

July 18, 2023

## Letter of Invitation to a Neighbourhood Participatory Event

Hello neighbours,

My name is Mushtari Afroz and I have been a resident of the Maple Ridge Enclaves in Pine Ridge Neighbourhood since 2010. In my profession, I am a dancer, a choreographer, a teacher and an artist-researcher in public spaces. As an artist-researcher, I recently completed my graduate studies in 'Performing Public Spaces' program in The Netherlands. There, my research investigated an interdisciplinary artistic practice for establishing active and embodied sensory engagement with the visual and acoustic environment of residential neighbourhood public spaces as a means of developing a sense of place, sense of community and sense of belonging to the neighbourhood.

I am sure you experienced some of my pop-up sensory art interventions on the sidewalks earlier this year. I am continuing the initiative but this time through community participatory events. Two events – one in July and one in August – have been planned and with this letter I am inviting your kind participation in them. You can participate in one or in both. Activities will be the same in both events. The reason for organizing the event twice is to accommodate residents' summer schedules.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to bond with neighbours to explore our public spaces together. So, bring a friend, a neighbour with you and immerse yourself in various fun-filled activities on a summer Sunday in your neighbourhood.

### Event Details are Given Below:

#### When is the participatory event?

##### **Event-1: Seeing the Ordinary Anew**

When: Sunday, July 23, 2023: 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

Where to meet: Halsey Lane and Abbey Road (near the mailbox area) I encourage you to arrive by 4:20pm.

What to bring: A camera or your cell phone with camera option.

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##### **Event-2: Seeing the Ordinary Anew**

When: Event-2: Sunday, August 13, 2023: 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

Where to meet: Halsey Lane and Abbey Road (near the mailbox area) I encourage you to arrive by 4:20pm.

What to bring: A camera or your cell phone with camera option.

#### What activities are part of the event?

Walking in the neighbourhood, observing and framing the built environment as well as social dynamics in public spaces (and some quirky stuff!) and discussions with neighbours.

How to sign up for the event?

Please let me know which event you would like to join. Email: [kathakexchange5@gmail.com](mailto:kathakexchange5@gmail.com).

Thank you, neighbours, for taking the time to read and engage with my invitation letter. I look forward to seeing you at the event. Event-1 poster is attached with this letter.

Best Regards,

Mushtari

**Mushtari's Short Bio:**

Based in Pickering, Ontario Mushtari Afroz is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and an artist-researcher in public spaces. In her more than 20-year career as a professional dancer and choreographer she has created and presented multiple original works across Canada and the US. While she continues to create choreographic work for the stage, her current artistic practice is developed outside of the stage and explores residents' multi-sensory engagement with public spaces within residential areas as a means to enhance the sense of belonging to their neighbourhoods. Incorporating sensory walking, choreographed movements, participatory practice and tactical urbanism her practice is concerned with the functions, role and purpose of public spaces within residential neighbourhoods that have been linked to the well-being and the quality of life of residents as well as to the development of a sense of community.

1. Website: <http://www.ojanaprithibi.me/>
2. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mushtari.afroz>
3. Instagram: #performpickeringpublicspace
4. Recently completed Public Space project on Toronto Island:

<https://youtu.be/xfDRR3zcovA> (Trailer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC751C8CLrk> (Mini documentary)