Farhang Foundation is a nonreligious, nonpolitical, and nonprofit foundation dedicated to celebrating Iranian art and culture for the benefit of the community at large.

**Areas of Focus**

- **ART**
  - Poetry
  - Fine Arts
  - Film
  - Music

- **CULTURE**
  - History
  - Philosophy
  - Language
  - Traditions
  - Culture

**Constituencies**

- **Trustees, Council Members, Advisers & Supporters**
  - Iranians, Iranophiles, and Iran Scholars who support the mission of Farhang Foundation and our programs by donating their time, knowledge, and financial support.

- **Iranian Americans**
  - These are the custodians of one of the richest cultures in the world, who benefit from learning more about their art and culture. They are also the individuals who will later be our cultural ambassadors to the community at large.

- **Community At Large**
  - We feel that Iranian art and culture can contribute positively and should be woven into the multicolored tapestry of great cultures that compose America. That’s why our mission at Farhang Foundation is to celebrate and promote Iranian art and culture for the benefit of the community at large.
CONTENTS

Googoosh at the Hollywood Bowl 8
UCLA Bilingual Lectures: Screening & Discussion Untaken Paths 14
A Conversation with Mohsen Namjoo, Shirin Neshat & Shapa Azari 15
Iran vs. Morocco FIFA World Cup Viewing Party 18
Only the Morning Bird Treasures the Flower Garden 19
12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference 22
 OCCUPY ME: Branding Culture, Identity & the Politics of Fashion 23
Celebration of Iranian Cinema at UCI 24
10th Annual Farhang Foundation Short Film Festival 26
4th Annual Mehregan Conference: In Search of Zokarya Razi 28
DOCUNIGHT Screenings at USC 29

A 8th Annual Farhang Foundation Fundraising Gala 30
AFI Fest 2018 32

Iranian Music Degree Program at UCLA 33
FOCUS IRAN CONTEMPORARY PHOTO & VIDEO Exhibit, Discussions, and Workshops 36
2019 Nowruz Banner Competition 39

ISG Cultural Show 13
Annual Farhang Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series at USC: Dr. Tavakoli-Taraghi 38
Celebration of Nowruz at UCLA 40

UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema 48
JOIN FARHANG 52

Iran Through Books at the LA Times Festival of Books 44

PACSA Distinguished Lecture Series 46
Persian 101 After-School Program 47

7th Annual PACSA Celebration with Rashin Ekhliyen MURAL 50

Rashin Ekhliyen MURAL 51

Farhang Sources of Funds 2018 – 2019 53

Volunteers 63
In our 2018–2019 season, Farhang Foundation continued making tremendous strides in realizing our mission of promoting and celebrating the beautiful and rich art and culture of Iran with another year packed with record-breaking and innovative artistic initiatives. We kicked things off with the historic concert by the legendary Googoosh at the Hollywood Bowl on Mother’s Day weekend, which was attended by nearly 17,000 adoring fans. This momentous occasion marked the first time in history that an Iranian artist headlined the prestigious venue, and it was a proud moment for Farhang Foundation and the entire community to experience the adoring fans. This momentous occasion marked the first time in history that an Iranian artist headlined the prestigious venue, and it was a proud moment for Farhang Foundation and the entire community to experience the magic of the Bowl during an unforgettable concert by this living Iranian legend.

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Dear Friends of Farhang,
Farhang Foundation was proud to present the legendary Googoosh when she made history as the first Iranian artist to headline the iconic Hollywood Bowl.

Boasting a career that spans six decades, Iranian music legend Googoosh put on a spectacular concert event on May 12, 2018. Farhang Foundation was honored to aid in the curation of this extraordinary event attended by nearly 17,000 music fans. The evening, which was dedicated to the women of Iran, featured Googoosh’s most well-known and beloved songs, including “Gharibeh Ashena,” “Do Panjereh,” and most of the classic hits written and composed by the two legendary songwriters Ardalan Sarfraz and Hassan Shamsazadeh. Special guest appearances included Hassan Shamsazadeh and Mortik.

Playfully dubbed “Iran’s Madonna,” Googoosh has performed on the international stage and headlined numerous music festivals alongside such notable artists as Ray Charles, Tina Turner, and Charles Aznavour. Googoosh is considered the most successful Iranian artist in the world.
The 2018 Farhang Foundation Lecture Series in Iranian Studies at UC Irvine presented “The History of Persian Poetry from the Beginnings to Today” by Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (University of Maryland) at UC Irvine’s Humanities Gateway.

For 19 years, Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak was the professor of Persian language and literature and Iranian culture and civilization at the University of Washington. He has studied in Iran and the United States, receiving his PhD in comparative literature from Rutgers University in 1979, and has taught English and comparative literature and translation studies, as well as classical and modern Persian literature at the University of Tehran, Rutgers University, Columbia University, and the University of Texas. Professor Karimi-Hakkak is the author of 19 books and over 100 major scholarly articles. He has contributed articles on Iran and Persian literature to many reference works, including the Encyclopædia Britannica, the Encyclopædia Iranica, and the Encyclopædia of Translation Studies. His works have been translated into French, Dutch, Spanish, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Japanese, and Persian. He has won numerous awards and honors, and has served as president of the International Society for Iranian Studies and several other professional academic organizations.

THE HISTORY OF PERSIAN POETRY
FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO TODAY

University of Tehran, Rutgers University, Columbia University, and the University of Texas. Professor Karimi-Hakkak is the author of 19 books and over 100 major scholarly articles. He has contributed articles on Iran and Persian literature to many reference works, including the Encyclopædia Britannica, the Encyclopædia Iranica, and the Encyclopædia of Translation Studies. His works have been translated into French, Dutch, Spanish, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Japanese, and Persian. He has won numerous awards and honors, and has served as president of the International Society for Iranian Studies and several other professional academic organizations.

ISG Cultural Show
The night was a showcase for traditional and modern dances, singing, acting, comedy, and musical talent, displaying the beautiful culture and rich history of Iran.
Renowned singer-songwriter and composer Mohsen Namjoo joined international artists Shirin Neshat and Shoja Azari at the Getty Center to discuss their recent collaboration, On the String of the Tear’s Bow, a musical and visual odyssey that investigates the confluence of cultures along the Silk Road, with interpretations of traditional songs by Namjoo and video and photographic installations by Neshat and Azari. The insightful talk was moderated by leading theater, opera, and television director Peter Sellars and preceded the U.S. premiere of the performance a week later at the Los Angeles Music Center’s Mark Taper Forum.

UCLA Bilingual Lectures
UNTAKEN PATHS
A FILM BY TAHMINEH MILANI

Legendary feminist filmmaker Tahmineh Milani is no stranger to stories of women’s marital struggles. Untaken Paths, her fourteenth feature, tells the story of a young woman in love who marries against the wishes of her family. She is challenged when her nascent marriage is thrown into trouble because of the couple’s roots in different social strata. The film explores issues including domestic violence and women’s resistance.

UCLA Bilingual Lectures
A Film on Domestic Violence in Iran & Panel Discussion

Panelists discussed Untaken Paths—a film concerning the sensitive issue of domestic violence—the latest work by Tahmineh Milani, one of Iran’s prominent feminist directors.
On the String of the Tear’s Bow
by Mohsen Namjoo and Faraualla
in Collaboration with Shirin Neshat and Shoja Azari

World-renowned musician, songwriter, and composer Mohsen Namjoo presented his latest multimedia production featuring the brilliant Italian a cappella quartet, Faraualla, for the U.S. premiere of On the String of the Tear’s Bow, in collaboration with the acclaimed artists Shirin Neshat and Shoja Azari, and featuring art installations by the acclaimed duo.

The only U.S. performance of this musical and visual odyssey took audiences along the ancient Silk Road investigating the confluences of cultures from the Far East, Middle East, and Balkans, all the way to the south of Italy, as they moved back and forth through the centuries both melodically and ritualistically. It was a contemporary artistic take

encompassing the cycles of life and death as different cultures have been tackling the issues of loss and rebirth. Incorporating folklore songs of different regions into a unique, harmonic totality, Mohsen Namjoo’s musical symphony remained faithful to the origins of each song while bridging the differences. The monumental video installations by Shirin Neshat and Shoja Azari carried the signature iconic, goddess-like imagery of female mourners from Bari, which had an uncanny resemblance to Neshat’s photographs of women from the Muslim world.

On the String of the Tear’s Bow was then followed by a second act featuring a concert by Mohsen Namjoo and his ensemble performing some of their most beloved songs.
Only the Morning Bird Treasures the Flower Garden

The group exhibition Only the Morning Bird Treasures the Flower Garden, which took its title from a poem by 14th-century Persian poet Hafiz, included photographs, videos, and other works by more than twenty Iranian artists on the theme of flowers. Co-curated by artists Mehraneh Atashi and Sohrab Mohibbi, the exhibition was originally conceived by Atashi while working in Tehran in 2009, after she was instructed to photograph flowers, rather than take self-portraits that address social matters. In response, Atashi invited fellow artists, writers, and other colleagues to contribute to an exhibition and publication exploring the historical, literary, and symbolic connotations of flowers in Iran. The exhibition, which never took place in Iran, was finally presented after nearly a decade at the REDCAT, via a long detour, across multiple borders and years.


Iran vs. Morocco
FIFA World Cup Viewing Party

Over 200 soccer fans joined Farhang Foundation for a special early morning viewing celebration for Iran’s first match game at the 2018 FIFA World Cup against rival team Morocco. The event served as a platform for young and old to celebrate the successful win of team Iran at this first match of the World Cup, and featured a halftime deejay set by DJ Arin.
Farhang Foundation and Grand Performances continued their successful seventh collaboration in presenting Iranian music at the annual Grand Performances free concert series in downtown Los Angeles. This year’s headlining artist was Sogand, one of the leading Iranian pop artists, known for her soulful and sultry voice, and remarkable capability of singing in Persian, German, and English. She stylishly blended rap, R&B, jazz, funk, and blues into her performance at her U.S. stage debut. Opening for Sogand was the groundbreaking Iranian producer and deejay Omid Walizadeh. The event was attended by over 5,000 music fans and proved once again that music is the universal language that crosses all borders.
12th Biennial
Iranian Studies
Conference
UC Irvine’s Jordan Center for Persian Studies hosted the Twelfth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference from August 14 to 17, 2018. Housed under the umbrella of the Association for Iranian Studies, this exciting conference brought hundreds of scholars, students, academic and non-academic researchers, and aficionados of Iranian studies to the University of California, Irvine, for a range of scholarly panels, performances, and film screenings. Farhang Foundation was a proud supporter of this international conference’s first visit to Orange County.

OCCUPY ME:
BRANDING CULTURE, IDENTITY
& THE POLITICS OF FASHION
by Hushidar Mortezaei
The USC Department of Middle East Studies presented the work of designer and artist Hushidar Mortezaie to the broader USC community through an exhibition and lecture that explored the long career of Mr. Mortezaie, who has been inspired by Iranian art and culture. The exhibition ran from August 20 to August 30 at the Helen Lindhurst Gallery of Fine Arts at the University of Southern California as part of Farhang Foundation’s Iranian Studies program.
The 3rd Annual Celebration of Iranian Cinema at UC Irvine was held on September 15 and 16, 2018, in collaboration with the Jordan Center for Persian Studies, and co-presented by the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

The event featured the O.C. premiere of four critically acclaimed Iranian films including Valdeerama, Negar, and Blockage. The event kicked off with the premiere of the award-winning film No Date, No Signature starring Navid Mohammadzadeh, winner of best actor at the Venice Film Festival.
The 10th Annual Farhang Short Film Festival Awards Ceremony and After-Party were held on September 29, 2018, at the prestigious Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. The sold-out event was hosted by actress and comedian Melissa Shoshahi, and screened the top six films of the year. First Prize of $10,000 was awarded to Naghmeh Farzaneh for her touching animated film, Scent Of Geranium. Second Prize of $5,000 was awarded to Behzad Azadi for his heart wrenching drama Temporary, and Third Prize of $3,000 was awarded to Roozbeh Misaghi for his dark drama Turquoise. To date over $180,000 in cash prizes have been awarded to filmmakers from around the world who celebrate Iranian heritage and culture through short films. The red-carpet award ceremony was followed by an after-party and reception with music by DJ Omid Walizada and Persian-inspired hors d'oeuvres.

Special thanks to our esteemed jury panel: Mark Amin, Mary Apick, Gohar Kheirandish, Adel Yaraghi, and Parviz Sayyad for all their hard work and dedication. Thank you to the City of Beverly Hills for helping host this year’s ceremony.
USC’s PACSA joined forces with Docunight - Iran Via Documentaries and the Kiarostami Foundation Project to screen a series of documentary films at USC. The free screenings included: The Mother of the Earth by Mahnaz Afzali, Death and the Judge by Hassan Khademi, Mahak–A World She Founded by Mohsen Abdolvahab, Ali Aqa by Kamran Heidari, and October 13, 1937 by Baktash Abtin.

Farhang Foundation and the Jordan Center for Persian Studies hosted the 4th Annual Mehregan Conference and Celebration at UCI Irvine.

The event featured two riveting talks: “Razi’s Key Philosophical Ideas” by Dr. Ahmed Alwishah from Pitzer College, and “Razi, an Iranian Polytechnic of the 12th Century” by Dr. Mahmoud Omidsalar of UCI Irvine.

The free event was attended by over 300 guests and concluded with a live concert performance by Vandad Massahzadeh, Arezoo Koochakan, and their ensemble.

4TH ANNUAL MEHREGAN CONFERENCE: In Search Of Zakariya Razi

SCReenINGS AT USC
On November 3, 2018, Farhang Foundation held its 8th Annual Fundraising Gala at the historic Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills.

This year’s gala honored the memory of Ahmad Gramian, Farhang Foundation’s second Chairman, who passed away earlier in 2018. The event featured musical performances by Arash Avin and Rana Mansour, with Melissa Shoshahi as the master of ceremonies.

All funds raised at this annual event support Farhang Foundation’s 80+ annual programs, projects, and initiatives, including the historic new Iranian Music Degree Program at UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music.
The first academic year after the historic signing of the first Iranian Music Degree program at UCLA was completed in 2018/19. This past year Farhang Foundation was proud to have two special guest lecturers join the program, including the grande dame of classical Iranian music, Parisa, as well as the legendary percussionist Pejman Hadadi. The Iranian music classes offered at the Herb Alpert School of Music have quickly become some of the most popular classes within the school, with students from all backgrounds participating in the program.

Farhang Foundation was proud to once again support all the Iranian films at the 2018 AFI FEST, including the U.S. premiere of Jafar Panahi’s latest film 3 Faces (Se Rokh), as well as Mani Haghigi’s Pig (Khok).

The AFI FEST is the country’s largest free film festival with a focus on international cinema. It is held at the iconic Chinese Theatre in Hollywood and attended by over 75,000 moviegoers annually.
In 2018 Farhang Foundation returned to UCLA’s Schoenberg Hall at the Herb Alpert School of Music for the 6th Annual Celebration of Shab-e Yalda (the celebration of the winter solstice), an ancient Persian tradition.

The night included music, poetry, and storytelling, featuring the one and only Gordafarid, the world’s first female epic Story Teller (Naqal), with music by the brilliant Mojgan Shajarian, Pejman Hadadi, Ali Pajooheshgar and Sourena Sefati. The evening concluded with a special and original story by Haleh Mahboubi Gabbay.
Farhang Foundation in collaboration with the Craft Contemporary presented FOCUS IRAN 3, the third biennial juried photography and video competition and exhibition. This year’s exhibition theme focused on Iranian youth culture and presented a riveting visual feast that explored all areas of young Iranian life, including sexual identity, sexuality, and rebellion.

The Jury Panel Included prominent Iranian photographers Mehrdad Afsari, Babak Tafreshi, and Maryam Zandi; Iranian cinematographer and director Seifollah Samadian; the J. Paul Getty Museum’s associate curator of photography Amanda Maddox; Iranian gallerist and educator Aria Eghbali; and CAFAM exhibitions curator Holly Jerger.

OPENING RECEPTION AND AWARD CEREMONY
The opening reception and award ceremony for Focus Iran 3 was held on January 26, 2019, at the Craft Contemporary in Los Angeles to a maximum-capacity crowd with many of the artists present. First Prize was awarded to Hushidar Mortezaei and Jiyan Zandi for The Brotherhood. Second Prize was awarded to Labkhand Olfatmanesh and Gazelle Samizay for Bepar, and Third Prize was awarded to Milad Karamooz for The Kiss. The exhibition, which ran from January 27 to May 12, 2019, was viewed by an estimated 8,000 visitors.

COLLECTING IMAGE:
A PANEL DISCUSSION: Advocarty founder Roshi Rahnama was joined by director of Photo L.A. Claudia James-Bartlett and photography collector Paula By for an insightful conversation on collecting photography – including strategies for collecting work and methods for collections care.

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION:
Craft Contemporary exhibitions curator and jury member, Holly Jerger hosted a conversation with Focus Iran 3 artists Labbie Manesh, Hushidar Mortezaei, Gazelle Samizay, and Jiyan Zandi about the facets of Iranian youth culture they explored in their photography and video works.

PORTRAITS ON METAL:
A TINTYPE WORKSHOP WITH JASON MADS: Photographer Jason Mads held a unique workshop on making tintypes, a nineteenth-century analog photographic process. Participants staged portraits and worked in a pop-up darkroom to develop their very own tintype!
The 2019 Farhang Foundation Iranian Studies Initiative Annual Distinguished Lecture Series at USC was held on February 19, 2019. This year’s guest lecturer was Professor Mohammad Tavakoli-Taraghi of the University of Toronto, who presented a special lecture titled Pathologizing Iran: The Ailing “Mother Nation” and Political Diagnostics.

This year’s winning design was awarded to Iranian artist Sharareh Khosravani from Cincinnati, Ohio. “I am so honored that my design will introduce the Iranian culture and enrich the LA community through engagement in the visual arts,” said Khosravani. “The Haft Sîn symbols such as the hyacinth refresh Iranian memories. The hyacinth design used in the banner also helps non-Iranians to learn about the culture and events of Nowruz. Hyacinths represent the rebirth of spring at the Haft Sîn table, so the variety of colors introduces Nowruz as the national culture to celebrate the joy of colors and life.”

Sharareh Khosravani is an artist and illustrator focusing on public art and the context of space. Her focus on public spaces connects with her Iranian culture and lets her interact with a broad audience.

2019 Nowruz Banner Competition

Farhang Foundation’s annual Nowruz Banner Design Competition began in 2011, and it has become a tradition that preludes Farhang’s signature event, the Nowruz Celebration, which returned to UCLA for the third year on March 10, 2019. Each year, Farhang, through its Nowruz Banner Competition, reaches out to a global community of artists, illustrators, and graphic designers, enlisting their talents to create and submit original designs that capture the essence of Nowruz. Starting on February 1, and leading to Farhang’s annual Nowruz celebration, the winning design is featured on hundreds of large street pole banners throughout the streets of Los Angeles announcing the arrival of spring and the largest celebration of Nowruz in the world!
On March 10, 2019, Farhang Foundation presented the 11th Annual Celebration of Nowruz at UCLA, the largest celebration of Nowruz in the United States and perhaps the world. The event was attended by over 25,000 visitors and featured daylong activities and programs including the much-anticipated annual Nowruz Spring Walk led by the UCLA Bruins Marching Band, live performances by the Djanbazian Dance Company, Negar Estakhri’s Puppet Show, Arezoo Koochakan’s L.A. DAFT Ensemble, the Fluzione Dance Company led by Robin Friend, and music by DJ Arin.

The event also featured an elaborate grand Haft Sin display, children’s programming, arts and crafts, an Iranian teahouse, and much more.

The festivities concluded with a sold-out concert at Royce Hall by the grande dame of Iranian classical music, Parisa, who was accompanied on stage by master musicians Pejman Hadadi, Ali Pajooheshgar, Amir Pourjavady, and Saeed Kamjoo.
Farhang Foundation was extremely proud to join forces with the prestigious Pacific Symphony of Orange County in presenting this year’s exceptional Nowruz Concert on March 24, 2019, featuring the magnificent Homayoun Shajarian and the brilliant Sohrab Pournazeri, with special guest conductor Shardad Rohani, and the masterful Pacific Symphony Orchestra under the direction of maestro Carl St.Clair. The concert was preceded by traditional Iranian musical performers and dancers, and a grand Haft Sin display at the Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts. The sold-out event was one of the most talked-about concerts of the year and a highlight in the Pacific Symphony season.
at the 2019 L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC

On April 13 - 14, 2019, Farhang Foundation presented the 5th Annual IRAN THROUGH BOOKS at the L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC. Special thanks to our esteemed guest authors Naz Deravian, Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Dr. Pedram Khorasand, and Sheila Salamat for joining us at this year’s festival. The L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC is the U.S.’s largest annual book festival, attended by over 70,000 visitors. It is a free event and open to the public. Farhang Foundation’s aim is to present books about Iran and by Iranian authors to the attendees of this great festival.
Influence of Persian Literature on Central Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures

As part of its Distinguished Lecture Series, USC’s PACSA welcomed Dr. Ali Kiafar for a lecture titled “Society, City Planning and Urban Design in Modern Iran.”

Dr. Kiafar has a Master of Architecture and City Planning degree as well as a doctorate in urban and regional planning from USC. He has received several awards and recognitions including the Community Development Award from the American Institute of Architects and an excellence in Teaching Award from the University of California, Riverside.

Dr. Kiafar’s talk revolved around his most recent book on Iranian architecture and was followed by a book signing.

Persian 101 Persian Language and Iranian Culture After-School Program

Farhang’s popular Persian Language and Culture after-school program, Persian 101, launched its fourth academic year in 2018 with classes in public elementary schools in Southern California. The successful program is in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District, Star Education, and Beyond The Bell. Classes were offered in more schools than ever before to meet the high community demand.

In March, Farhang conducted several special Nowruz celebration events in public schools of the Los Angeles Unified School District. The events commemorated this ancient Persian tradition with the student body and helped educate students about the meaning of Nowruz and its history as a universal celebration of the first day of spring.

This year’s participating schools included:
- Crestview Preparatory School – La Cañada Flintridge
- Curtis School – Los Angeles
- El Rodeo Elementary – Beverly Hills
- Hale Charter Academy – Woodland Hills
- Hawthorne Elementary – Beverly Hills
- Lanai Road Elementary – Encino
- Marquez Charter Elementary – Pacific Palisades
- Nestle Elementary – Tarzana
- Palisades Charter Elementary – Pacific Palisades
- Pomelo Community Charter Elementary – West Hills
- Gaspar De Portola Middle School – Tarzana
- Roscomare Elementary – Bel Air
- Serrania Charter Elementary – Woodland Hills
- Warner Avenue Elementary – Los Angeles
- Westwood Charter Elementary – Los Angeles
- Wilbur Charter Elementary – Tarzana
Farhang Foundation was proud to once again collaborate with the UCLA Film & Television Archive in presenting the Archive’s long tradition of celebrating the best cinema from Iran and the Iranian diaspora with the latest edition of its annual survey of works by Iranian filmmakers, past and present.

This year, the program illuminated the latest cinematic trends with several comedies and outright satires appearing in the lineup alongside gripping dramas and documentaries that explore the complex realities of Iran’s contemporary moment and the difficult history that shaped it.

We were also pleased to present new restorations of two landmark works by two founding filmmakers of the prerevolution Iranian New Wave, Forough Farrokhzad and Ebrahim Golestan, whose significant contributions have been overlooked owing to the inaccessibility of their films.

Opening night took place on April 27 with the Los Angeles premiere of the internationally acclaimed Tehran: City of Love, winner of Best Actress for Forough Ghajabagli (Beijing Film Festival), with special guest writer, and director Ali Jabberani in person. Other notable guest appearances included Payman Maadi for his second directorial feature Bomb, a Love Story. The event concluded with a special talk by artist Sussan Deyhim and professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, who discussed Forough Farrokhzad and Ebrahim Golestan’s contributions to the Iranian new wave movement and Iranian cinema in general. This event is attended by nearly 3,000 fans of Iranian cinema annually.
USC’s PACSA presented their 7th annual celebration with musical guest Shadi Amini, her ensemble, and special guests. This year’s event focused on music, art, and dance in the context of womanhood and femininity.

Farhang Foundation continued its collaboration with Beautify Earth in the urban beautification campaign to decorate the streets of Los Angeles with Iranian art. The second installment of this series featured artwork by internationally acclaimed artist Rashin Kheiriqeqh inspired by the poetry of Rumi. The mural was installed in the city of Santa Monica off Wilshire Blvd. and has fast become a social media phenomenon within the L.A. community.
Your membership supports Farhang’s mission to celebrate and promote Iranian art and culture for the benefit of the community at large.

Farhang.org/Membership

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Annual Revenue 2018: $2,800,010

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