

PASSION CREATIVITY INSPIRATION

SONISES

CULTURAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**Building a peaceful & healthy world by fostering understanding
about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders**

**SENSES CULTURAL PROMOTES HOLISTIC
PROGRAMS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT
AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL
DISORDERS THROUGH CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE,
RESEARCH AND THE ARTS**



We ended the year feeling proud of our achievements to reach a global audience. Our efforts to promote autism awareness took us to the Middle East and across Iran. With support from local professional groups and communities, SENSES CULTURAL held international conferences and workshops on autism, an Art for Autism exhibition. We also organized horseback riding sessions for children with autism, and visited early intervention schools. Above all, we were lucky to be able to deliver autism services in Iran through a U.S. Treasury Department OFAC License to work in the country.

Back in the United States, SENSES CULTURAL launched a scholarship fund to provide partial research support for two highly qualified professionals to work on advancing the research on autism at the UC Davis MIND Institute. The university supported our initiative to hold autism awareness workshops on campus for Middle Eastern families and communities.



This is just the beginning for us, and we are thankful for your support to help us launch incredible programs. SENSES CULTURAL and its cross-disciplinary team is an organization with a track record of good will to promote the education on autism, and to support academic institutions that work in the field.

Our ability to reach out to communities and experts, nationally and internationally, is an asset that few other organizations working in this field have. So, as we look forward to next year, I will share our work every step of the way toward promoting research projects and producing results that improve the quality of life for individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Tata Monfared

Founder and President, SENSES CULTURAL

Key Milestones in 2017



**Held Tehran
International
Conference on Autism**



**Sponsored and
Organized Autism
Conferences across
Iran**



**Launched Living with
Autism Workshop in
Iran**

Education



**Obtained U.S.
Treasury OFAC License
to Work in Iran**



**Organized Horseback
Riding Sessions for
Children with Autism**



**Received Approval by the
University of California, Davis
MIND Institute to Organize
Talks on Autism in the Middle
East**



**Visited Early Intervention
School for Children with
Autism and Related
Disabilities in Iran**

Advocacy



Research

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**Launched Scholarship
Fund to Support Autism
Research at UC Davis MIND
Institute**



**Held Art for Autism
Exhibition in Iran**



**Expanded SENSES
CULTURAL Board to
Include Artists Working on
Autism**

Art

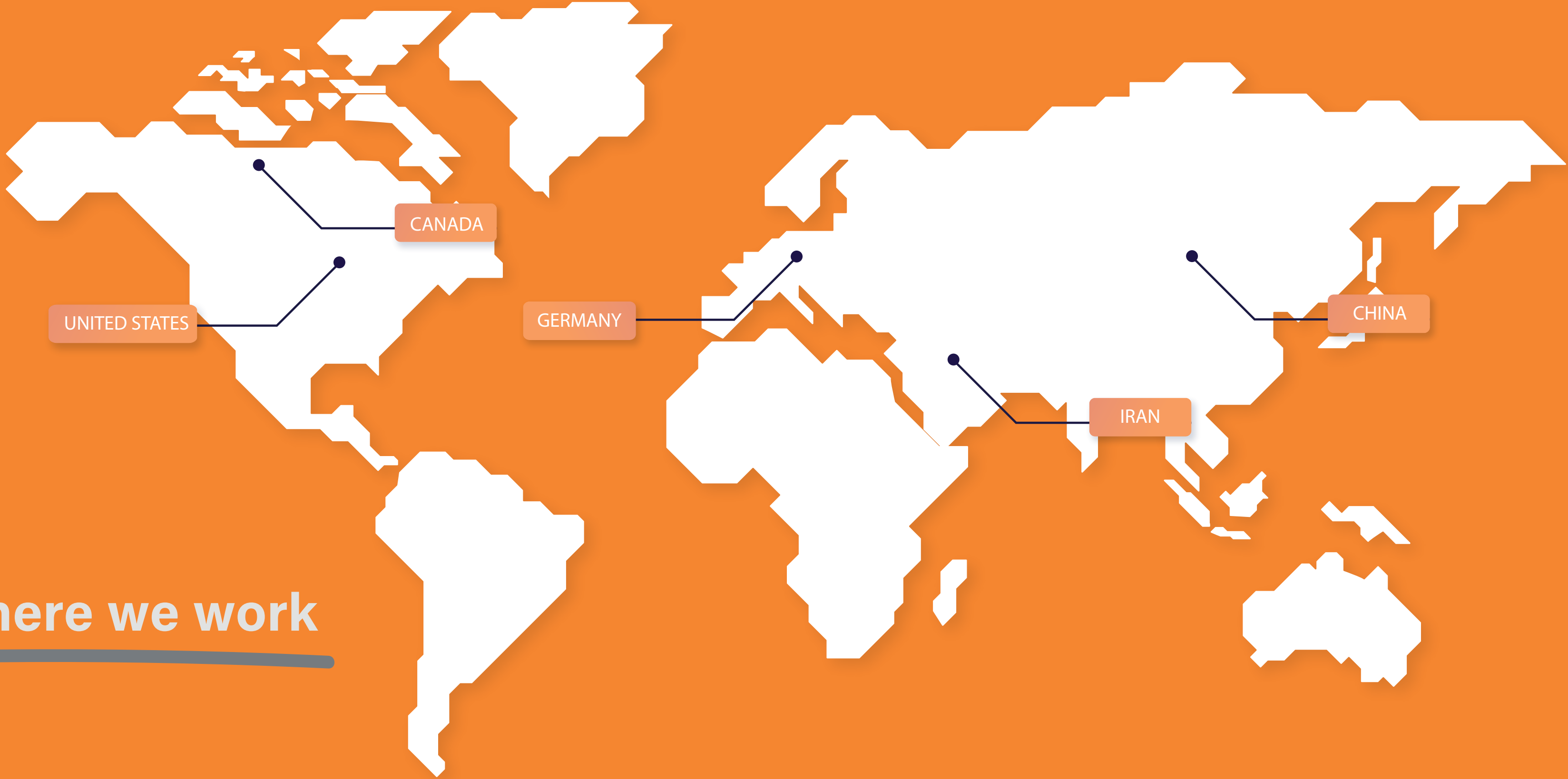
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Established in 2012 , SENSES CULTURAL is a non-profit organization based in Sacramento, California, dedicated to creating a peaceful and healthy world by fostering understanding about autism and neurodevelopment disorders. We cultivate relations with national and international networks, build partnerships with artists, scientists and cultural advocates, and organize events for health experts and artists beyond their own geographic and social borders. Senses Cultural offers partnership opportunities to interested organizations so that together we can sponsor, host and promote projects that fulfill our common goals of serving people and communities dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. We especially encourage projects in which we can partner with others to build cross-cultural understanding and tolerance around the theme of autism, and celebrate the diversity of the autistic community.

Mission

Together with communities, scientists, researchers, social workers, teachers, and psychologists, SENSES CULTURAL is slowly but surely making a global impact



Where we work

***Our stories,
Our impact***

Our stories, Our impact

***SPOTLIGHT
ON RESEARCH***



LAUNCHED SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AT UC DAVIS MIND

SENSES CULTURAL Scholarship Fund, launched in 2017, provided partial research support for two highly qualified professionals recently accepted to join the prestigious University of California, Davis MIND Institute's Training Program in Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Our stories, Our impact

SPOTLIGHT ON ART



SPONSORED ART FOR AUTISM EXHIBITION IN IRAN

Sponsored by our Art for Autism program, SENSES CULTURAL held an art exhibit in Tehran, Iran, at the Farhang Sarayeh Niavaran, one of the country's most prestigious art galleries.











ORGANIZED A DAY OF HORSEBACK RIDING FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM IN IRAN

We know that children with autism make an extraordinary connection with animals, especially horses. To bring children out of isolation, SENSES CULTURAL organized horseback riding sessions for children with autism in Iran. The horse therapy brought joy to the children and their families, and .surrounding communities

Our stories, Our impact

***SPOTLIGHT ON
education***

CONVENED TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AUTISM

After obtaining OFAC licensing from the U.S. Treasury Department, SENSES CULTURAL held the Tehran International Conference on Autism

LAUNCHED LIVING WITH AUTISM WORKSHOP IN IRAN

SENSES CULTURAL sponsored and organized the Living with Autism Teacher Training Workshop for educators working in classroom settings in Iran

EXPANDED BOARD TO INCLUDE DIVERSE VOICES BY ARTISTS

SENSES CULTURAL was proud to welcome this year artists and filmmakers to its board, to promote inclusivity and diversity in the field of art and autism

LAUNCHED BILINGUAL AND BUCULTURAL ART EXHIBITIONS

SENSES CULTURAL launched a series of bilingual and bicultural art exhibitions in the US and internationally, to promote our mission to build a more peaceful world by raising awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. As part of our goal to build cultural understanding between nations, we were pleased to share The Heritage of Iran, a Persian culture and civilization exhibit, in the Persian language. The exhibit attracted local artists from Iran, to help our mission to build autism awareness in the Middle East

LAUNCHED PERSIAN LANGUAGE FACEBOOK PAGE

To reach a wider audience in the Middle East, SENSES CULTURAL launched a Facebook page in the Persian language designed to raise awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, and available treatments. Our professional team of contributors worked diligently to connect us with more people around the world, and encourage Persian speakers from around the world to communicate with us

PARTICIPATED IN GLOBAL WOMEN LEADERS CONFERENCE

SENSES CULTURAL founder, Ms. Tata Monfared, participated in the Global Women Leaders Conference in March, in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. The WOIBEX conference is the largest gathering for women's 21st century, aiming to close empowerment in the gender gaps and bring women in emerging markets into the global economic mainstream. The conference pays tribute to women who translate leadership into action. Ms. Monfared underlines the obstacles to women's empowerment in the Middle East, especially those dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. The conference also gave SENSES CULTURAL the opportunity to speak to women art patrons from the Middle East, to explore ways to use the arts to raise awareness about autism

NETWORKED WITH ARTISTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

SENSES CULTURAL networked with artists in the Middle East, to invite them to contribute art to raising awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Our active participation in art forums was also enriching in terms of learning about the work of emerging artists from the region, including at Art Dubai international art fair in the MENA region and in South Asia (MENASA), the annual Abraaj Group Art Prize, Sharjah Art Exhibition and Art Foundation, the Global Art Forum, Shirin Gallery and Etemad Gallery in Iran. We also partnered with the International Museum of Women (IMOW) which merged with the Global Fund for Women to raise awareness on vital issues for women globally. To this end, we encouraged our members to submit art

Our stories, Our impact

***SPOTLIGHT
ON ADVOCACY***

OBTAINED U.S. TREASURY OFAC LICENSE TO WORK ON AUTISM IN IRAN

SENSES CULTURAL successfully received U.S. Treasury Department OFAC License to work on autism in Iran. The license is essential to improve the health of communities dealing with autism in the sanctioned country. It further enables SENSES CULTURAL to strengthen efforts to develop new projects in Iran and across the Middle East.

BACKED BY UC DAVIS, LAUNCHED CONVERSATIONS ON AUTISM IN MIDDLE EAST

SENSES CULTURAL received support from the UC Davis MIND Institute to organize talks for Middle Eastern parents who are dealing with autism. The MIND graciously 2017 offered its auditorium to begin the lecture series in the Fall of

VISITED EARLY INTERVENTION SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM IN ESFAHAN

SENSES CULTURAL invited a group of professionals to visit an early intervention school for children with all types of special needs related to intellectual disabilities or autism, to conclude an eventful week of advocacy on autism in Iran

SPONSORED AND ORGANIZED AUTISM WORKSHOPS ACROSS IRAN

participants took part at the SENSES CULTURAL Third International Autism 200 More than Conference held in Tehran and Esfahan. Speakers discussed in-depth subjects on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, including topics on child psychology, behavioral psychology, speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy. The event was co-sponsored with the Charity Foundation for Special Diseases at the University of Tehran



Annual Financials

Senses Cultural receives the bulk of its funds from Ms. Monfared, and a few individuals as well as community donors, and through your financial contributions to the organization