

To,
City of Hudson Common Council

Finance Committee Chairman: Ryan Wallace

I would like to start by thanking you all for your time in serving the City of Hudson and providing funding for events such as ours. My name is Rokeya Sultana (Reme). I have been fortunate enough to consider Hudson my home since the age of two. Growing up in Hudson I have seen the community grow and change so much. I am a part BASH which is the organization that organizes the Bangladeshi Cultural Fair each summer. We have held this event each year since 2011. This event was created to showcase the cultural background of the constantly growing Bangladeshi community in Hudson.

Over the years, it has become so much more than just that. I can only speak to my own experience but as a first generation Bangladeshi Immigrant, I had a difficult time feeling connected to my culture growing up. Helping to organize this event allowed me to really immerse myself in my Bangladeshi roots and feel connected again. Putting together this event isn't just about finding some music, learning dances, and walking on stage with vibrant clothing on. It's about spending time with the youth and adults in our community to learn about what makes our culture unique and beautiful and taking enough pride in that to be able to showcase it to the larger community. I truly believe that this event has provided a sense of self to many around us including myself and for that I could not be more grateful.

This event has become a summer staple for the larger Hudson community. For the past two years we have not been able to hold the event due to covid concerns and yet each year numerous community members reach out to us in person or through our social media asking when we will be holding the event again. While the majority of our vendors and stage performances are done by community members, each year we open our vendor applications up to outside vendors and hire one or two big name performers of Bangladeshi origin as the main attraction. These outside performers and vendors allow us to grow our event each year, they bring with them many guests from surrounding areas. We started our event with just food vendors, over the years we've grown to offer spaces for people to sell clothing, jewelry, and even do henna designs for guests. All of these attractions have allowed us to expand the number of attendees each year and bring people from many different surrounding areas.

Below is our proposed budget for this year's event. While the bulk of our expenses remain the same from previous years, you will see that we intend to purchase our sound equipment this year which should help to alleviate some of the costs in future years.

Budget Category Totals	
Performance	\$4,000
Insurance and Fees	\$400
Advertising (Flyers, Banners, Ads)	\$500
Tents, Tables, Chairs	\$600
Stage Design	\$500
Sound	\$3,500
Miscellaneous	\$500
Total Budget	\$10,000

This year our event will be held on August 6th, 2022. After our two year hiatus, we hope to come back with a larger celebration that not only showcases our Bangladeshi heritage but also the impact we have had on the Hudson community at large, the place that many of us now refer to as home. We hope that we can count on your support to help aid in our endeavors. Thank you for taking the time to consider our application and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Rokeya Sultana

Bangladeshi-American Society of Hudson (BASH)