

Conclave conceptualised and conducted by

myliveablecity
INDIA + NETHERLANDS + USA

mlc academy
MY LIVABLE CITY ACADEMY



SPOTLIGHT ON

PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL

through

**CULTURE & ART • NATURE & LANDSCAPE •
HISTORY & HERITAGE**

Tokaroun, Santiniketan
28th - 30th November 2025

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

myliveablecity + **maf**
INDIA + NETHERLANDS + USA MUSUI ART FOUNDATION

TITLE SPONSOR



ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



SESSION SPONSORS



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS



PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL

A Conclave For Solutions

Tokaroun, Santiniketan • 28th - 30th November 2025

Even as social media increasingly polarises societies, physical Public Spaces can help bridge the differences and inequities in society.

My Liveable City (MLC) in partnership with the Musui Art Foundation (MAF) will host a three-day Conclave of Solutions at Tokaroun, Santiniketan from 28th to 30th November 2025.

Creating Public Spaces that bind through:
Culture+Art
Nature+Landscape
History+Heritage

How Public Spaces Can Be Inclusive and Build Bridges

Inclusivity Through Art & Culture

'How to build bridges through art and culture' will be the topic of discussion with renowned sculptor **KS Radhakrishnan**, who graduated from Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan nearly five decades ago and continues to work there. **R.Sivakumar**, who has written extensively on Santiniketan and Rabindranath Tagore will also give a talk. Legendary photographer **Raghu Rai** takes us through the art of capturing Public Spaces. Indo-Dutch urban designer **Shyam Khandekar** will expound how waterbodies can be used as temporary public spaces.

Inclusivity Through Nature & Landscape

'Working with nature and landscape' will be discussed by eminent landscape-urbanists **Kelly Shannon** (America) and **Bruno de Meulder** (Belgium), who teach at KU Leuven in Belgium. Environmentalist **Mohan Rao** will advocate the use of 'shared spaces' to build social and environmental resilience.

Inclusivity Through History & Heritage

History and heritage will be addressed by renowned urbanist **Vinayak Bharne** (University of Southern California, USA) and eminent heritage architect and director of CRCI **Gurmeet Sangha Rai** who is also a consultant with UNESCO. Conservation

architect **Kamalika Bose** who has worked on Chitpur Road Kolkata and **Saptarshi Sanyal**, architectural historian and conservation architect who has extensively researched Santiniketan, will also present their work.

Inclusivity: Public Spaces for All

Following these presentations, the accessibility of Public Spaces for All as a "*janmasiddha adhikaar*" (birth right) will be stressed in a speech by the well-known activist-artist (name to be confirmed), while specifically gender-related issues will be stressed upon by **Maartje van Eerd** of IHS, Erasmus University Rotterdam. This will be followed by a series of short presentations of unique initiatives from various parts of the country such as **Vadodara** (Alembic City), **Mumbai** (Somaiya Campus), **Kolkata** and others.

The Masterclass Exercise

MLC Academy will offer as a bonus to all registered for the Conclave — the possibility to take part in a short Masterclass which will be held at the end of each of the three days. Those keen to attend the Masterclass must indicate this while registering for the Conclave. No additional fees will be payable. The Masterclass will involve participants working in small groups to Design Public Spaces, surveying a selected area and identifying the possibilities of reshaping it through programme, design and management so that they can be more inclusive. These sessions will be conducted under the guidance and supervision of the My Liveable City team of Urbanist **Vinayak Bharne**, Urban Designer and Planner **Shyam Khandekar**, Landscape Architects **Subhagya Atale Raval** and/or **Aarti Grover** and Urban Designers **Adarsha Kapoor** and/or **Karna Sengupta**.

The conclave will end with a broad panel discussion leading to a document containing the conclave recommendations.

**Limited Seat
Certificate
Programme**

Click here to register <https://forms.gle/TNgXfSAZfVyw9ex69> or contact **Mitali Choudhary** on academy@myliveablecity.com for further information.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

myliveablecity
INDIA + NETHERLANDS + USA

maf
MUSUI ART FOUNDATION

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

A Conclave For Solutions

Tokaroun, Santiniketan • 28th - 30th November 2025

DAY 1

- 9.30 am**
Opening & Welcome
to Tokaroun: **KS Radhakrishnan**,
Founder of MAF
- 9.45 am**
• Welcome and Introduction to MLC:
Shashikala Venkatraman,
Co-founder and Director MLC
• Introducing the Conclave: including
an overview of the 3-day programme:
Shyam Khandekar, Conclave Director
- 10.15 am**
Introduction to Culture & Art
- 10.25 am**
Murals in Santiniketan:
R Sivakumar, educationist and
Internationally renowned art historian
and curator
- 10.50 am**
Art for public, public for Art:
KS Radhakrishnan, renowned
sculptor and founder of Musui Art
Foundation
- 11.25 - 12.00 pm**
TEA BREAK
- 12.00 pm**
Water as a podium for Culture:
Learning from Netherlands:
Shyam Khandekar, Director ICONS-
NL, Netherlands and Co-founder of
My Liveable City
- 12.20 pm**
Capturing the essence of Public
Spaces: **Raghu Rai**, legendary
photographer, photo journalist and
Padmashree winner.
- 12.40 - 01.30 pm**
Panel Discussion with
Raghu Rai, R Sivakumar,
KS Radhakrishnan
and **Shyam Khandekar**
Moderator: **Anjan Mitra**,
Urban Designer
- 1.30 - 2.45 pm**
LUNCH BREAK
- 3.00 - 5.30 pm**
Masterclass

DAY 2

- 9.30 am**
Recap of Day 1 and
programme of Day 2 focussing on
Nature and Landscape.
- 9.45 am**
Inclusivity: Whose city is it anyway?
Gender-issues in public spaces:
Maartje van Eerd, Asst. Professor,
Institute for Housing & Urban
Development Studies, Erasmus
University Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 10.15 am**
Metropolitan Park Systems: from
Europe to Asia: **Bruno de Meulder**,
Professor of Urbanism, KU Leuven,
Belgium
- 10.45 am**
Water and Forest Urbanism in
Vietnam: **Kelly Shannon**, Professor of
Urbanism, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 11.15 - 11.45 pm**
TEA BREAK
- 11.45 am**
Signs of Life - 'shared' spaces as a
critical medium to build social and
environmental resilience: **Mohan Rao**,
Environmental Design and Landscape
Architecture professional and founder
of INDE, Bengaluru
- 12.15 pm**
Case Study 1: Opening Private
Green Campus to neighbours:
Private initiative for Public Spaces:
Samir Somaiya, Chancellor Somaiya
Vidyavihar University, Mumbai
- 12.45 - 1.45 pm**
Panel Discussion with **Kelly
Shannon, Bruno de Meulder**,
Mohan Rao and **Samir Somaiya**
Moderator: **Aarti Grover**,
Landscape Architect
- 1.45 - 2.45 pm**
LUNCH BREAK
- 3.00 - 5.30 pm**
Masterclass

DAY 3

- 9.30 am**
Recap of Day 2 and programme of
Day 3 focusing on History and
Heritage
- 10.00 am**
International perspectives on
Heritage and Urban Spaces:
Vinayak Bharne, Adjunct Professor of
Urbanism at University of Southern
California, USA
- 10.30 am**
Cultural Cartographies: From
Conservation Policy to Public Place
in Punjab: **Gurmeet S. Rai**, Founding
Director & Principal Conservation
Architect, Cultural Resources
Conservation Initiative (India)
- 11.00 am**
Navigating Chitpur Road: Urban
Heritage of Kolkata's Multicultural
Spine: **Kamalika Bose**, Urban
Conservationist, Founder-Principal,
Heritage Synergies India
- 11.30 - 12.00 pm**
TEA BREAK
- 12.00 pm**
Spaces of Learning - Novel
Pedagogies in Visva-Bharati (1920s -
1940s): **Saptarshi Sanyal**, Assistant
Professor, History Theory Criticism,
National University of Singapore
- 12.30 pm**
Case Study 2: Using Industrial
Heritage as a magnet for
redevelopment at Alembic City
Vadodara: **Udit Amin**, Chairman,
Alembic Realty
- 1.00 - 2.00 pm**
Panel Discussion with **Gurmeet Rai**,
Kamalika Bose, **Saptarshi Sanyal**
and **Udit Amin**
Moderator: **Adarsha Kapoor**,
Urban Designer
- 2.00 pm**
Participation Certificate Distribution
- 2.15 - 3.00 pm**
LUNCH BREAK
- 3.00 - 5.30 pm**
Masterclass

THE ORGANISERS



Set up 10 years ago as a social venture, MyLiveableCity is a reputed global knowledge platform, dedicated to the transformation of cities to make them liveable, sustainable and equitable by the domain experts.

We are a global network of highly experienced and acclaimed thought leaders, academicians and practitioners drawn from Urban Design and City Planning, Landscape and Environmental Planning, Architectural & Building Design and Innovative Technologies.

Drawing on the experience of over 20 countries, MyLiveableCity aims to inform, inspire and educate through digital content, magazine, books, conferences, knowledge tours, expert training, short term academic courses and customised workshops.

As a city undergoes a revolution in its urban landscape, the change is so monumental that it would be unfortunate if we did not involve ourselves in this transformation.

We encourage you to partner with us on this journey as readers, commentators, writers and participants.

www.myliveablecity.com



Musui Art Foundation (MAF) Is a nonprofit foundation that supports creative practice as well as research and documentation in the arts. It specifically aims to create a supportive framework for artists in the peripheries of our country. Its vision is to go beyond urban centres and engage with the margins, with communities and practitioners who do not have access to institutional support.

In order to achieve this, the foundation works with artists and researchers by providing residencies and scholarships, organising seminars and talks curating travelling exhibitions, and publishing art-related books. The foundation works with visionaries and young minds on the frontline of artistic change worldwide and believes in lively engagement with contemporary cultural thought.

Tokaroun, inaugurated in 2024, is Musui Art Foundation's new nonprofit space in Santiniketan for sharing and expanding the foundation's work in the arts.

www.musuiartfoundation.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



VENUE SANTINIKETAN :

UNESCO World Heritage site

Santiniketan

Santiniketan, meaning “abode of peace,” is a neighborhood in the town of Bolpur, located in the Birbhum district of West Bengal, India. It is approximately 152 km north of Kolkata.

It was established by Maharshi Devendranath Tagore, and later expanded by his son, the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. He developed Santiniketan into a renowned educational and cultural institution based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of human unity transcending religious and cultural boundaries. Rabindranath Tagore’s vision became what is now a university town with the creation of Visva-Bharati. It is also the birthplace of Indian Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, who was also an alumnus of the school.

It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee in 2023.



*She is our own, the darling of our hearts, Santiniketan.
In the shadows of her trees we meet
in the freedom of her open sky.
Our dreams are rocked in her arms.
Her face is a fresh wonder of love
every time we see her,
for she is our own, the darling of
our hearts.*

—Rabindranath Tagore

Why Santiniketan as the conclave venue?

The earlier conferences of MLC in India have been held in Delhi, Mumbai (twice) and last year in Bengaluru. Having covered north, west and south India in this way, we were keen - as a pan-Indian/and international organisation to hold the next conclave in the Eastern part of India.

The topic of this year’s conclave builds on the discussions we had in our last conclave which was to create INCLUSIVITY through SLOW and HEALTHY CITIES for ALL.

The forthcoming conclave focuses on achieving INCLUSIVITY through PUBLIC SPACES - made accessible to all through CULTURE & ART, NATURE & LANDSCAPE and HISTORY & HERITAGE.

Considering the scope of the topic, Santiniketan was clearly the most obvious choice. With its inclusive vision of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries. Santiniketan is an embodiment of Rabindranath Tagore’s vision and philosophy of where ‘the world would form a single nest’ using a combination of education, appreciation of nature, music and the arts.

Santiniketan was an experimental settlement in education and communal life in a rural setting. The community was in many ways meant to represent a uniquely Indian example of a ‘total work of art’ (Gesamtkunstwerk) where life, learning, work and art intertwined seamlessly.

The built and open spaces constitute an exceptional global testimony to ideas of environmental art and educational reform where progressive education and visual art are intertwined with architecture and landscape.

Wanting to avoid the hubbub of Kolkata or another major city, Santiniketan seemed the most obvious choice for the topic of our conclave.



Musui Art Foundation, Tokaroun, Santiniketan

THE TEAM

ADVISORS



K. S. Radhakrishnan,
Founder of Musui Art
Foundation. Renowned
sculptor of contemporary
Indian art.



Shashikala Venkatraman
Co-Founder and
Director, MyLiveableCity
& Independent Board
Director and Advisor



Vinayak Bharne
Urban Designer- Planner.
Director, MyLiveableCity

CONCLAVE DIRECTOR



Shyam Khandekar
Architect, Urban Designer-
Planner, Co-founder and
Director, MyLiveableCity

CORE TEAM



Mitali Choudhury
Business Operations and
Media Planner,
Director, MyLiveableCity



Subhagya Atale Raval
Landscape Architect,
founder of Lanarch Studio,
Educator and Mentor



Adarsha Kapoor
Architect & Principal
Urban Designer,
Founding partner of
Creative Footprints

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

myliveablecity
INDIA + NETHERLANDS + USA

maf
MUSUI ART FOUNDATION

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Venue: Tokaroun, Santiniketan, Kabi Mohanpur, Prantik, West Bengal - 731204
(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FvxaYMf43DWoBPft5>)

REGISTRATION

- Registering your intent for participation only ensures that you receive programme related updates, it does not in any way translate into confirmed participation.
- Seat booking will be confirmed against payment, on a first come, first serve basis. This is a limited seat certificate programme.
- Masterclass offered in this programme is a daily 2-hour session, scheduled at the end of the day. This is a bonus session held at no extra cost and is optional. In case you intend attending these sessions, please ensure that you tick the requisite fields in the registration form, walk-ins will not be accommodated.

CONCLAVE PARTICIPATION FEE

Participant from India: INR 11,210.00 (Tuition fee - Rs. 9,500.00 + 18% GST)

Participant from outside India: USD 140.00 (inclusive of all local taxes)

PAYMENT METHOD

Participants from India	UPI	id : msironmanmediaadvisoryservicespvtl.eazypay@icici
	NEFT	<i>Account Name: Ironman Media And Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.</i> <i>Bank Details: ICICI Bank, Shivam Shopping Centre, S. V. Road, Opp. New Era Cinema, Malad (W), Mumbai - 400 064</i> <i>Account # 015805007185 / SWIFT: ICICINBBCTS / RTGS/ IFSC:ICIC0000158</i>
Participants from outside India	PayPal	Payment link will be shared

TRAVEL AND STAY

- Participants have to make their own travel and stay arrangements.
- The venue is approximately a 4-hour drive from Kolkata airport, and a 2-hour drive from Durgapur airport.
- Both Kolkata and Durgapur offer train connectivity to Santiniketan (Prantik and Bolpur).
- There are many hotels close to the venue, however, they don't operate with large room inventories.
- Distances within Santiniketan are relatively small and e-rickshaws are readily available.

Please note that November is a fairly busy tourist season in Santiniketan. Do ensure that you secure your room booking at the earliest.

For queries related to the programme, invoicing, bulk booking, sponsorship proposals, etc. please email **Mitali Choudhary** at **academy@myliveablecity.com**