



Palestinian Performing Arts Showcase 2018

The Palestinian Performing Arts Network (PPAN) organized the “Palestinian Performing Arts Showcase 2018” for three days, from 29 November to 1 December 2018 at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh. The Showcase aimed to create an important platform for artists and artistic groups working in the performing arts sector (music, theatre, dance and circus) to present their creative works and to establish a productive cultural network between Palestinian and international participants as well. The artists and artistic groups participating in the Showcase were selected from various geographic areas of Palestine; including the occupied territories in 1948 and the occupied Golan.



The 2018 Showcase witnessed wide local and international participation, including representatives from: The International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM), Palest' In & Out Festival, Festival d-Aix-en-Provence, the Berlin Circus Festival, Dublin Theatre Festival, Performing Arts Connections Australia (PAC), Shubbak Festival and others. Representatives from regional festivals also attended, including, but not limited to, Visa for Music Festival – Morocco. The Showcase provided opportunities that highlighted Palestinian performing arts, as well as

networking spaces in order to build new relationships and partnerships between the sector and the rest of the world.

The Showcase included performances in theatre, music, circus, and dance; that were performed by local artists and artistic bands in different locations: Ashtar Theatre, the Palestinian Circus Tent in Birzeit and the City Theatre in Ramallah. The Showcase's program also included two roundtable sessions, titled: "Performing arts in Palestine: its development, major challenges and contributing actors in the field"; and "Exploring the possibilities of cooperation between Palestinian performing arts institutions/companies with its regional and international counterparts".

New Members and 2019 PPAN Membership

During its extraordinary meeting, PPAN's General Assembly, the network approved the membership of both "Naqsh Popular Art Troupe" and "The Palestinian Association for Cultural Development – Nawa", bringing the total of PPAN member organization to 15 members.



Regarding the opening of the new membership window for the current year 2019, the network will welcome applications from the sectors' organizations between June 15 to August 15, 2019. The timeframe to apply for PPAN membership will be published in local newspapers, as well as on the network's social media pages. It should be noted that all applications will need to adhere to the recently amended membership criteria of the network. The applications will be reviewed and presented to the General Assembly for final selection and approval.

Board of Directors Meetings

PPAN's Board of Directors held six meetings during the second half of 2018. During these meetings, a number of major issues were addressed; with emphasis on the PPAN Showcase. A preparatory committee was formed to follow up with all the details related to the Showcase. In the same context, the Board of Directors reviewed and assessed the applications submitted by the local artists and artistic band to participate in the Showcase. 17 artistic productions were selected to perform during the 2018 Showcase.

During the meetings, the Board of Directors also discussed avenues of cooperation between the network and some official and civil institutions, PPAN 2018 membership applications and PPAN's funding strategy.

2018 Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting

PPAN's General Assembly held its extraordinary meeting on the 9th of October 2018 in Ramallah and was attended by 15 out of 19 of the General Assembly members and some guests of the network's member organizations. The meeting's agenda included approving PPAN new members and reviewing the latest developments in the preparation for the PPAN Showcase.



PPAN Booklet

During the second half of 2018, the network issued the PPAN booklet. The booklet includes information about the network; its institutionalization, history, vision, mission, and strategic objectives. The booklet also contains information about PPAN's programs and activities; including capacity-building, advocacy and networking.



Networking Meetings

During the second half of 2018, the network organized some networking meetings, which included:

- **Workshop between the Cultural Sector Institutions and the Ministry of Culture:** The Palestinian Performing Arts Network organized, on November 5, 2018, a workshop was implemented on "strengthening the supportive environment of the cultural artistic sector" between the cultural sector institutions and the Minister of Culture, Dr. Ehab Bseisso. The workshop took place in the Palestinian National Library and was attended by PPAN member organizations and a number of the sector's institutions from different geographical locations, in addition to other representatives from the Ministry of Culture. A number of major sector issues were highlighted during the workshop and included: the intellectual property rights issue, the 10 % tax imposed on artists, the need to allocate a percentage of tax revenues to support the cultural artistic sector, and the need to create a mechanism for

selecting artistic groups which represent Palestine at the regional and international levels.



Following up on the workshop, the network will prepare a statement letter; which will be signed by a number of cultural and artistic institutions that will shed light on the major issues discussed during the workshop.

• **PPAN's Meetings with the Ministry of Education:**

In the framework of networking to enhance the performing arts field in Palestine, PPAN, represented by a delegation of its Board of Directors, held a meeting on November 6, 2018 with the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Sabri Seidam. The meeting aimed to discuss joint cooperation avenues between the Palestinian institutions working in the performing arts field and the Ministry of Education. The meeting was also attended by another delegation from Ministry which included: Nadeem Sami – General Director of Public and International Relations, Sadiq Al-Khadour – General Director of Student Activities, and Dr. Shahinaz Al-Far – General Director of Educational Supervision and Rehabilitation. During the meeting, Dr. Seidam asserted the need for more practical steps to be implemented in order to

encourage performing arts in schools. Based on the meeting, PPAN and the Ministry agreed to sign a cooperation agreement which will represent a launching point for all future work and engagement.



On December 17, 2018, a second meeting was held between the network and the Ministry of Education. The meeting's agenda included a detailed discussion on the National School of Arts and Culture. It was agreed that PPAN would work with the National School to empower art and music teachers, review programs and curricula related to performing arts and further develop the strategic plan of the School.

• **Meeting with Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate:**

The Palestinian Performing Arts Network met on November 8, 2018 with the governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Dr. Laila Ghannam to introduce her to the network and its activities, and to discuss future avenues of networking between PPAN and the governorate.



- **Meeting with Jerusalem Arts Network – SHAFQA:**

PPAN held a meeting with the Jerusalem Arts Network – SHAFQA to discuss the possibility of strengthening future cooperation between the two networks.

- **Workshop on Project Planning and Development:**

Following up to the developmental need's assessment study for cultural organizations, and based on its recommendations, PPAN held a training workshop from December 12-13, 2018 in Ramallah on "Project Planning and Development". The workshop was attended by representatives of PPAN member organizations and representatives from cultural sector institutions.



- **PPAN's Meeting with Different Funding Parties:**

During 2018, the network held a number of meetings with various international donor agencies, including, but not limited to: the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Open Society Foundation (OSF), Drosos Foundation, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the Danish House in Palestine and the European Union.

Participations

From November 6-7, 2018, the Palestinian Performing Arts Network and a number of its member organizations participated in a training workshop held by the Swedish Consulate General titled "Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming" at Khalil Sakakini Center in Ramallah.

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The Palestinian Performing Arts Network
Askar Building, 4th Floor
Al-Bireh –Palestine
Telefax: 02-2402289
info@ppan.ps
www.ppan.ps