

Avid Learning presents a panel discussion on teaching kids about engaging with our city through an exciting new children's book

### **For Immediate Release**

Children are among the primary users of their urban environment, which has a direct and profound impact on their development. Have you ever wondered about how your kids interact with the city? Have you ever grappled with teaching your kids about the history, culture, architecture, and locations of our sprawling and diverse metropolis? NGMA Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in association with Avid Learning presents Multipolis Mumbai: The City through a Child's Eyes, a panel discussion around Totally Mumbai, an exciting new children's book that introduces young minds to our maximum city in a fun and engaging way!

The description of the panel is as below:

Join Co-authors of Totally Mumbai **Pereena Lamba** and **Miel Sahgal**, Publisher, Funokplease **Preeti Vyas** and Journalist and Children's Book Author **Shabnam Minwalla** in conversation with Children's Writer, Editor and Curator of Children's Literature Festivals Lubaina Bandukwala as they discuss anecdotes and fun facts about the city and writing for kids in a manner that engages their interest in this rich city they are living in.

Read on for an exclusive note from the book's authors telling us about why they chose to write this book especially for kids:

Authors of the book **Miel Sahgal** and **Pereena Lamba** write "Mumbai holds stories from centuries ago and creates new ones every day. We wanted to bring these tales alive for children, stringing together the many bits and pieces that miraculously mix to shape this irresistible city. This book is an attempt to help children form a deeper connection with the city and become Totally Mumbai kids." From Mumbai's key monuments to local ghost stories, food, parks, weather, local lingo, caves, wildlife, industries, professions, entertainment, nautical history, neighbourhoods and much, much more- this richly illustrated book gives the young eye a well- informed Mumbai yatra around the island haven we all call home!"

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 reenergizing the city that we love!

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

When: Thursday 9th November 2017; 6.00 – 6. 30 PM - Registrations and Refreshments | 6. 30 PM – 8.00 PM – Discussion

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### Bios of the Panelists

Lubaina Bandukwala is a Children's Writer, Editor, and Curator of Children's Literature Festivals and Former journalist. She also curates children's literature sessions at the prestigious Kala Ghoda Arts

Festival in Mumbai and has founded her own Children's Literature Festivals called Peek A Book and Fully Booked.

Shabnam Minwalla is a mother of three. In the little off-time that this brain-scrambling job permits, she writes food articles, columns and book reviews for magazines and newspapers. Shabnam used to be a Senior Assistant Editor with the Times of India. She has also written a book on her alma mater, St Xavier's College in Mumbai. She has written four books for children -- 'The Six Spellmakers of Dorabji Street', 'The Strange Haunting of Model High School', 'The Shy Supergirl' and 'Lucky Girl'. Her books are being used as readers by numerous schools and are very popular. Her fifth book – a fat fantasy set in Mumbai called 'What Maya Saw' – is to be published by the end of 2017. Shabnam has conducted workshops and sessions in schools and festivals around the country. These include Bookaroo in Delhi, the Kala Ghoda Festival, the Tata Literature Live! Festival and the NCPA Summer Fiesta in Mumbai.

Preeti Vyas is the founder of FunOKPlease, a publishing company that creates contemporary Indian content for children. Its portfolio includes popular titles such as 'Toto the Auto', 'Your Turn Now'; and '366 words in Mumbai'; They also co-publish books with publishers such as Penguin Random House, Scholastic and Harper Collins. In 2017, they were awarded the 'Best Children's Publisher' Award by

popular children's portal Kidsstoppress.com. Preeti spent most of her childhood reading books and most of her adult life reading to children along with buying, selling and publishing books for children! Through her 22 years long career in the retail, publishing and content industries in India and Australia she has worked in a variety of business roles at organization such as ToysRUs, Sony Music, Crossword, Future Group and also ran an independent children's bookshop called Kidztown in Mumbai.

Preeti is passionate about children's content, children's rights and empowering children to whet their curiosity, reach for their biggest dreams and have fun every step of the way!

Miel Sahgal is a Director at the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, an organization committed to wilderness protection. Over the past two decades, she has held various positions at Sanctuary, including Managing Editor of Sanctuary Asia magazine. Her interest in education has encouraged her to teach as well as spearhead strategy and operations at Kids for Tigers, a pan-India conservation campaign in schools. As an event planner, she has organized nature walks, environmental workshops and excursions for Mumbai families in order to help urban children reconnect with nature. Writing continues to be her favoured method of communication, used most often for issues she cares deeply about. Miel has a BA in Environmental Science from Bryn Mawr College.

Ever since she started writing a secret diary at the age of seven, Pereena Lamba has had a love affair with words. After completing a post-graduate degree in media studies in Mumbai, she spent ten years in advertising as a Creative Manager at FCB Ulka and J. Walter Thompsom, India. She moved to the UK in 2001 where she worked at the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, creating reports for their Adoption and Fostering panel. Five years later, she returned to Mumbai with her husband and two children and picked up her pen once again. A writing gypsy, she has penned a graphic novel and training manuals for a child rights NGO, taught English and created lesson plans for seventh-graders and written and edited articles for several lifestyle magazines and blogs. Totally Mumbai brings together some of her other passions - children, education, photography and the manic and marvellous world of Mumbai.

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 marvelous 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 by a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, which has two branches one at Mumbai and the other at Bengaluru.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 750 programs and connected with more than 65,000 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. Facebook : [www.facebook.com/Avidlearning](http://www.facebook.com/Avidlearning); Twitter : [www.twitter.com/Avidlearning](http://www.twitter.com/Avidlearning); Instagram: @avidlearning