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Mumbai Transformation Network, Avatar Church, Utsav Church,
Highway Church and the Archdiocesan Heritage Museum



welcomes you to



**Mumbai
Arts
Conference
2022**



*Beauty
Transforms*

17-18 JUNE 2022



The Arts Collective Mumbai is a movement that is part of the Mumbai Transformation Network (MTN) that seeks to release creativity in the churches to bless the city of Mumbai, and so see the renewal of its culture through the arts



Our Purpose

We want to build a community of artists who cultivate redemptive art which will bless the church and transform the city

Our Vision

We want to see every artist rooted in community and embodying the gospel in their life and art to release creativity in the church and renew and restore the city through the arts

Day One

- 10:00 am Registration & Tea
- 10:30 am Welcome & Introduction
- 11:00 am SESSION 1 – BEAUTY OF GOD**
- 12:00 pm Performances
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 01:30 pm Genre Groups
- 03:00 pm Tea
- 03:30 pm SESSION 2 – WHY WE NEED BEAUTY**
- 04:30 pm Worship
- 07:00 pm ARTS WORSHIP NIGHT**

Day Two

- 10:00 am Tea
- 10:30 am Recap & Video
- 11:00 am SESSION 3 – BEAUTY & COMMUNITY**
- 12:00 pm Performances
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 01:30 pm Regional Groups
- 03:00 pm Tea
- 03:30 pm SESSION 4 – BEAUTY & THE CITY**
- 04:30 pm Worship & Closing

DAY ONE | SESSION ONE

The Beauty of God

God's perfection means that God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for him. God is self-sufficient to exist on His own and does not need or lack anything outside of His transcendent being. God's perfection would then also mean that God has every desirable quality, such as 'beauty'.

As His children, God calls us to imitate His character, pursue His qualities, and worship Him with all our being. God's perfection means that all our good and righteous desires find their ultimate fulfilment in God and in no one else.

Genesis 1:31 (NIV) tells us that *"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."* In creation, God saw His will, His design and purpose was good because it was for His children to multiply all over the earth as His image bearers reflecting His image and for them to glorify God as they flourished. This is what Creation tells us worship looks like — living according to God's will, His design, His purpose in all that man did.

But because of sin, God calls His people to join his mission — to restore 'worship' that became broken by sin in every aspect of life on earth.

The gospel tells us that for humanity, biblical history has five chapters.

CREATION

When God created everything according to his perfect design. For artists this means that beauty first began with God the creator Himself for His purpose and for His glory during creation.

FALL

When man sinned and missed the mark of God's intent and design, all of creation was broken and affected by the fall. For artists this means that sin is a reality of the world we live in that impacts our creativity, our art and our culture.

REDEMPTION

When Jesus began the work of restoration through His sacrifice and is continuing to intercede on our behalf. This means that we cannot glorify God by our own creativity, nor by our own strength, we need Jesus to be the centre of our being, forming our lives and shaping our creativity.

RENEWAL

God invites us to join his work for the renewal of all people and the restoration of all things. What this means for artists is that the Holy Spirit in us teaches us to join God's work through our lives and work as artists with our creative endeavours.

RESTORATION

God will make all things new when Jesus returns. He has already won. All the creative longing in life will be culminated and fulfilled in Jesus when Jesus returns. There will be a new beginning for eternal beauty for all of us who believe and live out the gospel in our lives, especially as artists.

DAY ONE | SESSION ONE | THE BEAUTY OF GOD GUIDED INTROSPECTION

Write down some definitions of Beauty you have heard before.

How would you describe the Beauty of God?

Remember one time you have experienced the Beauty of God.

What is God saying to you now about Beauty?

A Few Instructions

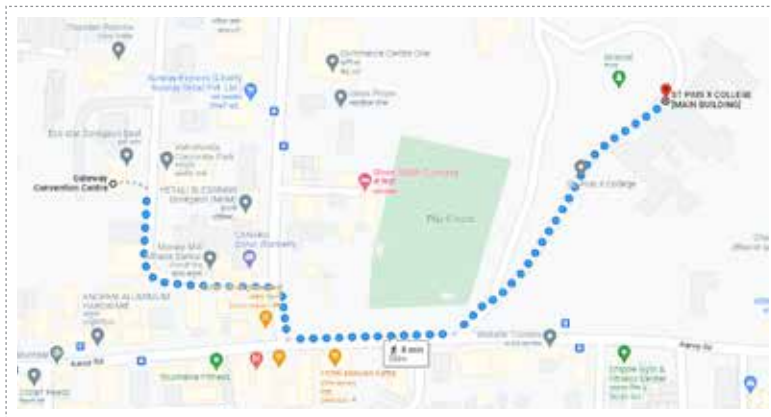
You have selected your group for each day when you filled out the Conference Registration Form.

Identify your Breakout Group Facilitators when they are announced and be sure to follow their guidance.

The locations for breakout rooms may change so please listen for the announcements.

Some groups will meet at St. Pius College (8-minute walk from the venue). Please connect with your facilitator so they can lead you there at the right time.

We hope everyone will enjoy and participate in the group to the fullest.



Remember...

...to have fun and be open! Be kind to yourself and to others!

Just to remind you that God's power, revealed through His Holy Spirit, is actively working in us, through us and for His purposes. We believe God reveals himself through these times in community and we are excited for all the new friendships and potential partnerships and collaborations which will emerge from your breakout groups.

These groups are an opportunity to dive deeper into new ideas and apply them to our own lives. It is a risk to be vulnerable, so let us respect one another for taking the chance to share. As Jesus commands us, let us love one another by listening and responding in grace and love.



ARCHDIOCESAN
HERITAGE MUSEUM

DAY ONE | GENRE GROUPS



Facilitators



Location

Based on your select genre group submitted in your registration, kindly connect with your Group Facilitators, and meet with your group for discussions and creative activities.

VISUAL ARTISTS



Joe Dsouza
Jeremy Kuruthukulangara
Oscar Varghese



St. Pius College

MOVERS & DANCERS



Indhu Kotiyan



St. Pius College

PASTORS & CHURCH LEADERS



Ashwin Andrew
Shelton Davidson



Conference Hall
Side Room

ACTORS & FILM MAKERS



Bernard Dafney
Errol Marks



St. Pius College

MUSICIANS



William Soans
Raju DSilva



St. Pius College

FASHION, CRAFT & DESIGN



Avesh Dadlani
Angela Abraham



St. Pius College

WRITERS



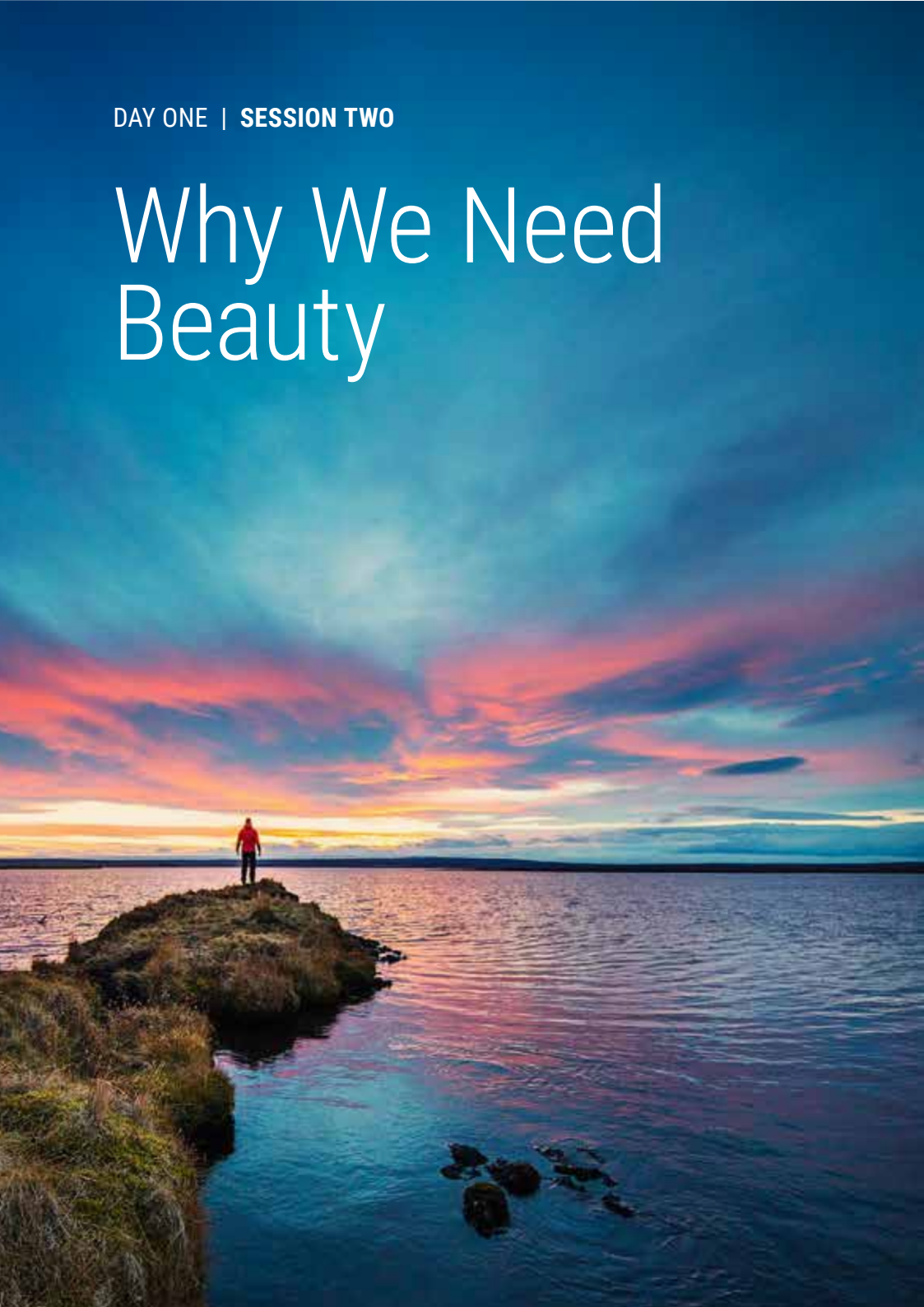
Krishnendu Sen
Imli Imchen



St. Pius College

DAY ONE | SESSION TWO

Why We Need Beauty



Beauty is transcendent and it is thus difficult to define. It is even harder to embody beauty in our creativity and yet beauty continues to be a pursuit for all human existence. Beauty, or the experience of it, is enjoyed by many in all kinds of expressions found in culture and it is even found in nature itself.

Beauty often speaks to people differently and our experiences of beauty can be open to more than one interpretation. Still, the challenge of making something beautiful is that beauty requires something from our hearts. For artists, it is our own heart, soul or mind that needs to be awakened by beauty to be able to create something beautiful. Unless beauty moves us first, others cannot be moved by what we create.

Beauty, and the experience of beauty which points to God can potentially renew people and heal the brokenness that culture brings. Beauty continues to transcend human limitations and structures. Beauty is what points to God, who set all the transcendental standards from the very beginning of creation. Apart from the call to create and bless our culture, the missional call for artists is also to point others to the beauty of God - to help others see the beauty of salvation and their need for the gospel in their lives.

We see these unpacked in three different instances from the bible.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

THE CULTURAL MANDATE

Genesis 1: 27-28
(NIV)

Our artistic gifts are seen as part of the cultural mandate and we come under the responsibility for the development of culture, stewarding the resources on earth and blessing the communities we live in. The cultural mandate tells artists that, like God the Creator, we can multiply creativity, diversity, beauty, and all kinds of unique expressions for the flourishing of mankind.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28: 18-20
(NIV)

As artists who are marked by Jesus's sacrifice on the cross, we are called to fulfil both the cultural mandate and the Great commission. Both are significant for our growth as artists and as disciples. It is not a dichotomy to pursue God and make disciples of others as we continue to create art. In fact, we are called to be formed by the gospel in all facets of our being. As disciples of Christ, our identity and artistry is formed by the gospel as we are called to be salt and light to the world.

NOTES

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

CREATIVE CALLING AND MISSION

1 Peter 2: 4-10
(NIV)

This passage tells us that we, the redeemed, are the precious stones, now being used to build God's temple. In other words, we are God's dwelling place called to make His presence known all over the world through us joining God's Spirit, the same Spirit that empowers us to fulfil Jesus' commission to make disciples, and the same Spirit which releases creativity through us to make God's presence known in the world.

NOTES

Beauty & Community

EXODUS

4 Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the Lord has commanded: **5** From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering.

10 “All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the Lord has commanded:

20 Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, **21** and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments.

29 All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do.

30 Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, **31** and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.

34 And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. **35** He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work.


EXODUS 35 gives us a biblical insight to reveal how a community responded to God's call to serve and fulfil His plans and purposes, by fulfilling different roles.

MOSES Pastoral-like-leadership and a leader who catalyses and empowers artists and community.

COMMUNITY Building the tabernacle together as a creative community willing to bring their gifts and resources to serve.

BEZALEL AND OHOLIAB Artist's community engagement, creative responsibility, and training others to use their gifts.

The Bible has insights about how a community can experience renewal and work towards restoration of the world, the same can be said for artists. Different biblical passages show how these can take shape especially through the church. The discussion on artists and community can be broad, but here are two starting places for us to begin with:



Artist in the
community of
the church



Artist in the
community of
artists

DAY TWO | SESSION ONE | BEAUTY & COMMUNITY
NOTES

DAY TWO | REGIONAL GROUPS



Facilitators



Location

Based on your select region group submitted in your registration, kindly connect with your Group Facilitators, and meet with your group for discussions and creative activities.

SOUTH WESTERN Colaba-Juhu



Indhu Kotiyan



St. Pius College

CENTRAL

Dharavi-Chembur-Thane



Rosita Wagle
Praneet Calvin



Main Hall

WESTERN

Andheri-Mira-Bhayandar



Jeremy Kuruthukulangara



St. Pius College

NORTH WESTERN Vasai-Virar



Joe DSouza
Oscar Varghese



Conference Hall
Side Room

HARBOUR Airoli-Uran



TBD



Main Hall
Side Room

NORTH CENTRAL Bhiwandi-Ambernath



TBD



Main Hall
Side Room

DAY TWO | SESSION TWO

Beauty & The City

JEREMIAH 29:4-7

But seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

As artists, we are reminded of the same call when we consider our calling to our city. We hear our God saying to us to pray and seek the peace and prosperity of this city so that God's people may flourish. What could it mean for an artist to seek the peace and prosperity of their city?

ISAIAH 6

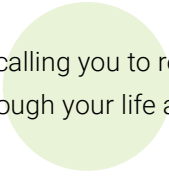
Isaiah saw a vision of God and His angels. In the process he recognized and confessed His sin (man of unclean lips). After he confessed His sin, he was cleansed of His sins through the angel of God (burning coal cleansed His tongue). Then God's plan and mission to save others was revealed to Isaiah. He responded and asked to be used for God's mission. (Here I am, send me).

As we continue to live in between having experienced the power of Jesus's resurrection - and waiting till he returns to inaugurate the New Creation, this passage gives us an important insight of God's unchanging heart for people who do not know His love.


God's call for all believers who are experiencing His renewal continues to remain the same, to reach out to those who do not have the knowledge of His saving grace and mercy. This means that our creativity is also part of God's mission. Our creative mission is only an outcome of our renewal by experiencing God in every aspect of our lives.

What we learn from these passages is that we too, as artists, have a call and responsibility to be part of God's mission. This means renewal of our neighbourhoods, our churches, our industries, our city. So take the time to ask these questions to dive a little deeper and consider God's call for you for the renewal of the city.


Reflections




How is God calling you to renew the city you live in through your life and creativity?



What are the challenges and barriers you might face as you respond to God's call?



How can your creative communities help address those challenges?



What are some practical steps you can take to see beauty transform the city?

IMLI IMCHEN

Im is one of the lead arts catalysts in the Arts Collective Mumbai. From Nagaland, Northeast of India, he has been actively involved in urban church ministry in Mumbai and Bangalore for the past decade. His initial career started off as a professional musician (guitarist) in the music industry. But his ministry and work experiences range from being a church plant catalyst in Urban church plants of Mumbai and Bangalore, to leading and developing worship teams in churches, to being an active partner in art and faith movements and networks, like the Integrated Arts Movement (IAM), Faith & Work, etc.

With his wife Angie, they have both been based in Mumbai for over a decade. Apart from all the miscellaneous creative talents and quirks, Imli especially enjoys making memes, trying out new cooking recipes, and fictional literature.

BERNARD DAFNEY

Bernard Dafney @bdaf07 is an actor, director, writer, singer and acting coach from Long Beach, California. He and his amazing wife run their own Creative Arts Production House, Dafney Productions (@dafneyproductions) in Mumbai. Bernard is no stranger to the stage, having performed and directed all over the globe. He has a degree in English Literature and Theatre Performing Arts. Some of his (stage) acting and directing credits include Riders to the Sea, Steele Magnolias, Reap the Whirlwind, Perspectives on the Cross, Worked to Death, The Beams are Creaking, Full Circle, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, The Taming of the Shrew, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), Othello, Ecclesiastes (Cast Album), One Slight Hitch.

Keep your eyes open for the two Disney+ Hotstar series he appears in and two films releasing in cinemas later this year.

DAVID FERNANDES

Pastor David Fernandes met with Christ 40 years ago and has a business management background with an emphasis on marketing and soft skill training. He's part of the Environment Stream of the Mumbai Transformation Network (MTN).

He is a bird watcher and natural history enthusiast. Along with his wife Lynn he also conducts marriage workshops and family life counselling. He is also deeply committed to conducting inner healing encounter weekends. Otherwise, he claims to be a chief cook and bottle washer.

SHELTON DAVIDSON

Shelton and his wife Melissa have served in the ministry for 40 years. They have three children, who are married and involved in the advancement of the kingdom, and six grandchildren.

Shelton and Melissa have been involved in senior leadership, oversight and church planting with the New Life Fellowship and play a lead role in the New Life Fellowship Connect (NLF Connect) team, which oversees, mentors, trains and partners with leaders and churches across a number of states in India. They travel across the nation and nations, encouraging leaders and churches in their expansion and call.

Shelton is one of the facilitators in the City Transformation Movement, which is a servant leadership body, to encourage ministries and churches, across denominations, creating think tanks and working teams, as they become salt and light in the eight spheres of society. All this springs out of the city-wide prayer movement. Along with this, Shelton plays a catalytic and lead role, in the boards of social and non-profit organisations, that reach out to the poor, the marginalised people and children, with basic education, and various social projects in the nation.

Shelton has prior experience of acting in films and has a deep appreciation for the enjoyment and the writing of poetry.