

Long Beach City Council Meeting

July 11, 2023

5 pm

Dear Esteemed Leaders and Audience Members,

My name is Dr. Maha Afra. I am your constituent, a property owner in Long Beach, an educator, and a local artist. Mostly, I am a proud mom of three amazing adult children.

I am in front of you to ask you to endorse, support, help my friend and neighbor Laila Asmi's event, East Meets West that is scheduled to take place at MOLAA on September 17, during Hispanic Heritage Month. Laila has already given you a glimpse of what the event is about. Laila and her team are using the arts as an effective tool to showcase the common threads we share in our beloved city, and to shed a light on children's plight in Pakistan. Laila is adamant that as many cultures as possible be represented in the event. I am learning from Laila about these important issues in South East Asia that are hidden yet detrimental to the lives of these children.

The city of Long Beach has always been a beacon of equity and social justice. We do not live in a bubble. As a local artist, I have participated in many events in the city that celebrate all of us. In my experience, there is a need for more awareness regarding the diverse South East Asian cultures. Laila's event is a first in our city in its quest to openly bring our attention to the plight of Pakistani children. As she says, and I am quoting "no child should have to choose between food and school." As she explained to me that boys who must work instead of going to school are subject to abuse, including sexual abuse. Think about this statement.

I am helping as an individual, an artist, where my dance company will be performing for the event, and as a board member of the Cultural Alliance of Long Beach. I hope you too are willing to help as well. Looking forward for a conversation with you.

In Gratitude,

Maha Afra MS, MFA, EdD

Long Beach 90803

FORTIFY EDUCATION FOUNDATION presents a multi-cultural music/art benefit extravaganza to help eradicate hunger in underprivileged schools.



September 17, 2023

5pm

east meets west



Auction of work of iconic artists

Jimmy Engineer, Moeen Faruqi, Farrukh Shahab, Faizan Reidinger

Subcontinent's favorite voices

Ali Damani, Rekha Bakashi, Joel Emanuel

Mesmerizing dance troupe

Maha and Company

Live Band/DJ

From SoCal

Live painting exhibition

Alvaro Rosas & Diego Yeyo Aguirre

Special star appearance

Shawn Brown, NBA

Venue:

molaa ■■■
MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART

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