Facilitating Encounters through Art

a workshop for artists working in zones of violent conflict

Facilitated by Farhat Agbaria, coexistence facilitator from Givat Haviva and Seeds of Peace, and Cindy Cohen, director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, Brandeis University. Drawing on frameworks from group dynamics, conflict transformation, personal growth and education, the facilitators will invite changes in self-awareness, awareness of the other, integration of emotions, understanding of conflicts, and commitments to act in the world. Teaching and learning will be both experiential and didactic.

Dates: 9/21–23 (Session I) & 9/28–30 (Session II): Apply for one session.
Location: Brandeis University
Application deadline: August 15

This workshop is designed for artists, cultural workers and leaders of cultural institutions, who work or plan to work in zones of violent conflict around the world, including the United States. It will consist of an exploration of the relationship between dialogue and art.

- How can making and witnessing art be understood as dialogue?
- How can artists and facilitators support members of divided communities to deepen and process their experiences of encounters with art?
- How can artists and facilitators extend people's heartfelt understanding of the other through engaging with the arts?
- How can facilitated encounters with the arts inspire actions that lead toward justice and peace?

For more information, contact coexistence@brandeis.edu or call 781-736-5001. Sponsored by Peacebuilding and the Arts, a program of the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life.

Farhat Agbaria has facilitated encounters between Israelis and Palestinians for decades. He has run dialogue sessions and trained countless facilitators at Seeds of Peace since the program's inception in 1993, working with teenagers and adults from the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia, South Asia and the United States. Farhat was the field director for Interns for Peace and the co-director of the Face-to-Face program at Givat Haviva in Israel.

Cynthia Cohen, PhD, is director of the program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. She has worked with artist peacebuilders and cultural workers in the United States, Central America, the Middle East, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. She is a co-editor of the anthology Acting Together: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict, and co-creator of the documentary Acting Together on the World Stage.

For details and to apply, visit: www.brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/events.