



Arab American National Museum

Building Community
Through the Arts



The Arab American National Museum (AANM) is the only cultural institution in the United States to document, preserve and present the history, culture and contributions of Arab Americans. Located in Dearborn, Michigan, amid the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the nation, AANM is a source of pride for Arab Americans and a resource for all Americans seeking accurate information and insight. Ethno-specific but not ethno-centric, the Museum promotes respect and appreciation of all ethnicities and cultures by shedding light on the shared experiences of immigrant groups and promoting the value of a diverse population. Established in 2005, AANM is a program of ACCESS, the largest Arab American human services agency in the U.S.A. *The Museum has earned a strong reputation as a successful community-supported national institution despite the challenges of the post-9/11 world and a faltering U.S. economy in the mid-2000s.*

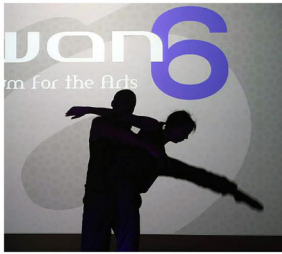
The AANM has become a trusted “go-to” resource for interested individuals, elected officials, government entities, students, educators and media representatives seeking factual information about Arab Americans. Its institutional excellence is underscored by AANM’s status as an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the only Affiliate in southeast Michigan and among only about 200 nationwide. AANM has earned an endorsement from its industry in the form of Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, a status held by just seven percent of the 22,500 cultural institutions in the U.S. *As America struggles with the fear and rhetoric around national political issues and global events, the Arab American National Museum offers an oasis of truth and accuracy and a safe place to discuss issues.*

A typical Museum year includes several original exhibitions in two rotating galleries with related programs; hundreds of school-group tours and cultural competency trainings for adults; popular recurring programs such as the Global Fridays world music concert series, Yalla Eat! culinary walking tours and holiday-themed family parties; and annual events including the Arab Film Festival at Cinetopia (a regional fest in southeast Michigan), the 1001 Laughs Arab Comedy Festival and the beloved Concert of Colors diversity-themed free music festival at major cultural venues in Midtown Detroit.

Standalone events on the Museum calendar range from panels, community forums, film screenings, crafts for all ages, writing and art workshops, even pottery-decorating and flower-arranging. Recent additions are Arabic music and language lessons. Every other year, AANM convenes artists and academics from across the U.S. for its DIWAN: A Forum for the Arts. Dozens of researchers visit the Russell J. Ebeid Library & Resource Center throughout the year to conduct vital portions of their work. And most Museum visitors take a bit of their experience home with them via cultural purchases from The AANM Store.



Learn more about the Arab American National Museum at www.arabamericanmuseum.org



KNOWLEDGE

AANM helps its 50,000 annual visitors – about half of them students and educators – cast off stereotypes and gain an accurate understanding of Arab Americans. Visitors come from Michigan and surrounding states, from across the nation and around the world, to view the exhibits and conduct research in the collections.

AANM touches hundreds of thousands more via online exhibitions and other digital resources at www.arabamericanmuseum.org, www.arabstereotypes.org and on iTunes U. Off-site trainings delivered by Museum educators and major community events such as the annual Concert of Colors music festival in Midtown Detroit – with AANM leading a significant collaboration of area cultural institutions – engage loyal audiences each year while promoting the value of a diverse population.

To fulfill its national mission, AANM exhibitions and related events have been presented in cities across the nation since 2011, including *Patriots & Peacemakers: Arab Americans in Service to Our Country*; *Little Syria, NY: An Immigrant Community's Life & Legacy*; and *Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings*.

INCLUSION

Collaboration – in southeast Michigan and globally – is a hallmark of AANM's work.

AANM is a founding member of the Immigration Sites of Conscience Network, a program of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, an agency devoted to connecting past struggles to today's movements for human rights.

AANM partners with Detroit's leading cultural institutions on the annual Concert of Colors diversity-themed free music festival in Midtown Detroit, and works with small cultural groups in its Global Fridays world-music concert series at AANM. These presentations of artists representing global musical traditions constitute a significant percentage of such concerts offered in southeast Michigan.

AANM has reenergized a moribund local collective, the Cultural Exchange Network, by devoting staff and resources to this series of meetings for those representing Detroit's many ethnicities and cultures.

AANM has been selected as a partner of The National Performance Network, including the Visual Artists Network. It is a relationship-based network of presenters and exhibitors that serve and connect diverse organizations, artists and communities, inspire artistic experimentation, honor cultural heritage and promote social change.

CREATIVITY + DIALOGUE

DIWAN: A Forum for the Arts – AANM's beloved biennial national convening of Arab American artists, academics, researchers and students – is a rare opportunity for creatives who often work in isolation to meet each other, share their work and explore issues and potential collaborations. The 6th DIWAN was held in 2015.

The Arab American Book Award, the Museum's annual literary competition, recognizes excellence in books by and about Arab Americans and celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016.

AANM's after-school youth program SURA Arts Academy earned the prestigious 2008 Coming Up Taller Award from the President's Council on the Arts and the Humanities. This digital photography instruction program encourages middle and high school students of diverse backgrounds to see their community in a new way.

The Annex @ AANM – a 4,700-sq.-ft. addition to the 38,500-sq.-ft. Museum introduced in 2015 houses many of the aforementioned programs and also serves as community-gathering space for non-AANM events such as panels, films and fundraisers.

PLACEMAKING

The location of the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Mich., amid the largest concentrations of Arabs in the U.S., allows the Museum experience to extend beyond the building.

AANM's popular Yalla Eat! guided culinary walking tours and a related map for self-guided exploration allow visitors to experience the Arab American community first-hand through one of the best cultural bridges around – food and the business owners who serve it up.

In 2015, AANM's annual Arab Film Festival joined the larger regional Cinetopia International Film Festival, presenting Arabic-language and Arab American films at the Museum as well as festival venues throughout southeast Michigan.

The Annex @ AANM has added a fresh, new element to the East Dearborn downtown area. The Annex plays an integral role in an Arab American artist residency program currently in development with the newly renovated City Hall Artspace Lofts, across Michigan Avenue from AANM. The Annex hosts diverse events – both AANM-produced and community-organized – and has already proven itself a space for creative incubation and exploration of issues affecting Arab Americans and all Americans.