

About Daya Cultural and Artistic Center

Daya Cultural and Artistic Center is a registered cultural and artistic organization in Iran, operating under the supervision of the Cultural and Artistic Organization of the Municipality.

Daya works across a wide range of cultural and artistic fields, with a particular focus on visual arts, cultural heritage, traditional and indigenous arts, research, education, exhibitions, publications, international cultural exchange, and supporting artists.

The center aims to create connections between contemporary art, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, research, education, environmental sustainability, and intercultural dialogue.

Daya has developed and implemented numerous cultural, artistic, educational, research-based, environmental, and international programs in Iran and abroad.

The First Major Event — Arman-e Solh Biennial

One of Daya's first major cultural initiatives was the Arman-e Solh Biennial, launched on World Peace Day at the ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran.

The event was attended by diplomats and cultural representatives from different countries based in Iran and was supported and accompanied by organizations and institutions including UNESCO Iran, ICOM, and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran.

The fourth edition of the Arman-e Solh Biennial is scheduled to take place on World Peace Day in 2026.

Cultural, Artistic and Research Activities

Following its first major event, Daya has organized and participated in numerous cultural, artistic, educational, environmental, and research-based programs in Iran and internationally.

These activities include:

- Three editions of the Nowruz Festival
- Four editions of the Traditional Embroidery Festival
- Four editions of the Yalda Festival
- Research-based exhibitions and cultural heritage programs
- Independent exhibitions and cultural events
- Educational workshops and artistic programs in Lebanon, Turkey, Armenia, India, Greece, Oman, and Baghdad
- Participation in and organization of cultural programs connected with

international occasions in Iran and other countries, including Japan, Kenya, Tunisia, and Bulgaria

Daya is active across various fields of visual arts, traditional arts, handicrafts, cultural heritage, research, education, cultural production, and international cultural exchange.

Environment, Sustainability and Cultural Diversity

One of Daya's important areas of concern is environmental protection and sustainability, particularly raising awareness about the environmental impact of human activities and the pollution and waste associated with the fashion industry.

A significant proportion of Daya's exhibitions, festivals, research projects, and artistic programs have focused on environmental issues, sustainability, reuse of materials, reduction of waste, and the relationship between art and ecological concerns.

Cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are also important areas of Daya's work.

Daya has developed exhibitions and cultural programs in Iran and internationally focusing on cultural diversity, indigenous heritage, environmental sustainability, and exchange between different cultural traditions.

Among these activities are exhibitions and cultural programs presented at House of Art Australia, as well as in Italy, Turkey, Oman, and Baghdad, addressing themes related to environmental concerns, sustainability, and cultural diversity.

In 2021 (1400 in the Iranian calendar), Daya also received a certificate of appreciation from UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) in connection with activities related to sustainable development.

This approach reflects Daya's broader effort to connect art, cultural heritage, education, environmental sustainability, and intercultural dialogue.

Research and Education in Puppet Heritage

One of Daya's important areas of activity is the research, documentation, education, and introduction of traditional, indigenous, and contemporary dolls and puppets.

Daya has developed educational programs focusing on the design, introduction, and creation of modern and traditional dolls, including programs aimed at developing creative skills and creating income-generating opportunities for artists and participants.

The center also conducts research into the rituals, cultures, traditions, and dolls of different countries and communities, with particular interest in identifying and presenting similarities and differences among the doll and puppet traditions of different cultures.

Through exhibitions, workshops, research, and educational programs, Daya seeks to use dolls and puppets as a means of preserving cultural heritage and creating intercultural dialogue.

International Collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico

For four consecutive years, Daya has collaborated with the Embassy of Mexico in Iran on educational and cultural programs for the spouses and families of diplomats from different countries residing in Iran.

During these four years, Daya also collaborated with the Embassy in the organization and presentation of the Mexican Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) cultural program.

These collaborations provided opportunities to introduce Mexican cultural traditions and artistic practices while creating a space for cultural exchange between different communities living in Iran.

Museums and Heritage-Based Exhibitions

Daya has also been active in organizing and developing research-based exhibitions focusing on cultural heritage.

The center has organized four editions of heritage-focused exhibitions at the National Museum of Iran, as well as exhibitions and cultural programs in other museums and cultural institutions across Iran.

These projects aim to bring together research, historical heritage, cultural narratives, traditional knowledge, and contemporary artistic expression.

Publications and Support for Artists

Daya is also active in documenting and publishing artists' work.

The center has published seven ISBN-registered books featuring the works of artists.

Among these publications, three volumes have been published bilingually in Persian and English, providing an opportunity for artists and their works to reach wider international audiences.

Daya has also published a Japanese-language magazine introducing dolls and puppet traditions.

In addition to group publications, Daya supports artists in preparing and publishing individual books and personal artist publications, helping them document and present their artistic activities and professional work.

Documentary Research on Iranian Dolls

Daya has contributed as a collaborating organization and expert to a 26-episode documentary series introducing Iranian dolls.

The project focuses on documenting and presenting the diversity of Iran's traditional and indigenous dolls, together with the cultural knowledge, rituals, stories, craftsmanship, and traditions associated with them.

TAT Technical & Vocational Training Institute

As part of the development of its educational and professional activities, Daya has established TAT Technical & Vocational Training Institute, operating with a license from the Technical and Vocational Training Organization of Iran.

TAT provides educational activities in areas including:

- Visual arts
- Handicrafts
- Information technology
- Artistic and creative skills
- Professional and practical training

Through TAT, Daya combines cultural and artistic education with practical and professional skills, including programs designed to support creative entrepreneurship and income generation.

Daya also works on organizing independent exhibitions, educational programs, workshops, and artistic events.

International Doll Museum Initiative

Another ongoing cultural initiative of Daya is the development of a Museum of Dolls and Puppets of the World in northern Iran.

The proposed museum aims to introduce and preserve dolls and puppet traditions from different cultures and countries and to create a space for research, education, exhibition, cultural exchange, and intercultural dialogue.

Daya welcomes collaboration with cultural institutions, museums, embassies, artists, researchers, universities, and organizations from different countries interested in:

- Introducing their country's traditional and cultural dolls

- Organizing educational workshops
- Presenting exhibitions of dolls and puppet traditions
- Conducting cultural and artistic research
- Contributing to the development of an international doll and puppet museum

If a country, cultural institution, embassy, museum, university, or cultural organization is interested in inviting Daya to provide educational programs, introduce its traditional dolls and puppet heritage, organize exhibitions, or collaborate on establishing and developing a Museum of Dolls and Puppets of the World, Daya welcomes such international cooperation.

Daya's International Vision

One of Daya's main objectives is to create connections between artists, cultural practitioners, researchers, communities, and cultural heritage traditions from different parts of the world.

Through exhibitions, festivals, workshops, research projects, publications, educational programs, and international cultural collaborations, Daya seeks to create opportunities for cultural exchange and make diverse cultural narratives accessible to wider audiences.

The experience gained through Daya's activities in Iran and abroad has provided a foundation for expanding its international programs.

1st Daya International Art, Cultural Heritage & Creativity Olympiad 2026

In this context, the 1st Daya International Art, Cultural Heritage & Creativity Olympiad 2026 has been established under the theme:

CULTURAL IDENTITY

The Olympiad provides an international platform for artists and creative practitioners from different countries to explore and communicate their understanding of culture, heritage, traditions, memory, roots, belonging, and cultural identity through art.

Daya does not view the Olympiad simply as a single event. It is intended as the beginning of an ongoing international initiative, with future editions potentially addressing different cultural and artistic themes.

At this stage, the themes of future editions have not yet been officially finalized or publicly announced. Therefore, for international communication, the first edition should be presented specifically under the theme "Cultural Identity."

The long-term vision is to develop the Olympiad as a space for intercultural dialogue, artistic exchange, cultural heritage awareness, environmental consciousness, and international collaboration, bringing together creative voices from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

Daya Cultural and Artistic Center is a registered cultural and artistic organization in Iran under the Cultural and Artistic Organization of Tehran Municipality.

Official Registration ID:
5391006-03

Daya works across contemporary and visual arts, cultural heritage, traditional and indigenous arts, research, education, publications and intercultural exchange.

Over the years, Daya has organized and developed various cultural and artistic initiatives, including the Arman-e Solh Biennial, Nowruz Festival, Yalda Festival, Traditional Embroidery Festivals, heritage exhibitions, educational programs, artist publications and research projects related to traditional dolls and puppet heritage.

Daya has also established international cultural and educational collaborations and has worked for four consecutive years with the Embassy of Mexico in Iran on cultural and educational programs, including cooperation related to the Mexican Día de Muertos cultural celebration.

In addition, Daya has contributed as a collaborator and expert to a 26-episode documentary project introducing Iranian dolls and their cultural heritage.

Daya has published seven ISBN-registered books featuring artists' works, including three bilingual Persian-English publications, as well as a Japanese-language publication introducing dolls and puppet heritage.

TAT Technical & Vocational Training Institute

Daya has also established TAT Technical & Vocational Training Institute, officially licensed by the Technical and Vocational Training Organization of Iran.

License Number:
21525623

TAT provides educational programs in:

- Visual Arts
- Handicrafts
- Information Technology
- Creative and professional artistic skills

Through these activities, Daya seeks to connect cultural heritage with contemporary artistic practice and create opportunities for dialogue between artists, researchers, institutions and communities from different cultural backgrounds.

Official Contact

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