



Festival of Lights

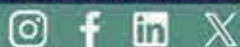
A Royal Celebration



October 5 - 25, 2025

Surrey
Coquitlam
New Westminster
Vancouver

WWW.DIWALIFEST.CA





Remitly™

Send money worldwide

Light up their Diwali from afar

Stay close this Diwali,
even when you're far apart.

One easy app to send money home





Canada
Province of British Columbia
A Proclamation

CHARLES THE THIRD, by the Grace of God, King of Canada
and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS British Columbia is a culturally, ethnically, racially and religiously diverse province comprising many peoples and communities, and

WHEREAS Diwali, the festival of lights, is celebrated across South Asia and the world as the triumph of light over darkness, hope over despair, and joy over sadness and is considered an auspicious time to mark new beginnings, and

WHEREAS since 2004, Diwali Fest, organized by the Diwali Celebration Society, has helped provide community and connection to old and new residents of British Columbia and is a unique platform for artists from different regions in South Asia to display their talent and break cultural barriers, and

WHEREAS Diwali Fest promotes the diverse arts, culture, heritage and contributions of the South Asian community in British Columbia by hosting Diwali celebrations across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley through engagement with multi-ethnic communities and promotion of cross-cultural understanding, and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia acknowledges the historic and current contributions of the South Asian community and supports Diwali Fest and other Diwali celebrations in their promotion of arts, culture, community participation, inclusiveness, and social and cultural connectedness;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that October 5 to 25, 2025, shall be known as

“Diwali Fest Days”

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Wendy Cocchia, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twenty-fifth day of September, two thousand twenty-five and in the fourth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

Attorney General and Deputy Premier

Lieutenant Governor

"Diwali" or **"Deepavali"** translates to **"row of lights"** in Sanskrit. This refers to the clay lamps (diyas) displayed in a row outside homes. These symbolize the inner light we all carry.



Diwali is celebrated between **October - November** each year. The dates are determined by the lunar calendar.

THE FIVE DAYS OF DIWALI

— DAY 1 —

The first day of Diwali is known as Dhanteras. It is considered an auspicious time for families to clean their homes and purchase gold in honour of Lakshmi (goddess of wealth and prosperity).



— DAY 2 —

On the second day of the festival families decorate their homes with Diyas, candles or lights. They may also create a Rangoli at the entrance of their homes.



— DAY 3 —

The third day is the primary celebration marked by donning new clothes. In the evening, families gather for Lakshmi puja (prayers), which is followed by a traditional feast and firework displays.



— DAY 4 —

The fourth day is for Goverdhan Puja (prayers) and families visit each other, often bringing gifts and traditional sweets to share.



— DAY 5 —

The fifth day of Diwali is called Bhai Dooj - a celebration of the special bond that exists between siblings. Traditionally, brothers visit their sisters' homes and bring them gifts. The sisters welcome their brothers with traditional sweets and pray for their well-being.



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

As the lights of Diwali begin to glow across our homes and hearts, we are honored to welcome you to **Diwali Fest 2025** - a unique celebration of arts, culture, and community inspired by the spirit of the **Festival of Lights**. Diwali is a time of renewal, reflection, and joy—a moment to honor tradition while embracing new beginnings.

This season, we invite you to experience the opulent world of Indian royalty. Picture yourself surrounded by the grandeur of majestic palaces, where twinkling Diyas set the stage for an unforgettable celebration. Watch as dancers adorned in vibrant attire move in harmony, telling tales of prosperity, joy and light.

We have collaborated with the talented British Columbia based artist Anu Chouhan to synthesize our Creative Director's vision for this season's festival via artwork curated for each event's poster.

Celebrate with us at **Diwali in Surrey** on **October 5th** with a spotlight on classical Indian music and dance forms. This poster image is inspired by classical Kathak dancers and is an ode to palace architecture of Southern India.

Join us for **Diwali in Coquitlam** on **October 10th** for an evening of Live Music, Dance and Arts & Crafts presented in partnership with Coquitlam Heritage. The poster art captures children dressed in their Diwali best, playing in the courtyard of a palace in Northern India.

We are excited to present **Diwali in New Westminster** for the very first time on **October 11th**. Anu captures the beauty of Rajasthan's glorious lake palaces in this event's poster art. Dress in your favorite festive attire and join us for a warm cup of Chai!

We wrap up this season's festivities on **October 25th** at **Diwali in Vancouver**, presented in partnership with the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre. This event's poster artwork draws inspiration from the unique pink stone architecture of city palaces in Jaipur.

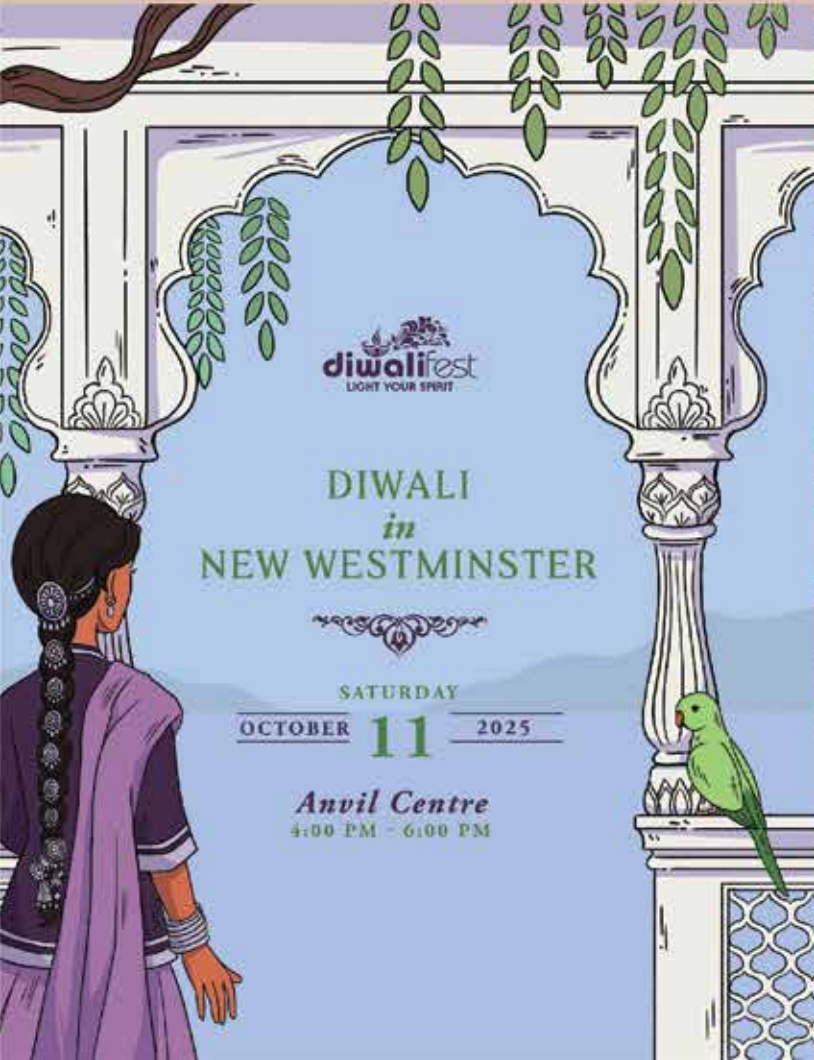
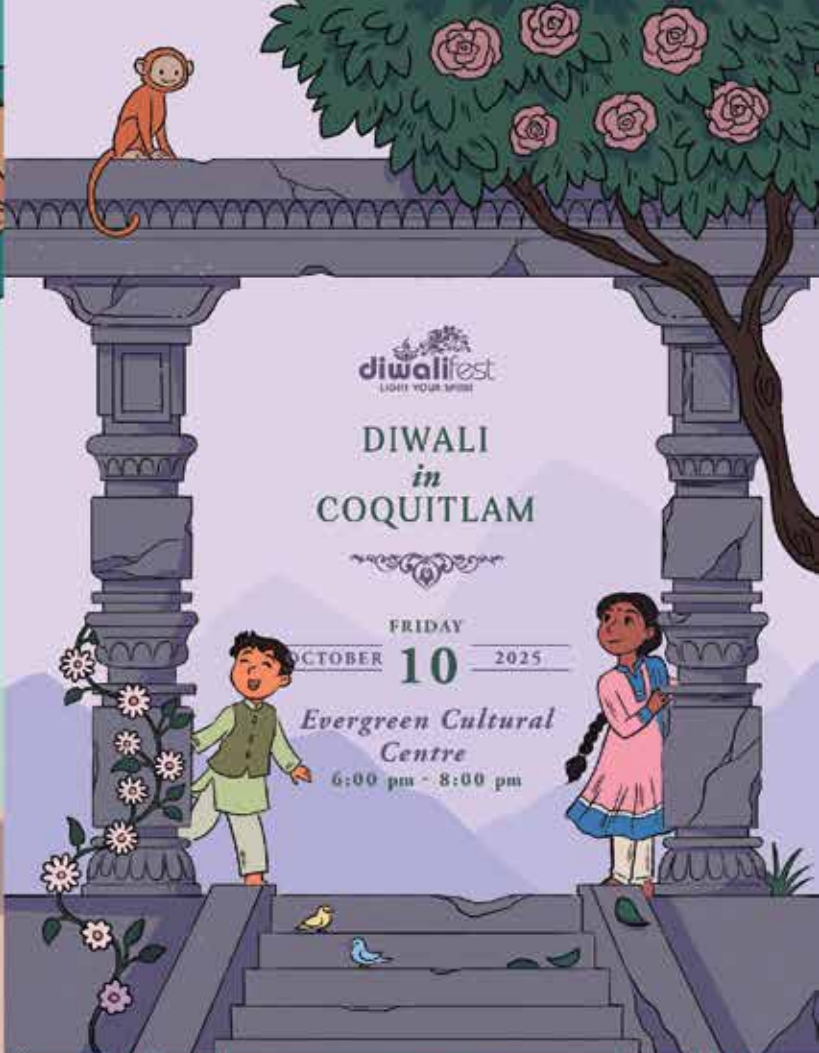
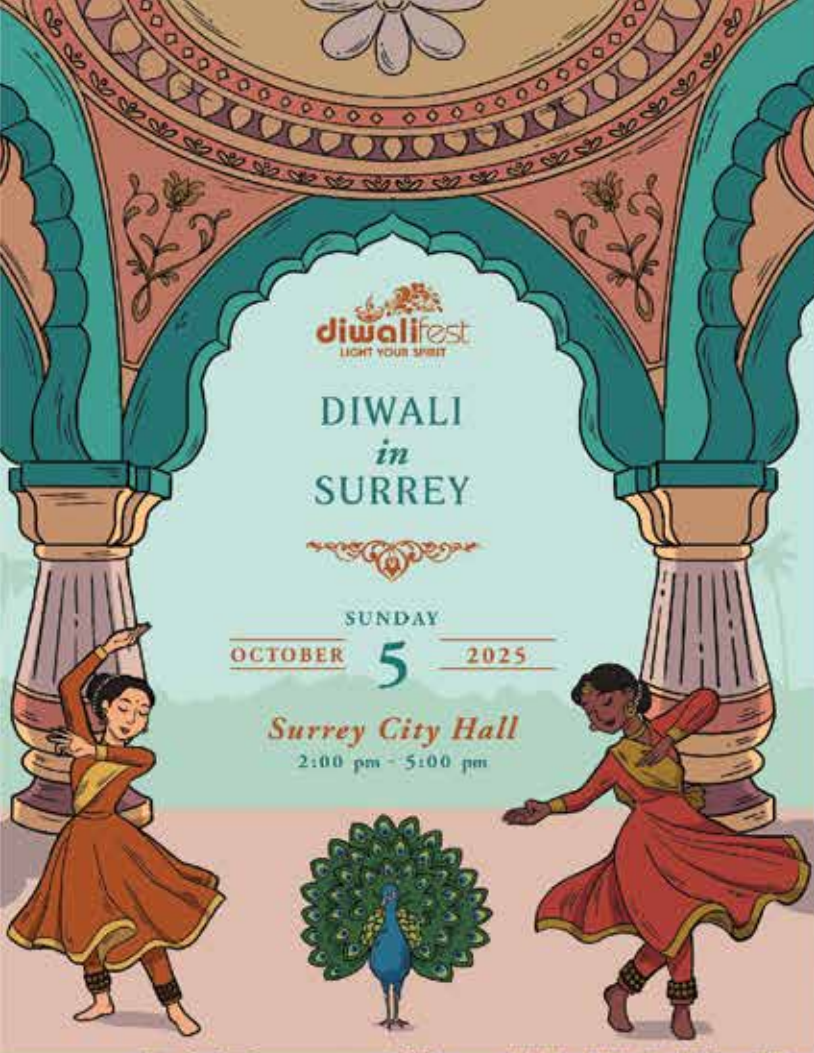
We are immensely grateful to our artist partners, funders, sponsors, volunteers and community partners for their efforts to make our celebrations possible. We look forward to welcoming you and your loved ones to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

We have created themed activity and colouring pages for our little audience members in this program guide to take home as a keepsake.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Board, Staff and Advisors: Ashwani Narwani, Kriti Dewan, Sahil Bhrany, Gurdeep Birdi, Nishant Sharma, Vishad Deeplaul, Ankit Tuli, Bilal Quereshi, Chirag Vesuvala, Anudeep Narang, Karan Narang, Pavneet Singh Kochhar, Pavan Avinashi, Sam Thiara, Luca Palladino, Simran Sekhon, Lovekumar Doshi, Alexey Kozlov & Aryan Doshi for their contributions to our organization.

With warm wishes for a radiant and joyous Diwali!

Diwali Fest Board of Directors





DIWALI
at
TSAWWASSEN MILLS

FRIDAY
OCTOBER **17** 2025

5000 Canoe Pass Way
4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Presented in partnership with:
TSAWWASSEN
MILLS
CENTRAL MALL



DIWALI
at
MARINE GATEWAY

SATURDAY
OCTOBER **18** 2025

450 SW Marine Drive
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Presented in partnership with:
MARINE
gateway
EVENTS





ODLUM BROWN
Investing for Generations®

Odlum Brown is proud to be a Platinum Sponsor of Diwali Fest

Wealth means something different to everyone, and Odlum Brown has been helping clients achieve their personal financial goals for over 100 years. A fully independent Canadian investment firm, we work closely with you to understand your full wealth picture, integrating investment advice and financial planning expertise* to make a meaningful difference for you.

► **Let us help you.** Visit odlumbrown.com or call 604 669 1600 to learn why generations have trusted us with their financial futures.

Waterstone
CANADA'S
**MOST
ADMIRABLE**
CORPORATE
CULTURES

**CANADA BEST
MANAGED
COMPANIES**
Platinum member

ODLUMBROWN.COM

*Odlum Brown Financial Services Limited (OBFSL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Odlum Brown Limited offering life insurance products as well as tax, retirement, estate and financial planning services exclusively to Odlum Brown clients.

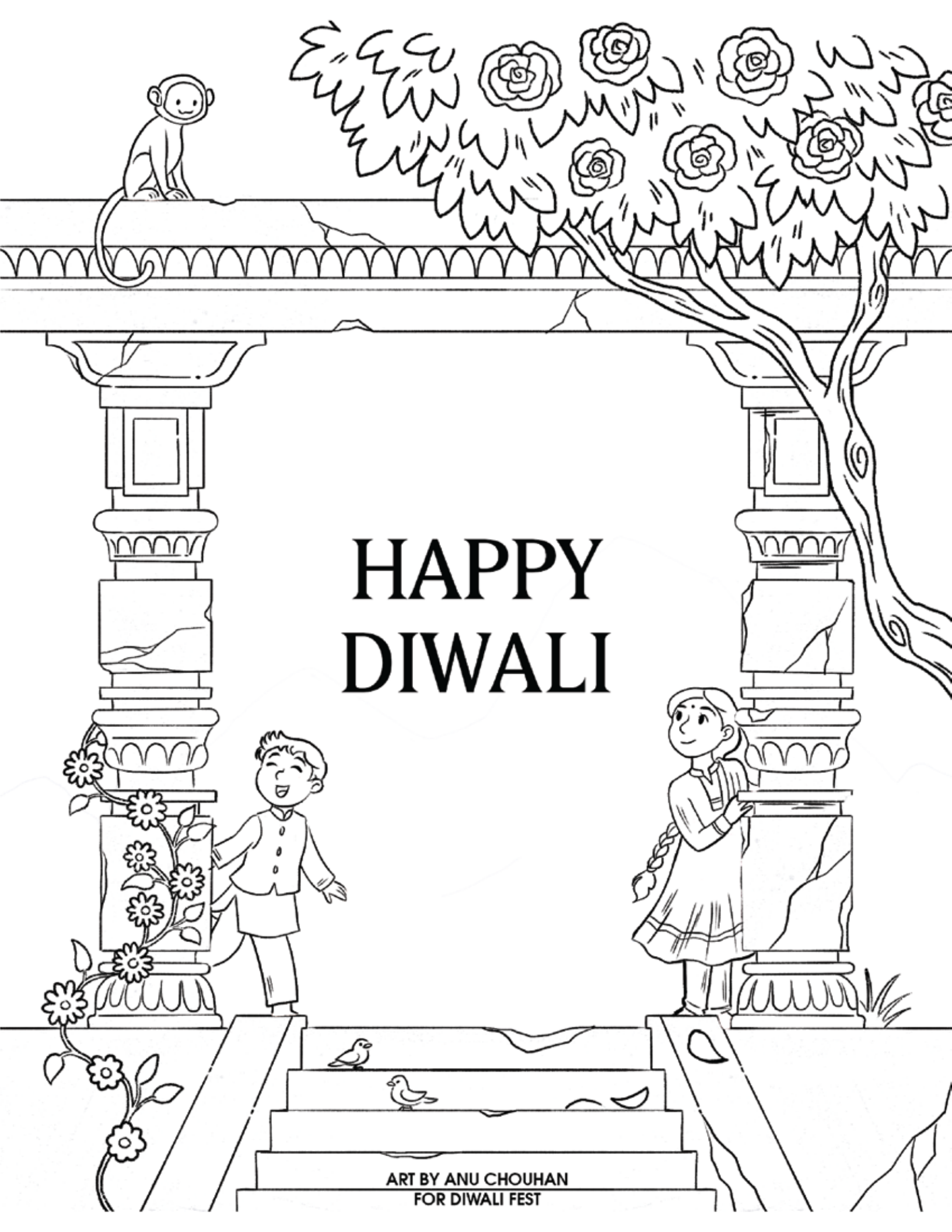
Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund





HAPPY DIWALI

ART BY ANU CHOUHAN
FOR DIWALI FEST

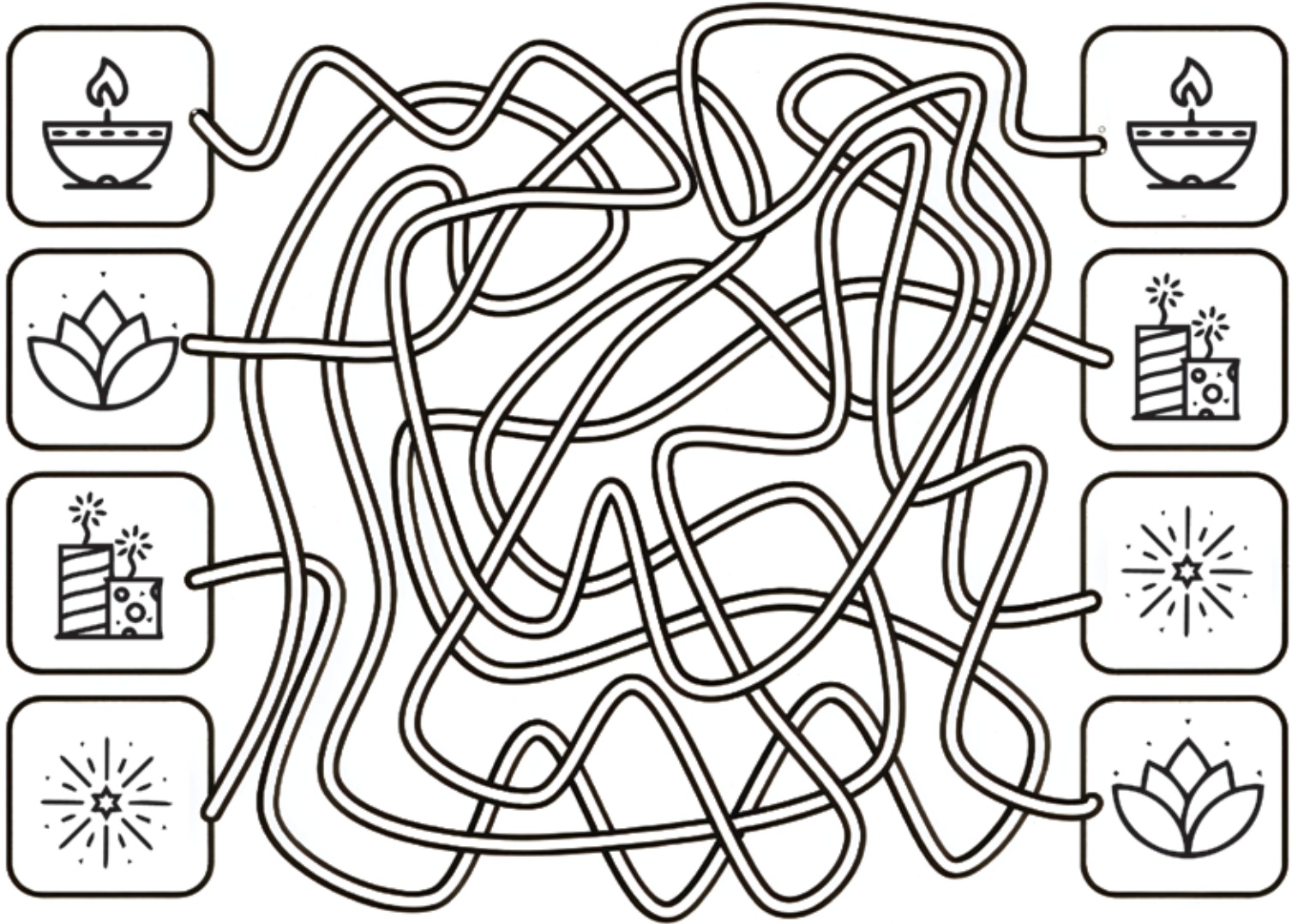


HAPPY DIWALI

ART BY ANU CHOUHAN
FOR DIWALI FEST



DIWALI MAZE



DIWALI WORD SEARCH

C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	H	D
R	R	S	W	E	E	T	S	H	I	S
L	I	G	H	T	S	O	D	W	A	T
C	R	Y	L	D	A	S	A	R	W	N
E	V	R	O	V	U	L	R	T	I	A
E	H	D	S	D	I	Y	A	Q	S	Y
R	R	A	N	G	O	L	I	I	H	Y
D	U	C	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L
E	H	E	D	D	A	T	A	B	C	I

WISH

RANGOLI

CELEBRATE

FESTIVAL

SWEETS

LIGHTS

DIYA

DIWALI

LEMFI

International Payments
For **Everyone**

Send money to India at **Best Rates**

**Get 10% Cashback
upto \$50**

the first time you send
\$100 or more to India*

Use the referral code

DIWALIV

*Terms and conditions apply

Scan to download



GET IT ON
Google Play



Download on the
App Store

Send money to



@uselemfi

W: www.lemfi.com

E: support@lemfi.com

TOYOTA *Get in* & Go



PRIUS PLUG-IN HYBRID XSE PREMIUM



VISIT [SHOPTOYOTA.CA](https://shoptoyota.ca)

**PACIFIC
TOYOTA
DEALERS**





WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS

Funded by the
Government
of Canada



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



PLATINUM SPONSORS



PACIFIC
TOYOTA
DEALERS



ODLUM BROWN
Investing for Generations®



Remitly™

GOLD SPONSOR



EVENT PARTNERS



MEDIA AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



DailyHive



WWW.DIWALIFEST.CA

f facebook.com/diwalifest i @diwalifest X @diwalifest #diwalifest