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Palestinian Performing Arts Network First Conference 2017



The Palestinian Performing Arts Network held its first conference titled “*The Impact of Arts on Communities/Societies*” between November 29 to December 1 2017 at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh. The conference aimed to highlight art as a tool for influencing societies at various levels; social, political, economic and educational.



The conference, the first of its kind at the national level, witnessed wide local and international participation. Representatives from the culture, civil society, public and private sector were also in attendance both as participants and audience members.



The speakers, both local and international, used the conference to address many interventions in the field of performing arts, including but not limited to; theatre as a tool of social change, art as a tool and a means of defending rights, children's ability to make positive social change, “Dabkeh” as a cognitive perspective and a social development approach, the resistance of Native Americans - art as a catalyst of advocacy, independent art production as a laboratory of creating an effective directional dialogue between the public and the artists, heritage as an engine for the development of identity, and various other artistic subjects.

The conference sessions consisted of panel discussions between speakers and attendees, as well as dialogue and round tables and group work for all participants. Conference themes were discussed in depth with the aim of contributing to the Palestinian cultural sector national strategy. These themes included: culture and arts in the national project and strategic planning and art as a tool to promote freedom of expression and defend the general freedoms of artists. The conference also included presentations from local, regional and international networks, in addition to the networking of topics, ideas and future projects. The conference included a session for presenting success stories and experiences of local, regional and international artistic organizations. Each session ended with an interactive working group which suggested recommendations.

The PPAN conference also witnessed evening events and performances from PPAN member organizations. These included an event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Popular Art Centre, which was held at the Ramallah Cultural Palace; as well as two theatre performances by Ashtar Theatre and Al Harah Theatre, titled “Oranges & Stones and “Meramieh” respectively.

The 2017 PPAN conference was a great success as the overall feedback was strong and positive. The content of the conference established a starting point for future meetings that will continue to bridge cultural organizations with other private, governmental and civil society organizations. The network will continue to implement annual events to keep the Palestinian cultural sector on the local, national, regional and international agendas.

Building upon the success of the conference, various meetings and follow-up sessions will be held, including the preparation of a booklet which will highlight presentations, discussions and important questions that were discussed during the timeframe of the conference. The booklet will also include recommendations made during the conference which will serve the national strategic plan. Once the booklet has been prepared, it will be shared with all Palestinian cultural organizations and other relevant parties.

PPAN Board of Directors and PPAN Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting

PPAN Board of Directors met on four occasions during the second half of 2017. During these meetings, a number of topics were discussed, specifically, the arrangements for PPAN’s first conference, whereby a preparatory committee was set up to follow up on all matters relating to the conference. The Board also approved the recommendations made by the “Al-Wafa” internal audit report. In addition, the BOD agreed to re-engage with Deloitte & Touche for the implementation of the 2017 external audit.

During this reporting period, the board members and the executive staff of the network prepared PPAN’s booklet which will be published in 2018. The booklet includes information about the network; its institutionalization, history, vision, mission, strategic objectives, board of directors and staff. It also includes

information about the network's program: "Performing Arts is a Right and an Entitlement", as well as an overview of the 2017 Initiative Program.

In order to finalize outstanding issues, an extraordinary meeting of PPAN's General Assembly was held on October 8, 2017. During the meeting, the network General Assembly discussed the network's membership criteria. It was agreed to appoint an external consultant to review the current membership criteria previously identified for the network's membership and build an evaluation tool for new members. Another important topic on the General Assembly's meeting agenda was the first PPAN Conference agenda, which was finally approved and adopted after some amendments by the attending members.

Networking between PPAN and Other Parties

PPAN's Chair, Iman Hammouri, participated in the "Arab Focus" showcase in Edinburgh that was organized by "Tamasi" Regional Network between 25–27 August, 2017 at the Edinburgh International Festival. The festival included a large number of music bands and representatives of cultural and artistic organizations. During her presentation, Hammouri, discussed the importance of the Palestinian Performing Arts Network, and the role it plays in the Palestinian cultural sector.

A meeting was held between PACBI and PPAN at the office of PNGO Network on August 8, 2017. The meeting, which was attended by some of the network's member organizations, aimed to discuss the issue of raising awareness and interest of the community on the standards established by PACBI for the academic and cultural boycott of Israel, as well as to strengthen PACBI's work with cultural organizations in the sector.

In another context, within the framework of the agreement between PPAN, UNESCO and the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, a meeting was held between PPAN and the Palestinian National Committee for Education, Culture and Science on September 12, 2017. The meeting aimed to discuss the suggested implementation of training workshops for cultural organizations through a joint program between PPAN and PNCECS. The training will focus on

strengthening proposal writing skills associated with the UNESCO annual Fund. Accordingly, a joint concept note was presented to UNESCO with the purpose of securing funding for the abovementioned trainings.

Developmental needs assessment study of cultural organizations

PPAN prepared a developmental needs assessment study for cultural organizations during the period of January to April 2017. The study aimed to identify the needs of cultural organizations in the field of capacity development, and the most important issues affecting the work of these organizations, and thus enabling the network to draw up a realistic plan to match their needs as part of PPAN's objective to contribute to the capacity development in the field of performing arts. The study began with a survey of the organizations that met the criteria based on the list of cultural organizations registered with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, which included 219 cultural organizations. Then, in cooperation with some of PPAN's member organizations, two workshops were held. The 1st workshop was attended by a number of cultural organizations from the southern area and the 2nd was attended by cultural organizations from the northern area. Regarding the cultural organizations of the middle area, they were contacted through telephone and personal interviews. In the Gaza Strip, a joint video conference meeting was held with Gaza cultural institutions at Sununu for Culture and Arts.

The workshops and interviews identified a number of issues that need to be developed and strengthened in order to increase their impact on the cultural and artistic field in the Palestinian society. The study's data has been analyzed and compiled and the recommendations will shape PPAN's direction in the implementation of training workshops for cultural organizations in the sector.

Based on the recommendations of the study, PPAN held a training workshop on report writing for its member organizations. The training, which was held on October 10-11, 2017 at the network office, targeted candidates from member organizations who are involved in report writing and the preparation of project proposals.

Implementation of a Joint Workshop between PPAN and the Danish House

Within the framework of the joint project titled “Enhancing Palestinian Journalistic Critique”, the Danish House, in cooperation with the Palestinian Performing Arts Network, held a specialized training workshop on the basics of journalistic critique during the period between December 10-15, 2017 in Ramallah. The aim of the project is to enhance and develop the skills of young journalists who are interested in the cultural sector, especially with regard to performing arts in Palestine.

The interactive training workshop was held by the Danish trainer, Klaus Vittos for five consecutive days, targeting journalists with experience in the field of culture in Palestine. The workshop included an explanation on the foundations of cultural journalistic critique, the methodology, and the role of journalists in the performing arts field. The participants of the training will attend several PPAN member events and performances and use their newly acquired skills to develop short critique pieces and reports.

Artistic Stations/ Gaza 2017

بصفتها رائدة الفنون الأدائية في فلسطين

شبكة
الفنون
الأدائية
الفلسطينية
Palestinian
Performing
Arts
Network

دعوة خاصة

تدعوكم شبكة الفنون الأدائية الفلسطينية PPAN للمشاركة في
الفعاليات الفنية "محطات فنية 3، الفنون الأدائية حق واستحقاق" يوم الأحد 17 ديسمبر 2017

بالتزامن مع اليوم العالمي لحقوق الإنسان 10 ديسمبر
وهو اليوم الثاني للحملة الدولية 16 يوم لهاضمة العنف ضد المرأة

تسعى شبكة الفنون الأدائية الفلسطينية PPAN التي تسليط الضوء
على أهمية قيم التعبير الحر وحقوق المرأة والطفل كجوهر ومضمون
الأعمال الفنية لأعضاء الشبكة والتي سيعرض بعض منها في الفعالية

جدول الفعالية

المكان: خشبة أيام المسرح الحائن في شارع الجلاء

الفترة الصباحية:
الفترة الزمنية: (9:00-11:00)
الأنشطة: عروض سيرك ترفيهية.

فترة الظهيرة
الفترة الزمنية: (12:00-4:00)
الأنشطة: مسرحية الروبوتية (أيام المسرح)، استعراض دبكة (فرقة العنقاء)
عرض موسيقي (معهد إدوارد سعيد الوطني للموسيقى)، عرض كورال (السننو للثقافة والفنون).

الفترة المسائية
المكان: جمعية الشبان المسيحية الحائن في شارع الجلاء
الفترة الزمنية: (4:30-7:00)
الأنشطة: حفل موسيقي من تقديم فرقة وتر وفرقة دواوين.

الدعوى من: Sverige (Sweden) | دعم من: [Logos of various organizations]

المؤسسات الممولة في الشراكة: أيام المسرح Theatre Day Productions

The 2017 PPAN cultural event in Gaza from December 14-17, 2017 coincided with International Women’s Day. The Gaza event aimed to highlight the importance of freedom of expression, recognition of women’s contribution to society, and empower the campaign to end violence against women.

The Gaza event was implemented by the network's members in Gaza, including, Theatre Day Productions and Edward Said National Conservatory of Music. In addition to PPAN members, the event was organized in cooperation with various performing arts groups and cultural organizations in Gaza, including, Al Sununu for Culture and Arts, Watar Band, Khataa Matbaee Band, and the Gaza Circus School.

The 2-day event was highlighted by theatre and musical workshops for children as well as an evening event open to the general public.

Full coordination, logistics and preparation was achieved thanks to the efforts of Theatre Day Productions staff in Gaza.

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Welcome to PPAN Mailing List Group



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