

On the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, join us for a panel discussion that examines the history and evolution of philanthropy in the city and the impact various philanthropic initiatives and platforms have had on local level.

For Immediate Release

On the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child this year we at Avid Learning are showing our support! Essar House, The Royal Opera House, or the NGMA, Mumbai will all be lit up pink this Thursday in support of the cause to empower and impact girls' lives nationwide. This is a cause close to AVID's heart and one we have been supporting for a number of years. On this occasion, we have also curated a panel on the influence and effects of philanthropy in our city that will touch upon efforts by individuals and organisations to change lives effectively.

It is a well-known fact that Mumbai, our beautiful city, has had its urban landscape built and shaped by philanthropic business families and individuals. But what does philanthropy achieve in our maximum city today? The city generates an extreme amount of wealth successfully, yet does this translate into a thriving culture of giving back? According to a recent Hurun India Philanthropy List, Mumbai is home to the highest number of Indian philanthropists. Yet, how has the machinery of strategic giving impacted the city's needier pockets and populations?

The description of the discussion is as below:

On the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child **NGMA Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, The Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai** and **Avid Learning** present **Multipolis Mumbai: Philanthropy and the City** a panel discussion that examines the impact and future trajectory of philanthropy in our city and the role of global initiatives and platforms in instrumenting change on a local level.

Join *CEO, Teach for India and Founder, Akanksha Shaheen Mistri, Founding Partner, Dasra Neera Nundy and Eminent Theatre Personality and Founder, CREATE Foundation Raeli Padamsee* in conversation with *Founder and Senior Partner of AZB & Partners Bahram Vakil*.

Examining global initiatives, like internationally recognized days dedicated to causes, this panel will probe how global awareness campaigns can be impactful on a local grassroots level. How can the traction gained from these initiatives actually empower and impact crisis causes in the city? Be they Women's empowerment, Girls Education, Sanitation and health, etc. What opportunities do these platforms create to acknowledge, address and raise awareness on these issues? How are these platforms relevant and beneficial to a local stakeholder and precinct? How are local initiatives, like the government's 'Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao' Campaign supported by international bodies like the Consulates?

The city offers a fascinating microcosm within the broader history of philanthropy and can tell us a great deal about how philanthropy has evolved. Religion, for example, has always played an important role in philanthropy, not only in terms of direct giving to religious causes but also as a broader motivating force for giving to secular causes. When was the charitable culture of the City at its strongest? Was it higher, say, in times when religion was a backdrop to every aspect of life? Does this still hold true today? Philanthropy was also an important tool to cement status for those who

had created wealth in a society that was still largely dominated by inherited wealth. Although many would argue that a desire for social status is still a major part of philanthropy, the changing nature of class structures, complicated and perhaps even created by the Colonial presence and the availability of other means for climbing the social ladder has undoubtedly lessened the importance of giving as a way of purchasing social standing.

But history aside, this panel will examine what philanthropy is in a modern context as well as a specifically Indian context. Perhaps the most interesting factor affecting philanthropy when it comes to the city is awareness of need. Whilst financial success creates a supply side for philanthropy, there is only a demand aspect if people are moved to give back and affect tangible change through financial contribution. The seriousness, scale and complexity of India's social problems require philanthropists to go beyond personal satisfaction of merely giving- it has to be strategic to be truly effective. What are the urgent causes capturing the hearts of our city's philanthropists? Who are the People who are trying to nurture a culture of philanthropy in the City? Are they corporates, individuals, religious communities, NGOs? Are there mega-donations given to some sectors and causes that are disproportionate denying others in need? What can cities do to encourage philanthropic gifts that can be more broadly shared with communities that need them most?

According to the India Philanthropy Report 2018, prepared by Dasra for Bain and Company, "between 2004 and 2015, India recorded 2.24 million crimes against women, and 1.08 million children died before their fifth birthday in 2017 alone. These ongoing problems underscore the need for individuals not only to contribute greater resources but also to ensure that their contributions are strategic enough to have a marked effect on key social development indicators."

Fortunately, a growing number of philanthropists, as well as the Government are beginning to act upon this need.

This discussion is part of our **Multipolis Mumbai** series, which decodes the past while looking to the future and finding novel ways of engaging, interacting with and re-energizing the city we love! This series was begun and had a successful run in 2012 and we revived it in June 2017. In the second iteration, we seek to go deeper and unearth more fascinating nuggets about our ever-surprising Mumbai! We've had panels on the re-haul of our historic precincts, the role of the business families of Bombay, Art Deco in the City and looking at the city through a child's eyes. We then facilitated discussions around how art institutions and practitioners in the city are harnessing the power of tech, how poets and women writers engage with and write about the city, about wildlife in the city and the role of technology in protection of local bio-diversity, and a discussion delving into the virtual and digital world of gaming, its relationship with art and the gaming culture in the city. We also held a workshop that looked more closely at celebrated classical architecture (namely Indo Saracenic and Victorian Gothic) of one of our oldest heritage precincts.

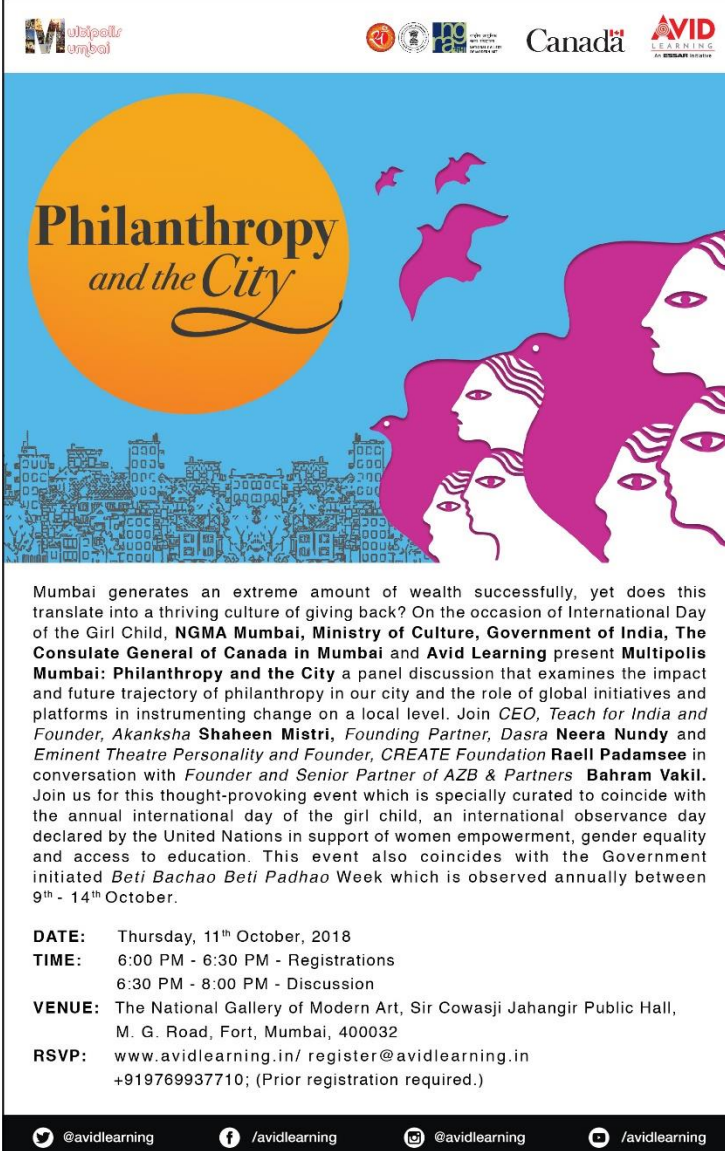
Join us for this thought-provoking event which is specially curated to coincide with the annual international day of the girl child, an international observance day declared by the United Nations in support of women empowerment, gender equality and access to education. The event venue, the NGMA, along with Essar House and Royal Opera House Mumbai will be lit up pink in support. This event also coincides with the Government initiated *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* Week which is observed annually between 9th-14th October.

WHERE – The National Gallery of Modern Art, Sir Cowasji Jahangir Public Hall, M. G. Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400032.

WHEN – Thursday, 11th October 2018 | 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM - Registrations and Refreshments | 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Discussion

RSVP – www.avidlearning.in; register@avidlearning.in / +919769937710; prior registration required

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About the Speakers

Neera Nundy is a cofounder and now leads Dasra's field building initiatives in the areas of Adolescents, Urban Sanitation, and Democracy & Governance. In 2016, she launched the Dasra Adolescent Collaborative, a \$50 million fund driving development outcomes which empower adolescent girls by scaling the impact of comprehensive programs in partnership with state governments and fostering a network of NGOs as a community of practice. Neera holds a Master's in Business Administration from Harvard Business School and is an Indian Leadership Fellow with Anantha-Aspen Institute. She is a recipient of the Canadian Governor General's Medallion for her

dedication to addressing India's critical development challenges, and the Forbes Philanthropy Award in the Crossover Leaders.

Raell Padamsee is a vibrant, versatile, dynamic well-known theatre personality. She is well reputed in the field of theatre production, design and execution of mega events and her company, Ace Productions Pvt. Ltd. has been involved in all these activities for over 20 years. She founded CREATE Foundation, a public charitable trust, in 2002 in loving memory of Pearl Padamsee. The trust aims to devise a revolutionary system of education by using the creative arts. CREATE's approach is holistic and aims to take learning out of the textbook and into the imagination, to make learning come alive! "Integration" has been the key motto of CREATE Foundation, i.e. integrating children from mainstream schools along with children from underprivileged and challenged backgrounds. CREATE works in integration with many NGO's for their upliftment and it also gives them amazing opportunities to work in plays by Ace Productions. Various NGO children along with children from the Ace Academy have been part of many Ace projects such as 'Freedom', 'The Sound of Music' and 'Grease'. Some of the NGO's that CREATE has worked with are ADAPT, Aseema, Central Society for the Education of the Deaf, Maharashtra Dyslexia Association, Muktangan, Salaam Baalak Trust, Salaam Bombay Foundation, Seva Sadan Society, Society for the Education of the Crippled, The Akanksha Foundation, The Bombay Community Public Trust, The Vatsalya Foundation, The Victoria Memorial School for the Blind and many more.

Shaheen Mistri grew up in 5 countries around the world, and returned to India when she was 18 to start Akanksha. For 17 years, she worked with teachers and students, building Akanksha to provide 4000 children from low-income communities the kind of education that would maximize their greatest potential. Today, Akanksha serves 6500 children through their School Project and after-school centres in Mumbai and Pune. In 2008, Shaheen founded Teach For India, with an audacious vision of providing an excellent education to all children across India through building a pipeline of leaders committed to ending educational inequity in India. Today, Teach For India directly impacts approximately 38,000 children across seven regions in India. Shaheen is a Governing Council Member on the Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB) and she serves on the boards of Akanksha Foundation and Simple Education Foundation. Shaheen has been an Ashoka Fellow, a Global Leader for Tomorrow at the World Economic Forum, and an Asia Society 21 Leader. Shaheen is the author of the book, Re-drawing India. She has a Bachelor's Degree from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and a Master's Degree from the University of Manchester.

Bahram N. Vakil is a founding partner of AZB & Partners. He was a member of the Bankruptcy Law Reform Committee (which provided and led to the implementation of the IBC) and is currently serving on a Committee that has proposed amendments to the IBC. Bahram is recognized by Chambers and Partners, Legal 500 and other publications as a leading lawyer for restructuring, banking & project finance in India. Bahram has also served as a member on various high-level government committees on financial reform, foreign direct investment and securities market reform.

About Partners

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India is a repository of the cultural ethos of the country and showcases the changing art forms through the passage of the last 160 years starting from about 1857 in the field of Visual and Plastic arts. The first NGMA was opened in

New Delhi at the historic Jaipur House, in the presence of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and artists and art lovers on March 29, 1954. The National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai was opened to the public in 1996. It hosts various exhibitions and also has its own art collections comprising paintings, sculptures and graphics with a focus on Indian and International artists. It is located in the precinct of the former auditorium the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Public Hall and the Institute of Science. This architecturally marvellous building was designed and built by the famous British architect George Wittet which has been completely redesigned keeping only the facade edifice that was Public Hall. It has hosted eminent artists like, K.H. Ara, F. N. Souza, Gaitonde, S.H. Raza and M.F. Hussain and contemporary artists like, K.G. Subramanyam, Sudhir Patwardhan, Nalini Malini, Atul Dodiya and Sudarshan Shetty. The NGMA in Mumbai is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, which has two branches one at Mumbai and the other at Bengaluru.

Canadian Consulate in Mumbai: In India, Canada is represented by the High Commission of Canada in New Delhi and Canada also has Consulate Generals in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Kolkata. There are Trade Offices in Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata. The Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai works together with Indian institutions, organizations and individuals to strengthen relations between both countries by fostering mutual economic prosperity and promoting values of governance, democracy, pluralism and human rights. Canada is a multicultural society and the heart of Canadian multiculturalism is the belief that all citizens are equal, regardless of their race, cultural heritage, ethnicity, religion, ancestry and place of origin. Canada guarantees to all men and women complete freedom of conscience, thought, belief, opinion, expression, association and peaceful assembly.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 950 programs and connected with more than 100,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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