



A contemporary artist residency, dance and performance center,
for Martha's Vineyard and beyond

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Dear Chilmark Selectmen,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Yard to request the Community Center rental fee be waived for an event we are hosting on February 22nd from 7pm-10pm at the Chilmark Community Center. The Yard is excited to offer a Dance Hall event with the nationally recognized Brooklyn-based ethnic band, **Red Baraat**. RB is a South Asian, diasporic bhangra, horns (including the majestic sousaphone) and funk ensemble. Or as NPR's *All Songs Considered* stated: "Imagine a New Orleans street band playing Indian Bollywood tunes with a go-go beat — you can't? Then just listen, because your day is about to get better. It's a crazy blast of fun." Here is a [clickable](#) glimpse, courtesy of NPR's *Tiny Desk Concerts*: [Red Baraat at NPR](#)

Dance Halls have been a popular, participatory community gathering for The Yard since they began in the summer of 2012. You do not need to be a professional dancer to take the floor! The Yard is committed to having a presence in the Vineyard community during the winter months through year round school programs, adult class offerings, and performances through the series WINTER YARD. This Dance Hall is part of the 2019 WINTER YARD season and highlights a band that sparked interest with islanders when they performed at The Yard's annual benefit this past summer (Jonathan Mayhew and family were present, if you'd like a review)..

Dance Hall tickets are \$15.00 and \$5.00 for children under 12 and no one will be turned away if they do not have the funds to cover the fee. The Yard is exploring ways to connect Red Baraat with MVYRadio and local musicians to deepen the engagement. All fees surrounding paying the band, travel costs to and from the island, and refreshments for attendees are covered by The Yard. We hope you will consider these costs when discussing at the selectmen's meeting. We would greatly appreciate the town's support with making this event possible for islanders and The Yard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jesse Keller Jason
Director of Island Programs
and Education

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