



ALHAMRA NEWS



Pattern in Chief
Atta Ul Haq Qasmi
Chairman Alhamra

Pattern
Muhammad Ali Baloch
Executive Director

Editor
Syed Khuram Naveel
Asst. Director

Co-Editor
Mohammad Arif
Asst. Director

ISSUE 01



For details visit FB page

FACILITIES

The Lahore Arts Council has the best art facilities in the country which are as under

The Complex

The Lahore Arts Council has two campuses – one on the Mall, and the other on Ferozepur Road. The campus on the Mall consists of four units viz. Hall-I (756 seats), Hall-II (432 seats) and allied facilities and workshop, green rooms, rehearsal areas and back stage facilities, Hall-III is smaller, has a seating capacity of 220 and is generally used for classical music, lectures and seminars etc. There is a recording studio and music class room facilities and a committee



Alhamra Art Gallery

The Arts Gallery extends over an area of about 11000 sq ft and is used for exhibition of art works for solo as well as group shows. It is divided into four parts and provided to artists free of charges. The Arts Gallery is really a remarkable facility for the artist community and has gone a long way in the promotion of fine arts. Quite a few artists from all over the country have exhibited their work. It encourages the younger generation in art education and attracts public appreciation. Consequently, there develops a market for the art works and people interested in arts under international standards exchange programs, with Federal Government, many exhibitions of arts, sculpture, architecture and handicrafts are held which provide ample opportunities to the local artists to see standard of work in the world. In addition to national exhibitions of paintings and groups including solo shows help a lot in projecting and promoting the discipline. Alhamra Art Gallery, located at a central place in the city and the facility is



Chairman Message

Art and Culture of a country are the outward manifestations of the collective pride and recognition of its people built up by both physical and mental forces over centuries. This collective pride is considered the backbone of a society. Great nations have great culture & traditions and all the successful & great leaders stress on developing and preserving this strong culture for the success of their nations. Art and Culture include all forms of creative expression, from individual to collective, from grassroots to professional and institutional. Arts and Culture evolve, develop and enhance our cultural identities. It is the single most powerful medium that can overcome boundaries and limitations it can change the individual, a mindset, or the way a society perceives itself and its surroundings. The issuance of Alhamra Newsletter is very encouraging move that will help the public to get information about the cultural activities.

(Atta Ul Haq Qasmi)



Introduction

Alhamra is the heart of Lahore as Lahore is the cultural capital of the country. Alhamra is basically an Arabic word, which literally means a woman in "Red Clothes". This was the name initially given to the Royal enclave at Cordoba Spain by the Arabs. The palaces and other buildings were constructed in red bricks. The idea of constructing buildings of this style for an Arts Council was conceived by our illustrious Architect Mr. Nayyar Ali Dada. Since the buildings in Spain were in red colour, the bricks used for Alhamra's building are also red in colour. The building has been awarded Agha Khan International Award for excellent architecture.

Alhamra is a successor to a society with the name of Pakistan Arts Council founded on December 10, 1949. The modern complex owes its existence to the efforts and interest of the former Governor Punjab, General Ghulam Jillani Khan. Subsequent developments include an open-air theatre and two small auditoriums at Ferozepur Road, Lahore. A permanent art gallery was also constructed at the Alhamra Cultural Complex, Gaddafi Stadium. This is the first art gallery of its type in Pakistan where works of old masters has been preserved and put on permanent display. During the last 20 years Alhamra has emerged as hub of all cultural activities in Lahore. It not only revived some of the dying arts but also added international dimensions. It has been rightly called as the heart of Lahori culture. Situated on the bank of river Ravi, the historical city of Lahore has been a citadel of glorious traditions. These traditions evolved after a long inter-communal, multi-ethnic interaction that spread over several centuries.

The people of Lahore carry forward their traditions with characteristic cultural vivacity and religious fervor, which are not on a collision course with modernism. With these noted virtues, the lifestyle of the Lahories points towards an influence of the orthodox, the traditional and the progressive streams. Lahore is the city of beautiful Badshahi Mosque, historic Fort and magnificent Shalimar Gardens. Punjab has a very rich cultural heritage. Its five arteries have nourished vast land legends and love tales like that of HEER-RANJHA, MIRZA-SAHIBAN, SAHTI-MURAD, SOHNI-MAHINWAL and many more. Its soils and seasons have produced folk dances and music of special melody and rhythm representing sowing, growing, harvesting, weaving, camel walk, whirling and striding in ecstasy. Its Sufies and Saints have enlightened the hearts and souls of people and taught them to stand for peace and equality of all men irrespective of caste, colour and creed. Lahore, its capital, is the city of fairs and festivals and refreshing and fragrant gardens. The biggest and most sought after festival held here is that of the Jashn-e-Baharan and Basant. Held every year, this festival celebrates the coming of spring with vibrant colours and the flying of kites.



Alhamra Hall-I

The inauguration of this auditorium ushered in a new era of performing arts in the history of Lahore as Alhamra had got a stage which is fitted with the latest facilities. The stage is 80 feet wide with a depth of over 50 feet. There is an orchestra pit covered with removable wooden planks. There is sufficient space at the backstage for the waiting participants. The stage is connected on south with the greenroom, makeup rooms and rehearsal areas etc. The hall is carpeted and has 756 seats with cushioned steel chairs. The stage lights are fitted in the frontal portion of ceiling. The auditorium is air-

ALHAMRA NEWS

Alhamra Hall-II

This hall was completed in 1985 and was inaugurated by General Ghulam Jilani Khan, the then Governor of Punjab on 22.8.1985. This hall has a capacity of 432 seats with carpeting and furnishing of the same standard as that of Hall-I. It is also used for theatrical, artistic and public programmes. The backstage of the hall is linked with the stage of Hall-I and the artists and props can easily move from one stage to the other. A waiting room, an office for manager and rehearsal

Alhamra Hall-III (Music Block)

As mentioned earlier one of the most avowed objectives of setting up the Arts Council was preservation of the country's cultural heritage and music was one of its most important components. When the complex covered the theatrical, arts and administration side the Council started making efforts for provision of a space dedicated to music. This block was completed and inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Punjab, on 23rd March, 1988. The accommodation in the Music Block consists of a small auditorium with a capacity of 220 seats and a foyer area. It has a conference room facility for about 40 people and some of the accommodation on the ground floor for the administration section. In the basement there are classrooms for music classes.



Music Class



Drawing Class

Open Air Theater, Cultural Complex, Ferozepur Road,

The Open Air Theatre is an extension of the Alhamra. The Ferozepur Road location was selected to take the pressure away from an overly congested Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam and to create a performing arts facility for the newly developed areas of Lahore i.e. Model Town, Faisal Town, Garden Town, Johar Town, Township, Gulberg and Defence, etc.

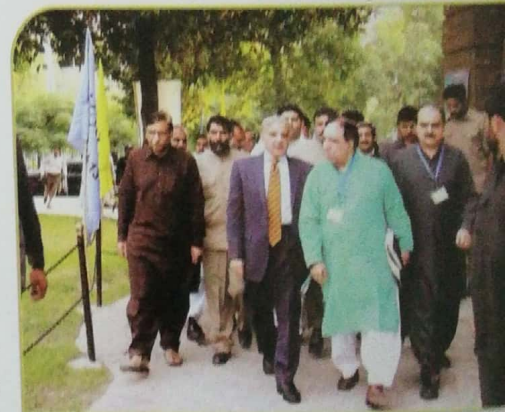
The theatre sits in the midst of large green areas, at a stone's throw from Lahore's famous willow lined canal. Its imposing brick façade set with local regional features such as handmade Multani tiles is an interesting blend of the contemporary and the traditional classicism of the Roman coliseum. The multi-purpose theatre is designed to cater for drama, Music, cultural melas and large scale concerts.



Alhamra Cultural Complex

Hall-I & II Cultural Complex

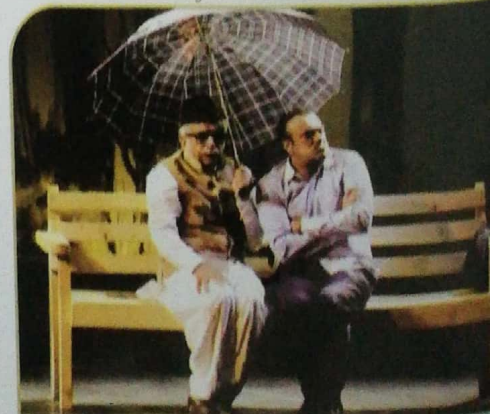
Apart from the open air facilities, maximum and effective utilization of space has resulted in the provision of an elegant auditorium with a seating capacity of 348. A handsome wood paneled small (Hall-II/C.C.) and a spacious Workshop has also been provided in addition to rehearsal and storage space while the larger hall is generally being used for plays by students and amateur groups, the smaller hall with a capacity of 150 is used for lectures, seminars and discussions and programs requiring an intimate space.



Chief Minister Punjab on 3rd International Confer

Permanent Art Gallery

This gallery has an area of over 12000 sqft. with sufficient wall space for displaying 200 plus works. The provision of the gallery has fulfilled a long standing and important demand of the artist. This is the only gallery that houses a collection that stays on display permanently with works of old masters and living legends along with contemporary artists on display.



Naseer u Din Shah Performance at Hall I



alhamra arts council

Scanned by CamScanner

