



MEDIA RELEASE

City of Markham Pays Tribute to A.R. Rahman during 100 Years of Indian Cinema Celebration

Academy Award Winner Celebrates with Mayor Scarpitti and Markham Council

MARKHAM, ON – November 5, 2013 – At a special community celebration with Academy Award winner A.R. Rahman in attendance, Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Council announced the City of Markham is recognizing the cultural and economic importance of a century of Indian Cinema by naming a street after A.R. Rahman.

A.R. Rahman has won two Academy Awards for his work on *Slumdog Millionaire* (Best Song and Best Score). He's also worked on over 100 Indian Cinema productions as well as Hollywood Movies like *127 Hours* and *Couples Retreat*, and released numerous CD releases. Among his interesting collaborations is being a member of SuperHeavy with Mick Jagger and contributing to a remake of "We Are the World" with Barbara Streisand, Celine Dion and others.

A.R. Rahman has been called "one of the world's great living composers in any medium" and "the Mozart of Madras". He's been listed in "TIME 100: The World's Most Influential People" and earned a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Indian Film Academy, where it was said he's revolutionized Indian music more than any other person and put Indian cinema on the global map.

Mayor Scarpitti unveiled a Markham street sign in tribute of A.R. Rahman in front of an audience of over 200 people at the Vedic Cultural Centre, saying, "The City of Markham is honoured to celebrate 100 years of Indian Cinema with A.R. Rahman and International Indian Film Festival Toronto."

Mayor Scarpitti added, "Music is a global unifier, and A.R. Rahman's work in particular has been extraordinary in bringing people together and enhancing art and culture. We're proud to have hosted A.R. Rahman in Markham and pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to him."

A.R. Rahman and the International Indian Film Festival Toronto (IIFFT) selected Markham as their host venue to celebrate 100 years of Indian Cinema in reflection of Markham being Canada's most diverse city.

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See photos below.

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Photo:

A.R. Rahman accepts City of Markham Street Naming from Mayor Frank Scarpitti



Photo (L-R):

Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Mrs. Reeti Mishra

A.R. Rahman

Consul General of India in Canada Akhilesh Mishra

Executive Director of IFFT Malik Ahmad

About Markham: Markham, a municipality with more than 320,000 residents centrally located in the Greater Toronto area, is home to 400 corporate head offices and 900 high tech and life science companies. Founded in the 1790s, today Markham is Canada's most diverse community, enjoys a rich heritage, outstanding community planning and services, and a vibrant local economy. Markham has received the Excellence Canada PEP III Integrated and Accessibility Awards, and multiple heritage and environmental awards.