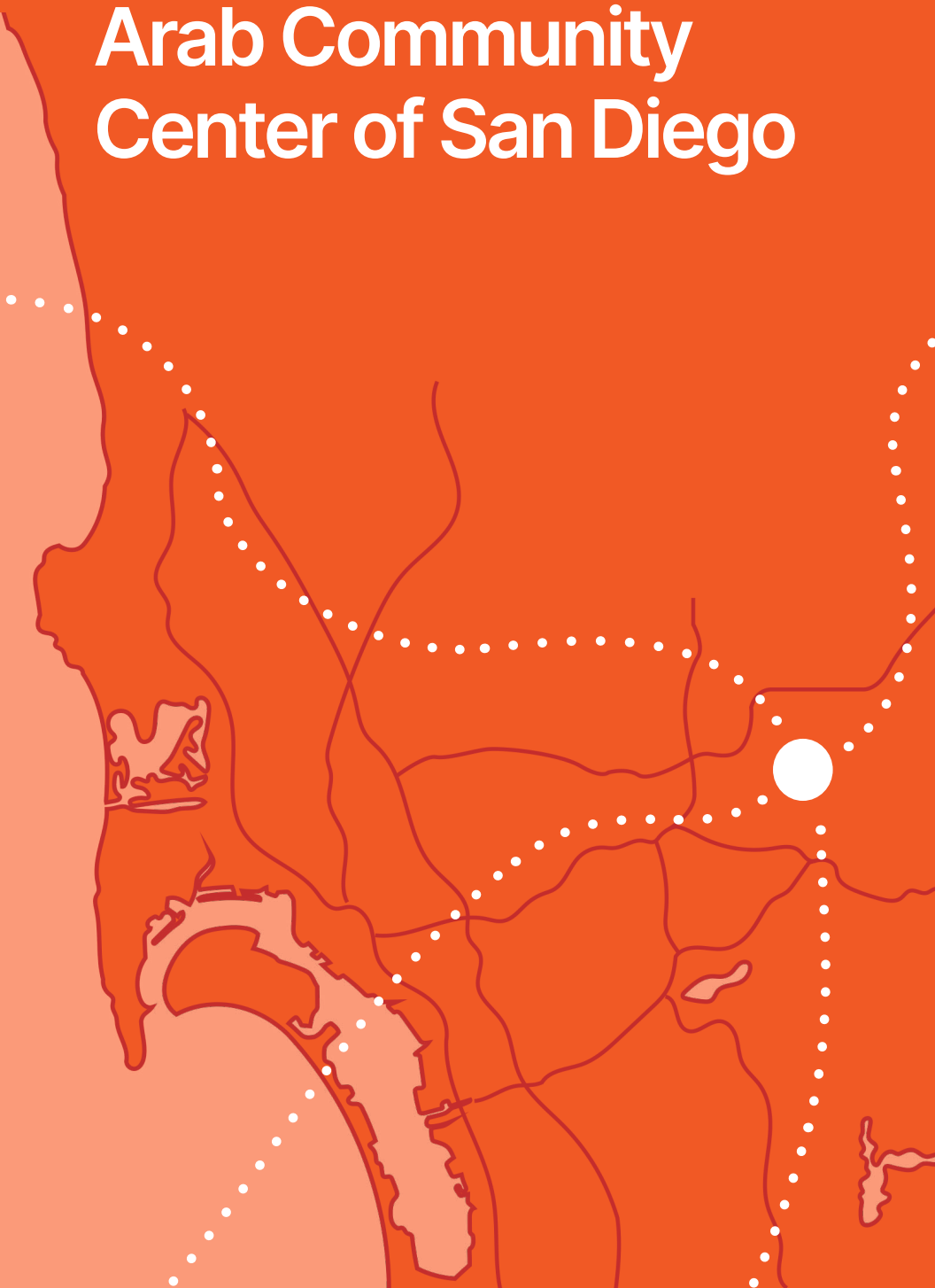


MAJDAL

2021 ——— Annual Report

# Arab Community Center of San Diego





## Mission

Majdal, the Arab Community Center of San Diego, is a grassroots institution committed to uplifting the Arab community in San Diego. Our mission is to support community members in overcoming any social, economic, and political challenges they may face in pursuit of their goals. We seek to foster an environment rooted in trust and support and to cultivate a communal identity based on a deep understanding of the rich histories and cultures present among us.



## Vision

We seek to build a foundation for political power that can achieve a just and dignified future and a continued right to individual and collective self-determination for all members of the Arab community in San Diego, including youth, women, workers, families, and elders.

# Dear Community,

I want to thank you for your long-time support, and especially in recent years. I joined the Majdal Center two years ago amidst all the uncertainty of the pandemic. Our constants during this time have been your support and our determination to strengthen our community's resilience.

Reflecting on 2021, we accomplished all that we set out to do—and more. We grew our team from two to seven members, including a second Community Health Worker, a Community Support Navigator, and three youth fellows.

We revived our youth programming with the launch of our Youth Leadership Council, a mentorship program, and an after-school program.

We campaigned for a more democratic San Diego by advocating for our community's participation in redistricting. One of my favorite memories was witnessing community members take to the mic in front of El Cajon City Council.

I am excited to share with you some of our favorite highlights in this annual report, capturing themes of community migration, maps, and mobilization.

As a community-driven organization, our growth relies on your continued support. Please consider making a donation towards our work in 2022. Thank you!



Sincerely,  
Ramah Awad  
Programs Manager & Steering Committee Chair

Support our work by making a donation online at [majdalcenter.org/donate](https://majdalcenter.org/donate) or by check payable to "Mission Edge, Majdal Center" and mail to:  
**Mission Edge San Diego PO Box 102894, Pasadena, CA 91189-2894.**

# Steering Committee



**Ramah**  
*Awad*

Programs Manager &  
Steering Committee Chair



**Selma**  
*Hassane*

Co-Chair of Steering  
Committee



**Nadine**  
*Hassoun*

Finance &  
Fundraising Coordinator



**Rinad**  
*Taha*

Youth Outreach  
Coordinator



**Yasmeeen**  
*Obeid*

Advocacy Coordinator &  
Redistricting Fellow

# Fellows



**Farida**  
*Erikat*

Youth Justice Fellow



**Rami**  
*Ibrahim*

Economic Justice Fellow

*Our community members are at the center of our leadership.*

# Staff



**Hadeel**  
*Kareem*

Community Support  
Navigator



**Mohammed**  
*Abdul Kareem*

Community Health Worker



**Aeshaa**  
*Salman*

Community Health Worker

# Advisory Board



**Hatem**  
*Mohtaseb*



**Laila**  
*Allali*



**Mohammad**  
*Alhasan*



**Asmaa**  
*Kheirallah*



**Loubna**  
*Qutami*

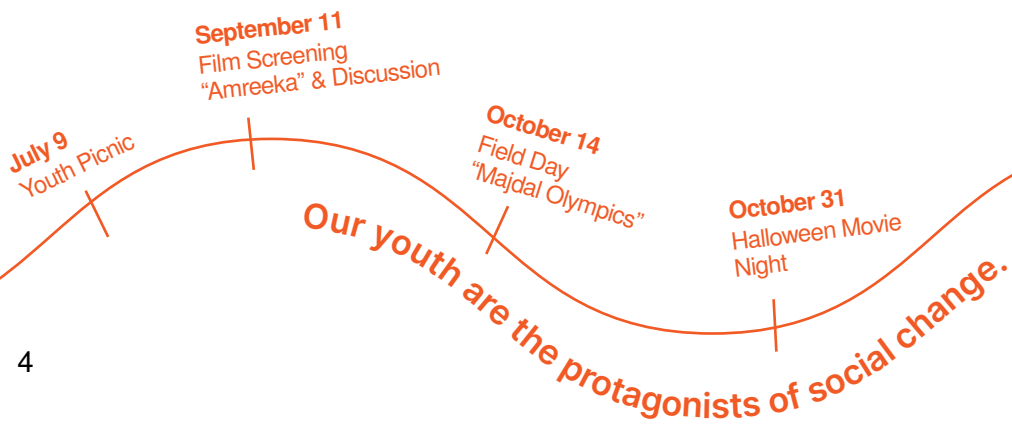
Read more about  
our growing team online at  
[majdalcenter.org/our-team](http://majdalcenter.org/our-team)

# We launched...

## ...our Youth Leadership Council!

Our Youth Leadership Council is a space for high-school and college-aged youth to develop leadership skills and build community. The council leads monthly social, cultural, and political events while participating in active campaigns.

In 2021, we planned 5 events with participation ranging from 20 to 60 youth and their family members!



## ...an after-school program!

The center has always served as a space for learning. After going virtual in 2020, we brought back our tutoring program in-person!

Our after-school program and virtual tutoring supported 20 students with their homework and college applications on a weekly basis.

## ...a Newcomer Youth Mentorship Program!

In partnership with License to Freedom, we offered one-to-one mentorship to 15 young women who resettled in the U.S. with their families within the past five years. We supported them with navigating life in San Diego and working toward their educational and professional goals.

December 4  
Winter Social



**We supported  
community members  
with the health, housing  
& economic resources  
they need!**







Nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to support our community members with accessing COVID-19 information, testing, and vaccination.

We hosted COVID-19 workshops and distributed health supplies. On a daily basis, we supported community members access rental assistance, Section 8 housing, and other social welfare programs.



Through the CalHOPE Crisis Counseling Program by the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition, we offered mental health and emotional support to over 100 community members.

Lastly, we partnered with the Center of Excellence on Health Equity at the University of California-San Diego to conduct research on refugee communities' views toward hypertension and dementia.

Our approach to community health is holistic.

# We advocated for a more democratic San Diego!

Our civic engagement campaign for 2021 was Redistricting! Every 10 years, governments undergo a redistricting process to redraw their political boundaries to account for demographic changes.

As a community that is underrepresented in the Census data, we advocated for our communities' participation in redistricting through:

*Our vision is to impact systemic change for the long-term betterment*



- ♦ Mapping over 300 Arab families in El Cajon and San Diego County through workshops & surveys.
- ♦ Drafting and submitting three maps for El Cajon City, San Diego County, and the State of California.
- ♦ Speaking with the media; we were mentioned in over 10 news articles and opinion pieces.
- ♦ Mobilizing over 50 community members to give testimony at 10 public hearings.
- ♦ Advocating for translated written materials and interpretation in Arabic.

Check out our media coverage online at [majdalcenter.org/in-the-news](https://majdalcenter.org/in-the-news)

ent of our communities.



# In 2022

## our goals include:

..... 1

Launching a Citizenship Readiness Program

..... 2

Expanding our mentorship programs with a focus on academic & college readiness

..... 3

Hosting forums to assess & address community needs

..... 4

Conducting research projects on the history of Arab migration to San Diego

..... 5

Advocating for greater housing resources and tenants' rights

# Support our goals for 2022 by making a donation!

As a community-driven organization, we rely on your continued support. Your contribution will help sustain and grow our several services, programs, and campaigns!

We invite you to donate online:

[majdalcenter.org/donate](https://majdalcenter.org/donate)

To contribute by check, please make checks payable to  
"Mission Edge, Majdal Community Center" and mail to:

**Mission Edge San Diego**  
**PO Box 102894**  
**Pasadena, CA 91189-2894**

Thank you!



# Thank you to our 2021 community donors, partners, and funders!

## Community Donors

Since its launch in 2018, the center has largely been supported by grassroots funding. Between 2018 and 2021, a total of 325 individuals donated to the center. In 2021, 200 community donors constituted our grassroots funding.

## Community Partners

Center on Policy Initiatives  
CSA San Diego County  
Islamic Center of San Diego  
San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition  
Afghan Community Culture Center  
African Coalition Workforce  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Horn of Africa  
Karen Organization of San Diego  
License to Freedom  
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans  
Refugee Assistance Center  
Somali Bantu Community Organization  
Southern Sudanese Community Center of San Diego  
United Women of East African Support Team  
San Ysidro Health Center  
U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights  
Youth Organize! California



**A special thanks to Nash & Associates and to  
our fiscal sponsor of many years,  
Islah Reparations Project!**

## **Funders**

California Office of Refugee Resettlement  
Center for Arab American Philanthropy  
County of San Diego - Health and Human Services Agency  
Grantmakers for Girls of Color  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
Public Health Institute  
Resist Foundation  
Sierra Health Foundation  
Solidaire  
The California Endowment  
The Conrad Prebys Foundation  
Third Wave Fund





Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego  
[www.majdalcenter.org](http://www.majdalcenter.org)

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