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PPAN Programs

1- 2019 Showcase



The Palestinian Performing Arts Network organized the "PPAN Showcase 2019" on December 3, 2019 at Birzeit University in partnership with the Deanship of Student Affairs at Birzeit University. The event was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Consulate General in Jerusalem.



The 2019 Showcase aimed to support youth performing arts initiatives, which were supported through the PPAN "Initiatives Program 2019". It also gave an opportunity for university students; interested in the performing arts, to showcase their artistic creativity, and motivate them to work on a creative artistic future that enhances the national and cultural identity and Palestinian heritage. The Showcase included various artistic performances in circus, dance, theatre and music, both indoor and outdoor, throughout different areas of the university. The event attracted university students, the general public, and a number of cultural artistic institutions among which were all PPAN member institutions. New artists and artistic groups/bands and new performing arts productions were

highlighted, and potential new networking relations were exchanged and identified to support and further develop their artistic capacities through the network programs and its members.

PPAN Showcase 2019 – Gaza



PPAN launched its annual Showcase in Gaza on December 10, 2019. The event included performances by artists and bands who were supported through the "2019 Initiative Program" throughout the Gaza Strip. The event targeted children through various performances including; puppet shows, theatre performances, circus shows, in interactive learning and awareness sessions. The event also targeted the general public through performances in music, theatre and a Dabkeh performance by Al-Anqa' Troupe.

2- 2019 Initiatives Program



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

PPAN implemented the "2019 Initiatives Program" that was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The program included 22 various initiatives, among which 13 were implemented in different geographic areas in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and 9 in Gaza Strip.



The West Bank initiatives included PPAN's contribution to covering a part of 3 festivals costs, circus production tour shows, a tour of narration and storytelling production, in addition to trainings in the drama field and the theatrical comedy that were followed by performances in different locations in the West Bank. The network also contributed to covering the costs of setting up a circus club, contributed to the cost of puppets and stories project; which aimed at enhancing social integration through art. In addition, the 2019 Initiative Program covered the cost of a project which documents and archives popular and folk songs of the Bethlehem governorate. This collection will be made available to all interested artists, musicians and groups. PPAN also covered the full cost of a new music production, as well as the cost of producing a new music album that was followed by a performance tour.



The 2019 initiatives that were implemented in Gaza Strip included covering the expenses and tours of 5 theatrical productions, a puppet training workshop and a puppet show tour in Gaza. PPAN also supported children drama workshops and tours for the plays.



As for circus initiatives that were supported in Gaza Strip, PPAN supported a project aimed at improving children's mental state through drama circus, as well as a series of circus shows that targeted children in schools and kindergartens. Finally, PPAN partially covered the costs associated with the training space and capacity building development for "Al-Anqa'a" Dabkeh Group.

3- Capacity Building

PPAN organized a training workshop titled "Developing the skills of using Microsoft Excel and building cultural projects budgets".



The workshop was held between 24+25 September 2019 in Ramallah and was attended by participants who represented over 35 cultural and art institutions from various governorates in the West Bank. It should be mentioned that the workshop was organized based on the recommendations and outcomes of the PPAN Development Needs Assessment Study.

Board of Directors Meetings

During the Board of Directors meetings of the second half of 2019, discussions focused on major topics such as: the PPAN Showcase 2019, PPAN International Showcase 2020, advocacy and lobbying issues focused on the issue of taxes imposed on Palestinian artists and cultural artistic institutions. The BoD members were also involved in preparing for official meetings with the Minister of Culture as well as networking with other institutions in the sector and holding meetings with current and potential donors.

PPAN Meetings with Different Parties

- Tax policies and the taxes imposed on art and culture institutions and on artists in Palestine

On the 2nd of October 2019, PPAN held a meeting at the Popular Art Center with several institutions from the performing arts sector, to discuss tax policies and the taxes imposed on art and culture institutions and on artists in Palestine. This sectoral meeting was organized to update the sector of the outcomes of several meetings and dialogue sessions held previously with the Ministry of Culture (MOC) and the network.



The sector meeting encompassed an overview on the applicable tax laws in Palestine, and an explanation of how the government benefited from the taxes imposed on the different professions in Palestine. The participants agreed on preliminary steps, namely documenting the impact of the tax law in a systemic and clear manner to use it as a reference for future steps.

After the meeting, a letter was sent to the Minister of Culture, requesting the cancellation of taxes imposed on Palestinian art and culture institutions and artists. The follow up sessions which followed as a result of PPAN's efforts, led to the reduction of Value Added (VAT) Tax imposed on artists and art institutions vis-à-vis grants awarded by the Ministry. PPAN considers this decision a first step, within the framework of a strategy that aims at realizing the sector's demands. PPAN will continue to advocate and lobby in the hope of altering laws and policies affecting individual artists and art and cultural organizations in general.

- PPAN meeting with the beneficiaries of the 2019 Initiative Program

Last October 2019, PPAN held a meeting with the institutions and artists who received support through the 2019 Initiatives Program in the West Bank and Jerusalem. The meeting aimed to prepare for the "2019 Showcase", whose theme was presenting new artworks of young art institutions and individuals, and creating room for networking with other institutions active in the sector. During the meeting, participants discussed the details of the implemented initiatives and the 2019 Showcase's draft agenda.

- Cultural Institutions' Meeting with the Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh

Representatives of PPAN member institutions and a number of representatives of other cultural and artistic institutions, attended a meeting held by Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh on December 31, 2019 at the Prime Minister's headquarters in Ramallah, in the presence of the Palestinian Minister of Culture Dr. Atef Abu Saif.



The meeting aimed to discuss some current issues in the artistic and cultural sector, including: the issue of conditional funding; especially with the European Union, the recent issues related to the freedom of expression and the protection of artists, the issue of taxes imposed on the cultural sector, and finally cultural and artistic communication with the Gaza Strip.

-Different Networking Events

PPAN held several networking meetings, including:



- Meeting between PPAN office and the programs director at the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), to exchange information about PPAN and PBC art and culture programs. Proposals for potential future programs were discussed, within the framework of PPAN's strategy and its media approach.



- A series of meetings between PPAN and different parties from Birzeit University, particularly within the framework of future partnerships and the preparations for 2019 PPAN Showcase.



- Meetings with partners including the Consulate General of Sweden in Jerusalem, Danish House, UNESCO, Drosos, European Union and SDC.

Participations

During the second half of 2019, PPAN's board, staff and member institutions, participated in several governmental and non-governmental meetings. These included:

- A meeting held by the Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (PNCECS) with PPAN and UNESCO last July 2019 to assess applications submitted to the UNESCO FUND.
- A meeting was held on October 1st, 2019 at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to discuss cultural projects implemented at schools.
- A meeting was held on October 3rd, 2019 with the Ministry of Culture to launch a study on cultural and developmental surveys.
- PPAN participated in a meeting held on October 19th, 2019 at the Royal Court Hotel in Ramallah, to discuss Ashtar's ten-year strategy.

Within the same context, PPAN also participated in several workshops, including:

- A launching workshop of the Joint European Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Palestine 2018-2020, held in Ramallah on October 7th, 2019, with the participation of the EU office and several Palestinian civil society organizations.
- A UNESCO workshop held in Ramallah on 17-21 November 2019 to introduce the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003.
- A meeting at A.M. Qattan Foundation held on December 14, 2019, which aimed at highlighting the experiences of the "Culture, Art and Community Participation" project implemented during the last four years (2016-2019).

What's New at PPAN?

- PPAN officially launched its new website - content, images and publications have all been updated.

<http://www.ppan.ps/>

- PPAN launched its 'About PPAN' video on its social media pages, including Facebook, Youtube and Instagram

<https://www.facebook.com/palestinepan/videos/482178445672967/>

- PPAN published the "Needs Assessment Study of Cultural Organizations" in both Arabic and English languages.

<..\..\Needs Assessment Study of Cultural Organizations.pdf>