

The Dawood Foundation Newsletter Q2 - 2025

Education Inspiring Social Change

Message from the CEO

"Shaping a Bright Future with Science."



As the second quarter of 2025 concludes, we proudly reflect on the progress made at The Dawood Foundation (TDF). This period has been a powerful expression of our core values—inclusion, capacity building, and curiosity—which continue to guide our mission of inspiring minds through the transformative power of science, culture, and education.

A moment of immense pride this quarter was the recognition of the MagnifiScience Centre (MSC) and TDF Ghar on the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Interactive Map. This global acknowledgement not only underscores the growing relevance of our spaces but also affirms our steadfast commitment to excellence in informal education.

At MSC, we celebrated key milestones with the launch of new thematic exhibits, including the interactive Sound and Vibration section and the Temporary Exhibition Hall. These additions have significantly enhanced our ability to offer immersive, hands-on learning experiences.

A particularly moving highlight was the debut of Faces of Karachi—a tribute to individuals who have shaped the city's civic and cultural landscape. Among its poignant elements is a portrait honouring the enduring legacy of Sabeen Mahmud.

Our educational programmes continued to make a meaningful impact across all age groups. Initiatives such as the Junior Internship Programme, STEAM Champ Summer Camp, Astroverse Sessions, and STEAM Weekend activities have sparked curiosity, nurtured critical thinking, and contributed to inclusive and sustainable development.

TDF Daycare embraced a season of joy, creativity, and discovery. From celebrating Earth Day with eco-friendly activities, to crafting thoughtful gifts for Mother's Day, and exploring weekly STEM experiments, our youngest learners are developing imagination, empathy, and early scientific inquiry in a nurturing environment.

Beyond science, TDF Ghar continued to flourish as a vibrant cultural space rooted in heritage, community, and inclusivity. This quarter's diverse programme included Calligraphy, Sculpture, and Crochet Workshops, a soulful Qawali Night and an energetic Drum Circle.

As we look ahead, we remain deeply committed to building inclusive, innovative, and future-ready spaces that honour our shared history, engage our communities, and empower future generations. Whether through science, culture, or early learning, our work is driven by one unifying purpose: to spark curiosity, celebrate diversity, and inspire meaningful change.

Together, we are shaping a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow.

Favad Soomro

Chief Executive Officer
The Dawood Foundation

TDF's MagnifiScience Centre





Special Visits at MSC

- 1. Scott Urbom, U.S. Consul General
- 2. Humayun Bashir, Chairman National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL)
- 3. Mohammed Ali Naqvi, Chairperson of the Pakistan Academy Selection Committee (PASC)
- 4. Yasmin Causer, Treasurer & Board Member, USA for UNHCR, Advisor at Museum of Science, Boston (2023-2024)
- 5. Fabrizio Bielli, Consul of Italy in Karachi, along with Madame Negar
- 6. Abrar Hasan, CEO National Foods Ltd.

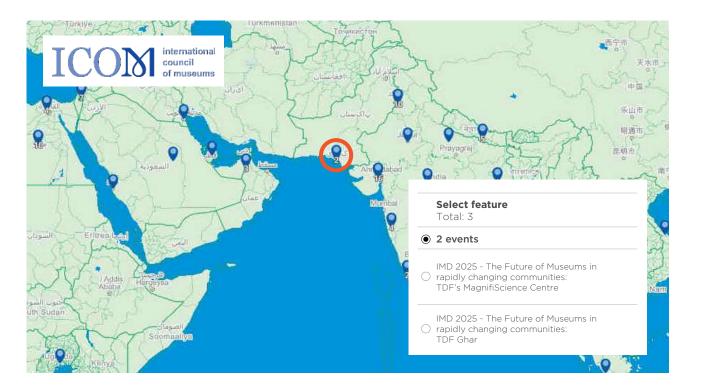








MagnifiScience Centre and TDF Ghar Recognised on ICOM's Global Map



TDF's MagnifiScience Centre and TDF Ghar have been officially featured on the International Council of Museums (ICOM) interactive map on International Museum Day (IMD) — a prestigious global platform that highlights institutions committed to education, community engagement, and cultural dialogue.

This recognition celebrates the continued efforts of both spaces to create inclusive, engaging, and educational environments.

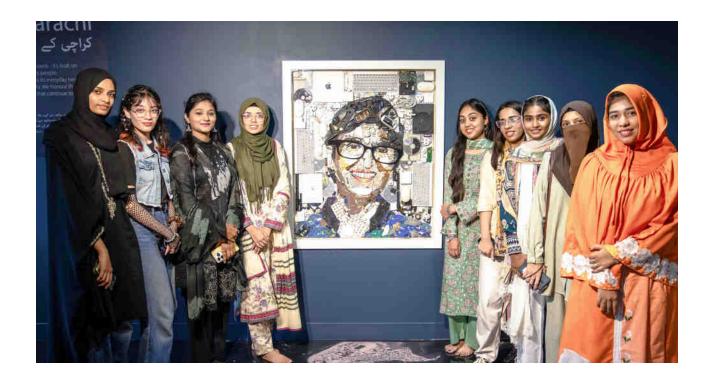
The MagnifiScience Centre's inclusion on the map highlights its dedication to advancing science education through hands-on exhibits, inclusive learning spaces, and dynamic public programmes. By fostering scientific curiosity and bridging communities, MSC continues to play a pivotal role in promoting accessible science learning.

TDF Ghar's recognition underscores its ongoing commitment to preserving Karachi's rich heritage. As a cultural space that encourages reflection, exploration, and meaningful interaction with the city's history, TDF Ghar remains an essential platform for community engagement and cultural preservation.

This dual recognition by ICOM reaffirms TDF's commitment to fostering learning and cultural appreciation, both through science and the preservation of cultural legacy.

Faces of Karachi

Honouring the Legacy of Sabeen Mahmud



To honour the enduring legacy of Sabeen Mahmud, TDF's MagnifiScience Centre launched a special exhibition titled Faces of Karachi – an inspiring celebration of individuals who had shaped the city's cultural and civic fabric. A standout feature of the exhibition was a profoundly moving portrait honouring Sabeen Mahmud's fearless spirit.

"It was a privilege to honour Sabeen at a place that focuses on interaction, learning, and community engagement. The MagnifiScience Centre, is built on the idea of inclusive spaces where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to interact, learn, and be inspired. Paying tribute to her legacy in such an environment felt both fitting and deeply meaningful." – Favad Soomro, CEO TDF

The event, commemorating a decade since her passing, brought together notable voices, including Mahenaz Mahmud (Sabeen's mother); author and columnist Bina Shah; entrepreneur Syed Ommer Amer; acclaimed actor and director Khalid Ahmad; academic Amima Sayeed; artist and sculptor Amin Gulgee; and Sabeen's school friend Tanya Mirza, along with Nasra Omar, Hajra Ahmed, and Afia Aslam. Their reflections celebrated Sabeen's profound influence on Karachi's intellectual and creative landscape.

A highlight of the exhibition was the portrait of Sabeen displayed on the third floor of the MagnifiScience Centre. It had been created by 14 female Fine Arts students from the Department of Visual Studies at the University of Karachi, under the guidance of renowned artist and educator Durriya Kazi.

Maida Siddiqui, one of the contributing students, reflected on the process: "Our main concern was capturing Sabeen's essence. We wanted to create a truly special piece for her, incorporating the little things that mattered to her. It took time to piece everything together, but we were glad to finally produce a work that truly reflected her spirit."

More than just an exhibition, Faces of Karachi stands as a tribute to those who continued to inspire progress, resilience, and hope in the ever-evolving story of Karachi.

















Sound & Vibration



Sound surrounds us every day—whether it's in music, speech, or the natural world. It travels through different media, changes in pitch and frequency, and can be harnessed to communicate, express, or even navigate. At MagnifiScience Centre, the Sound and Vibration section invites visitors to delve into the physics of sound through a series of interactive, hands-on exhibits.

Here's what you can discover.

Echo in the Mountain

Learn how sound waves bounce off surfaces to create echoes. This exhibit also reveals how animals such as bats and dolphins use echolocation—the reflection of sound waves to navigate and hunt within their environments.

Torsional Wave

Explore how amplitude and frequency determine the volume and pitch of sound. Experiment with altering your voice and see how differences in vocal cord structure create natural pitch variations between male and female voices.







Pebble Music

Drop pebbles of various sizes into the nail gaps and listen to the distinct tones they create. This engaging exhibit replicates the function of a xylophone and illustrates how vibration, pitch, and frequency work together to produce musical sound.

What Lies In Your Handshake?

Take a seat and discover how the human body can conduct electricity to complete a circuit. This interactive exhibit demonstrates the principle of closed circuits that produce musical notes.



Moving to the Beats

Investigate how different genres of music influence emotions and inspire movement. This interactive installation shows how rhythm, melody, and harmony can spark creativity and foster human connection through dance and visual feedback.

Through these immersive exhibits, visitors of all ages gain a deeper appreciation for science that shapes what we hear—transforming everyday sound into a powerful learning experience.



Celebrating Growth

Farewell to the Community Outreach Programme Students



In May, the MagnifiScience Centre hosted a warm and spirited farewell ceremony for the students of its Community Outreach Programme, marking the end of their academic term ahead of the summer break. These young learners, from the neighbouring Miskeen Gali community, have been receiving free of cost education through our Basic Literacy Programme, designed to equip children with essential learning skills in a supportive and nurturing environment.

The event began with the national anthem, setting a tone of unity and pride. This was followed by an inspiring showcase of the students' progress, as they took the stage to present heartfelt poetry recitations and vibrant musical performances—each reflecting their growing confidence and creativity.

Adding a touch of scientific wonder to the celebration, MSC's educators conducted live, interactive experiments. These hands-on demonstrations sparked curiosity and excitement among the children, reinforcing their interest in discovery and learning through play.

The ceremony concluded with a certificate distribution, recognising each student's dedication, progress, and active participation throughout the term.

More than just a farewell, this celebration was a meaningful reflection of each child's educational journey. It stood as a powerful testament to the impact of inclusive, community-centred learning—fostering self-belief, imagination, and a shared vision for a brighter, more empowered future.





Celebrating World Environment Day

Promoting Sustainability and Innovation through Hands-on Learning



To mark World Environment Day, TDF organised an engaging educational event to raise awareness about plastic pollution and promote sustainable living.

The day began with a thought-provoking discussion on the environmental impact of plastic, with a particular focus on microplastics—their long-term consequences and the growing urgency for both behavioural and systemic change. Speakers and participants explored practical approaches to reducing plastic consumption, advocating for a shift towards more sustainable and circular practices.

A highlight of the event was a hands-on team activity, where participants designed low-plastic daily-use kits using eco-friendly materials. This interactive session fostered creativity, encouraged collaboration, and demonstrated how small lifestyle changes can make a meaningful difference to the environment.





Further promoting a culture of reuse and recycling, employees took part in a plant exchange activity, creatively decorating planters using repurposed plastic items. This activity combined green living with artistic expression, reinforcing the theme of sustainability in everyday life.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to environmental responsibility. Through engaging discussions and interactive experiences, the celebration served as a timely reminder of the role we each play in protecting our planet—by making conscious choices, embracing sustainable innovation, and fostering a greener future for generations to come.



Junior Internship Programme

This summer, the MagnifiScience Centre once again opened its doors to young minds through its much-anticipated Junior Internship Programme – Summer 2025. Running from 16th June onwards, the programme brought together 131 enthusiastic interns, offering them a unique blend of hands-on learning, real-world experience, and personal development.

Interns were placed across a wide range of departments, including Exhibit Development, Resource Mobilisation, Research & Content, Social Media Marketing, Corporate Communications, Sustainability, and Design & Illustration. This structure enabled them to not only experience the workings of a dynamic Science Centre but also apply their learning across disciplines.

A standout feature of the programme was the integration of STEM-based projects. What truly set the experience apart was the way interns seamlessly aligned STEAM projects with their departmental responsibilities—crafting campaigns, organising events, developing exhibit narratives, and more.

This interdisciplinary approach not only deepened their scientific understanding but also sharpened their creativity, problem-solving abilities, and collaborative skills.

To encourage holistic development, interns participated in an energising Acro Yoga session, which offered a refreshing change from routine tasks. It helped strengthen trust, focus, and communication among the group through physical movement and coordination.

Recognising the importance of financial independence, a Financial Literacy session was also conducted. Interns learnt practical skills such as budgeting, understanding digital payments via QR codes, and ensuring mobile wallet safety—tools essential for navigating today's digital economy.

Bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world decision-making, a career counselling session was held to help interns identify their interests and strengths. This meaningful experience played a vital role in enabling them to envision clearer career paths and future aspirations.

As the programme came to a close, the interns left with a renewed sense of purpose, greater self-confidence, and a toolkit of skills to support their academic and professional journeys. The Junior Internship Programme – Summer 2025 stands as a testament to TDF's commitment to nurturing the next generation of changemakers.

STEAM Champ Summer Camp 2025



MagnifiScience Centre successfully hosted the fourth edition of its STEAM Champ Summer Camp, welcoming 158 children aged 3 to 16 years for a three-week journey of hands-on learning, creativity, and exploration. Running from 16th June to 3rd July 2025, the camp offered a dynamic blend of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) activities designed to spark curiosity and build essential skills.

Learning Through Everyday Wonders

In the Food Science sessions, participants explored the fascinating chemistry behind everyday treats like pizzas and mango delights. While kneading dough and layering toppings, campers learnt about yeast fermentation, the Maillard reaction, and the melting properties of cheese. When making mango desserts, they discovered emulsions and how fat and water molecules interact.





Space, Stars, and Science

The Astronomy Workshop transported campers to outer space, where they:

- Created tactile models of Mars, exploring surface features like volcanoes and craters;
- Built solar systems using cubic planets, learning about planetary order;
- Discovered the Transit Method used to detect exoplanets;
- Made "Clouds in a Jar".

Art Meets Imagination

In the Art Workshops, creativity bloomed as campers painted personalised tote bags, crafted bird sun catchers using feathers and butter paper, and experimented with clay modelling, producing miniature burgers, vegetables, and fun creatures.



Crafting with a Purpose

Through hands-on Crafts sessions, participants made:

- Pasta necklaces, enhancing motor skills and pattern recognition;
- Face masks with paper plates and colourful materials:
- Leathercraft projects, where they dyed and assembled keychains and Minecraft-themed pencil cases using real Hermes cow leather and goat leather straps—gaining exposure to tools, materials, and artisanal techniques.

Electronics Exploration

Campers explored basic electronics by building:

- Mini portable ACs, using motors, batteries, and jars to generate cool air and understand mechanical energy;
- Earthquake detectors, which buzzed upon vibration, simulating real-life alert systems.

Coding, Counting, and Critical Thinking

In Genius Math, campers were introduced to the binary language of computers, creatively coding their names using ASCII and making beaded bracelets with hidden messages. Younger participants honed abacus and finger-counting techniques, reinforcing their understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction through games and guided practice.

Lifelong Skills: Life 101

The Life 101 module taught practical life skills with a creative twist. Campers learnt basic stitching by sewing on buttons and handkerchiefs with names and floral patterns. They were also introduced to basic first aid, practising how to tie bandages and respond to nosebleeds—equipping them with essential knowledge to stay safe.

Moving to the Beat

In the Music sessions, young musicians strummed guitars and ukuleles, singing both Eastern and Western melodies. Meanwhile, the Zumba class had campers dancing to energetic beats, promoting fitness, coordination, and joy through guided movement and rhythm.

Robotics and the Future

The LEGO Robotics module gave campers a head start in the world of automation and intelligent systems. They:

- Built autonomous LEGO-based machines;
- Learnt the basics of coding and logic sequences;
- Explored sensor integration, automation, and human-machine interaction.

MSC Explorations: A Journey Within

Campers also enjoyed a special MSC tour, where they explored interactive exhibits that sparked wonder and deepened their understanding of science in everyday life.

Pakistan Science Club's STEAM Summer Camp

The Pakistan Science Club held its STEAM Summer Camp at MSC, offering a hands-on weekend learning experience for children aged 7–16. Through creative tasks and real-world challenges, participants explored science, robotics, chemistry, biology, and engineering in an engaging & interactive environment, making learning both exciting and meaningful.

Wellness Recharge Session

A Mindful Break for Mind and Body



In April, The Dawood Foundation organised a Wellness Recharge Session at the MagnifiScience Centre, aimed at promoting mental well-being and fostering a healthy work environment.

The session offered a rejuvenating blend of calming breathwork, gentle stretches, and an expressive art therapy activity titled, "Resilience River".



Additionally, a light-hearted paper-shredding exercise was incorporated to help participants release stress.

These thoughtfully designed activities provided employees with a much-needed opportunity to unwind, refocus, and restore their energy, contributing to enhanced well-being and increased workplace productivity.

Astroverse Sessions

In May, the MagnifiScience Centre, in collaboration with the Karachi Astronomers Society, hosted an inspiring Astroverse session aimed at fostering public interest in space science and astronomy.

The programme commenced with an informative presentation that introduced core astronomical concepts, captivating audiences with the wonders of the universe. Following the session, attendees gathered on the rooftop for a guided stargazing experience, where telescopes offered detailed views of the Moon and other celestial bodies, deepening participants' appreciation for the night sky.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A segment, encouraging dialogue and inquiry between visitors and experts. This engaging event successfully sparked curiosity through scientific learning and hands-on observation, making astronomy both approachable and inspiring.





STEAM Weekend Programmes



April: Eco-Friendly Science

In April, the MagnifiScience Centre spotlighted green innovation by bringing sustainability to life through a series of eco-friendly science activities. Young visitors explored how natural filters purify water, discovered how potatoes can generate electricity by acting as natural electrolytes, and learnt how solar print art harnesses the power of the sun to create stunning, environmentally friendly designs.

Participants also designed air-powered cars using compressed air as a clean energy source. They investigated the natural water-purifying properties of moringa seeds and constructed sustainable drip irrigation systems to conserve water and support plant growth.

May: Wonders of Light and Lasers

In May, curious minds were invited to explore the Wonders of Light and Lasers. Participants investigated the phenomenon of refraction using water and observed the fascinating behaviour of light as it bends when passing through different media. They learnt how light refracts and disperses through water to create rainbows and examined how laser beams interact with water.

June: Environment Conservation

In June, the STEAM Weekend Programme focused on environmental conservation, offering engaging, hands-on activities such as building solar ovens, garbage separation, water filtration, and bird feeder. Participants explored key environmental issues like soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and sustainable living through interactive sessions. The programme aimed to foster critical thinking and inspire actionable steps toward a greener, more sustainable future.



MagnifiScience Travelling Exhibition

Sparking Curiosity at The Commons Karachi

This Eid, TDF MagnifiScience Travelling Exhibitions brought two days of hands-on science and fun to The Commons Karachi at Moin Khan Academy. Families, children, and curious minds explored interactive exhibits, tested their reflexes with musical chairs, and discovered the principles of balance and motion through engaging activities. The event proved that science can be playful, inclusive, and enjoyed anywhere—turning celebration into a moment of learning and wonder.









New at MagnifiScience Centre

Temporary Exhibition Hall

The MagnifiScience Centre is proud to unveil its newly established Temporary Exhibition Hall, a dynamic rotating space designed to bring fresh, engaging content to visitors throughout the year. As part of the MagnifiScience Travelling Exhibition initiative, this innovative space hosts thought-provoking exhibitions that explore science through timely global themes and creative cultural intersections.

The inaugural showcase under this initiative, "Behind the Scenes – Lights, Camera, Action", offers visitors an immersive experience into the art and science of filmmaking. Spread across themed zones, the exhibition takes visitors on a journey through the world of visual storytelling—from script writing and special effects to cinematography and sound design.

Young and curious minds can step into the ScriptCraft Studio, don costumes and props, and write their own cinematic stories, becoming the star of their own production. In the Visual Effects (VFX) zone, visitors are introduced to Zoetropes, 3D illusions, Chroma Key (green screen) technology, and other cinematic tricks that reveal how motion and magic meet on screen. Exhibits like the Car in Motion and Beheading Illusion add an extra layer of excitement, demonstrating the clever use of angles, projections, and illusions in film.

The Sound Effects section allows children to discover the power of audio in storytelling—whether through foley stations that recreate everyday noises or DIY music sessions that echo creativity with limited resources. Meanwhile, the Special Effects and Makeup zone introduces guests to moulage (wound makeup) and mood lighting, showcasing how light and prosthetics can transform characters and scenes.

Visitors can also enjoy interactive games in the Famous Film zone, from solving the Mr. Bean jigsaw puzzle to testing their movie knowledge in "Guess the Film." The experience ends on a celebratory note with a photo booth, letting guests capture memories from their behind-the-scenes journey.







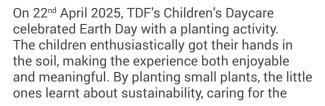
With its modular and portable design, the exhibition is set to travel across Pakistan, expanding educational outreach and igniting scientific curiosity in new communities. By combining entertainment, education, and hands-on engagement, the Temporary Exhibition Hall is not only a vibrant new addition to the Centre but a powerful platform for lifelong learning.

Stay tuned as more innovative themes rotate through this space—each one promising to inspire, educate, and excite.

TDF's Children's Daycare

Earth Day







environment, and how even small efforts can contribute to protecting our planet. It was a wonderful opportunity to teach children about their role in creating a greener future. Every little hand that planted a seed also planted hope for the future.

Mother's Day Celebration



On 12th May 2025, TDF's Children's Daycare celebrated Mother's Day with a heartwarming event full of creativity, laughter, and love. Children and their mothers were invited to participate in engaging art activities, including the creation of personalised photo frames to preserve cherished memories.

The celebration also featured fun science experiments, providing an inspiring and educational experience as children and mothers explored the wonders of science together. This meaningful occasion honoured the special bond between mother and child, creating joyful moments and lasting smiles for all.

Weekly STEM Experiments

This May, TDF's Children's Daycare delved into the captivating world of science through the "Colour-Changing Magic Milk Experiment", as part of their ongoing weekly STEM series. Using everyday items like milk, food colouring, and soap, the children were thrilled to witness vibrant patterns forming right before their eyes.

This fun and interactive activity not only sparked curiosity but also introduced fundamental science concepts in an engaging and enjoyable manner. These weekly experiments are thoughtfully designed to make learning playful, exciting, and meaningful for young minds.





Summer Camp

From 16th June to 3rd July 2025, TDF's Children's Daycare buzzed with the joyful energy of its Summer Camp, designed for children aged 3 to 6 years. Over the course of three vibrant weeks, the young campers embarked on a journey of discovery, creativity, and playful learning.

The camp offered a carefully curated mix of hands-on activities and foundational learning to support early childhood development in a fun and nurturing environment.

Highlights included STEAM experiments, tie-and-dye workshops, magnetic painting, pottery-making, and gardening—each designed to stimulate curiosity and fine motor skills.

A delightful no-bake cooking class introduced children to basic concepts of measurement and chemistry, while music sessions with instruments brought rhythm and expression into the daily routine.



Children also engaged in early academic development through phonics exercises and pattern recognition, laying the groundwork for literacy and numeracy in an age-appropriate and engaging way. Daily indoor physical games added an active element, helping to build coordination, balance, and gross motor skills.

Among the most memorable moments were the planting activity, where children nurtured their own seedlings, and the much-anticipated Splash Day at Dawood Public School (DPS)—a refreshing treat during the summer heat.



Exciting field trips to the MagnifiScience Centre further enriched the experience, offering immersive learning opportunities in a stimulating environment.

Whether splashing in water, painting with magnets, or crafting their own tie-dye shirts, every day at the camp was a celebration of imagination, discovery, and joyful exploration. With its strong focus on holistic growth and experiential learning, TDF's Children's Daycare Summer Camp 2025 succeeded in providing a safe, engaging space where young minds could thrive.







TDF Ghar



This summer, TDF Ghar came alive with creativity and craftsmanship through a series of engaging workshops under its ArtBeat Summer Edition. Designed to inspire artistic exploration and revive traditional skills, the workshops offered participants a chance to immerse themselves in hands-on experiences, guided by skilled mentors in a warm and welcoming environment.

Calligraphy Workshop

The series began with a focused Calligraphy Workshop, where enthusiastic participants gathered to delve into the elegant world of beautiful writing. Under expert instruction, they learnt the art of graceful strokes, refined lettering, and the meditative rhythm of calligraphy. The session offered not just artistic growth, but also a moment of calm reflection through a practice rooted in patience and precision.



Sculpture Art Workshop

Next came a five-day Sculpture Art Workshop, which drew passionate individuals eager to explore the tactile art of clay sculpting. Participants were guided through fundamental techniques, from shaping and carving to understanding form, texture, and structure. The workshop provided a deeply immersive experience, enabling attendees to express themselves artistically while developing their technical skills—culminating in the creation of unique sculptural pieces.

Crochet Workshop

TDF Ghar also welcomed participants to its vibrant Crochet Workshop, where attendees learnt the foundational techniques of this timeless textile craft. Starting with simple stitches, they worked their way up to creating handcrafted items such as bracelets, keychains, and intricately designed crochet roses. The workshop nurtured creativity, concentration, and attention to detail, leaving each participant with both a new skill and a sense of pride in their creations.





Qawali Night

Just as the timeless melodies of Qawwali continue to resonate across generations, so does the spirit of community and celebration at TDF Ghar. Our recent Qawwali Night was once again filled with soul-stirring rhythms that beautifully blended heritage and music, creating a warm atmosphere of shared joy and cultural connection. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us and made it another unforgettable evening in our growing Qawwali tradition.

Drum Circle: Feel the Beat

Our latest quarterly Drum Circle Night, led by the incredible team at The Karachi Drum, was a vibrant celebration of rhythm and unity. Participants of all ages came together to create a spontaneous symphony of beats, laughter, and movement—proving once again that music knows no boundaries.



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