

Results of activity for 2023

General activity

- Received the status of a **charitable organization** in Estonia. This makes it possible to get tax benefits, including for those whom we help financially.
- Another (fourth) time received **an extremist mark**.
- Joined **the Association of Belarusian Organizations in Estonia**.

Analysis and research of the cultural field is an important part of the work of the Belarusian Council for Culture.

Within this activity (I):

- **analytical materials** on the state of culture in its various spheres were published quarterly;
- monitored cultural repression and followed the fate of repressed creators;
- created the manifesto "**More than culture**", which demonstrates our vision of today's ways of development of Belarusian culture. On the basis of the Manifesto, the Roadmap for the maintenance of Belarusian culture was developed;

Within this activity (II):

- recorded the revival of research work in the field of culture and contributed to a significant part of research;
- held a round table "**Cultural results of 2023: events, trends, forecasts**";
- made a brief review of current research on the state of development and conditions of functioning of Belarusian culture. Monitoring results, reviews and reports create a wide field for studying current cultural discourse, answer the question of how Belarusian culture functions today and suggest sources that should be followed (**Belarusian PEN, Belarus Behive**, "Political Sphere", **Centre for European Transformation**, etc.).

The direction of cultural diplomacy and politics in 2023

Within this activity (I):

- advised the **Office of Sviatlana Cichanoŭskaja** in matters of foreign visits;
- cooperated with **the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus** and developed joint documents;
- represented Belarus at the **European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)** coordination meeting;

Within this activity (II):

- took part in **international conferences**, during which we talked about the state of Belarusian culture and established international relations (EU Consultative Group with representatives of Belarusian civil society and democratic forces, II Conference of Belarusians of the World, Civil society organizations and political parties in Belarus and the countries of the Lublin Triangle and the military situation in Eastern Europe, etc.); Siarhiej Budkin spoke at the online conference "Forum of Belarusian Cultural Resistance", organized by **Kalinoŭski's regiment**;

Within this activity (III):

- within the framework of activities in the direction of cultural diplomacy organized the campaign **#art_born_Belarus**. Arguments about the Belarusian origin of a number of famous artists and works of art were prepared;
- held important negotiations with international cultural institutes and institutions, including **the Goethe Institute, the Lithuanian Institute of Culture, the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania**, etc.;
- continued constant cooperation with **the Danish Institute of Culture** and the **NDF of Denmark** within the framework of the joint project of the five countries of the "Eastern Partnership" region and started work on a project dedicated to the problems of cultural decolonization of the region;

Within this activity (IV):

- jointly with **CSN Lab** (Armenian partner) held open presentations on the methodology of decolonization and organized the exhibition "Postcards from a complex past", which was also dedicated to the topic of decolonization;
- together with **NDF partners**, organized and held a (non)conference on the topic of cultural decolonization of Eastern Partnership countries in conditions of war and political crisis;
- **began research** on the collection and analysis of new hybrid forms of cultural identity of former "small" peoples. Five research articles will be published in January-February 2024.

Global actions and projects

In this direction of activity in 2023 we: (I):

- helped organize and find funding for **the Freedom Day** celebration in Kaunas;
- joined the "**We care**" **solidarity marathon**, prepared an infographic about repression against cultural figures, held an event dedicated to Aleś Puškin;
- within the framework of "**the Night of Poets**" **event initiated by the BCC in 2021**, information about 60 events that Belarusians organized independently around the world (38 cities, 15 countries) was collected on the corresponding website. A literary and musical party for the Night of Poets was also held in Haścioŭnia (Guest room);

In this direction of activity in 2023 we (II):

- thanks to institutional support from ArtPower Belarus for the Belarusian Youth Hub in Warsaw and the Tutaka Foundation held **the Days of Belarusian Culture - 2023** under the common slogan **#SpeakBelarus**. This year, 29 events, 10 cities and 5 countries were marked on the project map;
- The Belarusian Council for Culture **promotes the creation and maintenance of various professional communities** in the field of culture: from literature to theatre.

The Sejm and the road map (I)

- Together with other cultural initiatives (Belarusian PEN, Book Institute, Film Academy, initiative group of the Institute of National Remembrance) and cultural figures **assessed the needs of the cultural sphere** and presented the result in Brussels at the SOM (Senior Officials' Meeting) on May 11, 2023. We have received positive feedback from DG NEAR (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), we are preparing the next steps for negotiations with the European Commission and EU member states.

The Sejm and the road map (II)

- Held a workshop to design a cultural policy platform and coordination tasks for Belarusian culture. The organizing committee of the future platform was formed, which is working on creating a prototype of a coalition of cultural organizations.
- Presented an assessment of the needs of the cultural sphere for the Office of Sviatlana Cichanoŭskaja and the Coordination Council.

Resource centre

We look for and redirect funds, as well as accumulate opportunities for various spheres of culture. This is, in particular, work within the scope of assistance to repressed cultural figures and the competition of project proposals for grant support of ArtPower Belarus.

Help (I)

- 184 people were consulted (visas, relocation, finding financial support, etc.).
- 97 people received visas or residence permits.
- 28 cases of financial assistance (including 11 families) in the amount of 52,406 euros.

Help (II)

- 86 people were sent to charity projects to receive psychological help.
- We support repressed cultural figures thanks to the work of several volunteers who have developed **a guide** on the possible support of cultural figures and have been monitoring repression.
- As of December 2023, there are 148 political prisoners of culture.
- Gatherings were organized for Mikajałaj Zajac.
- We took part in the solidarity marathon "We care" and also successfully passed the audit. The total amount of payments was 9,500 euros, 6 families of political prisoners received help.

ArtPower Belarus

In 2023, **the office, Hańcioŭnia (Guest room) and the website of the Resource centre** began to work, with the help of which a Belarusian cultural figure can apply for the ArtPower Belarus project competition or send a request to our team for personal support: visa, financial and consulting.

Announced and held three calls of the project competition for grant support. During the year within ArtPower Belarus the following were selected:

- **15 midi-grants** for a total amount of about 440,000 euros;
- **18 mini-grants** for a total amount of 74,736 euros.

150 figures of Belarusian culture took advantage of the mobility programme. They visited art residencies, made research trips or took part in important international professional events.

In total, **554 applications were sent** to the ArtPower Belarus project competition, with a total request of about **12.3 million euros**. More than 600,000 euros have been allocated within the scope of ArtPower Belarus.

Within ArtPower Belarus also:

- conducted a basic study of the main actors of Belarusian culture, the state of their development and opportunities to carry out professional activities in the conditions of emigration and total pressure ([link](#));
- conducted research to study the educational needs of cultural managers and developed a curriculum that will form the basis of a new school of art managers (starting in the spring of 2024).

Cultural code

- We supported the community of creators and IT specialists. Public talks, masterminds and pitches were organized, at which a total of 15 cultural projects in the field of cultural heritage, architecture, tourism, music, non-formal education, cinema, animation and various tools for maintaining and developing cultural projects were presented.

Magistrates

- Created the website mahistrat.byculture.org
- The "Knihaŭka" magistrate ended in June 2023. During 6 months, 325 people joined the magistrate. More than 23 thousand euros were collected.
- Magistrates "Heritage" ("Spadčyna") and ULegend are currently supported by 50 people.

Haŭcioŭnia (Guest room)

- Held the opening, in which more than 100 people took part.
- A total of 31 meetings were held and approximately 600 visits were recorded. We held strategic sessions, presentations, workshops, public events, lectures and video recordings.

Partnership

- **“Octopus”**. Within the framework of the partnership, we provided the information part of the project for the "Octopus": we developed the design and the website, managed social networks, worked with the media, organized events, and also developed conceptual documents.
- We held joint actions with human rights defenders, held a round table for human rights defenders, foundations, media, and other public organizations.