

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Open doors. Open minds.
الأبواب مفتوحة. العقول متفتحة.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Centre for Cultural Understanding
مركز الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم
للتواصل الحضاري



Welcome to our quarterly newsletter, where we delve into the rich tapestry of cultural experiences at the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding. In this edition, we invite you to explore the essence of the majlis, a cornerstone of Emirati hospitality and community. As we reflect on the past few months, we share the highlights of July, August, and September, showcasing the diverse array of events, workshops, and discussions that have enriched our cultural landscape. Looking ahead, we provide a glimpse of what's in store for October, November, and December, offering a tantalizing preview of the upcoming events and opportunities to deepen your cultural understanding. Join us on this journey of discovery and appreciation of the UAE's vibrant heritage.



CULTURAL SNIPPET

THE CONCEPT OF MAJLIS

The Majlis, an integral part of Emirati life for generations, holds a pivotal role in preserving our cultural heritage by fostering communication between community members and the leader. These gatherings can take various forms, from the modest House of Hair (the tent) near the Sheikh's residence within a neighbourhood to the nomadic tents or even beneath the shade of towering trees.

Embedded within the social fabric of Emirati society, the Majlis epitomizes solidarity, communication, and the traditions of hospitality and generosity. While similar gatherings are known by different names in neighbouring Gulf countries, such as the Diwaniyah in Kuwait and Majlis in Saudi Arabia, in the UAE, we refer to it as "Mylas," reflecting a distinct linguistic nuance with the letter 'J' transformed into 'Y' in the Emirati dialect.

In the past, Majlis settings ranged from simple wicker mats and embroidered sofas to opulent arrangements with plush sofas, carpets, and curtains, particularly when hosting traders and chieftains. Today, while well-designed and furnished, modern Majlis spaces typically feature a separate entrance for women, affording them greater privacy and freedom of movement. Explore the enduring legacy and evolution of the Majlis in this issue.

BEST OF

JULY



Dubai Economic and Tourism (DET) City operations team visited the SMCCU team and attended various programs including Heritage Express to know more about the activities offered and to strengthen the relationship between both entities.

AUGUST



In coordination with Talents UAE, Al Shindagha team attended SMCCU's Jumeirah mosque and cultural lunch programs to learn from the Centre's experience and indulge in the various activities.

Teachers inductions commenced during the month of August with various schools and universities.

SEPTEMBER



SMCCU Business Development team attended the China Visitors Summit (CVS) to reach out to the Chinese market.

The strategic team at the Centre attended the International Government Communication Forum.

WHAT'S COMING

OCTOBER

Open House
Creekside Tour

NOVEMBER

Dinner Under the Stars
Kashta (Desert) Program

DECEMBER

UAE National Day

Check it out on our
social media
accounts!



@SMCCUDUBAI