

# President's arts policy builds bridges



The late president Ebrahim Raisi (2nd-R) and his minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili (C) stand alongside veteran actors of Iran in a meeting on March 15, 2024.



*When president Raisi's government got to work, one of the most pressing concerns for some Iranians was the potential closure of the culture and art arena and the subsequent construction of metaphorical walls between various groups of individuals. However, the issue of culture and art was addressed with great consideration. Throughout the tenure of the previous government, led by the late president Ebrahim Raisi, there were numerous achievements that demonstrated a renewed emphasis on culture and art, an area of concern that had perhaps previously been largely neglected. During his tenure, supporting artists, promoting Iranian art, and elevating the quality of artistic expression were identified as key priorities, and a series of comprehensive measures were implemented to ensure their realization.*

*Governing fields of art, cinema, theater, and music were fraught with an intricate network of challenges throughout the past three years when the previous government was in office. Nevertheless, upon reflection, it becomes clear that the efforts at the management of these cultural and artistic realms can be commended as the preservation of the principles of Iran's Islamic Revolution remained a cornerstone of such efforts. This attention to the principles resulted in a thriving cultural landscape that can be deemed admirable despite facing the most stringent cultural boycott project ever orchestrated by hostile entities.*

*For all the concerted efforts of enemy forces and their pawns within the country to promote an all-encompassing boycott of cultural and artistic events, the previous government was able to triumphantly host the Fajr film and theater festivals, as well as facilitate the organization of numerous concerts in Tehran and other provinces, coupled with film screenings. Under these challenging conditions, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance adopted a management strategy aimed at preventing societal polarization and division, thereby achieving its objective of preserving the rich cultural heritage of the nation.*

Special Issue  
on Passing of  
President Seyyed  
Ebrahim Raisi and  
his companions