

IAWF

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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IAWF
CONNECT
EMPOWER
INSPIRE
Iranian American Women Foundation

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Since its establishment in 2012, the Iranian American Women Foundation (IAWF) has been a driving force in empowering and inspiring women of Iranian heritage across all ages, professions, and walks of life. Through its nationally acclaimed Women's Leadership Conferences, IAW Foundation has created a transformative platform for fostering leadership, collaboration, and innovation.

Building on the success of its conferences, IAW Foundation has expanded its initiatives to include Rising Leadership programs, mentorship opportunities, and scholarships aimed at supporting the next generation of leaders within the community. Recognizing the global need for connection and inspiration, IAW Foundation took its mission international in 2017, serving as a unifying force for Iranian women worldwide who are eager to learn from and support one another.

Our mission is to provide a platform that facilitates both professional and personal growth for our members, as well as for the broader local and global community. We invite everyone who shares our vision of empowerment, connection, and positive change to join us on this journey to make a lasting impact in the lives of women around the world.



Mariam Khosravani
Founder, IAW Foundation

IAWF

Iranian American Women Foundation

Since its inception in Orange County, California, the Iranian American Women Foundation (IAW Foundation) has inspired, empowered, and connected thousands of women both nationally and globally. It has become a true community—a home away from home—that celebrates creative, innovative, tenacious, and competitive women who are problem-solvers and forces for good.

Over the past years, the IAW Foundation has hosted sold-out conferences in cities such as Los Angeles, Boston, San Diego, Toronto, San Francisco, Irvine, London, and many others. Through these events, the IAW Foundation provides a platform for open dialogue, fosters lasting connections, and inspires women to pursue their dreams. It empowers Iranian American women to achieve their highest potential and contributes to the heart of the American dream. In addition to its conferences, the IAW Foundation is deeply committed to supporting the younger generation by offering scholarships, mentorship opportunities, career development resources, leadership training, and internships. These initiatives aim to empower young Iranian Americans and help them build the skills and connections necessary for personal and professional success.

The IAW Foundation showcases the richness of America's diversity, celebrates the confluence of American and Iranian heritage, and propels women forward by helping them develop dynamic professional and leadership skills.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a platform for empowerment and networking among Iranian-American Women and to provide mentorship to younger generations of Iranians locally and globally.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world where every woman realizes her full potential and joins forces to positively impact our global community.

OUR PROGRAMS

For Women

- Local & National Conferences
- Seminars & Workshops
- Wellness Retreats
- Networking Opportunities
- Online Presence

For Young Generation

- Scholarship ($473,000 awarded)
- Career Opportunities
- Leadership Developments
- Internship Opportunities
- Mentorship (250 Mentees & 178 Mentors)






30
31



CONFERENCES

Our Women's Leadership Conferences bring Iranian American women together to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and celebrate the achievements of their community. Held both nationwide and internationally, these events feature panels led by accomplished speakers and skilled moderators, providing them with a spotlight and platform to share their insights. Attendees gain valuable knowledge, networking opportunities, and a chance to support their personal and professional growth. They can explore career opportunities, exchange ideas with like-minded individuals, and build lasting connections.

The conferences also highlight the diverse talents of Iranian women artists, from musicians to fashion designers, who add a unique cultural touch to the events. In-kind donors and exhibitors also benefit by showcasing their businesses and engaging with a vibrant, interactive audience.

Beyond fostering dialogue and collaboration, the conferences serve as a platform to further the IAW Foundation's mission. Through fundraising efforts, we generate critical support for our scholarship program, which helps Iranian students pursue higher education in the United States. The events also offer attendees the chance to join our community and contribute to this meaningful cause.

LOS ANGELES, CA
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

June 3, 2023










IAWF
9


APTER
MERICAN
UNDATION


OC CHAPTER
IAWF

ORANGE COUNTY, CA
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

March 2, 2024










32



In Collaboration with Leading a Life By Design

LONDON, UK
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

May 18, 2024








mzadeh
Mana Shamshiri
Sarah Regensburger
Shahroo




IAWF Tree...Inspiration Grows Here
IAWF
SPEAKER



ORANGE COUNTY
CHAPTER



In Collaboration INTUITV ARTSHIP

WHITE FEATHER BALLET

By Sanaz K. Soltani & Tara Ghassemieh

March 22, 2023



SOFREH BOOK SIGNING

By Nasim Alikhani

July 10, 2023









THE PERSIAN VERSION FILM SCREENING

October 25, 2023

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BOAT PARADE

December 17, 2023





MEET & GREET

With Mariam Khosravani

January 19, 2024



NO LAND'S SONG SCREENING

+ Q&A with Ali Kazemian,
Shila Ommi, Ayat Najafi
& Sara Najafii

February 8, 2024





In Collaboration with NICArt

THE STORY OF NOWRUZ

March 9-10, 2024









AFTERNOON TEA WITH MOM

Mother's Day Celebration

May 11, 2024









In collaboration with NASA & NIPOC

CONVERSATIONS WITH ASTRONAUT JASMIN MOGHBELI

July 22, 2024









TASNIF KHANI CLASSES

With Sahar Mohammadi Boroujerdi

September 11 - November 13, 2024







ORANGE COUNTY
RISING LEADERS

HIKE & BOND BEACH CLEAN UP

September 10, 2023







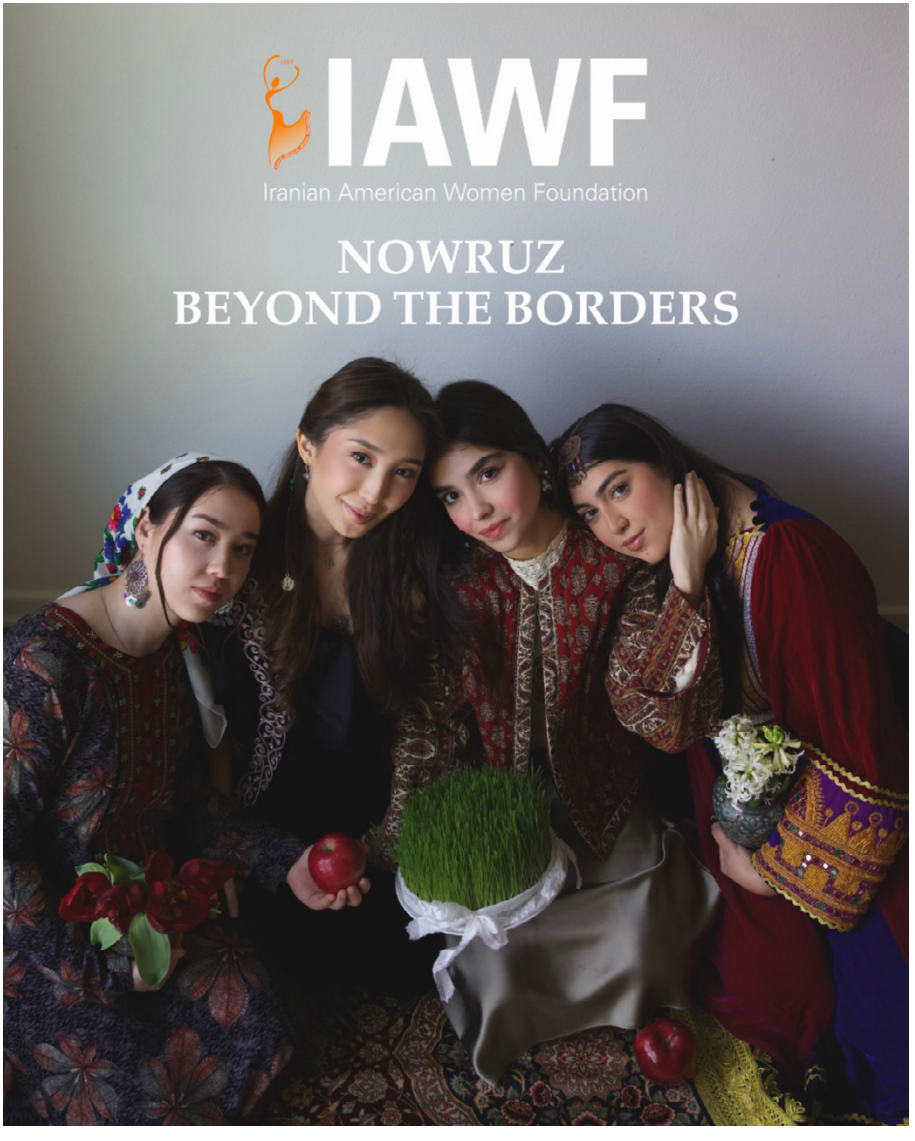
In Collaboration with UCI Society of Iranian Graduate Students

YALDA NIGHT BOOTH

December 16, 2023

NOWRUZ BEYOND THE BORDERS PHOTOSHOOT

March 19, 2024



HAPPY HOUR NOWRUZ

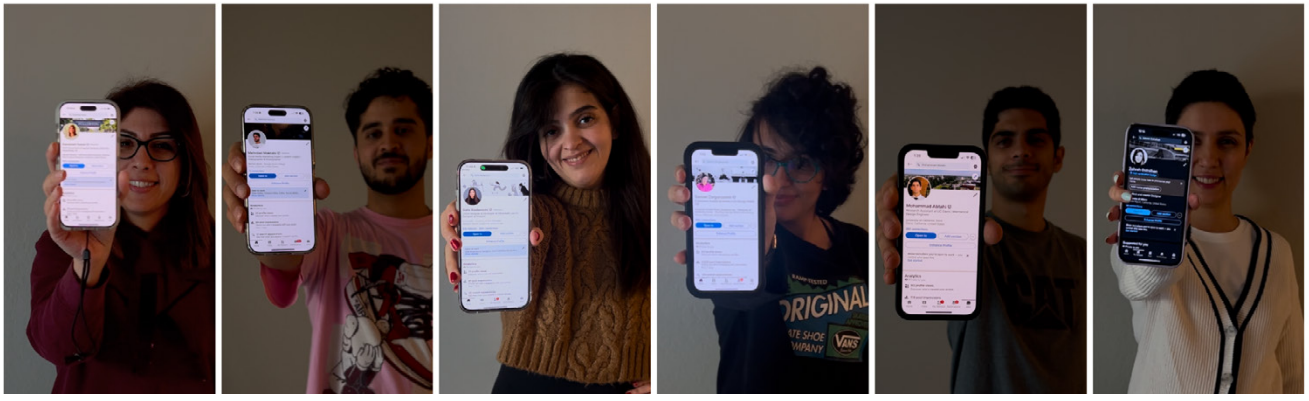
March 10, 2024



LINKEDIN WORKSHOP

For Mentees

December 14, 2024





LOS ANGELES
CHAPTER

In Collaboration with the City of West Hollywood

NOWRUZ - A PERSIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

March 29, 2023



In Collaboration INTUITV ARTSHIP

WHITE FEATHER BALLET

Sanaz K. Soltani
& Tara Ghassemieh

June 29, 2023





WOMEN OF INFLUENCE SOIRÉE

Honoring A. Ashley Tabaddor, Atossa Soltani, Haleh Mahboubi Gabbay, Layla S. Diba, Pari Abasalti, Parvin Arasteh, Shahrzad Rezai, & Susie Gharib

September 30, 2023







In Collaboration with Chef Mojdeh

CULINARY TOUR OF IRAN EPISODE I

April 14, 2024







In Collaboration with Chef Mojdeh

CULINARY TOUR OF IRAN EPISODE II

August 11, 2024







LOS ANGELES
RISING LEADERS

In Collaboration with UCLA ISG

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PANEL

By Azadeh Afsahi, Sepideh Hakimzadeh & Sheerin Mehdian

May 24, 2023





JOSHUA TREE ANNUAL RTREAT

By Camp Vortex Retreats

June 24-25, 2023



COOKING CLASS

By Chef Shane

July 22, 2023









In Collaboration with City of West Hollywood

MAHSA AMINI DAY PROCLAMATION

September 18, 2023





The City of WEST HOLLYWOOD

Proclamation

Iranian American Women Foundation

"Mahsa Amini Day"

WHEREAS, the Iranian American Women Foundation (IAWF) was founded in 2012 to provide a platform for empowerment and networking among Iranian American women and to provide mentorship to younger generations of Iranians locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, IAWF has empowered, inspired and connected over 6,000 women nationwide and globally by creating a forum for open dialogue. IAWF showcases the diversity of America, celebrates the confluence of the American fabric and Iranian heritage, and propels women forward into new, dynamic professional leadership arenas; and

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the world was shocked when Mahsa Amini, also known as Jina Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman, was arrested on the basis of inadequate head covering and was killed three days later on September 16, 2022 while in custody in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

WHEREAS, her unjust treatment and untimely death became a catalyst for the first-ever female-led revolution, called the "Woman, Life, Freedom Movement," where women demanded nothing less than basic human rights and equality between all men and women; and

WHEREAS, women in West Hollywood and around the nation and globe have been moved by the "Women, Life, Freedom Movement" in Iran and are encouraged to fight against human rights violations against women; and

WHEREAS, following Mahsa Amini's death, IAWF brought together the community and held a candlelight vigil at West Hollywood Park to honor Mahsa Amini's memory and the countless brave Iranian women risking their lives in the movement for women's rights and freedom; and

WHEREAS, in support of the "Women, Life, Freedom Movement", the City of West Hollywood passed resolutions in October and December 2022 reaffirming support for women's equality and the right for people to peacefully exercise freedom of expression, assembly, and association in Iran; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood continues to support the "Women, Life, Freedom Movement" to preserve and continue the legacy of Mahsa Amini. The City also commends organizations such as IAWF for the incredible work in support of women and the Iranian community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby recognizes the "Woman, Life, Freedom Movement" and proclaims September 18, 2023 as Mahsa Amini Day in West Hollywood.

Resolved this 18th day of September, 2023

John M. Erickson, Mayor Pro Tempore

John Heilman, Councilmember

Lauren Meister, Councilmember

Chelsea Byers, Councilmember

DISNEY'S REALM OF WONDERS BOOK SIGNING

By Alexandra Monir

October 10, 2023





WOMEN'S HEALTH PANEL



By Dr. Mandana Ghahremani, Dr. Mitra Daneshrad, & Dr. Nazanin Yaghmai

November 8, 2023



IRANIAN DANCE CLASS

By Shantel Behroozan

May 5, 2024



CHAHARSHANBE SOORI GATHERING

March 14, 2024







NOWRUZ PROCLAMATION

March 18, 2024



The City of WEST HOLLYWOOD

Proclamation

Nowruz

WHEREAS, for millions of people around the world, Nowruz marks a new year and the beginning of spring. Observed for more than 3,000 years on the vernal equinox, Nowruz translates into "new day" in Farsi and is the name of the Persian New Year; and

WHEREAS, March 19 is the start of the celebration of Nowruz in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz is celebrated by more than 300 million people around the world and is a day of celebration enjoyed by people of different faiths, one of the few celebrations of an ancient Persian culture that is not restricted to a specific religious group; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz celebrates the renewal of nature and brings family and friends together to take part in unique traditions welcoming the arrival of spring. Central to the celebration is setting the "haft-seen" table with an arrangement of seven symbolic items that start with the letter "S": somagh (Sumac berries), sabzeh (sliced lentil sprouts), samanu (sweet pudding), seeb (apples), senjeed (dried lotus tree fruit), seer (garlic), and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles region is home to the largest Iranian community outside of Iran, enriching the diverse tapestry of cultures that are foundational to West Hollywood and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood wishes all Iranian communities a Happy Nowruz. The City is grateful for its partnerships with various Iranian organizations, including the Iranian American Women Foundation who has partnered with the City to bring programming to celebrate Nowruz, as well as being awareness to issues impacting the Iranian community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby recognizes March 19, 2024, as Nowruz Day in West Hollywood and wishes all Iranian communities throughout West Hollywood and beyond a Happy Nowruz.

Resolved this 18th day of March, 2024

John M. Erickson
Mayor

Chelsea Byers
Vice Mayor

Lauren Meister
Councilmember

John Heilman
Councilmember

Sepi Shyne
Councilmember





FALL WELLNESS RETREAT

By Anousha, Kimia Ramezani, Mada Davis, Roxanne Sarhangi, Shantel Behroozan & Toranj Kayvon

October 20, 2024









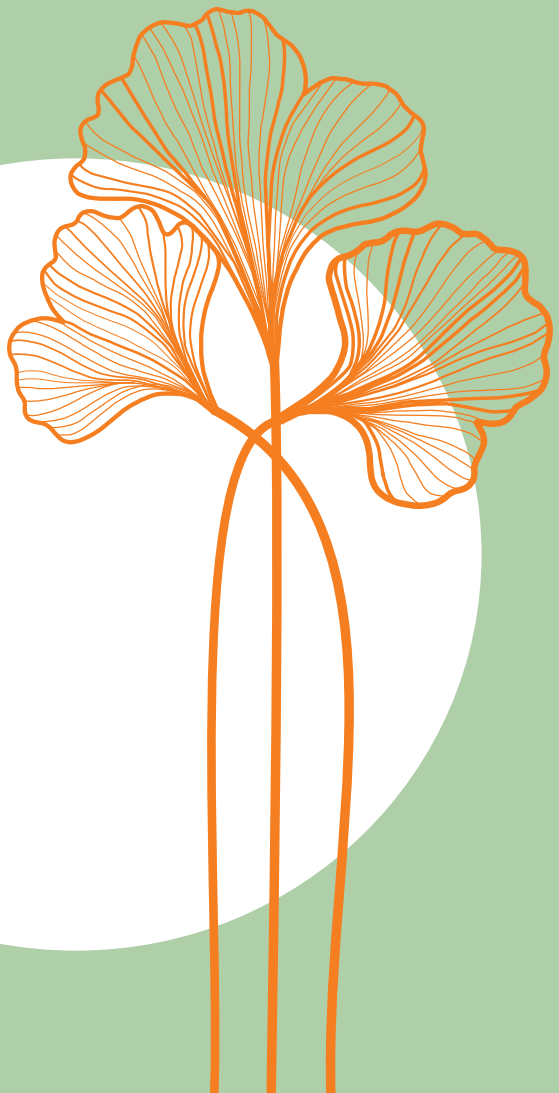


JOSHUA TREE ANNUAL RETREAT

By Camp Vortex Retreats

November 1-2, 2024





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

APPRECIATION, SOLIDARITY & GRATITUDE

March 25, 2023







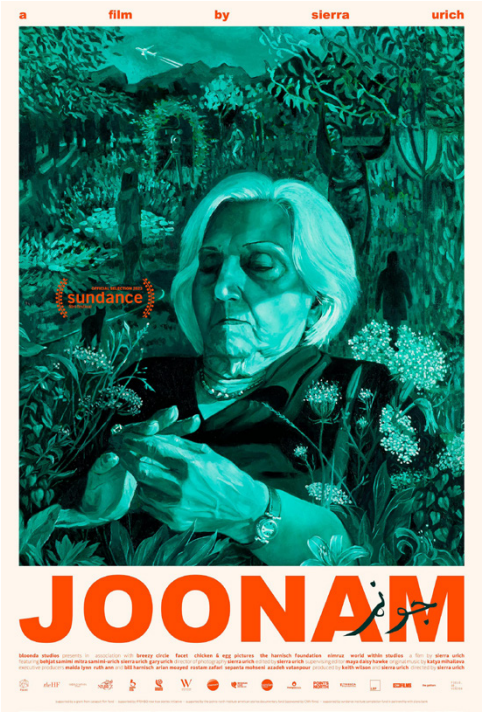


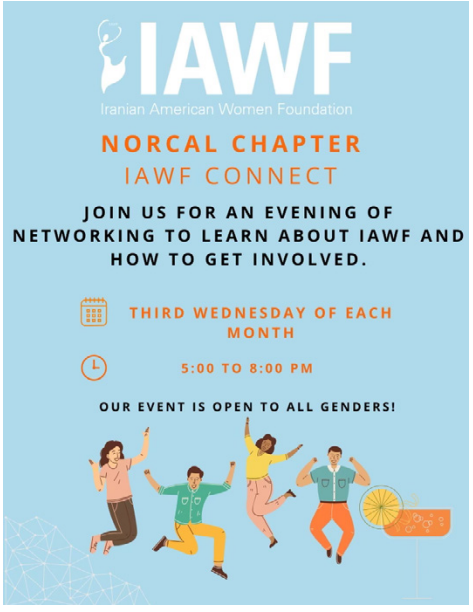
In Collaboration with Iranian Diaspora Studies

JOONAM SCREENING

+ Q&A with Sierra Urich

October 22, 2023





NORCAL CHAPTER CONNECT

February 21, 2024 & April 17, 2024

In Collaboration with Temple of Unity

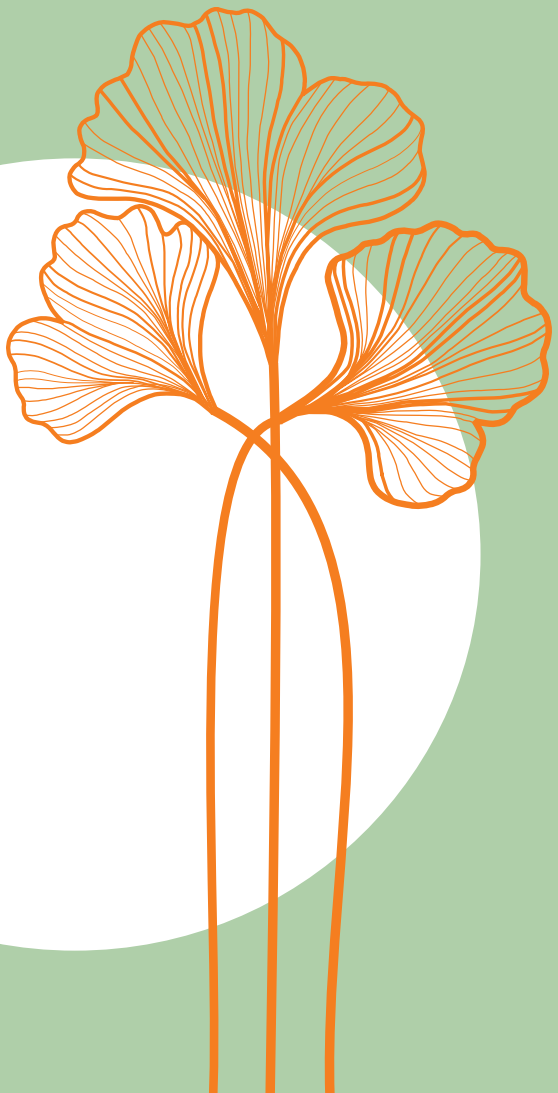
BEYOND WELLNESS: EMBRACING YOUR WHOLENESS

By Dr. Nooshin K. Darvish, Dr. Haleh Kashani, Farnaz Khadiv, Nazli Nadem, Shirin Hedayat, Sima Hashemifar, Armineh Turgeon, Nasrin Naaseh & Sepideh Homami

October 27, 2024







NEW YORK
CHAPTER

A REVOLUTION ON CANVAS PREMIERE

+ Q&A with Nicky Nodjoumi,
Sara Nodjoumi, Shirin Neshat,
Sussan Deyhim & Till Schauder

December 1, 2023



JOONAM SCREENING

+ Q&A with Arian Moayed,
Sanam Akhlagh & Sierra Urich

December 2, 2023



In Collaboration with TEDid

IMMIGRATION DIASPORA

Speakers Maryam Banikarim &
Desiree Akhavan

December 6, 2023





In Collaboration with Waterwell

A GOOD DAY TO ME NOT TO YOU PRODUCTION

December 7, 2023





PERSIAN DANCE WORKSHOP

Instructed by Leila Montazemi

January 28, 2024



IN THE STILLNESS OF NIGHT PRODUCTION

Written by Yekta Khaghani & Directed by Shadi Ghaheri

February 6, 2024





In Collaboration with IFCA

A NIGHT OF MUSIC & PHILANTHROPY

Performances by Mahya Hamedi, Bahar Badieitabar, & Niloufar Nourbakhsh

February 24, 2024





In Collaboration with the United Nations

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

By Nadereh Chamlou
& Hedieh Fakhriyazdi

March 21, 2024







NOWRUZ BAZAAR

Fundraiser showcasing the art
of 17 Iraninan women

March 8-9, 2024









In Collaboration with Emruz Festival & IFCA

PAYVAND - A MUSICAL

Performances by Bahar Bedieitabar & Mahya Hamedi

April 27, 2024







A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY

Introduction of the NY Mentorship Program

May 3, 2024





FERTILITY 101

With Dr. Taraneh Gharib Nazem

June 26. 2024





LOVE BY DESIGN BOOK SIGNING

By Author Dr. Sara Nasserzadeh

October 22, 2024





MENTORSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATION

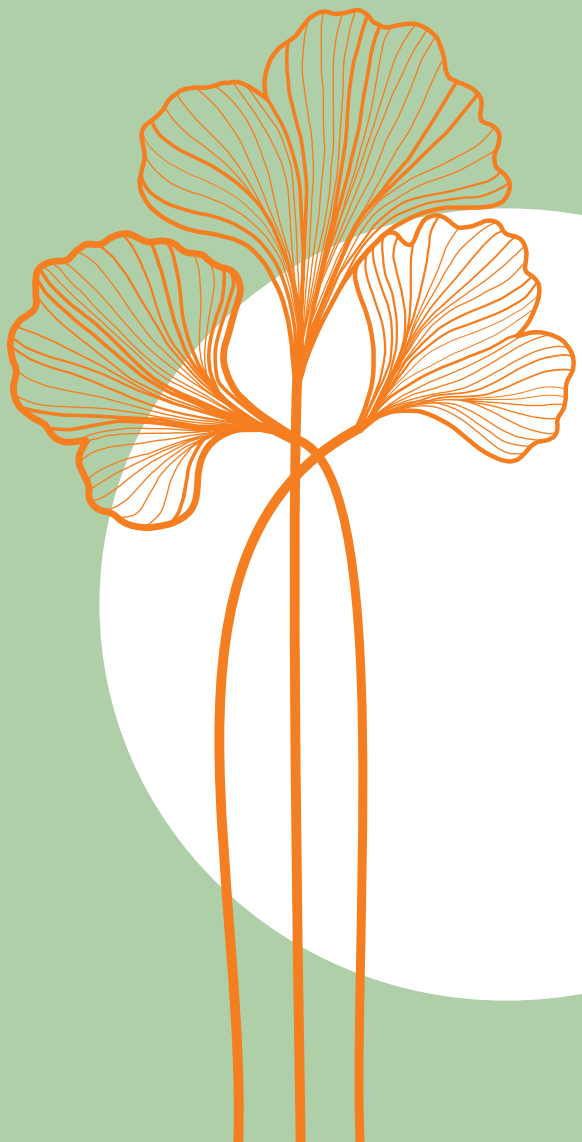
Floral Arrangement Workshop

December 17, 2024







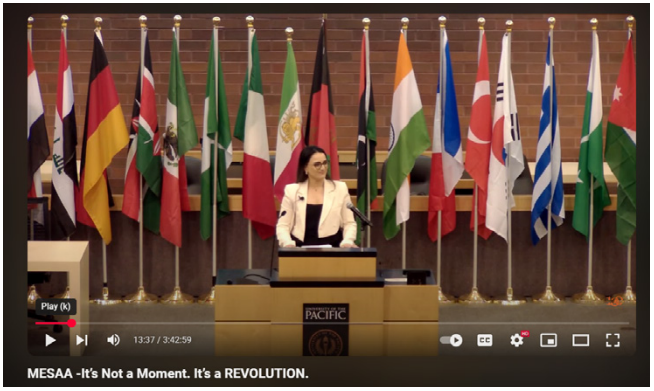


VIRTUAL
EVENTS

In Collaboration with McGeorge School of Law

MESAA: IT'S NOT A MOMENT. IT'S A REVOLUTION

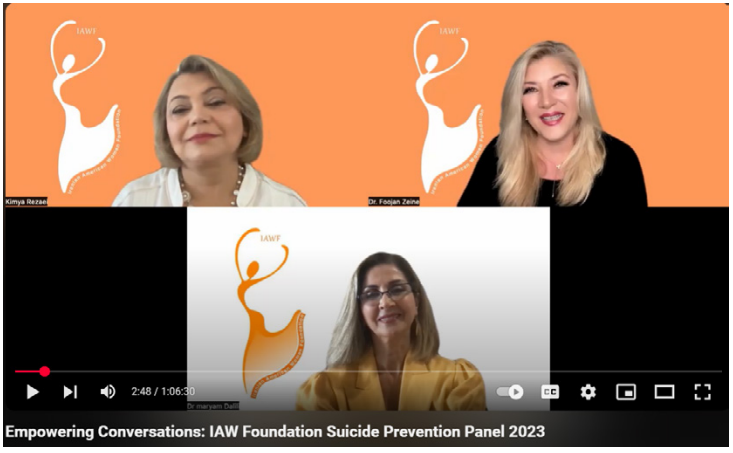
January 29, 2023



EMPOWERING CONVERSATIONS: SUICIDE PREVENTION PANEL

By Dr. Foojan Zeine, Dr. Maryam Dalili & Kimiya Rezaei

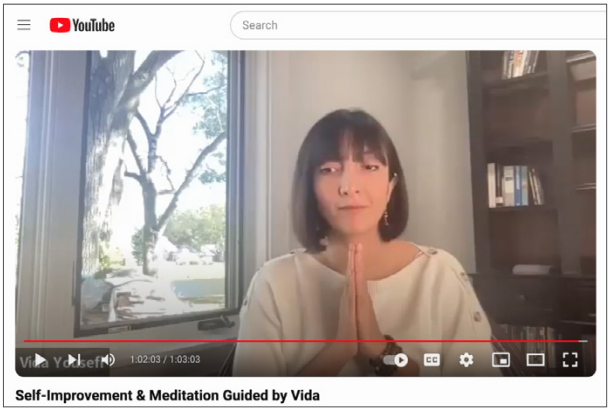
September 23, 2023



SELF-IMPROVEMENT & MEDITATION GUIDED

By Vida Yousefi

December 30, 2023

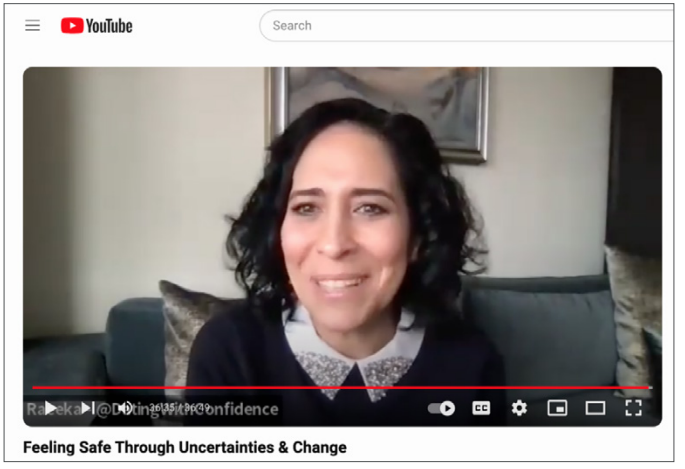


Self-Improvement & Meditation Guided by Vida

FEELING SAFE THROUGH UNCERTAINTIES & CHANGE

By Raeeka Yaghmai

January 27, 2024

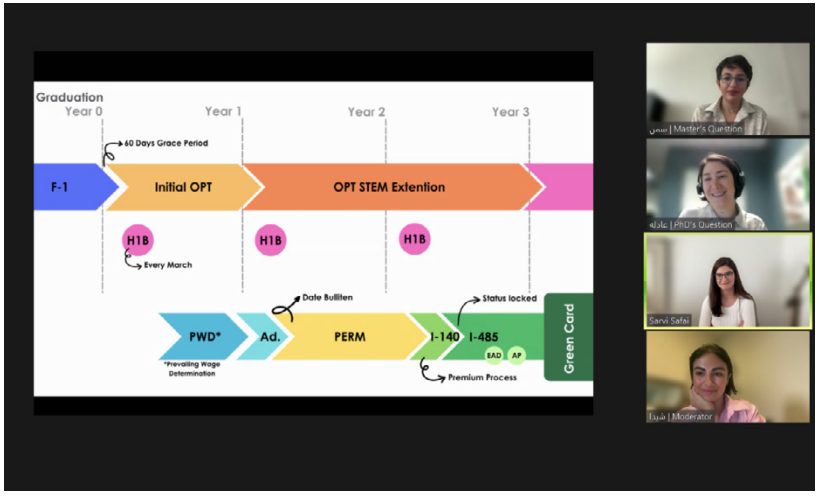


Feeling Safe Through Uncertainties & Change

IMMIGRATION Q&A WEBINAR

By Attorney Sarvi Safai

June 23, 2024

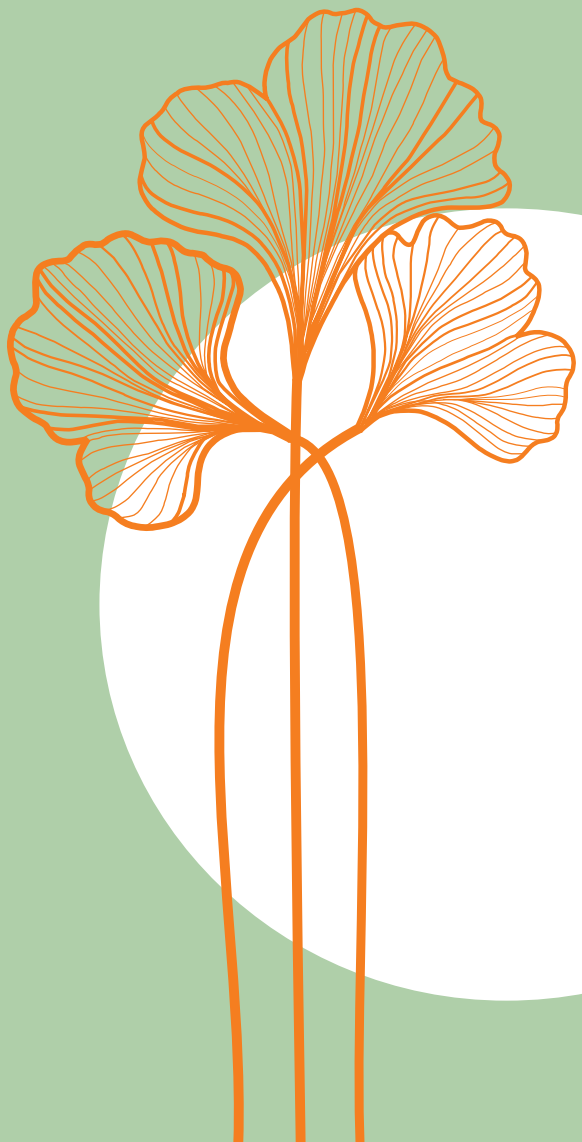


INTERNSHIP WEBINAR

By Dr. Elahe Tabesh For Mentees

September 8, 2024





MENTORSHIP
PROGRAMS

MENTORSHIP TO INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Our program encompasses four areas, mentorship, scholarship, life academy workshop, and internship.



178
Mentors

250
Mentees

Total of
$473,000
Scholarship
Awarded



THE PROGRAMS

Mentorship

We match applicants with mentors who can provide professional and personal guidance through their careers.

Scholarship

We provide financial assistance to our mentees who have a demonstrated financial need, cross-cultural bridge-building, and community service.

Life Academy

Life Academy is a series of informative workshops aimed at gearing mentees with the tools necessary to excel in their classrooms and workspaces.

Internship

The IAW Foundation offers internship opportunities to active mentees, as well as access to our wide network of professionals throughout the country.



MENTORSHIP SUCCESS STORY

" I recently completed my MBA, a milestone that would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the IAW Foundation. During some of my most challenging moments, struggling with homesickness, missing my culture and family, and navigating financial difficulties, the IAW Foundation was there for me every step of the way. Through their mentorship program, I received mental and emotional support and financial assistance, empowering me to overcome obstacles I never thought I could face alone.

The mentorship program connected me with remarkable, successful women whose guidance and encouragement shaped my path. I am especially grateful to the IAW Foundation boards for their visionary leadership, which has touched the lives of so many individuals, including mine.

Thank you to everyone at the IAW Foundation for making this journey less difficult and for your dedication to shaping a brighter future for the next generation. Your work makes a difference, and I will forever cherish your impact on my life. "

Mahsa Ghaderpour

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Establishing a named scholarship is a distinguished way to create a lasting legacy or honor the memory of a loved one. This initiative provides a direct and impactful means to support Iranian students pursuing higher education. The following named scholarships demonstrate heartfelt generosity and a deep commitment to supporting education and empowering future generations.

Named Scholarship Funds

- Ali Amin Scholarship Fund
- Ameri Prize for Civic Leadership
- Arash Salkhi Scholarship Fund
- Amin Arasteh Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Ashley Tabaddor Scholarship Fund
- Behzadi Family Scholarship Fund
- Colonel Ruhollah Parvaneh Scholarship Fund
- Farah Majidi Scholarship Fund
- Fariba Ameri Scholarship Fund
- Farzaneh Morshed Scholarship Fund
- Jila Kashef Scholarship Fund
- Khajehnouri Family Scholarship Fund
- Mandana Farmanfarmaian Scholarship Fund
- Saei Family Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Mitra Mogharabi Aredehali Scholarship Fund
- Pari Abasalti Scholarship Fund
- Shirin Salehinia & Babak Nabili Scholarship Fund
- Shirzan Scholarship Fund
- Shiva Kord Scholarship Fund

SCHOLARSHIP TESTIMONIALS



" Receiving this "vote of confidence" from a very caring and generous donor has encouraged me to keep going and to always follow my dreams. In these unprecedented times, my family has faced financial burdens and this scholarship greatly relieves the financial struggle they face and allows me to focus on my studies with peace of mind. "

Natasha Motamed



" I am deeply humbled and thrilled to become a part of the esteemed IAW Foundation community. I am eager to contribute to the betterment of the Iranian-American community and the empowerment of its women. Recognizing the significance of this mission, I am wholeheartedly dedicated to upholding its values as I pursue my Juris Doctorate. Looking ahead, I am enthusiastic about utilizing this scholarship to further my dedication to education and advocacy for justice and equity. "

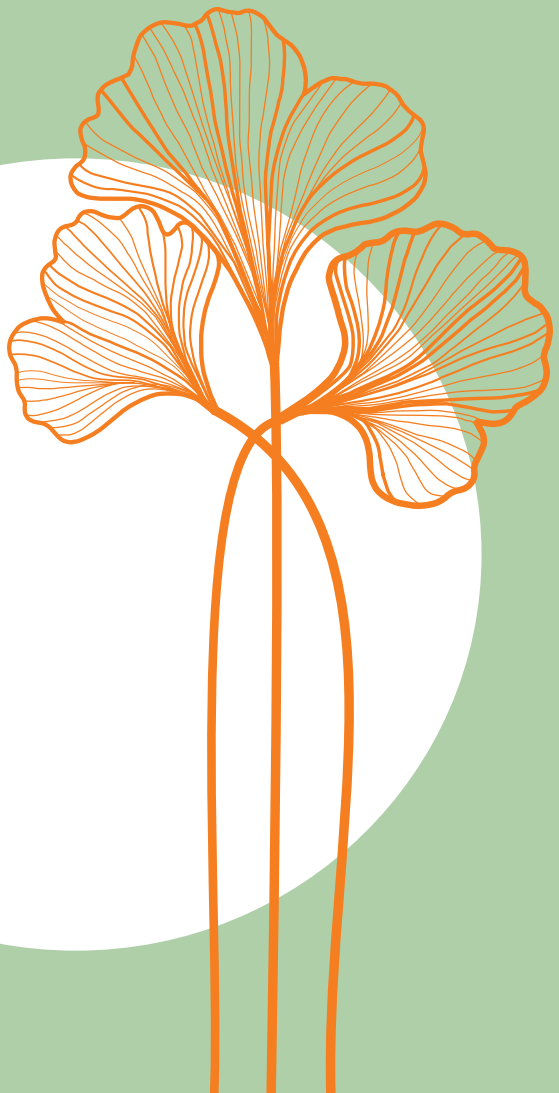
Aliyah Kazemaini



" I want to assure you that this scholarship is not just financial assistance; it is a beacon of encouragement that will propel me forward in my educational and professional endeavors. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity & giving back to the community in the future, just as you have done for me. "

Alireza Pourghaderi

VISIBILITY
INITIATIVE

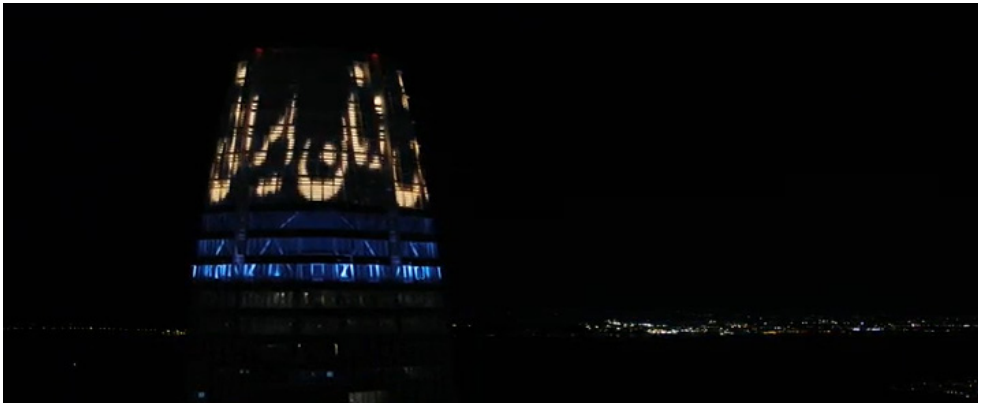


WOMAN LIFE FREEDOM

The IAW Foundation launched the Visibility Initiative to raise awareness about Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old woman who died in police custody in Iran, and the countless Iranian women risking their lives for women's rights and freedom. This initiative includes public projects such as billboards, vigils, advertisements, and school speaking engagements over the past 2 years. Aligned with the IAW Foundation's core values to Inspire, Empower, and Connect, the initiative amplifies the voices of Iranian women, bringing national and international attention to their fight for freedom.



Art by Tahmineh Javanbakht

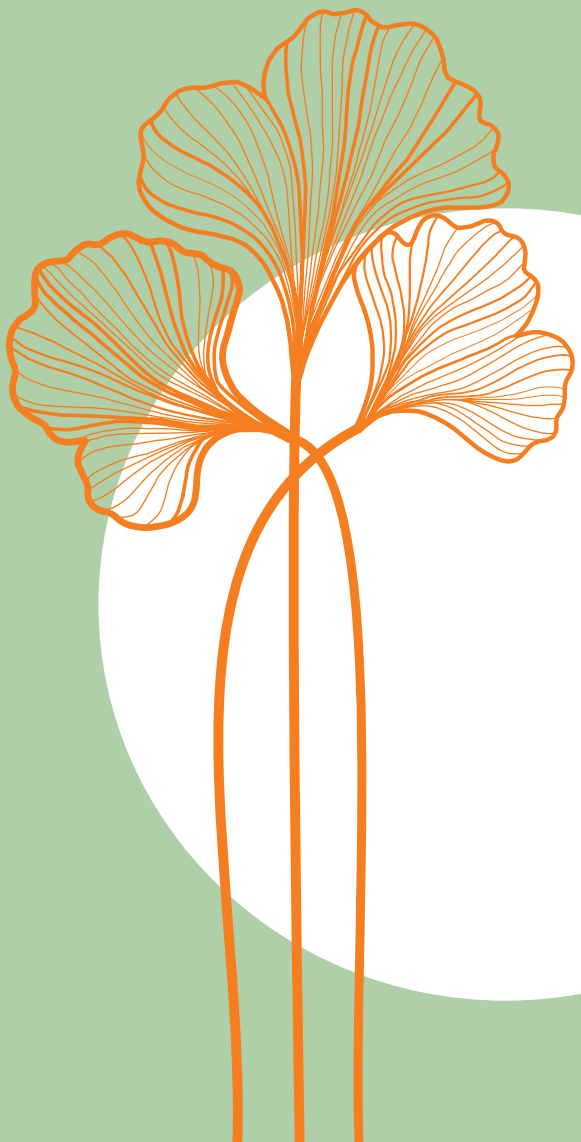


In Collaboration with the San Fransico Salesforce Tower. Art by Shaghayegh Cyrous

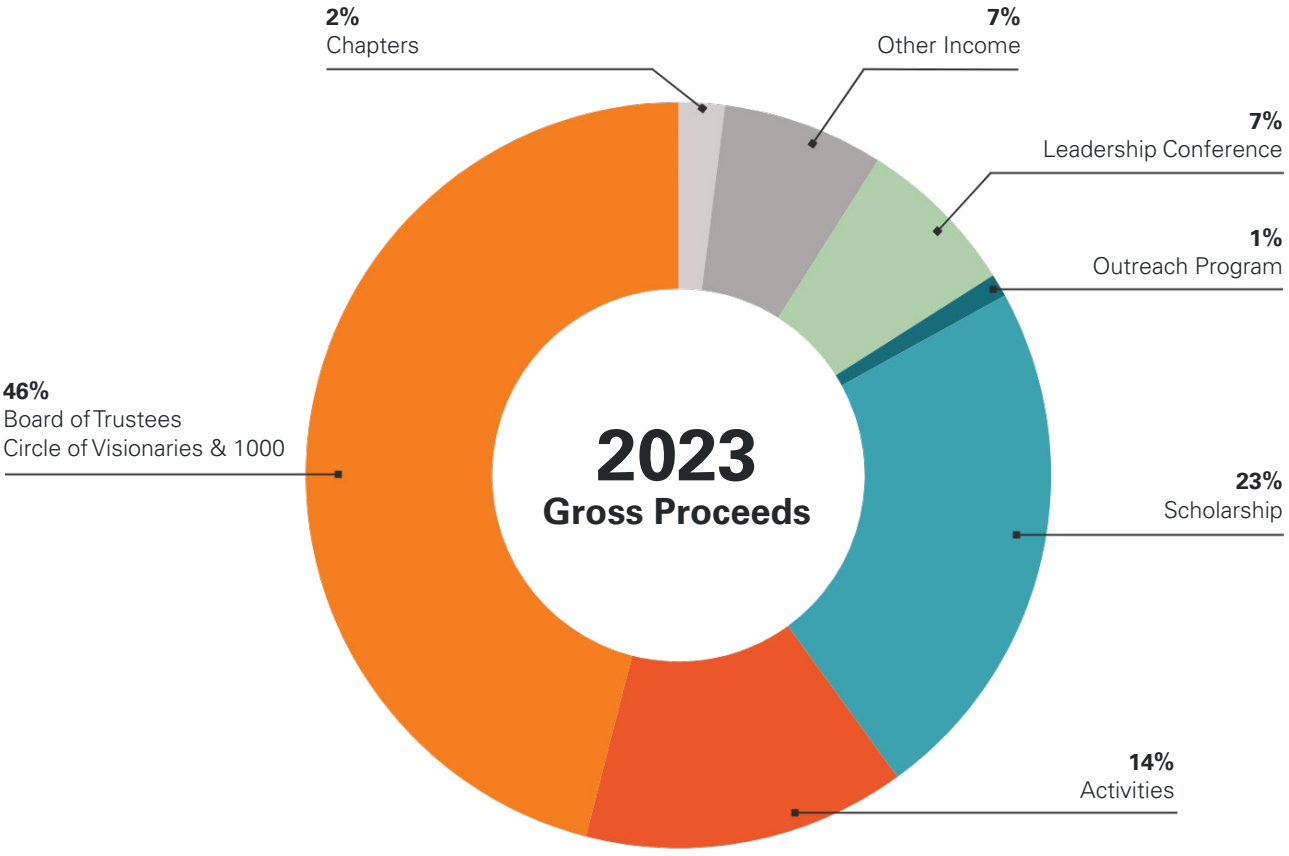
2024 APPRECIATION AWARD RECIPIENT

The IAW Foundation was honored to receive an appreciation award from the Amin Arasteh Foundation in recognition of its dedicated efforts to support the next generation of Iranians. This award acknowledges the foundation's ongoing commitment to providing scholarships and mentorship, offering valuable resources, guidance, and opportunities for young Iranians to pursue their educational and professional goals.

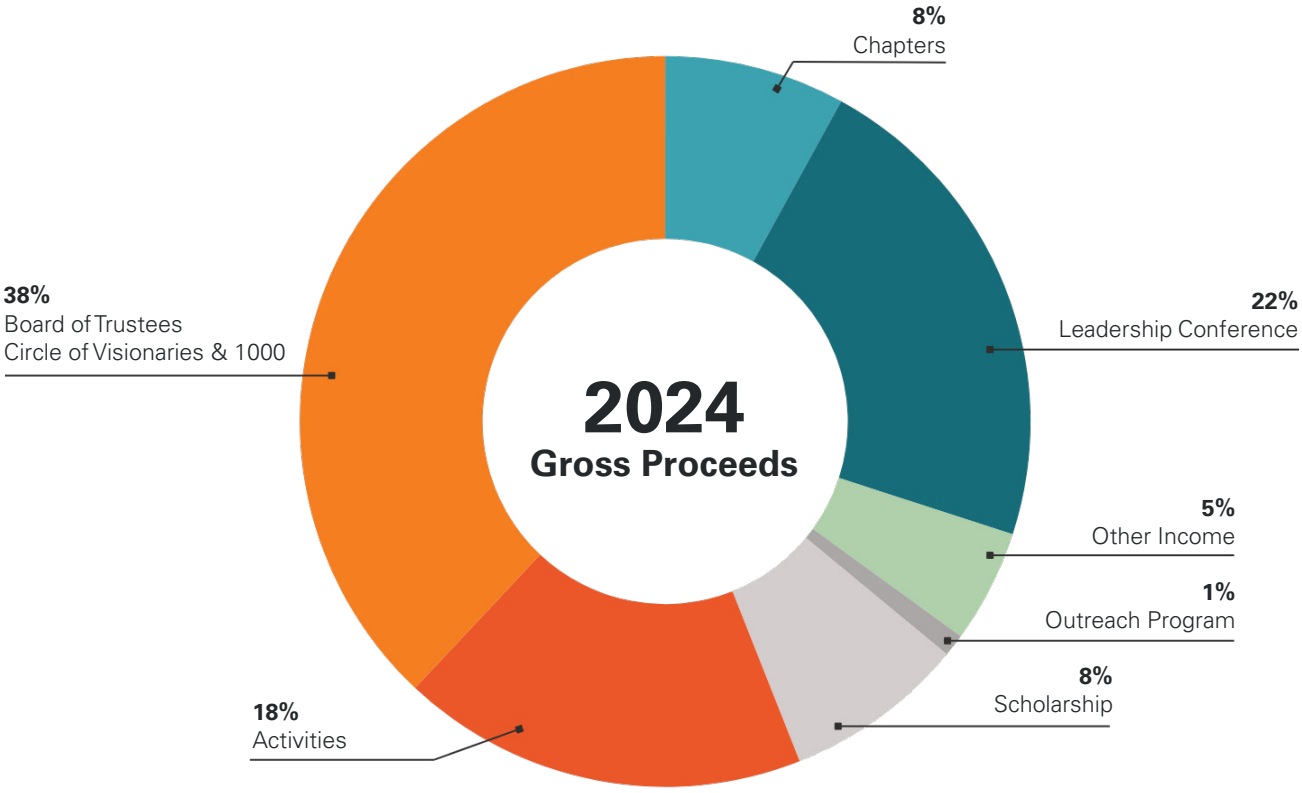




FINANCIAL
REPORTS



Activities	$96,691
Board of Trustees, Circle of Visionaries & 1000	$327,101
Chapters	$13,423
Leadership Conferences	$49,700
Other Income	$47,171
Outreach Programs	$8,675
Scholarships	$161,684
Total Gross Proceeds	**$704,445**



Activities	$122,229
Board of Trustees, Circle of Visionaries & 1000	$264,279
Chapters	$58,288
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