

Report

Creative Collaborations Grant Programme 2022-2025 Projects

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Preface

I am delighted to be writing this foreword for the **Creative Collaborations Grant Programme 2022-2025 Project Report**.

In the years 2022 to 2025, the British Council in Türkiye has managed a grant scheme that brought together creatives in Türkiye and the UK into collaborative partnerships that resulted in artistic projects or programmes. Over a three-year period, we received over 269 applications. The competition was fierce, and it was challenging to select the grantees. Altogether, 34 organisations from across Türkiye and the UK collaborated, producing new and innovative work, expanding artistic output, building audiences, breaking boundaries, and we trust creating lasting friendships between our two countries.

In this report we want to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the collaborative partnerships and to acknowledge the tremendous talent and commitment. We also want to draw attention to the opportunities that exist in Türkiye for creative partnerships, and to raise awareness among UK artists and creative institutions who may not have considered working with Türkiye before.

The projects and programmes range across all creative disciplines, from drama and dance, to music and literature, to film and publishing, visual and performative arts. We also wanted to reach out to different parts of the country, and to emphasise the importance of mutual benefit, community impacts, diversity of audiences, equality of opportunity, accessibility and sustainability.

We are all very proud of these projects, and others that are still ongoing. Whilst the Türkiye country-specific Creative Collaborations grant scheme has now drawn to a close, we are pleased that it lives on in a region-wide scheme 'Connections Through Culture Grants' I hope you will enjoy this publication and feel inspired to make new connections as well as maintain those that are already established between Türkiye and the UK, building trust and understanding, and lasting friendship.

Gill Caldicott

Country Director British Council Türkiye 2022 to 2025

Introduction

For three years, the Creative Collaborations Grant Programme has fostered dynamic partnerships between Türkiye and the UK, transforming shared ideas into meaningful shared experiences. Spanning three successful editions, the programme has created an extensive network of cultural exchange, with 37 projects connecting 34 institutions from Türkiye with 27 from the UK and engaging 30 artists in collaborative creative ventures.

The impact of these collaborations has been remarkable, reaching over 65,000 people through projects implemented across 20 cities, and generating more than 3,5 million digital views. This report has been meticulously prepared through direct communication with all partners, incorporating responses from 29 institutions. The grant call aimed to welcome project collaborations that tackle inclusive global themes of ecology, gender equality, accessibility and diversity through different art forms such as visual arts, creative technologies, film, music, literature, theatre and dance aiming to share and disseminate the understanding of culture and arts in the UK and Türkiye to be exhibited online or face-to-face.

The primary objectives of this report are twofold: to enhance the visibility of the projects and partnerships supported under the programme, and to share valuable insights with stakeholders in the UK to facilitate and inspire future creative collaborations between Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

Contents

ADANA	09
Çukurova University	10
ANKARA	13
Aks Creative Hub	14
Ankara State Opera and Ballet Modern Dance Ensemble (MDT)	16
Ankara University of Music and Fine Arts	18
Flying Broom Foundation	20
Puruli Culture and Arts	22
Roof Coliving	24
ÇANAKKALE	27
Çanakkale Biennial - Troya Cultural Association	28
DİYARBAKIR	31
Wêjegeh Amed Diyarbakır Literature House	32
Women's Culture, Art and Literature Association (KASED)	34
GAZİANTEP	37
Gaziantep Gazişehir Culture and Art Association (GAKSAD)	38
NEFES Association (Nefes Culture and Arts Association)	40
HATAY	43
Hatay Earthquake Solidarity	44
İSTANBUL	47
AVTO	48
Bahçeşehir University Civilisation Studies Centre	50
Canlandırınlar	52
dijitalLABperformans	54
DISODER (Dialogue Social Entrepreneurship Association)	56
fam°	58
HipHop Ladies Turkey	60
İstanbul Fringe Festival	62
İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV)	64
İstanbul Modern	64
Koç University - KUAR (Koç University Arçelik Creative Industries Research Centre)	68
Miras	70
Onagöre	72
İZMİR	75
Ege University	76
Teos Culture and Arts Association (TKS)	78
ŞANLIURFA	81
Gönül Köprüsü Association	82

Adana

Çukurova University – Department of Radio, Television and Cinema

Organisation Details

Çukurova University Department of Radio, Television and Cinema is a well-established higher education programme providing academic education in the field of media and communication in Adana. It prepares students for the industry with theoretical and practical courses, and develops innovative projects in the fields of cinema, television, and new media.

Fields of Activity

- Audiovisual media production
- Academic and sectoral research
- Film, documentary and television content production

Structural Model

It is an academic programme affiliated with the state university operating within Çukurova University. The income generation model is based on the state budget and support for scientific projects.

Year of Establishment: Çukurova University, 1973; Department of Radio, Television and Cinema, 2014

Scale: Medium

Number of Students: 500+ undergraduate and graduate students

Visitor Profile

Department events and projects are followed by academics, film and media professionals, students and art lovers.

Accessibility

- Captioned film screenings
- Disabled-friendly campus facilities
- Online lectures and seminar programmes

Example of an International Collaboration

Reel Borders, of which Çukurova University is a partner, is a five-year (2021-2026) research project focusing on the relationship between cinema and borders. As part of the project, which deals with borders not only geographically but also in the context of identity, migration, and belongingness, participatory film workshops were held in Adana. The workshops brought together university students and Syrian youth, and four short films were screened at the Adana Golden Boll (Altın Koza) Film Festival.



Grant Project Details

Suppliants of Syria was implemented in collaboration with Çukurova University, Border Crossings Theatre Company, and Meryem Women's Cooperative.

The project merged theatre and documentary by combining Aeschylus' Suppliants with the experiences of Syrian refugee women. Started in 2023 in Adana, the project was completed with artists in London and presented to the audience in Tunisia and Adana.

The screenings brought art and academia together, creating a strong interaction environment on migration and gender issues.



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Ankara

Aks Creative Hub

Organisation Details

Aks Creative Hub is a cultural organisation established in Ankara in 2019, developing interdisciplinary projects in the fields of creative industries, design, architecture and urban planning. It focuses specifically on design thinking and participatory urbanism as a platform supporting young professionals. Aks is a member of the European Creative Hubs Network and the New European Bauhaus Community, and produces sustainable urbanisation solutions through international collaborations and innovative projects.

Fields of Activity

- Architecture, Culture and Design
- Cultural Heritage and Urban Studies
- Participatory and Sustainable Design

Structural Model

Aks Creative Hub works on a project basis and establishes international collaborations, forming interdisciplinary teams and obtaining financing from national and international grants.

Year of Establishment: 2019

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 1,500-3,000 physical; 5,000+ digital

Visitor Profile

Aks Creative Hub operates with a management team of 5 people, project teams of 7-8 people and more than 120 creative community members. Most of the participants are young designers, architects and engineers aged 18-35.

Accessibility

- Wheelchair-accessible spaces
- Captioning and accessible content in digital events
- Workshops and events for the participation of people with disabilities

Example of an International Collaboration

Aks Creative carried out a placemaking/tactical urbanism project focusing on the transformation of a theatre building in Augsburg, Germany in autumn 2023. In the process carried out under the titles TALK IT, WALK IT, DREAM IT and DISCUSS IT, ideas were collected from the local community and opened to evaluation through participatory methods. Based on the collected data, a placemaking report was prepared in coordination with the municipality and user-oriented, inclusive spatial transformation proposals were developed. After 10 days of field implementation, the project was successfully completed.

Grant Project Details

Aks+Future, Aks Association's sub-team working in the field of game design, develops playable interfaces that encourage critical thinking in this field by producing fictional worlds and scenarios about the future. UrbanJam, an interdisciplinary event with the theme of 'the future of cities', was held on 11-15 January 2023 in Ankara. Around 65 participants from various disciplines such as architecture, design, computer engineering and software development generated game ideas focusing on urban utopias. UrbanJam was the first urbanism-themed game jam in Türkiye and Europe.



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Ankara State Opera and Ballet Modern Dance Ensemble (MDT)

Organisation Details

Ankara State Opera and Ballet Modern Dance Ensemble (MDT) is one of the longest established public art institutions producing contemporary dance in Türkiye. In 1970, it was detached from the State Theatres and became an independent organisation. MDT has pioneered the development of modern dance in Türkiye, staging both classical and contemporary dance repertoire and has also collaborated with international choreographers. Adopting interdisciplinary approaches in its artistic productions, MDT has the capacity to produce together with its own stage design, costume, lighting and technical teams.

Fields of Activity

- Performance arts (contemporary dance, stage shows)
- National and international dance projects
- Art education, children and youth workshops

Structural Model

MDT is a public art institution affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Its income generation model is mainly based on the state budget and box office revenues.

Year of Establishment: 1970

Scale: Large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 220,000 physical

Visitor Profile

MDT's activities appeal to a wide range of audiences, especially those seeking classical ballet and contemporary dance shows. Its audience includes art students, academics, art-loving adults and children. Its shows attract great interest especially from those who closely follow the cultural calendar in Ankara.

Accessibility

- Handicapped ramps and lift systems for physical access
- Captioned performances for the hearing impaired
- Special dance performances and backstage tours for children

Example of an International Collaboration

'AMBIVALLANCE', which premiered in May 2025, is a two-act contemporary dance project. The first part of the project, Kuğu (Swan), is choreographed by Guido Markowitz, a choreographer invited from Germany, and composed by Fabian Shulz. The second part will be Çatı (Roof) by MDT dancer and choreographer Deniz Alp, with original music composed by Galip Emre. The show aims to support the joint choreographic production processes of artists from different countries.



Grant Project Details

Human, a contemporary dance work premiered on 18 January 2025 in Ankara was an interdisciplinary project staged by MDT. Choreographed by James Sutherland with music by Davidson Jaconello, the work focused on the different states of being human. With the contributions of Fine Arts Folk Music and State Theatre artists, this new music added both local elements and a universal language to the show, complementing the dance performance on the stage.

The project offered a multi-layered experience to the audience with the holistic use of dance, sound, light and stage design, and has carried MDT's production capacity in contemporary performing arts to the international arena.



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Ankara University of Music and Fine Arts

Organisation Details

Ankara University of Music and Fine Arts is a state university specialising in arts education and academic research. It provides undergraduate and graduate education in the fields of music, performing arts, fine arts and arts management.

Fields of Activity

- Arts education and academic research
- Music and performing arts production
- Cultural heritage and arts management studies

Structural Model

It is a thematic state university affiliated to the Council of Higher Education. Its income generation model is based on the state budget, academic projects and revenues from art events.

Year of Establishment: 2017

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 2,000+

Visitor Profile

Its academic and artistic events held throughout the year host a large number of local and foreign visitors. Visitors include academics, artists, students, culture and arts audiences, and representatives of national and international organisations. Interdisciplinary interaction and artistic production are supported through conferences, workshops and festivals.

Accessibility

- Accessible campus facilities for individuals with disabilities
- Access to course materials through the Barrier-Free Library Unit
- Academic and social support through the Barrier-Free Music and Visual Arts Studies Centre
- Tactile surfaces for visually impaired individuals
- Physical and pedagogical solutions for individual needs
- Accessible campus design and guidance services

Example of an International Collaboration

As part of the project 'Good Practice Techniques in Music Education for Young People with Autism (OGME)' is a guide as well as online resources and training programmes for music education of individuals with autism are being developed together with partner institutions from Türkiye, Romania, Bulgaria and Italy. The project is planned to be completed by the end of 2025.



Grant Project Details

The 1st International Barrier-Free Music Festival held on 17-18 May 2023 in Ankara, brought together 22 musicians with special needs from Türkiye and the United Kingdom. The guest artist of the festival was Oluwademiladeayomideasani Adeagbo, a young musician with autism from the UK. In the two-day festival organised at Mamak Musiki Muallim Mektebi and CSO ADA Ankara, concerts, workshops, and panels were held, and musicians with special needs performed with the University Chamber Orchestra. An online workshop was held before the festival, where families, academics, and trainers shared their experiences.



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Flying Broom Foundation

Organisation Details

The Flying Broom Foundation is a feminist organisation based in Ankara that aims to establish lasting collaborations between women+ organisations in Türkiye and internationally, make women's stories visible, and advocate for gender equality. The Foundation stands out with its network of local women reporters, projects to combat early marriages, feminist journalism, and awareness-raising through the arts. One of its most well-known projects is the Flying Broom International Women's Film Festival, which has been organised for 28 years and is the first of its kind in Türkiye.

Fields of Activity

- Women and queer cinema
- Gender equality and women+ rights
- Advocacy and networking
- Feminist journalism and cultural memory studies

Structural Model

Flying Broom is an independent non-profit foundation working in the fields of women+ rights and gender equality.

Year of Establishment: 1996

Scale: Large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: Festivals and special occasions are well attended, with thousands of people being reached during application and screening periods

Visitor Profile

The majority of visitors are women. The film festival and other events bring together feminist activists, film students, representatives of women's NGOs, and female directors. Most of the participants are 20 to 45 years old.

Accessibility

- Subtitles, captions, and physical access facilities such as ramps at film screenings and talks
- Online content with a wide digital access network
- Multilingual public awareness campaigns and accessible visual materials

Example of an International Collaboration

The Flying Broom Foundation has established strong ties with international feminist networks in the field of gender equality. It contributed to CEDAW shadow report processes and took an active role in global women's movements such as the World March of Women. It also collaborates with film institutions and festival platforms from various European countries. Through these collaborations, it is ensured that the works of female directors in Türkiye go into international circulation and gender-based cinema debates are strengthened.



Grant Project Details

We Claim the Screen: Flying Broom Film Days event was held on 17-18 November 2024 at the Kült Kavaklıdere Cinema in Ankara. These special screenings included four British films that had not premiered in Türkiye, as well as a discussion on A Taste of Honey, one of the classics of British queer cinema.

The event aimed to support independent cinema, promote cultural exchange between the UK and Türkiye, and open up discussions on gender representations in the film industry.



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Puruli Culture and Arts

Organisation Details

Puruli Culture and Arts is a non-governmental organisation based in Ankara that aims to enable individuals whose participation in the field of culture and arts is limited due to physical, economic, or social barriers to participate in cultural life on more equal terms. The Barrier-Free Films Festival, which has been organised since 2013, has become a pioneering model for the development of accessible cultural policy in Türkiye. Transferring the knowledge and experience gained through the festival to different projects, Puruli contributes to the formulation of cultural policies that advocate equal participation by developing collaborations with the film industry, public institutions and civil society.

Fields of Activity

- Cinema and accessible film screenings
- Cultural inclusion, accessibility and advocacy
- Workshops, festivals and policy development activities

Structural Model

Puruli Culture and Arts is a non-governmental organisation established to increase accessibility and participation in the field of culture and arts. It carries out its activities with grants, sponsorships, public and private sector support.

Year of Establishment: 2013

Scale: Medium-large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 5,000+ (annual average of Barrier-Free Films Festival)

Visitor Profile

Event participants include film lovers, people with disabilities, students, cultural professionals and representatives of civil society working in the field of accessibility. All events, especially the Barrier-Free Film Festival, reach an inclusive audience profile of all ages and abilities.

Accessibility

- Audio description (AD) and closed captioning (CC) at all film screenings
- Sign language interpretation in dialogues
- Autism-friendly screenings
- Use of spaces with ramps, lifts, accessible WCs
- Presentation of materials in Braille, plain language and alternative text formats
- Web and social media accessibility
- Volunteer and staff training that observes the anti-ableism stance

Example of an International Collaboration

'Çekirdek Eskişehir' project aimed to establish a sustainable and inclusive cultural space in Eskişehir. In partnership with Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality, the project aimed to transform a municipal property into an accessible and interdisciplinary arts space open to independent artists and cultural producers. The project contributed to inclusive space management models by bringing together national and international collaborations.

Grant Project Details

The 11th Barrier-Free Films Festival was held in Ankara on 20-26 October 2023, in Eskişehir on 4-5 November 2023, and on the online platform eff2023.muvi.com. A total of 42 films were screened at the festival, and 2,831 people participated in workshops and events.

The 'Fingerprint' section of the festival was dedicated to the British filmmaker Ken Loach. Kes, The Old Oak, and Raining Stones were screened in an accessible format.

The jury members of the International Short Film Competition were Çağlar Kimyoncu and Michael Achtman from the UK, both artists known for their accessible art practices. In addition, cinema professionals and volunteers worked together on creative access methods in the 'Creative Audio Description' workshop led by Michael Achtman.



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Roof Coliving

Organisation Details

Roof Coliving is a civil society initiative based in Ankara, established to design common living spaces where individuals from different backgrounds and disciplines can live together and to develop a new culture of coexistence in these spaces. It considers space not only as a shelter but also as a common ground where community relations and participatory production flourish. It aims to build pluralistic, fair, and accessible forms of living through participatory methods against exclusionary and single-centred design approaches in cities. It promotes the meaningful participation of urban vulnerable groups, especially youth, women, LGBTI+ individuals, and migrants, in urban life.

Fields of Activity

- Participatory space design and placemaking
- Community-oriented audiovisual projects
- Culture and arts practices in public spaces
- Advocacy and policy development with local governments

Structural Model

Roof Coliving is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation. It ensures its financial sustainability through local and international project grants, urban and audiovisual project services.

Year of Establishment: 2020

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 3,000+ direct access through events

Visitor Profile

Event participants come from different ages, professions, and socio-economic backgrounds. Although most of the participants are local communities at the neighbourhood scale, groups with low visibility in urban life, such as women, LGBTI+ individuals, and migrants, are also actively involved in the processes, thanks to Roof Coliving's approach.

Accessibility

- Accessibility principles (ramps, wide doors, WCs, baby care areas, etc.) are applied in space designs.
- Accessibility analyses of the venues are made before events.
- Online content is arranged to be screen reader compatible.
- Factors such as colour contrast and visual clarity are taken into account.
- Physical and cognitive barriers are mapped and solution processes are designed together with NGOs

Example of an International Collaboration

In the Mutual Learning through Shared Spaces project paired with Budapest-based ACRED, Roof Coliving developed a roadmap specific to the Turkish context by drawing on ACRED's experiences on community-based housing models. At the same time, Roof Coliving shared its own creative placemaking experience and conveyed its knowledge on generation of participatory solutions to spatial problems.

Grant Project Details

The project titled 'Yeryüzü Sineması' aimed to establish climate dialogue in public space through a pop-up cinema space on 22 June 2023 in Adana. A participatory production process was established between young citizens and local administrations. At the end of the project, the cinema space designed by the citizens was launched with climate-themed film screenings and workshops. Having transformed film-watching practices in the public space, the project presented a creative interaction model by bringing together the field of culture and arts and climate activism.



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Çanakkale

Çanakkale Biennial - Troya Cultural Association

Organisation Details

CABININ is an initiative that organises the International Çanakkale Biennial. Founded in 2012, the organisation operates under Troya Cultural Association and aims to position Çanakkale as a city of culture at national and international level by focusing on different forms and disciplines of contemporary art. It focuses on improving access to culture for different segments of society, inter-communal dialogue, and co-production culture through art.

Fields of Activity

- Visual arts
- International biennial organisation
- Accessibility, social inclusion and arts education
- Creative projects at the intersection of art and archaeology

Structural Model

The Çanakkale Biennial is run by the Troya Cultural Association, a non-profit civil society organisation. It carries out its activities through international cultural collaborations, project supports and sponsorships.

Year of Establishment: 2012

Scale: Large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 95,000 in post-pandemic biennials; 2,645 active participants in the 2024 edition; 90,000 viewers reached

Visitor Profile

The majority of visitors are young people, women and cultural professionals. The Biennial has diversified demographics, given the migration from big cities to Çanakkale. In addition, special events and workshops are held for people with disabilities, children and students, paying attention to accessibility practices.

Accessibility

- Braille artwork labels
- Spaces that meet physical access requirements
- Special exhibition tours for individuals with hearing impairment and physical disabilities
- Content development for different groups such as individuals with autism and intellectual disability
- Collaborations with local CSOs and expert institutions on accessibility
- 'Biennial Barrier-Free' sub-programme aiming to raise awareness

Example of an International Collaboration

In the 2024 edition of the Biennial, Swedish curator Ulrika Flink and artist Eric Magassa made a new production. With the support of the Italian Cultural Centre, a collective publication inspired by the Trojan Horse was launched. In addition, the long-standing partnership with the Thessaloniki Biennale continued in 2024. Through these projects, the biennial has developed production-based relationships with contemporary art institutions in Europe.

canakkale
Biennial
Biennial

Grant Project Details

David Blandy's 'Diachronic' tabletop role-playing game (TTRPG) project was launched in collaboration with the John Hansard Gallery (JHG) at the University of Southampton during the Çanakkale Biennale which was held from 4 October to 11 November. Produced with the contributions of the Troy Excavation Directorate, the Troy Foundation and the Troy Museum, the game was inspired by the Troy excavations, mythology and archaeology, offering players the opportunity to question the narratives established with the past.

The play was exhibited at the Korfmann Library during the biennial, reaching 90,000 people. In addition, 1,238 people experienced the play during the 10-day exhibition at MAHAL Sanat. As part of the project, David Blandy's video works were also exhibited, and the artist held workshops with Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University students and game clubs. Accessible play sessions were held for individuals with hearing impairment and physical disabilities. At the end of the project, the CABININ team, representatives of the Troy Cultural Association and the JHG team organised a mutual cooperation tour of institutions and artists based in the UK and Çanakkale.



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Wêjegeh Amed | Diyarbakır Literature House

Organisation Details

Wêjegeh Amed was founded in 2020 on the initiative of Lîs Publishing, which has long been active in the field of Kurdish publishing in Diyarbakır. The organisation is an open and participatory platform for multilingual and cross-border literary, artistic, and cultural activities. Centred on interdisciplinary studies, cultural pluralism, and the literary identities of underrepresented languages, Wêjegeh Amed creates an important space for Kurdish literature to meet with contemporary and international production.

Fields of Activity

- Kurdish, Turkish and multilingual literary events
- Literary meetings and publishing activities
- Cross-border writing projects
- Cultural collaborations and art projects

Structural Model

Wêjegeh Amed is an independent, non-profit cultural initiative operating under Lîs Publications. It carries out its activities through self-funding, local support and joint projects with international cultural organisations.

Year of Establishment: 2020

Scale: Small

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 3,000+ physical attendance; multilingual digital access through publications, panels and events

Visitor Profile

The events are mostly attended by writers, translators, literary researchers and young readers interested in Kurdish literature. In addition, collaborations are established with guest writers, academics and cultural activists from abroad, and community-based literary studies are supported.

Accessibility

- Spaces that comply with accessibility regulations
- Translation support and multilingual content
- Practices that facilitate digital access depending on participant profile

Example of an International Collaboration

Belongings is a two-year cross-border literary programme in partnership with the Sami Writers' House (Tjállegoahte - Författarecentrum Sápmi) in Sweden. The project provided an environment for cultural and literary dialogue based on the common historical experiences of the Kurdish and Sami peoples. The project involved 5 Sami and 5 Kurdish writers, and following digital meetings, mutual site visits and creative writing activities, the trilingual anthology *Belongings* (in Sami, Kurdish and English) was published. Launch events were organised in Stockholm, Jokkmokk, Diyarbakır, Mardin and Van.

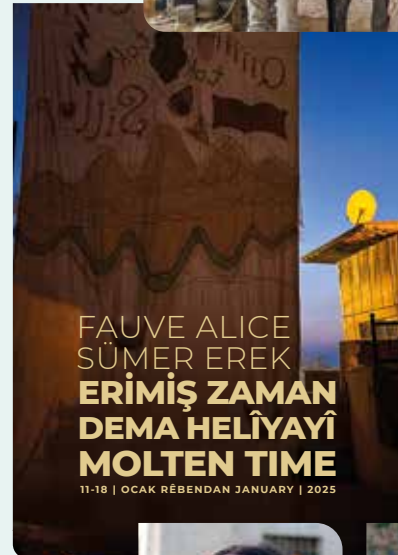
WÊJEGEH
AMED

Grant Project Details

Since 2021, Wêjegeh Amed has been running the Literature Beyond Borders project in cooperation with the literary houses of Berlin, Oslo, İstanbul and Chernivtsi, organising international writer residencies and talks as well as offering special residencies for Kurdish writers. It also hosts authors in cooperation with the Turkish Publishers Association and the cultural representations of European countries in Türkiye.

The project, included a new edition of the Diyarbakır Comparative Literature Days. In this event, two artists from the United Kingdom held workshops and participated in artist talks for the local community in the residency programme in Diyarbakır and Mardin, between December 2024 and January 2025. A special exhibition was prepared for the residency programme, and the whole process was documented with original writings and published in a printed publication.

The programme, which was prepared for the fifth time with plans to organise it biennially, has expanded from local to international scale with support from Turkish and European institutions and through self-funding. Focusing on multilingual, thematic sessions, the international programme aims to ensure the equal representation of the cultural productions of different communities, observing the principle of democratic freedom of expression and independence.



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Women's Culture, Art and Literature Association (KASED)

Organisation Details

Women's Culture, Art and Literature Association (KASED) has been operating in Diyarbakir since 2019, based on a gender equality perspective in the field of culture and arts. The association aims to provide women and children with cultural skills and access to the arts in their mother tongue.

Fields of Activity

- Music, literature and visual arts
- Fighting discrimination for women artists
- Organisation of cultural events and courses

Structural Model

KASED is an association founded in 2019 by a group of female artists in Diyarbakir. The association is supported by membership fees, donations, and project funds.

Year of Establishment: 2019

Scale: Small

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 4,000+ physical

Visitor Profile

The association hosts an average of 4,000 visitors per year. The majority of participants were women aged 18-60 and children aged 9-18.

Accessibility

- Accessible venues for public events
- Supportive applications for individuals with hearing and visual impairment (sign language, audio description)

Example of an International Collaboration

The 'Women's Struggle in the Field of Culture and Arts' workshop, organised by the Association on 20 January 2024 in Diyarbakir, was held to draw attention to gender-based discrimination faced by women in the field of culture and arts and to discuss solutions. The workshop was attended by approximately 100 women, including national and international artists, activists, researchers, and civil society representatives. In the programme, women's visibility in the field of culture and arts, Kurdish women's resistance experiences, and current debates on freedom of expression in Türkiye were discussed in three separate sessions, while methods of resistance in the field of culture and arts and suggestions for solutions were shared in the forum section.



Grant Project Details

Held between 29 September and 5 October 2024 in Diyarbakir, Amed SurFest was as a five-day festival organised to make the multilingual and multicultural heritage of the city visible and maintain its existence. In the festival, workshops for children, online panels, traditional clothing presentations, and concerts were organised.

The events were mainly held in Kurdish and Armenian languages in the historical locations of Diyarbakir.

The festival contributed to the preservation of cultural heritage by revitalising traditional practices that are about to disappear.

The festival was organised in collaboration with DB Music London from the United Kingdom, enabling different cultural identities to come together through art and music.



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Gaziantep

Gaziantep Gazişehir Culture and Art Association (GAKSAD)

Organisation Details

Gazişehir Culture and Art Association (GAKSAD) was established in Gaziantep in 2018. The association aims to develop the culture and art capacity of the region and carries out local, national, and international projects in the fields of theatre and performing arts. It is engaged in activities to spread the art of theatre to large masses and increase social dialogue through artistic activities, making art accessible and bringing together professional artists and amateur participants. It aims to create social impact in the region through Gazişehir Theatre Festival and similar cultural events.

Fields of Activity

- Theatre and performing arts
- Cultural festivals
- Social responsibility projects

Structural Model

GAKSAD is an independent civil society organisation operating with project-based national and international funds, public support and sponsorships.

Year of Establishment: 2018

Scale: Small

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 5,000 physical; 2,000 online

Visitor Profile

Gazişehir Theatre Festival and other events organised by the association reach approximately 5,000 physical and 2,000 online participants annually. The visitor profile consists of various segments such as theatre-loving adults, young people, academics, students and NGOs in the region.

Accessibility

- Wheelchair access
- Sign language interpretation and captioned screenings
- Audio description at digital events

Example of an International Collaboration

The 'Sahre' project was implemented in Gaziantep in cooperation with the Berlin-based Heimathafen Neukölln Theatre. The project involved oral history studies focusing on the traditional 'sahre' (picnic) culture of the city, with this content being enriched with panels and workshops. The oral history texts obtained were transformed into a theatre performance titled 'Sustular / Konuşular' and staged as part of the 5th Gazişehir Theatre Festival. During the project, theatre artists, academics and artists from Berlin and Gaziantep came together. 82 people directly participated in the event, which was followed by a total of 120 theatregoers in Gaziantep between 8 June and 13 October 2024.



Grant Project Details

'Devising to Break the Walls' workshop was held in Gaziantep between 16 and 20 October 2024 in collaboration with London-based Complicité Theatre.

The five-day free workshop focused on collective storytelling, staging methods, and body dramaturgy in theatre art. Based on the 'devising' technique, the workshop was presented through an open call to artists and theatre students interested in innovative forms of expression.



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UK Collaboration

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NEFES (Nefes Culture and Arts Association)

Organisation Details

NEFES Culture and Arts Association was founded in 2016, in Gaziantep by Syrian and Turkish music and arts professionals and officially registered in Türkiye in 2017. The association believes in the healing and unifying power of art, especially in societies that have gone through traumatic processes such as war and migration. NEFES aims to take cultural heritage beyond the museum showcase, bringing it together with contemporary artistic production and establish creative dialogues between different communities.

Fields of Activity

- Music and arts education
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Artistic and cultural production
- Social cohesion and psychosocial support through art

Structural Model

NEFES operates as a non-profit organisation. It is financed by international cultural funds, local supporters and various academic/artistic collaborations.

Year of Establishment: 2016

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 5,000+ participants (through events and projects)



مؤسسة نفيس للثقافة والفنون
Nefes Kültür Sanat Derneği
Nefes Foundation for Arts & Culture

Visitor Profile

NEFES projects involve artists, musicians, students, academics and local people from Gaziantep and the region in particular. The events aim to increase inter-communal dialogue and participation by bringing together individuals who value cultural diversity.

Accessibility

- Ramps and special accessibility areas
- Accessible programmes for individuals with different abilities through inclusive content and spaces
- Barrier-free participation infrastructure for participants in training sessions and events

Example of an International Collaboration

NEFES implemented the 'Gaziantep Art Space' project in cooperation with the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Department of Culture, Arts and Science, as part of the 'In Partnership: Culture, Dialogue and Support Programme' conducted by the İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV). Targeting children, youth, academics, artists and cultural activists, the project includes arts and music education, activities for the protection of cultural heritage and events aimed at strengthening social cohesion. In the project, nine concerts, six exhibitions and three theatre plays were staged. Moreover, workshops were held with international experts in nine different fields of art and culture. At least 100 students received arts education, and the activities reached more than 6,000 people. The project was supported by academic institutions such as King's College London, Kuwait Higher Institute of Music and İstanbul University Institute of Turkic Studies, which strengthened the quality of the project through expert visits, technical consultancy and regional collaborations.

Grant Project Details

NEFES brought together historical and contemporary perspectives on Ottoman, Turkish and Arabic musical heritage through the project titled 'The Art of Muvashshah and Classical Oral Forms of Intercultural Cooperation in Pan-Ottoman Music in the Early 20th Century'. In this context, it partnered with leading institutions such as King's College London, Oxford University, Oxford Maqam, Gaziantep University and İstanbul University. The project addressed the historical connections of Ottoman Arabic music, organising panels, concerts and workshops in the UK and Türkiye.

Under the guidance of Professor Martin Stokes, the collaboration aimed to revitalise cultural memory and pave the way for contemporary interpretations of classical music. The events were held in November 2023 and attended by 670 people and reached approximately ten thousand people through digital communication channels.



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Hatay

Hatay Earthquake Solidarity

Organisation Details

Hatay Earthquake Solidarity is a voluntary organisation established to provide support to disaster victims in the region following the earthquakes that occurred on 6 February 2023. The association provides emergency response for basic needs during the acute period, prioritising the needs of disadvantaged groups such as women, LGBTI+ individuals and disabled individuals. Today, with more than 100 volunteers across Hatay, it continues its multi-faceted community activities in permanent areas established in three districts. It carries out activities in the fields of education, shelter, psychosocial support and healing through art.

Fields of Activity

- Emergency humanitarian aid
- Education and scholarship support
- Cultural and psychosocial solidarity projects

Structural Model

Earthquake Solidarity is an association established in 2023. Rımmen Women's Cooperative was launched in August 2024 in cooperation with the women within the association. The association carries out its activities with support from donations and various funds.

Year of Establishment: 2023

Scale: Large

Number of supported people: 10,000+

Visitor Profile

Over 100 women are directly reached through handicraft, food, soap and carpet weaving workshops in three centres in Antakya, Defne and Samandağ districts of Hatay. In addition, hundreds of children were reached through children's activities and free courses at Zeytun Children and Living Centre, Çekmece Community Centre and Sveydiye Campus. In Samandağ, local people also benefit from free physiotherapy services provided in cooperation with the Turkish Medical Association.

Accessibility

- Accessible toilets and ramp at Zeytun Children and Living Centre
- Free workshops and courses for children
- Online support services
- Special rehabilitation programmes for people with disabilities

Grant Project Details

'Crafting Resilience: Women's Cultural Revival in Post-Earthquake Reconstruction' project implemented in 2023-2024 in collaboration with London-based fashion designer Zeynep Ağırbaş, aimed to engage women working as home-based labourers in the Samandağ district of Hatay in the reconstruction process through cultural, artistic and craft-based production. A production area based on the principles of fair trade, co-design and public production was established with the participating women. Women aged 35-50 with active citizenship experience benefited from the project.



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—
İstanbul

AVTO

Organisation Details

AVTO is an operational system that works in the field of culture and provides interfaces for knowledge production. Founded in 2017 in Istanbul as a user-oriented, re-functionalizable and open-to-all organisational model, AVTO operates in the fields of art, design, architecture and social sciences with experimental methods and subjective approaches. It is engaged in production in a wide variety of media such as publications, exhibitions, podcast series, documentaries and research projects, thereby contributing to the cultural and intellectual life.

Fields of Activity

- Art, architecture, design and social sciences
- Experimental and research-based production
- Participatory conversations and collective learning practices

Structural Model

AVTO operates as a joint-stock company. It is financed by donations and funding applications.

Year of Establishment: 2017

Scale: Small-medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors:
Approximately 2,000

Visitor Profile

The venue hosts an average of 2,000 visitors annually. Its participant profile consists of individuals aged 16-60, especially those working, studying or interested in the field of culture and arts. A significant portion of the

visitors are university students and young professionals. Bringing together not only the audience but also individuals who actively participate in production, research and discussion processes, the structure offers an environment that encourages collective production and critical dialogue.

Accessibility

- A physically accessible WC is available, but it has no ramp.
- Visitors with disabilities are provided with individual support so that they can move comfortably in the space.
- All texts and publications are presented in Turkish and English.
- Sign language translation and captioning are not available yet, but improvement is planned in these areas

Example of an International Collaboration

AVTO x 0xSalon: Speculative Resistance and Non-Human Futures project, carried out with London-based artist and academic Wassim Alsindi, aimed to explore strategies of speculative, corporeal and non-human resistance through the role-playing card game FAUOX SALON. Based on a customised deck of cards inspired by the AVTO archive, the experience allowed participants to imagine the future through play, taking on perspectives outside their own belief systems. The project provided an experimental tool promoting political imagination and collective decision-making processes.



Grant Project Details

This research and conversation series titled 'Coasts - Part 1' by AVTO was held in İstanbul and İzmir, in 2023-24, coordinated by Meriç Öner, addressed the geographical and social transformations observed along Türkiye's coastline.

The project analysed coastal economies and climate-induced changes in agriculture, tourism and trade, combining disciplines such as social geography, ecology and urban planning.

In collaboration with Vessel (Aegina), Hayy Open Space and Sezon (İzmir) and Art Unlimited (İstanbul), events were held in İstanbul and İzmir, with a particular focus on the Aegean coast, which is a threshold for migration.

A total of 173 people physically participated in the events held as part of the project, while a total of 28,130 people were reached through online publications and social media posts.



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Bahçeşehir University Civilisation Studies Centre

Organisation Details

BAU MEDAM (Bahçeşehir University Civilisation Studies Centre) is a research centre within Bahçeşehir University focusing on the Mediterranean, Middle East, and European regions. Carrying out studies on democracy, cultural dialogue, and public diplomacy, the centre develops projects focused on social impact as well as academic knowledge production. It promotes regional cooperation and cultural understanding through research, analyses, publications, conferences and training activities.

Fields of Activity

- Cultural diplomacy and international relations
- Democracy, participation and civil society research
- Regional cooperation and academic projects
- Policy analysis and reporting

Structural Model

BAU MEDAM is an academic research centre operating within Bahçeşehir University. Its income generation model is based on academic funds, university budget and international project grants.

Year of Establishment: 2014

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Engagement: 300-500 people attend academic events, while online access to publications and reports is expressed in thousands.

Visitor Profile

The activities and productions of the centre mainly appeal to academic circles and history enthusiasts. Although the number of visitors varies depending on the scope of the projects and events, the documentary projects are broadcast on national and international channels, reaching a wide audience. Participants are actively involved in the process, not only as viewers but also through panels and interactive events.

Accessibility

- Bahçeşehir University's accessible campus infrastructure
- Sign language translation and captioning at events
- Digital access through online publications and seminars

Example of an International Collaboration

The 'Turkic World Documentaries' project conducted by BAU MEDAM aims to comprehensively document and promote the historical and cultural heritage of Central Asia. Through filming and research activities carried out in kurgans, museums, protected areas and madrasahs, the roots of Turkish civilisation are explored in depth. This documentary journey takes place on a 23,800-kilometre route covering 7 countries and 62 cities, and the production process is still underway.



Grant Project Details

As part of the project carried out by BAU MEDAM in 2022-23, Anaia Archaeological Site (Kadıkalesi, Kuşadası - Aydın) was digitised via augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and 3D video simulation technologies.

In the first phase of the project carried out in cooperation with the UK-based We Are Immersive Ltd., a 5,000 square metre portion of the site was mapped by means of the three-dimensional scanning technology.

In the second phase of the project, the potential of these technologies in cultural heritage areas was presented to academics and students through an online conference held by Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Architecture and Design based in İstanbul.

The online events and VR content developed under the project were visited by approximately 2,500 people during the project.



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Canlandırılar

Organisation Details

Canlandırılar is a non-profit organisation based in Istanbul bringing together people who work, produce or want to produce in the field of animation, promoting independent animation culture and passion, and aiming to increase the volume and quality of production. Operating in the fields of education, production and screening, the association aims to contribute to the development of animation art through international collaborations.

Fields of Activity

- Animation
- Film screenings and festivals
- Conferences, master classes, workshops
- International collaborations and young talent support

Structural Model

It is an independent and non-profit Canlandırılar operates as a non-profit association. It carries out its activities through funds, support programmes, volunteer contributions and collaborations.

Year of Establishment: 2011

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 2,420 people during the festival; 250-300 people at events held throughout the year.

Visitor Profile

The majority of the participants are university students, young animation artists and young professionals working in creative industries. The events feature international experts and independent producers as well as newcomers to the industry.

Accessibility

- Free entrance to all short film screenings and conferences within the festival
- Symbolic pricing for feature films
- English-to-Turkish translation at conferences
- Sign language interpretation at main sessions
- Use of spaces that support physical access

Example of an International Collaboration

Canlandırılar International Film Festival collaborates with associations, festivals and foundations from various countries every year. Joint short film screenings were organised with the Kaboom Festival from the Netherlands. These projects promote both creative content sharing and intercultural collaborations.

Grant Project Details

The 10th Canlandırılar International Film Festival was held in four different venues in Istanbul between 17 and 23 October 2023. It featured 12 competition and non-competition short film programmes, a special selection for Kaboom Festival, three feature film screenings, five conferences, four workshops and an illustration exhibition. Most of the events were free of charge. The festival offered a participatory environment that reached a wide audience to celebrate the art of animation and support new talent.



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UK Collaboration

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dijitalLABperformans

Organisation Details

digitalLABperformans is an art platform based in İstanbul founded by Şule Ateş in 2021 to explore the interaction between digital technologies and performing arts, and to create training, production and exhibition opportunities for digital and hybrid performances. The platform offers a space that supports both artistic and theoretical production through seminars, open source videos, physical events and research projects.

Fields of Activity

- Performing arts (especially digital/hybrid performance)
- Training and research programmes
- Open source content, exhibition and dramaturgical production
- Academic-artist collaborations

Structural Model

digitalLABperformance is an independent art initiative currently lacking a legal personality, operating on voluntary participation and project-based funding.

Year of Establishment: 2021

Scale: Small scale, project-based

Annual Average Number of Visitors:
4,200+ views (Youtube); 600+ physical participants

Visitor Profile

Most of the participants are artists, academics, performing arts students, and young adults interested in theatre/performance and digital performance. Although its audience is concentrated in digital media, it sometimes reaches a wider audience through physical events.

Accessibility

- Working with accessible event venues
- Public and free access to digital content on YouTube
- Project design sensitive to audience experience

Example of an International Collaboration

'Performance and Circus of Freaks in a Posthuman Age' is the debut international project of the initiative.



Grant Project Details

The project titled 'Performance and the Circus of Freaks in a Posthuman Age' was developed by digitalLABperformans in partnership with Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre, University of London. The programme reinterpreted the representations of freaks, monsters, and mythological characters in performance art through posthuman theory, ecofeminism, and ecocriticism.

The project included eight seminars, a dramaturgy lab and two open rehearsal presentations between November 2022, February 2023. A total of 600 people attended the physical events at Salt Galata; six videos shared on YouTube received 1,400 views.



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DISODER (Dialogue Social Entrepreneurship Association)

Organisation Details

Dialogue Social Entrepreneurship Association (DISODER) is a civil society organisation based in İstanbul that aims to produce innovative, sustainable and inclusive solutions to social and environmental problems. It contributes to cultural and social transformation by developing projects with a focus on social entrepreneurship, promoting social inclusion, raising social awareness, and creating social impact. One of the most visible activities of the association is to create inclusive experience spaces on the themes of disability, difference, and communication by means of the İstanbul Dialogue Museum.

Fields of Activity

- Social entrepreneurship and social impact
- Accessibility and inclusive cultural experience
- Museology, exhibition design and cultural participation
- Social inclusion and awareness campaigns

Structural Model

DISODER is a civil society organisation operating as an association. Its income generation model is supported by sustainable social enterprise practices and national/international grant programmes.

Year of Establishment: 2014

Scale: Large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 60,000+ (İstanbul Dialogue Museum)

Visitor Profile

The majority of visitors are young people, university students and adult professionals. Furthermore, active participation of people with disabilities is supported. The museum experience is designed to be an inclusive one where individuals of different ages and socio-economic backgrounds can interact with each other.

Accessibility

- Accessible WCs, elevators and other physical infrastructure at the İstanbul Dialogue Museum
- Experience areas specially designed for the participation of people with disabilities
- Website design with accessible interface
- Inclusive content production

Example of an International Collaboration

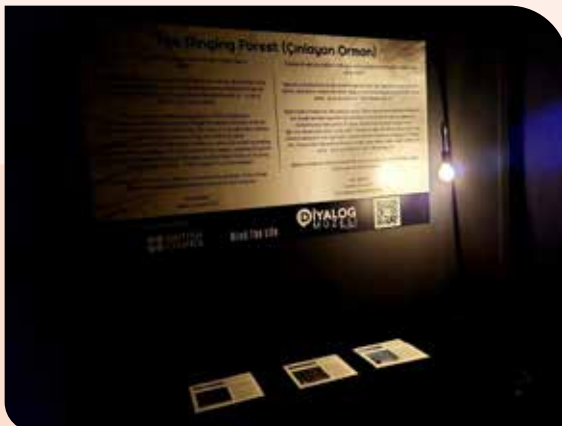
'DOORS – Digital Incubators for Museums Programme' was implemented to improve the digital transformation capacity and accessibility of the İstanbul Dialogue Museum. The project was carried out in cooperation with various museums and cultural institutions in Europe, where accessible digital experiences were designed especially for people with disabilities. Supported by the DOORS mentor network, the process aimed to increase cultural inclusion through digital technologies.



Grant Project Details

'The Ringing Forest' project was implemented in collaboration with the UK-based artist Juan Del Gado and Mind the Life consultancy. This multi-sensory exhibition, on display at the İstanbul Dialogue Museum from January to March 2023, aimed to transform visitors' perceptions of disability by centring on the individual experience of hearing loss and internal noise. More than 4,000 people visited the exhibition.

DİYALOG
MÜZESİ
İSTANBUL



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UK Collaboration

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Organisation Details

fam° is a creative studio based in İstanbul, representing designers and providing strategic creative consultancy and visual design services. Founded in 2019, the studio works with a dynamic collective of designers to curate art projects and produce cultural content with a focus on social impact.

Fields of Activity

- Visual arts and design
- Illustration and animation
- Graphic design and art direction

Structural Model

fam° operates on a project-based model representing independent creative professionals. Its income generation model is based on client collaborations, project-based work, monthly consultancy services and illustration sales on the famstore platform.

Year of Establishment: 2019

Scale: Small

Annual Average Number of Visitors:
1,100 physical; 5,000 online

Visitor Profile

fam° welcomes art enthusiasts, creative industry professionals and tourists visiting the region with exhibitions organised at the İstanbul Design Museum. The audience for the exhibitions consists of artists, students and collectors interested in illustration and graphic design.

Accessibility

- Audio guides for individuals with hearing and visual impairment
- Special exhibition tours for children from disadvantaged communities
- Accessibility menu on the website

Example of an International Collaboration

In 2021, fam° organised an illustration series called 'Conductive' for the famstore° illustration shop. In line with UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals, it worked with artists from five different countries and collaborated with social enterprises and NGOs. The campaign reached more than 1 million people.



Grant Project Details

'From the Field' exhibition brought together four artists from Türkiye and the UK. Inspired by the operational areas of Support to Life and Choose Love NGOs, the works were exhibited at the İstanbul Design Museum between 6 and 27 April 2025. The exhibition reached 200 physical visitors and received more than 140,000 views on digital platforms.



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HipHop Ladies Turkey

Organisation Details

HipHop Ladies Turkey is an independent organisation based in İstanbul that aims to empower girls and women through the creative power of hip-hop culture. It aims to expand women's spheres of expression and support their participation in collective production processes using dance, rap, performance and visual arts, which are direct expressions of street culture.

Fields of Activity

- Performing arts: performance, dance, rap
- Street art and youth culture
- Workshops, video production, community-oriented events

Structural Model

It is an independent and non-profit organisation. It carries out its activities through grants, sponsorships, and volunteer labour.

Year of Establishment: 2019

Scale: Small-medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: Nearly 100,000 digital reach; hundreds of women+ participants at physical events.

Visitor Profile

Women and girls aged 8 and above. Through the activities carried out in different regions of Türkiye, disadvantaged young women from rural and urban areas are reached, while the content is disseminated to a wider age range and geographical scale through digital channels.

Accessibility

- Space preferences that consider physical accessibility
- Making content widely accessible through digital publications
- Open, safe, and participatory space design where participants can move freely

Example of an International Collaboration

International visibility was achieved through a creative dance video competition for girls across Türkiye. In addition, as part of the Dance and Rap Workshops and PowerTalks events, HipHop Ladies Turkey organised talks with partner organisations abroad, thus creating cultural dialogue and inspiration sharing.

Grant Project Details

The 'Female Creative Minds of Dance' project was implemented in 2022-2023 and brought together young women from all over Türkiye. As part of the project, individual and group choreography workshops were held at the street dance camp in Bursa, and the final performance, developed with British dancers Kloe Dean and Hannah Dimtsu, reached thousands of people on social media.

This project aims to emphasise that creativity is a form of expression independent of geographical and social boundaries and to provide an empowering space for young women.



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Istanbul Fringe Festival

Organisation Details

Organised since 2019, İstanbul Fringe Festival is an international festival that brings together alternative and innovative works produced in the field of performing arts from Türkiye and around the world. The festival promotes diversity, inclusivity and creativity by creating space for bold and experimental forms of expression.

Fields of Activity

- Performing arts
- Art activities in public space
- International artist exchange programmes

Structural Model

Fringe İstanbul operates as a limited company. It carries out its programmes through international cultural funds, embassy support, and local collaborations.

Year of Establishment: 2019

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 5,000+ participants

Visitor Profile

60 per cent of the participants are young people under the age of 35, with the majority of them being women. The festival is seen as a free and safe space of expression by young people, LGBTI+ individuals, and groups facing barriers to access to culture and arts. The prominence of body-centred, non-verbal artistic expressions offers an inclusive experience that transcends the language barrier.

Accessibility

- Affordable ticket prices and special offers for students
- Free performances in public spaces
- Content that overcomes language barriers with non-verbal performances
- Inclusive programming to reach marginalised communities

Example of an International Collaboration

In 2021, the Pan~//Catwalk project, carried out with the Dutch team Zwermers, was staged in İstanbul as a performance built on social norms and visibility. Bilgi University students voluntarily participated in the pop-up performances in public spaces such as Kadıköy Mehmet Ayvaltaş Park and Museum Gazhane. The new edition of the performance in İzmir was staged in collaboration with students from Dokuz Eylül and Ege Universities and PAL İzmir. The project presented a multi-layered example of international co-operation in which young artists were actively involved in the creative production process.



Grant Project Details

Nutcrusher was an impressive dance performance by South Korean artist Sung-Im Her that questions themes of gender and power relations.

The performance met with an audience of 375 people at Alan Kadıköy in İstanbul on 5-6 June 2023. In addition to the performance, the artist held a physical workshop called 'Moving Cloud'.

The festival also involved an online panel titled '#MeToo Experiences from Around the World in Performing Arts' on 21 July 2023. Sung-Im Her and Ezgi Sözmen from #SusmaBitsin took part in the panel. The panel's footage was published on Fringe İstanbul's YouTube channel.



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İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV)

Organisation Details

İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV) has been supporting the development of culture and arts in İstanbul since 1973. Regularly organising the İstanbul Music, Film, Theatre and Jazz Festivals, the İstanbul Biennial, the Leyla Gencer Singing Competition and Filmekimi, the foundation hosts concerts at Salon İKSV in the Nejat Eczacıbaşı Building and offers creative activities for children and young people at İKSV Alt Kat.

İKSV prepares the Türkiye Pavilion in the International Architecture and Art Exhibitions at the Venice Biennale on a rotating basis, conducts research and training programmes, and produces reports to contribute to the development of cultural policies in Türkiye. The Foundation also supports contemporary culture and arts production through the awards it presents at its festivals, commissions, local and international co-productions, a residency programme at the Cité Internationale des Arts artists' workshop in France, the İKSV 50th Anniversary Young Artists Fund, as well as the Aydın Gün Incentive Award, the Talât Sait Halman Translation Award, and the Gülriz Sururi-Engin Cezzar Theatre Incentive Award.

Structural Model

İKSV is a non-profit cultural organisation working for public benefit. It carries out its activities through corporate sponsorships, national and international funds, and individual donations.

Year of Establishment: 1973

Scale: Large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 500,000+ physical; 1,000,000+ digital visitors

Visitor Profile

İKSV's events reach hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Visitors include art lovers of different age groups, academics, students and international audiences.

Accessibility

- Physical access at all events
- Sign language interpretation, captioning and audio description services
- Free or discounted access for disadvantaged groups

Example of an International Collaboration

İKSV Alt Kat, which carries out its activities under İKSV's Cultural Policy Studies, organised a choir workshop as part of the WOW International Women's Festival İstanbul, supporting the empowerment of young women through artistic expression. Led by Başak Doğan, Founding Conductor of Chromas and Vocal Academy, 'The Voice of Young Women: Polyphonic Choir Workshop' brought together 30 participants aged 18-23. The workshop series, held between 6 and 29 February 2024, focused on improvisation techniques based on the Vocal Painting method, offering the opportunity to experience collective musical production, versatile use of the voice, and non-verbal forms of communication. The participants staged the repertoire they had learned in the WOW World Women's Festival İstanbul, which took place on 3 March 2024 at Beykoz Kundura.

Grant Project Details

Implemented in collaboration with İKSV Alt Kat, Vokal Akademi and Stop Ecocide International, 'Eco Melodies: Music for Ecology' project aimed to make the themes of environmental awareness and sustainability visible through music.

The workshop programme was conducted within the framework of a special repertoire of works by international composers, and included 30 participants. Participants worked on polyphonic music techniques and generated musical productions with environmental themes.

The concert, which was the output of the project, was performed on 9 February 2025 at Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall in İstanbul.



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UK Collaboration

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Istanbul Modern

Organisation Details

Istanbul Modern shares Turkey's artistic heritage on an international level, bringing together creative works from different regions in Istanbul. Working to collect, preserve, exhibit, document and research modern and contemporary artworks, Istanbul Modern is developing an interdisciplinary organisational model with components such as film programmes, social projects, a library, a cinema and a shop.

Fields of Activity

- Modern and contemporary art exhibitions
- Educational programmes and workshops
- Cinema, literature and performance art events

Structural Model

Istanbul Modern is a private museum affiliated with the Istanbul Modern Art Foundation. It operates with the founding sponsorship of the Eczacıbaşı Group, various support mechanisms and operational revenues.

Year of Establishment: 2004

Scale: Large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 400,000+ physical, 500,000+ digital

Visitor Profile

60 per cent of the participants are young As of 2024, Istanbul Modern has welcomed 989,617 visitors. Approximately 60% of visitors are women and 40% are men, with an average age of 32. Two-thirds of visitors are from Turkey, while the rest are international visitors. Access for young people and individuals from different socio-economic backgrounds has been increased through initiatives such as free admission on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To date, more than one million children, young people and adults have participated in the museum's educational programmes free of charge.

Accessibility

- Accessible exhibition areas
- Inclusive educational programmes for individuals with special learning needs
- Provision of wheelchairs and prams
- Baby care rooms and accessible toilets for disabled individuals
- Captioned video screenings

Example of an International Collaboration

Istanbul Modern launched its International Artist-in-Residence Programme in 2018, adopting a production-oriented approach and hosting artists from different regions in Istanbul. This programme offers artists the opportunity to discover Istanbul's multifaceted cultural fabric, while also inviting them to explore the city's ever-changing layers. Participating artists create artworks that will be featured in the museum's exhibitions and programmes, focusing on the city's tangible and intangible cultural heritage and contemporary life. Additionally, the 'Museum Talk' programme, launched in 2012, facilitates collaborations with international organisations and agencies, in addition to organising exhibitions and events.

**İSTANBUL
MODERN**

Grant Project Details

Istanbul Modern's International Artist-in-Residence Programme was relaunched in 2024 with a grant from the British Council's Grant Programme for Creative Collaborations.

The guest of the 2024 programme was composer Dimitris Skyllas from the United Kingdom. During his time in Istanbul, Skyllas researched both the city and the museum's architecture and collection, visiting places that reflect the soundscapes of Istanbul.

The musical work created by the artist, inspired by his research, is presented at Istanbul Modern on 12 September 2025 .



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Koç University - KUAR (Koç University Arçelik Creative Industries Research Centre)

Organisation Details

Koç University Arçelik Creative Industries Research Centre (KUAR) was established in 2015 by Koç University partnering with Arçelik A.Ş., one of Türkiye's leading technology corporations. The Centre conducts applied research focusing on making the production processes of creative industries more efficient, inclusive and sustainable. It carries out conceptual and experimental prototyping studies in many sectoral themes such as gaming, performance, film, cultural heritage, animation, transportation, education and health. KUAR develops creative solutions through field studies, workshops and design fictions, adopting user-centred research methods.

Fields of Activity

- Applied design research in creative industries
- Experimental prototyping and product development
- Design-orientated training and workshops
- National and international R&D projects

Structural Model

KUAR is a research centre affiliated to Koç University Rectorate. It was supported by Arçelik A.Ş. during its establishment phase and continues its operations with the university budget and national/international funds.

Year of Establishment: 2015

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 636 unique visitors on its website, 8,961 followers on its Instagram page (2023); average 300-500 participants per year at physical events

Visitor Profile

Participants in KUAR events and projects include designers, engineers, artists, academics and creative entrepreneurs. A significant number of visitors are Koç University students and researchers, while industry representatives and international partners also participate in the Centre's programmes.

Accessibility

- Access to KUAR via lifts and ramps from the car park
- Selection of wheelchair accessible areas for events
- Online events
- Social media posts supported by Turkish-English bilingual content and alternative texts

Example of an International Collaboration

KUAR contributed to the circular economy-based maker movement conducted in seven European cities in the Pop-Machina project. In the project, which aimed to involve local communities in production in the cities of İstanbul, Leuven, Thessaloniki, Kaunas, Venlo, Piraeus and Santander, KUAR faculty members served as pilot implementation leaders. In this process, workshops, field research and design guides were developed, bringing together maker culture and creative production. The project was successfully completed in February 2024.

Grant Project Details

In the project, KUAR created a creative network with the theme of sustainability in cooperation with Lancaster University. In the first phase, artists and designers in İstanbul and Lancaster came together in face-to-face in Lanchester and in online meetings; in the second phase, a joint design fiction workshop was held in 2023-2024. In the final phase, the outputs of these collaborations were exhibited at both Koç University in İstanbul and Lancaster University. Accessibility principles were observed in the events, and bilingual communication was provided with Turkish and English content.



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Miras

Organisation Details

MİRAS Centre for Cultural Sustainability seeks to build greater social cohesion and individual wellbeing by (re)connecting people with their cultural heritage and creativity through educational activities, community engagement, and supporting critical infrastructure. It aims to benefit particularly those that are at risk of losing -through natural disasters or human intervention- active engagement with art and culture, with the well-documented individual and societal benefits that flow from such experiences.

Fields of Activity

- Strengthening community engagement
- Supporting critical cultural infrastructure
- Enhancing people's interaction with cultural heritage and creativity

Structural Model

MİRAS was legally established in May 2023 as a non-profit Association in İstanbul, Türkiye, and operates with the support of international and national grants alongside individual donations.

Year of Establishment: 2023

Scale: Small

Annual Average Number of Visitors: Reaching 2000+ people in project-based meetings

Visitor Profile

As a project-based organisation rather than a venue-based one, MİRAS reaches its audience primarily through workshops, performances, and collaborative cultural programs. In 2023–2025 our activities engaged thousands of participants, including children, young people, educators, artists, and local community members. Our visitor profile is shaped by a participatory approach, prioritising inclusivity, co-creation, and cultural diversity. Rather than passive audiences, our participants are actively involved in shaping content, contributing ideas, and engaging in creative processes.

Accessibility

- Activities are designed with a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusion
- Selection of venues based on the presence of ramps, accessible restrooms, and inclusive infrastructure
- Prioritization of inclusive participation in content design and facilitation

Example of an International Collaboration

'Rebuilding Beyond Bricks – Creative Music Workshops' project by MİRAS supported by SEMPRES (The Society for Education, Music and Psychology Research). This initiative was carried out in Hatay, one of the most severely affected regions by the 2023 earthquakes. Through a series of creative workshops, both Turkish and international musicians—including Evrencan Gündüz, Tolgahan Çoğulu, and Audrey Wozniak—worked with children and young people to support emotional healing and creative expression. The workshops aimed to help participants reconnect with their sense of agency and community through music, improvisation, and play.

Grant Project Details

Phoenix Project: Rebuilding Hatay through Sounds and Music is a multidisciplinary and international initiative realised by MİRAS with the support of the British Council's 2024–2025 Creative Collaborations Grant Programme. Co-created by artists from Türkiye and the UK, the project aimed to highlight Hatay's multicultural heritage and its determination to rebuild, using music as a powerful medium of expression. As part of the project, a panel was held at Salon İKSV on 2 May 2025, where the creative process and international collaboration model were shared. On 9 May 2025, the project culminated in a large-scale performance at the Hatay Culture and Arts Market, attracting an audience of over 500 people. In addition, the artists held creative music workshops in local schools, directly reaching approximately 30 children and young people. The project positions cultural production as a tool for collective healing and community resilience.



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Onagöre

Organisation Details

Onagöre is an independent initiative based in İstanbul that develops innovative and interdisciplinary projects in the field of culture and arts. It aims to offer a participatory experience in different fields of contemporary art through publishing, design and artistic production. Onagöre supports collective production processes and contributes to content production by establishing collaborations with artists, academics and cultural producers.

Fields of Activity

- Publishing and graphic design
- Photography and visual arts
- Literature and digital culture production

Structural Model

Onagöre is an independent culture and arts platform that ensures its sustainability through project-based funding, individual support and collaborations. It operates as a limited company legally owned by Ali Taptık and is guided by an executive board of young artists and writers. It is also funded through provision of archive, research and design services to organisations such as Beymen and Sabancı Energy.

Year of Establishment: 2020

Scale: Small

Annual Average Number of Visitors:
500-1,500 physical; 3,000+ digital

Visitor Profile

Onagöre's events and publications address an audience of artists, academics, designers and cultural producers. A significant portion of the participants are young people under the age of 30. Although it does not have a physical space, its followers in the digital media are growing. The first edition of On Connection sold 1,200 copies and the second edition was published in 1,000 copies at the beginning of the year.

Accessibility

- Accessible PDF formats for digital publications
- Arrangements in physical spaces in accordance with accessibility standards
- Special content production for artists with disabilities

Example of an International Collaboration

Onagöre participated in fairs such as Printed Matter's Art Book Fair (New York and Los Angeles), one of the world's leading events in the field of artists' books. It collaborates with artists and academics from different countries and develops projects that support co-production processes.

Grant Project Details

Onagöre accomplished the Turkish adaptation of the project 'The Price of Everything' together with the UK-based art collective Quarantine. Shaped with the contributions of Prof. Zafer Yenil and Mırsra Şen, this project was built around the experience of a meaningful conversation at the dinner table. The menu of questions and topics created with local hosts in İstanbul aimed to offer different perspectives to the participants, creating an intellectual ground on social interaction, in February 2024.



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Ege University

Organisation Details

The Department of Turkish Folk Dances, established within Ege University State Conservatory of Turkish Music in İzmir, was structured with a view to teaching traditional dance culture scientifically and passing it on to future generations. In addition to applied dance education, the department offers courses in disciplines related to performing arts such as rhythm, stage make-up, and photography. Having taken part in national and international art events with more than 30 dance projects since its establishment, the Department of Turkish Folk Dances has created a comprehensive archive of traditional costumes, music and instruments through its field research, and building on its experience, it pioneered the launch of Ege University Ethnography Museum and Turkish Folk Dances Museum.

Fields of Activity

- Folk dances
- Stage and performing arts
- Dance and choreography

Structural Model

The Department of Turkish Folk Dances operates as an academic programme within Ege University, carrying out projects financed by international funds and university support.

Year of Establishment: 1989

Scale: Large

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 15,000+ physical; 20,000+ digital

Visitor Profile

The stage performances of the Ekin Troupe within the department reach approximately 10,000 viewers annually. In addition, approximately 300 university students and 500 adult amateurs attend the free folk dance courses delivered in the dance studios every year.

Accessibility

- Accessible physical infrastructure throughout the university campus
- Braille sheet music archive for the visually impaired at the Conservatory

Example of an International Collaboration

The Department of Turkish Folk Dances operates as an academic programme within Ege University, carrying out projects financed by international funds and university support.



Grant Project Details

The 'BACI' Contemporary Ethnic Dance project was held in collaboration with Ege University Turkish Folk Dance Department and Ceyda Tanc Dance Company from the United Kingdom. The project focused on the themes of gender inequality, migration, and women's resilience, bringing together Turkish folk dances and contemporary dance. The performance staged by Turkish and British dancers reinterpreted the motifs of traditional folk dances with contemporary choreography, bringing cultural dances to a different narrative plane. The performances were held at Ege University Campus Cultural Centre (approximately 700 people) and İzmir Ahmed Adnan Saygun Art Centre (approximately 1,200 people) on 24 February 2024. The project aimed to build bridges between Eastern and Western dance aesthetics through interdisciplinary dance production.



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Teos Culture and Arts Association (TKS)

Organisation Details

Founded in İzmir in 2016 by artists, academics, activists and local administrators, Teos Culture and Arts Association is an independent organisation operating in the fields of cultural heritage, ecology and social inclusivity. It develops cultural and artistic projects and engages in international collaborations with a view to increasing regional capacity. Embracing the principles of ecological sustainability, gender equality and democratic participation, the association aims to establish cultural dialogue at both local and international levels.

Fields of Activity

- Cultural heritage and ecology
- Visual and performing arts
- Capacity building

Structural Model

TKS is an independent association that engages in activities through project-based local and international funding and collaborations.

Year of Establishment: 2016

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: 3,000–5,000 physical and digital participants

Visitor Profile

Throughout the year, TKS hosts dozens of national and international artists and cultural figures as part of its projects. The association's projects reach thousands of viewers annually.

Accessibility

- Wheelchair access
- Sign language interpretation and audio guide service
- Social accessibility initiatives in collaboration with local authorities

Example of an International Collaboration

The 'Pedestrians on Stone Bridges' project, carried out with the support of the British Council, brought together oral history studies and contemporary dance performances on historic stone bridges in Turkey and Germany. The project exhibitions and documentary screenings were held in İzmir, Frankfurt, Pristina and İstanbul.



Grant Project Details

Teos Culture and Arts Association carried out the 'Forecast Turkey: The Memory of Water' programme together with London-based Invisible Dust and local partners as well as with the support of British Council. Conducted in the Küçük Menderes region, the project addresses ecological heritage and rural memory through forums, exhibitions and symposiums involving artists, scientists and local people.

The project concluded with an Artist Talk and a Project Exhibition at the BAYETAV Foundation in Bornova, İzmir.



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Şanlıurfa

Gönül Köprüsü Association

Organisation Details

Gönül Köprüsü is a Şanlıurfa-based non-profit organisation that aims to build understanding, peace and prosperity between local and migrant communities through creative economy. Focusing on issues such as gender inequality, youth inadequacy and lack of social cohesion, the association creates spaces for intercultural dialogue through the joint efforts of its Turkish and Syrian founders. The association considers cultural production as a means of healing and empowerment and develops programmes that are especially intended for vulnerable communities.

Fields of Activity

- Creative industries
- Cultural heritage and social memory
- Social cohesion and refugee representation
- Creative media projects

Structural Model

Gönül Köprüsü operates as a non-governmental organisation. The association generates its income through project grants and funds received from local and foreign donor organisations.

Year of Establishment: 2020

Scale: Medium

Annual Average Number of Visitors: The total number of listeners reached in the Soundcheck! project is 100,000+

Visitor Profile

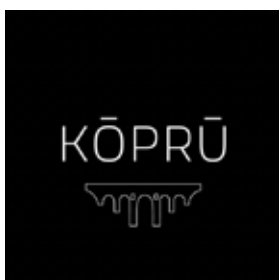
The majority of the listeners are adults aged 20-45. These inclusive publications and events are particularly intended for Syrian migrant artists, music industry professionals, researchers and cultural policy makers. The broadcasts have reached an audience from different geographies.

Accessibility

- Physical access and supportive equipment in projects carried out in Şanlıurfa Barrier-Free Living Centre
- Use of public and accessible spaces in projects
- Content made available to everyone in digital format

Example of an International Collaboration

The project titled 'Soundcheck!' was carried out in cooperation with London-based Resonance FM and Gaziantep/Paris-based Radio Rozana. As part of the project, Syrian music professionals living in Türkiye and a Spanish researcher prepared a series of podcasts/radio broadcasts moderated by Donald Hyslop. The broadcasts explored the themes of migration, music and social memory, and two special programmes on the February earthquakes were also produced. The broadcasts reached more than 100,000 people online. The project aimed to make the cultural contributions of Syrians visible and provide a positive perspective on refugee representation.



Grant Project Details

Throughout the broadcast series Soundcheck!, cultural content was produced, presented in accessible radio format and international collaborations were established.

The technical infrastructure of the project was undertaken by Rozana FM and Resonance FM. As a result of online interviews, recordings and editing, a multilingual and polyphonic broadcast archive was created and broadcasted between December 2023 to January 2024.



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