

# ART & CULTURAL PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES POLICY

Effective Date: Effective Date: 9/24/2017

It is the policy of Islamic Culture Center of Northern California to promote art and culture programs and activities that are compatible with its mission to celebrate Islam through art, culture, and education, and its values. ICCNC's values are as follows:

- Promote the core values of social responsibility, conscientiousness and spirituality.
- Provide a welcoming environment for all Muslims and members of other communities to learn about Islam.
- Follow the Ja'fari School of Islamic thought.
- Believe in a compassionate and inclusive interpretation of Islam and respects various Islamic schools of thought.
- Present Islam in contemporary language that honors Islamic tradition.
- Believe that, based on Islamic teachings, all human beings are created equal and have inalienable human rights.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define and clarify the types of art and cultural programs and activities that ICCNC promotes and allows to be conducted at its facilities based on its core values.

## Scope

This policy covers the types of art and cultural programs and activities that are:

- Developed directly by ICCNC
- Conducted by ICCNC's partners, sponsors, and resident artists
- Performed or conducted by those that rent ICCNC's space and facilities

## Definitions

ICCNC or the Center: Refers to Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California

BOD or the Board: The ICCNC Board of Director

IC3: IC3 (Inculcating Community, Creativity and Civic Engagement) is an Art & Culture project incubator at ICCNC for up-and-coming Muslim-American artists and cultural producers that result in public events for diverse, multicultural Bay Area audiences.

Art & Culture/IC3 Team: The team at ICCNC that plans and oversees all the art and culture activities at the Center and leads the IC3 program.

Artist: Any creative person who creates any form of art and participates in the IC3 program, including but not limited to artists, craftspeople, performers, musicians, curators, designers, writers, cultural producers, and cultural/social entrepreneurs

Art Organization: Any organizations, institutions, groups, collectives, or ensembles that have art and cultural production in their core programming/activities. Cultural/social entrepreneurs and creative startups would be also considered in this section.

Work: A tangible outcome created by the Artist such as painting, sculpture, photo, media work, music piece, performance piece, etc.

Presentation: Any form of action that will present the Work created by the Artist to the public including but not limited to exhibition, performance, installation, screening, workshop, classes, artist talk, collaboration, etc.

Candidate: Artist who is considered to be part of the IC3 program

Artist in Residence: Artist who is accepted to the IC3 program to create a body of work during a specific time either at ICCNC or outside and would have a Presentation of the Work at the Center during or at the end of the Residency

Office Manager: The person who runs office at the Center and manages/oversees the calendar of programs and services at the Center.

## **General Policy**

The Art & Culture/IC3 Program at ICCNC opens its door to artists, craftspeople, performers, musicians, curators, designers, writers, cultural producers, and cultural/social entrepreneurs. Unlike commercial galleries/performing spaces, this space is intended to reflect the mission of the Center which is to “Celebrate Islam through Art, Culture, and Education” and values of the Center. The goal of the program is to support the expressive range of thought and experiences throughout the American-Muslim community. ICCNC provide a space that support and encourage the American-Muslim community’s vibrant range of art creation and presentation.

All functions and activities of this Center shall be conducted in accordance with ICCNC values, the status of the ICCNC as a nonprofit tax-exempt religious 501(c)(3) organization.

The programs should be suitable and appropriate for the Center’s visitors that include people of all ages, from young children to senior citizens, attending programs and activities; many of whom that are Muslim, Middle Eastern, mixed race, intercultural, refugee, and recent immigrants.

## **Art and Cultural Programs and Activities Promoted**

The Center promotes and advocates a wide range of art and cultural programs that it believes are compatible with the Center’s values and aid the Center to achieve its mission of celebrating Islam through art, culture, and education. The examples of the art and cultural programs and activities that ICCNC promotes are included but not limited to the following:

- Classical music from across the Islamic world, especially those based on Islamic mystical spiritual musics
- Traditional Islamic vocal music by groups of male or female vocalists such as Nasheed and Maludi to remind people of God's teachings and love of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his family (Ahlulbayt)
- New musical expressions by the Muslim artists that tells positive stories about Muslims and their struggles dealing with faith, modernity, family, etc. , and Muslims' responsibilities toward racial and economic inequalities
- Curate variety of art works by Muslim artists such as paintings, photographs, sculptures, and other artistic expressions that celebrate Islam and rich cultures of the Muslim societies and communities around the world
- Theatrical performances to tell stories of Muslims from the past and present, and reminds Muslims about their responsibilities toward combating racial and economic inequalities
- Screening movies that tells positive stories about Muslims and their struggles dealing with faith, modernity, family, etc., and their responsibilities toward combating racial and economic inequalities
- Any type of cross-cultural, interfaith, and conversational projects and activities which open new dialogue between Muslims with people of other faiths and cultures
- Poetry readings and story tellings
- Incubate and help Muslim artist to create new work

## Art and Cultural Activities Not Supported

There are some art and culture activities that are incompatible with ICCNC values; therefore, not supported. . Some examples of these types of programs and activities (but not limited to) are as follows:

- Any work that promotes and celebrates violence and extremism
- Any artworks that use and promote profanity and vulgar language
- Works that are discriminatory against other human beings
- Works that promote and celebrate unethical or immoral behavior in accordance to the Islamic values and social norms such as:
  - Celebrating use of alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs that are harmful to human body
  - Promoting sexual relationship outside of marriage
  - Glorifying killing other human beings
  - Any depictions of nudity
- Any type of artwork or performances that would slander and ridicule Islam, the Prophets, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) the family of Prophet or *Ahlulbayt*, and the Companions of the Prophet (*Sahaba*), and other religions
- Explicit dance performances, unless it is a folk dance and it is done by a group of dancers wearing Islamic modest dress
- The Center actively encourages and supports multicultural, recreational programs, and diverse artistic expressions. Although most of the Art & Culture/IC3 are geared toward Islamic art and Muslim/Middle Eastern artistic activities, the Center supports

## **Responsibilities**

ICCNC BOD has the overall responsibility to make sure that the policies of ICCNC are implemented by all. BOD Executive Committee is responsible to answer questions and clarify issues covered by this policy.

Art & Culture/IC3 Team is responsible to makes sure all the art and cultural programs and activities that are sponsored or co-sponsored by ICCNC follow this policy and are aware of it.

Office Manager or any staff /BOD member that make rental agreements with any organizations/person must make sure that the renters get a copy of this policy and adhere to it throughout their activities.