



For Immediate Release

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**The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art Announces the Appointment of
Zeyba Rahman as Senior Program Officer for the Building Bridges Program**

NEW YORK, NY, July 17, 2013 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) today announced the appointment of Zeyba Rahman as Senior Program Officer for the Building Bridges Program. In this newly created role, Rahman will manage the national grant-making program, which supports projects that use the arts to increase Americans’ understanding of and engagement with Muslim cultures.

“We are thrilled to have an individual of Zeyba’s experience and enthusiasm join the foundation,” said Ed Henry, president of DDFIA and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF). “Her work with communities, organizations and artists around the globe to deepen community connections and build understanding will help increase our effectiveness and identify new opportunities. We are also fortunate that Zeyba will work as an integral part of the Arts Program and its new Building Demand for the Arts initiative.”

Rahman comes to the foundation with a strong history of developing cultural and educational projects that use creative mediums to engage diverse communities and explore societal issues. She currently serves as Asia and North America Director of the Fes Festival of World Sacred Music; senior advisor to the University of Iowa International Writing Program and consultant to a number of national and international organizations. Among these organizations is DDFIA’s Shangri La, a center for the study of Islamic arts and cultures where she has provided creative counsel for a year-long, South Asian arts program series to celebrate the opening of the center’s Mughal Suite in 2014. Simultaneously, she has worked as a lecturer at the American University of Paris, teaching a graduate-level seminar titled Cultural Entrepreneurship, Gender and Leadership in the Muslim World.

Among the many other projects that Rahman has previously curated for or otherwise contributed to are Arts Midwest’s *Caravanserai: A Place Where Cultures Meet*, a national touring series with a focus on Muslim cultures; Brooklyn Academy of Music’s *Mic Check Hip Hop*; a series of public programs to celebrate the opening of 15 new galleries of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central and South Asia at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; and as senior project advisor to the Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas Festival.

The knowledge and experience Rahman has gained through these and other arts-driven cultural projects will be valuable to the Building Bridges Program, which seeks grantees that use the arts—including exhibitions, films and performances—as a tool for increasing awareness and thereby understanding of the richness and diversity of Muslim societies. In 2013, the program will primarily award grants through two funding initiatives: the [Building Bridges 2013-14 Grants Program](#) and the [Building Bridges: Campus Community Engagement Program](#), facilitated by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

In addition to her work with the Building Bridges Program, Rahman will also oversee the Building Demand for the Arts initiative, an innovative grant-making program of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Arts Program that supports joint efforts by organizations and artists to increase demand for jazz, theatre and contemporary dance.

About the Building Bridges Program

Established in 2007, the Building Bridges Program is headquartered in New York, New York and is a national grant-making program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA), an operating foundation of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The mission of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art is to improve the quality of people's lives through the study, understanding and appreciation of Islamic arts and cultures. DDFIA also operates Shangri La, a center for the study of Islamic arts and cultures housed in what was once Doris Duke's seasonal Honolulu home. Learn more at <http://www.ddcf.org/Programs/Building-Bridges>.