

New Acropolis Cultural Organization



A Glimpse at our Volunteering Initiatives

New Acropolis at a Glance

New Acropolis is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the transformation of the individual and society through activities in the areas of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering.

PHILOSOPHY



Educational Programme of Studies:

2,100 hours annually of volunteer-led classes, dedicated to sharing the value of inner change and leading by example, as a key to create positive impact in our world.

Libraries and Publications with focus on reviving Indian Philosophy:

New Acropolis' Libraries across Mumbai and Pune house **4,000 books** spanning philosophy, arts and ancient literary works.

Numerous books published in English, circulated globally in over 50 countries. A quarterly free digital magazine *The Acropolitan*, edited and compiled by volunteers, shares a Philosophical approach to daily living.

Monthly Cultural Events:

Through regular performances and workshops engaging over **650 participants annually**, New Acropolis endeavours to rediscover India's rich cultural heritage and offer it as a vital contribution to our collective human progress.

New Acropolis creates its own line of **art products** inspired by symbolism of various cultures and civilisations spanning India, Egypt, Greece, and Tibet. Items are hand made by volunteers through a process of resin casting and silicon mould-making.

CULTURE



VOLUNTEERING



New Acropolis is managed and run by volunteers, keeping service at the centre of all action.

Over **24,000 volunteering hours** annually dedicated to activities in the areas of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering, promoting the **altruistic spirit of sewa and responsible citizenship**.

10,000 volunteering hours per year are dedicated to **ecological, social and humanitarian activities**, fostering individual responsibility towards oneself, society and nature.

Mangrove Restoration and Sensitisation Project, Mumbai: Over 7,400 hours of activities so far.

City Beautification and Civic Awareness Project, Mumbai: Over 3,600 hours so far.

VOLUNTEERING FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

New Acropolis recognizes volunteering as a powerful tool for sustainable change by developing global citizens with skills for peace, tolerance and collective responsibility. In addition to contributing over 24,000 volunteering hours to numerous educational, humanitarian, social and ecological projects annually, New Acropolis focuses on enabling an inner-transformation of volunteers by nurturing a fundamental shift in perspective from the personal to the collective, by educating youth on ethical leadership, and the importance of recognising our role as active contributors and guardians of our environment and society.

New Acropolis is a not-for-profit organization managed and run completely by volunteers, offering a practical framework to cultivate the altruistic spirit of sewa and responsible citizenship through activities across the pillars of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. New Acropolis therefore strives to promote an ethos of living each day with the spirit of volunteering as a means to forge change in our world today.



“After Volunteering with New Acropolis, I learnt that we all have something valuable to offer. I have realised that the most joyful offering is, not in material things, but when we touch the heart of another. When we recognise with joy that we share so much in common and these far outweigh the differences between us.”

Zarina Screwvala
Member & Volunteer of
New Acropolis



“Volunteering with New Acropolis made me realise the essential meaning of service which is to serve where there is a need and not when it’s comfortable for me depending on my likes or dislikes.”

Vasant Sanzgiri
Member & Volunteer of
New Acropolis



“At New Acropolis, Volunteering is a way of life. It made me realise that taking action with love and will can make the world around us a better place. It reinforced my sense of purpose.”

Kurush Dordi
Member & Volunteer of
New Acropolis

MANGROVE CLEANING, RESTORATION & SENSITIZATION PROJECT

TOTAL
VOLUNTEERING
HOURS:
7,464

New Acropolis has undertaken a Mangrove Cleaning and Restoration Project in Mumbai to protect, clean, and nurture the Mangroves that play a critical role in protecting the city's coastline and absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Activities have been dedicated to cleaning and maintaining Mumbai's mangroves, and including building breakwaters to control water flow to facilitate the regeneration of Mangrove saplings.

Through collaborations with schools, colleges and resident associations from the surrounding neighbourhood, New Acropolis educates members of the community on the importance of our Mangrove ecosystem, while encouraging collective social and ecological responsibility and sharing our role as human beings as an integral part of nature.



Mangrove Cleaning



Building Breakwaters for Saplings

GARBAGE
COLLECTED:
5,800 KGS



Mangrove Restoration & Awareness

CITY BEAUTIFICATION & CIVIC AWARENESS

TOTAL
VOLUNTEERING
HOURS:
3,675

In an effort to foster individual responsibility for local communities, New Acropolis has undertaken various projects focusing on cleaning and beautifying the city of Mumbai in partnership with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). Wall painting, restoration and maintenance drives have been conducted in the vicinity of its centres, targeting dilapidated walls and corners on public streets.

Volunteers of New Acropolis invite members of the neighbourhood to together transform these spaces into places of inspiration and beauty. Philosophical values such as “Hope”, “Generosity”, “Harmony” and “Truth” were painted on various walls, as a reminder to passers-by of fundamental human values that each of us can aspire towards, virtues that are important in building a conscientious and harmonious community and society.



Colaba, 2015



Colaba, 2016



Colaba, 2017

HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES

New Acropolis has undertaken various educational and skill building activities with children and the elderly. Regular initiatives with differently-abled children to help develop basic motor-skills have been conducted in collaboration with specialised schools. Activities with children from surrounding slum communities are also regularly carried out by volunteers of New Acropolis, focusing on developing life-skills and social responsibility through value-based learning.

New Acropolis also engages with the Elderly through activities in public parks and spaces as well as through collaborations with old age homes. Workshops with women from the neighbouring slum community of Ganesh Murthy Nagar have also been conducted with the sentiment of empowering them by building independence and self-confidence.



Bringing Stories Alive



Self-Defence Workshop



Evening with Elderly Community

CLEAN-UP DRIVES

New Acropolis has spearheaded regular clean-up drives across the city of Mumbai, targeting historic and iconic sites attracting large crowds such as Gateway of India, Kanheri Caves and Banganga Tank. These efforts also focus on educating youth on ethical leadership, and the importance of recognising our role as active contributors and guardians of our environment and society.

Additionally, on-going Clean-up drives in the neighbouring areas of New Acropolis' centres are undertaken by its volunteers, as a part of the vision of building socially conscious citizens who, through their actions, strive to be the change they wish to see in the world.



Kanheri Caves



Carter Road



Banganga Tank

DONATION DRIVES

Ever-ready to be of service when there is a need, Volunteers of New Acropolis have extended support in times of national crisis from floods to cyclones. Notable initiatives include efforts towards Kerala flood and Odisha flood relief during Cyclone Fani in collaboration with Goonj foundation.

Recognising the shortage of blood in Mumbai's Blood Banks, New Acropolis volunteers initiated a collaboration with Masina Hospital to donate blood at regular intervals.



Kerala Flood Relief, 2018



Blood Donation Drive, 2019



Odisha Relief Post Cyclone Fani, 2019

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2,100
HOURS
ANNUALLY

New Acropolis Cultural Organization hosts volunteer-led classes, discussions and lectures daily, dedicated to sharing the importance of inner change and leading by example, as a key to create positive impact in our society. Through a comparative study of Eastern and Western traditions, students develop respect for diverse cultures, based on our common heritage. Through regular activities across three centres in Mumbai and Pune, the organization engages with approximately 2,360 participants annually, focusing on educating inclusive and global citizens with skills for peace, tolerance, justice and collective responsibility.



Collaboration with Indian Express Gallery, 2012



World Philosophy Day, Mumbai, 2016



Lecture at Pune Branch, 2019

ART ATTACK

Colaba residents, volunteers and professional artists come together to brighten up the neighbourhood and improve its aesthetic value



Pic Anirudh Kandhari

Pooja Patel @7_Poojapatel

Recently, a group of 25 people that included volunteers, AlM members, children and professional artists came together to change the look and feel of a public wall near G.D. Somani School in Cuffe Parade. My Dream Colaba and NGO New Acropolis (Mumbai), came together to beautify this wall on adjoining Machimar Nagar no. 5 on Capt. Prakash Pethe Marg.

It took the labour of 25 people over a period of two days to finish the work, with kids participating for a few hours too. Cynthia Dmello of My Dream Colaba shares, "The art theme was conceptualised by New Acropolis (Mumbai) and the idea was to make the neighbourhood colourful, cleaner and appealing."

A lot of thought went into deciding the theme and the colours as well as the reason behind using the word 'harmony'. Ubai Husein, Volunteer and Secretary of the Active Ecology Department at New Acropolis (Mumbai), expounds, "Harmony denotes the importance of a well balanced, peaceful, symbiotic relationship as an important ingredient for the survival and well-being of our society. The underlying aim of such activities is to bring about the awareness of being responsible citizens, by caring for the communities we live in."

The team also wants to promote the need to bring the virtue of harmony into everyone's lives by empowering people to take charge and be the change we all want to see in the world. He concludes, "This is especially relevant in today's world where bringing beauty to urban India is a need of our times."

THE UNDERLYING AIM OF SUCH ACTIVITIES IS TO BRING ABOUT THE AWARENESS OF BEING RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS, BY CARING FOR THE COMMUNITIES WE LIVE IN," SHARES UBAI HUSEIN, NEW ACROPOLIS.

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daily dossier

04 mid-day Tuesday, May 24, 2016, Mumbai, web www.mid-day.com, twitter @mid-day

The writing is on the wall

The wall around the corner of Keiki Mehta's Clinic opposite Saurabh Hotel near the Bombay Port Trust Garden Lane in Colaba has a new look. Over the weekend, a group of 40 volunteers from New Acropolis, Colaba Advanced Local Management and My Dream Colaba including children, youngsters and even seniors worked to paint the message of Truth. Previously, two other walls in the area were painted with 'Hope and Harmony'.

"As part of our mission beautification of Colaba, this will probably be the last wall we paint before the rains. By painting white lotuses on Buddha Purnima, we felt truth in all things was a good message for all. A local fruit seller was so impressed, he gave volunteers free bananas as snacks," said Harshita Narwekar from My Dream Colaba. This is an ongoing project, and the NGO is hoping to get back to painting soon after the monsoon has done its round.



The Truth wall painted in Colaba by New Acropolis, Colaba Advanced Local Management and My Dream Colaba over the weekend



Volunteers working diligently to make the artwork look perfect

A group of 35 volunteers create a colour riot in Colaba changing the face of a public wall near BPT garden



Pooja Patel @7_Poojapatel

WE HOPE THIS WALL INSPIRES PEOPLE TO BE TRUE NOT ONLY TO OTHERS BUT ALSO TO THEMSELVES. IT IS ONLY WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO BE TRUE TO OURSELVES THAT WE CAN TRULY BE TRUE TO OUR SOCIETY.

Being the change they wish to see
 The goal of such wall painting and beautification drives is to reward the people's hard work in cleaning up the city and their efforts to be the change they wish to see in the world.
 It is the Secretary of New Acropolis, Ubai Husein, who said the idea was to bring about the awareness of being responsible citizens, by caring for the communities we live in.
 www.poojapatel.com



The message behind it all
 Ubai Husein, Secretary of the Active Ecology Department at New Acropolis shared, "Our wall painting is an art project in itself. It is a beautiful way of spreading the message of truth. The message in English and Hindi is to be true to ourselves and to our society. It is only when we are able to be true to ourselves that we can truly be true to our society."



BEFORE

responsibility of their own

New Acropolis Cultural Organization is an independent member of an International non-profit association (IONA), represented in over 60 countries across the world.

IONA promotes an ideal of timeless values to contribute to individual and collective evolution. Its associative structure guarantees respect for the diversity, autonomy and initiative of each of its member associations. Its operational structure enables it to act independently of all political, religious or financial interests.

We have always tried to understand the expression of all cultures, past and present, to discover the roots of their works of art, scientific advances, religious experiences and social and human projects through Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. With inspiration from the timeless principles of the Indian tradition, New Acropolis India, works with a specific focus to rediscover India's rich artistic, scientific and human heritage and offer it as a vital contribution to collective human progress relevant to our times today.

PHILOSOPHY



Philosophy, when it is practical, is educational. It helps us to know ourselves and to improve ourselves. To be a philosopher is a way of life committed to the best aspirations of humanity.

The practice of human values is the basis for a model of active and participative Culture, which brings out the qualities of each person, broadens the horizons of the mind and opens the human being up to all the expressions of the spirit.



CULTURE

VOLUNTEER



Volunteering is the natural of a spirit of union with life and humanity, which manifests in the practice of values such as unselfishness, commitment and striving for the common good.

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