





ONE of the main goals of ILLUMINATIONS as the first National Cultural Program under the Culture and Arts Portfolio (CAP 2000+) is to illustrate what it means to be an Ismaili in the 21st century.

This goal is integral to the mission of CAP 2000+, which is to work with our community leaders, institutions and the Jamat to help create a new Ismaili cultural identity that helps achieve Mawlana Hazar Imam's vision of the Jamat of the future.

Ismailis originate from many diverse geographic, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds and represent several distinct cultures. Each of these cultures has its own heritage that imprints itself upon every individual within it. Ismailis share a unity in their faith even though their backgrounds are as diverse as the pieces of a quilt. This cultural program strives to foster a sense of harmony within this diversity.

The difficulty that we face in today's shrinking world is to redefine our culture to accommodate our several different heritages, so that we become more familiar with them in order to continue as a united multicultural community.

It is important to develop a new understanding of Culture and the Arts among Ismailis because we no longer live on isolated islands, as our parents and grandparents did, living their lives according to the same cultural traditions as their ancestors. By virtue of living in the United States as their country, we have come into contact with many different cultures. It is imperative that we remain a united and cohesive Ismaili community.

We have begun a process of integrating the Jamat that cannot be reversed. The challenge is to be inclusive and to be aware of our different traditions while shaping the new panels that we will add to the global Ismaili quilt.

**Hanan Taljeh-Popp,
Member, Culture and Arts Portfolio,
Council for the USA**

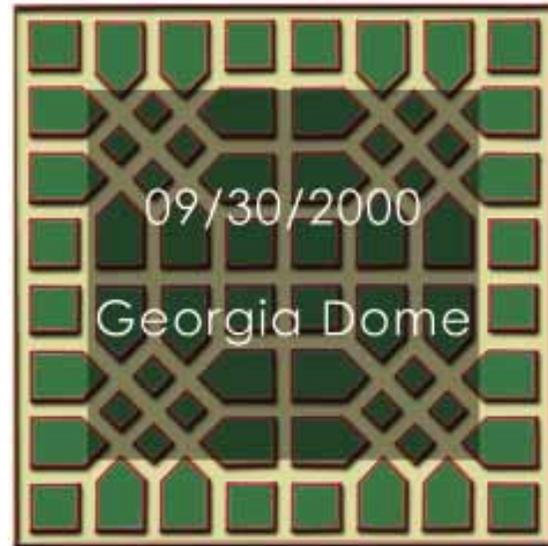
WELCOME to Atlanta, the Olympic city, the city we call home. The city of Atlanta is clearly on its way to becoming an international city with multicultural diversity. It is the hub of the South and home to many Fortune 500 companies as well as award-winning teams such as the Braves, the Falcons, the Hawks and now the Thrashers.

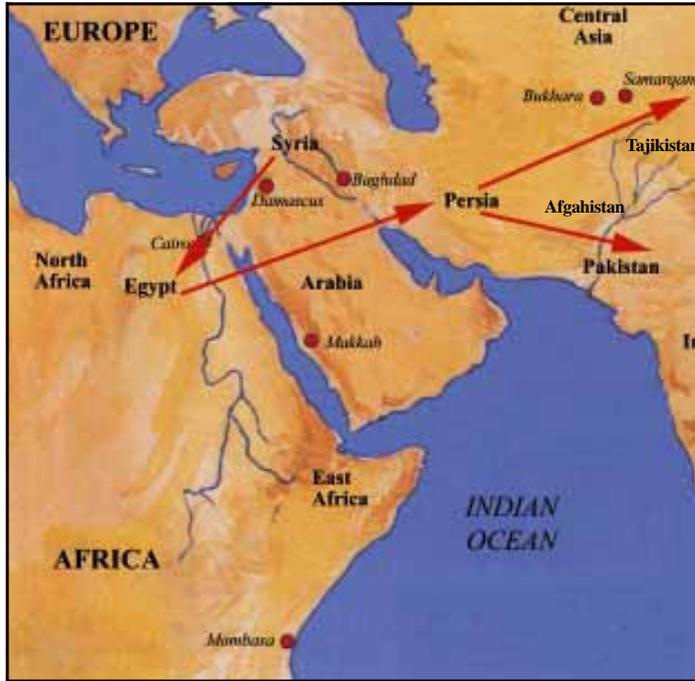
It is a great pleasure and an honor for all our Councils and institutions to collectively host our first ever program under the aegis of the National Culture and Arts Portfolio. This program is indeed a true representation of our Jamats in the United States that reflects our international diversity. In coming to the United States, we brought with us our rich culture, heritage and values of which we should be very proud. The time has come for us to understand this multiplicity of cultures, arts and the heritage of our brethren from different parts of the world so that we may appreciate each other better and in doing so, come closer together in unity. We have become a reflection of the "melting pot" of this great nation of ours that has so graciously received us.

What started as a modest endeavor has snowballed into a challenging but exciting national effort. In short, this program has taken on its own destiny. We want to thank all Jamati members, particularly the youth of our Jamats, for taking on the challenge and putting this program together. We feel grateful for the opportunity afforded to us to serve the Jamats from all over the United States and the visitors from different parts of the world. If we can make your visit more comfortable please allow us the opportunity to do so. We pray for the success of this program.

With Ya All Madad,

**Abdul Rehman Ahmed, MD
President,
Council for Southeast USA**





<u>NAME</u>	<u>REGION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REGION</u>
Rahim Visram	SW	Sheetal Khoja	SW
Rehana Ali	MW	Shehzad Ghaziani	SE
Rishad Rajabali	MW	Sherezad Charania	SE
Rizwan Ladha	SE	Shehroz Momin	W
Rozina Gilani	SE	Shireen Khimani	NE
Rozmin Tejani	NT	Shirin Gheewala	MW
Sabilah Eboo	SE	Shirin Haji	SE
Safiya Jetha	SE	Sofiya Hyder	NT
Saleema Dosani	SE	Suleman Hemani	FL
Salima Barday	SE	Sumehra Premji	SE
Salima Kara	FL	Sunita Virani	NT
Salima Lakhani	FL	Susan Jaffer	MW
Sana Patel	SE	Swaleha Lalani	SE
Seema Lakhani	NT	Taj Qavi	MW
Seema Mithani	MW	Tania Chitalwalla	W
Seeno Merobshoev	NE	Tasneem Nanji	NE
Shabana Panjwani	SE	Wahib Merchant	MW
Shafeen Allahbachayo	W	Waseem Bhimani	MW
Shahnawaz Meghani	SE	Zaheer Tajani	NT
Shama Hyder	NT	Zahir Patel	SE
Shamim Patel	W	Zahra Pirani	SE
Shams A. Soomar	NT	Zahra Virani	NE
Shamsha Bhayani	MW	Zarphleen Jinnah	SE
Shazin Amarsi	SE	Zahid Lalani	SW
Sheerin Alibhai	SW	Zeeshan Meghani	SE

(FL-Florida, MW-Midwest, NE-Northeast, NT-Northern Texas, SE-Southeast, SW-Southwest & W-West)

The Culture and Arts Portfolio would like to recognize all volunteers for their hard work and dedication in making this event a reality.

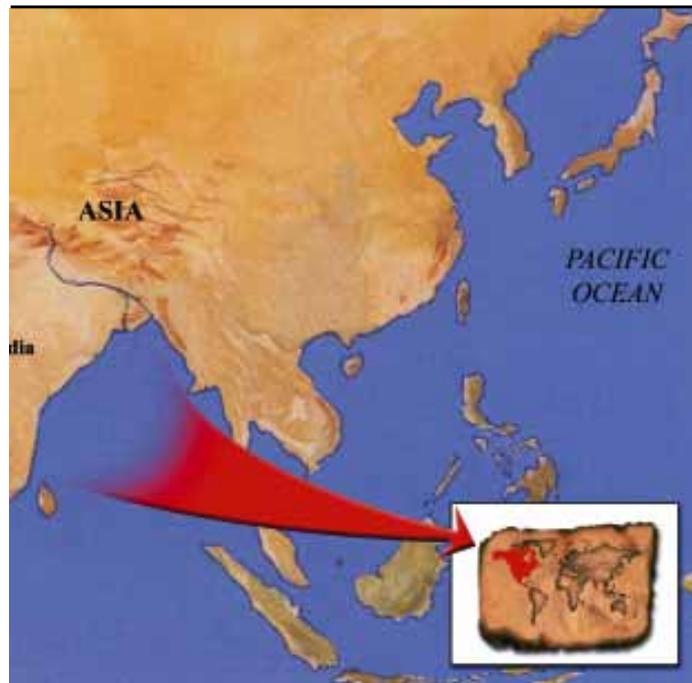


**NAME****REGION**

Aamir Sattani *SW*
 Afshin Kamaluddin *SW*
 Ahmed Ali *NE*
 Alina Adatia *NT*
 Alnoor Somji *FL*
 Amjad Virani *MW*
 Ameen Panjwani *NE*
 Ameenah Lakhani *MW*
 Anees Mawani *SE*
 Arifa Keshwani *NE*
 Asif Heerji *NT*
 Asif Kassam *SE*
 Asif Rupani *SE*
 Ayaz Allaudin *SW*
 Aziz Mohammed *SW*
 Daler Nazarov *NE*
 Danish Ali *NT*
 Faiza Muhammedi *SE*
 Farah Ladha *SE*
 Farhaan Sayani *SE*
 Faris A. Meghani *NT*
 Fatima Abji *SE*
 Fayaz Mawani *FL*
 Fez A. Meghani *NT*
 Gulzar Ajani *SE*
 Haleema Welji *SE*
 Hamid Hirani *FL*
 Hanan Popp *NE*
 Hussain Rajwani *SE*
 Irfana Jetha *SE*

NAME**REGION**

Jami Makan *W*
 Jenny Samji *FL*
 Kamal Taj *MW*
 Kareeshma Ali *MW*
 Karim Budhwani *NT*
 Karim Poonja *MW*
 Karima Kholsawalla *SW*
 Khalil Jetha *SE*
 Kiran Charania *NT*
 Kiran Ebrahim *W*
 Kiran Soomar *W*
 Laila Aziz *SE*
 Mahjbeen Hudda *FL*
 Mahmud Kafa *SYRIA*
 Malik Karimi *SE*
 Nabila Nanji *NT*
 Nadia Mawani *SE*
 Nadia Samji *FL*
 Nareen Punjani *SE*
 Naureen Virani *NE*
 Nazia Momin *SW*
 Nizar Nanjee *SE*
 Nizar Virani *NE*
 Nooruddin Gheewala *MW*
 Qurratulain Gillani *SE*
 Rabia Budhwani *SE*
 Rafiq Remtula *MW*
 Rahim Poonja *MW*
 Rahim Rajwani *SE*
 Rahim Virani *NE*



The pre-show culture and arts activities were a series of educational programs, workshops and seminars designed to enhance the Jamaat's knowledge and consciousness of Islamic culture and art.

- ◆ Art Exhibition
- The Talent Within Us
- ◆ Quilt-Making workshop



- ◆ Tasbeeh Making workshop
- ◆ Batik workshop

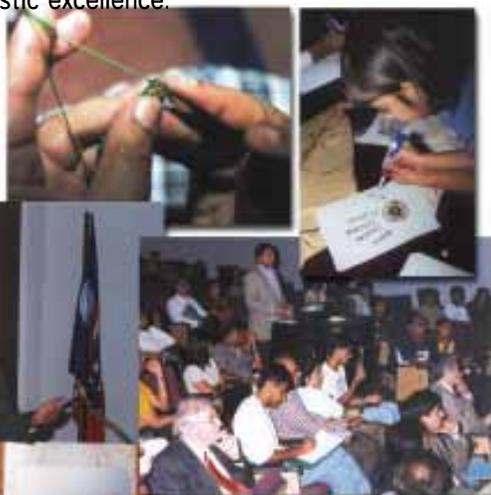


Regional Pictures



It was also an essential step in preparing the jamat for the cultural performance show, by educating the Jamat on the importance of our artistic heritage and by engaging the jamat as partners in the Culture and Arts Portfolio's quest for artistic excellence.

- ✦ Mehndi workshop
- ✦ Crocheting workshop



✦ Seminar on Cultural Preservation through Islamic Art & Architecture





“ - - Indeed one strength of Islam has always lain in its belief that creation is not static but continuous, that through scientific and other endeavors, God has opened and continues to open new windows for us to see the marvels of His creation.”

His Highness The Aga Khan
Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan
March 16, 1983



Fusion - Coming Together as an American Jamat

Act III seeks to appreciate the artistic talent in the existing USA Jamat whose inspiration lies in their cultural heritage.

EXPRESSIONS

A medley of accomplished artists will share their talent in the performing arts. Many different modes of expression will be displayed including piano, violin, voice, rap, dance and storytelling to name just a few.
Presented by various artists from all regions

THE NEW BEGINNINGS

The Atlanta Ensemble will present a newly commissioned piece. The music incorporates Aaron Copeland's theme in "Rodeo". An American original by Dave Matthews, "Ants Go Marching" will also be performed.

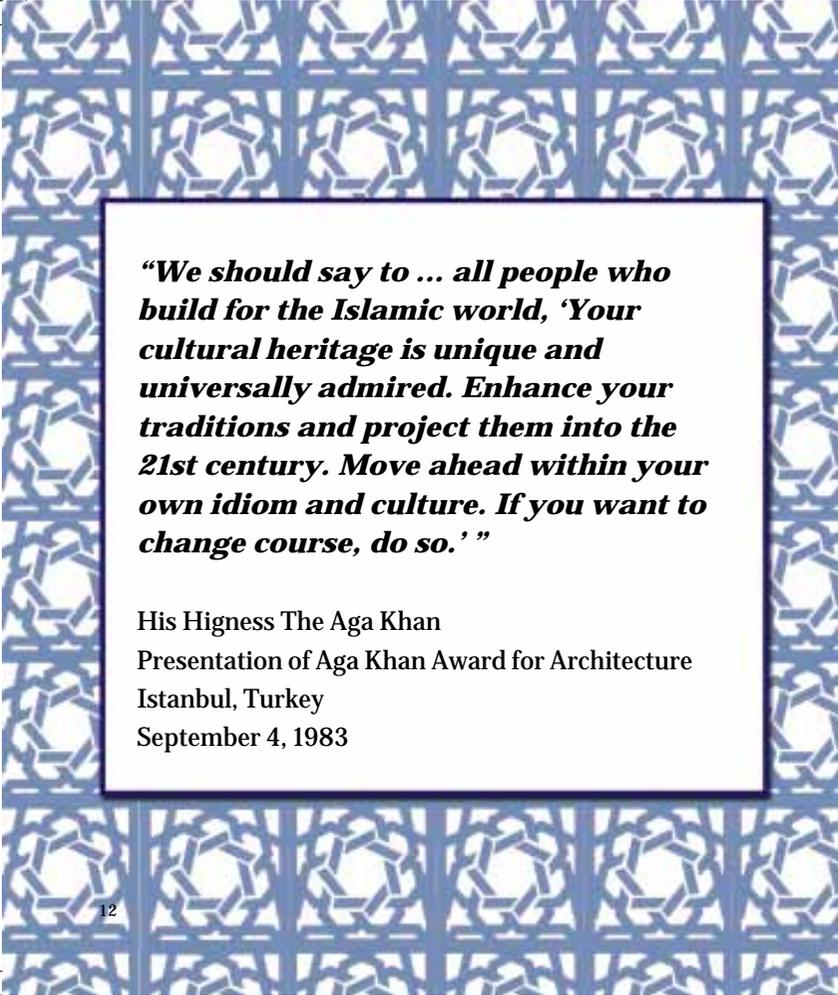
Presented by Southeast region

"WE ARE ONE"

A song expressing the spirit of the Ismaili Jamat as it comes together as one entity.

Presented by all regions

Act Three



“We should say to ... all people who build for the Islamic world, ‘Your cultural heritage is unique and universally admired. Enhance your traditions and project them into the 21st century. Move ahead within your own idiom and culture. If you want to change course, do so.’ ”

His Highness The Aga Khan
Presentation of Aga Khan Award for Architecture
Istanbul, Turkey
September 4, 1983



Unity within Diversity

Act 1 takes you through a journey of cosmos – mirroring “Unity”. It shows that man is the Ashraful Makhluqat who worships God as an act of love and devotion.

CREATION

This piece takes you through a journey of the vastness and the mysteries of Allah’s creation, which are signs pointing towards the creator. A shadow dance represents the formation of the earth.

Presented by the Southwest region

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

This piece will show through movement the shared existence in nature of all living things and their interdependence. It culminates with the depiction of man as Ashraful Makhluqat, or crown of creation.

Presented by the Southeast region

A MOSAIC OF OUR SHARED HERITAGES

Through dance and music from different cultures and traditions, this piece showcases, in one large array, the diverse cultural background of the Ismaili Jamat as it is represented in the United States.

Presented by all regions

Northern Texas presenting East African culture

Northeast presenting Syrian culture

Southwest presenting Iranian culture

Northeast presenting Tajiki culture

Western presenting Afghani culture

Florida presenting Northern Pakistani culture

Mid-West presenting Indo-Pak Subcontinent culture

Southeast representing United States

Act One



Exploring Our Heritage

"Let me start with simply commenting on the nature of the Islamic faith. It is a faith which affects the individual in society in his everyday life, in his material life, in his family life, in his intellectual life, not only in the life of his soul and the life that he experiences in prayer. Therefore the history of the Islamic world has been the history of a totality of civilization of human life. Not simply the spiritual. And the result of that has been the development of cultures. And I refer to cultures because clearly Islam absorbed a number of cultures. ... Islam expresses itself in many, many different ways ... this Ismaili community in itself is pluralistic...I'm not against a culture which is a powerful culture. I am, however, worried that others will feel that they have to follow that culture because otherwise they're not part of the new world, or the wealthy world, or the creative world, or that sort of thing.."

His Highness The Aga Khan
Earth Times News Service

Act II explores the rich diversity of the living traditions of the USA Ismaili Muslim Jamat. It seeks to demonstrate that the diversity is a source of strength that reflects the universality of our tradition.

THE FATIMID HORIZON

A play portraying the journey of two child prodigies into the Fatimid era by way of time travel. In this period they are witnesses to the glories of the Fatimid Empire and bring their learnings back to their present.
Presented by Northern Texas region

RASHID AL-DIN SINAN

Rashid al-Din Sinan is a prominent figure in Nizari Ismaili history. He studied in Alamut and subsequently, assumed leadership of the Syrian Da'wa.
Presented by Northeast region

"ID-E SHOMA MOBARAK"

An insight into how the ancient Persians celebrated Navruz as an arrival of new beginnings and hope.
Presented by Southwest region

"SABZA BA NOZ"

During a long week with his sheep at pasture in the Pamir mountains, a farmer arises with the first rays of the sun. His friends join him in this modern reworking of a popular traditional folkloric Tajiki tune "Sabza Ba Noz". While the girls perform a Pamiri dance, the boys sing to the girls and metaphorically compare their beauty to that of Pamir's nature.
Presented by Northeast region

"EYE OF INTELLECT" A journey through Afghanistan

Music, poetry and dance come alive as we travel through Afghanistan. The life and poetry of the prominent dai Nasir Khusraw make this journey a memorable one.
Presented by Western region

"A LIFELONG JOURNEY"

The most significant events in the arrangement and procession of a traditional Chittrali wedding are presented. After the nuptial ceremonies are complete, the scene culminates with a celebratory dance.
Presented by Florida region

DANDIYA RAAS

The Raas and Garba folk dance is explored as it has historically developed as an integral part of festivals and celebrations within the Southeast Asian Ismaili community.
Presented by Mid-West region

Act Two



National Culture and Arts Portfolio
Council for USA

