

The Art X Company will be hosting the Ars Electronica 2021 Mumbai Garden: ***Opening Doors*** on **Thursday, 9 September.**

As part of the Garden, and keeping with the theme for this year, the Art X Company is conducting two live digital sessions:

**Event 1: Opening doors: A digital paradigm**

Presented by: British Council, The Art X Company, Arts & Culture Resources India as part of [Festival Connections](#)

Date: Thursday 9 September 2021

Time: 4:00 pm IST / 12:30 pm CEST / 11:30 am BST

Duration: 60-90 minutes

Registration link: [bit.ly/AEFCD](https://bit.ly/AEFCD)

Format: Panel Discussion

**About the event:**

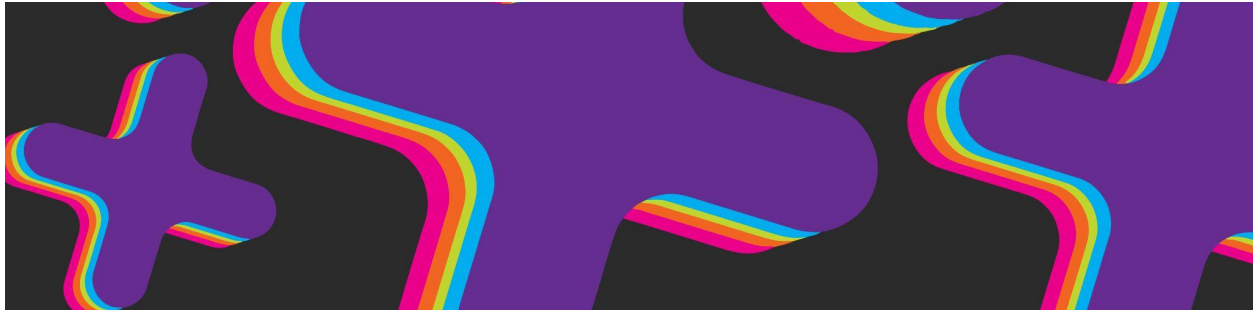
The festival as a platform for arts, culture, and community is both a tool for sustainable futures and a playground for experimentation. At Ars Electronica 2021, we open doors to new media interventions, innovations in the experience economy, and sustainable arts livelihoods.

Join us at the *Mumbai Garden* as we discuss the key areas around the impact of digital technologies in the festival circuit in India.

**Speakers:**

**1. Avinash Kumar, Co-founder — Quicksand**

Avinash is a design strategist, researcher and artist, and one of the co-founders of Quicksand. With a natural inclination to build entrepreneurial projects in the arts and design, Avinash has been tinkering with design processes and collectives for over 15 years. He presently anchors Quicksand GamesLab, and is also the co-founder of acclaimed electronic arts collective BLOT!



Website: <http://quicksand.co.in/>

Instagram: [@antariksha.sanchar](https://www.instagram.com/antariksha.sanchar)

## **2 Karan Talwar, Founder — Harkat Studios**

Sudhanva is a theatre director, actor and author. He is Executive Director, Studio Safdar, a theatre space in New Delhi, and Managing Editor, LeftWord Books. He has been with Jana Natya Manch, Delhi, since 1987, and has acted in over 4,000 performances of over 80 plays. He has co-directed two films on the theatre legend Habib Tanvir and his company Naya Theatre. He is the author of *Halla Bol: The Death and Life of Safdar Hashmi* (LeftWord 2020). He has held teaching positions at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, and AJK Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Website: [www.studiosafdar.org](http://www.studiosafdar.org)

Instagram: [@sudu26](https://www.instagram.com/sudu26)

## **3. Sudhanva Deshpande, Executive Director — Studio Safdar**

Karan Suri Talwar is a founder, filmmaker and arts enabler at Harkat Studios, a multi-disciplinary arts studio and alternative performance space in Mumbai.

Website: <https://www.harkat.in/>

Instagram: [@talwar\\_karan](https://www.instagram.com/talwar_karan)

## **4. Beki Bateson, Independent Creative Professional**

Beki Bateson is an experienced senior cultural leader, curator, and producer with over 25 years graft specialising in festivals, contemporary culture, organisational strategy and management and mentoring.

She enjoys working with independent, value-driven, contemporary and bold organisations, and is passionate about people, communities and creativity.



**Moderator:**

**Rashmi Dhanwani, Founder — The Art X Company**

Rashmi Dhanwani is the Founder of the Art X Company. She is an independent arts consultant, curator, and creative producer, with nearly 10 years of experience working across the media, communications and arts sectors in India. She has worked as a Communications and Community Engagement lead with the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai; a Media Manager with Breakthrough, Delhi; correspondent with Daily News and Analysis (DNA); Coordinator for the Kalaghoda Arts Festival and core team member of The Goa Project. In 2013, Rashmi took a sabbatical from her role at the NCPA to explore and analyse the international economic potential of the cultural sector, and to pursue a Masters in Cultural and Creative Industries at King’s College London. She has also been a recipient of the ARThink South Asia Fellowship (2011-12), a participant in the New York/ India arts exchange with ‘The Academy—a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School and the Weill Music Institute’, and a scholarship grantee of the JN Tata Trust and Charles Wallace India Trust. In 2017, Rashmi was selected to be one of the 14 Global fellows by International Society for Performing Arts (ISPA), New York.

Website: [www.art-x.co](http://www.art-x.co)

Instagram: [@rashmidhanwani](https://www.instagram.com/rashmidhanwani)

For enquiries: please email us at [info@art-x.co](mailto:info@art-x.co)



## **Event 2: Opening doors: Connections (TBC)**

A networking event

Date: Thursday 9 September 2021

Time: 7:00pm IST / 3:30 pm CEST / 2.30 pm BST

Duration: 60 minutes

Registration: Follow [@acricultureindia](#) on Instagram for updates

Presented by: The Art X Company and ACRI

For enquiries: please email us at [info@art-x.co](mailto:info@art-x.co)

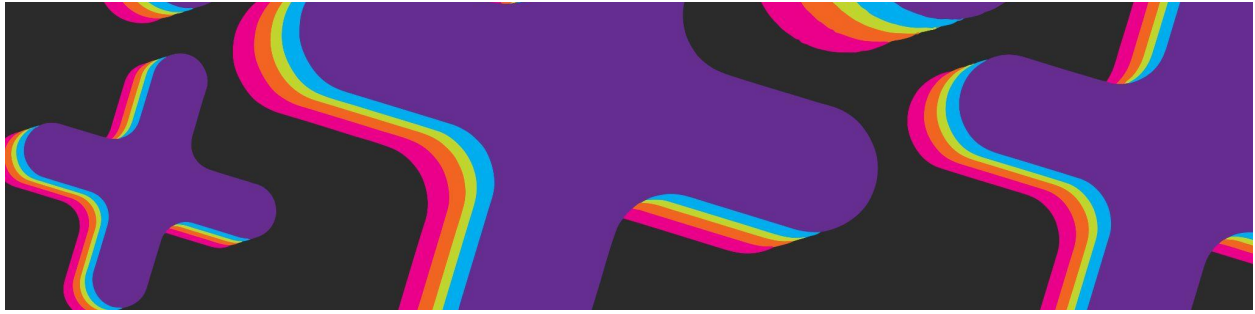
### **About the event:**

Meet art producers, visual art spaces, festival organisers, and culture professionals from India in this session. Learn about the cultural landscape in the Indian subcontinent and make cross-cultural connections with like-minded creative professionals.

### **Curatorial note — Opening Doors: The Ars Electronica Mumbai Garden**

In a land where 'multi' and 'inter' are axiomatic, how do digital disciplines embrace culture? Where concepts of access, inclusion, and infrastructure are not nearly as ubiquitous as the challenges of sustainability, how does the abundance of diversity in the arts adopt digital futures? The festival as a platform for arts, culture, and community is both a tool for sustainable futures and a playground for experimentation. We learn, grow, and bond within festivals that nurture the art and imagination of multiplicities. We explore our cultures' personalities through sensorial interactions.

In 2021, we explore how these interactions adapt in both sustainability and sensoriality. We open doors to new media interventions, innovations in the experience economy, and sustainable arts livelihoods. We explore (in)congruences with art, digital, experience, and culture, and the contexts they emerge out of. We open doors to discussion and debate in the cultural multiverse in this newest version of a flat world.



### **About Festival Connections:**

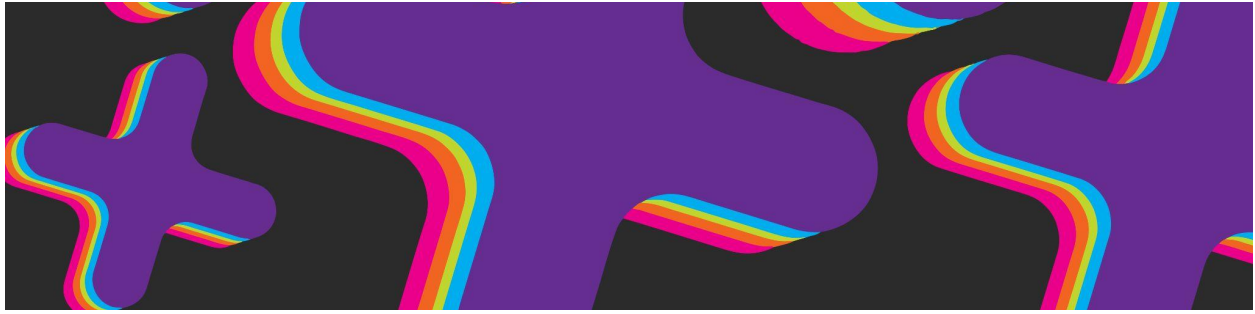
Since August 2019, British Council's Festival Connections series, in partnership with ACRI and Art X Company, has built a platform for discussion, engagement, knowledge sharing, and peer learning for the Indian cultural festivals sector. The project has engaged over 50 creative sector experts to share their experience and insight with cultural professionals from India, South Asia, the UK, and other countries. The series has reached over 10,000 arts professionals and has been able to provide context and perspectives to a particularly challenging time for the sector.

### **The series has covered the following topics so far:**

1. Audience Development Insights for the Arts
2. Diversity & Inclusion in Indian Arts Festivals
3. Leadership and Governance
4. Financial Health Management
5. Gig Workers and COVID-19
6. Digital Futures and Alternate Revenue Models
7. Health, Safety, and Social Distancing at Festivals  
Temperature Check for Cultural Festivals
8. SOPs for the Creative Sector

...and covered festivals and organisations such as OML Entertainment, SPOKENfest, Kalaghoda Arts Festival, St+Art, Aravani Art Project, Maara Collective, PayTM Insider, Piral Museum of Art, Access4All, Rising Flame, Nipman Foundation, Godrej India Culture Lab, Jaipur Literature Festival, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival, Serendipity Arts Festival, Bangalore Literature Festival, Muktheadhara theatre festival, Irregular Arts Fair, Ziro Festival of Music, Madras Music Season, Pickle Factory Dance Season, Chennai Photo Biennale among several others.

You can find more details on the project [here](#) and watch our previous sessions on YouTube [here](#).



### **About Art X Company**

The Art X Company's mission is to enable and articulate value for the arts and culture sector in India through data-driven insights, strategy-led impact, and audience outreach. A strategic consultancy operating at the intersection of arts and access, Art X Company offers consulting, research, curation, audience development and management services to the cultural sector in India. We conceptualise, curate, and execute interdisciplinary initiatives and research projects across cultural and creative industries in India.

Website: [www.art-x.co](http://www.art-x.co)

Instagram: [@theartxco](https://www.instagram.com/theartxco)

### **About Arts and Culture Resources India (ACRI)**

Arts and Culture Resources India (ACRI), is an initiative by the Art X Company, is a platform for knowledge exchange, information sharing, networking, and learning for cultural and creative industry professionals in India.

ACRI provides membership to a closely networked community that can support the development of the cultural sector in India and South Asia. Sector specific professional opportunities, skill building sessions, and sharing of capacity building knowledge and resources, all form part of the membership offer.

Currently, we offer two types of membership plans — ACRI Individual Membership and ACRI Institutional Membership. For more details on our membership plans, [click here](#).

Website: <https://www.indiacultureacri.in/>

Instagram: [@acricultureindia](https://www.instagram.com/acricultureindia)