



U.S. Embassy
Ljubljana

Cultural Grants Program
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Zavod Druga Godba Ljubljana

“35TH INTERNATIONAL DRUGA GODBA FESTIVAL”

(2,500 USD)

U.S. Embassy Ljubljana supported Yonatan Gat and Chief Red Medicine from the Native American tribe of Montauk performing at the 35th International Druga Godba Festival. As part of Artist Talk, the public could learn more on the integration between different styles and traditions, the healing power of traditional Native American music, about history and culture of the Native Americans living in the United States today and the inspiration behind their projects. This was a unique opportunity for the Slovenian audience to see two seemingly different traditions (guitar-based rock music and Native American drumming and singing) blend perfectly together.

Institute for Non-profit Communication Divja misel

“AMERICAN CULTURE AND LITERATURE AT VODNIKOVA DOMAČIJA”

(4,100 USD)

U.S. Embassy Ljubljana supported two series of fourteen talks dedicated to American culture combining insights from literature, sociology of culture, musical sociology and critical urban theories. Talks were conducted by Noah Charney, an American writer and professor, who hosted expatriates from the literary fields living in Slovenia. The goal was to promote mutual understanding and engagement about culture. The second part of the project was conducted by Ičo Vidmar, one of the biggest connoisseurs of American jazz music, culture and sociology in Slovenia, who analyzed the circumstances and development of jazz music in the U.S. and in Slovenia.



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“AMERICAN LIBRARY UNDER THE TREETOPS”

(7,000 USD)

The main objective of “American Library under the Treetops” is to promote and deepen the understanding and appreciation of American literature in Slovenia. “American Library under the Treetops” is a mobile library 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. Because of a great selection of books and magazines offered during this event, American culture and literature reached more than 200 visitors of all ages and interests per day.

Cankarjev dom

“60TH LJUBLJANA JAZZ FESTIVAL”

(4,000 USD)

The 60th Ljubljana Jazz Festival brought great jazz artists together for a series of concerts and featured some of the best jazz musicians from the United States, including Brooklyn-based “fusion-influenced jam band” Snarky Puppy – an innovative group combining jazz, rock, and funk which has won three Grammy Awards. The other main attraction of this large, popular festival was the American composer, arranger, record producer, saxophonist, and multi-instrumentalist John Zorn, who presented his unique musical style, entitled The Bagatelles. The special 4-hour marathon concert featured 14 different ensembles performing over 50 compositions from Zorn's expansive new book of music. The international Ljubljana Jazz Festival is the oldest jazz festival in Europe.



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Kulturni dom Nova Gorica

“23RD INTERNATIONAL SAXOPHONE MEETING IN SLOVENIA”

(4,000 USD)

The U.S. Embassy supported the closing concert of the 23rd International Meeting of Saxophonists in Slovenia – SAXGO19 – by a Grammy Award-winning American post-bop jazz saxophonist and flautist Kenny Garrett, who gained recognition in his youth as a member of the Duke Ellington Orchestra and Miles Davis’s band. SAXGO19 was a platform for students, who came from all parts of the world to meet and learn from worldwide famous saxophonists and has over the years gained a reputation in Slovenia and abroad. It offers masterclasses for young musicians, competition and networking. Kenny Garrett and his quintet performed for a huge crowd in the unique and gorgeous environment of the Kromberk Castle amphitheater.

Narodni dom Maribor

“FESTIVAL LENT 2019”

(3,000 USD)

JazzLent stage hosted one of the most renowned names of soul music, Jose James, with his project “Lean on me.” The Minneapolis-born singer is one of the leading vocalists of our time. For well over a decade, his unique brand of jazz, R&B and hip-hop, as well as his honesty, dedication and passion for music have earned him critical acclaim and a devoted fan base all across the globe. Organized by the Narodni dom Cultural Center, Lent International Summer Festival annually attracts theater, opera, ballet performers, classical, modern, and jazz musicians, dancers and visitors from all over the world.



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Društvo za Glasbeno Umetnost Arsana

“11TH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL ARSANA 2019”

(5,000 USD)

The U.S. Embassy supported the performance by an American a cappella group, Take 6, at the 11th International Music Festival Arsana in Ptuj, the oldest recorded city in Slovenia. Winners of 10 Grammy awards, Take 6 pushes the boundaries of creativity and musical genius with every new release, and with their ever-evolving live performances. Over the recent years Festival Arsana has evolved into an important European festival and earned its place on the world map of music festivals. Every year the festival features a number of events and performances by classical, jazz, world, vocal, and instrumental musicians.

Kulturno društvo Drugi zvoki

“JAZZ RAVNE FESTIVAL”

(3,500 USD)

The aim of this project was to bring high-quality U.S. musicians to a fairly remote place in Slovenia and to give children the opportunity to learn about jazz music. The project offers a platform for local musicians to play alongside their colleagues from the United States. Some of the internationally recognized Slovenian musicians have already a long history of collaborating with jazz musicians from the United States.

Kulturno turistično društvo Festival Ljutomer

“GROSSMANN FANTASTIC FILM AND WINE FESTIVAL LJUTOMER”

(3,000 USD)

The Grossmann Fantastic Film and Wine Festival featured popular American independent film director Sam Firstenberg, who created the cult classic martial arts hit “American Ninja.” Besides screening some of Firstenberg’s films, he gave a master class and a talk for professional and general audiences.



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Firstenberg also participated in the festival as the head of the jury selecting the best feature film.

Javni zavod Kinodvor

“OPEN-AIR CINEMA AT CONGRESS SQUARE: NINOTCHKA”

(2,500 USD)

The U.S. Embassy supported the opening night of the Open-air Cinema screening of Ninotchka, a 1939 American political satire that was Greta Garbo's first full comedy, and her penultimate film. The film was presented in order to celebrate its 80th anniversary. Kinodvor is a public institution whose main aim is to screen a diverse selection of quality films, while also serving as a venue for special events offering its facilities, services, and expertise to Slovenian and international partners.

Zavod za šport, kulturo, turizem in mladino Novo mesto

“20TH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC WORKSHOP AND FESTIVAL JAZZINTY 2019”

(5,000 USD)

With this project, more than 60 students of music were able to learn new approaches in contemporary music and get insight into the life and knowledge of professional jazz musicians from the United States. Founded in 2000, the Jazzinty International Music Workshop and Festival is a week-long series of workshops, masterclasses and concerts that takes place every August in the town of Novo Mesto. Over the years, it has become one of the main international musical events in the Dolenjska region, bringing many major names from the jazz and near-jazz worlds to mentor and perform.



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Kosovelov dom Sežana

“READING AND WATCHING: AMERICAN LITERATURE AND FILMOGRAPHY”

(3,000 USD)

The goal of the project supported by the U.S. Embassy was to give the audience both American literature and American cinema in cooperation with the local library in Sežana. Through this program, audiences read American literature, and watch the literature’s corresponding movie, leading to a critical discussion on the different experiences enjoyed by reading a book or watching a movie based on the same story.

Kulturno društvo Big Band Grosuplje

“ATOMIC BASIE”

(3,000 USD)

Big Band Grosuplje performed three concerts that featured Count Basie’s music, together with the Slovenian singers Nina Strnad and Blaz Vrbič. The project offered an insight into the key album of one of the greatest American jazz pianist, organist, bandleader, and composer William James "Count" Basie. Big Band Grosuplje is one of the most active amateur orchestras in Slovenia.

Zavod za kulturo Delavski dom Trbovlje

“INTERNATIONAL NEW MEDIA CULTURE FESTIVAL SPECULUM ARTIUM”

(3,000 USD)

The U.S. Embassy supported the International festival of new media culture Speculum Artium in Trbovlje. 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 featured a virtual-



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reality project by a Brooklyn-based film and virtual reality director, producer and creative technologist Winslow Porter and virtual artist Milica Zec.

Društvo Swing Break

“LJUBLJANA INTERNATIONAL SWING ACADEMY – LISA 2020”

(5,000 USD)

The Ljubljana International Swing Academy promotes traditional American swing and jazz culture in Slovenia. The U.S. Embassy supported a festival consisting of dance workshops by some of the best swing dance instructors in the world, including American dancers Jenna Applegarth and Jon Tigert. The program also featured evening dance gatherings, a lecture on the history of American swing dance, and a panel discussion.



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