

# Activity Report for January – June 2023

## General Activity

- We obtained **the status of a charitable organization** in Estonia, which allows us to receive tax benefits, including for the people we financially support.
- We also received **the status of a human rights organization** and joined the Principles of Belarusian Human Rights Defenders.

## Resource Center (I)

- In 2023, we prepared and launched **the office and guesthouse of the Resource Center**, and created a **website**. Towards the end of the year, we are expecting the launch of an expanded platform of the Virtual Resource Center offering various opportunities for cultural workers.
- As part of the Resource Center's activities, the Belarusian Council of Culture is implementing the **ArtPower Belarus** program with financial support from the European Union: conducting calls for project proposals to obtain small and medium grants, as well as mobility support.

## Resource Center (II)

- During the first call for proposals, it became evident that many cultural workers need assistance and capacity building, particularly in managerial areas. We provide **consultations and mentoring support** on various topics to meet their needs.
- We also observed and noted that there is a significant shortage of professional managers and producers in the cultural sector, especially after the attack on the industry in 2020 and subsequent wave of emigration. This has led us to initiate **a course for cultural managers**. By 2024, we plan to organize several educational courses, some of which will be publicly available, such as a series of lectures on the current trends in culture and creativity.

## Resource Center (III)

- Our colleagues have been experimenting with innovative support models, such as "Culture Magistrates." We have launched the operation of three **Magistrates**: centered around the publishing house of Andrej Januškievič "**Knihaŭka**", the youth club "**Spadčyna Wrocław**," and the platform for author-guided audio excursions across Belarus, Lithuania, and Poland, called "**ULegend**". We are preparing for the launch of two more Magistrates.
- The Belarusian Council for Culture creates and supports network communities of cultural workers, such as **Culture Code** (a **networking group** for Belarusian cultural workers and programmers). Within this community, we organize open lectures, pitching events, and recruit specialists to work on cultural-technological startups.

## Resource Center (IV)

- **Analysis and research of the cultural field** are an essential part of the work of the Belarusian Council for Culture. Within this activity:

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- Quarterly, we publish **analytical materials** on the state of culture in various sectors;
- We prepare research for publication on the state of the cultural field and organizations operating in the cultural sphere;
- We monitor repressions in culture and keep track of the fates of repressed artists.

## Resource Center (V)

- We continue to provide **personal assistance** to cultural workers, including visa support, legal consultations, personal meetings, and more. We are preparing a guide for organizations that support cultural workers.
- The Belarusian Council for Culture has been working on expanding **access to resources** for Belarusian cultural workers. We held two briefings with donors, and we also prioritize attracting sponsorship support by Belarusians for artists, creative projects. Additionally, we have conducted several consultations on creating **a club of patrons** of Belarusian culture.

## Sojm

- We have created the manifesto "**More than Culture**", which expresses our vision for the development of Belarusian culture today. It serves as the foundation for developing the Roadmap for Cultural Support.
- In collaboration with other cultural initiatives and cultural workers, we developed **the Roadmap for Cultural Development** and presented it in Brussels at the SOM on May 11, 2023.
- We are promoting **the creation of networks and coalitions of cultural workers**. In the first half of 2023, we assisted in organizing several kick-off meetings dedicated to the establishment of new associations.

## Direction of Cultural Diplomacy and International Relations (I)

- We participated in the coordination meeting of **the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)** – a union of cultural institutes in Europe.
- We took part in **the EU Consultative Group** with representatives of Belarusian civil society and democratic forces. The first meeting of the group took place in Brussels on June 29, 2023.
- We've established ongoing collaboration with the Danish Cultural Institute and the NDF of Denmark within the framework of a joint project involving five countries in the region of "Eastern Partnership." In 2023, we began working on a project dedicated to issues of **cultural decolonization in the region**. Within its scope, we are preparing a seminar with the participation of Armenian cultural workers, research, and a workshop (by the end of 2023).



## Direction of Cultural Diplomacy and International Relations (II)

- In addition to that, as part of our work in cultural diplomacy, we launched the campaign **#art\_born\_Belarus**. We prepared arguments for the Belarusian origins of several renowned artists and their artistic works, including Ossip Zadkine, Marc Chagall, Chaim Soutine, Ferdynand Ruszczyc, Jan Chrucki, Nadia Khodossievitch Léger, Sluck belts, and Peter Blume.

**During the past year, the Belarusian Council for Culture actively participated in several international conferences and important meetings, including (I):**

- **II Conference of Belarusians Worldwide** (BCC leader, Siarhej Budkin, spoke on the cultural panel).
- Project session at **the seminar of the United Transitional Cabinet** "Belarusian Renaissance: From the Past to the Future."

**During the past year, the Belarusian Council for Culture actively participated in several international conferences and important meetings, including (II):**

- Conference on **Civil Society Organizations and Political Parties in Belarus** and the Countries of the Lublin Triangle and the *Military Situation in Eastern Europe*.
- Donor conference: "**Investing in Democratic Belarus'** Long-term Future: Identifying Best Practices to Support" (we held a panel on culture).
- Conference on "**Independent Book Publishing in Belarus: Challenges and Opportunities.**"

## The Belarusian Council of Culture continues to assist in coordinating important events and projects, seeking resources for them (I):

- We helped organize and secure funding for the celebration of the **Freedom Day** in Kaunas.
- Thanks to institutional support by ArtPower Belarus of the Belarusian Youth Hub in Warsaw and the Tutaka Foundation, **Belarusian Culture Days – 2023** are taking place under the general slogan **#SpeakBelarus**.
- We joined **the Solidarity Action with political prisoners**, prepared an infographic about repressions against cultural workers, and held an event dedicated to Ales Pushkin.

## The Belarusian Council of Culture continues to assist in coordinating important events and projects, seeking resources for them (II):

- Together with Maryja Kolesava-Hudzilina, we are working to have the Law on the Restriction of Exclusive Rights to **Intellectual Property** recognized as invalid. We are in negotiations to exclude Belarus from the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- The Belarusian Council of Culture is a partner in the "**Octopus**" project, and our responsibility lies in managing the project's informational aspects and participating in defining its strategy. We organized the project's presentation, created a website, and are actively expanding its presence on social networks.

# ArtPower Belarus (I)

## Results of the first round of calls for support:

- **16 midi-grants** issued totaling **EUR 439,241**;
- **6 mini-grants** issued totaling **EUR 25,521**;
- **9 mobility grants** totaling **EUR 20,245**.

We conducted a **Stakeholder Meeting** with the EU Delegation and political structures.

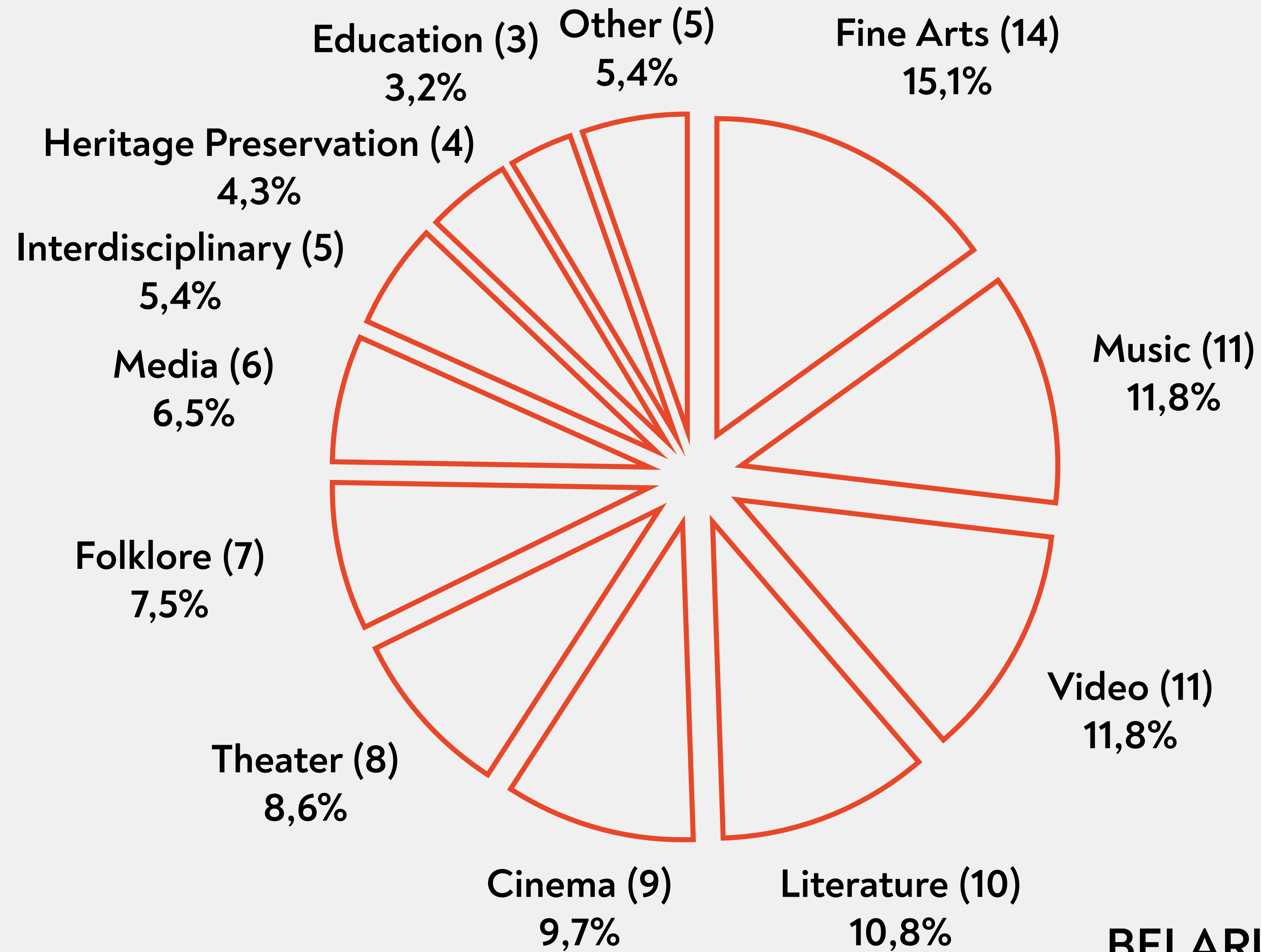
We are actively working with donors to advance several projects for support, and secured additional funding for two projects.

## ArtPower Belarus (II)

### Results of the second round of calls for support:

- **Mini-grants ArtPower Belarus.** Within the period from 16.03.2023 to 13.06.2023 – **93 applications** accepted for review.
- **Mobility program ArtPower Belarus.** Within the period from 29.03.2023 to 13.06.2023 – **17 applications** accepted for review.

# ArtPower Belarus (I) – mini-grants





# ArtPower Belarus (I) – mini-grants

## Presence of people inside Belarus on the team

**Present**  
44,1%



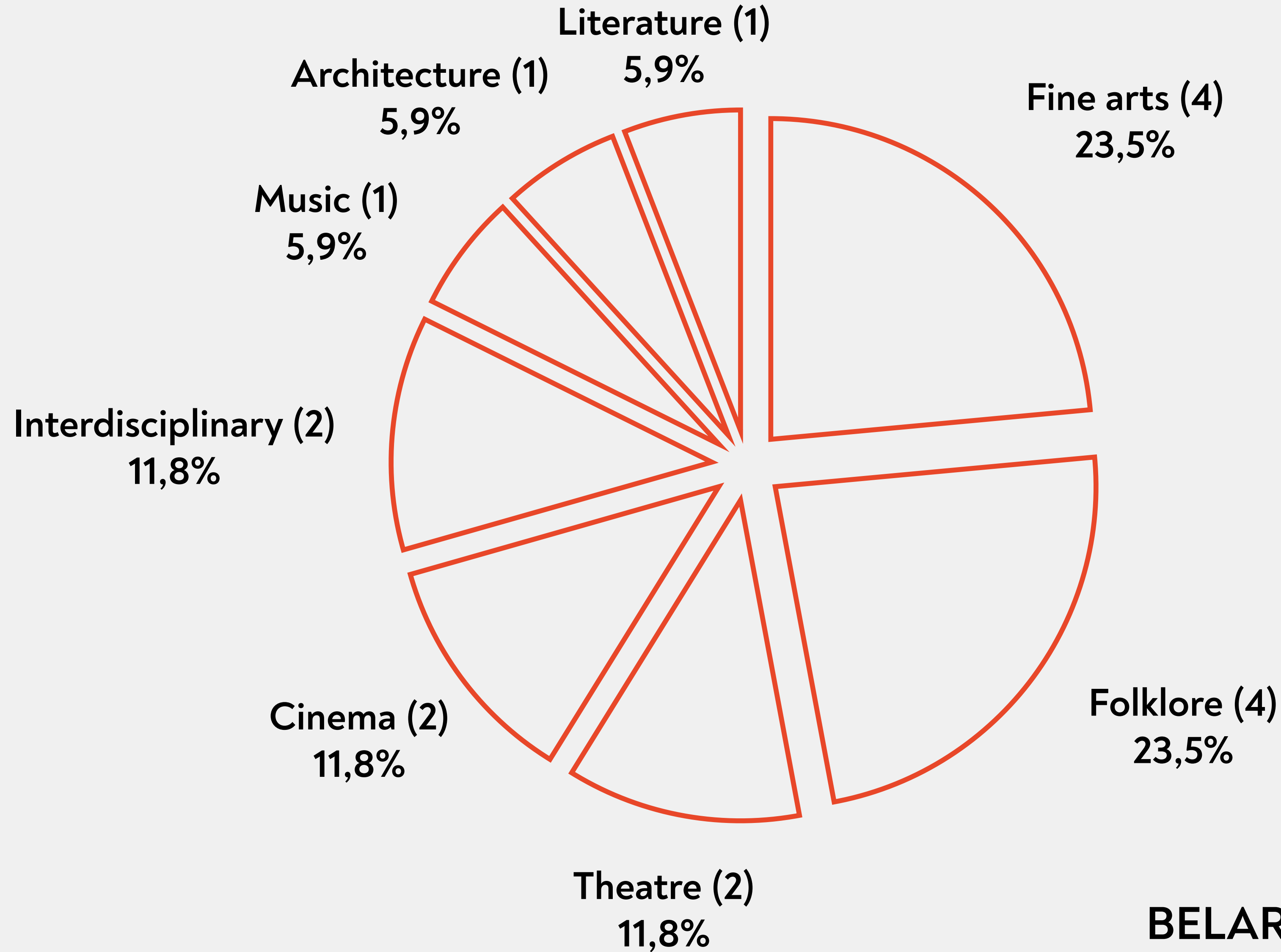
**Absent**  
55,9%

## Budget

**Total requested:**  
417 841 EUR

**Average requested:**  
4 493 EUR

# ArtPower Belarus (II) – mobilities



# ArtPower Belarus (II) – mobilities

## Presence of people inside Belarus on the team



## Budget

Total requested:  
53 495 EUR

Average requested:  
3 147 EUR