



OUR MISSION

To provide the space, content and companionship necessary for a healthy understanding, embrace and realization of Islam.

OUR AUDIENCE

Seekers, converts and Muslim young adults

OUR INTENDED OUTCOME

Sustainable conversion or recommitment to and practice of Islam



ABOUT TA'LEEF COLLECTIVE

Ta'leef Collective began as Zaytuna Institute's Outreach program in 2002 and was born into an independent organization in 2005 per the request of Zaytuna's leadership. Ta'leef Collective provides the space, content and companionship necessary for a healthy understanding, embrace and realization of Islam. Ta'leef Collective primarily serves seekers actively interested in Islam and converts to the faith, assisting them in realizing a *sustainable* conversion to and practice of Islam, and a healthy, gradual integration into the greater Muslim community. Ta'leef Collective also strives to reengage the growing number of disenfranchised and often marginalized Muslim young adults.

Because we recognize the import of these groups, and the intersection between them, Ta'leef Collective offers a model tailored specifically for them. By providing alternative social and sacred space, culturally relevant programming and positive companionship, we assist our beneficiaries in holistically practicing Islam in a way that is reconcilable with their social context. We are a collective of teachers, volunteers, and peers who understand firsthand the challenge of living as Muslims in the west and we strive to provide the necessary means to facilitate that reality.

SPACE

We all need space in order to flourish; spiritually and socially, figuratively and literally. Figuratively, because any spiritual path requires an encouraging, non-judgmental environment to nurture us along. Literally, because we all need places to go in which we feel welcome, comfortable, and are able to thrive. Ta'leef Collective is honored to provide such a space. Reflecting the beautiful culmination of Muslim cultures in America, our headquarters is an alternative space that is sacred enough to be meaningful, while inclusive enough for all to find common ground. By means of such a space, we are able to meet our beneficiaries halfway and assist them toward positive spiritual growth.



CONTENT

Ta'leef Collective's programming is tailored specifically for converts and Muslim young adults and is culturally relevant while Islamically sound. We offer three primary programs in order to facilitate sustainable conversion or recommitment to and practice of Islam. The **Convert Continuum of Care (CCC)**; **Project Recollect**; and the **Islamic Sciences Curriculum**. The CCC and Project Recollect both serve as a tool to engage our audience and allow for their eventual entry into and completion of our Islamic Sciences Curriculum.

Convert Continuum Of Care (CCC):

The CCC is a full-scale system providing step-by-step assistance from the point of a seeker's active interest in Islam until the establishment of sustainable conversion and holistic practice of Islam, while facilitating a smooth integration into the community. The CCC offers hands on, one-on-one consultation with our professionally trained staff, courses specifically tailored for seekers, and the support network crucial upon conversion. The program provides assisted enrollment into the Islamic Sciences Curriculum in order to facilitate the completion of their obligatory studies. The "welcome to the fold" program, an essential part of the CCC, fosters daily, weekly and monthly opportunities for new Muslims to engage their peers, share both challenges and successes, and reap the beneficial fruits that only the tree of good company can bear. Upon completion of the program, participants are trained to become mentors to other newcomers.

Project Recollect (PR):

Project Recollect is an initiative to reengage those young adults in the Muslim community who have either been marginalized or are simply disengaged. By providing them a fresh perspective on their faith and the relevant programming essential to their reengagement, PR assists its beneficiaries through the often complex process of re-committing one's self to Islam. Bolstered by experienced mentorship, PR is a critical stepping stone on the path towards a healthy and sustainable practice of Islam. Like the CCC, PR serves as a healthy feeder into Ta'leef Collective's Islamic Sciences Curriculum and other general programming. We continue to see, by the grace of Allah, a healthy influx and positive feedback-loop between these initiatives.

Recollections: Perhaps Ta'leef Collective's most ground-breaking effort, "Recollections" are monthly discussion forums tailored specifically for the less adherent amongst Bay Area Muslim youth who are simply not being engaged otherwise. In order to avoid the formalities or potential stigmas surrounding the Mosque, these forums are held at a restaurant and include a brief talk followed by dialogue and reflection. Unprecedented in our community's history, this program serves as a point of entry for a demographic that represents the majority of Muslim youth: a group sometimes disillusioned and frustrated, yet full of potential. Continuing to show signs of growth, attendance has increased to over 100 attendees monthly.

Hayward Halaqa: Since 2002, Ta'leef Collective has hosted the "Hayward Halaqa", a weekly program held every Friday night at a local mosque providing young Muslims both valuable instruction about their religion and an alternative social space where they can collectively flourish. Attendees average two-hundred per week and continue to increase.

Civic Involvement (CI): CI encourages young Muslims to be well-balanced members of society by stressing the importance of assisting those less fortunate. In the most recent CI event, 500 meals were made and distributed to the homeless in San Francisco.

Arts & Entertainment (A&E): A&E provides alternative social activities for young Muslims who are otherwise not involved in the Muslim community. With programs such as movie screenings, comedy shows, sports, and physical fitness events, A&E assists in striking that sensitive balance between faith and social activities.

Islamic Sciences Curriculum (ISC):

At Ta'leef Collective, great emphasis is placed on the study of Islam's sacred sciences, translated into an accessible and relevant language. The ISC is a means of educating new Muslims, re-engaging our youth, and raising the standard of the general community by providing quarterly classes, weekend workshops and seasonal events. Founded upon the three dimensions of our tradition: Islam, Iman, and Ihsan, the curriculum is holistic, germane and enriching.

Quarterly Classes: The ISC begins with quarterly classes on three of the four schools of sacred law: Hanafi, Shafi, and Maliki fiqh. Ta'leef Collective also hosts Zaytuna Institute's Arabic classes, providing a three-year Arabic curriculum, geared toward providing students the ability to read and understand the Qur'an and other Islamic texts

Weekend Workshops: Ta'leef Collective's weekend workshops have included "**Prophet Muhammad In the Bible,**" an examination of various prophecies recorded in the Hebrew Bible as well as in the New Testament and how these expectations were fulfilled by our Prophet Muhammad, *sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam* (peace be upon him). Ta'leef Collective also hosted "**Creativity and the Creator,**" a workshop intended to bring understanding and balance to the often controversial subject of entertainment, culture and creativity in the Islamic worldview. The organization also implemented its "**Khutba Training**", whereby a group of young Muslim brothers were trained to lead communal Friday prayers in their high schools and tooled with the knowledge and public speaking skills necessary to give a Friday Khutba (sermon), as a method of engaging their peers.

Introduction to Islam: Ta'leef Collective hosts a monthly educational workshop on Islam. The workshop is a friendly, informal discussion on the basics of Islam, geared primarily toward new Muslims, seekers, and anyone curious about the world's fastest growing religion. The workshop also provides an open forum for our guests to ask questions in a comfortable environment.





Seasonal Events: Ta'leef Collective's seasonal programs include Quarterly events and celebration of significant Islamic occasions. The first three quarters of 09 saw three exciting events. In March, the **Grand Opening** of our facility was attended by 300 plus people. The event culminated with three brothers embracing Islam. In May, we hosted a private screening of **"Deen Tight,"** a documentary on the interplay between Muslim religious ideals and the positive and negative effects of American pop culture. In September we will host our first **Community Iftar**, and we anticipate a large attendance. Additionally, Ta'leef Collective will be hosting various American Muslim thought leaders who will present their written works, research and ideas in interactive forums allowing Ta'leef Collective to translate those ideas into tangible realities in the community.

Sunday Night Program: One of our best-attended and most diverse programs, the Sunday Night program, begins with the recitation of "The Shimmering Light," a poem commemorating the birth of Prophet Muhammad, *sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam*. The Mawlid is attended by a crowd of over 200 people, the majority of whom are younger Muslims, drawn to the comforting environment, good company, beautiful recitation, and service of Moroccan tea and sweets! After Maghrib, the evening continues with a reflection on Imam Al-Haddad's famous treatise concerning Muslim devotions and practical ethics, the **"Book of Assistance,"** facilitated by Usama Canon.



COMPANIONSHIP

Perhaps the most vital element in assisting our beneficiaries is caring companionship. The Ta'leef community is a critical mass of people who understand firsthand the process and challenges of converting or re-committing to Islam, inclusive of teachers, volunteers, and peers.

Ta'leef Collective focuses on creating a community of individuals that serve as a catalyst to propel each other towards a closer, more intimate connection with their Creator.



BUDGET

Ramadan 2009 - 2010

	Total
Program Costs Total	\$96,200
Operating Expenses Total	\$56,800
Marketing Expenses Total	\$15,300
Fundraising Total	\$18,000
Total Budget	\$186,300

Ta'leef Collective is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation.
All donations are tax deductible.

We appreciate your
continued support



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