

FESTIVAL 2026

AGENDA

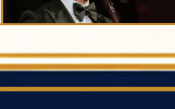
*Experience the
Cultural Legacy*





PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY- AUGUST 1ST – MAIN SESSION

⌚ TIME	PROGRAM	DETAILS
10:00 AM	STEP INTO TÜRKİYE - <i>Grounds & Grand Bazaar Open</i>	Festival Grounds
1:00 PM	 DHUHR PRAYER BREAK	Imam Hafız Ausaf
1:30 PM	GRAND OPENING CEREMONY - QUR'AN RECITATION, NATIONAL ANTHEMS & OPENING REMARKS	
2:30 PM	 MELODIES OF THE MYSTICS <i>A Sufi (Tasavvuf) Concert</i>	Sema Music Ensemble
3:00 PM	 STORIES IN SAND <i>A Transformation Before Your Eyes</i>	Veysel Çelikdemir <i>Sand Art Visual Storyteller</i>
3:20 PM	 THE MUSIC OF TÜRKİYE <i>Traditional Instruments Live</i>	Yavuzhan Erdem
3:40 PM	 WHERE ART MEETS WATER <i>Ebru Marbling Demonstration</i>	Prof. Dr. Hicabi Gülgen <i>Turkish Ebru (Marbling) Artist</i>
4:00 PM	 FUTUWWA: <i>The Ottoman Code of Honor and Building Ethical Leaders Today</i>	Prof. Dr. Recep Şentürk
4:45 PM	 EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HOME: <i>Inside America's Foster Care System</i>	Dr. Kadir Gündüz
5:30 PM	 SHADOW PLAY, BIG LAUGHS <i>Traditional Turkish Karagöz & Hacivat Puppet Show</i>	Turkish American Art Society
6:00 PM	 ASR PRAYER BREAK	Imam Bunyamin
6:30 PM	 UPLIFTING OUR SPIRITS: <i>Lessons from the Builders of the Seljuk Empire</i>	Sheikh Mufti Hussain Kamani
7:15 PM	 THE HIDDEN EPIDEMIC: <i>Understanding and Overcoming Addiction</i>	Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Güllüoğlu
8:15 PM	 MAGHRIB PRAYER BREAK	Imam Nasir Hussain
8:30 PM TODAY'S FEATURED DISCUSSION	 MEDIA & THE DEMONIZATION OF MUSLIMS: <i>Problems and Solutions</i>	Cenk Uygur – Attorney, Young Turk Journalist & Media Entrepreneur
9:00 PM	 RHYTHM OF RESISTANCE <i>Palestinian Dabka Performance</i>	Al-Horiyah Dabka
9:30 PM	 TURNING TOWARD THE DIVINE <i>The Whirling Dervish Ceremony</i>	Sema Group
9:50 PM	 VOICES & MELODIES <i>Live Musical Concert</i>	Mesut Kurtis <i>International Nasheed Artist</i>



PARALLEL ROOM A -Saturday- August 1st

Lectures & Educational Sessions

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER/PERFORMER
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM	 SPECIAL SCREENING – RUMI (Presented by TRT tabii)	TRT tabii
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	 NAVIGATING NIKAH: Conversation and Matrimonial Networking with MyKismet and Khalil Center	Chaplain Tahera Ahmed; Murat & Nayma Köse; Dr. Munsif Mubarak
4:30 PM - 5:15 PM	 MAN VS. MACHINE: Overcoming Anxiety of Job Security	Dr. Salih S. Kaymakci
5:15 PM - 6:00 PM	 REDEMPTION STORIES: Two Decades of Faith in America's Prisons Chaplaincy in America	Chaplain Erdoğan Bilgin
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	 NAVIGATING FOSTER CARE & CHILD PROTECTION IN AMERICA – Interactive Workshop	Dr. Kadir Gündüz
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	 FROM MAHALLE TO ALGORITHM: Edep, Belonging, and Muslim Identity in the Digital Age	Dr. Ermin Sinanović



PARALLEL ROOM B -Saturday- August 1st

Community & Family Sessions

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM		TAFSEER OF SURAH AAL-E-IMRAN: A Collaboration with Al-Muminat Podcast	Ustadha Lena Tleib
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		لغة لا تحتاج إلى ترجمة LANGUAGE THAT DOES NOT NEED TRANSLATION (Women Only - Arabic Session)	Dr. Maysa Nouri
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM		CROSSING BORDERS, KEEPING FAITH: Religion & Migration	Prof. Salih Sayilgan & Dr. Zeynep Sayilgan
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM		BEHIND THE EMPIRE: The Women Who Shaped Seljuk History The Wall of Duas (Interactive Activity) (Women Only)	Nigora Aminova



PARALLEL ROOM C -Saturday- August 1st

Arts, Workshops & Kids' Activities



11:00 AM - 1:00 PM		KARAGÖZ SHADOW THEATRE PLAY	Mucahide Akarvardar
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM		KARAGÖZ SHADOW THEATRE PLAY	Mucahide Akarvardar
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM		EBRU (MARBLING) WORKSHOP	Prof. Dr. Hicabi Gülgen
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM		KARAGÖZ SHADOW THEATRE WORKSHOP	Turkish American Art Society



**TURKISH
FESTIVAL**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sunday August 2nd – Main Session

⌚ TIME		PROGRAM	DETAILS
10:00 AM		STEP INTO TÜRKİYE: <i>Grounds & Grand Bazaar Open</i>	Festival Grounds
11:00 AM		STRINGS, SHADOWS & STORIES: <i>Traditional Turkish Puppetry</i>	Mucahide Akarvardar
12:00 PM		HEALING THE HEART: <i>The Psychology of Faith-Rooted Resilience</i>	Dr. Hooman Keshavarzi
1:00 PM		DHUHR PRAYER BREAK	Imam Dr. Haitham Zamareh
1:30 PM		UNDER AN OLIVE TREE: <i>A Turkish-American's Journey to Palestine</i>	TRT World's Special Documentary
2:30 PM		FLOATING MASTERPIECES: <i>A Turkish Marbling Art Demo</i>	Prof. Dr. Hicabi Gülgen <i>Turkish Ebru (Marbling) Artist</i>
3:00 PM		THE FORGOTTEN ENDOWMENT: <i>Reviving Waqf for a New Generation</i>	Prof. Dr. Selim Argun
3:45 PM		AMERICA'S NEXT CHAPTER: <i>Faith, Diversity & the Road Ahead</i>	Kareem M. Irfan, Esq.
4:30 PM		SHADOW PLAY, BIG LAUGHS: <i>Karagöz & Hacivat Show</i>	Turkish American Art Society
5:00 PM		UNITED IN FAITH: <i>A Historic Shia-Sunni Panel</i>	Sheikh Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi; Sheikh Mohammad Elfiki; Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir
6:00 PM		ASR PRAYER BREAK	Imam Dr. Oussama Jaber
6:30 PM		MELODIES AMONG US: <i>Cultural Concert (Women Only)</i>	Leonida Timuş- <i>Singer / Cultural Performer</i>
7:00 PM		MUSIC OF THE SOUL: <i>A Tasavvuf Sufi Music Experience</i>	Sema Music Ensemble
7:30 PM		WATCH A STORY UNFOLD: <i>Live Sand Art Performance</i>	Veysel Çelikdemir - <i>Sand Art Master & Visual Storyteller</i>
8:15 PM		MAGHRIB PRAYER BREAK	Qari Hassan Kasi
8:30 PM		RAFFLE TIME: <i>Could You Be Our Next Winner?</i>	Ertuğrul USA
8:45 PM		RHYTHM OF RESISTANCE: <i>Palestinian Dabka Performance</i>	Thawra Dabka Group
9:10 PM		TURNING TOWARD THE DIVINE: <i>The Whirling Dervish Ceremony</i>	Sema Group
9:30 PM		VOICES & MELODIES: <i>A Musical Concert</i>	Mesut Kurtis- <i>International Nasheed Artist</i>



PARALLEL ROOM A -Sunday- August 2nd

Lectures & Educational Sessions

TIME		PROGRAM	SPEAKER/PERFORMER
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM		TRT TABII SCREENING: <i>Kudüs Fatihi Selahaddin Eyyubi</i> (Saladin: The Conqueror of Jerusalem)	TRT tabii
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM		FUTURE OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY IN AMERICA <i>Challenges and Opportunities</i>	Abu Bakr Tuncer
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM		FROM ANATOLIA TO AMERICA: <i>The Turkish-American Story (Turkish Session)</i>	Dr. Kadir Gündüz
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM		A MODEL FOR CHANGE: <i>Lessons from Pakistan's Fight Against Poverty</i>	Minister Syed Imran Ahmad Shah
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM		MIND, BODY & SOUL: <i>A Holistic Approach to Wellness</i> (Usul Academy & Khalil Center Workshop)	Prof. Dr. Recep Şentürk; Dr. Hooman Keshavarzi; Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özdemir
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM		THE ENDURING LEGACY OF MAULANA RUMI: <i>His Relevance to the Contemporary Muslim World</i>	Prof Teepu Sidiqqi; Dr. İbrahim Özdemir & Prof. Maria Herminson



PARALLEL ROOM B -Sunday- August 2nd

Community & Family Sessions

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM		BREWING CONNECTIONS: <i>Networking, Mentorship & Leadership</i>	Murat & Nayma Köse
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM		CAMPUS CONNECTIONS: <i>A Conversation with the Chaplain on College Life</i>	Chaplain Tahera Ahmad; Chaplain Nora Zaki; Chaplain Abul Malik Ryan; Chaplain Tawseef
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM		BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD	Ustadha Lena Tleib
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM		THE AMERICAN AXIOM ALONGSIDE LIFE & DEATH	Dr. Hatice Koç Kanca
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM		THE CHARACTERISTICS & VIRTUES OF SELJUK WOMEN (Women Only) <i>Interactive Activity: Choose a characteristic characteristic to adopt in your own life.</i>	Nigora Aminova



PARALLEL ROOM C -Sunday- August 2nd

Arts, Workshops & Kids' Activities



2:00 PM – 3:00 PM		KARAGÖZ & HACIVAT SHADOW PUPPET WORKSHOP	Turkish American Art Society
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM		TRADITIONAL TURKISH PUPPET PLAY	Mucahide Akarvardar
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM		EBRU (MARBLING) WORKSHOP	Prof. Dr. Hicabi Gülsen
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM		KARAGÖZ & HACIVAT SHADOW PUPPET WORKSHOP	Turkish American Art Society

FESTIVAL VENUE MAP

— Find Your Way Around —

