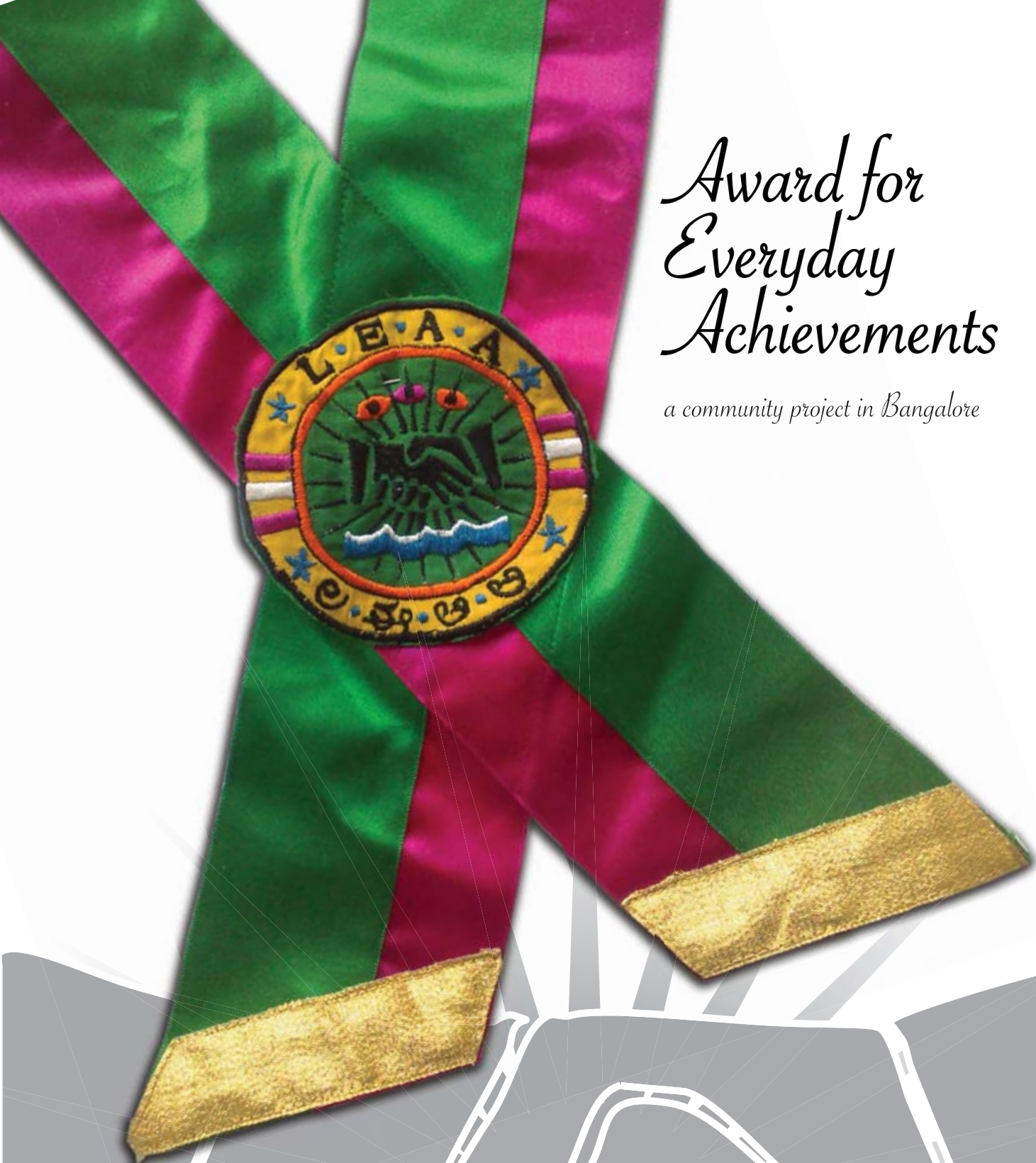


A green and magenta ribbon is tied in a large 'X' shape. In the center of the 'X' is a circular medal. The medal has a yellow border with the letters 'L.E.A.' at the top and Kannada script at the bottom. Inside the border is a green field with a central emblem of two hands holding a sun, with rays emanating from it. Below the hands are blue wavy lines representing water. The ribbon has gold-colored fringed ends.

Award for Everyday Achievements

a community project in Bangalore

A stylized white line drawing of two hands shaking, set against a grey background with radiating lines.

*This is a Certificate and a Sign of Appreciation for improving the community as well as the lives of the individuals in it.
This award is granted to exceptional people of the Communities of Shanthinagar, Richmond Town and Langford Town
Congratulations!*

Bangalore, January 2010,

Matthias Einhoff (Founder)



Nanjappa Circle - main intersection between old Shanthinagar, Richmond Town and Langford Town (opposite of Hockey Stadium).
Photo facing old Shanthinagar looking from Richmond Town.





Award for Everyday Achievement

a project by Matthias Einhoff



Area of the project between Shanthinagar, Langford Town and Richmond Town



Jaaga - informal art space opposite of Hockey Stadium.

Introduction

During his 2-month artist residency in Bangalore, Matthias Einhoff initiated the Award for Everyday Achievement. The award addressed three neighborhoods in Bangalore and asked their citizens to nominate other community members for micro-level achievements in making individual or community life better.

On Wednesday the 6th of January at 6.30 p.m., thirty nominators handed over trophies and certificates to thirty nominees and unveiled a range of community-building activity in their neighborhoods. The award was accompanied by a dinner and professional photo shoot. The event gave the participants a chance to find out about each other's activities. With award ceremonies usually celebrating entertainment, sports and business, this award was intended to honor small-scale acts in an unexpected way. The event was intended exclusively for the neighborhood and considered how art can engage in the public sphere and strengthen community awareness without exploiting or reevaluating existing systems. Beyond its social implications, the award brought forth an unexpected set of neighborhood stories and proposes a model for documenting the oral history of



20th December 2009

Dear Neighbour,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the 'Lakeview Awards for Everyday Achievement'. My name is Matthias Einhoff and I'm an artist from Berlin, Germany, working in collaboration with Jaaga, on Rhenius Street. The Jaaga team and I would like to organize something exclusively for the neighbourhood. Thus we have initiated the 'Lakeview Awards for Everyday Achievement'.

The award gives **you** the opportunity to show your appreciation for a person in your neighbourhood who has done something to improve life in the community. This may be taking care of plants, looking after street children, doing social work or for just being a friendly and caring person. We believe that small acts of caring are great achievements in themselves.

All you have to do is recommend a person whom you consider worthy of an award. For example:

- > Jacob Mathews for being kind towards street children.
- > Ram Prasad for feeding the cow on the street and looking after the local trees.
- > Abdul Sayeed for looking after his aging neighbor.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on the 6th of January at Jaaga. You will be invited to hand a trophy to your nominee for their exceptional services. We will also host a professional photo shoot of the Award Winners and the Award Nominators to document and share this precious moment with you.

The Award Ceremony will be followed by a Dinner with you, your family and other participants. If you want to share a small family specialty, do bring it along, so that you can showcase the talent from your kitchen with the community.

This event is brought to you and funded by Matthias Einhoff, Goethe Institut and Jaaga.

Please take a moment to think about whom you would like to give the award to. In 7 days, a member from our team will come back to collect the attached Nomination Form from you.

All you have to do is tell us who you would like to nominate and what the award is for.

Looking forward to sharing an evening of celebrating Everyday Achievements with you and your family.

Matthias Einhoff



community life.

Initial Phase

Matthias had been invited to live and work in Jaaga, a new informal art space in the center of Bangalore. It is located opposite the Hockey Stadium, a landmark of Bangalore (and former water tank), situated between the districts of Shanthinagar, Langford Town and Richmond Town. At the intersection of Nanjappa Circle just 100 meters away, these different neighborhoods collide. Here, the heterogeneous composition of the area is most noticeable: middle-class apartment blocks with guards and basement parking, small family houses, kiosks, food shops and fruit stalls, public and tamil schools, workshops and media-startups...

Like many centrally located quarters, the area is going through a transformation process with organic stores, boutiques and creative businesses increasingly moving in. Part of this upgrade can be seen as a cultural development and a consequence of newly opened art affiliated spaces. In a western context this would instantly be described as a prime example for an operative gentrification process. Here, it's not an entirely different story, but with family and community structures rooting even financially weak groups against real estate valorization, it is a more complex facet.

The controversial role even an informal space like Jaaga, with ambitious programming and good intentions, a in city development was reflected in the neighborhood's reactions. While some immediate neighbors complained about youths publicly drinking booze and loud music causing sleepless nights, most expressed curiosity, although still keeping a distance. Until then, the space's program had only addressed art affiliated crowds and failed to engage the community.

During his stay, Matthias explored the area with a bicycle, one of the first items he obtained after his arrival in town. Wandering through the neighborhood, he got in touch with different people on the street and developed a sense for the place he was staying in. At the same time, he came across a phenomenon he knew from Germany, but which seemed to be of much greater importance in the Indian context: Reward rituals with trophies, medals and certificates. He came across an entire market consisting of people giving each other items for these purposes. Trophy shops, certificate designers and printers, medal engraving, catering, etc. Most of these acts of rewarding came from the context of sports, business, entertainment and politics.



During the process nominations were collected from different organisations, like *Sandhya Kirana* - old aged home, *Civic* - a local NGO, *St. Michaels Church* and *Brinda Adige* - founder of various community organisations.



The challenge of developing a project in Jaaga was to deal with the implicit role art spaces are assigned in a 21st century city, and to address the community directly, as an active conspirator in shaping its identity and growth, by giving visibility to grassroots activity and its beneficial effects, thus strengthening community awareness.

Making use of award ceremonies - the glory and pathos included - and applying them on a micro-level within a community seemed like a benevolent and suitable strategy.

Process

The first task was to find people who would nominate other people. Therefore a letter was written that explained the undertaking, and an official nomination form was designed to capture the details of participants and the reasons for their nominations. Within the immediate neighborhood, the greatest challenge was to bypass the guards, who would automatically deny access, assuming that you would want to sell something. Within the neighborhood of Shanthinagar, language proved to be the greatest obstacle, with most citizens speaking the local language Kannada. As more and more people became involved, kannada and hindi speaking friends, local NGOs and neighbors, the word slowly spread and replies started arriving bit by bit.

In the course of spreading and collecting Matthias got the chance to experience and understand the diversity of a neighborhood on a very personal level: innumerable times being invited into peoples homes for chai and chats, attending local ngo debates, home for elders celebrations and finding out about engagement of individual locals: Renu running a home for HIV infected children, Gowramma cleaning the pavement, Adige founding helplines for victims of domestic violence, Renu organizing eye camps, Ant-ony ioning shirts... What became apparent was that the incentive behind these activities is less of paternalistic or altruistic nature, but that of a belonging to a community of individuals and the intention of increasing this groups quality of life, thus increasing one's own situation.

After two weeks of dissemination and two more weeks for collecting and receiving 34 nominations, 34 awards were prepared.

Award Evening

On Wednesday the 6th of January at 6.30 p.m., all the people involved, recipients, nominators and their respective families, were invited to attend the awards ceremony. The local art scene had not been informed



Entrance of apartment building in Richmond Town







about the evening. Rather the event was intended exclusively for the neighbors in order to maintain a sense of localness and avoid a situation of gazing from an outside audience. Thirty-four trophies, certificates and sashes with embroidered logos had been prepared. A vegetarian potluck dinner accompanied the evening. Basic dishes were provided with locals bringing veg-biryani and curd rice.

After snacks and tea, the ceremony commenced. A professional photographer had been hired to capture the most precious moment of the awards ceremony: the bestowment of the trophy and certificate.

Matthias and Suresh hosted the evening in English and Kannada, announcing each nominator, nominee and the reason for his or her nomination. Within the 90 minute service, each couple posed for a photo and the audience patiently and humbly listened to every story. The evening developed its own dynamic: extra speeches were held, special donations made, the ceremony was fairly taken-over. Eventually the participants shared the dinner until 2 hours after the ceremony. The local TV-station TV9 took up the story and spontaneously slid in a special on neighborhood engagement.

On the one hand the community respectfully paid tribute to every small scale achievement, acquainted itself with the local actives and developed a sense for the beneficial repercussions of engagement. On the other hand the participants were sensing the humor and subtle absurdity of juxtaposing representation and locality - strengthening not only the awareness, but also the confidence in one's activity by making it an object of joy instead of consternation.





Anne Mary

nominated by anonymous

“...for taking care of the children as they go to the toilet.”

Note: Anne Mary works in St.Michaels Church, Shanthinagar.



Antony

nominated by Mausumi Das and Diptiman Das (handing over)

“...for going out of the way to help the staff of our building in maintaining it. He is very popular among children in the community.”

Note: Antony is ironing shirts on the street around Hockey Stadium. He has been nominated by several citizens.



Ashika Moola

nominated by Geetha Suresh

“...for supporting Sandhya Kirana - Old Age Home, by showing concern and love towards elderly. She is a kind hearted regular food sponsor.”

Note: Sandhya Kirana - Old Age Home is a day care center for elderly still living with their families.



Babu

nominated by Sean Blagssvedt

“...for helping with maintainence, being happy and friendly towards residents and very helpful towards the neighbours.”

Note: Babu is the security guard for the house Sean is running his business from.



Col. Freddie D'Sa

nominated by Nithyananda T.S.

“...for being involved as a founder and active member of Shred. His experience in the army has contributed a lot to Shred and hence Shanthinagar.”



D.N.Narashimraju (Assistant Police Sub Inspector Ashoknagar Police Station)

nominated by Brinda Adige

“...for being a people-friendly policeman, who is always smiling. He does not use any manner of arm-twisting or high-handenness with people he books for traffic violations.”

Note: Brinda herself is the founder of an NGO helping victims of domestic violence in informal settlements near to Shanthinagar.



Dinesh

nominated by Munni N.

“...for keeping the Foodworld neat and tidy. Without him my Foodworld looks dirty.”

Note: Munni and Dinesh both work in a local supermarket. Dinesh literally works every-day, cleaning the supermarket.



Gowramma

nominated by Narayam Adige

“...for being a happy person, who does her work with a sense of diligence and is never seen grumbling. Rain or sunshine - she works to keep a part of our neighbourhood clean and tidy.”

Note: Gowramma is regularly sweeping the pavement of the her neighborhood.



Kathyayini Chamaraj

nominated by Annuar Ahmed

“...for relentlessly and selflessly dedicating all her energy and passion for the service of local citizens in various community based organisations.”

Note: Kathyayini is a central figure in many local ngo's directly dealing with improving the quality of community life. She has helped to connect with many people in the award.



Krishna

nominated by Payal & Bhawani & Gautami & Supriya

“...for being a very friendly and approachable person. Ever smiling, ever helpful, he never forgets to greet us.”

Note: Krishna is working as a security guard for an apartment complex in Richmond Town.



M/S Shanaz

nominated by V.D. Sundaravadanam

“...for being an extraordinary person and employee. Despite tough strokes of fate, she’s facing up to life, working hard, being a caring mother, conscientious worker and loyal employee.”



Waste-Collectors of Shanthinagar Residents' development Association (Mr. Anwar, Ms Manjula and others)

nominated by Jyoti Surendra and Col. Fredrick D'Sa (handing over)

“...for having worked for more than 10 years, collecting and recycling waste from 200 households in Shanthinagar. They have worked diligently, punctually and with commitment. They have worked so hard that they were able to build their own little house with their savings of Rs. 60,000. They later pledged this house against a loan and bought a small tempo for collecting and transporting their garbage.”



Mr. D'Souza

nominated by Tanvir Maknojia

“...for fighting against illegal constructions on storm water drains.”



Mr. Moses Mig

nominated by Mr. Prakash

“...for guiding people to make their election ID cards.”

Note: Mr.Moses Migs work is focusing on the informal settlements of Shanthinagar.



Mr. Prakash

nominated by Mr. D'Souza

“...for making new Family Record Books for the people.”



Mr. Varadharay

nominated by Reverend Father Christopher (Tanvir Maknojia handing over)
“...for taking care of the plants and spreading greenery around.”



Mr. Vijay Druhve

nominated by Ashok B.G.

“...for educating mental and physical well being including cleanliness and hygiene of the local residents of Shanthinagar.”



Mr.D.S.Nagendra, Mr.N.S.Somashekar and Mr.Gangaram

nominated by Dr. Priyamvada

“...for being wonderful neighbours, be it a friendly chat over a cup of tea or helping out in times of crisis.”

Note: Dr. Priyamvada is the head of a local old aged home called Sandhya Kirana.



M. Murthy

nominated by Raju

“...for organising free health care for the low income community of Shanthinagar.”

Note: M.Murthy organises Eye-Camps and Dental-Camps.



Renu Appachu

nominated by Suresh Jayaram and Shiva (handing over)

“...for selflessly working in the field of HIV infected children through “Jagruthi” an NGO that homes, supports and rehabilitates them to society.”



Saroja

nominated by Ramprasad and Diptiman Das (handing over)

“...for helping us to keep the appartement clean and for being friendly to all people around her. She goes beyond her work showing love and affection to the child she’s looking after.”



Sri Sri Sri Thimmaiah Bharthi Swamiji

nominated by Sagar Stationery

“...for selflessly donating his time and wealth for founding an old age home.”



Wg. Cdr. Shirazi

nominated by Kathyayini Chamaraj

“...for single-handedly monitoring the ward-works undertaken by BBMP, especially road-works, and ensuring that the work is done as per specifications. He has worked tirelessly to make BBMP transparent and accountable.”



Zameer

nominated by Kiran

“...for doing a good job as a guard.”

Other people nominated, but not being able to attend

Mrs. Doris D'Souza

nominated by Kathyayini Chamaraj

“...for being an exceptional mother and efficient home-maker in addition to being a warm-hearted, caring and concerned person. She epitomises the best of family values, and simple, straightforward honesty and integrity. Truly an ideal citizen for she has brought up sturdy, hard-working, caring and honest individuals as future citizens.”

Fathima Sarah

nominated by Kathyayini Chamaraj

for running the Al Falah Islamic Study Centre and is also a counsellor. She has been working tirelessly to bring about a true and correct understanding of Islam. She has been working for communal harmony and peace by motivating the Muslim community to shed their feelings of discrimination and insecurity which give rise to feelings of alienation as well as acts of violence. She has been exhorting them to work for the good of the whole community, as Islam preaches, and shed sectarianism.”

Mr. Govardhan

nominated by Sri Mahavir Jain Store

“...for always being ready to help with all kinds of things.”

Ms Rajalakshmi

nominated by Prathima

“...for being very helpful in improving English education and also taking care of the personal problems of the aged.”

The Award for Everyday Achievements was made possible thanks to the support of many. It was part of a residency program of the Max-Müller Bhavan, Bangalore in cooperation with iShanthiroad and Jaaga.

