



INDIA ARTS FOR  
SOCIAL CHANGE JAM  
2017

12TH- 17TH DECEMBER  
FIREFLIES, BENGALURU

# GREETINGS! IT IS OUR HONOUR TO INVITE YOU TO APPLY TO THE ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE JAM.

The India Arts for Social Change Jam is a joyful space to find the balance between art and service. India has always flourished in the arts. Over generations, we have had skilled weavers, potters, painters, carpenters, actors, photographers, musicians, storytellers, dancers, writers, and more come from our local villages and cities to build and write some of the greatest works of art in the world. Many of those faces have remained unknown, while some have gained international respect, like Rabindranath Tagore, Ravi Shankar, or M.F. Husain and have used art as a way of expression, communication, and changemaking.

A Jam is a transformative community building event for leading young changemakers. A Jam unites a group of 30 diverse young leaders who are working for a thriving, just and balanced ways of life for all. Participants come together for a week of networking, community building, and to gain support as people and as social change-makers. It is not about “creating the newest and best coalition.” It’s about nurturing community. It’s about helping you do what you already do even better. It’s about connecting the dots of the youth activist movement. Because maybe we don’t just need better ideas, maybe we need to understand how they’re all connected. Maybe in order to make real the world we dream of, we need to create and nurture deeper relationships.

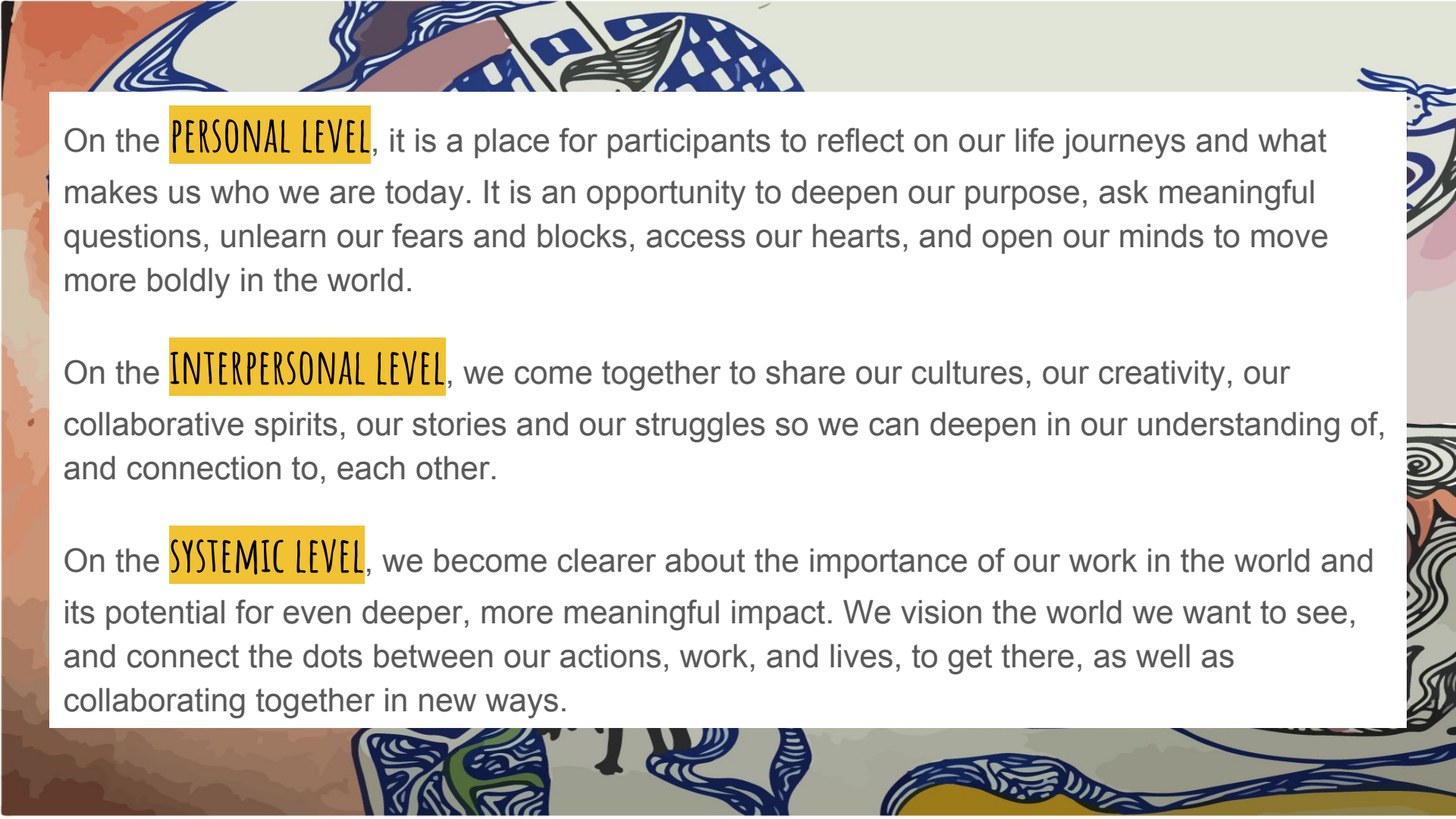
## WHAT IS AN ARTIVIST?

Artists are alive in all of us. They're the parts of us that create ways to express things we can't express any other way. Activists are alive in us, too. They're the parts of us that promote, impede, or direct social, political, economic, or environmental change in an effort to make improvements in society and to correct social injustice. There are many forms of artistic expression (music, dance, poetry, film, acting, painting, sculpting) and many forms of activism (writing letters to newspapers or to politicians, political campaigning, boycotts or preferentially patronizing businesses, rallies, street marches, strikes etc.).

Broadly speaking, if an artist is someone who finds ways to express things they otherwise could not and an activist is someone who takes an active role in shaping the world in which they live, we are looking for people who are called to Jam at the intersection of these two identities, where the power of their personal gift or calling connects to their altruism.

## WHY DO WE CALL IT A “JAM”?

When musicians come together to “Jam” they bring their own unique instruments, skills and styles, and together create a collective sound that has never been heard before. This week, we will create a Jam of ideas, creativity, passion and commitment, where diverse visionaries and social change-makers will combine their talents, inspirations and skills to create something greater than the sum of our parts. The synthesis that takes place at Jams gives participants perspectives, insights and support that can change the nature and quality of the work they do. It is a place for deepening the root system that underlies who we are and what we do, and for linking up with others to create a movement that will grow stronger with the passing of time. By “Jamming” together, we will have the opportunity to learn, grow and deepen the sustainability and effectiveness of our lives and work.



On the **PERSONAL LEVEL**, it is a place for participants to reflect on our life journeys and what makes us who we are today. It is an opportunity to deepen our purpose, ask meaningful questions, unlearn our fears and blocks, access our hearts, and open our minds to move more boldly in the world.

On the **INTERPERSONAL LEVEL**, we come together to share our cultures, our creativity, our collaborative spirits, our stories and our struggles so we can deepen in our understanding of, and connection to, each other.

On the **SYSTEMIC LEVEL**, we become clearer about the importance of our work in the world and its potential for even deeper, more meaningful impact. We vision the world we want to see, and connect the dots between our actions, work, and lives, to get there, as well as collaborating together in new ways.

## WHY THE ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE JAM?

We are trying to build a resilient network for people who are working at the intersection of arts and social change. We come together to reflect, share our challenges and breakthroughs in our respective work, nurture ourselves, support and inspire each other, figure out ways to be more financially sustainable and find intersections for future collaborations.

**Some of the themes that have been particularly reverberant at past Arts Jams are:**

Your own story as an artist

How to be sustainable in our lives and livelihoods

What does success look like to activists

Barriers you've encountered as an activist

How to monetize your art

How to collaborate as activists in a field that tends to be isolated/individualistic

How to cross-pollinate between different modalities

How do we create a support system that really supports us (friends, family, peers and patrons)



## WHEN

December 12th to December 17th.  
Please arrive by noon on December 12th. You can depart after 10 am on December 17th.

## LANGUAGE

Given the linguistic diversity of India, the Jam will be held mainly in English. However, it is possible for a person who speaks predominantly Hindi, Mewari or Punjabi to participate, since partial translation services will be available for these languages.

## CONTRIBUTION

This Jam (including boarding, lodging and tuition) is being offered on a **sliding scale**, ranging from ₹6,000 to ₹10,500 to accommodate varied paying capacity of our participants. The actual cost per head, comes to ₹10,500 per head. However, with some fundraising we are able subsidise the cost to give you a choice to pay anywhere between ₹6000 to ₹10,500. We're offering **scholarships**, on the basis of work trade, for those who find it challenging to pay the minimum amount. To apply for this scholarship, please specify it in the registration form.



## THE JAM SITE

The Jam is usually held in a naturally beautiful place, away from the hustle-bustle of modern life, so that it is both inspiring and rejuvenating. The Jam will be held at Fireflies Ashram in Bangalore. Fireflies is a secular inclusive ashram comprised of friends and organisations working towards personal growth, social engagement and environmental action. They are focused on the idea of Earth Spirituality. The ashram is located a little outside the city of Bangalore, in Dinnepalya village, off the Kanakapura road, near a town called Kaggalipura. Fireflies nestles among trees, on land that slopes towards a lake. It has accommodation for visitors, as well as a meditation hall, conference hall, amphitheatre and a library. It has been host to numerous National and International events. Previous Jams have been held at this peaceful location.

For more info <http://www.fireflies.org.in/html/contact.html>



## ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The spacious campus has amazing stone-carvings, sculptures, trees, and more scattered around this space. The many cosy nooks around campus are perfect for meditating and connecting with oneself, each other, and nature. There will be shared accommodation in the form earthy cottage dorms with large wooden pillars and open spaces. The large dining halls are perfect for interacting with the people.

We will aim to have as much tasty, healthy and natural food as possible during our stay. Food will be vegetarian but not vegan (milk products may be present). Please let us know well in advance if you have any special dietary needs.

## ADDRESS

Fireflies Ashram

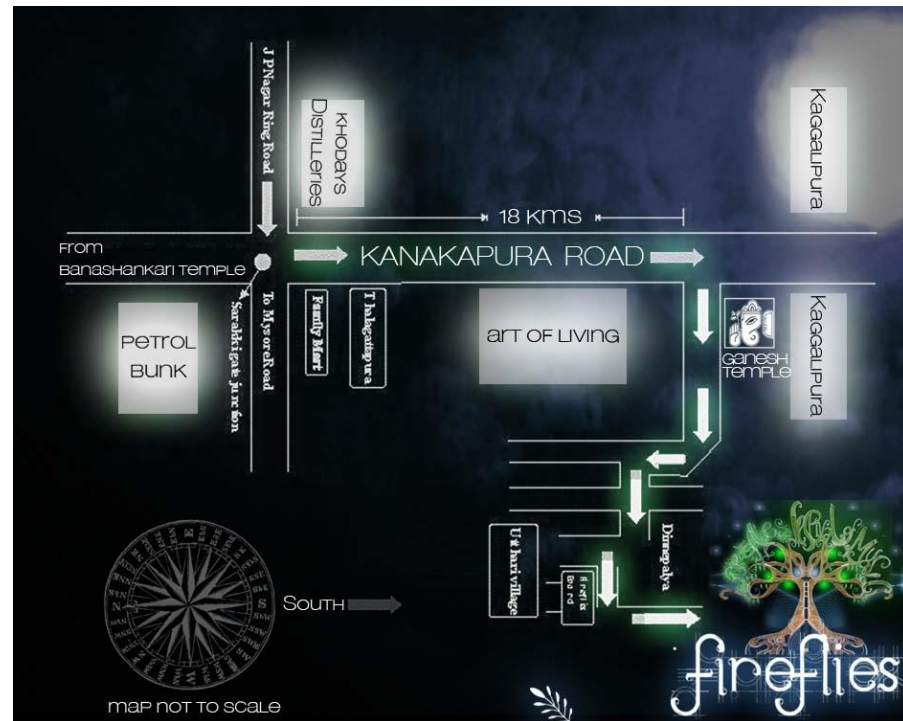
Dinnepalya, Kaggalipura P.O.

Bangalore - 560082 India

**Phone:**

+91 94825 36412 (10:00 am - 7:00 pm)

+91-9742720388



You can find the application form [here](#). You can either fill in the application online or send us your answers in a word doc to [indiaartsjam@gmail.com](mailto:indiaartsjam@gmail.com). Last date for submitting the application is 2nd November, 2017 (check with us as the date may be extended).

Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries. We eagerly look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please contact [indiaartsjam@gmail.com](mailto:indiaartsjam@gmail.com)

Warmly,

Sukhmani Kohli, Chandigarh

Sweta Daga, Bangalore

Austin Willacy, San Francisco

Zeenia Kolah, Bombay

Vishal Singh, Udaipur