



Sumaya Teli

Sumaya Teli is a British Kashmiri woman living in the US. She is a mother, writer, blogger who uses different mediums including photography, poetry and storytelling to show her creative perspective on growing up as a child of the Kashmiri diaspora and on raising children conscientious of their identity. Some of her work focuses on the significance of traditional Kashmiri clothing in a political and contemporary context. Sumaya has presented her work at, among other platforms, the Hirshhorn Museum in DC and the UN HQ in NYC. She also co-founded Mamanushka.com, an award winning lifestyle

blog which sits at the intersections of faith, motherhood and lived experiences. Sumaya believes that motherhood is an act of resistance and every mother is an activist that has the power to bring about social change through the very act of mothering.



Awestaa Zia

Awestaa Zia is a feminist, long distance runner, writer, and speaker. Born and raised by Afghan immigrants in Queens, she serves her community as a youth program leader with Women for Afghan Women. She is a sophomore at the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, studying economics and urban studies. Awestaa is passionate about creating new physical spaces for inclusive recreation and looks forward to a career in urban planning. You can reach out to her at awestaazia@gmail.com

Upcoming at Avenue C Plaza and Beyond!

Ramadan and Eid Fresh Produce Distribution

Thursday, April 28, 3:30-4:30pm, People in Need, 944 Newkirk Ave.
Free and open to all.

Celebrate el Día de Los Niños y Día de las Madres

Saturday, May 7th, 1:00 - 3:00pm at Avenue C Plaza

Casa Cultural with co-sponsors NOCD-NY and The Singing Winds

There will be performances, children's artwork exhibits, and a serenade for mothers with Mariachis. There will be art kits for children, and small bouquets for moms will be given out.

Free Mammograms for women 40 years and older

Monday, May 16, 9:00am - 4:00pm, Loctus Medical, 518 MacDonald Ave, to schedule call 347-738-1758
A collaborative effort of Fidelis Care, Dr Lotus Ahmed, & Women of Bangladeshi Heritage

ArtBuilt Mobile Studio

ArtBuilt Mobile Studio returns to Avenue C Plaza!

Join us and our partners every weekend in June 2022 for free programming, arts and crafts workshops, performances, games and more!

Solstice at the Ave C Plaza

Thursday, June 21, 5:00 - 8:00pm

Music on the Ave C Plaza sponsored by The Kensington Stewards as part of Make Music NY

ARTS & DEMOCRACY

presents

Community Iftar 2022

Monday, April 25

Avenue C Plaza, Kensington

7:00pm - Welcome

Hasiba Haq, Arts & Democracy
Remarks from Councilmember Shahana Hanif
and Comptroller Brad Lander

7:30pm - Dinner is Served

Meet your neighbors!

8:15pm - Muslim-American Artists share their work

Anam Raheem, Radhia Rahman, Sumaya Teli, and Awestaa Zia

The community iftar is presented by Arts & Democracy and co-sponsored by ArtBuilt, Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY (NOCD-NY), and City Councilmember Shahana Hanif. It is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council. This event is also made possible with funds from the Howard Gilman Foundation, administered by Brooklyn Arts Council, and the New York City Department of Transportation.

ARTBUILT—



NYC Cultural Affairs

Tonight's Dinner

All food served is Halal. It is provided by:

Jalsa Grill and Gravy, 786 Coney Island Ave

The first Islamic Republic in the world, Pakistan has the second largest Muslim population in the world. Today, its population has a diverse array of Muslims including Shiites, Ismaili, and Ahmediya. Jalsa's food celebrates the diversity of the subcontinent. We have a variety of pakoras, grilled meats, and creamy kheer.

Radhuni, 483 McDonald Ave

A small country nestled to the east of India, Bangladesh is known for its lush greenery, expansive waterways and the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world. Almost 90% of Bangladesh's population is Muslim and they're known for their love of the arts and music. Tonight we're serving Jalebi—a sweet, syrupy dessert.

Taj Kebab, 414 Ditmas Ave

Located in Central Asia and a former member of the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan is a cross-road of culture—which isn't a surprise given that the Silk Road, an ancient trade route connecting East and West, ran through here. Uzbekistan has stunning designs of Islamic art and 79% of its population is Muslim. Tonight we're serving manti, a juicy lamb dumpling!

Arts & Democracy

Arts & Democracy cross pollinates culture, participatory democracy, and social justice. We support cultural organizing and cross-sector collaborations; raise the visibility of transformative work; connect cultural practitioners with activists, organizers, and policy makers; and create spaces for reflection. Arts & Democracy hosts the annual Cultural Organizing for Community Change learning exchange in Brooklyn, incorporates artmaking in participatory budgeting, and works with Bangladeshi youth and women and others in Kensington to create cultural programming that furthers civic engagement.

Twitter: [artanddemocracy](#) | **Instagram:** [artsanddemocracy](#) | **Facebook:** [ArtsandDemocracy](#)

ArtBuilt

ArtBuilt provides affordable space opportunities, public arts programming and asset-building resources for artists, artisans and neighborhoods in NYC and beyond. ArtBuilt Mobile Studio has called Avenue C Plaza home for the month of June for over 6 years. <https://artbuilt.org>

Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY (NOCD-NY)

NOCD-NY is a citywide alliance of community networks and leaders that have joined together to revitalize New York City from the neighborhood up, using the power of arts and culture. Our creative vision and asset-based approach recognizes the essential role that arts and culture play in our communities. <https://www.nocdny.org>

Organizing team: Emily Ahn Levy, Caron Atlas, Hasiba Haq.
Program Design: Tom Oesau

Thanks to: Abdullah Al-Riyan, Nasiba Tayeba, Julia Hillman Craig, Congregation Kolot Chayeinu and Iftar volunteers Sheila Block, Gregory Cohen, Kim Diehl, Michael Loeb, Amy Plattsmier, and Laura Rebnik.

MCS



Hasiba Haq

Hasiba Haq is a Brooklyn born and raised producer, cultural organizer, and storyteller. Hasiba works at the intersection of arts and social justice and currently directs Arts & Democracy's Bangladeshi Community Program in Kensington, Brooklyn, where she collaborates with community members to cultivate arts + culture programming for immigrant youth and women. During the day, she is a content producer at TED, spreading big ideas through her editorial work in video and beyond. Hasiba is a Muslim-American and daughter of Bangladeshi immigrants and deeply invested in reshaping narratives around Muslims and BIPOC communities. She is a graduate of Fordham University with a BA in Middle East Studies. Write to her at haq.hasiba@gmail.com | **Instagram:** [hasibahaq](#)



Roohi Choudhry

Roohi Choudhry was born in Pakistan and grew up in southern Africa and southwest Asia. As a creative writer who worked for a decade in social science research, she is passionate about helping people use analytical systems in concert with imagination and intuition. Awarded a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship in fiction, her writing has appeared in Ploughshares, Callaloo, Longreads and the Kenyon Review, among others. She holds an MFA in fiction from the University of Michigan and teaches fiction and memoir in New York City as well as online. Find out more at brooklynstani.com

Muslim-American Artists



Anam Raheem

Anam Raheem is a writer and social justice activist. Most recently, she was based in Gaza, Palestine, where she founded Palestine's first immersive coding school. While in Palestine, Anam leaned on journaling, creative writing, and photography to document and bear witness to life under occupation. Anam is an emerging creative writer whose short story "Tessellation" was shortlisted for the 2021 Wasifiri Emerging Writers Prize. She is a New Jersey native and the youngest daughter of Pakistani immigrants. Subscribe to her newsletter: anamraheem.substack.com



Radhia Rahman

Radhia Rahman is a first generation Queer Bengali-American illustrator born and raised in Queens, NYC. She received her BFA in Illustration at the School of Visual Arts in 2020. Her work is influenced by the dualities of her culture as a Bengali woman intertwined with the pockets of culture that exist in New York City. Her goal is to make magic, break boundaries, and make room for more Queer Desi voices with her unique perspective. Radhia began sharing her illustration journey across social media with an active following and supportive community. She is also the owner of an eco-friendly small business consisting of her printed matter. radhiarahman.com | **Instagram:** [@knivesmeow](#)

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