

Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-30.26.2023.00008

Section-1: Identification of the element

Heritage Location

Division

Dhaka

District

Dhaka

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

23.4583

Geolocation(Longitude)

90.5417

Community Category

Artists

Community

Urban

Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)

The lost wax process of making brass sculptures

Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)

Metal Crafting is one of the oldest traditions in Bangladesh. The artisans of the Dhamrai area practice four traditional handmade processes, lost wax method, clay casting, sand casting and hammering.

Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)

Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced

A 5000 years old tradition survives in 30 villages around Dhamrai and can be traced back to the Pala Dynasty (800-1100 AD), during which time both early Buddhist and Hindu settlements once flourished. It is also known as a 'Workshop of Metal Arts and Crafts in Dhamrai'.

Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)

In Dhamrai, previously, there were over 200 workshops, but now only around 10 workshops remain. Metal crafts have been a traditional profession in this area for generations, dating back to ancient times. Skilled artisans and sculptors in Dhamrai created magnificent metal craft masterpieces that were renowned for their design, details, and workmanship.

The metal art primarily served as a means for Hindus and Buddhists to express their religious and social beliefs. Dhamrai and its surrounding region were known as centers of metal crafts, with nearly every family involved in this art form, utilizing unique techniques that have been passed down for 2000 years. These metal objects ranged from everyday items to religious idols, representing not only unique artworks but also a centuries-old tradition of craftsmanship. Unfortunately, the number of artisans in this trade has significantly declined, with only about five families remaining. The lost-wax casting technique, dating back thousands of years, was used to create intricate works in metal sculpture. While this traditional craft industry once thrived in Dhamrai, it has faced challenges and is now carried on by a few dedicated families amidst adversity.

▢ Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- ☐ Oral Traditions and Expressions
- ☐ Performing Arts
- ☐ Social Customs and Traditions
- ☐ Knowledge and Practices related to Nature and Universe
- ☐ Traditional Craftsmanship
- ☐ Food

▢ Section-2: Characteristics of the element

▢ Practitioner(s)/performer(s) directly involved in the representation or practice of the Heritage (including roles, name, age, gender, social status, and/or professional category etc.)

▢ Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles))

▢ Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved

▢ Associated tangible elements used (if any)

▢ How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage?

▢ Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage

▢ Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any)

▢ Modes of transmission to others in the community

▢ Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

▢ Section-3: State of the element (viability)

▢ Threats to the enactment

□ Enactment Threats Description

□ Threats to the transmission (if any)

□ Threat to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)

□ Viability of associated intangible elements (if any)

□ Have been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)

□ Section-4: Data gathering/documentation, Consent and preparation of inventory entries



□ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

□ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any)

□ Section-5: Resource Person



□ Data provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)

□ Date of data collection

□ Place(s) of data collection

□ Section-6: Safeguarding techniques



□ Existing safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage

□ Suggestions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community

□ Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives



□ References to/in literature

□ Audiovisual materials or archives

☐ Discography or archives

☐ Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry

☐ Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)

☐ Date of Community Consent

19-06-2020

☐ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

☐ Present Condition of Heritage

☐ Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)

☐ Section-9: Community suggestions

☐ Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/holders, (if any)

☐ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).

☐ Section-10: Upload Document

Heritage Images

