

## Newsletter 1 - 2018



### Contents:

- ◆ Board of Directors Meetings
- ◆ 2018 Annual General Assembly Meeting
- ◆ New Members and 2018 PPAN Membership
- ◆ Advocacy and Lobbying Campaign
- ◆ 2018 Initiatives
- ◆ 2018 PPAN Showcase
- ◆ Networking Meetings

## **Board of Directors Meetings**

PPAN's Board of Directors held five meetings during the first half of 2018. During these meetings, a number of major issues were addressed, including, the re-opening of the network membership window from 21 May – 21 July, final approval of the network's brochure and the developmental needs assessment study of cultural organizations (translation and printing), final approval of 2018 initiatives and agreement on the final date of the 2018 Network Showcase.

## **2018 Annual General Assembly Meeting**

PPAN's General Assembly held its annual meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2018 in Ramallah and it was attended by the General Assembly members and some guests of the network's member organizations. During the meeting, the 2017 administrative report was approved after presenting the network's achievements of 2017. These achievements include: completing the developmental needs assessment study of cultural organizations, preparing the final draft of PPAN's strategic plan 2017 – 2021, activating the network's M&E system, building the network's communication strategy, further developing PPAN's web site and e-portal and finally conducting an internal audit of the network by "Al-Wafa" company.



The 2017 financial audited report was also discussed and approved by the General Assembly after it had been presented by representatives of Deloitte during the meeting. The 2018 budget and work plan were also reviewed and approved by the General Assembly members, with an emphasis on the continuous linking between the strategic objectives of the existing PPAN strategy 2017-2021 and the action plan. During the meeting, Deloitte was selected as the external auditor of the network for 2018.



During the last part of the meeting, PPAN's external consultant, Mr. Shawkat Sarsour, presented documents pertaining to the revised membership criteria and means of nomination to benefit from PPAN's program funding. The members of the General Assembly approved the documents.

## **New Members and 2018 PPAN Membership**



After opening the window for the sector's organizations to apply for PPAN membership, both "The Popular Theatre Association" and "Wishah Popular Dance Troupe" were selected and approved for membership into the network by the Board of Directors. The General Assembly members approved membership of these organizations during the ordinary and extraordinary meetings held in 2017.

Regarding the opening of the new membership window for the current year 2018, the network welcomed new applications from the sectors' organizations between May 21 to July 21, 2018. This membership announcement was published in the local newspapers, as well as on the network's social media pages. It should be noted that all new applications must adhere to the recently amended membership criteria of the network. The applications will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and presented to the General Assembly for final selection during an extraordinary meeting to be held in the next few months.

### **Advocacy and Lobbying Campaign**

As part of its strategic plan from 2017-2021, and in the interest of the cultural sector in general, the network has begun to prepare for an advocacy and lobbying campaign, through the participation of its member organizations. On February 27, 2018 a meeting was held, attended by all the member organizations, to discuss the sectoral issues that need to be highlighted. The member organizations focused on some important issues that need to be included in the campaign: Tax Laws, highlighting the importance of arts and culture in media, the inclusion of arts and arts'

culture in the educational curriculum and finally the usage of public locations and spaces by cultural organizations.



As a result of the meeting, a special follow-up committee, composed of the network's staff and member organizations was established to implement the plan and campaign agenda.

### **2018 Initiatives**

For the second consecutive year, PPAN has launched a Call for Initiatives to support Palestinian artistic groups and institutions. This program aims to support artists and promote artistic production in performing arts throughout Palestine. In 2018 a total of twelve artistic and cultural Palestinian institutions, located in different geographic Palestinian areas submitted applications to the network. These applications were reviewed by the network staff, and approved by the BoD for immediate implementation during 2018.

2018 PPAN approved initiatives include:

#### **1- Bayader Theater Group/ Gaza**

The network will cover the costs of a theatrical production for young people under the age of 30, which will present some issues concerning youth and the productions will be presented to the Gazan audience.

## **2- Al-Hadaf Cultural Centre/ Bil'een, Ramallah**

The network will cover part of the costs for the “Olive Festival” that is held in the village.

## **3- Palestine Music Expo 2018/ Ramallah**

The network covered all costs associated with the two roundtable sessions that were part of the three-day schedule Expo event. The first session was titled “Towards a Fair and Developed Copyrights for Palestinian Musicians” and the second session was titled “Potential Networking between Palestinian and International Festivals and Performance Venues”. The two roundtable sessions were held at the Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh.

## **4- Ahmad Toubassi/ Jenin Refugee Camp, Jenin**

The network will cover the cost of a tour of the play "Here I am", which is based on events from the life of the Palestinian actor Ahmed Toubassi.

## **5- Handalah Cultural Centre/ Saffa, Ramallah**

The network will cover part of the costs for the “Handalah Festival” that is held in Saffa village.

## **6- “From Street to Street” Band/ Gaza**

The network will cover the costs of an advocacy campaign about using performing arts through theater in the central area of Gaza.

## **7- Gaza Circus School/ Gaza**

The network will cover the costs of developing the capacities of the technical team, in addition to circus performances in Gaza.

## **8- Stereo 48 Dance Troupe/ Ramallah and Nablus**

The network will cover the costs of "Hip Hop Gees” performances various Palestinian cities across the West Bank.

### **9- Al-Sununu for Culture and Arts/ Gaza**

The network will cover the costs of the Sununu annual summer camp project “Dabkeh ou Ghonniyeh”

### **10- Rasael Theatre/ Nablus**

The network will cover the transportation, rewards and advertising costs of their play "Do not be a compass in this play"

### **11- Target Association for Rural Development/ Burin, Nablus**

The network will contribute to supporting the development of the "Watan Popular Dance Troupe” based in the association.

### **12- Buzour Culture and Arts/ Gaza**

The network will cover the cost of theatre workshops within their project "Naseej", which specifically targets women in the Gaza Strip.

## **2018 PPAN Showcase**

PPAN has launched its preparation for its major event in 2018 titled “PPAN 2018 Showcase” that will be implemented between November 29 to December 1 2018 in Ramallah. This event represents a unique opportunity for Palestinian music, dance, circus and theatre artists and groups to introduce their work to the local community and to regional and international festival directors, promoters, and art practitioners. The Showcase will provide an opportunity for participating artistic groups to create awareness and recognition of Palestine’s performing arts sector and build new relationships. This event aims to create a networking meeting place for Palestinian artists and professionals from the Palestinian cultural sector of those who PPAN will host. It also creates avenues of cooperation and facilitates the accessibility of local artists to regional and international festivals and performance tours.

The Showcase will include networking sessions and artistic performances that will be accompanied by pitch sessions, which will provide the selected

local Palestinian artists and groups an opportunity to talk about their work, experiences, current ideas and inspirations.

Regarding the participation procedures, applications will be available online on the PPAN website and on its social media pages. A panel, including Palestinian artists, artistic managers, and cultural practitioners will assess the submitted applications and select the participating artists/groups; highlighting the balance between emerging modern/contemporary groups and the promotion of traditional folklore groups.

### **Networking Meetings**

During the first half of 2018, the network held the following networking meetings:

- **A cultural sector meeting emphasizing the need for a unified position:** PPAN held a meeting at the Popular Art Center in Al-Bireh on March 6 2018, in which more than 50 cultural institutions and artists from all parts of the West Bank participated. The meeting included representatives from the Ministry of Culture and other relevant donor/funding institutions. The aim of the meeting, which is part and parcel of the vision and objectives of the network, was to increase dialogue among active figures in the cultural sector at both the individual and the institutional level and the creation of a common unified position vis-à-vis issues affecting the sector.

The network concluded the meeting by ensuring that additional efforts will be implemented to address current outstanding sector issues and the need to continue the coordination between cultural artistic institutions to improve their capacities.

The meeting attendees agreed on the need to establish a committee specialized in building a unified strategic plan to link all cultural institutions, activities and trends, especially, at the local level. The committee will also ensure the importance of the Ministry of Culture in facilitating the sector's institutional work by providing its support. In addition, the committee will begin the preparation of an advocacy and lobbying campaign addressing taxes imposed on the cultural sector.



- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Palestine Music Expo 2018:** Within the framework of its initiatives program, PPAN partnered with the Palestine Music Expo 2018 that was held in Ramallah between 11 and 13 April 2018. The network's Board of Directors and staff participated in the two roundtable sessions that took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2018 at the Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh and were part of the event's program. The two sessions addressed the issue of fair and developed copyrights for Palestinian musicians and festival networking.

- **Joint Project between PPAN and the Danish House in Palestine:** Within the framework of the joint project titled "Enhancing Palestinian Journalistic Critique", PPAN and the Danish House in Palestine held a round table meeting on the May 3, 2018 at the Freedom Theater in Jenin titled "Journalistic Criticism in the Cultural Sector". The session was organized in collaboration with The Freedom Theater, Al-Kamandjati Association and other cultural centers, including, Naqsh Popular Art Troupe. A number of journalists and media centers representatives from Wafa and Ma'an media agencies, Al-Hayat newspaper, Al-Balad, Nass and Al-Burj FM radio stations in Jenin participated in the session.



The session was followed by another similar session in collaboration with Al-Harah Theater. The session was held on the July 17<sup>th</sup> at Al-Harah Theater in Beit Jala and was attended by a number of journalists of the southern area, including representatives from Al-Ayyam newspaper, in addition to representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Diyar Theatre and other journalists.



Some of the main issues highlighted during the session included: The lack of media coverage of the cultural programs and events and the needs, expectations and results of cultural actors from local media. During the session, a number of success stories were presented, in addition to the exchange of experiences and information between active cultural parties and the local media. At the end of the session, some recommendations and proposals were suggested in order to improve the current situation. Within the framework of the program, another similar session will be held in Ramallah during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018. A final report of recommendations and results will be completed and published at the conclusion of the above-mentioned meetings.

*Copyright © 2017 Palestinian Performing Arts Network, All rights reserved.*

The Palestinian Performing Arts Network  
Askar Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Al-Bireh –Palestine  
Telefax: 02-2402289  
[info@ppan.ps](mailto:info@ppan.ps)  
[www.ppan.ps](http://www.ppan.ps)

