

CONCEPT NOTE:

REVERBERATE THE SHIFTS

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Behala or Bahulapur, meaning 'land of many rivers', has geographical proximity to the Sunderbans, the largest habitable mangrove delta forest in the world, many waterways have enroute through Bengal in India and Bangladesh.

It is said to be the residential conglomeration of small villages in West Bengal, India. Due to its fertile land, water and rail transport system, settlement in this area, dates back to late 12th century and with railways from 1917 onwards but it is believed urbanization in this area happened after the partition of India. Many factories and warehouses flourished bringing in more people in the area. Presently, it is densely populated old industrial and residential area.

With 'Time' there are 'Shifts' that happens in most places in the world. Behala, has periodically gone through many such shifts with time be it geographically, demographically and economically. Hence, the question arises - What are the shifts that are still vibrating through the lives of the people living and breathing in this area? Who/what has been witness to the changes- in terms of home, identity, shared territories, heritage, landscape and ecology?

For Behala Art Fest 2024, the project, Reverberate the Shifts for Behala Art Fest 2024 aims to focus on three major aspects which will reverberate the shifts, - The Ecology (land, water, air); The Health (mental health, physical health), and The Shared Territories (Water, Rail and Road transport system).

Spanning over 3-4 months (June-September), this project hopes to critically explore and formulate the process by selected group/individual creative practitioners (visual artists, architects, photographers, filmmakers, interdisciplinary artists and social art practitioners) in collaboration with local establishments, local community and students. A lens of public interventions and interaction, explored through interactive reading sessions, onsite/offsite workshops, screening, storytelling. Finally a culmination of process driven project at the site of Behala Art Fest.