

From 22 July to
26 August 2017

Summer Programme Community and Outreach Ages 15+

Sharjah Art Foundation designs engaging community workshops and excursions inspired by ongoing exhibitions, the surrounding neighbourhood and contributions from artists and urban and cultural researchers. These immersive workshops emphasise public participation, urban research, sustainability and creativity.

The Summer 2017 Community and Outreach Programme focuses on ways to beat the UAE summer heat through early-morning excursions offering new perspectives on light and life in Sharjah and workshops exploring productive ways to 'hibernate'. Designed to encourage conversation and group participation, the workshops include culinary performances, activities growing out of the developing relationship between SAF and the craftsmen and residents of #SAFneighbourhood and sessions aligned with SAF's summer photography exhibition Vantage Point Sharjah 5.

All SAF programmes are free and open to the public.

Sharjah by Sunrise

As the best way to experience an urban environment is by walking, the Community Programme organises photowalks, #SAFneighbourhood explorations and trips to SAF off-site spaces and other locations. Following on from our culinary exploration of Jamal Abdul Nasser Street during our excursion *Sharjah by Night* in February 2017, the Community Programme has been inspired to explore Sharjah at different times of day. Our summer programme excursion *Sharjah by Sunrise* will explore how dawn invites different activities, movements and colours.

Culinary Performances

Inspired by our previous excursions *The Anatomy of the Sharjah Sandwich* and *Exploring the Emirati Sweet Tooth*, both of which focused on iconic and nostalgic street foods and how they contribute to the social dynamic of the neighbourhood, the Summer 2017 Community Programme presents Culinary Performances, a new series of workshops that explore and celebrate the diverse cuisines found in #SAFneighbourhood. Professional and amateur chefs will prepare both new and traditional recipes.

Workshops Facilitated by #SAFneighbourhood Craftsmen

During a workshop that took place during Ramadan, Mr Kamal and his team of tailors taught participants basic sewing machine skills to help them revamp clothes to donate. #SAFneighbourhood is packed with talented craftsmen, from tailors to embroiderers, bakers, spice consultants and chai makers. As our team builds relationships with these craftsmen through productions, commissions or a mid-day snack, their skills are revealed, giving us the chance to celebrate their stories and talents. The Summer 2017 Community Programme workshops will focus on prayer rug embroidery and upcycling old clothes.

Vantage Point Sharjah 5 and the Community Programme

Vantage Point Sharjah 5 (VPS5) is the fifth iteration of SAF's annual initiative supporting the practice of photography within the GCC. The exhibition aims to foster the development of local and regional photographers and encourage their engagement with one another as well as the wider cultural communities of the Emirates and GCC. This edition will feature photographs centred on the theme of architecture and urban landscape. The Summer 2017 Community Programme will offer a workshop in experimental photography.

Workshops

#SAFneighbourhood Craftsmen: Prayer Rug Embroidery

Saturday, 22 July 2017

11:00 am–3:00 pm

The Collections Building, Arts Square

Ages: 15+

A traditional handicraft for decorating fabric, embroidery is now being used as a contemporary craft to portray narratives that are no longer limited to flowery geometric designs and landscapes but can tell stories of identity. Drawing inspiration from the numerous embroidery shops hidden in the alleys of #SAFneighbourhood, participants will collectively create designs that speak of the narratives collected from the neighbourhood and embroider them onto Islamic prayer rugs with the guidance of one of #SAFneighbourhood's embroiderers.

Excursion: Sharjah's Blue Sunrise

Saturday, 5 August 2017

5:30am–8:30 am

Meeting point: Information Centre, Al Mureijah Square

Ages: 15+

Hopping aboard a water taxi, participants will travel across to Port Khalid, where they will watch the ships docked at Port Khalid unload all their goods and see fisherman bring in the early catches of the day. Participants will then walk along Al Buhaira Corniche, observing how different people start their day. This walk will be followed by a hearty breakfast at one of #SAFneighbourhood's favourite eateries.

Vantage Point Sharjah 5: Experimental Light Photography

Saturday, 12 August 2017

2:00 pm–6:00 pm

The Collections Building, Arts Square

Ages: 18+

Reflecting on the theme of Vantage Point Sharjah 5, architecture and urban landscape, this workshop invites participants to reuse and reproduce photographs from previous collections that depict #SAFneighbourhood's architecture and urban landscape. Participants will experiment with various forms of lighting and printing to re-envision and recreate their photographs using cyanotypes, projections, reflection and playful light and shadow.

Culinary Performance and Workshop: Ice Cream

In collaboration with Arva Ahmed

Sunday, 20 August 2017

11:00 am–3:00 pm

Bait Al Serkal

Ages: 15+

To beat the summer heat, participants in this workshop will learn how to concoct site-specific ice cream flavours based on the spices and produce found in #SAFneighbourhood. Participants will mix flavours such as *chai karak* from a neighbourhood cafeteria, fresh basil from The Urban Garden, dates from Souq Al Jubail, turmeric from Souq Saqr and many other flavour combinations into their ice cream.

#SAFneighbourhood Craftsmen: Revamping Clothes

In collaboration with Mr Kamal and his team of tailors

Tuesday, 22 August

3:00 pm–5:00 pm

The Collections Building, Arts Square

Ages: 15+

Following on from the success of our Ramadan 2017 charity campaign, this workshop invites participants to give their unwanted clothes a new identity by using trimmings, fabric scraps and patches to turn them from a charitable item into a heartwarming gift. With the guidance and assistance of Mr. Kamal and his team of tailors, participants should expect to learn basic sewing, embellishing and stitching skills.

These revamped clothes will be given to a local charity to be distributed to those less privileged.

Excursion and Workshop: Morning Movements

In collaboration with Mahra Al Mulla

Saturday, 26 August 2017

6:00 am–8:00 am

Meeting point: Information Centre, Al Mureijah Square

Ages: 15+

Participants will join yoga instructor Mahra Al Mulla in an early-morning stretching workshop, followed by a tour of SAF art spaces to document, sketch, process and discover an entirely different aspect of Sharjah Art Foundation's heritage houses at sunrise. Participants will then walk through #SAFneighbourhood to enjoy a hearty breakfast prepared by an Afghan bakery and experience Sharjah coming to life early in the morning.