

Tiro Association For Arts

Culture and Arts for Change in South Lebanon

Tiro Association of Arts was officially established in 2015 (Istanbouli Theatre, as it was referred to before, received official registration that year) with the aim of spreading a culture of arts, creativity and self-expression in the south of Lebanon where creative independent spaces, especially in the margin, are absent. The organisation brings people together, promotes self-expression and critical and creative thinking.

"We dream to live in a country where creativity plays an important role in promoting peace, self-expression, development and (human) rights and critical thinking in marginalized areas in Lebanon. We envision an alternative and critical movement through arts and culture; we aim to create spaces for cultural development and joy, to oppose the polarization, hatred and violence that are often so common for the areas we work in.

We bring together youth of different cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, aim to build a generation of arts and create safe spaces, where people respect differences and can peacefully meet, play and work together, irrespective of background, gender or religious affiliation."

Strategy

The work of Tiro Association of Arts is based on three pillars:

1. Providing training and cultural skill development of youth, free of charge:

We build the capacities of youth in the fields of theatre, photography, film and arts. The training is free of charge so that marginalized youth and groups in society have access to the training and activities.

2. Creating and rehabilitating alternative –semi public- spaces for culture and arts:

We provide an alternative place, linked to the cultural history of an area/city where people can develop themselves and enjoy cultural activities and events. Such cultural places connect and bring people together, positively (re)shaping the collective identity of the communities and people. We started reviving old cinemas in Tyre and Nabatieh.

3. Organizing festivals and promoting the south of Lebanon as a place for culture, arts and artistic development:

We promote the South of Lebanon and the areas we work in as places of cultural importance. With these (inter)national festivals we strengthen the image of the south of Lebanon as a place of culture and arts as opposed to hatred, war and violence.

Current areas of work

The work of Tiro Association of Arts is focused on the South of Lebanon. Areas of work are currently Tyre and Nabatieh. Our ambition is to expand our work to other cities in Lebanon. It's especially in marginalized areas where we believe culture and arts can be strong drivers of development, social cohesion and, ultimately, change.

Achievements

Over the last years, several international theatre, music and film festivals have been organized, expanding the outreach of the theatre significantly. Next to these festivals and the countless workshops and events that were organized, the organization was able to open several free and independent cultural spaces: Cinema Al Hamra in Tyre, Cinema Stars in Nabatieh and Cinema Rivoli in Tyre. Due to external circumstances we had to move the activities out of Cinema Al Hamra though we continue to work in Cinema Stars Nabatieh and Cinema Rivoli in Tyre.

Next to these independent and free cultural spaces, we focus on the personal, cultural and social

development of youth and communities in marginalized areas of (south) Lebanon. We aim to provide youth with a space, skills and social contacts to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

The team & members of Tiro Association of Arts

The board of the organisation consists of members *Kassem Istanbuli, Amal Al Hor, Ahmad Al Trabolsi, Marouf Farhat, Mahmoud Malah* and *Talal Abou Saleh*; the organization works with a group of more than 20 volunteers. Finance and Administration is taken up by Marouf Farhat, a licensed lawyer and with particular expertise in financial administration.

Recent articles and further background information:

The articles and videos below give an impression of the importance and significance of the work of Tiro Association For Arts.

ARTICLES

v DAILY STAR LEBANON: "Reviving Independent Art in South Lebanon."

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Arts-and-Ent/Culture/2017/Aug-17/416146-reviving-independent-art-in-south-lebanon.ashx>

v REUTERS: "Old cinemas find new life in Lebanon as cultural hubs."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-lebanon-cinema-restoration/old-cinemas-find-new-life-in-lebanon-as-cultural-hubs-idUSKBN19Y1UU>

v AL JAZEERA: "Championing Culture in Lebanon's South."

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/championing-culture-lebanon-south-160628100019493.html>

VIDEO'S

v A short video showing the rehabilitation and reopening of Cinema Stars in Nabatieh, after being closed for 27 year:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2T3OztDGJI&feature=youtu.be>

v A short crowdfunding video supporting the campaign to Save Cinema Stars:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdqWx7lyKjk>

v A video about the latest International Theatre Festival (in August 2017):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1zRYit_mrl

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3o4OWDfZ_I

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZooTYSZmxg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBBqQQT9tWY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjDJfyOS5_w

Facebook Page :

<https://www.facebook.com/Istanbuli.Theatre>