



جامعة الملك عبد الله
للعلوم والتقنية
King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology

KAUST Contribution to the Cultural Status Report 2024



CAMPUS AND
COMMUNITY



Introduction

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) remains committed to fostering cultural engagement and supporting Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. As a hub for innovation, learning, and community collaboration, KAUST has played a vital role in enriching the Kingdom's cultural landscape. This report outlines KAUST's contributions in 2024, highlighting its impact across various cultural sectors, including Exhibitions, Festivals, Music, Visual Arts, Theater and Performing Arts, Fashion, Architecture and Design, Culinary Arts, Film, Heritage, Museums, Libraries, Books and Publishing, Literature, Language and Translation, Cultural and Archaeological Sites, and Natural Heritage.

Summary and Overview

In 2024, KAUST successfully organized and facilitated over **70** cultural and artistic events, attracting a diverse audience of students, faculty, staff, and the broader KAUST community. These events spanned multiple categories, including art exhibitions, musical performances, theatrical productions, festivals, and workshops.

Additionally, KAUST's libraries provided extensive access to digital and physical resources, supporting cultural and educational development through **171,055** in-person visits and **8,731,987** digital service beneficiaries.

Overview of Cultural Events, Programs, and Initiative

KAUST has played a significant role in advancing cultural engagement through a diverse range of programs and initiatives, including:

- Hosting annual cultural festivals, exhibitions, and artistic showcases.
- Supporting interdisciplinary collaborations between art, science, and technology.



- Organizing knowledge-sharing sessions, lectures, and panel discussions featuring cultural experts.

Key Cultural Events and Engagement

Throughout 2024, KAUST hosted and participated in numerous cultural events, including:

- **Art and Science Exhibition** – A showcase blending scientific innovation with visual arts.
- **Music and Performing Arts Events** – Regular live performances featuring local and international artists.
- **Heritage and Cultural Festivals** – Events celebrating Saudi heritage, traditions, and local crafts.

The 2024 event calendar featured **76** events across five key categories, attracting over **8.95 million** attendees both in-person and online. The most attended category was **Community Engagement & Educational Programs**, largely due to KAUST Library services, followed by **Festivals & Large-Scale Celebrations**.

Event Breakdown by Category

Category	Number of Events	Total Attendees
<i>Arts & Cultural Engagement</i>	41	11,049
<i>Music & Performing Arts</i>	14	4,842+
<i>Festivals & Large-Scale Events</i>	9	20,000+
<i>Community & Educational Programs</i>	9	8,906,292+
<i>Entertainment & Museums</i>	3	10,118+
Total	76	8,952,301+

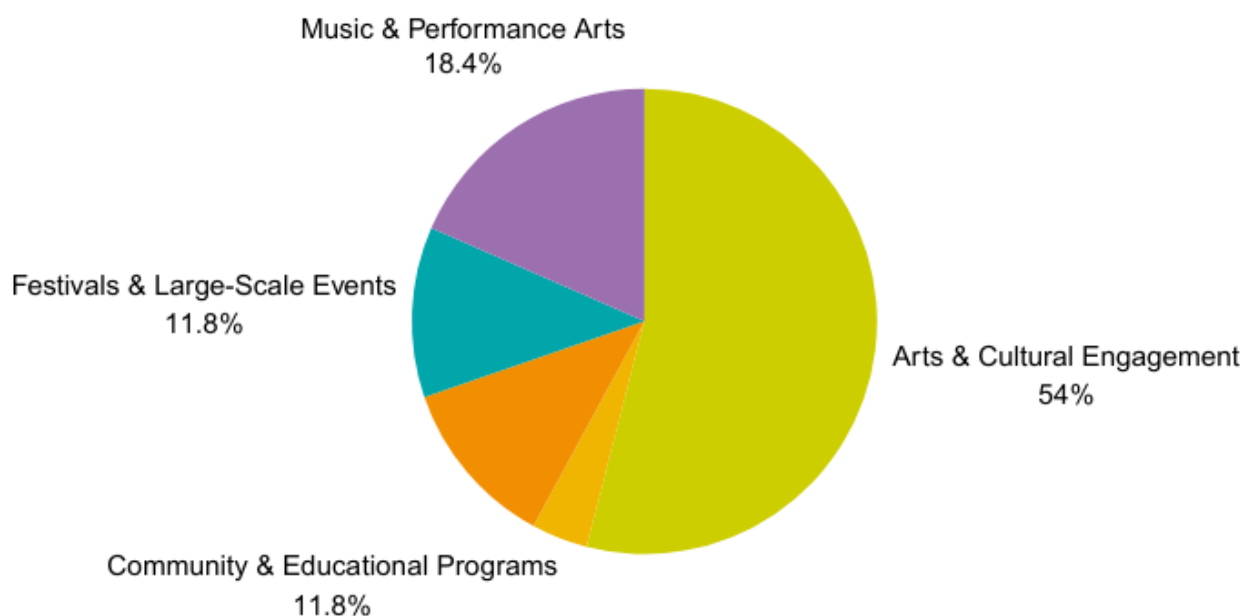


Cultural Engagement Summary

- **Total Events Organized:** 70+
- **Total Attendees:** 50,000+ (including KAUST community members, students, faculty, staff, and external guests)
- **Digital Library Services Beneficiaries:** 8,731,987
- **In-Person Library Visits:** 171,055
- **Active Participants to Community Clubs at KAUST:** 100

Top 5 Highest Attended Events

1. **University Library Digital Services** – 8,731,987 beneficiaries
2. **Museum of Science and Technology in Islam** – 10,000+ visitors
3. **Founding Day Celebration** – 6,000 attendees
4. **Saudi National Day Celebration** – 5,000 attendees
5. **Winter Enrichment Program (WEP)** – 4,000 attendees





Detailed Event Contributions

Art & Cultural Workshops

Event Title	Event / Type	Number of Attendees	Participants
<i>Experience Digital Wonder</i>	Art	200	All Students
<i>DIY Ramadan Decorations</i>	Cultural	9	Students
<i>Islamic Art Drawing</i>	Cultural	6	Female Students
<i>Arabic Fusha Lessons</i>	Art	150	Graduate Students
<i>Arabic Alphabet & Basic Words Lessons</i>	Art	300	Graduate Students
<i>Calligraphy Drawing Sessions</i>	Art	250	Graduate Students
<i>Open Art Studio</i>	Art	250	Graduate Students
<i>Introduction to Oil Painting Workshop</i>	Art	250	Graduate Students
<i>Stone Painting Workshop</i>	Art	250	Graduate Students



Concerts & Music Events

Event Title	Event Type	Number of Attendees	Participants
<i>Rashed AlShashai Solo Exhibition</i>	Mixed-Media Exhibition	500	KAUST Community
<i>Masoud Alaseri's Trio Concert</i>	Concert	400	KAUST Community
<i>Idreesi Concert (feat Nairuz Ajlouni)</i>	Concert	300	KAUST Community
<i>Sunset Concert (in-house musicians + guest)</i>	Concert	300	KAUST Community
<i>Recital for Music Class Students</i>	Concert	55	KAUST Community

Cultural Festivals & Community Engagement

Event Title	Event Type	Number of Attendees	Participants
<i>Founding Day Celebration</i>	Festival	6,000	KAUST Community & Guests
<i>Parade of Nations</i>	Festival	4,000	KAUST Community
<i>Saudi National Day Celebration</i>	Festival	5,000	KAUST Community & Guests
<i>Lunar New Year Celebration</i>	Festival	1,000	KAUST Community
<i>Uplift U Festival</i>	Festival	2,000	KAUST Community & Guests
<i>KAUST Got Talent</i>	Show	1,000+	KAUST Community



Theatrical Performances & Literary Engagement

<i>Event Title</i>	Event Type	Number of Attendees	Participants
<i>"Photograph 51" High School Play (Grade 9-12)</i>	Theatrical Performance	150	KAUST Community, Staff & Students
<i>"Oliver Jr. The Musical" (Grades 6-12)</i>	Theatrical Performance	2,000+	KAUST Community, Staff & Students
<i>"The Noble Gnarble" Musical (Grade 3)</i>	Theatrical Performance	350	KAUST Community, Staff & Students

Educational & Library Engagement

<i>Event Title</i>	Event Type	Number of Attendees	Participants
<i>University Library: Number of in-person visits</i>	Library Visit	171,055	KAUST Community, Staff & Students
<i>Beneficiaries of Digital Library Services</i>	Digital Access	8,731,987	KAUST Community, Staff & Students

This report provides a structured overview of KAUST's extensive cultural contributions, reinforcing its role in supporting cultural enrichment, educational outreach, and community engagement in alignment with **Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030**.