

### **Innovation Through Community**



### June Newsletter

30/06/2025

#### Welcome!

Whether you're a new member or a long-time supporter, we're excited to welcome you to the Arab Tech Collective (ATC) and introduce to you our monthly newsletter. Our newsletter will be your guide to all things tech, community, and culture in the collective and beyond—highlighting upcoming events, exciting opportunities, and important news within our growing community.

Each month, we'll keep you updated on everything you need to know, from emerging tech trends, guest speakers, career resources, and more! If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, and Discord to stay connected.

#### - The ATC Team

### Summer Sahra's are so Back!













We kicked off our first summer sahra at Haraz Coffee House, and even with the last-minute venue change and soaring temperatures, we had 50-60 of you whose energy, laughter, and joy made it an unforgettable evening.

These sahras were born out of a simple idea: to create a space for our community to gather beyond work and the hustle of everyday life—to connect, unwind, and grow closer across companies, cities, and disciplines. Whether you're rooted here in the U.S. or carrying a piece of home from elsewhere, these gatherings ground us in tradition while leaving space to form new ones.

As our sahras continue to grow in size and spirit, we're reminded that no matter what life brings, we show up for each other, and that's what makes this community so special.

# **Spotlight: Harmony SOS**

In the Palestinian communities in 48' Palestine, there are no sirens or shelters and in the rare cases that there are, the Palestinian population gets locked out or worse. So when least attacked Iran recently, and sirens rang out, for many in Arab communities, these shelters were locked, repurposed, or simply inaccessible. This reality pushed Mahdi Kabaha and a small group of volunteers to act fast. Within days, they built and launched a digital platform that maps out available shelters or less dangerous areas, giving people a sense of safety and control amid chaos.

The tool has already made a difference. One woman shared how, after receiving a missile alert, she quickly found a nearby shelter using the site-something that now helps her feel safer commuting to and from work. The initiative has faced some roadblocks, from municipalities refusing to open public shelters to the financial strain from volunteers who are funding the project themselves. Regardless, the team still presses on, with an app on the way and a growing user base.

At its heart, this project is a story of community stepping in where the state failed. It's about ensuring that all citizens have access to safety and about building systems of care when official ones fall short.

**Learn More:** <u>Harmonysos.com</u>

# We want to hear from you!



Have a minute? We'd love your feedback through a quick member survey. This helps ensure we are concentrating on the things that matter to our community.

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## Prioritize Your Deen with Deencal

# Keep your focus on what counts: your prayers

This is a free, adaptable micro-app that (privately) uses your location to add precise prayer times to your calendar, allowing you to plan your day around what truly matters; *ibadah*.

Submitted through our *Call to Publish* by third-year software student, Shadi El-Fares, who was balancing a packed schedule of work and extracurriculars, DeenCal was created out of a personal need: to stay grounded in prayer amid the fast-paced rhythm of Canadian life. This simple yet powerful tool integrates accurate prayer times directly into your Google, Apple, or Outlook calendar, helping users center their day around their deen—not the other way around. Built with the Arab Tech Collective in mind, DeenCal is for anyone looking to maintain spiritual discipline in the midst of modern-day chaos.

Explore the app: deencal.com

## We Need Your Help!



We are looking for contacts for student STEAM related groups at Universities. We want to start organizing more in-person events across Universities, starting in NY but expanding slowly across the US and beyond. If you happen to be apart of such a group, or know someone who'd be interested in collaborating, let us know!

**AND** we are looking for philanthropy work to do this Summer as a group. If you know of any group volunteer opportunities (e.g. park cleanup, soup kitchen, clothing drive) reach out to us!

# **Upcoming Events!**



If you'd like to stay informed about upcoming events, we post regularly on IG, LinkedIn, Discord, and Slack. If you'd like to host an event in your city or promote one, we recommend reaching out in our Discord or Slack, we have a growing number of local channels.

For July office hours, feel free to schedule time on our calendar here: <a href="https://calendly.com/arabtechcollective/30min">https://calendly.com/arabtechcollective/30min</a>

Below are our upcoming events or events we will be attending. We will post more details closer to each one:

- July TBA ERG Sync, Virtual
- July TBA Summer Sahra, New York City

## Call to Publish!



We are now accepting requests from our members, subscribers, and allies who would like to publish content on our Newsletter, Socials, or Community spaces!

If you have any articles, news, events, announcements, or content that you'd like to broadcast, let us know. You can submit requests below.

**Submit Content** 







