

AUGUST-DECEMBER, 2017

PAKISTAN CHOWK COMMUNITY CENTRE

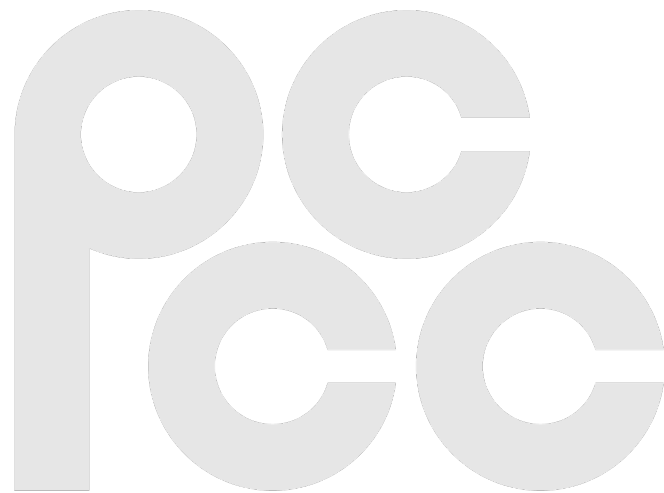
BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



PAKISTAN
CHOWK
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

PAKISTAN CHOWK COMMUNITY CENTRE'S BI- ANNUAL NEWS LETTER

August 2017- December 2017



Pakistan Chowk Community Centre
Old Town Rehabilitation | Town Hall | Arts & Culture | Dialogue | Civic Engagement
E: pkchowkinitiative@gmail.com | T: +92 333 021 4355

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This newsletter & its components would not have been possible without our Founder & Creative Head, Architect Marvi Mazhar, our Cultural Manager Sabahat Zehra, our dedicated board of advisors, & the community of the area surrounding Pakistan Chowk.

We would also like to thank the following organizations & Institutes for supporting us in our vision to bring back arts & cultural activities to old town, Karachi.

IAMKHI

Goethe Institut

Super Savari Express

FM91

Gari Khata Welfare Committee

Stuggle for Society Organization, Lyari

Cover Picture Credits: Anum Mufti

News Letter Content Credits: Sabahat Zehra, Cultural Manager PCCC.

ABOUT

We at the Pakistan Chowk Community Centre draw inspiration from Arts & Cultural Organizations in Pakistan who strive to revive recreational activities in various cities.

We set out to rehabilitate the iconic Pakistan Chowk, not only rejuvenating the physical space, but the literary and creative environment of Old Town. Old Town, once the hub of history, art, and culture has lost its cultural status and needed a space for the community to engage in social dialogue, democratic and literary discourse.

We restored the iconic 1980s monument, in December, 2016, installed 32 benches dedicated to Karachiites such as Sabeen Mahmud and Parveen Rehman - who worked for the cause of the city, planted trees and installed lamp posts making it into an inviting and gauging public square. Ever since, local artists, writers, musicians, women, men and children have occupied, loitered and participated in events at the Chowk. With the great response we received, we believe there is a need for a community centre in Old Town.

The Pakistan Chowk Community Center, is a two-room space housed inside the historic Sultani Mahal Building, right across from Pakistan Chowk. The Center now serves as an office for networking and research as well as a space for local art shows, poetry readings, work space for students and entrepreneurs becoming the hub of creativity in Old Town.

One room serves as a *Baithak* hosting *qawwalis*, exhibitions, book launches, and small community gatherings. The other room acts as a *Conference/Research Room* designed as a workspace, complete with tables, chairs and Wi-Fi.

Where are we now?

Since its launch on the 16th of August, 2017, the centre has hosted various gatherings, workshops, and lectures inside the centre as well as outside on the public square.

At its inception, we were given a small grant by the Goethe Institut, which was utilized in rehabilitating the space of the centre, as well as initial programming. We have also been in collaboration with the IAMKHI organization, who have helped us organize and conduct events at the centre.

OFFICE TEAM



Marvi Mazhar
Founder & Creative Head



Sabahat Zehra
Cultural Manager



Vishal Singhara
On-Site Coordinator

UPDATES ON HIRING

CULTURAL MANAGER:

Akhtar Mirza Baig joined us for a short period for this position. Effective October 4th, Sabahat Zehra Abdul Aziz has been re-hired for this position.

ON-SITE COORDINATOR:

Vishal Singhara has been hired for the position of on site coordinator.

Vacancies:

Cultural Associate:

We at the Pakistan Chowk Community Centre are looking for young talented students/graduates who are passionate about our vision; to bring back arts and culture within Karachi's old town.

We are looking for a passionate individual to take on board with our existing team.

Job Title: Cultural Associate

Job Location: Karachi

Job Type- Part-Time

Qualifications:

The candidate should:

be able to communicate both in Urdu and English;

be proficient with MS Word and MS Excel and MS Powerpoint;

be able to operate basic multimedia;

have good problem-solving skills;

be able to deal effectively with a range of people;

have a genuine interest in and understanding of the arts and heritage sector, as well as awareness of related current political agendas and activism.

Photography skills are a plus. (basic operational understanding of a DSLR)

ACTIVITY UPDATE: AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2017 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

16th August, 2017- Opening of the Centre

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

7:00 pm
Arrival of the Guests/Meet and Greet

7:30 pm
Opening speech by Rainer Schmiedchen; Importance of Culture in South Asia

7:40- 8:15 pm
Guest Speakers

Sharmila Farooqi- Government Assistance in Public Spaces.

Stefan Winkler- Importance of Art and Culture

Ambareen Thompson- Importance of Culture in a Volatile City like Karachi

Asif Aslam Farrukhi- Importance of the Literati in Old Town

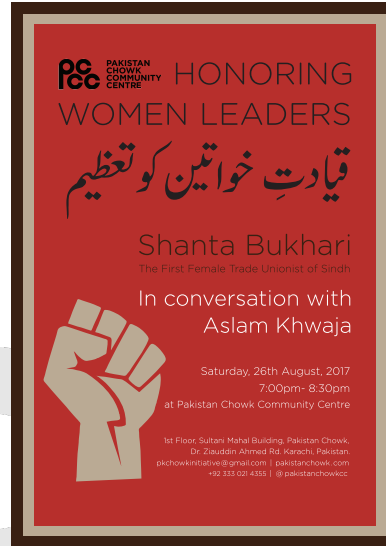
8:15 pm
Opening Ceremony for the Pakistan Chowk Community Centre.

8:30-9:30 pm
Dastaan Goi- Story Telling Session by Fawad Khan at the Chowk.




The event was organized at the chowk where Stefan Winkler, Ambareen Thompson, Asif Aslam Farrukhi, and Sharmila Farooqi were invited to give accounts on the importance of cultural spaces in the city. The centre was then inaugurated by Artist Abdul Hayee Sahab; depicted through the ribbon cutting ceremony.

26th August, 2017- Talk by Aslam Khwaja



Aslam Khwaja spoke about the first female trade unionist of Sindh; Shanta Bukhari, and told stories from her life.

27th August, 2017- Talk by Ustaad Abdul Hayee



Pictures Courtesy: @thekarachivala

In Conversation with Ustaad Abdul Hayee

Sunday, the 27th of August, 2017
4:00pm- 6:00pm
Pakistan Chowk Community

1st Floor, Sultani Mahal Building, Pakistan Chowk,
Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Rd, Karachi, Pakistan.
pkchowkinitiative@gmail.com | pakistanchowk.com
+92 333 001 4355 | @pakistanchowkcc

PC PAKISTAN CHOWK COMMUNITY CENTRE

8th September, 2017- Shab-e-Izhaar

SHAB E IZHAAR

An evening of expression
TEA . MUSIC . STORIES . DIALOGUE

PCCC invites poets, musicians, story tellers, comedians, artists, dancers, or anyone who wishes to express themselves at our humble stage.

This event is OPEN & FREE to all

FRIDAY- 8th September, 2017
Starting at 6:00 PM

NO REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PERFORMING,
JUST ARRIVE WITH YOUR PERFORMANCE
PIECE(S) AT THE CENTRE & SIGN UP ON SITE.

PC PAKISTAN CHOWK COMMUNITY CENTRE

1st Floor, Sultani Mahal Building, Pakistan Chowk,
Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Rd, Karachi, Pakistan.
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Karachi's oldest water color artist, Abdul Hayee spoke to the audience about his life journey. This was followed by a display of his few works.



PCCC's first open mic evening called "Shab-e-Izhaar" was held on the 8th of September. The evening was filled with exciting performances including songs, poetry, life stories, as well as a dance performance. This was the first of the series of open mics PCCC hopes to conduct monthly.

9th September, 2017-Waste Management Workshop



GARBAGE CAN!
Exploring possibilities for sustainable waste management

Join Ahmed Shabbar, the CEO of GARBAGECAN!, as he discusses and demonstrates waste management techniques

SATURDAY, 09 SEPTEMBER, 2017
03:30 PM - 05:30 PM

1st Floor, Sultani Mahal Building, Pakistan Chowk, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Rd. Karachi, Pakistan.
pkchowkinitiative@gmail.com | pakistanchowk.com
+92 333 021 4365 | @pakistanchowkcc

PC PAKISTAN CHOWK COMMUNITY CENTRE
GARBAGECAN! sustainable waste management



The CEO of the organization GARBAGECAN!, Ahmed Shabbar gave a presentation on waste management to the audience. This was followed by a pot planting activity at the chowk.

15th September, 2017- Basila & the Street Crew; art book discussion



Join the team on
Friday, 15th September
at 7 pm
at the
**Pakistan Chowk
Community Centre**
Kutchery Road, Karachi.

BASILA
THE STREET CREW

PC PAKISTAN CHOWK COMMUNITY CENTRE



The creators of the art book: Basila & the Street Crew spoke to the audience about the need to normalize the visibility of the transgender community in order to build acceptance. The panel was led by the co-creator & illustrator of the book, Anain Shaikh, and social activist Jibrán Nasir.

8th October-10th December 2017- Art Classes



PCCC in collaboration with IAMKHI has been conducting free of charge art classes at the public square for children under the age of 17. These will be 10 classes in total, the first of these was held on 8th October, 2017.

14th October, 2017- Shab-e-Izhaar



The second open mic took place on the 14th of October, 2017. The audience was amazed by the talent the participants exhibited.

18th October, 2017- Discursive baithak



The PCCC introduced its Community Building Dialogue Series, and this was the first discussion held within the series. The series will consist of various discussions held within academics, expertise, as well as with students, to generate discourse & problematize notions of public spaces, their accessibility, community building, ownership of the city, and the like.

The first of these was held at the centre on the 18th of October, 2017.

The panelists included:

1. Marvi Mazhar
2. Zain Mustafa
3. Ambareen Thompson
4. Wajiha Naqvi
5. Farhan Anwar
6. Zaheer Alam Kidvai
7. Askani Abdul Aziz

8. Owais Ajmeri

9. Saddam Siddiqui (Moderator)

The discussion revolved around the issue of making public spaces into cultural spaces & how important accessible public spaces are in the process of community building & inter-class, as well as inter-generational dialogue.

20th October, 2017- You're Killing the Mountain

Talking Circle Presents بے خبر ہوٹل

You're Killing The Mountain
Discussion on the six projects on WATER & TERRAINS of Murree

Speakers (Artists):
Asif Khan
Fazal Rizvi
Shahana Rajani
Zahra Malkani
Saba Khan (Moderator)

Date: 20th October, 2017
Time: 6:00pm

"You're Killing the Mountain":



Pakistan Chowk Community Centre
First Floor, Sultan Hameed Building,
Kutchery Road, Karachi, Pakistan.
pkchowkinitiative@gmail.com | pakistanchowk.com
+92 333 021 4355 | @pakistanchowk

Eight Artistic Projects on the WATER and TERRAINS of Murree, Pakistan, 2017

PAKISTAN CHOWK COMMUNITY CENTRE

MURREE MUSEUM ARTIST RESIDENCY FOUNDATION



The members of the Murree artist residency spoke to the audience about their experiences during their two month stay in Murree. The theme of their research was land & water related issues within Murree, an area which is a microcosm of these issues that are faced throughout the country.

22nd October, 2017- Short Film Screening


Talking Circle بے خبر ہوٹل
Presents

Short Films Screening
by
Adeel Wali Raees
A Film Maker from Lyari, Karachi

Date: Sunday, 22nd October, 2017
Time: 5:00pm

Film Line-up:
2x2=1
Click
Lost
Poster

SHORT FILM
2x1=2
A SHORT FILM BY ADEEL WALI RAEES



Pakistan Chowk Community Centre
Kutchery Road, Karachi, Pakistan.
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Samaana Cinema

IAK

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Adeel Wali Raees, a self taught film maker from Lyari screened 4 of his short films at the centre, which was followed by a short discussion on his journey towards film making.

28th October, 2017- Fanne´Dastaan Goi



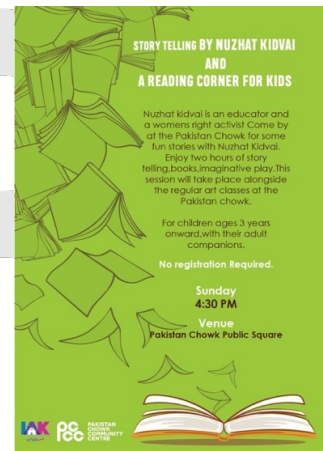
Fawad Khan from NAPA spoke to the audience about art of story telling & demonstrated by narrating from the Dastaan-e- Ameer Hamza. The Youlin Magazine published an article about the event, which can be found on this link: <https://www.youlinmagazine.com/story/lecture-by-fawad-khan-lecture-on-dastaan-goi-at-pccc/OTcw>

29th October, 2017- Plantation of a tree at the chowk



Nuzhat Kidvai, an educator & a women's right activist, planted a neem tree at the chowk, and the students of the art class were then asked to water it.

29th October, 2017- Story Telling Session



Nuzhat Kidvai narrated stories to children at the chowk.

4th November, 2017- Book Binding Workshop



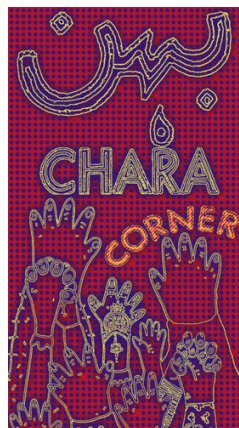
Graphic Designers, Saad Khurshid & Muniba Rasheed, conducted a book binding workshop with 15 people who had to pre-register for it. They taught different stitches & the participants got to practice them with the book binding kit compiled by Saad & Muniba, courtesy of the PCCC.

11th November, 2017- IVS City Orientation Class at Pakistan Chowk



IVS alumni conducts a city orientation class for foundation year students, in an attempt to familiarize the students with Karachi. They collaborated with PCCC to hold their last class of the year on November 11th, 2017. The students were given a brief presentation by Marvi Mazhar at IVS, describing what PCCC is all about and familiarizing them a little with the dynamic of the area they were about to step into. Following this, the students gathered at the Pakistan Chowk, and were handed a booklet which included tasks they had to complete, as well as maps of the region they were assigned. The activity was successful, and most of the students came back from the exercise, in their own words as “having a changed perspective on the city & its inhabitants”.

**11th November 2017- BehnChara
Corner with Girls at Dhabas (4:00-
6:30pm)**



saturday

**11TH NOV
4 - 7 PM**

at Pakistan Chowk
Community Center, Karachi

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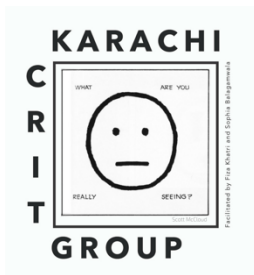
Girls at Dhabas in collaboration with PCCC conducted their session of BehnChara dialogue at the centre. In their words, the BehnChara corner is crucial in highlighting the “importance of building trust and understanding through storytelling and sharing; how the personal is political. How this is safe space where we want to deepen our understanding of how gender and social identities affect us while reflecting on our experiences.”

**11th November, 2017- Shab-e-
Izhaar; An Evening of Expression
(7:30pm)**



PCCC’s open mic evening, Shab e Izhaar took place on Saturday. This time, it was interesting to see many women from around the area participate, even if it was in the capacity of an audience.

12th November, 2017- Post Karachi Biennale Discussion



Post-Biennale Discussion

Sunday, Nov 12, 4.30 - 6.30 pm
Pakistan Chowk Community Center

Facilitated by Sophia Balagamwala,
Fiza Khatri, and Shahana Rajani



Karachi Biennale was an event that received a lot of commendation, as well as criticism. To have a productive discussion on the topic, the Karachi Crit Group conducted a post-Biennale discussion at the Centre, in order to address some of the problematic themes that had emerged since the inception of KB17.

The discussion was led by Sophia Balagamwala, Fiza Khatri, & Shahana Rajani.

15th November, 2017- Second Discursive Baithak



As part of our “Community Building Dialogue Series” where we discuss different themes related to Community Building, Public Spaces, & the issues that surround them.

This was the second discussion. The topic of discussion was: “The right to Public Spaces: accepting differences in religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race, and class”

The panelists included:

Dr. Faiza Mushtaq
Shahana Rajani
Zahra Malkani
Anam Abbass
Sabahat Zehra

**17th November, 2017- Talk by Prof.
Dr. Wasim Frembgen.**



German anthropologist, Prof. Dr. Wasim Frembgen read a few parts of his books & talked about his journey of researching in Pakistan.

**18th November, 2017- Qavvali
Mehfil**

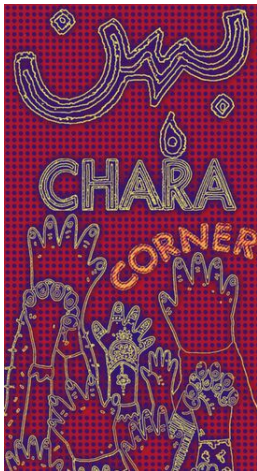
7:30pm

Pakistan Chowk Public Square



PCCC in collaboration with IAMKHI organized a Qavvali Mehfil on the Pakistan Chowk. The Qavval, Subhan Ahmed Nizami was invited with his team to perform the Sufi Qalam.

19th November, 2017- Behn Chara Corner



sunday

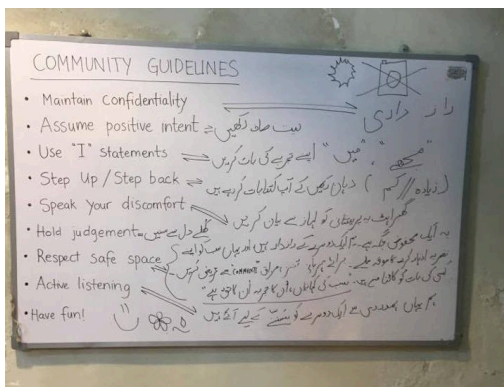
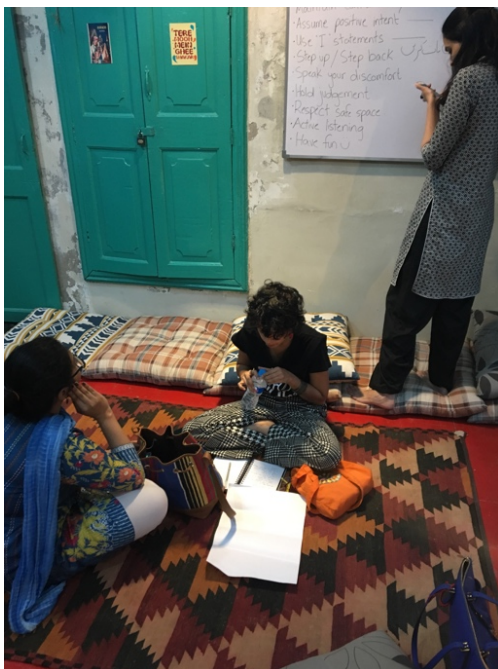
**19TH NOV
6 - 9 PM**

at Pakistan Chowk Community Centre,
Karachi

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PCCC PAKISTAN
CHOWK
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The second session of Behn Chara corner took place at the centre. This time, the discussion was open to women & non-confirming people only. The idea was the same; to create a safe space for them to talk about the problems they face in the society due to what gender they identify with.



22nd November, 2017- Chai Khana at IBA, Karachi



As part of PCCC's community building dialogue series, we wanted to not only restrict the discourse amongst academics/experts, but also engage with similar dialogue with the young demographic. Therefore, we had the first session with students at IBA, in collaboration with IBA's social sciences club. The theme of the discussion was how we can make public spaces accessible, and what are the factors that restrict certain people's entry to certain spaces.



PROJECTS WITH EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Postervism- A National Poster Design Competition.

In collaboration with the Renaissance Foundation for Social Innovation, PCCC will be conducting a national poster design competition which will enable graphic designers from all over Pakistan to visualise their society in a novel way. They will be asked to highlight social, political, and cultural issues within the society by developing a poster that provokes the spectator to imagine a reformed society, where gender is treated impartially, extremism is moderated, and different identities can coexist.

#GenderImpartiality
#PeripheralisingExtremism
SpatialIdentities



The idea behind the competition and its socially & politically poignant themes is not to bring about change in the community; a process which is both gradual and nuanced. The main goal that we hope to achieve through this is the highlighting of these issues, which are either not acknowledged by the society, or are given almost to none importance.

Although written analysis and scholarly articles have an enormous role in getting people to think about the issues; there is a different kind of engagement that comes about when the stimulus is visual, and there is minimum reading required. Visual cues will also enable the designers to imagine a reformed society, where they will be able to visually portray their ideas of a reformed society.



Related Events/Meetings:

4th November, 2017- Meeting in Islamabad

Sabahat Zehra, the cultural manager of PCCC, visited Islamabad to be a part of a meeting organized by the Renaissance foundation, inviting all participatory organizations in their umbrella project: youth fostering public spaces.

Ms. Zehra presented the concept of *Postervism* to the jury & the idea was well received.



FUND RAISERS

HERITAGE WALK KARACHI



The motive of this project is to engage people from all around the city with the area of Old Town, and enable them to explore their historical treasures; outside the restricted category of pictures.

These will include workshops/Research tours for students as well as research led guided tours where participants will be able to explore new alleys, streets, buildings, structures, & spaces.

ROUTE OF THE WALK:

From Pakistan Chowk through Ellenborough Road towards I.I.Chundrigar Road, & back to Pakistan Chowk

Stops:

1. PCCC
2. Ellenborough Road
3. Café Victory
4. Cotton Exchange Building
5. HBL Plaza
6. Muhammadi House
7. UBL H/O
8. Sindh Madrasa tul Islam
9. KMC Building

Important Roads:

1. Ellenborough Road
2. I.I.Chundrigar Road
3. Bellasis Street
4. Frere Road (Shahrah e Liaqut)

FUTURE PROJECTS

Community Building Dialogue Series- Academic Paper



Through PCCC's community building dialogue series, where we hope to conduct various sessions with academics, expertise, & students regarding issues related to public spaces, accessibility, community building, and sustainable development; we hope to compile an academic paper combining the discourse of all the discussions.

Three of these discussions have already taken place, and we hope to continue this till February, 2018; after which the paper will be developed.

French Bazaar

21st January, 2018, a French bazaar will take place at the Alliance Francaise Karachi. The PCCC hopes to display the art work of 10 local artists from the Pakistan Chowk & surrounding areas.

Film Screening with DAP

Documentary association of Pakistan (DAP) is looking to collaborate with PCCC in order to screen films on the chowk & in the centre.

Collaboration with NOWPDP Karachi

NOWPDP, an organization working towards making the city & its employment opportunities more accessible to differently abled people. A member of the organization approached us about their project Plan Tabeer, where they have developed Hand-controlled Rickshaw that converts into Food Cart, which aims to give the opportunity of mobility and business to persons with disabilities. PCCC has been looking into the project, and soon hopes to install such Rickshaws at the Pakistan Chowk & surrounding areas. We hope that the installation of this project becomes the first step towards a long term synergy with the organization.

Community Involvement Dialogue

During the period from December 2017 to March 2018, the PCCC hopes to revive the process of communication with the local populace, in order to continue with our aim to engage them, and get a sense of what they expect from the community centre; rather than taking an imperialist perspective of being more informed. We want the community to be the decision makers & owners of the projects & programs that are streamlined within the PCCC.

Pop Up Library at The Chowk

PCCC hopes to install a pop-up library within the vicinity of the public square. The concept behind this is to develop a structure which can operate in the day, and can be locked up at night. The library hopes to include books that are of specific interest to the area demographic, and hopes to revive the library cultural within the area. The Pakistan Chowk Public Square already consists of benches as well as a shaded sitting area, which we believe will be perfectly aligned with the library; for people to sit & read.

Waste Management Project for Old Town

PCCC hopes to develop a sustainable waste management system for old town; starting from the area surrounding Pakistan Chowk. This will be developed through involving students of architecture, urban studies, & humanities, from all over the city in order to give them an opportunity to propose a system for waste collection & management in the area. The design has to be sustainable and in line with the context of the area they will be implemented in. The PCCC hopes to begin this project in early 2018.

Collaboration with The Crows Project

The Crows Project is an initiative which has emerged through the collaboration of three individuals who are passionate about story telling. They have conducted several story telling sessions across the city, and aim to bring to light inspiring stories by people we encounter everyday without realizing how they got where they are. PCCC will host several story telling sessions with them, hoping to engage the local population of old town to narrate their stories & get inspired by others.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/COURSES AT PCCC

Design Theory Workshop

Sohail Zuberi, who is an advisor for PCCC, will be conducting a workshop on design theory for the young demographic of the community who wish to enhance their graphic design skills & learn the philosophy behind its techniques

Paper Making Workshop

Sohail Zuberi will also be conducting a workshop on how to recycle paper & make it into usable sheets to work on. This goes perfectly with the dynamic of the area, since the surrounding are packed with printing shops, which throw out a lot of their waste paper.

Stencil Art Classes

Artist Sana Burney, who has taught at the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, is going to be conducting a course on stencil art. The course will include theory classes, enabling the students to familiarize themselves with stencil art theory, followed by practical classes where the students will engage in stencil making & usage around the area & note its political/social/cultural impact on the spectators.

Music Classes

A Musical instrument course will be conducted, where basic techniques of guitar, harmonium, & the keyboard will be taught to the students.

Society for Protection of Animal Rights (SPAR)

SPAR president, Zain Mustafa, will be conducting workshops at PCCC, and around the area to inform & educate people about the animal rights & to debunk misconceptions regarding them being dangerous. This will also be followed by field surveys & practical steps to reduce the dog population of the area, without brutally killing them. This is happening in collaboration with SPAR, PCCC, & the Gari Khaata Welfare Society.

Workshops with Girls at Dhabas

We hope to collaborate with Girls at Dhabas to have workshops on creating acceptance of different genders in the society, and creating sensitivity on how we communicate with people in general.

Mental Health Awareness Workshops

There are going to be conducted by professionals in the field of psychology & psychiatry, regarding the stigmatization of mental illness, & the importance of debunking it. These will also be conducted especially for women who, in this context, are the sole caretakers of children, & have a higher tendency to develop depression. Raising children, and taking care of their mental & emotional needs will also be emphasized. This will be a series of workshops, each targeting different aspects of mental health & its importance.



CHALLENGES

Operating in an area whose dynamics are different from where other arts & cultural spaces operate within the city, the PCCC, from the very first day when it was just an idea has faced numerous challenges in terms of realizing its vision. The idea behind the community centre was to provide the people of the area a space where they can engage in art, cultural, & literary dialogue; an arena which is given minimal importance in the structural institutional syllabi. Our main concern from the very first day was to not turn into an imperialist organization, where we impose our ideas of what is and isn't an important recreational or literary activity. As outsiders to the area, with minimal understanding of its dynamics, we have been very keen on involving community members to engage in decision making & to ultimately take ownership of all the programs & projects operating under PCCC.

There is a divide that exists amongst different communities of the city, which has little to do with where they spatially reside, but more to do with their class background. The academia has been for long restricted to those who have a certain class privilege & the luxury of time to engage in intellectual labor. Our goal is to target this divide, and bridge the gap, if not completely fill it, by bringing discourse & cultural activities to these areas.

One of the biggest challenges when implementing any project through PCCC is to be careful of not imposing anything on the community; rather engaging in activities that are relevant to the context that we operate in. This has been somewhat achieved through constant communication with the community organizations & persons, and making sure that their involvement is on top of the priority list. We do, however, acknowledge that we have a long way to go before the PCCC can be completely by, for, & from the community; but we are humbled to say that so far, the amount of support we have gotten from the community has been tremendous, and we hope that this can keep growing till this becomes a sustainable community development project.

Another challenge we face is that of the vernacular that we, as academics, are used to. As a team effort, the PCCC has been very careful in not using any academic jargon within discourse around the community, in order to not alienate anyone from the discussion. We have found over the course of our operation in the area, that this is a difficult task. An example of this, to bring things into perspective, is when Girls at Dhabas conducted their Behn Chara corner at the centre. An activity within the session involved writing down categories of identities that one identifies as. We had a hard time, as a team, coming up with Urdu words, or even layman terms for identities such as

sexuality, race, class, and even ethnicity. This was one of the instance where we realized how use to we are of a certain vernacular, and how we need to understand these concepts in lay man terms to actually convey to people what we mean.

Speaking of language, we also realize that being bilingual in our approach, which in itself has been a challenge, is not enough, since it is underlined with the assumption that everyone would be able to read either Urdu or English. Yes, translating content in Urdu makes it more accessible, but it will be ignorant of us to think that we have targeted everyone through this process. In reality, we know that neither Urdu, nor English is the majority spoken/read language of the citizens of Karachi, and therefore have a long way to go in making our reach as accessible as possible. For now, we are trying.

Developing a community advisory board has been another challenge that we have faced within the

process of developing PCCC. Engaging anyone in a project which has little to do with economic benefit, & requires a wider lens of how the project can socially benefit in the long run, is not an easy task. Even if we get people on board, it is either for a short period of time, or only for very specific projects. Therefore, a challenge that we have taken up & are still working on is how to involve as many people as we can from the community; enabling us to get different perspectives of the needs of the community & how the centre can be utilized.

Finding volunteers who are willing & able to work on projects, has been another challenge PCCC has faced. Although, during vacation periods (summer & winter) we get ample students to volunteer for projects, during the rest of the year, it is hard to engage people because of their other commitments. We, therefore, plan out our vacation period in a way to benefit from volunteers as much as we can, and to give students of architecture, urban studies, developmental studies, and other humanities' subjects, exposure to our programming for them to develop experience before going into their relevant field of work. A sub-challenge that emerges within this category is that of divergent ideas, where contributors to any projects may develop different priorities, and sometimes even different goals, during the time span that they work with PCCC. It is important to have the vision of PCCC clearly embedded in our minds in order to be able to assimilate different ideas, without losing track of what we stand for.

Any project, whether community driven or otherwise, requires monetary resources to implement projects, in addition to human resources. The PCCC

is a result of the hard work and dedication of the people of our team & of the community, but it has a long way to go until it can be made into a sustainable model. We have been getting donations from organizations & institutions like the Goethe Institut, Super Savari Express, & IAMKHI, however most of these are contract based, operating for a specific period of time. Therefore, a major challenge that PCCC has been facing is the lack of monetary resources in order to implement the plethora of ideas that form our organization.



DONATION PROCEDURE

In order to take our vision forward, we need your support

PAKISTAN CHOWK FIXED COSTS

(Costs in PKR)

	1 Year	6 Months	3 Months
Electricity	42,000/-	21,000/-	10,500/-
Gas	2,400/-	1,200/-	600/-
Rent	180,000/-	90,000/-	45,000/-
Team	660,000/-	330,000/-	165,000/-

PAKISTAN CHOWK PROGRAMS

(Costs in PKR)

South Asian Classical & Contemporary Music	4,500/- (Per Session)
Literature, Writings, & Poetry	2,000/- (Per Session)
Artistic Programming	2,000 (Per Event)
<i>Palak Jhapak</i> (Film Screenings)	1,500/- (Per Screening)
Picture House (Photography)	2,000/- (Per Event)
Legal Assistance (Probono)	500/- (Per Session)
Talking Circle	500/- (Per Session)

PAKISTAN CHOWK PROJECTS

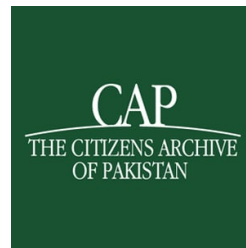
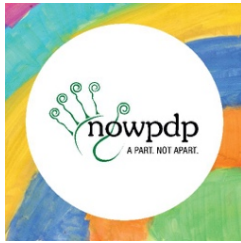
(Costs in PKR)

Old Town Mapping	5,000/- (Monthly)
Spoken History	5,000/- (Monthly)
Pakistan Chowk Press (PCP)	5,000/- (Monthly)

We only have one request, to keep the lowest bid at Rs. 5000.
We highly appreciate your support.

Account Details: Title: Marvi Mazhar | Acount no. 0281140461005124| Branch Code: 0074 | Branch Name: MCB Bank Limited, Clifton Branch.

COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS/ORGANIZATIONS



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