Revisited Cultural Programme

January 2022



Timișoara 2023 European Capital of Culture

Index

Timișoara 2023 Curatorial Team 3

Introduction 4

Opening 6

People 7

- Reflections 8
- Knowledge Fields 11
- Addictive Lights 14
- Analogic 16
- Players of Change 18
- Invisible/Visible 20
- Chiaroscuro 22
- Fluid Views 24
- CommUnity 26

Places 28

- Dare! 29
- Impulse 31
- City Voices 33
- Slowing Down 36
- Frames and Shapes 38
- Urban Dilemmas / Parallel City 40
- Remix ID 42
- Bright Cityscapes 44
- Energy Incubators 46
- Spotlight Heritage 48
- Breathing Spaces 51
- ROD Festival 53

Connections 55

- Light over Borders 56
- Moving Fireplaces 57
- Baroque Reloaded 59
- Encounters 60
- Light Search 62
- European Echoes 64

Power Station 65

Funding Mechanisms 66

Audience Development 67

Timișoara 2023
Curatorial Team



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Introduction

In November–December 2021, the Timișoara 2023 Curatorial Team, constituted in November 2021, carried out a series of collective and individual meetings with the cultural operators mentioned as Hosts in the 2016 Bid Book. The scope of these meetings was to make a status analysis of the Cultural Programme (as proposed in the Bid Book), to identify the current status of implementation five years after the ECoC title has been granted to Timișoara, and to update the projects presented in the Bid Book, taking into consideration the time perspective and the pandemic effects on the local cultural scene and the prospect of public events taking place in a pandemic context.

The aims for the first analyis has been to offer a basis for structuring the mechanisms for supporting the local operators in overcoming the difficult period of 2020-2021 and to find common strategies for developing and enhancing the Cultural Programme for Timisoara 2023 European Capital of Culture. For this, the Curatorial Team has produced in December 2021 an analysis report – an internal working document communicated to local and national authorities and to the European Comission.

This revisited version of the Cultural Programme is the result of a number of consultations with hosts and partners from the Bid Book, as well as with other cultural operators who have developed projects in line with the artistic vision of the Bid Book, that had been successfully selected through at least two funding calls, and have demonstrated consistency and a coherent programme over several years. It represents a **strategic plan** to activate the hosts and their partners, to implement the vision of an innovative Cultural Programme in 2023, which has to adapt to the new context. The plan is intended to guarantee the success and the legacy of the Cultural Programme, put to the test by the pandemic crisis that has affected the whole world in the last couple of years.

Thus, we are taking the opportunity to rejuvenate and update the local and national cultural policies, to place Timișoara at the forefront of Europe as a reference in how to rethink a programme for European Capital of Culture, that focuses on meetings, connections, long-term capacity building strategies and openness in financial mechanisms for the cultural sector. The process of revisiting the cultural programme had in mind the long-term and sustainability of the cultural organizations in the city of Timisoara, encouraging transversality and international partnerships. The pandemic crisis underlines the need for a commitment to core values and a strong community capable of creating projects based on the strength of its social capital. In this line, gender equality, human rights and pluriversal perspectives permeate everything that is done within the Cultural Programme: from production support to the selection of artistic acts to highlight, and to principles of the recruitment of new staff. Diversity is understood as a prerequisite for quality, as well as artistic freedom for vulnerable communities.

We have come to an understanding that most of the hosts in the Bid Book need support and guidance in order to develop their projects for 2023, and to expand their national and European partnerships. Therefore, the focus is primarily to

strengthen the Stations and Trails in the Bid Book, to empower the hosts and, where needed, to identify new hosts or co-hosts that have the knowledge to implement the content presented in the programme. The methods for identifying new Hosts have been to contact local partners mentioned already in the Bid Book, or cultural operators mentioned in the Bid Book, or organisations whose activity is unique in Timișoara in relation to the thematic described in a Station or Trail. The focus of the Curatorial Team is to enhance the European dimension of each Trail and Station through expanded and strengthened international partnerships and artistic participation, rooted in local capacity.

The revisited Bid Book represents a basic structure of activities which are aligned with the original artistic vision and concept, proposed by the host organisations. These activities are to be further developed and expanded through curated programmes in partnership with the organisations in Timișoara. The artistic content of the three Territories: People, Places and Connections, which represent the core of this revisited Culture programme comes from the cultural operators, hosts of each trail and station.

Furthermore, the Curatorial Team will develop a series of thematic open calls that will have the scope of opening up and enhancing the Cultural Programme, in the spirit of openness and democratic processes for a common culture policy. The procedure for adding other projects and programmes to consolidate and expand the Cultural Programme for 2023 is detailed in the chapter Funding Mechanism.

The Curatorial Team will also invite a number of international artists as Fellows of Timișoara 2023, to emphasize through their artistic practice a response to the pressing matters of our time, through commissions of site-specific, process-oriented works, taking on moments of uncertainty. The commissioned works will be revealed throughout 2023.

The role of the Timișoara 2023 Curatorial Team

The main duties of the Curatorial Team are centered on leading the development of the European Capital of Culture Programme and its artistic curating. The Curatorial Team further develops the Timișoara 2023 artistic vision and guides the main cultural operators active in Timișoara who are contributing to the Cultural Programme to implement this vision.

The central segment of the programme is based on the Bid Book and the creative concept *Shine your Light – Light Up Your City*, which granted Timișoara the European Capital of Culture title. For this part of the programme, based on the organisations already included in the Bid Book, the Curatorial Team will offer guidance and international expertise, in order to empower them to creatively enhance their programme, while aligning their activities to contemporary thought.

The hosts and their local partners are thus empowered to take responsibility for the relationships with artists, for overseeing the implementation teams to deliver the programme, and for the delivery of the works *in situ*.



Opening

Official start date: February 24, 2023

The European Capital of Culture opening weekend (February 24–26) is an integral part of the Cultural Programme of Timișoara 2023.

It stems from the legacy of the city being:

- a confluence of various cultures
- a landmark of revolt in front of oppression and of hope through solidarity
- a European pioneer of technological advancement

The featured collaborations and encounters between international and Romanian artists send messages from Timișoara to Europe and the rest of the world that solidarity, an open society and technological advancement ensure a sense of common struggle in times of hopelessness, societal divides and ecological challenges.

The opening programme will include a series of performances and events throughout the city, and a light installations along the Bega River – commissioned through a national and international open call.
The celebrations will include a full programme of cultural activities such as concerts, theatre, exhibitions and much more, dispersed throughout the city – a set of actions involving many cultural operators – in the spirit of co-creation with the sentiment that the city is in motion.

All hosts in the cultural program will be invited to contribute to the opening with diverse events, meant as celebrations of their teams and volunteers ready to launch into the long awaited year of the title.

Since spring 2020, the planning of Timișoara 2023 has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and has already required numerous adaptations. The mutual exchange between international and local artists and site-specific development of projects, which are important to the concept of Timișoara 2023, were thus rendered more difficult. Nevertheless, planning is advancing, both in terms of identifying individual exhibition venues and the preparations of artistic performances. Safety and hygiene are a constant consideration – from the choice of sufficiently large indoor and outdoor locations to digital solutions for supporting the visitor experience.

People

The first Territory to map is within ourselves – from daily habits and forgotten dreams, to collective joys and anxieties. Culture has the energy to create civic motion through emotion, to inspire value-based attitudes and actions, to bring forth our inner light.



Station



Reflections

(Photo: UVT Media Hub)

Host

West University of Timișoara (WUT)

Networks

Local

Group for Cultural Management and Mediation, Romanian Cultural Institute, “Traian Vuia” Timișoara Airport, “Banatul” Philharmonic, “Ion Vidu” High School (Timișoara), House of Culture (Timisoara)

International

UNITA – Universitas Montium consortium, together with: Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy), Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour (France), Université Savoie Mont Blanc (France), Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain), Universidade da Beira Interior (Portugal)

Locations

Various venues and departments of the West University of Timișoara, and public spaces throughout the city

Format

A forum of study and debate, international gatherings, expanded programme, workshops, exhibitions, performances, publications

In the context of Timișoara – European Capital of Culture, the West University of Timișoara aims to become the biggest platform in Western Romania for debating ideas that impact the European Union and the local community, thus creating a city that is critical and effervescent for both its residents and visitors and that also has a strong connection with its community. Timișoara shall be more than the place for artistic events, but also the place that enhances a critical attitude and crystallizes a voice whose echoes will reverberate both locally and abroad.

The conceptual framework for the debates has the following milestones: connections, interdependency, diversity, mutual respect, memory, technology, and the future. In order to reach this goal, the West University shall organize a series of conferences and artist talks culminating in a major international interdisciplinary conference.

The ideas that will be generated and debated during these events shall also be (re)interpreted through a series of interdisciplinary artistic events coordinated by the Faculty of Arts and Design and the Faculty of Music and Theatre (theatre, opera, contemporary dance, exhibitions etc.). In 2022 and 2023, the West University will organize events both in already consecrated venues such as Aula Magna, as well as nonconventional venues across the city, involving partners such as high schools, universities from Romania and abroad, cultural centers and television studios. All these events will unfold under a unique conceptual umbrella and will generate both answers, solutions, and constructive questions representing different areas of interest, by facilitating multiple critical perspectives as well as convergent and complementary aesthetic experiences.

The key concept for the events that will take place in 2022 is *energy* and the one for 2023 is *cohesion*.

Timeline highlights

Apri 2022 – December 2023

- **Conferences: *Culture is the capital* at the West University**
  The series of conferences *Culture is the capital at the West University* invites speakers specialized in the humanities: Romanian writers, historians, literary critics and researchers. The conferences take place on a monthly basis and are moderated by literary critic and essayist Mircea Mihăieș.

- **Debates in Timișoara high schools: Break the wall**
  The Faculty of Law will coordinate a series of Oxford debates organized in 5 high schools in Timișoara and in the Timiș County. The topics (resolutions) are based on issues which are relevant to the young people. The aim of the project is to encourage critical thinking and civic awareness, and to deepen their understanding of current socio-cultural issues.

- **Timișoara, the secret map. People and places**
  This project aims to highlight specialists in various fields that deserve to be known by the general public, as well as places with a special history that also deserve to be in the spotlight. *Timișoara, the secret map. People and places* involves a series of filmed encounters with a series of guests, from doctors, aviators, architects to people of culture and specialists in forgotten professions, who will highlight and recover the city's otherwise forgotten or unknown stories. These encounters will be filmed, and the resulting videos will include both footage capturing the uniqueness of the places as well as the stories of those connected to the places. Starting in 2022, the project will expand in two complementary directions: guided tours of Timișoara, and interactive courses on Timișoara's lesser-known history, as well as launching campaigns to promote the stories documented in the video materials through exhibitions on transport (based on the existing partnership with the Timișoara Public Transport Society). (Transversal programme common for both the Dare! and Reflections stations)

- **Science for you**
  This project, organized monthly, involves the West University faculties that study the exact sciences: physics, chemistry, biology, geography, mathematics, computer science and aims to popularize science through an interactive dialogue between a moderator, the public and a specialist from the faculties or a guest from the scientific community. The meetings will take place in Timișoara bookshops, unconventional spaces, university laboratories or in the West University urban garden. An annual science festival will be organised, including thematic workshops, workshops and practical demonstrations.

- **Ideas that change the world**
  This series of monthly conferences brings together diplomats, Romanian and foreign politicians, military strategists, specialists from state and private institutions involved in policy making. The series is moderated by West University professors with expertise in diplomacy. The format involves a dialogue with the audience as well as a series of questions from two students and a political science researcher.

April 2022

- **Modern and contemporary art in open dialogue**
  The event aims to stimulate a debate on the relationship between modern and contemporary art. The project includes a series of dialogues/conferences between different art curators (national and international), exhibitions representative for the complementarity of the two subjects, workshops for children and young people.

May–December 2022 ● **Culture & Community**
This project will include a series of debates, conferences, artistic events on topics such as street art and urban regeneration, design thinking etc. The events will take place in unconventional spaces, including pop-up events in rural areas, which will benefit regional cultural tourism.

July 2022 ● **Ideas Festival**
The aim of this marathon of talks, workshops and arts is to encourage a culture of dialogue and debate in the local community by organising debates to promote critical thinking, European values, lifelong learning, inclusion, diversity and tolerance. It will promote the culture of dialogue, critical and interdisciplinary analysis involving citizens and young people of Timișoara on topics of interest in the socio-cultural area, exercising skills such as critical thinking, communication, and active listening. The Festival of Ideas will invite specialists from both the socio-cultural and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) fields.

October 2022 ● **WE Perform**
Performances on an open-air stage set up in Liberty Square by the students of the Faculty of Music and Theatre, with an attractive repertoire for all ages.

November 2022 ● **The Soul of Timișoara**
Theatrical performance with musical inserts describing the values of Timișoara (multiculturalism, tolerance, respect for diversity of beliefs), the city being seen as a city of lights, with three theatres in three languages, which makes it unique. The show is conceived and staged by the teachers, students and alumni of the Faculty of Music and Theatre.

March 2023 ● **Transcreation: shapes and creative modes in visual arts, music, literature, theatre, film**
The project includes interdisciplinary conferences, a podcast, workshops dedicated to high school students, experimental interdisciplinary artistic projects (AI, VR, AR) presented to the public in real and virtual public spaces, on dedicated virtual platforms.

April–December 2023 ● **Culture & Community**
This project will include a series of debates, conferences, artistic events on topics such as street art and urban regeneration, design thinking etc. The events will take place in unconventional spaces, including pop-up events in rural areas, which will benefit regional cultural tourism.

Trail

Knowledge Fields



O data artistă, mereu artistă – Claudiu Cobilanschi, 2020
Indecis artist run (Photo: Foc și Pară)

Host

Kinema Ikon (Arad) and Doar Mâine (Arad)*

Networks

Local

Foc și Pară, Minitremu, tranzit.ro, Casa Tranzit, PUNCH/Solitude Project, CitiZenit (Arad), Simultan Association, Timiș County Council, Art and Design Faculty of Timișoara, ARTeast Foundation, Salonul de Proiecte (Bucharest), “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad – Faculty of Design; Department of Cinematography and Media, Digital Interactive Arts, Faculty of Theater and Film, “Babeș-Bolyai” University Cluj-Napoca, “Alexandru D. Xenopol” County Library Arad, “Sabin Drăgoi” Art College Arad), Magma Contemporary Medium (Sf. Gheorghe), Colectiv A (Cluj-Napoca), Lateral ArtSpace (Cluj-Napoca), Slow-Sync PH Association (Bucharest), Young Actions and Abstractions Association (Cluj-Napoca)

International

ABC House (Belgium), Meet Factory (Czech Republic), Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art (Poland), Tranzit.hu, Tranzit.sk, Ileana L. Selejan (University of Arts London)

Locations

Arad Art Museum, highschools in Arad and Timișoara

Format

Workshops, exhibitions, performances, interactive gaming

A blend of arts and critical pedagogy guide audiences through today’s world, shaped by technology. Artistic approaches to the digital world. Emerging art pedagogies guide audiences through the contemporary world and art shaped by technology.

Knowledge Fields represents a constellation of actors with various pedagogical methodologies, which do not impose themselves on each other, but rather try to learn from each other, to pursue an exchange of working methods, with an experimental character both at the level of content, as well as of the partnership.

The main aim of the series of events and activities focused on (in)formal arts education is to make visible the pedagogies instrumented by artists and cultural mediators to address a contemporary world and arts shaped and imbued by new technologies. Another aim is to mediate between the field of "art and new technologies" and the local audience in Arad and Timișoara through activities driven by the Kinema Ikon group, on one hand, and on other practices of alternative pedagogies driven by Minitremu and Foc și Pară.

* The initial host, Banat IT, could no longer assume this role. Kinema Ikon and Doar Mâine (represented by Nita Mocanu), as mentioned in the content of the trail, become main hosts of the trail, together with local partners Minitremu and Foc și Pară.

Timeline highlights

2022

- Kinema Ikon Kimæra camp/workshops (students) for the realisation of some components of the meta-installation (Kinema Ikon pedagogy).
- Planning and designing activities around Kinema Ikon with educators and artists for 3 schools in Arad ("Moise Nicoară" National College Arad, Informatics Secondary School Arad, "Sabin Drăgoi" Arts College Arad).
- Development of the AR application for Kimæra Monuments.
- **Art-me, Reintroduction in art education**
  A collaboration with several artists and specialists in education, to reformulate the teaching methods for visual arts, as an extension of the definition of visual arts in manuals.
- **Minitremu Art Camp #7**
  Minitremu Art Camp is a yearly free summer camp for theoretical and vocational high school students dedicated to contemporary art. It creates a temporal space for new opportunities to learn together in a comfortable learning environment for the students, while current topics such as critical thinking, tolerance and friendship are the most frequently-used learning tools to understand and relate to the world today.
- **If you feel like it**
  A publication which gathers theoretical texts and practical exercises from the first 5 years of Minitremu Art Camp.
- **Cozmonautica**
  A series of cosmos-themed collaborative cultural events organized with the help of local/regional institutions and space enthusiasts that offers free alternative education, through the means of: workshops, documentaries, soundart, popular science, xenobiology, philosophy, cosmism and general science & arts collaboration. Foc și Pară Association will organize one Cozmonautica event.
- **Pilot event for the Culture Quest series**
  Organised by Foc și Pară. Collaboration between one scientific institution and an artist / group of artists / students. The results will be presented at Indecis Space.

2023

- **Outside the School**
  It consists of workshops that focus on developing collaborative projects aimed at creating points of intersection between pedagogy and art, and in particular between artists, students and people interested in educational alternatives. Through these encounters, new learning tools can be developed through which contemporary art can contribute to the field of education in the form of aesthetic and collective development experiences, through which children and young people can come into contact with artistic processes that generate dialogue and reflection and help them develop their own vision of life. It is a pedagogy that continues the tradition of constructivist educators, where learning based on direct experience is the main objective, and art and critical thinking can best be learned through informal encounters with contemporary artists.

  Education and artistic mediation in the digital world will be addressed through a series of workshops, conferences and events organized in Arad and Timișoara, coordinated by artist and teacher Nita Mocanu together with Raluca Oancea and Raluca Paraschiv, lecturers at the National University of Arts in Bucharest. It will deepen the research paths developed in the eART35 projects, coordinated by Raluca Oancea and Raluca Paraschiv in 2019–2021 at national level (Arad,

Bucharest, Cluj, Iași), which probed the challenges of the online migration of art education and will continue the development of strategies and visions on education in the digital age.

The artistic activities around Kinema Ikon will focus on the Kimæra project, curated by Călin Man, an interactive meta-installation with multiple authors, the parts of which (distinct creations) are digitally connected. The installation combines old media with digital media such as IoT (internet of things), AR (augmented reality), 3D printing, AI-generated sound, mobile apps, NFT (non-fungible token) etc. The meta-installation will occupy several public or private art spaces, digitally interconnected: Kinema Ikon Arad Space (Arad Art Museum), Atrium Mall (Arad), Indecis Space (Timișoara) and other spaces made available by the Timișoara – European Capital of Culture programme or the project partners. A number of well known artists working in the digital field will be invited to participate in Kimæra using the Kinema Ikon philosophy. Digital art workshops and camps with students from the "Sabin Drăgoi" College of Arts Arad coordinated by Nita Mocanu and students from UNARTE Bucharest coordinated by Raluca Oancea and Raluca Paraschiv will be organised. Their results of will be integrated in Kimæra. The programme includes digital media education workshops in 3 schools in Arad related to the meta-installation for both students and teachers, in collaboration with Kinema Ikon members.

- **Culture Quest**
  A series of events carried out in collaboration with institutions dedicated to scientific research, such as the Timișoara Seismology Observatory, the Timișoara Astronomical Observatory, Young Naturalists Station, Timișoara University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine. Events will have a hybrid format between science, art and technology with educational content in which the research laboratory becomes a space for transferring scientific knowledge (or popularizing science) through artistic means. In this way, the scientific research space is temporarily activated artistically by an artist/artist/group of artists working together with people from science, pupils and students open to involve people from different fields. The proposed activities result in: research labs, residencies, workshops, camps, talks, art exhibitions, multimedia installations, online platform (interactive website with the public to keep a side of the originally proposed culture quest format), based on ideas learned or borrowed from the exchange of accumulated experiences and sharing a critical thinking on the role of technology in the everyday life.

Trail



Addictive Lights

Sonic Narratives 2021, Simultan Association

Host

Simultan Association

Networks

Local

Timișoara Faculty of Arts and Design, Plan Zero Makerspace, Semi Silent, ACIA

International

Transcultures (Belgium), Pépinières Européennes de Création (Belgium)

Locations

Public spaces, MultipleXity

Format

Exhibitions, interventions, concerts, workshops, residencies, happenings & performances

Disrupting digital habits through multimedia installations and performances.

Addictive Lights aims to redirect the attention from the artificial light of devices to the inner light of the individuals, to generate new connections through common experiences, but also to offer a critical reflection on new technologies. It empowers people to transform their addictive exposure to new technology into a craving for culture and digital inclusion. Addictive Lights will act as an engine of action, artistic and social interaction in and on the public space through interdisciplinary approaches, involving new technologies.

Sonic Narratives is a physical and mental journey, which aims to raise awareness of the urban space, lived, explored and (re)discovered the emotional, acoustic, sensory and social urban space. The project brings together Romanian and International artists, practitioners and professionals of various practices to develop their contextual sonic works and in situ installations.

Progress. Paradigm Shifts – a multidisciplinary project, including several fields of humanities, scientific practices and research, combining visual arts, architecture, sociology, anthropology, history, electronics, engineering, with new tools and digital technologies. It is a pilot project to test how to use the Timișoara Public Transport Society for cultural events in 2023, as a participatory process in the transition to MultipleXity, the main legacy of the city following the title of European Capital of Culture.

Timeline highlights

July 2022 & July 2023
Sonic Narratives #2 & #3
A physical and mental trail, which aims to raise awareness of the urban space, experienced, explored and (re)discovered, of the emotional, acoustic, sensory and social ecology. The physical route, which starts from the city centre, along the Bega canal towards the outskirts, crosses an urban landscape with a diverse historical load and induces us into a series of sound and visual incursions through artistic actions or interventions.

September 2022
October 2023
Talking to strangers
A network of retro-futuristic utopian urban objects, functioning as portals/sound confessionals connected to each other on collaborative and generative principles, sending audio signals to a big data cloud for reorchestration using AI. The generated track can be a sound continuum with a life of its own, emitted on a radio frequency. Each object/installation will be developed by partner teams from different ECoC and non-ECoC cities.

October–November 2022
October–November 2023
Progress. Paradigm Shifts #4 & #5
A serial, cumulative and multidisciplinary project, open to several areas of humanities and scientific practice/research. Creatively combining visual arts, architecture, sociology, anthropology, history, electronics, engineering, with new digital tools and technologies, Progress is a pilot project to test ways of using Timișoara Public Transport Society workshops for cultural events in 2023, as a participatory process in the transition to MultipleXity, the city's main legacy following the title of European Capital of Culture.

April–July 2023
Unpredictable Scenarios
creates surprising moments in places of daily routine and awakens people's instinct to enjoy the present moment. Mixed teams of professional artists (theatre, music, visual arts, dance, architecture) and volunteers will create scenes to be performed in public – like a symphony played by mobile phone ringers, media billboards displaying poetry or supermarkets invaded by media artists.

July–September 2023
Temporary Tactics
A nomadic, floating stage for transmedia projects that use technology as a provocative tool for capturing an audience which consumes contemporary art and culture less or not at all, going to the outskirts of the city to experiment with new ways of social and cultural interaction.

● Trail



Analogic

Analog Mania
(Photo: Ștefan Bucșa)

Host

Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT), Cultural Ambulance & Emil Kindlein

Networks

Local

"Cornel Pituț" Clock Collection, Tauș Collection

International

Revela'T (Spain), AnalogueNow (Germany), Vinyl and Music Festival (Austria), Grupe 77 (Austria), Osijek Academy of Arts (Croatia), Etna (France), L'Abominable (France)

Locations

Public open air spaces, Youth House, youth centers in various Timișoara neighbourhoods

Format

Screenings & live sound performance, festival (exhibitions, workshops, concerts, screenings)

Re-think, re-invent, re-create.

From photography, film and sound to exhibitions related to the "object mania" and museum exhibitions – Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT) in partnership with the Cultural Ambulance and the artist Emil Kindlein propose a tour with stops in creative and do-it-yourself workshops, to rediscover the fascination of craftsmanship.



Analog Mania

Timeline highlights

September–October 2022

- **Analog Mania #10**
  International festival including photo, film and sound sections, related to object mania in different fields such as typography, clocks, calculating machines, games, graphics, crafts.

- **Analog Experience** is a series of creative workshops that takes place in the 15 youth centers in the neighbourhoods of Timișoara. These centers become spaces for the convergence of the arts, meeting places between the public and artists from the country and abroad. Also 3 exhibitions will be installed in the 11,000 sqm building of the Youth House by developing a visiting system inspired by the concept and technology of escape room/treasure hunt/hidden games. During the museum experience, visitors take on the role of archaeologists/ explorers/mystery hunters with the precise purpose of discovering the invisible museum hidden on the entire surface of the Youth House.

March–April 2023

- **Analog Mania #11**
  Festival (exhibitions, workshops, concerts, screenings)

March–November 2023

- **Analog Experience**
  Sound workshops, photography, performances, screenings, exhibitions

January–December 2023

- **Analog Experience. The hidden museum**
  Exhibition with a system inspired by the escape room / treasure hunt / hidden games concept and technology



Players of Change

Uncensored Act, Vera Mantero
(Photo: Institute of the Present)

Host

Institute of the Present*

Networks

Local

ArtEcounters, Triade Foundation, German State Theatre Timișoara

International

Artpool Art Research Center – Museum of Fine Arts Budapest (Hungary), Julius Koller Society Bratislava (Slovakia), Station – Service for Contemporary Dance Belgrade (Serbia)

Locations

FABER, AMBASADA, "Corneliu Mikloși" Museum of Public Transport, German State Theatre of Timișoara, Jecza Gallery

Format

Research projects, laboratories and conferences, specialised exhibitions, reconstructions, performances, editing of printed and online publications.

The Uncensored Act programme developed by the Institute of the Present includes two components, whose intersection point is the idea of community, collective action, collaboration and solidarity in the spirit of shared values, with a course that is closely connected to the history of Timișoara in the 1989 Revolution context.

The first component, **Time Exposure**, is dedicated to creation and reflection, focusing on the presentation of artistic movements, works and events that marked the local artistic scene in the field of visual and performing arts, all in connection with international movements or highlighting similar conceptual turns. Time Exposure includes **Performing 89**, an exhibition and research which discusses in historical context the artist's public engagement in the turn of the 1990s. It initiates a reconstruction layer which discusses undertakings of Romanian artists from the early 1990s, artistic collectives or solitary initiatives as solutions for an action start in an unwandered terrain. The project also features an interdisciplinary artistic programme with performances and exhibition projects by Romanian and international artists from various generations.

The second component, **Seeding Change**, is the educational and mediation layer. It includes a residency and fellowship programme for teams of artists, researchers, art historians and curators dedicated to the support of collective endeavours. It builds new competencies for young professionals involved in the specific actions of Uncensored Act. It also includes an educational programme for children and youth, based on a participative and confrontational dimension to experience contemporary ideas and artistic practices; an online digital component dedicated to the knowledge of recent art history among the local and international general audiences, through a series of representative art works and events; a civic laboratory aimed at coagulating local communities in an engaged process of reflection and debate.

* The initial co-host, Timișoara 2021 – European Capital of Culture Association, could no longer provide the hosting position and the content for this station, as shown by the activity analysis and monitoring reports. The Institute of the Present assumes the role of main host.

Timeline highlights

April & September 2022
Reconstruction / Reactivation
Featuring artists Florin Fieroiu, Cosmin Manolescu, Mihai Mihalcea, Ciprian Mureșan

May–June 2022
Historical artworks in educational formats

September 2022
Reconstruction / reactivation
Ciprian Mureșan works on “The Performance” by Laurențiu Ruță

October 2022
Time Exposure
Movement notebooks, featuring a new creation by Vera Mantero

November 2022
Community. Tactics to be together
Artists and art historians talks, book launches

December 2022
Collegium Camp
Professional development frame for emerging producers, curators, programmers

May–June 2023
Time Exposure
Movement notebooks - premiere Vera Mantero performance

May & September 2023
Reflection Cluster
Local and international players (2 meetings, 7 days per session, associated to the artistic programme)

September 2023
Community. Tactics to be together
Lectures programme

September–November 2023
Performing 89
Exhibition and research which discusses in historical context the artist’s public engagement in the turn of the 1990s. It initiates a reconstruction layer which discusses undertakings of Romanian artists from the early 1990s, artistic collectives or solitary initiatives as solutions for an action start in an unwandered terrain.

Trail



Invisible/Visible

Lectură din cartea cu povești

Host

Intercultural Institute Timișoara

Networks

Local

Association of Roma Actors, Giuvlipen, Solidart Association, West University of Timișoara, Timiș County Schools Inspectorate, Multimedia Centre of the Politehnica University

International

ERIAC (Germany), Kuringa – Theatre of the Oppressed (Germany), Paradox Theatre Copenhagen (Denmark), Théâtre de l'Opprimé (France), Council of Europe, Catholic University of Valencia (Spain), Artemisszio Foundation (Hungary),Terra Center for Fine and Applied Arts, Kikinda (Serbia)

Locations

Timișoara National Art Museum, high schools in Timișoara, public squares, central and various locations in Traian, Plopi, Kuncz neighborhoods, German State Theatre Timișoara, "Csiky Gergely" Hungarian Theatre Timișoara, West University of Timișoara, National Art Museum Timișoara, "Banatul" Philharmonic

Format

Conference, workshops, exhibitions, performances, publications

Deconstructing stereotypes and overcoming marginalisation of Roma communities in Timișoara and Europe.

The programme brings into the spotlight and shows in a different perspective a topic that is often hidden and rejected as not relevant for Timisoara. It has three main types of focus. On one side, a series of activities will target and involve members of local Roma communities and citizens of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the city. Cultural events and workshops will take place in these neighbourhoods, as well as in prestigious locations of the city. On the other side, stereotypes and prejudices of non-Roma will be exposed and challenged through theatre performances, forum theatre, exhibitions and debates.

In addition, in cooperation with local and European partners, and especially with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, the programme will put Timisoara on the European map of innovative events aimed at changing the perception on Roma heritage, on the position of Roma as part of the European culture and on the emerging new cultural expression of Roma in the 21st century.

Timeline highlights

May 2022 – October 2023

- **Neighbourhood cultural animation and events**
  Community-based artistic workshops, photo-voice, living library, forum theatre, digital storytelling, public lecture, in public spaces and various locations in Traian, Plopi, Kuncz, and in the upcoming Kuncz community centre.
- **Collection and presentation online of life stories of Roma citizens of Timișoara**
  Setting-up, training and supervising a group of young people to establish a community journalism platform focused on improving the public image of some of the vulnerable neighbourhoods.
- **Cultural passport**
  A programme allowing access of Roma young people to cultural events

October 2022

- **Theatre performance & debate**
  Performance by Roma theatre company Giuvlipen in the central area (outdoors, if possible, e.g. Capitol Garden, Roses Park, or indoors, in a theatre venue) and one performance in a public place in a relevant neighbourhood, such as Kuncz or Traian.

November 2022

- **International workshop on academic perspectives on Roma culture, Roma identity and anti-Roma racism**
  Academic exchange and preparation of the International conference and mixed event.

February 2023

- National workshop on Academic perspectives on Roma culture, Roma identity and anti-Roma racism. The event can also celebrate the abolition of Roma slavery.

March–April 2023

- Cross-border art and sculpture workshops with the children from Kuncz, Traian Iosefin, and Fratelia neighborhoods at Terra Center for Fine and Applied Arts in Kikinda (Serbia)

May, September 2023

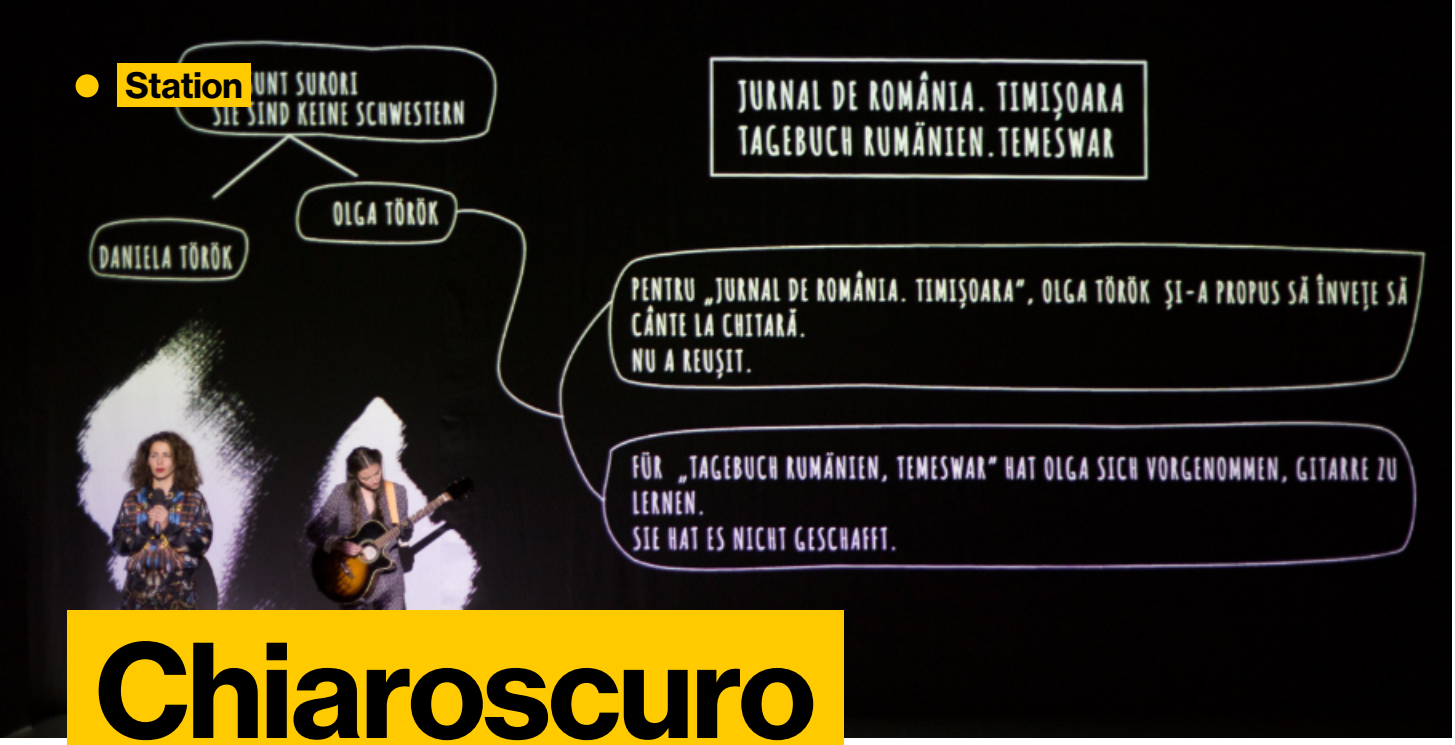
- **The Roma Paradox. Who killed Szamona Granca?**
  Theatre performances followed by debate, in the city center (outdoors, e.g. Gradina Capitol, Parcul Rozelor, or indoors, in a theatre venue) and in a public place in a relevant neighbourhood, such as Kuncz or Traian. Multilingual, with simultaneous interpretation.

June–September 2023

- **Theatre of the Oppressed**
  Forum theatre preceded by workshops with local young people. Training for young artists on cultural animation in Roma communities.

September 2023

- International conference & exhibition with Roma artists



Chiaroscuro

Jurnal de România. Timișoara (Regie: Carmen Lidia Vidu)
(Photo: Ovidiu Zimcea)

Host

German State Theatre of Timișoara*

Networks

Local

Hungarian State Theatre of Timișoara

International

Altenburg Theatre (Germany), Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum (Germany), Citizen Kane Kollektiv (Germany)

Locations

German State Theatre of Timișoara

Format

Festival, conference, performances

Understanding the past so that we consciously decide for the present.

The programme proposed by the German State Theatre of Timișoara is based on staging contemporary European dramatic texts, on increasing the visibility of social groups and vulnerable minorities, addressing contemporary socio-political issues and aligning the arts on contemporary and European coordinates by collaborating with European directors on dramatic texts with current themes.



Apres Ski – German State Theater Timișoara
(Photo: Ovidiu Zimcea)

* Chiaroscuro becomes a Station, based on the level of the programming assumed by the host, the German State Theatre of Timișoara, together with the local partner, the "Csiky Gergely" Hungarian State Theatre of Timișoara, becoming an important hub for international performing arts co-productions and festival during Timișoara 2023

Timeline highlights

March–August 2022 ● Production of a multimedia documentary theatre show on the sale of ethnic Germans under the communist regime: Romania–Germany. So many fragile things, directed by Carmen Lidia-Vidu. Productions and related events within the European Directors programme

September 2022 ● **Eurothalia European Theatre Festival #8**
Guest theatres, collectives and performers from all over Europe

January–August 2023 ● **Danube Women**
Site-specific theatrical performance on the multiculturality of the Danube area, in collaboration with Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum (Ulm, Germany)
Productions and related events in the framework of the European Directors programme.

September–Decembrie 2023 ● **Eurothalia European Theatre Festival #9**
Guest theatres, collectives and performers from all over Europe. Productions and related events in the framework of the European Directors programme.
Production of a theatre performance on the theme of migration, based on a text written by the author Anja Hilling, Germany and the author Elise Wilk, Romania in collaboration with Altenburg Theatre (Gera, Germany).



Katzelmacher – German State Theater Timișoara
(Photo: Ovidiu Zimcea)

Trail



Fluid Views

Câmp de Maci (Regie: Eugen Jebeleanu)
(Photo: The Unicorn Shooter)

Host

Identity.Education* and the Hungarian State Theatre of Timișoara

Networks

Local

Accept, ECPI, West University of Timișoara, University of Bucharest, Paul Dunca

International

University of Stavanger (Norway), Genderdoc (Republic of Moldova), DD Network, Oslo Pride, Pride Art, National Museum in Oslo, EPOA, ILGA Europe, Outburst (UK), British Council

Locations

FABER, Center for Projects, MultipleXity, West University of Timișoara, House of Arts, public spaces

Format

Exhibitions, performances, workshops, fashion show, concerts, conference

Breaking through clogged mentalities with the power of culture

Over time, the LGBTQ+ community in Romania has been "dislocated from history" and pushed into invisibility. The community demands to know its own history, to know how it got here and to understand the traumas carried from generation to generation on its shoulders. Events centred on stories, on (re)discovering one's own history, on rummaging through the all-too-gentle archives of a history of hate, and on collective introspection are more than important, they are called for.

With an abusive history written under Art. 200, an illiberal referendum and a legislative framework that still does not recognize community rights, the fight against homophobia and transphobia is more important than ever. Education and steps towards a society, a community where everyone is respected, are a collective effort: political, social, activist, community, human, but also cultural and artistic.

Here, art and culture become tools for giving voices louder and stories a context, for pointing out caricatures of society, and for rewiring. Art and culture mirror reality, make us vulnerable, give us answers where we don't know how to ask questions, make us understand concepts and feelings that perhaps never even belonged to us.

The events will take place throughout the year, marking as well Pride TM and LGBTQI+ History Month in Romania (October), festivals organized by Identity.Education, and will continue after 2023 because community work and activism through art and culture are an integral part of Timișoara.
The Hungarian State Theatre will present and co-produce performances and lectures that engage with how different bodies and subjectivities take up, traverse, are welcome in or excluded from various spaces - the intimate to the institutional. Departing from the concept that our bodies are our primary archives, the program will consider how the corporeal archive can be a major site for self-representation, emancipation, healing and transformation.

* The initial co-host organisation, Tam-Tam, is no longer active. As a result of an open call from 2021, the organisation Identity.Education, with its unique knowledge of the thematic, became the host of the trail, in partnership with the “Csiky Gergely” Hungarian State Theatre of Timișoara.

Timeline highlights

June 2022

- **Pride TM / Personal Perspectives**
  Multimedia exhibition with open call for personal stories (visuals, translated as AR in the public space and on postcards that can be sent out)
- **Cabaret performance**
  Cabaret evening featuring performers Dan Zarug and Ross Doherty (Cabaret Belfast)
- **Fluid Body**
  Body positivity workshop and concert/performance

October 2022

- **Gender fluidity from a sociological and anthropological perspective**
  An interdisciplinary conference
- **Unknown photographers**
  Exhibition based on the "my first contact with the LGBTQI community" prompt
- **Queer Joy**
  Photography workshop with Daniela Groza, in several cities across the country, followed by a collective exhibition in Timișoara

March 2023

- **International Trans Day of Visibility – Trans Lucid**
  Depicts the history of the trans community from the first legislative changes and documented surgeries to the public debates and discrimination that the trans community faces today. The show will be performed exclusively by trans artists and actors.

May 2023

- **Performances during TESZT festival**

June 2023

- **Pride TM. Beyond gender**
  fashion show with eco, locally produced garments by queer Romanian and international fashion designers
- **Challenges of the 90s**
  Open discussion about the beginnings of LGBTQIA+ activism in Romania, engaging community members and allies

October 2023

- **Museum of Queer History and Culture in Romania**
- **LGBTQIA+ exhibitions**
  A series of exhibitions, where each of the exhibitions is dedicated to one of the LGBTQIA+ letters, with national and international artists and intersectional views (e.g. queer Roma)
- **Queer histories of struggle and survival in Romania: From communist criminalization to contemporary anti-gender movements in SEE spaces**
  Researcher: Ramona Dima
- **Freedom?**
  Live symphonic concert especially created for this event, with video wall murals with images and videos about queer history in Romania after 1989

Trail



CommUnity

in:vzbl festival 2019 (Solidart)

Host

Solidart*

Networks

Local

Intercultural Institute, Art Encounters

Locations

Basca Theater, Traian/Fabric neighbourhoods, public spaces

Format

Theatre forum performances, film screenings, creative workshops, open air theatre festival

IN : V Z B L is a festival that aims to make visible what is invisible, promoting values such as dialogue, understanding, respect and solidarity. The voices of various vulnerable, "invisible" groups are often unheard or even unspoken. The festival wants to give these groups a voice and the context to self-represent and strengthen their within the community.

The IN : V Z B L festival arose from the need to bring together artists from several fields who can come into direct contact with various categories of audiences. This meeting aims to expose everyone (artists and the public) to different perspectives on reality. The point is to initiate a dialogue through which what is sometimes "invisible" in society can become visible, through art, in a neighbourhood of Timișoara that has come to resemble a "periphery" in all respects.

The festival, which had its first edition in 2019 and has enjoyed success both among the public and in the arts responds to the need of access to culture of the people in the Fabric neighbourhood and beyond, as well as the need for expression of the independent cultural sector independent, namely performing arts, which requires support in production and access to new audiences.

* New trail – programme added between 2018–2021 that is in line with the concept of the Bid Book. It has been selected through at least two open calls and has demonstrated consistency and a coherent programme, strengthening the cultural programme over several years.

Timeline highlights

September–November 2022 & 2023

The **IN : V Z B L festival** will take place between September and November at the Basca Theatre as well as in various public spaces in the Fabric neighbourhood. The festival includes community cultural events and activities that actively involve the public in the Traian/Fabric area: travelling concerts, creative workshops for children and the elderly, residencies for artists (international and local), guest theatre performances, forum theatre show, debates about political theatre, screening of documentaries. IN : V Z B L Festival offers both the general public and people in disadvantaged groups in the Traian/Fabric area a diverse range of cultural activities and events that promote culture and education through culture, dialogue, understanding, diversity, multiculturalism, respect and solidarity.



in:vzbl festival 2019 (Solidart)

Places

Our journey extends into the second Territory, into the city's public spaces – cultural spaces, post-industrial spaces, courtyards and squares, historic buildings, schools, libraries. From reclaiming people's right to the city, to engaging residents in more balanced and just urban development – we aim to make decision-making transparent for all of us, because the city is about a culture of togetherness, solidarity, and consensus.



Station

Dare!



Pop Up Theatrics (Diogene Cultural Association)

Host

Timișoara House of Culture*

Networks

Local

Timiș County Library (with branches in the county), Timiș County School Inspectorate, City of Timișoara, Federation of Homeowners' Associations (FALT), West University Timișoara – Faculty of Psychology and Sociology, West University Timișoara – Faculty of Horticulture, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism (Timișoara), Contrast Association, "Ion Vidu" High School, Auăleu Theatre, Compania 9) Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT), Studio Basar, French Institute Timișoara, German Cultural Center Timișoara

International

Chanter pour Vivre Ensemble (Belgium), Poznan House of Culture (Poland), Rijeka 2020 ECoC, Eleusis 2023 ECoC, Veszprem 2023 ECoC

Locations

Timișoara (Dacia/Soarelui, Freidorf, Lipovei, Dâmbovița, Șagului, Girocului, Traian neighbourhoods), Lugoj, Reșița (Gărâna), Caraș Severin, Oravița (Socolari), Jimbolia

Format

Activation of the public space through art installations co-created with local residents, theatre performances, film screenings, art and creative education workshops, debates, community dinners, music therapy sessions, choral concerts; filmed interviews in the neighbourhoods; cultural formats and programmes for neighbourhood communities within the Light Centres.

The Europe of citizens has no centre or periphery. Europe's neighbourhoods can easily be divided by fear, extremism, social injustice and crises of all kinds. But what does the society we want to be part of look like, and how can we together help to create it?

The Dare! Station proposes a series of participatory formats, interventions and open spaces in neighbourhoods, where people can work together for the common good in networks of action, trust and solidarity that can develop over time into true neighbourhood communities. Dare! is a programme that involves active citizens, formal and informal groups and residents of Timișoara in defining innovative projects for the local community through dialogue and open calls.

A network of Light Centres – meeting places created around libraries and neighbourhood schools – will become the framework for the development of these projects, while helping to strengthen the capacities of traditional institutions and to enhance and adapt their cultural offer as close as possible to people's real needs. A series of urban activation events through music aims to bring residents together in choral concerts and then newly established performing arts structures to operate on a long-term basis as a cultural alternative for inclusion, empowerment and leisure for children and families in the neighbourhood community.

* The initial co-host, Timișoara 2021 – European Capital of Culture Association, could no longer provide the hosting position and the content in this station, as shown by the activity analysis and monitoring reports. Timișoara House of Culture assumes the role of main host.

Timeline highlights

2022

- Local and international alliances (similar structures active in other neighbourhoods in European cities) and the mechanism for the long-term development of the programme (in the Dacia/Soarelui, Freidorf, Lipovei, Dâmbovița, Șagului, and Giroculuui neighbourhoods) and in the four other neighbourhoods in the county will be established. A modular mobile infrastructure kit for temporary outdoor events will be created (prototype resulting from a design competition, production, multiplication).

  A series of pilot events will be organised in activated Light Centres (at least three), with testing of the temporary events kit in various configurations. There will be a music education and social inclusion session supported by the Molenbeek choir Chanter pour Vivre Ensemble (Belgium), in partnership with a neighbourhood school in Timișoara. There will be a series of interviews filmed along walks, with urban stories that aim to discover and highlight the identities of neighbourhoods, with which people can identify, to strengthen their sense of belonging.

2023

- In 2023, all neighbourhood Light Centres will be activated through a comprehensive programme of events, workshops, concerts, theatre performances (Auăleu Theatre, Compania 9) and concerts, screenings of the films created within the program, educational sessions and community-selected projects. There will be a conference dedicated to local communities in different neighborhoods across Europe as drivers of urban transformation and regeneration. A series of interventions in public space will be co-created together with the local community which will also accommodate art and creative education workshops (Bajko Attila, Tajo). Under the title **Timișoara Hidden Map. People and Places**, a documentary film series in 24 episodes will be made, featuring lesser known stories of the city (Transversal programme common for both the Dare! and Reflections stations).



Trail

Impulse

Impulse Festival

Host

French Institute of Timișoara and Unfold Motion Timișoara*

Networks

Local

Circus School, Cetățean de Traian Association, Solidart Association, Timiș County School Inspectorate, Order of Architects of Romania – Timiș Territorial Branch

International

Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, 2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture, French Institute of Athens, Teatroskop (Serbia)

Locations

Several public spaces from peripheral neighbourhoods in Timișoara, villages from the Timiș County

Format

Art residencies, workshops, performances

Performing arts as a tool for reclaiming public space at the periphery and for social cohesion.

Performing arts shows (contemporary dance, circus and theatre) in open spaces reveal the best way of expressing and liberating emotion, whilst also being a powerful tool for social cohesion, collective ownership, intergenerational bond and ultimately, conviviality.

Since 2017, Impulse transforms Timișoara's peripheral public spaces into cultural spots, experimenting new connections between urbanism, architecture and performing arts. The programme makes public spaces inclusive and combats social labelling by fostering performances that reach and involve all types of users, from pupils to marginalised groups and disabled people, with the expertise of professionals such as Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (France).

In 2022 and 2023, Impulse will evolve through a collaboration with 2023 Eleusis ECoC and will have two highlights which will create the context for open exchanges between the local community, top local and international artists and companies.

* Unfold Motion, the main representatives of contemporary dance in Timișoara, with its unique experience in classes with the general public and the disadvantaged, and partners in former editions of Impuls festival, becomes co-host of the trail, invited by the French Institute of Timișoara.

Timeline highlights

June 2022

DansNomad
Local dancers make dance travel and through a series of theatre, dance and multimedia workshops, interventions and performances in public spaces or movie projections, they will develop new audiences in small cities around Timisoara (Jimbolia, Lugoj, Sânnicolau Mare).

September 2022

Impulse Festival
In cooperation with Elefsina – ECOC 2023 and under the coordination of Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, Impulse Festival develops new ways of impulsing positive change and transformation in public space. In 2022, during one week, local and European circus artists, dancers and musicians, together with architects, urban planners and citizens will rewrite the story of the ordinary and extraordinary landscapes of Timisoara starting from Traian Square and echoing until the margins of the city.

October–November 2022

The dance season
The second edition of the dance season of Timisoara is aiming to build a new tradition in the local cultural agenda. During two months, the local audience and dancers will be connected to the national and international dance through a series of contemporary dance performances and dance films.

February–May 2023

The dance season
The third edition of the dance season of Timisoara will make a step forward towards its audience, offering a wide diversity of performances and dance movies projections in alternative spaces around the city: museums, art galleries, schools, libraries, shopping centers, etc. In 2023, local, national and international dancers invite the entire city to celebrate life through dance, in Timisoara.

July 2023

Impulse Festival
A large-scale performing arts festival, for both amateurs and professionals, will guide locals and tourists through an artistic discovery of the unseen face of Timisoara. Concerts, contemporary dance, circus and theatre performances, workshops and street food will take over Traian Square in order to pay tribute to its cultural and historic richness and to draw attention to the bursting energy and potential of its inhabitants.

August–September 2023

DansNomad
A dancing tour de force in Jimbolia, Lugoj and Sânnicolau Mare will build upon the results of the artistic residencies of 2022 and the relationships build with the communities to further open them to and through contemporary dance interventions and performances in public spaces. The main results of the project will also be presented in Timișoara through an installation.

Trail



City Voices

City Voices – Central Park (Timișoara National Theatre)

Host

Timișoara National Theatre

Networks

Local

Austrian Cultural Forum, West University, Politehnica University of Timișoara, CRIES, National University of Theatre and Film Bucharest

International

European Theatre Convention, European Festivals Association, Maison Antoine Vitez (France), Teatroskop (Serbia)

Locations

Civic Park/Hall 2 and online

Format

Playwriting workshops, theatrical events/performances resulting from the workshops: international dramaturgy laboratory, performances of the plays produced in the laboratory; online platform dedicated to contemporary plays

In the perspective of 2023, the National Theatre of Timișoara intends to build bridges of communication, through theatre, between the Romanian and European cultures, with direct and immediate impact in the community. The programme will be structured on 3 directions, namely:

City Voices. Focus

The component aims at the direct involvement of the citizen in the artistic act, stimulating formulas for personal expression and relationships within the community; creating a space for reflection and a platform for debate on difficult issues in the community/society through the specific tools of theatre; contributing to the evolution of contemporary Romanian drama by writing new plays; bringing cultural and social identities from different contexts into direct contact with each other in order to develop a system of European cultural knowledge, awareness and communication; involving European theatrical institutions and supporting the creativity of European directors and actors around target groups and local themes of international relevance.

City Voices. Identity Workshop

The workshop aims to identify specific elements in Balkan culture and to recover them as a relevant part of contemporary European culture; to question regional cultural identity as an extended form of local identity; to involve the citizen in the process of cultural research and training in the workshops; to value research on the diversity of the Balkan cultural space through theatre performances.

City Voices. Open the Words

The format involves facilitating the access of professionals and European public to Romanian contemporary drama, creating an alternative formula to attract the academic and literary environment towards the contemporary Romanian theatre text, facilitating the representation of the performances realized within the City Voices project in partner theatres in Europe.

Timeline highlights

June–October 2022

Children's future
A theatre workshop for children with disabilities, held in partnership with an organisation active in the field. The action will involve actors from the Timișoara National Theatre, a theatre director who is member of the European Theatre Convention network, and a Romanian playwright. A play will be written as a result of the workshop, followed by the production of a theatrical event/performance, performed by actors from the National Theatre and one or more workshop participants.

September–December 2022

City Voices. Identity Workshop
A dramaturgy laboratory that brings together Romanian, Serbian and Hungarian playwrights in a research on the identification of cultural and social topics in historical Banat. Each playwright writes a play based on the results of the workshop. Staging of a performance based on these texts in partner theatres in Serbia and Hungary. Performance of the resulting plays at the National Theatre/ Hall 2.

Februarie–Decembrie 2022

City Voices. Open the Words
An online platform dedicated to contemporary theatre texts in Romanian translation and contemporary Romanian texts translated into other languages will be created. It will be included in the National Theatre's Cloud Library, which will be hosted on the National Theatre's website, with the aim of creating an alternative formula to promote Romanian contemporary drama in European and international theatrical circles, to facilitate the access of theatre professionals and freelancers in the field of performing arts, as well as students and theatre lovers to contemporary playwrights and translators. Creation of synopses in international languages of plays from Romanian contemporary drama included in the Cloud Library.

2023

City Voices. Focus
1. Children's future: theatre performance with professional actors on the text resulting from the 2022 Children's future project, in co-production with the partner theatre(s) of European Theatre Convention network;
2. Children's Oedipad: based on Lucian Blaga's play, Children's Crusade. The project explores with artists from different countries the impact of the pandemic on a generation of children with distorted family, educational, and psychological landmarks. The pandemic has affected education and social protection systems all over the world, regardless of the living standards of one country or another. The project proposes a reset point. Its starting point is a Romanian drama text, researched by three teams of actors, directors, choreographers from several European theatres. The project represents a context and a creative space at the confluence of literature, drama, psychology and sociology. It includes complementary research and 3 co-produced theatre performances at Hall 2 and/or outdoors in the Civic Park.

City Voices. Identity Workshop
Because Timișoara's identity lies in diversity, in 2023 the Identity Workshop will be defined as the Diversity Workshop. It consists of 12 events (theatre, dance, performances, concerts etc.) that will take place in the Civic Park/Hall 2 or in other locations. Once a month, the Diversity Workshop will use these events to bring a different face of diversity to the table: ethnicities, communities, ages, genders, architectural styles, music, history and stories of the city.

City Voices.Theatre and baked chestnuts
The project continues the 2022 City Voices. Open the Worlds initiative, i.e. the Cloud Library, turning it into a real channel of communication between the community and Europe. Four Romanian texts and four texts from the partner

theatres' countries will be translated within the project. The National Theatre of Timișoara organises a quarterly event City Voices.Theatre and baked chestnuts, which will host reading performances from the texts translated within the Cloud Library, performed by actors from the ETC partner theatres, with translation into Romanian. The audience will have the opportunity to watch these reading performances in a relaxed atmosphere, "around the cauldron", tasting traditional products.

In parallel with the events City Voices.Theatre and baked chestnuts, the partner theatres will organise similar events, during which they will screen the reading performances produced by the National Theatre of Timișoara, in partnership with the students of the Faculty of Music and Theatre of Timișoara, and of the National University of Theatre and Film Bucharest, with subtitles in the language of the country in which they are presented.



City Voices – Central Park (Timișoara National Theatre)

Trail



Slowing Down

La Pas Festival

Host

CRIES – Resource Centre for Ethical and Solidarity Initiatives (Timișoara)

Networks

Local

Association for the Support of Peasant Agriculture (ASAT), Curtea Culorilor Association, Alimenterra Association, Ceva de Spus Association, ECOSENS Association, INTERSECT Association, “Emanuil Ungureanu” Technical College, “I.C. Brătianu” Technological College, “F. S. Nitti” Technological College, Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT), Timișoara Technological High School of Food Industry, “Bartók Bela” Theoretical High School, Primary School no.12 Timișoara, Dudeștii Noi Secondary School, OilRight, West University of Timișoara, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat.

International

RIPESS – European Network of Social and Solidarity Economy (Luxembourg), URGENCI International Network of Community Supported Agriculture, Together Network, European Network of Co-responsible Territories, Slow Food International, European Network, InfoSustenabile (Italy), Solidarius (Italy), APDES Portugal, UFISC – Union Fédérale d'Intervention des Structures Culturelles (France), Largo Alto - Cooperativa Cultural Da Colina Do Castelo (Portugal), Fekete Sereg Youth Association (Hungary), Facilitec (Esch, Luxembourg).

Locations

Young Naturalists' Station, different public spaces in Timișoara

Format

La Pas Festival: artisan gastronomy festival inspired by Slow Food movement (good–clean–ethical food) (second weekend in September)
Taste as heritage (all year round);
Educational programme to promote responsible consumption (all year round);
La Pas in the neighbourhoods (6 events/year, bi-monthly events);
Water – A common good: urban activism for public access to clean water, involving the artistic and creative community (year-round).

La Pas / Slowing Down programme aims to enhance gastronomic heritage by respecting specific principles of sustainable cities and communities, developing responsible consumption skills among young people, sustainable practices for organising cultural events and tourism, public policies that favour sustainable development models and a culture of solidarity and sustainability among citizens.

Timeline highlights

April–November 2022 ● Educational programme including: Launch of composting programme in schools (Earth Day); responsible picnic; launch of the schoolyard educational garden programme (World Environment Day); local produce fair in the schoolyard; responsible tourism - picnics at local producers; launch of the Sustainable Menu programme; gastronomic event to promote healthy eating, organised in collaboration with a chef (World Food Day); sustainable fashion - fashion show with the participation of students involved in the educational programme; conference Sustainable Cultural Events.

May–December 2022 ● **La Pas in the neighbourhoods**, including: Timișoara celebrates International Fair Trade Day; tasting of tomatoes, melons, wines from Romanian grape varieties (National Romanian Food and Wine Day); awareness event on food waste (National Food and Fight against Food Waste Day); awareness event on the right to food (Human Rights Day).

September 2022 ● **La pas** Festival: artisan gastronomy festival

November 2022 ● **Taste as heritage**: event promoting multiculturalism through food and drinks

March–September 2023 ● **Water – A common good**: urban activism for public access to water, involving the artistic and creative community

April–November 2023 ● Educational programme, including: extension of the school composting programme; responsible picnic; extension of the educational schoolyard garden programme; local produce fair in the schoolyard; responsible tourism – picnics at local producers; extension of the sustainable menu programme; gastronomic event to promote healthy eating, organised in collaboration with a chef; sustainable fashion – fashion show with the participation of students involved in the educational programme.

May–December 2023 ● **La pas in the neighbourhoods**, including: Timișoara celebrates International Fair Trade Day; local product tastings; food waste awareness event; right to food awareness event.

September 2023 ● **La Pas Festival**: artisan gastronomy festival

November 2023 ● **Taste as heritage**: event to promote multiculturalism through food and drinks

Trail



Frames and Shapes

This is us (“Noi Re-Creăm” Association)

Host

Noi Re-creăm Association

Networks

Local

“Ion Vidu” High School of Arts, German State Theatre Timișoara, Timișoara Circus School, French Institute of Timișoara

International

SUBLAB (Hungary), Melting Pot (Belgium), Chameleon (UK)

Locations

Timișoara Youth House, FABER, French Institute, Saint George Square, Gheorghe Doja Square, Lidia Park, Central Park, Botanical Park

Format

Dance masterclasses, performances, and workshops with people of different ages and professional categories

The programme is based on a concept developed by the Noi Re-Creăm Association and the Unfold Motion Association in order to promote contemporary dance on the following strategic directions: development of the dance community involvement of different age groups or professionals in dance activities, interventions in the public space – activating peripheral areas of the city as well as exploring the wider region (Banat, cross-border region) and diversification of the audience, attracting new audiences through the heterogeneity of artistic proposals.



Frames and Shapes (“Noi Re-Creăm” Association)

* New trail – programme added between 2017–2021 that is in line with the concept of the Bid Book, has been selected through at least two open calls and has demonstrated consistency and a coherent programme, strengthening the cultural programme over several years.

Timeline highlights

2022

Courses – development of the dance community and involvement of other categories of beneficiaries, including: contemporary dance summer school with an international choreographer (proposals: Natalia Iwaniec, Marco di Nardo) and contemporary dance summer school with Daniel Dragomir, with performances at the German Theatre Hall (both summer schools will be coordinated by Lavinia Urcan, as assistant choreographer); Dance for Wellbeing workshops – Dance meets the Mind: a weekend with Andreea Novac and a weekend with Valentina de Piante (Bucharest) – Feldenkrais & dance; Contemporary dance classes for children and parents – Dance meets Generations, held by Alexandra Bălășoiu; Movement Art – Dance meets Sports: for people passionate about movement (amateur/professional athletes), held by Ștefan Crainic & Alexandra Gîrbea (the workshop will take place outdoors).

Performances – diversifying the audience for the presentation of performances with different artistic profiles, which include: performances resulting from the Summer School - from the stage coordinated by a foreign choreographer and from the stage coordinated by a Romanian choreographer; contemporary dance performance of the international company/choreographer (Natalia Iwaniec, Frantics Dance Company); contemporary dance performance of the national company/choreographer – Contemporary Creative Dreamers; Simona Deaconescu – Choreomaniacs, Dance meets Society; Chameleon Company from UK or Sharon Fridman (Israel, Spain). The performances will take place at the German State Theatre and Faber.

2023

Contemporary Dance community sessions, including: contemporary dance school Frames & Shapes; Dance for Wellbeing workshops; Dance meets Sports: moving from athletic training to creative movement and dance; intergenerational dance workshops; dance workshop for people with disabilities, led by Catrinel Catană (DANS.ABIL); outdoor workshops for children from vulnerable families or foster homes, in partnership with the Timișoara Circus School.

Performances: 3-4 local Unfold Motion productions, 2 national co-productions, 4 international guest performances

Trail



Urban Dilemmas Parallel City

Urban Dilemmas – Parallel City
(Photo: Remus Dăescu)

Host

Diogene Cultural Association, Civicultura programme

Networks

Local

"Csiky Gergely" Hungarian State Theatre Timișoara, German State Theatre Timișoara, independent artists, Politehnica University of Timișoara, French Institute of Timișoara, West University – Faculty of Music and Theatre, LOGS – Social Initiatives Group

International

COME:ON! network, PopUp Theatrics (USA)

Locations

Iosefin, Fabric, Elisabetin neighbourhoods

Format

Immersive theatre performances in public space (Urban Dilemmas/Parallel City), accompanied by debates (moments of reflection) on themes relevant to the city and historic neighbourhoods (City Talks, also live and recorded), dissemination of best practices from the neighbourhoods and communities we focus on (Civic Streams), both accessible on the CiviCultura Youtube channel. Using gamification tools, a meta app supports the game-like routes of the productions in the neighbourhoods and connects the various ECoC interventions/activities/stations and routes and makes them accessible to the public, offering them a supported experience through virtual means

We imagine that in 2023 the city will be effervescent both in the public space inside and outside the Citadel/Centre. We imagine that the public, Timișoara residents and tourists alike, feel drawn and confident to build memorable experiences that connect them to Timișoara by participating in immersive theatre trails in three of the city's historic neighbourhoods (Iosefin, Fabric, Elisabetin) and can use the MetaApp to navigate these trails and between them and ECoC trails and stations. We envision City Talks continuing to provide the space and momentum for reflection and debate to turn cultural experiences into civic energy and action. We are adding through Civic Streams to the library of cultural and civic best practice that we have been building for several years. We envision mini-seasons in schoolyards in historic neighborhoods as spaces that offer children and communities in ex-central areas of the city access to and participation in memorable cultural and civic experiences. Therefore, in Civicultura we are building a movement using theatre and other cultural participatory instruments to rebuild the community fabric and invest ourselves in the city.

Urban Dilemmas relevant to times, citizens, city and Europe approached multimodally (theatre in public space as cultural intervention, debate and curated good practice, as civic reflection and activation) and trans-disciplinarily (culture, civism, activism/theatre, cultural heritage, technology) to reveal known, unknown or forgotten dimensions of the Parallel City. Parallel City as itinerant theatre performances that spectators and passers-by experience together with the actors in the filmic setting of the city, as fictional theatre based on field documentation through which we all get to see known and forgotten places, ourselves and 'the other' with new eyes. Once made curious and back in love with all of this, Timișoara residents would be prepared to get involved in the reconstruction of the communities they are part of.

Urban Dilemmas / Parallel City is built around historical neighbourhoods that become central to the public's memory and consciousness, with all their history, significance and dimensions, documented, mapped and crisscrossed,

* New trail – programme added between 2017–2021 that is in line with the concept of the Bid Book. It has been selected through at least two open calls and has demonstrated consistency and a coherent programme, strengthening the cultural programme over several years.

experienced by citizen-viewers through immersive/itinerant theatre trails and performances (Parallel City); neighbourhoods and public spaces are also the ones that generate and host debates (City Talks) and bring good practices to the agenda (Civic Streams).

Timeline highlights

2022

- **Parallel City Iosefin** – active through 5 shows (3 routes each)
- **Parallel City Fabric** – documentation and production and performances accompanied by CityTalks and CivicStream Fabric series and pop-ups
- Cultural & civic activation in schoolyards (workshops, theatre, season with guest artists)

2023

- **Parallel City Iosefin** – active through 25 shows (3 routes each)
- **Parallel City Fabric** – active through 25 shows
- **Parallel City Elisabetin** – documentation and production and shows (spectacular party), accompanied by CityTalks and CivicStream Fabric series and pop-ups
- Cultural & civic activation in schoolyards (workshops, theatre, season with guest artists)
- Meta app (Game of games, integration of routes and TM2023 stations)



Urban Dilemmas – Parallel City
(Photo: Remus Dăescu)

Trail



Remix ID

Remix ID

Host

META Spațiu Association

Networks

Local

Austrian Cultural Forum, German Cultural Centre, German Democratic Forum, Union of Serbs, Politehnica Foundation Timișoara

International

DIG Gallery – New Media Folklore Košice (Slovakia)

Locations

Timișoara, Sânnicolau Mare (+ villages Saravale, Sânpetru Mare, Cenad, Dudeștii Vechi, Valcani), Făget (+ villages Fârdea, Traian Vuia, Margina, Pietroasa, Dumbrava)

Format

The installation performances involve a sensorial, acoustic and visual artistic experience, with video installations, old peasant objects reimagined and transformed by visual artists into contemporary art objects, the presentation of a video documentary about the various ethnic groups from Banat, digital projections and interactive installations, contemporary art installations from old objects remixed with current techniques, as well as a series of workshops for children to learn the skills of creating electronic music, stories, ceramic objects etc.

REMIX ID aims to revitalise the archaic multi-ethnic universal values (Saxon, Serbian, Jewish, Hungarian, Bulgarian etc.) in a contemporary manner, using new media techniques and to offer the audience a new artistic experience. Tradition and contemporaneity, symbol and graphics, rhythm and pulsation – the project involves a series of interventions in the form of visual and performative performances in the rural area and in the neighbourhoods of Timișoara.

Created together with artists who have documented, during previous editions of the project, rural and urban musical typologies, through video and photo images that will superimpose the technological world over the archetypal peasant dwelling – a remix of music, sound, voice, image of ritual, of the port and the peasant, over which the heterophony of urban vibrations is superimposed, the flashes of light of the city, the mad rush for all that is new, fast and easy to consume - a profound interdisciplinary approach to identify and exploit the immaterial heritage of the two spheres.

* New trail – programme added between 2017–2021 that is in line with the concept of the Bid Book. It has been selected through at least two open calls and has demonstrated consistency and a coherent programme, strengthening the cultural programme over several years.

Timeline highlights

2022 ● Performative multi-media show consisting of digital installations, screenings, live music, dance, interactive theatre hosted by the Timișoara Centre for Projects. Itinerant shows in Sânnicolau Mare and Făget, involving 3 days of event in each locality, during which will take place: multimedia show, workshops applied to the specifics of the project (workshops of electronic music remixed with traditional music, dance-theatre, contemporary fairy tales, sustainable architecture using recycled materials).

2023 ● Stage-adapted show (DJ, stage projections, dance groups) and the touring of this show in other European capitals (festivals).
Creation of a "box" that can be purchased by tourists in Timișoara with the project materials – remixed songs, videos, postcards illustrated by artists.



Remix ID

Station



Bright Cityscapes

Sabotage Festival 2021 (“La figurat” Association)

Host

To be selected through a national open call

Networks

Local

Partnerships involving academic structures from related fields (architecture, urbanism, geography, sociology, design and visual communications, film, animation, digital representation and construction, 3D manufacturing, technology, etc.), cultural and creative industries, IT&C community. Links should be created among local facilitators and hubs for creative communities, ecological organisations, universities and secondary schools in Timișoara

International

Urban Labs within the European network, digital art and technology centres, European Space Agency, New European Bauhaus

Locations

MultipleXity, MindHub, Multimedia Centre, FABER, secondary schools, universities

Format

Bright UrbanLab Timișoara – will later be integrated as a component of MultipleXity. The project will develop a collaborative city co-creation platform, a sensor system for data collection and a set of tools for working with urban big data. A city evolution map and digital model will be released under a Creative Commons open license to underpin future applications. Other formats: conference series, exhibition, 3 site-specific interventions made in artistic residencies, education programme, hackathons, workshops, prototyping, innovation fairs.

Bright Cityscapes is a programme of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary experimentation and innovation development through connection of culture, creativity and technology. The aim of the programme is to establish a permanent Urban Lab and Future Thinking Hub in Timișoara and to connect creativity and culture with technology, science, learning, environment and craft for the green and climate neutral development of the city.

The model of centralized planning and control which keeps the city and society in a safe, risk-free zone is seriously failing. Urban planning that focuses only on the form of the short term demands of developers is increasingly flawed and does not respond to the real needs of today. The city is already facing a changing climate, demographics, migration and related social and economic challenges. In order for cities to cope with these challenges, a deeper understanding of the dynamics of social and economic interactions that take place in dense urban environments, and how they all condition each other, is essential. It is necessary to mobilize and integrate existing multidisciplinary knowledge in the city and to trigger research and experimentation that will lead to innovation for the future.

A layer of sensors spread throughout the built environment stores a huge amount of real-time data. Their value lies in how people use this big urban data to make their lives better and more enjoyable, and therefore for more liveable cities. The quality of public space is an indicator of democracy in every European city. The smart city paradigm is being replaced by smart communities. So how can we, as citizens, come together to re-think and co-create a better city for ourselves?

Timișoara's IT&C community, together with the academic community, architects, planners, cultural and creative industries, the arts community, the civil society and with the support of the local public administration, will turn the city into a unique experimental laboratory, where urban and social research will take the form of multimedia visualizations, exhibitions, interactive installations and open tools for city co-creation, urban activism and citizen science.

* The Bright City Station in the Places Territory merged with the Lightscapes Station in the Connections Territory, forming a new station. The host will be identified through a national call for projects.

The programme is designed in three strands:
Bright Connections – a programme of four international conferences aimed at networking between actors in the fields of culture, technology, environment, learning and urban planning, focusing on the theme of future-proof city and urban resilience.
Urban Eco-explorers – an educational programme for young audiences, for which it is necessary to prepare teaching kits for schools to discuss the environment and human impact on it, and to identify global challenges to be addressed through cooperation and responsibility.
Brightscapes UrbanLab – a space available for creative entrepreneurs, innovators and artists to co-create different scenarios and applications for the city. Possible activities within the lab: research, artistic creation and prototyping; support for international networking; and audience communication such as open days, workshops and innovation fairs.

Timeline highlights

2022

- An open collaborative platform will be created and tested, allowing for public input (crowdsourcing) and 3D mock-ups and visualizations that make the urban structure and logic of the city accessible and understandable to a wider audience. These resources will be open-sourced to the artistic and creative community to play with – from 3D visualizations of development scenarios integrating diverse sets of big urban data or qualitative information relating to specific behaviors, to the representation of the physical urban framework for the production of artistic interventions, multimedia performances or large-scale light art installations (cultural content developed outside this project).

2023

- A series of international conferences on co-creating the city through data decoding and visualization, a multimedia exhibition and a series of site-specific installations applying the tools developed in the project.
  In 2023, Bright Connections should organise four international cross-sectoral conferences addressing solutions to contemporary environmental and societal challenges (e.g. circular economy, mobility, energy, water management, waste, food production) that can be offered by bringing together creativity, science, technology and entrepreneurship.
- **Urban Eco-explorers** should be developed, tested with secondary school teachers and integrated into the school curriculum.
- **The Brightscapes UrbanLab** will present a series of site-specific artworks as a result of artist residencies.

Trail



Energy Incubators

Sabotage Festival 2021

Host

La Figurat Association

Networks

Local

Foc și Pară Association, French Institute, German Cultural Centre, Wolff Platform (Bucharest), Colectiva Gazette (Cluj), Corp. Platform (Bucharest), Psihodrom, Simultan Festival, Atelier22, Auăleu Theatre, Labirint Theatre, Cinemobilul, PLAI Cultural Association, Ceva de Spus Association, Bicicle TeMe, UNHCR, West University

International

EU–Japan Fest Committee, Drugstore Beograd, Telekom Electronic Beats (Germany), Dimensions Festival

Locations

Launmomentdat în parc Festival: Queen Mary Park, Sabotage Festival: MultipleXity, Sit+Read Festival: Center for Projects, Theresia Bastion, The Secret Garden: Indecis Artist Run Space, Harababura Vintage Fair: Center for Projects, Bastion, FABER, Launmomentdat în curte: Azur, MultipleXity, FABER

Format

Launmomentdat în parc: 3 music stages, Pop-Up Fair, vinyl fair, creative workshops, dance events, theatre, film screenings, Beer Garden;
Sabotage: Music Arena: 2 music stages; Technology Arena: New Media Art, exhibitions, documentary film, video mapping, art installations & lights; Knowledge Arena: talks, lectures, workshops & presentations;
Sit+Read: publications fair, exhibition, workshops, conferences, closing event.
The Secret Garden: music stage, exhibition;
Harababura Vintage Fair: vintage & design fair, music scene, vinyl fair;
Launmomentdat în curte music scene, vinyl fair, craft/ illustration fair.

Promoting public space and industrial heritage as resources for the city through temporary events.

Launmomentdat în Parc Festival brings together international and local DJs, producers, and vinyl collectors to perform, share experiences and create connections that work outside the festival. The goal is to familiarize young audiences with the latest tendencies of the electronic music culture. Besides the music program, the activities include independent art, theatre, and film.

Sabotage represents the meeting point for electronic music, art and technology in industrial landscapes. It was born to create a counterculture that promises to go against all norms. The festival connects artists with different backgrounds, highlighting the cultural exchanges between them. The goal is for audiences to follow these exchanges and to take part in the workshops and discussions on offer. Sabotage's mission regards the future developments of the local music scene, bringing into discussion different practices, experiments and audio-video performances.

Sit+ReadArtbook Fair is an annual cultural event happening in Timișoara, Romania. Founded in 2017, the event brings together contemporary artists, designers, zine makers, print makers and independent publishers as well as hundreds of visitors each year.
Each edition showcases graphic novels, artist publications, fanzines, comics, illustrations and posters.

The Secret Garden started in 2012 in Timisoara, as a platform encouraging local artists and electronic music, through events like exhibitions, parties, film screenings, picnics, art fairs, publishing books, zines and others.
In 2020, opened a bookshop offering artist books, magazines, DIY publications, illustrations, comics, prints and more.

Harababura Vintage Fair is a carefully curated event that strengthens the relationship between local designers, artisans, micro-producers and vintage resellers. It is a chance to support a community-led activity that showcases the many ways we can begin new fashion habits that don't harm the environment. Our main goal is to minimize waste throughout the supply chain via various forms of recycling.

Launmomentdat în Curte is a series of events that focus on initiating conversations between musicians and audiences, as well as promoting electronic music in alternative surroundings, such as the courtyards of former factories, thus highlighting Timișoara's industrial heritage.

Timeline highlights

February 2022 to December 2023

- **Harababura Vintage Fair** – vintage & design fair, music scene (disco, house, italo-disco, electro), vinyl fair.

June 2022 & 2023

- **Launmomentdat în parc** – 3 music stages (Tropical – house, disco; Amazon – live, house, electro, EBM; Safari – dub & reggae), pop-up fair, vinyl fair, creative workshops, dance events, theatre, film screenings, Beer Garden (local craft beer and food trucks)
- **The Secret Garden** – music stage, exhibition.

September 2022 & 2023

- **Sabotage Festival** – Music Arena – 2 music stages (Dub Arena – dub & reggae, Electronic Arena – techno, electro, experimental & live); Technology Arena – new media art, exhibitions, documentary film, video mapping, art installations and lights; Knowledge Arena – talks, conferences, workshops and presentations.

October 2022 & 2023

- **Sit+Read Festival** – publications fair, exhibition, workshops, conferences, closing event.
- **Launmomentdat în curte** – music scene (house, disco, italo, techno, electro, EBM, post-punk, new wave etc.), vinyl fair, crafts and illustration fair.

July 2023

- **Creative camp in Jimbolia**

Trail



Spotlight Heritage

Spotlight Heritage

Host

Politehnica University of Timișoara, National Museum of Banat

Networks

Local

Politehnica Foundation, City of Timișoara, Timiș County Council, Civicultura, Thespis Theatre, West University, Triade Foundation, Synopsis™, Pro Patrimonio and National Institute of Heritage (Bucharest), Order of Architects Romania – Timiș Branch

International

University of Novi Sad (Serbia), Technical University of Kaunas (Lithuania), Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia (Italy), University of Novi Sad (Serbia), University of Agder and Norwegian Technical University (Norway), University of Graz (Austria), Europeana Network

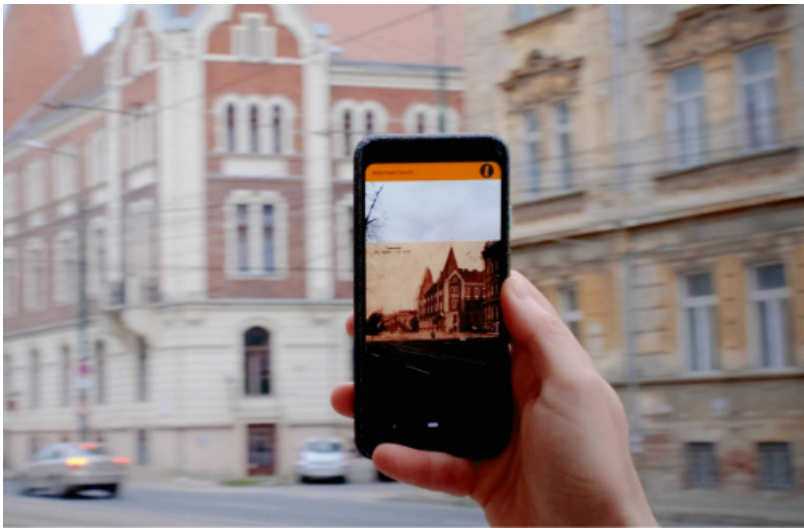
Locations

National Museum of Banat, 16 locations all over the Cetate area, Politehnica University of Timișoara (Rectorate, Faculty of Industrial Chemistry, Auditorium, main campus), University of Novi Sad (Serbia), Technical University of Kaunas (Lithuania)

Format

Museum exhibitions, street exhibitions, online website, mobile app, augmented reality app, virtual reality demonstrations, festival, street theatre, happenings and digital installations, guiding tours and virtual tours, printed catalogue, guide of standard graphics. All the digital artefacts are in Romanian and English, licensed with Creative Commons License, which allows share and reuse by all and are published on the web and mobile platform and will be proposed for inclusion in Europeana

Spotlight Heritage Timișoara is a digital cultural initiative of the Politehnica University of Timișoara in partnership with the National Museum of Banat, overlapping heritage in digital and physical formats. Spotlight Heritage Timișoara increases the interest of the wider public in Timișoara's historical neighbourhoods, marginal and neglected, by using guided tours and digital storytelling to empower locals and tourists to see, hear, feel, act, co-create and internalize the city. It is also a model of crowdsourced participatory storytelling meant to empower citizens and tourists to turn their technological appetite into culture. The project mixes personal memories of people with historical and architectural data, by digitally overlaying an intangible heritage from books, oral stories, archives and art works. The digital and physical itineraries of Iosefin (2019), Elisabetin (2020), Fabric (2021), Cetate (2022), a sum of all previous neighbourhoods and Giroc (2023) offers the visitor multiple routes and possibilities to visit, read and deeply understand the city of Timișoara.



Spotlight Heritage

Timeline highlights

January–December 2022

- Edutainment – Educational walkthroughs, guiding tours of the landmarks, provided by historians, architects, museologists, physical or in virtual reality, combining learning and entertainment for the visitors
- Virtual reality demonstrations, virtual tours with 360 images and videos, AR &VR from selected landmarks in Timișoara

February–December 2022

- Development of the Guide of Standard Graphics (and direct visual communication) for Timișoara, with Synopsis™

June 2022

- Web application *https://spotlight-Timişoara.eu* and Mobile and AR apps Spotlight Heritage Timișoara on both Android and iOS platforms updated with the new area Cetate (city center)

July–September 2022

- Museum exhibition Spotlight Heritage Timișoara at the National Museum of Banat, highlighting the Cetate (city center) area – **A World in a Mirror**. The exhibition will focus on the sense of smell, and will be dedicated to literature, innovation, and the perfume of roses
- Street exhibition Spotlight Heritage Timișoara in the Cetate area with 16 landmarks panels
- Street theatre, happenings, performances and digital installations at the National Museum of Banat and in the Cetate area, scenography (landmark props, audio-video virtual effects, smells with chemical demonstrations) with students and citizens active involvement.

September 2022

- International Spotlight Heritage – digital exhibitions with XR and digital stories in Novi Sad (Serbia) and Kaunas (Lithuania)

September–December 2022

- International Spotlight Heritage Student Contest with Politehnica University of Timișoara, Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia (Italy), University of Novi Sad (Serbia), University of Agder and Norwegian Technical University (Norway)

December 2022

- Digital artefacts with Creative Commons licenses and data highlights included in Europeana

January–December 2023

- **Spotlight Heritage Timișoara Catalogue** – a book with all highlights from all years, in Romanian and English and with AR features
- Virtual tours with 360 images and videos, AR &VR from selected landmarks in Timișoara
- Workshop for training Romanian cultural, creative and technology stakeholders in digital culture and XR (extended reality)
- Edutainment: educational walks, guided tours of the landmarks, held by historians, architects, museographers, either in person or through virtual reality, combining learning and entertainment for the visitors
- Planning and designing (concept) of the Guide for Timișoara's Graphics and Visual Communication Standards Manual with Synopsis™

January–May 2023

- International Spotlight Heritage Student Contest with Politehnica University of Timișoara, Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia

(Italy), University of Novi Sad (Serbia), University of Agder and Norwegian Technical University (Norway)

June–July 2023 ● International Digital Culture & Heritage Festival in Timișoara with XR demonstrations

June 2023 ● Web application *https://spotlight-Timişoara.eu* and Mobile and AR apps Spotlight Heritage Timișoara on both Android and iOS platforms updated with the new neighbourhood Giroc (socialist dormitory neighbourhood)

June–September 2023 ● International Spotlight Heritage; digital exhibitions with XR and digital stories in Grimstad and Trondheim (Norway), Pecs (Hungary), Eleusis–Athens (Greece), Graz (Austria)

July–September 2023 ● Museum exhibition Spotlight Heritage Timișoara in National Museum of Banat – highlighting all neighbourhoods – Parallel Worlds, with the sense of taste (flavor), dedicated to street art and sculpture, industrialisation and 1989 Revolution; Street exhibition Spotlight Heritage Timișoara in all neighborhoods with 80 landmarks panels;

September–December 2023 ● International Spotlight Heritage Student Contest with Politehnica University of Timișoara, Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia (Italy), University of Novi Sad (Serbia), University of Agder and Norwegian Technical University (Norway), University of Graz (Austria)

December 2023 ● Digital artefacts with Creative Commons licenses and data highlights included in Europeana.

Trail

Breathing Spaces



Privește orașul 2021

Host

Order of Architects of Romania – Timiș Territorial Branch

Networks

Local

Smart City Association, Timișoara Community Foundation, Civicultura, City of Timișoara, City of Arad, De-a Arhitectura Association, De la 4 Association, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism (Timișoara)

International

European Prize for Public Space (Barcelona)

Locations

Olimpia Hall, 700 Market, Lunei st., Flavia Market, Libertății Square (Timișoara), Mureș River banks (Arad)

Format

Interventions in the public space (Olimpia Hall area, Flavia Market, Libertății Square); permanent urban furniture - tram stop (700 Market), workshops for children, workshop with local government representatives and other target groups, community meals, creative workshops, fair events (700 Market); events in the public space dedicated to the community (Lunei st.); publications

Participatory design and architectural interventions to cultivate shared spaces.

In 2022, the fourth edition of the Timișoara architecture biennial Beta will take place under the title City – A common good. This theme will be in line with the aims of the Look at the City – Living Spaces route, namely to encourage the public to be active and take responsibility for public space, and to promote the idea that the city belongs to us and concerns us all. A series of participatory interventions in 2022 and 2023, urban activations and publications will open a platform for dialogue to formulate a human-centred public architecture policy for Timișoara.



OAR Timiș

Timeline highlights

January–June 2022
- Implementation of the installation in the public transport stops (solution selected through a competition), which will remain in the city as permanent urban furniture and will be realized in partnership with the City of Timișoara

March–May 2022
- Activities around the round table in the 700 Market: 3 workshops for children in collaboration with the De-a Arhitectura Association
- Workshop with representatives from the local administration, the Romanian Order of Architects and other target groups, in preparation of the design solution competition for the design and modernisation of the 700 Market
- 3 community dinners in collaboration with CRIES Association, VitaminA, Hrana Pământului, Delikatessen and others
- Creative workshop on making candles from recycled oil in partnership with OilRight
- A minimum of 3 fair/market events in collaboration with the În Comunitate Association, Secret Garden Bookshop, Harababura Vintage and others

March–August 2022
- 6 participatory events dedicated to the local community in the Lunei st. area, in partnership with the Timișoara Community Foundation and Civicultura

September–October 2022
- Interventions in the public space of the Olimpia Hall area (during BETA 2022)

February–July 2023
- Interventions in the public space in the Flavia Market area

May–October 2023
- Interventions in the public space in the Libertății Square area and multimedia installation

July–September 2023
- Interventions in the public space in the Mureș river banks area

October 2023
- Launch of publications: manual of participatory practices (the 6 interventions of the project as case studies); publication for children (where anthropomorphized public spaces become characters in graphic stories drawn by local artists: Ana Kun, Sorina Vazelina, Balamuc, Dan Ungureanu, Alexandru Săvescu, Lucian Popovici, Alina Bohoru).



OAR Timiș

Trail



ROD Festival

ROD Festival 2021

Host

DocuMentor Association

Networks

Local

Speranța Foundation, Centre for Legal Resources, ATI Timișoara Association, LOGS – Social Initiatives Group, One World Romania, KineDok, Timișoara Penitentiary, Best of TM, Faculty of Arts and Design, West University

International

Viken filmsenter AS (Norway), Bodø2024 IKS (Norway), Kuda.org (Serbia), Kultur Bryter Grenser (Norway), Documentary Campus (Germany), social and medical services in Serbia and Bulgaria

Locations

Timișoara, Jimbolia, Pietroasa, Nadrag, Lugoj, Gavojdia, Sinersig, Pata Rât (Cluj), Novi Sad (Serbia), Plovdiv (Bulgaria); seasonal worker communities in Western Europe, and Roma communities in Slovakia

Format

Film and theatre caravan, mobile photography exhibitions, medical caravan, advocacy campaign for people with disabilities, documentary workshop, regional film fund, co-productions of original cultural content (short documentary, animation, independent theatre), mobile audio-video production studio, large-scale multimedia installation in public space. The films in the screening are of various genres and formats: documentary, short fiction, animation and productions made within the project - selected according to the audience profile, themes and topics in the film, suitability to the understanding and openness of the target audience.

In the tradition of film caravans, ROD takes place outdoors in front of an audience that does not have access to the cinema, theatre performances or cultural interventions; it proposes interactions on social, memory and topical themes in unconventional, outdoor spaces, for communities or people who are often ignored, for isolated, disadvantaged, vulnerable, institutionalised groups – trying to bridge the gap between centre and periphery, between mainstream discourse and the lost voices of the forgotten. ROD Festival is accompanied by secondary and complementary events such as free medical or social services or specialist workshops. It supports and promotes Timișoara's independent cultural sector in the European context and campaigns for a sustainable cultural landscape in Timișoara. ROD creates the necessary conditions for generating a new sense of community and belonging, integrating disadvantaged social groups through culture and civic engagement, confronting community issues, participatory development of non-specific audiences, capacity building and strengthening local creative and cultural industries.



ROD Festival 2021

* New trail – programme added between 2017–2021 that is in line with the concept of the Bid Book, has been selected through at least two open calls and has demonstrated consistency and a coherent programme, strengthening the cultural programme over several years.

Timeline highlights

February–December 2022

- Film and independent theatre screenings, in situ photo exhibition at: Popa Șapcă Penitentiary (headquarters, Kuncz farm and Buziaș department) and Caritas Night Shelter

March–May 2022

- UNLOCK Culture Programme: film screenings in the centres for people with disabilities in Lugoj, Gătaia, Sinersig
- Interventions in rural areas (film screenings, independent theatre, in situ photo exhibition, short documentary video productions on subjects and characters from the locations) in Jimbolia, Pietroasa, Nădrag
- Interventions (film screenings + independent theatre + in situ photo exhibition) at Pata Rât (Cluj)
- Interventions (film screenings + independent theatre + in situ photo exhibition) in Stolipinovo district of Plovdiv (Bulgaria)
- Interventions (film screenings + independent theatre) in the slums of Novi Sad (Serbia), accompanied by the medical caravan of free health services for disadvantaged communities
- Co-productions (short documentary, experimental) involving artists and musicians from Serbia and Croatia

May–September 2022

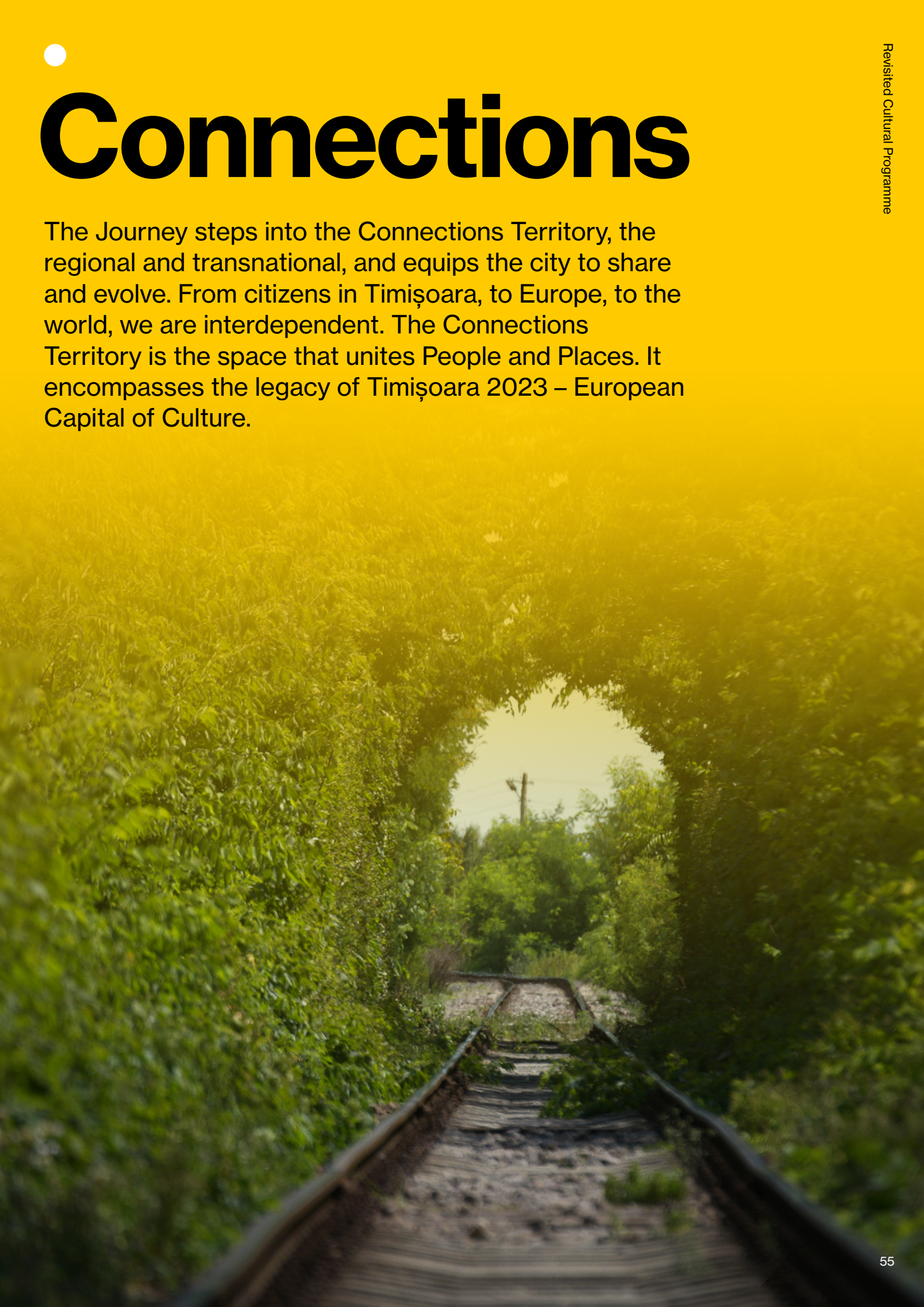
- Monthly independent film and theatre screenings in Timișoara: Blașcovici area, Polonă st., Badea Cârțan Market and Afghan Park/Auchan North;
  Short documentary video productions on subjects and characters from the locations;

January–December 2023

- ROD digital caravan (mobile studio for audio-video production, streaming, podcast, print etc.) dedicated to marginalized groups and communities, for the generation of original, local cultural content for screenings and interventions in 2023
- Monthly independent film and theatre screenings in peripheral locations in Timișoara and the region, short documentary-style video productions on local topics and characters
- Interventions (film screenings, performances of engaged or documentary theatre, documentary sessions, photo exhibitions) in communities of Romanian and Eastern European seasonal workers in Western Europe
- Animation film workshop, co-creation process involving artists, professionals and students from Romania and Norway in partnership with Kultur Bryter Grenser (Culture Breaks Borders)
- Advocacy campaign for the establishment of the first regional film fund (Timișoara and West Region) in Romania, in partnership with Viken filmsenter AS;
  Interventions (film screenings, documentary sessions, photo exhibitions) in Roma communities in Slovakia
- Urban-scale multimedia installation (dynamic projection, video mapping, sound design).

Connections

The Journey steps into the Connections Territory, the regional and transnational, and equips the city to share and evolve. From citizens in Timișoara, to Europe, to the world, we are interdependent. The Connections Territory is the space that unites People and Places. It encompasses the legacy of Timișoara 2023 – European Capital of Culture.



Station



Light over Borders

Sonic narratives (Simultan Association)

Host*

To be selected through a national open call

Networks

Local

Links should be re-connected with and between local creative communities, artists, makers, performance and dance groups and cultural associations in Timișoara, especially with the communities and associations in the Bega neighbourhoods that have already been involved in the past Bega! festivals

International

International partners from the creative industries, theatre and music should be involved

Locations

Different squares, parks and embankments of the Bega River: the Iosefin Water Tower, the Iron Bridge, Roses Park, Children's Park, the Water Plant

Format

Outdoor theatre performances, large scale art installations, music concerts, workshops

Light over Borders is one of the strongest international programmes planned for Timișoara 2023 – European Capital of Culture. The role of the programme is to animate the citizens and actively involve them in the artistic activities of the programme. The programme is conceived not only as a series of cultural and artistic activities but also as a programme through which culture is attached to the life of the city and has tangible effects on life, society and infrastructure development.

The Station is based on a strong performative programme in public spaces along the Bega Canal. In 2023, a series of stages are planned with a music and theatre programme that promotes Europe's linguistic diversity and engages creative communities in the emerging creative hotspots along the canal. The two-week festival brings together people from different cultural and religious groups living in Banat.

Timeline highlights

2023

In 2023, the Light over Borders programme will culminate in a two-week festival in September at various venues along the River Bega. It will include multilingual theatre productions, film screenings, concerts of different music genres and art installations. It will enliven and enable the exploration of various forgotten urban spaces along the Bega.

* The initial co-host, PLAI Cultural Center / Ambasade, could no longer provide the hosting position and the content in this station

● Trail



Moving Fireplaces

Moving Fireplaces: Centriphery – *Tinerețe fără bătrânețe*
(Photo: Flavius Neamciuc)

Host

Prin Banat Association

Networks

Local

City of Timișoara

International

Festival der Regionen (Austria), Cultura Nova Festival Heerlen (Netherlands), La Manufacture / Collectif Contemporain (France), Anda & Fala Arts Festival, Azores (Portugal), New Culture Foundation (Bulgaria), Espoon Kaupunginteatteri (Finland), Dansehallerne Copenhagen (Denmark)

Locations

Various locations in the Timiș, Caraș-Severin, Mehedinți, and Arad Counties, in the Hungarian and Serbian Banat regions, Timiș County Council Multifunctional Hall / FABER, Liberty Square Timișoara

Format

Debates, conferences, performances, art exhibitions, theatre show, film screenings, guided tours, public readings, workshops, publications

Moving Fireplaces is a platform exploring migration phenomena as a past and present reality in Banat and in Europe. The fireplace is a symbol of comfort, safety and warmth linked to our home. However, past and present phenomena such as forced relocations, political conflicts and unemployment are making fireplaces move.

Moving Fireplaces challenges xenophobia and intolerant behaviour, which are dangerously escalating in Europe, by telling the stories of people on-the-move and sensitising the public to an unavoidable reality. We identify and present forgotten and undocumented true stories of past regional tragedies, told by survivors of the Bărăgan Deportation and by those who fled the communist regime and the war in former Yugoslavia in an analogy with the present movements of refugees and economic migrants.

The main programme revolves around the Moving Fireplaces Festival, which takes place in unconventional locations in the cross-border region. It includes storytelling, documentary screenings, story slam events, public readings, performances, workshops, talks and debates. While chasing people's stories, we promote the linguistic diversity of the region resulting from successive migrations to the Banat. Stories of Moving Hearths, a multi-lingual, multi-authored collection about these migrations and encounters, brings together influential contemporary authors.

Moving Fireplaces will hold an international call for projects in 2022 and will produce selected artworks and projects and include them in a two-month festival in 2023.

Timeline highlights

2022 ● In 2022, field research sessions will be conducted in the historic region of Banat. The results of this activity will be used for the international open call for projects that will be part of the Moving Fireplaces Festival in 2023.
The international open call for projects will be launched in September and a new Moving Fireplaces bilingual volume with the results of the 2022 field research activity will be published in December. Along the year, the programme will also be marked by public debates, policy dialogues, workshops and a symposium in the framework of Centriphery, an inclusive intergenerational project happening in the peripheral regions of Europe that tackles local myths and legends by bringing international artists into active dialogue with local artists and residents.

2023 ● The first half of 2023 will be dedicated to the organisation of artistic residencies, preparation and production of the projects selected in the Moving Fireplaces international open call at the end of 2022. New representations of the large-scale theatre show Youth Everlasting & Life Without End (premiered in 2021, as part of the Moving Fireplaces: Centriphery edition) will take place in July. In September and October, the works of selected international artists will be presented at the Moving Fireplaces Festival, happening in Timișoara and various locations of the Banat region (including Serbian and Hungarian Banat). The festival will include theatre performances, concerts, film screenings, public readings, art exhibitions, guided tours, based on true stories documented and available on the Moving Fireplaces platform. An anniversary Moving Fireplaces catalogue, gathering the project's activities throughout the years, will be published in December.



Moving Fireplaces at Comloșu Mare & Lenauheim
(Photo: Diana Belci)

Trail



Baroque Reloaded

Romanian Chamber Orchestra

Host

Timișoara National Museum of Art

Networks

Local

Baroque Festival Association, “Banatul” Philharmonic, Old Music Festival

International

European platforms for emerging talents

Locations

Evangelical Church of Timișoara, Catholic Dome of Timișoara, Old City Hall, Unirii Square

Format

Art exhibitions, site specific art by artists, selected through an open call, concerts and baroque carnival

Baroque Reloaded is a programme of specially commissioned contemporary art that responds to the sites and buildings of Unirii Square. The driving force behind the project is Baroque art as the last borderless experience that culturally connected a large part of Europe. The free movement of artists, architects, musicians and ideas was a common phenomenon in the 18th century and it should be the same today. Baroque means flame, splendour and glamour and is understood as a tumultuous process of constant transformation, a tension between knowledge and speculation, rationality and spirituality, and contemporary artists are invited to reconnect it with contemporary themes in unexpected spaces of transformation.

We will celebrate the universality of the Baroque with events that reconnect artists with audiences in the Danube region. As Timișoara is a place where Byzantine and Catholic influences meet, the collision creates additional potential. The baroque architecture of the buildings in Timișoara, the Orthodox Church, hosts baroque music and silent discos, while the Catholic Cathedral and other baroque buildings located on the same Union Square create a powerful space for interaction by hosting art exhibitions. Baroque Reloaded will be a contemporary art project that will challenge artists to use contemporary forms of artistic expression to find links between the transnational heritage of the Baroque and the challenges of today's Europe, and will bring contemporary experimental artists (video art installations, video mapping, site-specific art) into the environment of the regional heritage, mixing artworks and aesthetics from two different periods.

Timeline highlights

2023

In 2023, four specially commissioned art installations featuring contemporary European artists will be installed in four locations on Unirii Square, in the Orthodox Church, the Catholic Cathedral, the Old Town Hall and the square. The artists will be selected through public calls. The programme will be accompanied by baroque music concerts and will end with a baroque carnival.

Trail



Encounters

Bubblegun of Sweet Surrender – Lea Rasovszky
Art Encounters Biennial 2017

Host

Art Encounters Foundation, Triade Foundation

Networks

Local

City of Timișoara / Center for Projects, Timiș County Council, West University, National Arts University Bucharest, Art and Design University Cluj, Raiffeisen Bank, Mondriaan Fund, Romanian Cultural Institute, French Institute, Polish Institute, German Cultural Center, AFCN, Art and Design Faculty Timișoara, BETA – Architecture Biennial, Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT), FABER, AMBASADA, Cluj Cultural Center, Timiș County Cultural Direction

International

Pompidou Center (France), Danube Dialogues (Serbia), Rajko Mamuzić Gallery (Serbia), Serbian Cultural Center of Paris (France)

Locations

National Art Museum of Timișoara, Banat Museum, Art Encounters Foundation, Jecza Gallery, ISHO Pavillion, Art and Design Faculty Timișoara, "Corneliu Mikloși" Public Transport Museum, MultipleXity, FABER, Pygmalion Gallery / House of Arts, Union Square, Traian Square, Bega river banks

Format

Exhibitions, interventions in public space, conferences, meetings and workshops with artists, curators and art historians, a year-round programme for artists and an educational programme for artist residencies.

Encounters is a visual arts programme that brings together local, Romanian and international artists, curators, institutions, artistic communities and audiences in the field of contemporary art. Encounters is the basis for fruitful connections that make Timișoara an important meeting point between the Romanian and international contemporary art scene, connecting artists, curators and the general public. The Art Encounters Biennial is the focal point of the trail, creating the conditions for a lively dialogue every two years between artists, curators and the general public on the most urgent issues of the moment, a dialogue on the paradigms of contemporary art. Timișoara is a canvas for contemporary art with conventional and unconventional cultural spaces, but also with crumbling buildings, forgotten areas and unexpected public spaces.

Encounters activities encourage diverse forms of international networking, dialogue, learning, research and experimentation. The Art Encounters Biennial creates a dialogue on a specific theme and places a strong emphasis on cultural education. During the Biennial, art occupies different spaces throughout the city, from museums and galleries to unconventional spaces in abandoned buildings, public spaces and forgotten areas. At the same time, the programme aims to promote local and Romanian artists, both contemporary emerging artists and artists who have established themselves abroad and have become part of global art collections. Some of their works will be presented for the first time in Romania as part of the programme.

Timeline highlights

2022 ● In June and July, the group exhibition If the Story is present will be on show. The programme of exhibitions will be accompanied by a mediation and education programme with mentorship sessions, an introductory course in contemporary art and an autumn curatorial school. The exhibition If a story is present will be the direct result of the mentorship, where the two invited artists and the participants (students or young artists) will create a joint artwork, while reflecting on collective authorship, on sharing and caring, on how a community works and how we can think beyond individualism in the art world. As part of the Danube Dialogues, an exhibition 3Es: Ecology, Ethics, Aesthetics will take place in Novi Sad at Rajko Mamuzić Gallery in July and August. Between September and November Triade Foundation will organise an exhibition Énonces de la pure Conscience in the Serbian Cultural Centre in Paris.

2023 ● The focus of the 2023 programme will be the 5th edition of The Art Encounters Biennial in September–November 2023. This international event has been taking place in Timișoara since 2015.
Also in 2023 the Art Encounters Biennial will keep on contributing to the creation of new cultural routes that include the outskirts of Timișoara, as well as public spaces, where interventions are intended to draw attention to the necessity of rehabilitating those spaces or of giving them back to the community. Art Encounters Biennial 2023 will have a strong national and international impact, aiming at expanding its mediation programme and its presence in the public space. This edition of the biennial will reflect on collective knowledge, support structures and building communities as part of its concept for the 5th edition, which will also be an opportunity to rethink the biennial model. The programme Encounters will be marked by two other highlights at the Art Museum. Curated by Doïna Lemny, the exhibition Brâncuși: Romanian Sources and Universal Perspectives will present essential themes that the artist would develop over decades, in sculpture, but also in photography and drawing. Some of his most iconic creations from the collections of Centre Pompidou, Tate and other important international and national collections will be exhibited for the first time in this part of Europe and indeed in his home country. Victor Brauner, retrospective will be the most significant retrospective dedicated to Romanian-born Surrealist Victor Brauner (1903–1966) in his home country, as well as in this part of Europe. Works never presented in Romania from the collections of Centre Pompidou, and other French private collections, will reunite with paintings and drawings held by Romanian museums and private collectors. The autumn part of the programme will be marked by a programme of three sculpture exhibitions at the Banat Museum, organised by the Triade Foundation.



Art Encounters Biennial 2021

Trail



Light Search

Eufonia Festival

Host

"Banatul" Philharmonic Timișoara

Networks

Local

Trib'Art Association, National Opera Timișoara, Faculty of Music and Theatre Timișoara, City of Cluj-Napoca, International Theatre Festival Sibiu, City of Bucharest, Lanto Music, Timișoara Convention Center, Prin Banat, FABER, BRD – Groupe Société Générale, Clinica Dr. Stratul

International

Theater Altenburg Gera (Germany), Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz Ludwigshafen (Germany), WDR Radio Orchestra Cologne (Germany), HarrisonParrott Artist Agency London (UK), Konzertdirektion Hans Ulrich Schmid GmbH & Co.KG (Germany)

Locations

"Banatul" Philharmonic, Faculty of Music and Theatre, National Opera of Timișoara, non-conventional spaces in the city as well as in the rural area of the region (patrimony buildings, churches, medieval castles etc.), schools and concert halls in the region

Format

Concerts, guest appearances, musical masterclasses, workshops, conference and exhibition

Light Search is a programme of diverse musical exchanges with two different strands, Eufonia and Radiating Orchestras.

Eufonia presents Timișoara as a place of many religions and a universal musical language that connects the audience to a spiritual experience of contemplation. Groups of artists representing different religious backgrounds will explore sacred and profane spaces in the city and participate in events that intertwine music with visual art.

The programme responds to the fact that the rise of religious fundamentalism and xenophobia and intolerance towards new Europeans shows that religion is an obvious cause of conflict in the present and future years. Timișoara is known for being a thriving multi-religious city over the centuries, and music has always been one of the common forms of expressing differences. Several groups of artists representing different faiths and religious backgrounds will be invited to explore sacred and profane places across Timisoara (churches, synagogues or prayer halls, everyday squares or secluded places such as caves or forest glades) at the Eufonia Festival, creating events that combine music and visual art to create immersive experiences that express the human search for the sacred.

Radiating Orchestras is a programme of exchanges and master classes for musicians and conductors, as well as joint performances by philharmonic orchestras at various venues in Timișoara and elsewhere. Participating orchestras will include Theater Altenburg Gera, Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz from Ludwigshafen, Radio WDR Köln and the Romanian Chamber Orchestra. Also part of the Radiating Orchestras strand, a conference and exhibition will be organized in order to bring together musicians and other professionals from the classical music sector for an exchange of knowledge, networking and opportunity to develop common projects.

Timeline highlights

2022

- In 2022, the Light Search project will hold several masterclasses and concerts with young participants in May as part of the Radiating Orchestras strand. In September, the programme will be marked by the **Eufonia Festival** with 10 concerts and 5 educational concerts. An important part of the programme will be the preparations for the orchestra exchange and the joint performances of the combined orchestras in the year of the European Capital of Culture. Exchange programmes between orchestral musicians and/or chamber groups will be materialised by a one-week stay of nominated musicians from both orchestras. The exchange will include collaboration with principal conductors and soloists at the Theatre Altenburg Gera and the Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz Ludwigshafen.
  In addition, the programme will include masterclasses on conducting and instruments by the Romanian Chamber Orchestra. There will be concerts by the Romanian Chamber Orchestra with young musicians and participants in the masterclasses and a concert under the direction of Cristian Măcelaru.

- **Eufonia Festival** will take place in September. Young musicians from Romania and abroad will participate in masterclasses which are given by renowned classical music teachers who come to Timișoara. 10 concerts by 15 international guest musicians and young participants in the masterclasses. 5-8 educational concerts for young people from rural or disadvantaged communities in the city.

- In October, **Intrada Festival** will be organized and it will include workshops on classical contemporary music composition by Franck Bedrosjan and the Schallfeld Ensemble in collaboration with Filarmonica Banatul. This festival is a tribute to Remus Georgescu, and will be hosted by the “Banatul” Philharmonic.

- Towards the end of October, the first edition of the **Classical Music Summit** will be organized at “Banatul” Philharmonic. In a 3-day event, more than 100 musicians and professionals in the field of classical music from more than 10 countries will be reunited to discuss the challenges of the sector, to engage in an exchange of knowledge and to jointly develop music and cross-border projects.

2023

- In 2023, Light Search will bring two spectacular joint concerts with partner orchestras from Gera and Ludwigshafen as part of the Radiating Orchestras project. In March, the WDR Radio Orchestra Cologne will be in Timișoara. In addition, nearly 20 concerts with top international conductors and soloists will be performed this year. In September, the programme will be marked by the Eufonia Festival with ten concerts and eight educational concerts.

- In October, the **Intrada Festival** will once again feature masterclasses and concerts with young participants playing with the Romanian Chamber Orchestra conducted by Cristian Măcelaru.

- At the end of October, beginning of November 2023, the second edition of the **Classical Music Summit** will be hosted by the “Banatul” Filarmonica. During this edition, the number of participants will be increased to more than 150 musicians and professionals in the field of classical music. Once again, the 4-days meeting will be an opportunity to exchange experiences, views and to encourage the exchange of knowledge of participants from different countries. This conference and exhibition will place Timișoara on the map of relevant cities for the professionals in the sector.

- The highlight of 2023 will be the large-scale concerts of the two orchestras, which will be performed as part of an exchange programme between orchestral musicians and/or chamber groups, materialised by a one-week residency of designated musicians from the two orchestras (cooperation with principal conductors and soloists, exchange between orchestra and/or choir).

Trail

European Echoes



Oasis. Green Identity (Avanpost)

Host

The programme will be organized through an open invitation to international cultural organisations, partners of Timișoara 2023

Networks

Local

LOCOP
Links should be created among local facilitators and hubs for creative communities, ecological [illegible]isations, universities and [illegible]ndary schools in Timișoara

International

Former and candidate ECoCs

Locations

MultipleXity, MindHub, Multimedia Centre, FABER, secondary schools, universities

Format

Exhibitions, interviews, closing ceremony

European Echoes is the programme dedicated to cooperation and international exchange between Timișoara and other European Capitals of Culture, international networks and programmes, twin cities and other international partners. In cooperation with other European Capitals of Culture, there will be exchanges of exhibitions, other programmes and, above all, experiences of what will be left for cities after the ECoC title.

The European Capital of Culture title is a great and special experience for every city. It motivates and mobilises people and resources for new ventures and cultural productions of excellence. We aim to collaborate with other cities, ECoCs, twin cities and international cultural institutes and exchange experiences, exhibitions and performances that produce knowledge and sustainable mechanisms for a long term collaboration beyond the title year. In partnership and dialogue with other cities and institutions, we will evaluate the outcomes of Timișoara 2023 and the culminating year from the point of view of artists and audiences. Finally, the closing event will capture the voices of people touched by the Journey of the Cultural Programme.

Timeline highlights

2023

From January and throughout the year, there will be an exhibition on the production and results of past ECOC. Interviews and community works will be carried out by LOCOP – Local Operators' Platform in collaboration with local artists.

Power station

The Power Station becomes a central point for the capacity building of the local ecosystem, acting as the main drive for the development of the cultural programme and a legacy structure of the European Capital of Culture.

Host

Timișoara Center for Projects, Timișoara 2021 – European Capital of Culture Association

Format

Training programme, camps, workshops, conferences, funding mechanisms, residencies, mobility projects, pilot projects, meetings, forums, platforms

Timișoara navigates between two major forces that currently drive its cultural sector: on one side, the ambitious programme that it has assumed to deliver under the European Capital of Culture title, while on the other side building on the soft power it naturally grows within. These two forces translate into a need – of capacity building for the cultural sector; and a potential – to grow and empower the work of institutions, organisations and individuals that capitalize the soft powers that can shine the light from Timișoara to Europe.

A central and transversal point in the architecture of the programme, the Power Station is dedicated to enhancing collaboration, skills and competences for individuals, organisations and institutions, and the local cultural ecosystem as such.

The key points of the programme are:

- **Capacity building** – to develop the programme, to operate in a resilient and sustainable way, to grow organically, to empower professionals, to increase organisational and individual capacity;
- **Networking** – to collaborate locally, to create alliances, to be more connected internationally, develop collaborations and partnerships beyond the local level;
- **Resources** – infrastructure, venues, logistics, funding, digital;
- **Community engagement** – true connections to the local community, increased participation, access to culture, trained professionals, dedicated education and mediation programmes, community engagement, outreach to the community, creating a learning environment through culture.

The Power Station features the following types of activities:

- **Dedicated**
  part of the programme that is developed specifically for the ECoC programme and answering the needs and potential of the local sector
- **Empowered**
  initiatives that have already developed in Timișoara, giving power to the station and with a capacity of upscaling or further developing their programme by responding to the needs of the local community, above all
- **Hosted**
  established international and national events which find their host in Timișoara, feature local operators or are focused on topics relevant for the local scene.

The Power Station will also be developed under the umbrella of a new co-host – the newly formed Center for Projects – and has the potential of becoming a long-term, sustainable capacity building programme for the local cultural sector, offering services, funding and support for local organisations, institutions and individuals during the ECoC programme and beyond. The Power Station becomes a legacy of the ECoC programme, acting as an engine for the cultural sector through its dedicated programme as well as an empowered mechanism for programmes and organisations which are already committed to contribute to the development of the cultural sector, locally and beyond.

Funding Mechanisms

Revisited Cultural Programme budget

Type of action	Years	€	%
6 Stations*	2	~ 3.000.000 – 6.000.000	22-24%
22 Trails	2	~ 8.5000.000 – 11.000.000	41-44%
Power Station	2	~ 800.000 – 1.200.000	4-5%
Opening	2	~ 1.200.000 – 1.800.000	6-8%
Open calls*	2	~ 5.000.000 – 6.500.000	22-25%
		20.500.000 –25.500.000	**100%**

* The total budget for open calls (including 2 open calls for Stations which do not have Hosts) is 6.100.000–7.500.000 Euro (30%)

The plan for the year 2022 is to seek a mechanism to better align a fair budget allocation for the stations, trails and new entries identified through funding calls, included in the Cultural Programme. The updated main programme as it appears in this document represents 70% of the Cultural Programme of Timișoara European Capital of Culture 2023, with the remaining 30% to be consolidated through new projects to be further developed through open calls and curated programmes. These new projects will strengthen the concept of the cultural programme by fulfilling the compulsory criteria of European dimension, artistic excellence and audience development.

In addition, the Curatorial Team seeks an acknowledgement of the uneven distribution between larger organisations and smaller organisations, that lack structural funding, and will identify methods of supporting vulnerable structures that offer potential of growth and that are identified as offering unique and innovative cultural and artistic productions, valuable for the ecosystem of Timișoara, on a longer term perspective.

The budget of Timișoara 2023 – European Capital of Culture is complex, reflecting a structure characterized by the involvement of the Municipality of Timișoara, Timiș County Council, Ministry of Culture, European funding, Local social funds (GAL Timișoara) and the private sector.

Within each Station and Trail, the budget allocated to each host and partner organisation will be allocated based on the following markers:

- The span of budget estimated for a Station or Trail included in the 2016 Bid Book;
- The budget offered by the host or partner organisation, based on the list of activities and programmes for 2022–2023;
- The relation of the proposed programmes to the content and thematics of their respective Trail or Station;
- The capacity of the proposed programmes to respond to the indicators of a good evaluation from the Bid Book.

Audience Development



The audience approach in the cultural programme takes as a starting point the definition of the European Commission that refers to audience development as 'a strategic, dynamic and interactive process of making the arts widely accessible. It aims at engaging individuals and communities in experiencing, enjoying, participating in and valuing the arts through various means available today for cultural operators, from digital tools to volunteering, from co-creation to partnerships.'

———

European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European audiences: 2020 and beyond, Publications Office, 2012, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/32988

Audience and community development approaches seek to make the strategy outlined in the 2016 Bid Book more accessible and adapted to the community.

The approach continues to build on the three **levels** aimed at widening, deepening and diversifying audiences: Engagement, Participation, Outreach. In terms of audiences, we refer to the three **segments** for which specific strategies and tools are put in place in order to address their needs and potential throughout the programme: by habit, by choice, by surprise.

The main **principles** guiding the audience and community development strategies are:

- Audience development is embedded in the programme, communication, production and community development components
- The Cultural Programme acts as a Journey for audiences to pass through the stages from engagement, to participation, to outreach
- The Power Station is the main mechanism for developing the capacity of the cultural sector in their approach to audiences
- There are concrete mechanisms for social inclusion - some embedded in programmes such as Invisible/visible or Dare!, some transversal such as partnerships with social organisations for physical or accessibility or cultural mediation for vulnerable groups at risk for social exclusion
- The volunteering programme focuses on both creating coordination mechanisms to connect audiences with specific programmes and activities and capacity building for local cultural operators.

The main **actions** for the audience development programme will build on the following areas:

Capacity Building
The Power Station will act as the main mechanism providing training, learning and peer learning for cultural operators to develop their capacities to implement dedicated programmes for audience development. The programme also provides opportunities for local operators to engage in partnerships and benefit from mobility, which will increase their capacity to develop their programme and the engagement of audiences in their events and activities.

Infrastructure
New cultural venues will embed education and mediation in their core programme, and have dedicated professionals for their implementation. Public institutions will benefit from a dedicated intervention aimed to improve physical accessibility to their venues. Specific programmes will also be aimed to diversify and enlarge the local map of spaces dedicated to culture, in order to reach audiences in the neighborhood and enhance access to culture for audiences by surprise.

Cultural Programme
The Cultural Programme is conceived as a Journey through which audiences engage with the artistic content through the three stages: engagement, participation and outreach. Stations widen audiences, ensuring a wide participation of all citizens in the activities. Trails deepen cultural experiences and touch upon different groups affected by marginalization, exclusion or limited access to culture. Diversifying audiences is embedded in the processes of each Station or Trail and supported by the capacity of local operators to understand and experiment in their approach to the public.

Networks and Partnerships
Partnerships will support the audience development strategy on several levels: first, to ensure collaboration between culture and other sectors, specifically the educational one – by activating schools as agents for learning centered on culture and arts. Secondly, partnerships and networks will be a tool to gather efforts centered on groups of audiences and similar practices towards types of audiences. Thirdly, highlight events and flagship actions relevant for the development of the education and mediation fields are meant to get local operators and agents to enter into a dialogue, exchange

and develop projects with partners outside of the city and region.

Digital
New digital tools will be developed to engage audiences, connected to the communication strategy as well as cultural production and the development of the cultural programme. Embedded in the cultural programme, specific projects are developed for digital experiences, especially in relation to heritage. Also, the use of digital tools will be part of the data collection and research meant to map and understand audiences' behaviors and attitudes towards cultural participation in general. In the light of Covid-related shifts that have affected the cultural sector and changed the dynamics of cultural events, digital infrastructure will need to be part of the resources allocated to the cultural sector, as well as skills related to digital tools, in order to ensure an adapted strategy of reaching audiences beyond physical presence.

Agents
Specific agents dedicated to the implementation of audience centered programmes will be allocated in the implementation team of the cultural programme – particularly within the implementation unit – and the role and capacities of agents within the community will be developed through the mechanisms of the Power Station – specifically through the volunteering and the training programme.

Research and data
At least two major research projects will be conducted with the scope of feeding qualitative and quantitative data about cultural audiences at local level, and of mapping and understanding education and mediation practices of cultural operators. Data collection tools will be put in place to gather information about the different types of audiences in relation to culture.

Social inclusion
The social inclusion will focus on Improving and facilitating accessibility with several measures:
Cultural institutions will be encouraged to include accessibility measures in their working plans. TM2023 will create a clear guideline for acquisitions and good practices.. The independent sector will be supported with funding and evaluation incentives points for those proposals that address social issues and involve among audiences categories at risk for social exclusion.
Additionally, the Social Services, where possible, will add transport to cultural events among their services.
ptional trainings will be organised as part of the Power Station, supporting cultural operators in their work with people at risk of social inclusion and exchange of good practices.

Policy and Legacy
New funding mechanisms and conditions for audience-centered approaches to be embedded into cultural projects are the premises for ensuring that audience development is a transversal thread in local policies, particularly in relation to funding. Also, public investments (such as MultipleXity and the new cultural infrastructure) will also ensure that their teams, programme and mission put audience development at the center.
The audience development programmes also ensure the legacy of the European Capital of Culture, focusing on capacity building, sustainability of partnerships and long-term commitment embedded within the infrastructure developments.

Designated European Capital of Culture 2023 in Romania
City of Timișoara

Strategic partners/Funders
The City of Timișoara
Government of Romania through the Ministry of Culture
Timiș County Council

Implementation unit on behalf of Timișoara Municipality
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