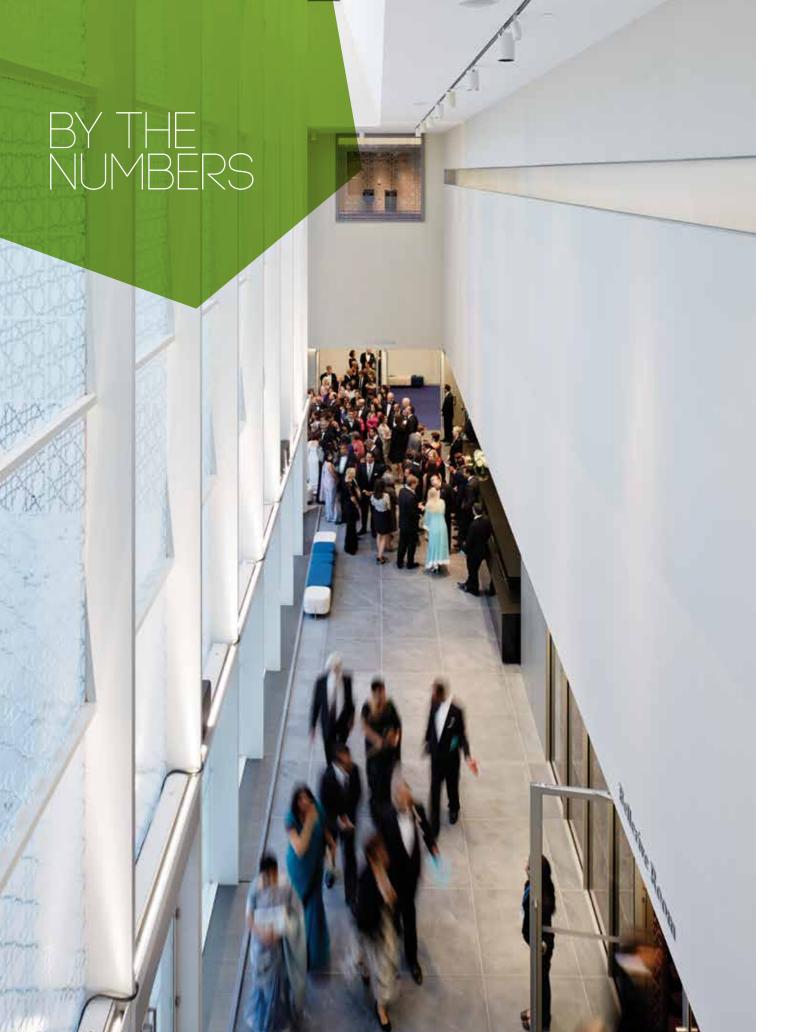
Karen Armstrong (Aga Khan Museum Anniversary Lecture), September 22, 2015

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



Membership in North America

GEORGIA 896 VIRGINIA 41 ALBERTA 509 KANSAS 98 NEW JERSEY 79 MISSOURI 9 RHODE ISLAND 1 ARIZONA 42 & FLORIDA 361 ON NEVADA 4 QUEBEC 108 NORTH CAROLINA 7 VERMONT 1 QUEBEC 108 NORTH CAROLI

Opposite page: The Aga Khan Museum's 350-seat auditorium.



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:

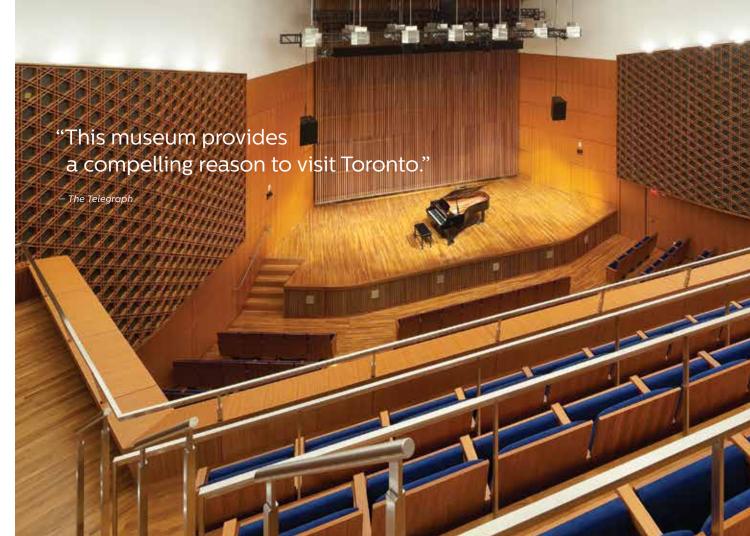
- Close to 1,800 articles across all media: print, radio, television, and online.
- Coverage in 15 languages and in 49 countries, including Egypt, Kenya, Iran, Pakistan, India, the UK, and UAE.
- Notable international mentions: Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, PBS, Newsweek, Huffington Post, Die Welt, Der Spiegel, BBC, the Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, El Mundo, El Pais, Times of India, India Today, Le Figaro, Les Echos, The Express Tribune, Dawn, Daily Nation, The East African, The Citizen.
- 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







Left: Chef Mark McEwan in Diwan.

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.

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.

"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

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.





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The Members of our Director's Circle (\$25,000) offer generous leadership support for the Museum.

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Akber and Shirin Malik

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



KEY SUPPORTERS

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:

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DUCA Financial Services Credit Union Ltd.
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For a more complete listing of Museum supporters to December 2015, please visit our website: agakhanmuseum.org

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Nadir Badruddin and Family

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In Memory of Sadrudin R. Thawer

The Hon. Hilary Weston

Anonymous (6)

Gifts for the Collection

Janmohammed Nagji Jinah Family Anita and Zubair Lakhani

Leila M. Rahim, Zul M. Rahim, and Noor A. Rahim

The Stuart Cary Welch Family

Our volunteers not only help the Museum run smoothly, but also offer an ongoing connection to the world outside its doors. They give feedback from the public's perspective. And when they're at home, work, or in the community, they act as ambassadors, sharing with others their insights into what the Museum has to offer.

VOLUNTEERS

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.



agakhanmuseum.org 77 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1K1 416.646.4677 info@agakhanmuseum.org







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