

**Anna Lindh Foundation Israeli Network Member, Beit
HaGefen: Celebrating 60 Years of
Arab-Jewish Cultural Exchange**



In the heart of Haifa, Israel, stands Beit HaGefen, an active member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Israeli Network and a venerable institution that has led Arab-Jewish cultural exchange for six decades. Established in 1963, Beit HaGefen holds a special place as the first Arab-Jewish cultural center in the country, embodying the spirit of coexistence and shared heritage. Beit HaGefen exemplifies the Anna Lindh Foundation's shared values, including respect for diversity, dialogue, and intercultural cooperation.

For sixty years, Beit HaGefen has exemplified these values through its dedication to promoting shared life in Haifa and Israel, guiding its work in fostering dialogue, building bridges between communities, and offering a platform for diversity and cultural richness. At the heart of Beit HaGefen's ethos lies a commitment to providing a space where diverse voices can come together, exchange ideas, and find common ground. Its wide array of programs and events, offered in Arabic and Hebrew to accommodate participating communities, has created a vibrant hub for cultural expression and interaction.

As Assaf Ron, CEO of Beit HaGefen, reflects, "For sixty years, Beit HaGefen has been working tirelessly to promote shared life in Haifa and Israel, creating opportunities for meeting and acquaintance between cultures, providing a home for everyone, and offering a platform for diversity and cultural richness in Israeli society."

One of Beit HaGefen's signature events marking its 60th anniversary is the much-anticipated performance, "I Will Speak to You. One Love. Two Languages." This groundbreaking musical extravaganza, produced in collaboration with the Revolution Orchestra, aims to transcend linguistic and cultural barriers by presenting famous love songs in both Hebrew and Arabic.

Nizar Al-Katrawi, Co-Treasurer of Beit HaGefen, emphasizes the project's significance in bringing together audiences from diverse backgrounds. "The project invites an engaged audience of Jews and Arabs to sit together and listen to music that speaks to both peoples," he says

As Beit HaGefen commemorates its 60th anniversary, it remains dedicated to fostering coexistence in Israel. The center reaffirms its commitment to bridging communities and embracing the diverse cultures within Israeli society. Through collaboration with the Anna Lindh Foundation Israeli Network and continuous efforts to facilitate intercultural dialogue, Beit HaGefen stands as a symbol of hope and harmony.

