

Timisoara Refugee Art Festival (TRAF)

Art can be a social intervention channel in the attempt to build bridges between refugees and the host Romanian community. From 2017, Timisoara Refugee Art Festival offers the opportunity for the participating public to show their support and solidarity towards those who leave their home in search of safety. Organized in cooperation with AIDRom Timisoara Regional Integration Center and financed by the Timisoara Association 2021 Cultural Capital of Culture, Timis County Council and UNHCR Romania, the 2019 edition of the festival with and about refugees brought to the stage music concerts, visual arts and literature exhibitions, workshops and community initiatives, film and theater screenings.

The Timis County Council offered its expertise in organising cultural events to the managing team as well as access to cultural spaces from Timisoara (Bastion Multifunctional Center, Village Banat Museum) and promoted the initiative on its communication channels.

The theme of Timisoara Refugee Art Festival the 3rd edition was the concept of interculturality. A desirable approach when it comes to integrating refugees where the community is open and migrants want to belong, without one of the two cultures involved in the integration process being superior to another. In a process of interculturalism, both cultures interact, change each other and celebrate the cultural diversity that is a gain and an asset in the process of integrating any minority.

The festival took place from 15 to 20 June 2019 in different locations in the city of Timisoara, Romania in partnership with local and national public bodies and non-governmental actors.

For 5 days we combined art and community initiatives in order to talk about who refugees are through out:

Day I:

- "Skin Off II" Visual Arts Exhibition with Regina Damian
- Refugee Photo Project "What If" with Horia Manolache.
- Concert Music "Bokanovskification" with Zaher Al Ani & Andi Buftea and Jam Music Session

Day II - Intercultural Community Picnic at Village Banat Museum in Timișoara.

Day III:

- Non-discrimination workshop and No Hate Speech for young people.
- "In Your Shoes" Sociotrama Workshop in collaboration with the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology – West University of Timisoara.

Day IV:

- Community art workshops for children at Waldorf Lyceum Timisoara.
- Film Projection "The Border Fence" (2018)

Day V- 20 June 2019 - International Refugee Day:

- Exhibition - "Who Can Understand" poetry show with Daniela Boltres, Exil - Osnabrücker Zentrum für Flüchtlinge e.V. Osnabrück, Germany.
- Theater play "I am a refugee" after a collection of texts by Flavius Ilioni-Loga.

Results:

- An estimated 300 people attended the festival for the 5 days.
- Approximately 35 refugees settled in Timisoara participated in events, connecting with the community.
- Social Media Awareness: over 17.000 people reached, 1.700 Event Page views, 683 people who responded.
- 1 Refugee musician settled in Timisoara performed for the audience.
- 3 Refugee families cooked traditional food for the community
- 2 national news reports about the Festival (Adevarul.ro, Radio Romania Cultural).
- Cooperation of local and national actors (both public bodies and non-gouvernemental associations)
- 30 volunteers involved.
- Visibility of local social integration projects for refugees.

1. Description VIDEO of the Festival (Romanian Language) :
[https://www.facebook.com/timisoararefugeeartfestival/videos/2287252251514501/?acontext=%7B%22source%22%3A5%2C%22action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22main_list%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%22%5C%22\[%5C%22%22%7D\]%2C%22has_source%22%3Atrue%7D](https://www.facebook.com/timisoararefugeeartfestival/videos/2287252251514501/?acontext=%7B%22source%22%3A5%2C%22action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22main_list%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%22%5C%22[%5C%22%22%7D]%2C%22has_source%22%3Atrue%7D)
2. 2018 Edition Presentation Video (no language)
<https://www.facebook.com/timisoararefugeeartfestival/videos/654017331666712/>
3. 2019 Edition Presentation of the Intercultural Picnic (no language)
<https://www.facebook.com/timisoararefugeeartfestival/videos/2254540414860744/>
4. 2019 Edition Presentation of Day V activities (no language)
<https://www.facebook.com/timisoararefugeeartfestival/videos/3267425376604771/>

Timis County Council – brief presentation

Administrative data of the organization	
Institution (original language)	Consiliul Județean Timiș
Institution (EN)	Timis County Council
Legal status	Public Authority
VAT Number (Business Identification Number)	4358029
Address	Bd. Revolutiei din 1989, No. 17
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Country	Romania
NUTS Level 1	Romania – RO
NUTS Level 2	West Region – RO42
NUTS Level 3	Timis County – RO424
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Legal representative	
Title (Ms./ Mrs./ Mr.)	Mr.
First Name	Călin – Ionel
Family Name	Dobra
Department	Management
Position in Organisation	President
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The Timis County Council is the local public administrative authority, set up at county level, for the coordination of the communal and municipal council's activities, with the purpose of achieving public services for the benefit of the county.

Culture is one of the Timis County Council priorities. Under the authority of Timis County Council operates a Multifunctional Center that has as main objective the promotion and development of tourism in Timis County and to support cultural initiatives.

The promotion, development and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage are supported by activities like: direct information provided to interested tourists, creation and distribution of printed and online content regarding the natural and cultural heritage, exchange of know-how and best practices with other Romanian and European regions, cities, participating tourism clusters and councils.