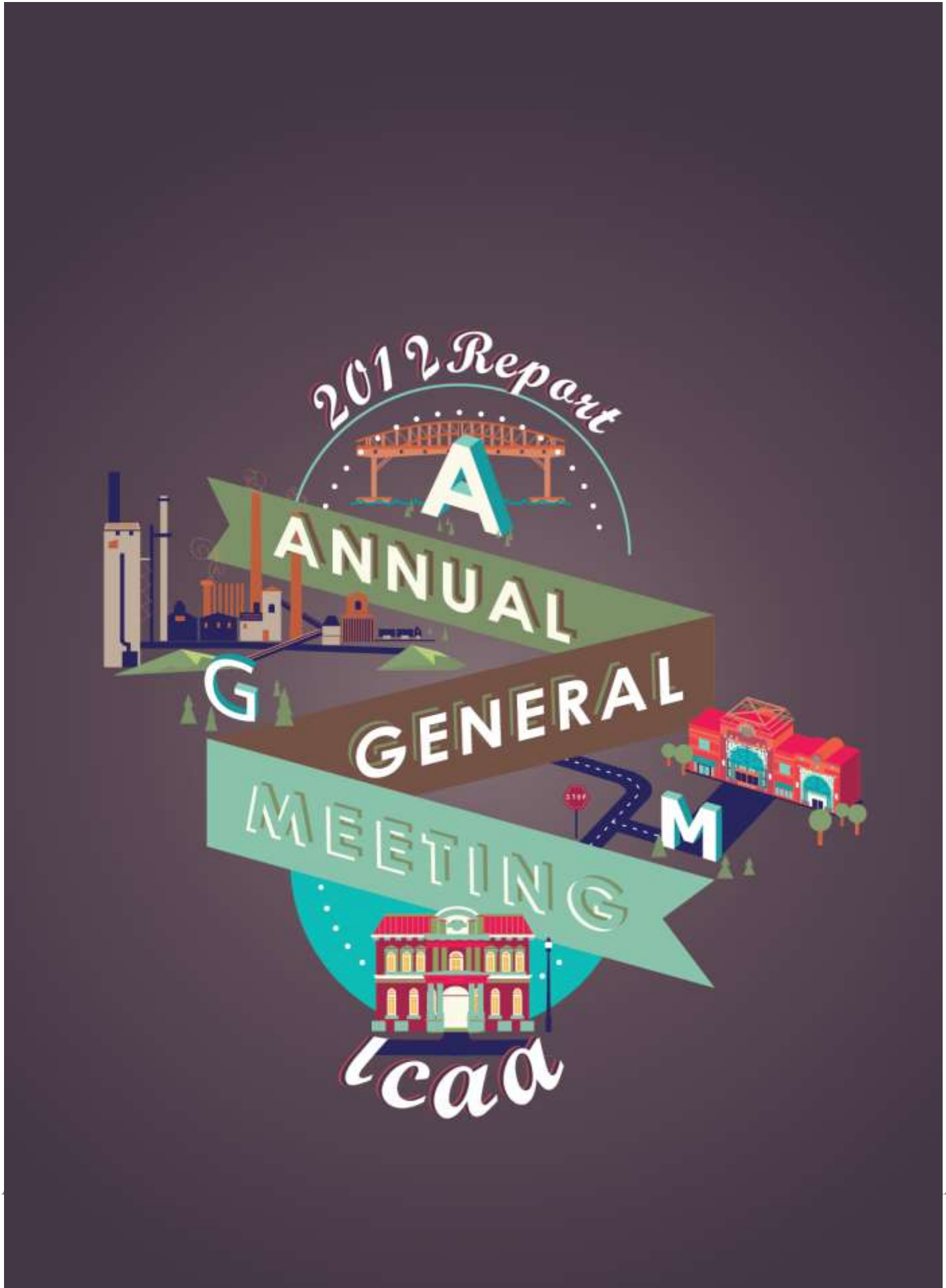


Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)



# Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)

## Organization Profile

### Vision

“The Immigrant Culture and Art Association envisions a Canada that recognizes and values the cultures, arts, and contributions of immigrant artists and cultural workers, their organizations, and communities to the quality of life.”

### Mission Statement

The Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA) is a not for profit organization that provides programs and services **on charitable bases for the purposes of alleviating poverty, advancement of art education and mentorship to the benefit of the newcomer communities.** ICAA introduces and promotes the cultural and artistic expressions, experiences and abilities of immigrants through cross cultural exchange programs to enrich Canadian Multicultural Society

### Organization Mandate

ICAA makes a positive difference in the lives of newcomer and low-income artists in the Hamilton area by:

- Engaging them in activities, workshops and projects
- Facilitating their exhibitions and marketing
- Facilitating community education programs that will promote diversity and multiculturalism to achieve mutual respect, inclusiveness, harmonious relations and participation in the cultural life of the society.

### Objectives

1. To develop and exercise national and immigrant culture, art languages, customs and traditions
2. To serve all communities and newcomers from different ethno-cultural backgrounds
3. To organize and participate in immigrant festivals and celebrations
4. To organize art exhibitions, musical recitals, crafts shows and art markets
5. To help immigrant and low income artists, musicians and cultural workers for their product marketing, job search and professional development
6. To organize fundraising programs and develop a financial base for cultural activities

### Values & Beliefs

At ICAA we believe that:

1. ICAA services are essential and fundamental rights of immigrant and low - income artists and their families.
2. ICAA services shall be client centered and address the cultural needs of the community's demographics.
3. Internal and external anti-racism strategies work towards ensuring accessible and equitable programs and services for all people.
4. All services and activities must be anti-racist, culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate.

# Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)

5. Empowering individuals and capacity building within strengthen our communities and the self – sustainability of residents.
6. ICAA services serve entire newcomer and low-income artist populations including their families.

## **Report from the Chair and Executive Director**

The Immigrant Culture and Art Association, hereafter ICAA, has been providing artistic services to diverse communities of greater Hamilton and the greater province of Ontario for the last ten years. The organization has used contemporary approaches to providing interdisciplinary art opportunities which combine visual, applied and performing arts. Furthermore, the ICAA ensured the active participation of artist professionals from a variety of diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds to lead workshops, seminars and art programs. Through our programs we have demonstrated that newcomers and their artistic skills further enrich local community life. It is also important to note that the ICAA has promoted intercultural exchanges by creating spaces where members of mainstream groups were able to interact and network with artists of diverse backgrounds.

The ICAA has also strengthened its organizational capacity and managed to develop a series of policies, guidelines and Board of Directors retreats in order to better serve the community in a transparent manner.

For the last ten years, the ICAA has been active within the local community and enhanced its partnerships with many service provider organizations, funders and stakeholders. Through working partnerships ICAA is better able to address the variety of newcomer artists and its diverse community needs and service challenges. And in result, over the past one year ICAA has seen a growth in number of artist participation and memberships.

The ICAA is a small yet vibrant organization which has worked hard to stretch its limited resources towards the continuation of another successful year.

The organization has used its scarce resources to provide a large array of programs and services targeting the economic integration of immigrants and low income artists.

The ICAA has not only met its funders' requirement for artist mentorship and art education programs but exceeded it by more than 20 percent. The organization provided continued art instruction and curricula to art school students. Furthermore, the organization provided individual artist mentorship to 40 artists.

The ICAA has organized 10 art exhibitions which included exhibitions dedicated to students' art work in 2011 and 2012.

The ICAA participated in key discussions relating to the future of artistic programs and services for the newcomer population in Hamilton.

The ICAA has organized over 1 musical classical concert in partnership with The Malhar Group. The ICAA has continued providing space for discussions and a group mentoring processes for artists.

The ICAA served more than 1500 participants and audiences through its musical performances, students and artist's art exhibitions.

The ICAA has further strengthened its marketing and advertising initiatives by reaching out to more students, community organizations, agencies, volunteers and associations through web based initiatives.

The ICAA's Art Education Program has recalibrated by recruiting professional art instructors from local colleges. This initiative has strengthened both the art curricula and level of instruction.

# Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)

The ICAA has organized the first Hamilton Art Market which has changed the face of the downtown core. This outdoor Hamilton Art Market has attracted the interest of funders and service providers. More importantly, this initiative has engaged the participation and attention of local residents within the neighbourhood. This initiative has revitalized the downtown area as well as established a micro enterprise for immigrant and low income artists.

The ICAA has provided educational programs in both the summer and fall of 2012.

We at ICAA I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the ICAA Board of Directors who are dedicated members of the team. The Board of Directors take on active roles in setting the direction of the organization as well as sharing their ideas and valuable time. Every board meeting has been a fruitful one which has led to the development of inspirational events and initiatives. Furthermore, the Board of Directors have worked hard to establish new policies and guidelines, inspired staff members as well as strengthened the credibility of the organization among funders.

As the Executive Director of the organization, I would like to thank the ICAA art instructors, volunteers, and staff members for their hard work and dedication. Truly without their passion none of these accomplishments could have been possible.

Marufa Shinwari

Executive Director of ICAA

## **The ICAA's Recent Programs and Projects**

### **Artist Mentorship Program**

The ICAA's Mentorship Program is a one of a kind program which aims to re-involve art professionals into their artistic activities by providing limited in-kind and financial support. The program aims to target immigrant and low income art professionals and assists them in re-establishing and marketing their art enterprises. The program enables newcomer and low income artists to purchase art supplies, obtain cutting edge information about local galleries and facilitate their involvement and integration into local economies. The ICAA has strategically designed the Mentorship Program to tackle issues of poverty, social and professional isolation of immigrant artists. The ICAA's Mentorship Program also introduces the entrance of immigrant artists and their artwork into Canada's multicultural society. While the program has a multifaceted array of objectives, the following briefly describes the program's key components:

- Artist profiling

- Arrangement and provision of tools and art materials

- Design and development of published material such as posters, business cards, and brochures

- Job search, career advancement and referral for artist professionals

- Arrangement information sessions, seminars and networking opportunities

- Art and crafts exhibitions for immigrant artists

This essential program introduces the Canadian public to artistic mediums such as crafts, design, folkloric and classical music, storytelling, poetry, visual arts such as drawing, sketching, pottery, and the performing arts such as dance.

During the reporting year of 2011-2012, the ICAA has mentored more than 15 artists and musicians. Artists and musicians have shared their artistic abilities at the ICAA's art exhibitions and musical events. The ICAA has had the privilege of being a recommending

# Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)

agency for the Exhibition Assistance Program of the Ontario Arts Council grant. In 2011 - 2012 ICAA has recommended eight artists to this grant opportunity which has resulted in securing \$500 to \$1,500 per artist. The artists have also had the opportunity to receive mentorship assistance from the ICAA's Mentorship Program.

While the ICAA's Mentorship Program has an individual focus and is the most successful program, we do experience challenges. The most difficult challenge faced by the organization is the inability to provide this program to all artists in need. Due to limited funds, the organization must limit the number of artists who can obtain in kind support in the form of art tools and materials. As a result, we are burdened with the difficult task of rejecting many sound applications from artists who are in dire need of professional supports.

Many artists are living below the low income cut off and struggle to produce artwork and participate in their artistic expression. The ICAA has stretched its limited resources to provide programs and platforms for low income artists such as the outdoor Hamilton Art Market. While this platform provided a space and opportunity to establish micro enterprise and market their artistic skills, more needs to be done.

## **The 2012 ICAA's Professional Art Education Program**

The ICAA has completed yet another successful year, providing professional art education for two semesters to children and youth of newcomers and low income families. The aim of this program has been to provide art education and instruction from accomplished art professionals. This interdisciplinary program exposes students to drawing, sketching, still life, acrylic painting, watercolours, glass painting, pottery, sculpture, crafts and more. Most importantly, the program subsidizes the costs associated with the courses for low income families and youth. This is the only program of its kind in the greater Hamilton area and provides newcomer and low income youth the opportunity to explore potential career paths within artistic disciplines. The ICAA's Professional Art Education Program employs accomplished artists as instructors. Many are current professors at universities or colleges as well as world renowned artists.

One hundred and forty students attended the ICAA's Professional Art Education Program. Students who successfully completed their assignments have received certificates and are able to return to upgrade their skills with new and advanced art curricula. The majority of children and youth participants come from low income families and access the program through subsidies. It is important to note that many of ICAA's graduates are now art majors at Sheridan College and Mohawk College.

## **Highlighted Projects of 2012**

- ❖ **Exhibition Assistance** – The ICAA has provided newcomer and low income artists with an opportunity to secure financial support to cover exhibition expenses and art materials. The ICAA has been a lead organization in attracting artists, conducting the screening process and recommending artists for the Ontario Arts Council for financial support.
- ❖ **Community Artist Sponsorship** – The ICAA has sponsored the celebrations of distinct ethno-cultural communities of Hamilton. Our organization has provided financial contributions to promote the customs, traditions and specifically musical endeavours of diverse communities. As a result, newcomer artists and musicians have been compensated financially for partaking in celebrations and events.

# Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)

- ❖ **Immigrant Artists Mentorship Program** – The ICAA has mentored over 20 artists, musicians, sculptors, writers and singers over the past year. The Mentorship Program enables immigrant and low income artists to increase their professional capacities in entering the art market. The ICAA provides art supplies, tools, advice, networking tools, advertisement and publicity to artists from different cultures and backgrounds. This is a very unique art program in Hamilton and Ontario which supports art professionals who have been experiencing challenges in establishing themselves. The Mentorship Program has attracted a number of artists from other cities and communities to Hamilton. However, the ICAA has the strenuous task of selecting artists and limiting supports due to funding constraints.
- ❖ **Diverse Hamilton.ca** – This web based platform was designed to reflect and portray the artistic diversity of ethno-cultural communities, as well as their artistic traditions and customs within Hamilton. The project has been used to empower newcomer communities and serves as a colourful tool to attract research, business and other artists to Hamilton. The ICAA is currently working to secure funds to upgrade and revitalize this platform to make it more user friendly. The ICAA appreciates the support of the Canadian Heritage organization for funding this important project. The website was launched successfully and will continue to be refined.
- ❖ **Musical Series** – The ICAA has participated in, sponsored and hosted numerous musical performances, recitals and concerts in Hamilton.

## ICAA Staff and Volunteers

### ICAA Staff members

Marufa Shinwari	Executive Director and Art teacher
Fazleena Nizam	Pottery and sculpting instructor
Miranda Sivilay	Art Instructor
Arshad Hussian	Accountants / Book keeper
Diana Gresku	Art Instructor
Neeraj Prem	Art Instructor
Andrew Ostapenko	Art Instructor
Lamyaa Al Qadhi	Hamilton Art Market Coordinator / Art Instructor

### ICAA Volunteers

The Immigrant Culture and Art Association would like to thank the ICAA volunteers who participated in most, if not all, activities and provided valuable support to ICAA programs. The volunteers assisted with the both the management and facilitation of events. The ICAA's volunteers became organization friends while sharing the values and objectives of the ICAA. This year, our volunteers included art school student's parents, high school students, interns from Mohawk College and Sheridan College as well as local artists. We aimed to create an environment where our students, their friends, parents and grandparents were active participants in the city's cultural and artistic life. We have witnessed the participation of hundreds of parents and relatives in the ICAA's exhibitions and concerts. A warm and sincere thanks goes out to all volunteers. We appreciate your support and hope that you will continue your participation.

Andrew Ostapenko	Abdullah Taraky
Fay Gao	Faraan Majeed

# Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)

Omar Khan	Justin Sivily
Hila Taraky	Fazleena Nizam
Kemah Sackie	Winston Sivily
Margarida Alves	Shabbier Khan
Maaz Mahmood	Yar Taraky
Tahmina Taraky	Salima Mahmood
Kojo Dampsey	Joshawa D. Williams
Mophelia Dor Way	Miranda Sivily
Nawal-Nura	Niraj Prem
Anupam Bagchi	Lamyaa Al Qadhi

## **ICAA Partners and Supporters**

### **2012 ICAA Supported and Participated in:**

- West Mount High School Youth Conference
- South Asian Heritage month concerts and shows
- Art of August 2012
- Art of August juried art exhibition for youth
- Volunteer Week celebrations with ICAA volunteers
- City of Hamilton Arts Award preparation and participation
- City Hamilton Art computation among High Schools Students
- OCASI ED Conference
- Hamilton Art Crawl

### **2011 ICAA Collaborated with the Following Community Organizations and Partners:**

- A B Best Digital
- Afghan Canadian Women Society
- African Canadian Network of Hamilton
- Art Connection.ca
- Mataba.org
- Arts Hamilton
- City of Hamilton
- Dragonfly Designs
- Hamilton Art Council
- Hamilton Catholic District School Board
- Hamilton Public District School Board
- Hamilton Printmakers Association
- Hamilton Translation Interpretation
- Hindu Samaj Temple
- Good Shepherd Centres
- James North Galleries
- India Canada Society of Hamilton
- Living Rock Ministries
- McMaster University
- Mohawk College
- Ontario Public Research Interest Group (OPIRG) McMaster University

# Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA)

South Asian Heritage Association of Hamilton and Region  
South Sudanese Association  
St. Joseph Immigrant Women Centre  
Tiger Group Studio Gallery  
The Chadian Association of Hamilton  
The Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC)  
The Malhar Group  
Workers Art and Heritage Centre (WHAC)  
YWCA Hamilton  
YMCA Hamilton