## Arab American Stories – Episode 103
### Nawal Motawi
Founder, Motawi Tileworks

**Grade Level** 9-12

**Episode Overview:**

In this episode students hear from Nawal Motawi, founder of Motawi Tileworks, as she shares what it is like to build a business, work as an entrepreneur, and turn your passion into a career.  Students are taken on a tour of the Motawi Tileworks factory, where they see the intricate process of creating handcrafted art tiles.  Students explore the concept of art tile in installations and murals that Motawi has created for public institutions.  Nawal Motawi shares how she feels fortunate to live in America at a time when there is freedom and possibility for women entrepreneurs.

**Previewing Questions:**
1. What is an entrepreneur?
2. Do you know any business owners?  What are the benefits ofowning your own business?  What is challenging about owning your own business?
3. Can you make your passion into your career?

**Vocabulary:**
1. Entrepreneur:  A person who organizes, launches and operates a business or businesses, often taking on financial risk to do so.
2. Glazing:  Applying a coating over previously painted areas to modify the original color.
3. Kiln:  A furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying, especially one for calcining (stet) lime or firing pottery.
4. Motif:  an idea, subject, or image that is regularly repeated and developed in a work of art
5. Relief Tile: Tiles bearing a raised design; the design is formed when plastic clay or dust clay is pressed into a mold.

**Lesson Overview/Review:**
After viewing the segment on Nawal Motawi students should be prepared to discuss the concept of entrepreneurism and choosing a career that is in line with their talents and passion.

**Post-viewing Class discussion:**
After viewing the segment, consider the following questions:
1. Why does Nawal Motawi state that she is unemployable?
2. Why would some people choose to be entrepreneurs?  The definition of an entrepreneur includes the word risk.  What is the risk associated with being an entrepreneur?  Are certain personalities more suited to taking on that risk?
3. Have you ever seen a tile art or mosaic tile art installation?  Is there one in this school or neighborhood?
4. What is your hobby, talent or passion?  How can you make it your career?
5. Nawal states that she is "fortunate to live in America at this time."  What is it about America that makes the possibility of starting a business more accessible than other countries?

# Teacher/Viewing Guide

**Journal option:** Ask students to respond to the following: Think like an entrepreneur. What is your passion? What business would you like to launch? Write a business plan that includes:

- The name of your business
- What service you will offer or what your business concept is
- How many people you will employ
- Location/hours
- Benefit your business will provide to the community

**Activity**: Using either online mosaic builders or paper and glue, students can explore the geometric shapes and symmetry behind the complex mosaic designs of art tile work. Sites such as http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/mosaic/index.htm and other online mosaic building tools allow students to explore shape, design and color. Have students work in pairs to create a mosaic design and identify the various geometric patterns and shapes within their work.

**Explore online:** Use the following resources to allow your students to further explore the topic and the Arab American community.

1. http://www.annarbor.com/entertainment/ann-arbor-district-library-motawi/
2. http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/140006815
3. http://www.americanarab.com/

**Interdisciplinary Options**   Art, Design, Business, Career Education, Math (Geometry)

**Common Core Alignment**

- GCO  Make formal geometric constructions with a variety of tools and methods (compass and straightedge, string, reflective devices, paper folding, dynamic geometric software, etc.) Copying a segment; copying an angle; bisecting a segment; bisecting an angle; constructing perpendicular lines, including the perpendicular bisector of a line segment; and constructing a line parallel to a given line through a point not on the line.
- W7  Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.