

Prague, October 9th, 2018

The results of the Agosto Foundation's Perpedes Grant Program 2018 Press Release, October 9th, 2018

The Agosto Foundation was founded in 2013 in Prague as a private organization focusing on the development of social and cultural programs and their continuing support through interdisciplinary sharing. The Perpedes Grant Program helps to implement the objectives of artists, association and civic initiatives, especially in smaller cities and towns. It helps to connect artistic and cultural activities with the daily life of various social strata and communities.

Based on the open call, whose deadline was August 15th of 2018, the Foundation received a total of 76 nominations from which the statutory board authorized ten for support, based on the recommendation of the selection committee.

The Foundation will support the selected associations, initiatives or individuals with a total sum of 700 000 CZK, each project receiving 70 000 CZK.

The selection process had two rounds, and the Foundation's statutory board was especially interested in the interdisciplinary and artistic aspects, as well as placing emphasis on pedagogical potential and a focus on environmental issues.

The following projects were selected for the Foundation's support:

Open Museum, Horní Maršov

This interesting platform, consisting of a loose association of local inhabitants, builds on year-round activities which aim to rejuvenate and "make present the genius loci" of the small Giant Mountain village of Horní Maršov. The region, which had been significantly impacted by the forced post-war relocation of the German-speaking population of the former Sudeten lands, has been suffering for a long time from population fluctuation, and a resulting lethargy towards shared civic topics, upkeep of the local historical sites, or cultural and social life.

The aim of the association is to foster the closer relationship of the inhabitants to their locale by means of locally-flavored artistic projects, in order to bring the locals together around shared activities and care of their public space. The collective of initiators mostly comes from the graduates of art schools, some of whom are also natives of the town.

www.otevrenemuzeum.cz

Hraničář Society, Ústí nad Labem

Hraničář Socie is an artistic platform coming from Ústí which connects contemporary art and culture with everyday life. The rich and particularly well-rendered program which the association puts on in the building of the former Hraničář cinema, caters to various social and age groups. The association works with the local municipality, the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně and other institutions, and currently supports a large part of the overall artistic activity in Ústí. The program articulates important current topics from the sphere of art and ecology, sustainable economics, or socially oriented issues. The association's activities and its cultural strategy positively reflect on the overall communal atmosphere of the city, and the nature of the local public spaces.

www.hranicar-usti.cz

Offcity Society, Pardubice

The Offcity project has been on the scene a long time, and devotes itself to art in public space, but also so much more. They have been active in the Pardubice region since 2008, and originally focused on the popularization of art, architecture, urbanism and civic participation in the city and its environs. Nowadays, the association organizes art residencies, initiates competitions in public art work realizations, and prepares lectures and educational programs for the wider public.

They attempt to integrate the local municipal representatives, and try to foster a continuous, open dialog between City Hall and the residents. The association fosters conditions for perceiving art and culture as a natural parts of people's lives.

www.offcity.cz

Ferenc Futurista Neighborhood Club, Černošice u Prahy

The club was founded in 2011 from the initiative of a few friends from Černošice who wanted to create a space for viewing art, and for supporting overlap between the sphere of the capital city and the local community. For a long time, its founding members were dissatisfied with the cultural politics of the local municipality.

The year-long program presents select artists, visiting projects and also builds on educational and communal, neighborly activities. Thanks to a specific multi-national and multi-ethnic composition of this Prague suburb, we can find an interesting mix of approaches and diversity in the club's activities.

www.futureferenc.cz

Uutěrky, Návší u Jablunkova

This small graphic studio primarily focuses on smaller projects, authorial illustration, but also other, wide-ranging artistic projects. Based on their personal professional activities, Uutěrky focus part of their programmatic conception on workshops introducing invited guests to the local residents.

Last year, the duo of Mjk and Fjk (Martin Krkošek and Pavla Byrtusová) started building the infrastructure for a community and cultural center. They successfully contacted the municipality representatives who decided to support their project and to rent out the municipally-owned former sawmill for a symbolic price. The wide meadow around the saw mill should gradually become transformed into a community park, which will facilitate the organization of planned, open-air events. The final form of the park will be decided based on the outcome of discussion among the Návší residents themselves.

www.uuterky.net

Living Villa, Prachatice

The Živá Vila Association has, since 2015, been consistently working towards cultural rejuvenation and making sensible use of the unique spaces of the so-called Kralova vila in Prachatice.

This "pearl of functionalist architecture" in Southern Bohemia has been threatened with demolition due to the problematic plan of road relocation. The organizational team rented Kralova vila between the years 2015 – 2017, and had organized there numerous cultural, educational and social events which had positive impact on rejuvenating the community of Prachatice, and educating the community on the building's architectonic and historical value. After the lease contract was terminated, the association's members have been focusing on commissioning an analysis of the city's traffic situation which will, they hope, result in the planned roundabout's cancelation.

www.zivavila.cz

Krčkovna – the Fiala villa in Blatná (navíc, z.s.)

This Southern Bohemian movement is attempting to save and preserve the former restaurant, built in 1906 by Karel Fiala. The locality has much historical value of at least a regional significance, is in possession of the municipality, but still finds itself threatened by demolition. The association has offered a very viable solution, one which is attractive for the local community and sensitive to tradition. It wants to gradually repair the previous structure, and give back its original function of a recreational space, one which would be supported by a cultural program devoted to presenting the history of Blatná, of 20th century architecture, and present the figure of architect Karel Fiala. A rose garden should bloom on the surrounding property, which will be reminiscent of the rose-grower Jan Böhm.
www.krckovna.cz

Stará Škola (Old School), Vrané nad Vltavou

This initiative comes directly out of the natural needs of the local residents, and is built on the principle of volunteer work and community planning. The association has managed to repair the decrepit structure of a local school and successfully operate it for five years. The action happens mostly in the club café where a cultural program is regularly staged by local or affiliated artists, musicians and literary figures. The program is naturally cross-generational, and lectures organized by The University of the Third Age are planned alongside art courses for both young and old. The specific and substantial value of the whole project is the vibrant and functioning solicitation of the locals to co-create the School's program, as well as participate in the upkeep of the shared communal space, including cultivating the school's garden.
www.stara-skola-vrane.cz

Vašulka Kitchen, Brno – Centre for New Media

A well conceived and expertly formulated conception builds on the legacy of the pioneers of video art and electronic media – the Brno native Woody Vašulka and his wife Steina. The new archival and experimentation center will not only store, but also present the Vašulkas' video library and digital archive, and will also serve as an open space for supporting discussion on contemporary new media art. The aim of this organizational collective is to foster a free and creative communications platform for exchanging information and experience at an international level.
www.vasulkakitchen.org

8JINAK!, Prague

8jinak! is a successful and progressive leisure-oriented, and politically non-aligned association which has been operating in Prague 8 since 2011. They focus on topics such as the environment, city development plans and local alternative culture. They combine their activities with public debate about urbanism in lower Libeň, while constantly exploring local cultural identity. 8jinak! offer a fresh perspective on the legacy of Karlín native, photographer and experimental filmmaker Alexander Hackenschmied through lectures, thematic walks and audiovisual performances. One of the projects consists in preserving the visual memory of Prague 8 through the accumulation, digitization and subsequent use of analog film material thematically focused on the city.
www.8jinak.cz

Contact for more information:

Janek Rous

Perpedes project leader

janek.rous@agosto-foundation.org

+420-608351199

<https://agosto-foundation.org/>