



Timaj Garad: Identity, Belonging, and the Power of Story

Islamic Heritage Month 2026

Date: **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**

Time: **11 am–12 pm**

Grades: 6–12

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Cost: Free Program



AGA KHAN MUSEUM



ABOUT ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH

Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich contributions of Muslim civilizations to global history and culture. It is also an opportunity to foster intercultural understanding, counter stereotypes, and acknowledge the deep legacies of knowledge, creativity, and exchange that have shaped our world.

At the Aga Khan Museum, we honour this month by creating opportunities for students to engage with diverse histories through the arts, storytelling, and scholarly dialogue. We aim to spark curiosity and deepen appreciation for the many ways in which Islamic heritage continues to inform our shared present and future.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Join us for an engaging session exploring **identity, belonging, and the power of storytelling** through poetry, music, personal stories, and the Aga Khan Museum's collection.

Featuring **Timaj Garad**, a Toronto-based multidisciplinary storyteller, poet, musician, and arts educator, the program invites students to reflect on the people, places, experiences, and traditions that shape who we are and where we feel we belong.

Through personal stories, poetry, and music, Timaj will explore how creative expression can help us understand and share our experiences. Drawing connections to selected objects from the Museum's collection, students will consider how objects and stories can preserve memories, cultural traditions, and experiences across generations.

The session will conclude with a **10-minute live student Q&A**, giving students an opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with Timaj about her creative practice and the stories we carry.

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Time	Program Component
11-11:05 am	Welcome and Land Acknowledgment
11:05-11:50 am	Timaj Garad: Identity, Belonging, and the Power of Story
11:50 am- 12 pm	Live Student Q&A with Timaj Garad



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Timaj Garad is an Ethiopian-Harari Toronto-based multi-disciplinary storyteller, Arts Educator, and Community Organizer using poetry, theatre, and music to bring her stories to life. Her art is autobiographical, working at the intersections of a Black Muslim woman challenging injustice, unearthing truths, and healing. As an award-winning artist & arts educator, Timaj has graced over 400 stages and facilitated several arts-based workshops around the world. Timaj is the Founder of LUMINOUS Fest - Canada's first Black Muslim arts festival, and Co-founder of The Sisters' Retreat - a retreat series hosting local and international arts-based wellness retreats for Muslim Women.

She is currently living in Toronto, sharing her poetry and music on stages across the province, continuing to organize arts events, and working on new music. She released her single and music video "Black Gold" as well as her debut EP 'Blooming at the Mouth'. Timaj is currently working on her second EP. With rich lyrical landscapes, soulful vocals, and a unique blend of singing and spoken word poetry, 'Blooming at the Mouth' offers listeners intimate, thought-provoking storytelling coupled with anthemic, lively hooks carrying undertones of hope. Timaj believes in the transformative power of the arts to build capacity and strengthen communities. You can follow her work at timajgarad.com.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

This program invites students to explore **identity, belonging, heritage, and the power of storytelling** through poetry, music, personal stories, and the Aga Khan Museum's collection.

By participating, students will be able to:

- **Explore** how stories, poetry, music, and cultural traditions shape our understanding of identity and belonging.
- **Connect** contemporary personal experiences with objects from the Museum's collection to discover how objects can carry stories of people, places, and communities.
- **Examine** how cultural heritage is preserved, shared, and passed between generations through objects, language, music, and storytelling.
- **Reflect** on the experiences, traditions, and relationships that contribute to their own sense of identity and belonging.
- **Recognize** the diversity of Muslim cultures and the many ways individuals and communities express and preserve their heritage.
- **Consider** how artists use creative expression to share personal stories, explore identity, and build connections between communities.
- **Develop** curiosity and empathy by listening to perspectives and experiences different from their own.
- **Engage** in thoughtful discussion and reflection through questions and connections to the Museum's collection.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grade 6–8

Grade	Subject	Strand and Overall Expectations	Specific Expectations
6	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D2.1, D2.3 D3.1, D3.2
	Language	A. Literacy Connections and Applications A3. Applications, Connections, and Contributions	A3.1, A3.2
	Social Studies	A. Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, Past and Present A1. Application: Diversity, Inclusiveness, and Canadian Identities A2. Inquiry: The Perspective of Diverse Communities A3. Understanding Context: The Development of Communities in Canada	A1.1, A1.3 A2.1, A2.2, A2.5 A3.2, A3.3, A3.4, A3.6, A3.8, A3.10, A3.11
7	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D2.1, D2.3 D3.1, D3.2
	Language	A. Literacy Connections and Applications A3. Applications, Connections, and Contributions	A3.1, A3.2
8	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D2.1, D2.3 D3.1, D3.2
	Language	A. Literacy Connections and Applications A3. Applications, Connections, and Contributions	A3.1, A3.2

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grades 9-10

Grade	Subject	Strand and Overall Expectations	Specific Expectations
9	Visual Arts	A. Creating and Presenting A3. Production and Presentation B. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing B2. Art, Society, and Values B3. Connections Beyond the Classroom	A3.3 B2.1, B2.2, B2.3 B3.1, B3.2, B3.3
	English	A. Literacy Connections and Applications A3. Applications, Connections, and Contributions	A3.1, A3.2
10	Visual Arts	A. Creating and Presenting A3. Production and Presentation B. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing B2. Art, Society, and Values B3. Connections Beyond the Classroom	A3.3 B2.1, B2.2, B2.3 B3.1, B3.2, B3.3
	English	Oral Communication 1. Listening to Understand	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grades 11-12

Grade	Subject	Strand and Overall Expectations	Specific Expectations
11	Visual Arts	A. Creating and Presenting A3. Production and Presentation B. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing B2. Art, Society, and Values B3. Connections Beyond the Classroom	A3.4 B2.1, B2.2, B2.3 B3.1, B3.2, B3.3
	English	Oral Communication 1. Listening to Understand	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9
	Equity Studies– Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice	C. Equity, Social Justice, and Change C1. Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada C2. Equity and Social Justice in Canada D. Promoting Equity and Social Justice D1. Respecting Diversity D2. Human Rights, Equity, and Antidiscrimination	C1.1, C1.2, C1.3 C2.3, C2.4 D1.2, D1.3 D2. 2
	World Religions and Belief Traditions: Perspectives, Issues, and Challenges	B. Approaches to the Study of the Sacred B1. Why Study world Religions and Belief Traditions F. Social and Cultural Contexts F1. Cultural Contexts F2. Social Contexts	B1.1, B1.2, B1.3 F1.3, F1.4 F2.2, F2.3
12	Visual Arts	A. Creating and Presenting A3. Production and Presentation B. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing B2. Art, Society, and Values B3. Connections Beyond the Classroom	A3.4 B2.1, B2.2, B2.3 B3.1, B3.2, B3.3
	Equity Studies– Equity and Social Justice: From Theory to Practice	C. Addressing Equity and Social Justice Issues C1. Historical and Contemporary Issues C3. Policies, Strategies and Initiatives	C1.1, C1.2 C3.1



ABOUT THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM

Mission

Through the arts, the Aga Khan Museum sparks wonder, curiosity, and understanding of Muslim cultures and their connection with other cultures.

Vision

To impact lives and contribute to more inclusive and peaceful societies.

Contact

To confirm your school's participation or for further information, please contact:
learn@agakhanmuseum.org



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