An exhibition for children and families to celebrate the diversity of Muslim cultures in America and around the world through art, architecture, design, music, travel, trade, and more!

February 2016 – Present
By the Children’s Museum of Manhattan
New York
Cultural Series Rationale

Start Early
“Research clearly shows that children not only recognize race from a very young age, but also develop racial biases by age three to five.”
Winkler, E.N. “Children Are Not Colorblind: How Young Children Learn Race” HighReach Learning Inc., 2009

Offer Variety
“When children are taught to pay attention to multiple attributes of a person at once, reduced levels of bias are shown.”

Provide Time to Practice
“Understanding a point of view other than your own takes knowledge, skills, perspective and values. Developing these four also takes practice – learning to apply and transfer these four from one topic to another.”
UNESCO’s Education for Sustainable Development in Action

Teaching young children to have multiple perspectives “...is likely to reduce problems involving prejudice or discrimination and is an important component of early childhood education.”
Exhibit Goals

1. Introduce families to the beautiful and joyful diversity and commonalities in contemporary Muslim communities in New York City, the United States, and around the world.

2. Immerse children in interactive, fun and accessible ways so as to give families a new positive forum in which they can discuss Muslim cultures.

3. Celebrate cultural expressions as reflected in art, architecture, objects and stories in both the home and communities.

4. Prepare our children as global citizens to work, play, and live in the increasingly interconnected and interdependent 21st century.

5. Show how cultures have peacefully interacted and co-existed for centuries.
Overview

Travel the world in a single museum visit!
This is a first-of-its-kind exhibition for children and families to celebrate the diversity of Muslim cultures in America and around the world through art, architecture, design, music, travel, trade, and more!

Global Market
Interact with products and foods from around the world
- Pretend to buy, sell, and trade spices, tea, fruit, and ceramics
- Design outfits with colorful fabrics, roll and sell rugs woven with secret messages
- Serve tea and coffee to new friends while exchanging family stories

American Home
Explore stories, objects, clothing, and art from local American Muslim homes
- Write and learn how to say “My Name Is…” in 21 languages spoken by Muslim New Yorkers
- View objects and listen to stories from local American Muslim families and explore artwork by emerging artists
- Travel across time with an interactive digital timeline of American Muslim history

Courtyard
Celebrate courtyards from around the world in a Persian style garden setting
- Create music by blending the sounds of instruments from around the world
- Play an object guessing game with a stunning assortment of hand-made objects
- Add a drop to the community water fountain, and share how you would make your community better, one drop at a time

Trade Routes
Join the journey to learn how trade and intercultural exchange go hand in hand
- Be the captain of an Indian Ocean dhow! Load and unload goods from around the world
- Pack your bags and climb onto the camel for a desert journey
- Decorate a Pakistani truck before driving off to deliver your wares

Original Artwork
by emerging local American Muslim artists

Object Cases
Discover world-class museum objects on loan from local partners including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Hispanic Society of America, and private donors.

Architecture
Uncover the beauty and variety in Muslim architectural design
- Take a virtual trip inside some of the world’s most magnificent mosques
- Design a building inspired by Muslim architectural shapes and styles
- View a variety of New York City’s mosques

Live Performances
Experience world-class performances, artist demonstrations, and cooking workshops by American Muslim artists, dancers, musicians, storytellers, and chefs.
**Partners and Advisors**

**ACADEMIC ADVISORS**

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**Asia Society and Museum**

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**Malaysian Consulate in New York**

**Metropolitan Museum of Art**

**New York Public Library**  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

**Oman Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
Jewel of Muscat Project

**Pakistan Mission to the United Nations**

**Queens Public Library**

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**Susanah Wade**  
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Trade Routes Area
Trade Routes: Pakistani Truck
Shipping trucks in Pakistan are like moving works of art.

Truck owners hire artists to decorate their trucks with images and personal messages.

Many of the trucks’ unique designs reflect patterns and ideas from a variety of cultures.

Pakistan has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world.
Trade Routes Area: Dhow
Trade Routes Area: Dhow
Trade Routes Area: Camel
Trade Routes Area: Camel
Courtyard Area
Courtyard Area: Music & Instruments

About this app

Play With Sounds From Around The World

Video

Ney
Using one hand to hold the flute-up, the player blows into the hole in the end, while the fingers of the other hand cover a red reed near the air holes.
Played in: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen

Oud
The sound hole in the top while the strings are plucked with the fingers or a long thin pick called a plectrum.
Played in: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen

Rebana
The drum is held by both hands, while the fingers of one hand and palm make the drumhead.
Played in: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore

Ghijak
Struck vertically with a stick or on the neck, the ghijak is played with a veena in style kora.
Played in: China, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Tabla
Fingers and palms play these drums that sit on the base.
Played in: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Kora
The mugam are played with the thumb and index fingers of both hands, while the other six fingers rest on hand posts.
Played in: Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal
Public Programs: Traveling Cart
American Homes Area
American Home Area: 21 Languages
My Name Is... iPad App

Learn how to say and write
my name is...
in other languages.

You selected Persian!

Persian, also known as Farsi, is mainly spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. There are 32 letters in the alphabet and script, which is written from right to left.

The word 'candy' comes from the Persian word ast, meaning sugar.

You selected Persian!

Persian

Pronounced

esmeh man (your name) ast

You selected Persian!

Persian
Global Marketplace

Experience local products and foods from around the world. Pretend to buy and sell spices from Egypt, ceramics from Turkey, and rugs from Morocco. Weigh your fresh catch at the Zanzibari fish market, smell Indonesian fruits, serve Tajik tea, and design outfits inspired by NYC Senegalese fashion!
Global Marketplace: Moroccan Rugs
Global Marketplace: Egyptian Spices
Global Marketplace Area: Turkish Ceramics
Global Marketplace: Zanzibar Fish Market
Global Marketplace Area:
Tajikistan Tea & Coffee
Authentic Objects

Metropolitan Museum of Art
13th, 17th, 19th Century Persian Objects
Lizzy Martin
Director of Exhibit Development & Museum Planning

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