



THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO



School of Business
John D. Gerhart Center
for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement
and Responsible Business



The John D. Gerhart Center
ANNUAL REPORT

2018
2019



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Success is when
Reality Exceeds
Expectations

”

President John D. Gerhart

ABOUT US

Who we are

We aim to strengthen the culture of social responsibility through philanthropy, as well as effective civic and business engagement in the Arab region. The center operates under its three themes of Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business in an effort to effectively serve and engage society.

Our Mission

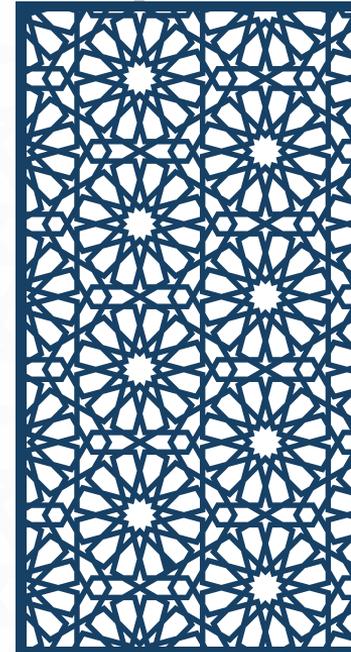
Serve as a regional incubator for knowledge, responsible business practices, civic leadership and capacity building to promote effective social responsibility.

Our Vision

Strengthen the culture of social responsibility through philanthropy, as well as effective civic and business engagement in the Arab region.

Scope of Activities

- Capacity Building
- Research
- Youth Leadership Programs

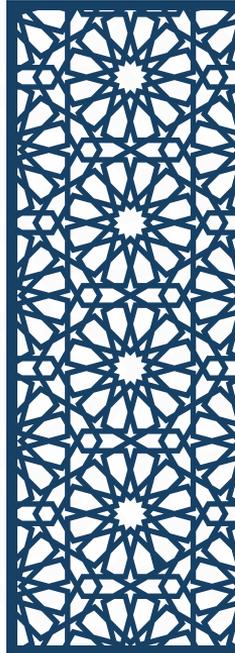


PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships

SDGs Roundtable Series in partnership with CARE International and UN Global Compact Network Egypt

The main aim of the series is to launch a dynamic dialogue on the localization of the SDGs in Egypt. This dialogue will help to develop a shared understanding of priorities and prerequisites (potential/expected roles and means of coordination) for their localization and implementation, while bringing together the civil society, private sector, key government actors, and other key stakeholders. It will provide a platform for a number of invited participants to share and exchange relevant knowledge, outcomes, and solutions to support policy actors in mainstreaming the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) and assess the progress of implementation overtime.



Gerhart Center's cooperation with the Lazord Foundation enters its tenth year

Gerhart Center welcomes a new cohort of Lazord fellows, as it enters the tenth year of the Lazord fellowship program in partnership with the Lazord Foundation. The foundation operates on an interregional level between Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan. The one-year fellowship provides fresh graduates interested in pursuing a career in civil society with professional experience in socially engaged organizations. The program offers the fellows with weekly training sessions and mentorship. A biannual exchange takes place between the three chapters in the form of retreats. These meetings allow the fellows to evaluate and reflect on their experiences as well as identify the challenges encountered in order to move forward with planning for a better vision and future.

Reflections



Gerhart Center joins forces with CARE International to deliver key educational training

Creating inclusive, long-lasting mediums for youth development is one of Gerhart Center's foremost pillars.

“Sawa Netgama’a” (which roughly translates to “together we gather”) aims to create a safe learning environment for primary stage students in public schools in Greater Cairo governorates, through interactive workshops on conflict resolution, gender acceptance and anger management. Over 600 Egyptian and Syrian students from six different schools participated in the program. More than 40 volunteers were trained in facilitation skills, positive discipline for children, integration, as well as dealing with anger and violence in school settings.



Gerhart Center collaborates with MitOst Association



The new partnership allows Gerhart Center to further develop their work with youth by coordinating with MitOst Association (a German-based, independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization) in implementing the “KHATWA” youth civic engagement program. KHATWA gives Egyptian youth the knowledge, skills and on-ground experience to actively and positively participate in the development of their communities. Several different seminars were organized throughout the seven-month program in which thought leaders and experts share various learning methods and practices.

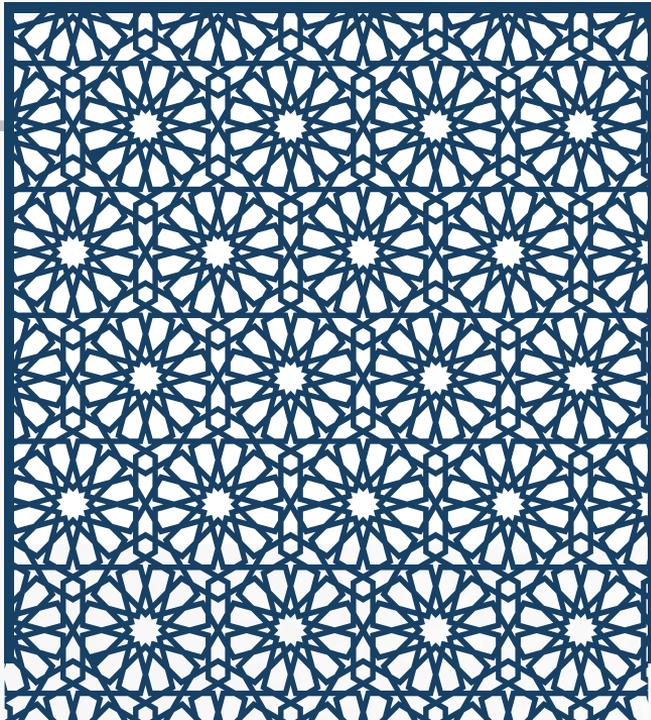
Ma’an Arab University Alliance cooperates with Savola Foods



Ma’an Arab University Alliance cooperates with Savola Foods (a leading strategic investment holding group for the food and retail sectors in the MENAT region) in holding a “National Social Entrepreneurship Competition”. Ma’an Arab University Alliance is a regional platform working in collaboration with the global Talloires Network. It aims to bring together universities in Arab countries with the collective goal of encouraging and enhancing civic engagement implementation in higher education, and supporting the exchange of best practices. The aim of the competition is to foster interest in manufacturing by giving Egyptian university students a chance to share their innovative ideas, contribute positively to society, and acquire skills that meet the market demands.

Gerhart Center approached by the Egyptian Banking Institute (EBI) to support the «Watany 2030» Capacity Building Initiative

The program is cooperation between the Ministry of Planning and EBI to train 1500 government officials on the Egypt 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). The program included three modules: sustainable development and financial sustainability, strategic management, and civil law number eight for year 2018. Gerhart Center was entrusted with the sustainable development part of the training program.



Tashbeek II Civic Engagement Program launched in partnership with the United States Institute of Peace



In support of the SDG16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and in line with Gerhart Center's efforts in supporting the sustainable development goals, the second phase of the "Tashbeek" youth leadership program was launched in February 2019. Tashbeek II is the first-ever blended learning program organized by Gerhart Center in partnership with the United States Institute of Peace. The program aims to engage a cohort of 100 university students in an online course as well as in-person exchange sessions that focus on providing knowledge and concepts in the area of conflict resolution and peaceful thinking.

Ma'an Arab University Alliance collaborates with Life-Makers Foundation



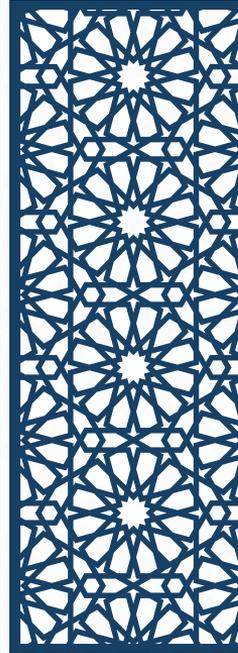
Ma'an Arab University Alliance joins forces with LifeMakers Foundation, an Egyptian non-profit organization. The partnership aims to enhance the urban development of Helwan slums by launching a youth competition for 30 students from Helwan University. Students will be trained on how to develop innovative community-based initiatives, which will be implemented in Kafer El Elu and Arab Rashed.

**CONFERENCES
AND ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSIONS**

Conferences and Roundtable Discussions

Gerhart Center Organizes its second SDGs Roundtable Discussion in partnership with UN Global Compact and CARE Egypt

The roundtable is entitled “Challenges and Opportunities Facing the SDGs localization in Egypt.” The main objective of the meeting was to establish and sustain a neutral multi-stakeholder platform for all parties involved in the process of the localization and implementation of SDGs in Egypt. The meeting was attended by eighteen high-profile participants representing different sectors and stakeholders involved with SDGs; the government, private sector, civil society, and academia in Egypt.



Gerhart Center Hosts ARNOVA-AFRICA and AROCSA Conference

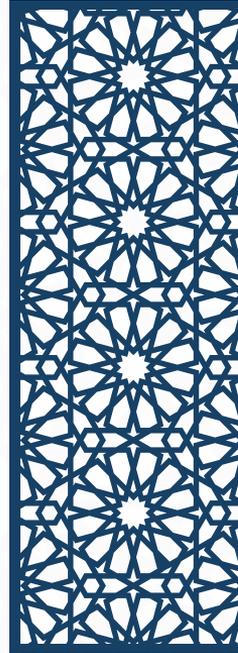


The Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa (AROCSA) concluded its third annual conference in Cairo, Egypt. More than 100 CSO practitioners from all regions of Africa, as well as policy makers, students, and members of the public gathered on the campus of The American University in Cairo to share experiences and best practices.

The major goal of the conference was to provide a space of interaction and engagement between attendees. The three-day conference that was held July 26 through 28, 2018, featured panel discussions on a range of topics related to the theme of “Understanding and Navigating Regionalism in Africa.”

Third Round of the SDGs Roundtable in partnership with UNGC and CARE International

The John D. Gerhart Center hosted the third round in the SDGs roundtable series. The meeting aimed to introduce the “Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030” as the localization strategy of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to participants. Representatives from different governmental organizations presented the ongoing efforts of their organizations to support the implementation and fulfillment of the SDS.



Gerhart Center hosts the first MENA BoP Global Network Summit at AUC, New Cairo

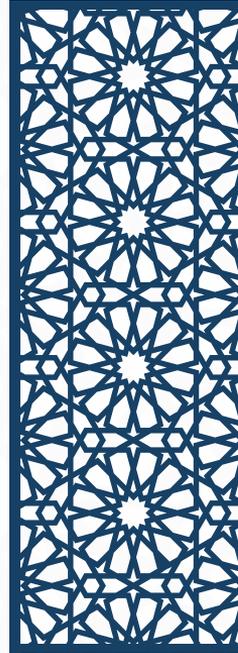
The John D. Gerhart Center, in collaboration with the BoP Global Network Labs around the world, organized the first MENA BoP (Bottom of the Pyramids) Global Network Summit in October 2019. The main theme of the 2019 summit was “Community-Based Frugal Innovation” (frugal innovation that is lead and owned by the community), with four main subthemes: Grassroots Innovation, Schooling at the BoP, Affordable Housing, and Access to Health Services at BoP.

The three-day event brought expertise from different parts of the world to meet with selected Egyptian BoP communities, in order to share experiences, showcase best practices, and explore opportunities of partnerships and localization of successful models.



“Understanding the New Non-Governmental Organizations Law in Egypt” Roundtable Discussion

A roundtable discussion titled “Understanding the New Non-Governmental Organizations Law in Egypt” was organized by Gerhart Center to give a better understanding of the updated draft of the new NGOs law approved by the Egyptian parliament. The event featured Issam Adwai, International Social Development expert and former Senior Advisor to the Minister of Social Solidarity in Egypt; Rania Fahmy, child criminal justice consultant; and Manal Maher, member of the Egyptian Parliament. Invitation was extended to the Gerhart Center alumni network, civil society organizations, and policy makers.



WORKSHOPS

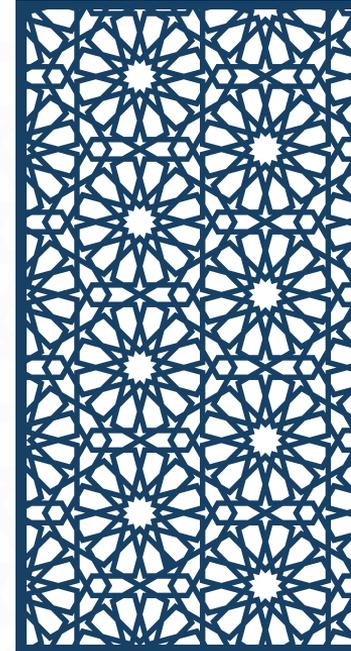
Workshops

Community-Based Learning Workshop in partnership with Tunis Business School

Ma'an Arab University Alliance, in partnership with Tunis Business School, conducted a workshop entitled "Community-Based Initiatives" for twenty university students. The workshop aimed to enhance youth civic responsibility by developing capacities in addressing local challenges through community-based initiatives.

KHATWA Youth Civic Engagement Program holds its first seminar

KHATWA Youth Civic Engagement Program organized its first seminar in Fayed. The week-long camp focused on giving youth the practical tools needed to thrive as leaders engaged in their communities. Twenty-five participants from eight different Egyptian governorates were engaged in a schedule of sessions on how to overcome their local social problems.

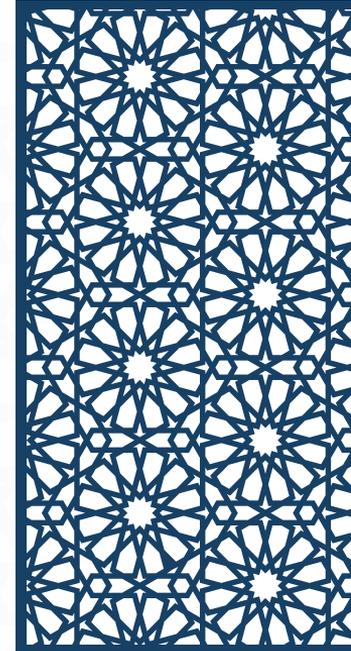


Youth Community-Based Workshop in collaboration with Mansoura University

In an effort to activate Gerhart Center's new partnership with Mansoura University, Ma'an Arab University Alliance organized a two-day workshop, held August 29-28, for training university students on community-based initiatives. The workshops aimed at enhancing the leadership skills of potential student club leaders. Three parallel workshops were organized for university students; the first workshop was delivered in Gamasa to more than forty students, while the other two were delivered on the Mansoura University campus to around fifty students.

KHATWA Youth Civic Engagement Program organizes its second seminar in Upper Egypt

Gerhart Center organized a project management seminar for KHATWA's twenty-five participants in Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt. The seminar gave participants a better understanding of the program's framework and shed light on how to benefit the local communities by using innovative techniques in managing their initiatives.



Debriefing workshops for the participants of Tashbeek's second round

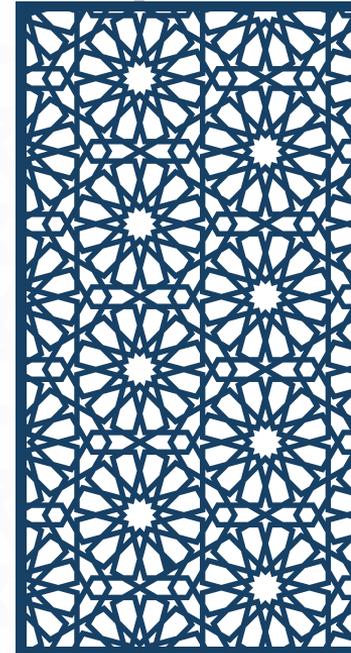
Training sessions were implemented to complement the online course modules and to allow for live engagement between the participants and facilitators of the second round of the Tashbeek Program.

CSR advisory services for Raya Holding and Housing Development Bank, Egypt

As part of Gerhart Center's efforts to promote responsible business practices, our capacity-development unit worked on strategy creation and implementation plans, communications plans, and flagship programs designed to support the social mission of these organizations in order to enhance their role in the civil community.

Final Capstone Workshops for Tashbeek II participants

After delivering all of the online modules, a three-day workshop was conducted to bring the 100 participants together in order to be engaged in live training and exercises, to share ideas on how to utilize their newly acquired skills in their communities, and to give feedback and reflect on their experiences during the program.

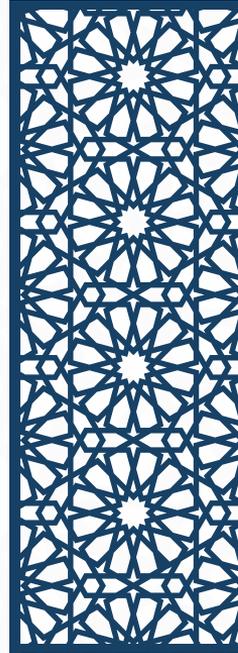


NETWORKING EVENTS

Networking Events

Celebrating the graduation of the seventh cohort of the Lazord Fellowship

The graduation recognized fellows who have successfully completed the fellowship for the year 2016–2017. It also marked Lazord’s seventh graduating cohort. The ceremony witnessed two keynote speakers: Ayman Ismail, Founding Director of the AUC Venture Lab, and Azza Kamel, Founder of Alwan Wa Awtar.



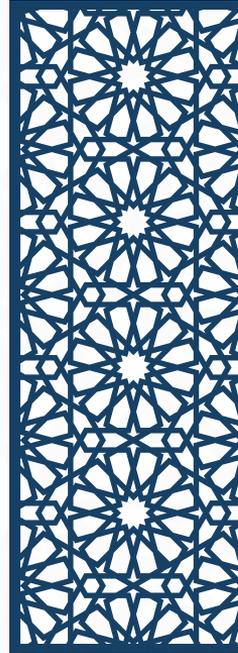
First Annual “Lazord Community Day”



The event took place concurrently in three different countries by three chapter partners of the Lazord Foundation; The John D. Gerhart Center, INJAZ Jordan, and UTIL Tunis. The main aim of the event was to create a platform connecting fellows with alumni, to ensure the flow of community serving and giving back to the community. The event took place in Tadamon Community Center in Maadi.

Field visit to Savola Foods factories in Ain El Sokhna and Suez

Field trips are a major way of promoting experiential learning. Accordingly, Gerhart Center organized two field trips for all participants of the “Ma’an Social Entrepreneurship Competition” to Savola Foods’ oil and sugar factories in Ain El Sokhna and Suez. The main objective of the trip was to provide students with first-hand experience and enable them to understand the “real-world” context of manufactural problems, encouraging them to come up with their own innovative solutions and to develop an analytical bent of mind.



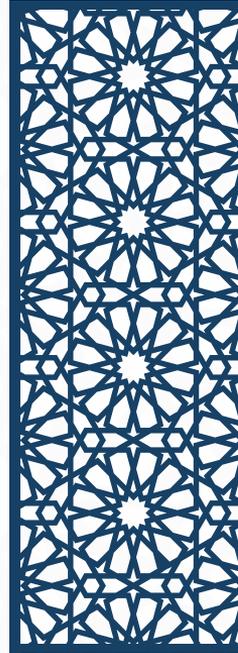
The Lazord 2018 mid-year retreat

The John D. Gerhart Center hosted the third round in the SDGs roundtable series. The meeting aimed to introduce the “Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030” as the localization strategy of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to participants. Representatives from different governmental organizations presented the ongoing efforts of their organizations to support the implementation and fulfillment of the SDS.



Gerhart Center organizes its second Social Talk

Gerhart Center organized its second series of GC Social Talks titled “Understanding the New Non-Governmental Organizations Law in Egypt.” The series invites renowned guests to speak at AUC, with the aim of opening a community dialogue on imperative and current social and developmental topics. The event featured international social development expert and former Senior Advisor to the Minister of Social Solidarity in Egypt, Issam Adwai; Head of General Federation of NGOs, Talaat Abdel Kawy; and legal advisor for civil society organizations and board member of the General Federation of NGOs, Essam El Khouly.



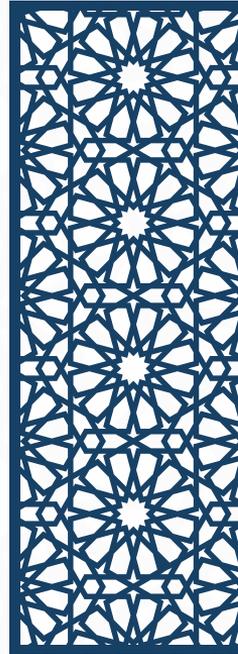
Civic Engagement Annual Ramadan Iftar 2018



In the spirit of the holy month, Gerhart Center held the annual Ramadan Iftar for its civic engagement alumni network to celebrate the month of goodness and giving, through promoting interaction and team spirit among all attendees. Ramadan Iftar is a vibrant event, bringing our youth network together to build friendships and mutual understanding over good food and in the spirit of Ramadan

Ma'an Arab University Alliance in partnership with Savola celebrates the top three winners of its Social Entrepreneurship Competition

The top ten finalist teams of Ma'an Social Entrepreneurship Competition attended an award ceremony hosted by Gerhart Center. A team from Zewail University convinced a panel of eight judges that their innovative project “Chitosan” should win the L.E. 30,000 first prize. The main objective of the competition was to foster interest in manufacturing by giving Egyptian university students a chance to share their innovative ideas, and to establish a strong base of youth that is highly motivated to contribute positively to society.



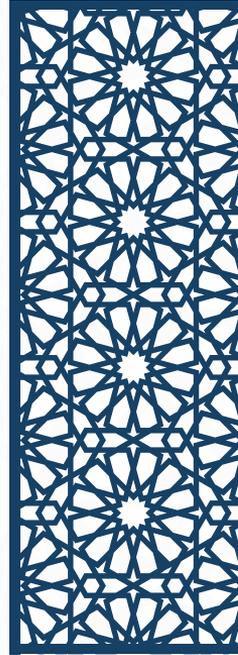
Gerhart Center celebrates the eighth cohort of Lazord graduates



The John D. Gerhart Center, in collaboration with the Lazord Foundation, celebrated the graduation of the eighth cohort of the Lazord Fellowship. The ceremony was a celebration of the effort and achievements of the students throughout the year. It included keynote speeches from Hussein Abaza, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Environment; Seif Abu Zaid, CEO and Co-founder of Mavericks International School; and Rania Rafie, Co-founder and Managing Director of Up-Fuse Egypt.

KHATWA Youth Civic Engagement Program awards the participants of the third round

An award ceremony was hosted to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work of KHATWA's third-round participants. Representatives from Gerhart Center and MitOst Organization came together to present the awards. Gratitude was extended to all facilitators and trainers for their concerted efforts and support in enhancing the development of young talent, in grooming them for future leadership, and most of all, in raising those fine young persons with compassionate minds and caring hearts.



Lazord fellows' field visit to Ezbet Khairallah



A field visit to “Ezbet Khairallah”(a marginalized community in Cairo) was organized for the ninth cohort of the Lazord fellowship in coordination with “Ruwwad Egypt” (an Egyptian community-based foundation). The main objective of the trip was to connect fellows to the real world and provide them with real-life experiences through perceiving the on-ground community-based initiatives of the foundation.

Lazord Fellowship mid-year retreat in Dahshur

Lazord's mid-year retreat is always a great way for current fellows of the program to step back from their daily routines to gain a new perspective, learn from experts, and refresh their outlook. The 2019 retreat took place in Ardi Dahshur, a beautiful, secluded, and safe space for group retreats. The retreat was 72 hours in length, with all participants staying at the venue overnight. The main objective was to create an opportunity for them to reflect on the past six months of the program and plan for the remaining six months. The retreat presented a mix of organized learning activities and opportunities for peer-to-peer social networking.



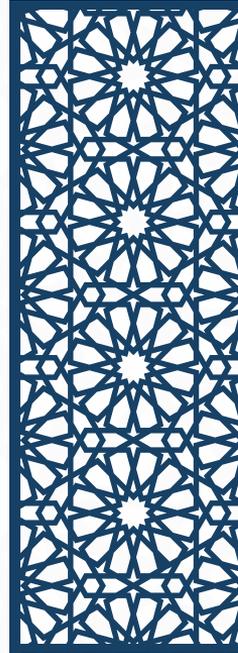
Ramadan 2019 Iftar for Lazord alumni



The holy month of Ramadan is the time of year when people gather to break their fast together. The 2019 Iftar gathering brought together our Lazord community of mentors, trainers, and alumni, who enjoyed the ritual of breaking the fast together, nourishing their bodies and souls with delicious food and excellent company.

Lazord Fellowship Second Annual Community Day 2019

The second annual Lazord Community Day was jointly organized by Lazord alumni, fellows, Gerhart Center, and the Lazord Foundation. The event took place concurrently in three different countries by Lazord Foundation's three chapter partners; The John D. Gerhart Center, INJAZ Jordan, and UTIL Tunis. This year's theme was "Persons with Disabilities."



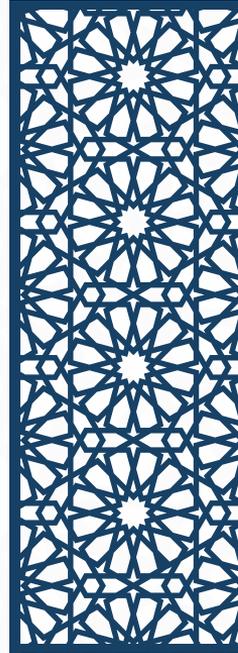
«Engaged Generation» Summer Boot-Camp



Engaged Generation is the first-ever summer boot camp organized by Gerhart Center in summer 2019, and was dedicated to working with children aged 7-12. The sessions were planned and implemented by AUC undergraduate students, to build capacity for leadership among students and to enhance their ability to become more civically engaged. The main aim of the camp was to promote civic engagement and endorse the idea of social engagement at an early age.

“Sawa Netgama’a” Volunteer Recognition Award Ceremony

In coordination with CARE International, a Volunteers Recognition Award Ceremony was organized to celebrate the outstanding efforts of all volunteers who worked tirelessly and passionately throughout the project. The forty young volunteers were trained to lead the facilitation of the six school camps with technical support from Gerhart Center’s team, to create inclusive, long-lasting mediums for youth development, which is one of the Center’s foremost pillars.



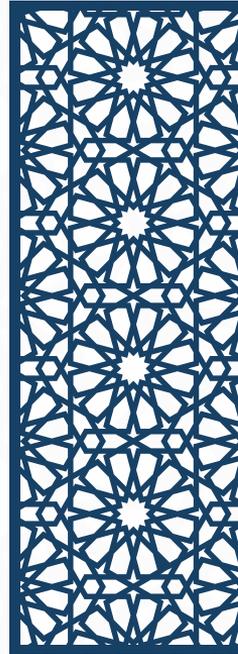
Exhibition floor for selected civically engaged organizations



Networking is an effective approach for NGOs to share information and spread knowledge about grassroots needs, solutions, and best practices. Accordingly, selected civically engaged organizations were granted the opportunity to showcase their social efforts and initiatives at an exhibition organized by Gerhart Center at The American University in Cairo, New Cairo Campus.

“Word Café” organized in collaboration with the British Council in Egypt

In coordination with the British Council in Egypt, a networking event was held where youth, practitioners, and researchers got together to discuss challenges and opportunities regarding refugees’ integration in society. The event gathered selected talent from Gerhart Center’s alumni network, as well as representatives from the British Council youth networks who are interested in making a positive change in the integration of refugees in Egypt. All young people were granted an opportunity to showcase their community efforts and exchange best practices, while discussing opportunities and challenges with practitioners and experts in the field.



GC fifth round of Social Talks

The event featured Amani Kandeel, a researcher specializing in political science and civil society studies, to discuss her book entitled “Social Mobility in Egypt... An attempt to Understand”, which was published in 2019. This book is designed to guide development practitioners, students, and academics through the design of more participatory and more sustainable development initiatives focusing on the causes of social mobility in Egypt.

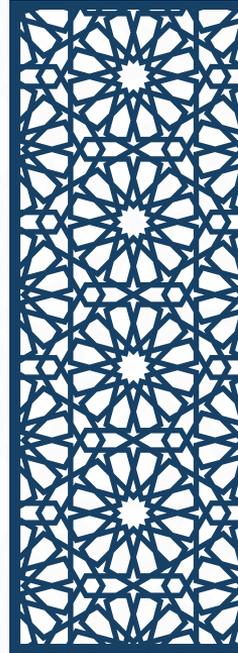


Youth Film Festival organized by Gerhart Center in coordination with ICON Media Productions

A first-of-its-kind event held by Gerhart Center in coordination with ICON Media Productions, Egypt, the film festival is a celebration of young filmmakers and change agents who use their films to shed light on societal and cultural issues. They draw attention to the different Egyptian communities and their challenges with the aim of exploring and highlighting the diversity and richness of Egyptian society.

Volunteering Day 2019

Gerhart Center joined forces with Life Makers Foundation to award 1,000 young volunteers; the main objective of the event was to showcase the many ways in which volunteers can strengthen the capacities of organizations by sharing their time, skills, and expertise. The event featured keynote speakers: Ahmed Gamal-eldin Moussa, Former Minister of Education; Ali Awni, Director of Gerhart Center; and Ahmed Saada, CEO of Life Makers Foundation.



PUBLICATIONS

Publications

Civic Engagement Activities in Aswan University

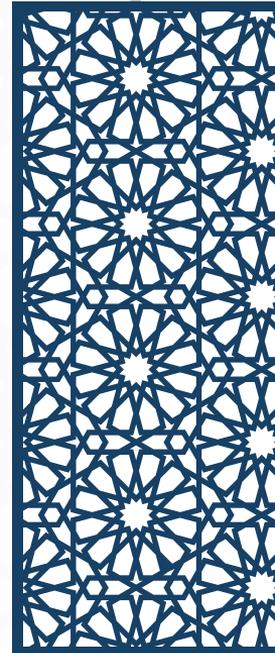
The case study provides snapshots of institutional civic engagement initiatives at Aswan University. These snapshots are not intended to be comprehensive, but instead to provide a brief look at the varied ways through which higher education can contribute to—and simultaneously benefit from—civic engagement.

Maʿan Arab University Alliance Documents Civic Engagement Activities in AlQuds University

The case study focuses on Al Quds University’s professional work undertaken voluntarily and the legal services in Jerusalem.

Project Management Curriculum for Youth Leaders and Young Civic Professionals

Although development projects are changing the lives of millions around the world, attention to the project management standards and good practices are highly overlooked. The manual was developed for the general usage of the development project practitioners with the aim of introducing the essential and commonly used principles, methods, and tools for effective project management.



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