



Years of Culture Partners with Qatar Foundation and TED for first-ever TEDinArabic Summit

Years of Culture to lead Discovery Session Workshops during the TEDinArabic Summit in Doha

Doha, March 14, 2023 – Qatar Museums' Years of Culture initiative, an annual bilateral cultural exchange program initiated by Her Excellency Qatar Museums Chairperson Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani in 2012, will collaborate with the TEDinArabic Summit in Doha, organized through a partnership between Qatar Foundation and TED, as part of its ongoing mission to nurture the bonds that were established during previous Years of Culture.

Years of Culture events seek to deepen understanding between Qatar and partner countries and sustain long-term engagement through creative interactions like the initiative's two Discovery Workshops taking place at the first-ever TEDinArabic Summit, which takes place from March 18-19 at Qatar National Convention Centre.

The workshops will be led by a renowned local illustrator, Jowhara, and will focus on watercolor journaling inspired by the recently published "*Travel Book of Culture*" by French artist Lapin. Combining the spirit of exploration and adventure profiled in the "*Travel Book of Culture*" with a community-focused workshop is just the type of rich experience that can be borne out of dialogue between different cultures.

Aisha Ghanem Al Attiya, Director of Cultural Diplomacy for Qatar Museums, emphasized the importance of this collaboration, "The Discovery Sessions will be a solid testament to our legacies of cross-cultural connections established during Qatar-France 2020 and Qatar-MENASA 2022 Years of Culture."

TEDinArabic is an initiative by TED and Qatar Foundation, providing a global platform for thinkers, researchers, artists, and change-makers across the Arab world to share ideas in the Arabic language. Its first summit will be held in Doha and will focus on the theme of "*The Butterfly Effect*", emphasizing the interconnectedness of the world and the impact of small occurrences on the larger system we operate within.

The Years of Culture workshops will be conducted in Arabic and will be open to the public with prior registration. The workshops are scheduled to take place on March 18. To register to attend the TEDinArabic Summit, visit <https://tedinarabic.ted.com/en/summit2023>

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About Years of Culture

Culture is one of the most effective tools to bring people closer together, encourage dialogue, and deepen understanding between nations.

Under the leadership of its Chairperson Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar Museums (QM) developed the annual "Years of Culture" initiative —

an international cultural exchange that deepens understanding between nations and their people. Though formal programming lasts only one year, the ties of friendship that are strengthened and formed are long-lasting.

Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture has been developed in collaboration with leading organizations in Qatar, including Doha Film Institute, Education Above All, Katara Cultural Village, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar Charity, Qatar Cycling Federation, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Museums, Qatar National Library, Qatar Tourism, with assistance from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Qatar and the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Indonesia.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, and Qatar-USA 2021. In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the 2022 Year of Culture celebrated the entire Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region as Qatar welcomed the world for the Arab region's first FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

About Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums (QM), the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, provides authentic and inspiring cultural experiences through a growing network of museums, heritage sites, festivals, public art installations, and programmes. QM preserves, restores, and expands the nation's cultural offerings and historical sites, sharing art and culture from Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) region with the world and enriching the lives of citizens, residents, and visitors.

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM has made Qatar a vibrant centre for the arts, culture, and education in the Middle East and beyond. QM is integral to the goal of developing an innovative, diverse, and progressive nation, bringing people together to ignite new thinking, spark critical cultural conversations, educate and encourage environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the Museum of Islamic Art and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar, QM Gallery Al Riwaq, QM Gallery Katara and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum. Future museums include Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, Qatar Auto Museum, Art Mill Museum and the Lusail Museum.

Through its newly created Creative Hub, QM also initiates and supports projects—such as the Fire Station Artist in Residence, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival, the creative hub for innovation, fashion and design M7, and Liwan Design Studios and Labs —that nurture artistic talent and create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure.

Animating everything that Qatar Museums does is an authentic connection to Qatar and its heritage, a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, and a belief in creating value through invention.

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