



U.S. Embassy
Ljubljana

Cultural Grants Program
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Kino Šiška Center for Urban Culture

“MENT – MUSIC EXPORT AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES”

(3,500 USD)

The first edition of the MENT Ljubljana festival and conference took place between 4th and 6th February 2015. MENT – Music Export and New Technologies – aims to present a cross-genre musical showcase with a strong visual component. The three-day festival did not only bring together music, art, creativity and media technology, but also encouraged interplay and provoked healthy debate about those creative areas. The program involved U.S. artists including New York-based Bitbanger Labs (Stephen McGuigan and Duncan Frazier) with Pixelstick project, Jono Brandel as part of Patatap collective from San Francisco and San Francisco-based producer Count aka Mikael Eldridge with his documentary Unsound. 2,500 people visited the conference and concert events, including a significant international audience, mostly from neighboring countries. More than 300 delegates, music professionals and musicians from 27 countries attended the festival.

Radiotelevizija Slovenija

“GIL EVANS PROJECT”

(3,500 USD)

The repertoire of the Grammy-awarded Gil Evans Project was born out of composer/producer Ryan Truesdell's desire to restore and perform Gil Evans' music directly from Gil's original manuscripts. The concert in Ljubljana was performed by the Slovenia Radio and Television Big Band featuring world-renowned American conductor Ryan Truesdell and Gil Evans Project. Ryan Truesdell is a composer of diverse musical tastes and influences with a deep reverence for jazz tradition and an ever-broadening sonic palette.



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Institute for Non-profit Communication Divja misel

“AMERICAN LIBRARY UNDER THE TREETOPS”

(8,500 USD)

The main objective of “American Library under the Treetops” is to promote and deepen the understanding and appreciation of American literature in Slovenia. Divja Misel has gained wider recognition by setting up open-air libraries known as “Libraries under the Treetops”. This is a social awareness project that began in the capital in the summer of 2005. “American Library under the Treetops” is a mobile library presented as a library out in the open, located in Ljubljana's city center. By implementing innovative and easy-to-use furniture (bookshelves, magazine boxes and deck-chairs) within the setting of Congress Square, organizers ensure a natural and relaxing atmosphere for reading, as well as a continuous flow of visitors, who may stop to get a book or a glimpse of one of the magazines on display. Because of a great selection of books and magazines offered during this event, American culture and literature was able to be presented to more than 150 visitors of all ages and interests per day.

Literarno-umetniško društvo Literatura

“INTER-CULTURAL BONDS: BRIDGING AMERICA AND SLOVENIA THROUGH LITERATURE AND CREATIVE NONFICTION”

(3,700 USD)

The main focus of the project was a three-day creative writing workshops, led by esteemed Fordham University professor, Elizabeth Stone. Stone has a long history of teaching creative writing and has led many workshops, including at the University of Iowa, widely known for its long and rich tradition in creative writing. Stone's workshop entitled »Song of Myself« was designed for Slovenian students with a desire to write as well as to practice English. The workshop was organized for ten students, while she delivered two public discussions focused on the personal experiences of various Slovene intellectuals who had previously lived in



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the United States. The workshop's aim was to form a group of students coming from various educational backgrounds and thus add academic diversity.

Cankarjev dom

“56TH LJUBLJANA JAZZ FESTIVAL”

(5,000 USD)

The 56th Annual Ljubljana Jazz Festival brought American jazz musicians James “Blood” Ulmer, Joe Morris and Nate Wooley to Slovenia. The 56th Ljubljana Jazz Festival boasted an impressive array of compelling configurations in a relaxed yet bold atmosphere. Apart from the saxophone, this year's leitmotif, the dominant theme of the event was a generous measure of free jazz and contemporary practices of experimental improvisation. The festival was attended by more than 2,000 visitors. The festival received excellent media coverage and an exceptional response from the public. The 56th Ljubljana Jazz Festival featured a wide variety of events and numerous concerts.

Slovene Writers' Association

“30TH VILENICA INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL”

(2,700 USD)

The 30th Vilenica International Literary Festival, one of the largest festivals of its kind in Slovenia, aims primarily to create a platform for writers, poets, essayists, critics, and publishers from Central European countries to exhibit their work. The festival takes place annually in Lipica as well as at other venues scattered throughout Slovenia. Since the first international festival Vilenica in 1986, the climax of the event has been the presentation of the Vilenica International Literary Prize, awarded by the Slovene Writers' Association, in accordance with its statute, to a Central European author for outstanding achievements in the fields of literary and essay writing. Bosnian-American writer Aleksandar Hemon and the American publisher John O'Brien participated at the 30th Vilenica International Literary festival. By inviting American writers to actively participate



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in the festival, the project addresses the Mission goal of promoting American culture in Slovenia.

Bunker Ljubljana

“18TH EDITION OF MLADI LEVI FESTIVAL”

(5,000 USD)

The International festival Mladi levi is one of the more prominent annual events for Bunker. The festival brings together the most cutting-edge stage performers and other forms of contemporary art from all over the world to Ljubljana every summer. Bunker aims to refresh and invigorate the Slovene cultural space with innovative approaches. New York-based artist Andrew Schneider presented his brilliantly conceived performance YOUARENOWHERE in which he constantly plays with the audience’s perception of both the performance and life itself. Rooted at the intersection of performance and technology, Schneider’s work critically investigates our over-dependence on being perpetually connected in an always-on world.

Beletrina Academic Press

“DAYS OF POETRY AND WINE”

(3,000 USD)

Days of Poetry and Wine is an international festival of poetry and other artistic forms such as music, theatre and fine arts. It was founded in 1996 by Beletrina Academic Press and has hosted more than 400 internationally-renowned poets and young emerging authors ever since. Three guests of honor receive special attention and additional events are organized for them, including round tables and exhibitions regarding their poetry, which is translated into Slovenian and published in bilingual poetry collections by Beletrina edition before the festival. Three U.S. poets took part in the festival: C.D. Wright as one of two guests of honor, Mary Jo Bang as a regular guest and Forrest Gander as a professional



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guest, participating in program for experts, including round tables and discussions.

Cankarjev dom

“26TH LJUBLJANA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL”

(5,000 USD)

The 26th Ljubljana International Film Festival, popularly known as LIFFE, is the largest and most important film festival in Slovenia. In its 25 years of existence, the festival has opened windows onto the world's cultural arena to the inhabitants of Slovenia. The festival is organized by Cankarjev Dom Cultural and Congress Center Film Program, but films are also screened at several other cinemas in Slovenia. What was once a festival of art films has slowly become a more mainstream festival and an event not to be missed. Last year more than 100 films were presented over two weeks at different locations throughout Ljubljana. The main purpose of the festival is to familiarize audiences with non-Hollywood films, which are not usually screened in commercial Slovene cinemas, since the art cinema distribution network in Slovenia has only developed very recently.

Zavod za kulturo Delavski dom Trbovlje

“INTERNATIONAL NEW MEDIA CULTURE FESTIVAL SPECULUM ARTIUM”

(2,500 USD)

The U.S. Embassy supported the International festival of new media culture Speculum Artium in Trbovlje that took place from October 15 to 17, 2015. The Speculum Artium festival organized by Cultural Institution Delavski dom Trbovlje has, since its inception in 2008, become established as one of the leading festivals of new media culture in Slovenia. It presents and supports productions evolving and emerging within the very structure of new media practices around the world. The festival hosted U.S. artist Aisen Caro Chacin with her project IrukaTact: Submersible Haptic Search Glove which was designed to assist searching the location of sunken objects.



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Kulturni dom Franca Bernika Domžale

“KEVIN MAHOGANY JAZZ CONCERT”

(1,500 USD)

As part of Cultural Center Domzale’s seasonal concert series the U.S. Embassy supported two concerts with jazz singer Kevin Mahogany from “the Great American Songbook.’

Big Band Grosuplje

“BEST OF U.S. JAZZ”

(3,000 USD)

Big Band Grosuplje performed three concerts, together with the singers Karin Zemljič and Blaz Vrbič in Ljubljana, Grosuplje and Bohinjska Bistrica. The project offered an insight into the key milestones of the two legendary American singers, Frank Sinatra and Billie Holliday, and offered a glimpse into Ellington’s genius through his famous album “The Far East Suite.” Big Band Grosuplje is one of the most active amateur orchestras in Slovenia, having performed at over 200 events in its fifteen years of existence.

Kinodvor

“HALLOWEEN HORROR MARATHON”

(1,185 USD)

The highlight of a 12-hour Halloween film marathon was a screening of the classic American horror movie “The House of Wax,” featuring Vincent Price. It was the first studio movie produced in 3D and in 2014 was added to the Library of Congress’s National Film Registry because of its “cultural, historic, and aesthetic significance.” Kinodvor is a public institution whose main aim is to screen a diverse selection of quality films, while also serving as a venue for



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special events offering its facilities, services, and expertise to Slovenian and international partners.

EN-KNAP Production

“TRIBUTE TO TRISHA BROWN DANCE COMPANY”

(7,000 USD)

The aim of the project was to present the work of highly-respected American choreographer, dancer and world-recognized leader in contemporary dance, Trisha Brown, for the first time in Slovenia. The most widely-acclaimed American choreographer of the postmodern era and the first female choreographer to receive the coveted MacArthur "genius" award, Trisha Brown's body of work challenged and changed the definition of dance over her 40-year career. The performance in Španski Borci Cultural Center was part of her farewell tour, presenting the final European performance of Brown's legendary large-scale works.

Kulturno društvo UPOL

“AMERICAN HORN STAR AT SVIRÉL 2016”

(2,500 USD)

This project will bring the longtime principal horn of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Dale Clevenger to Slovenia for a week of master classes and performances in five cities. He will also serve as the jury member for the festival. The project includes horn masterclasses and concerts with members of brass ensembles.



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