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Meet your like minds in art

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CHENNAI: If you're a creative professional just starting out, chances are that you're scouting for a few basic step-ups -- arts and culture opportunities, residencies, workshops and jobs. And as a way to provide answers to these challenges, Arts and Culture Resources India (ACRI), a volunteer-driven initiative, will bring to Chennai a networking and culture meet on August 1. The meet is aimed at connecting creative professionals to sectors other than the one they primarily work in and finding collaborators for projects they are either working on or looking to start. They can learn something about new trends and share their expertise in their area of work. There will be close to 60 participants.

"This translates to three key areas: networking, collaborations and knowledge sharing, which are vital to building a career in the creative sector. We felt that we would contribute to ongoing efforts of developing support infrastructure in the industry and growing the creative and cultural ecosystem as a whole," says Rashmi Dhanwani, who co-founded ACRI with Dipti Rao.

The initiative started in 2013 when Rashmi was researching on funding opportunities for postgraduate programmes in the arts. She found that there was no platform that provided information on available resources for aspirants. And so ACRI started as a Facebook page, which today has grown to include more than 45,000 members from across the globe.

"By taking these meets to various cities across India, we're trying to not only create a platform in these locations but also eventually network across cities," says Dipti.

ACRI's culture meet in Chennai will take place at Ashvita Bistro from 5.30pm to 8pm on August 1.