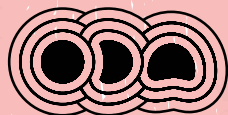
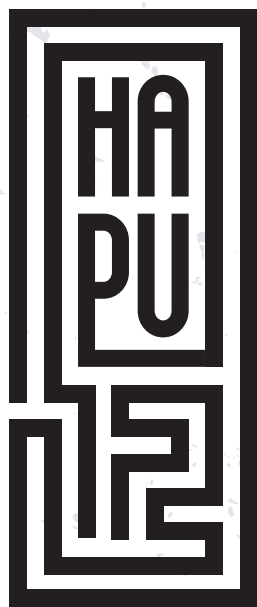


COMMON GROUND: ART BETWEEN GENERATIONS



TEATRI
ODA



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COMMON GROUND: ART BETWEEN GENERATIONS



COMMON GROUND: ART BETWEEN GENERATIONS

“Common Ground: Art between Generations” is a project of the ODA Theater that brings together young girls and women with experienced women after retirement to jointly create authentic contemporary artistic experiences and crafts in public space. Built on a process-based approach, “Art Between Generations” creates a social space for dialogue, collaboration and intergenerational exchange, appreciating and acknowledging the experiences, knowledge and perspectives of each participant.

Throughout 2026, participants met in a series of facilitated workshops to create textile and contemporary craft pieces, as well as workshops focused on performance and bodily artistic expression. At the heart of the project lies the idea of empowerment through creation, inclusion and mutual care. Beyond the work carried out, the project aims to build a safe and open space where each woman and girl can share her experience, for free expression, as well as learn from each other and contribute to an authentic shared process.

Participants of the
project:

AFRIME SHALA
GJYLIZARE BAKRAQI
KIMETE ZEQA
MILJANA DUSHI
LULJETA JUNIKU
AJMONE DHOMI
MEJREME FETIU
NAZIFE PUSHKA
VAHIDE HASANI
ATIFETE KARAKASHI
ELVANE BERISHA

DIONA KUSARI
ANYLA KABASHI
RREZARTA RASHITI
DELVINA BYTYÇI
RABA RASHITI
MAGRIBE SALIHAJ
SABRIJE MUSLIU
NEMIDE STUDENICA
RUKIJE MUSTAFA
TAIBE MILIQI
HAJAT TOÇILLA.

Workshop facilitators:

Hana Zeqa, Daniela Markaj, Diona Kusari and Florent Mehmeti. Program coordinator: Renea Begolli; Production assistant: Sabi Paqarizi; Technicians: Mursel Bekteshi, Bujar Bekteshi; Administrator: Lumniye Komoni.

WORKSHOPS

Through 16 workshops held between February and August 2026, project participants collaborated with one another and with facilitators, engaging with various artistic elements. Working with designer Hana Zeqa, they used textiles and diverse materials to create handcrafted pieces. With Florent Mehmeti, Daniela Markaj, and Diona Kusari, the participants took part in workshops focused on body movement and performance; they read poetry and explored different approaches of the body, personal narratives, and public space.

















WISHES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

In one of the questionnaires during the workshops distributed to participating women and girls, we asked about their wishes, dreams, and needs; here is how they responded to one of the questions:

I want: To move freely in public spaces, to dance, and to reclaim public space with the group of girls in unconventional or unexpected ways.

I want: Respect for the elderly. More love.

I want: Peace throughout the world.

I want: ... time to move in a direction that benefits humanity!

I want: Peace to spread in our country, and for there to be more love among people!

I want: No more cafés or public spaces occupied solely by men. Events that are not restricted by age or gender.

I want: Us to be free, and to receive respect from the youth and support from public services.

I want: People to cast aside stereotypes, so that no one is hindered from realizing their own desires in the way they envision them.

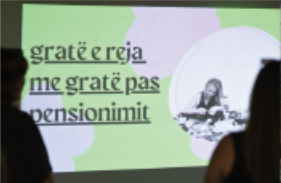
OPEN STUDIO #1



With designer Hana Zeqa, the participants of the project worked with textile pieces and various techniques of artistic expression. Through sewing, painting, knitting and experimenting with different materials, they developed a series of works that convey traces of personal stories, memories, experiences, living in different periods of special significance as well as the freedom to be oneself through artistic expression.

Open Studio presented this evolving process, opening up for the public to enter a space where creation, narrative, collective collaboration and individual expression coexist. The works did not aim to show a single narrative or a final result, but to reflect the diversity of voices, experiences and identities that have met and intertwined during this process.

Photographs: Arben Llapashtica





28-30.08.2026

Prishtina

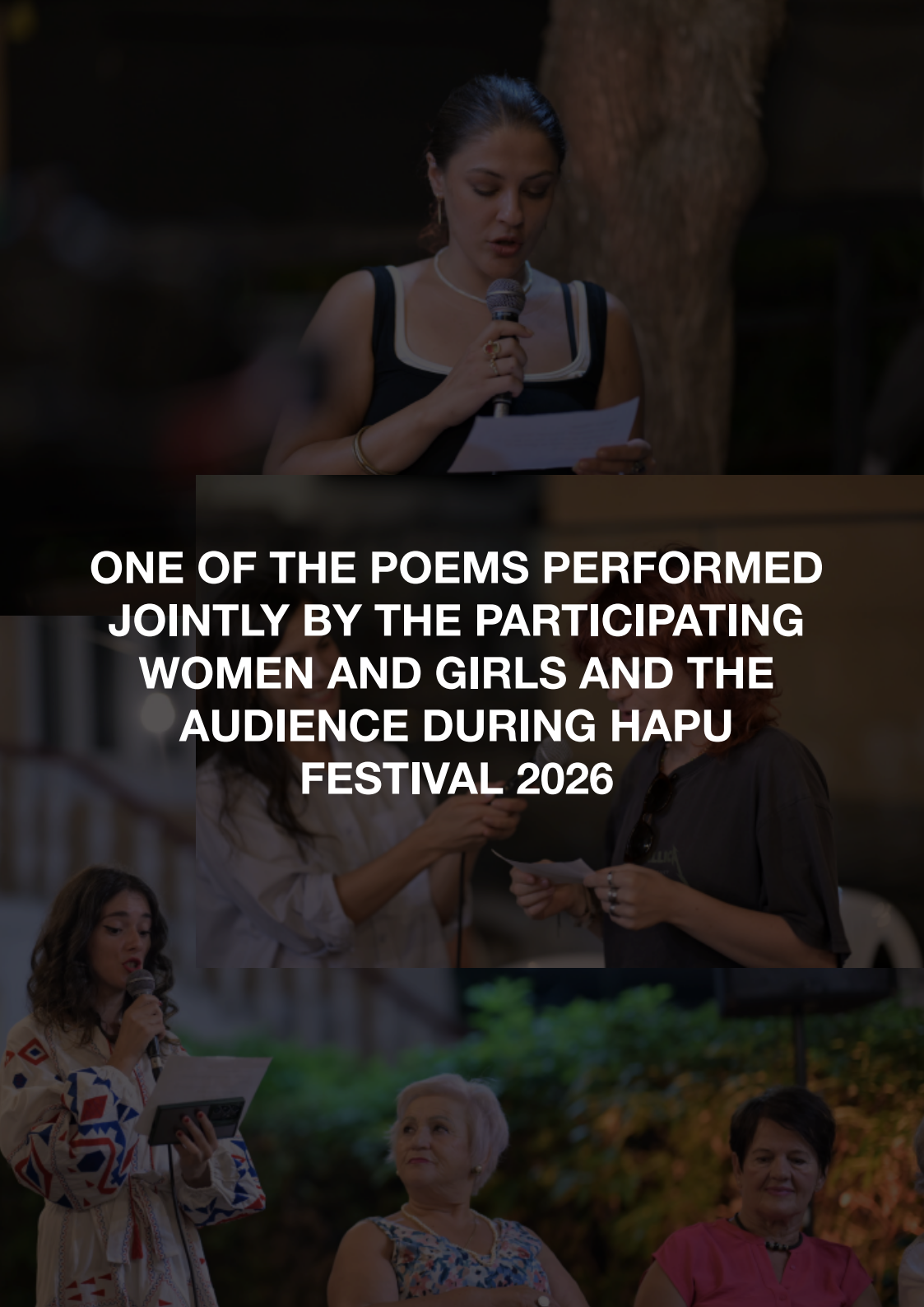
The second public presentation took place during HAPU - Festival of Arts in Public Space organized by ODA Theatre in Prishtina from August 28 to 30, 2026. The festival's twelfth edition included the women and girls from the project "Common Ground: Art Between Generations" in its program, featuring a public performance that brought together songs, poetry readings, the reading of letters and personal stories, and a discussion between participants and the audience, alongside the open studio showcasing the participants' work for the second time. Held on the evening of August 30 at the former Hivzi Sylejmani Library, the event was filled with beautiful moments, personal stories, shared care, empowerment, dancing, and singing. It served as a meeting point where women voiced their demands for public spaces that are more accessible, safer, and richer with cultural activities for their empowerment, while also cherishing time spent together and creating new memories.

Photographs: Arben Llapashtica









**ONE OF THE POEMS PERFORMED
JOINTLY BY THE PARTICIPATING
WOMEN AND GIRLS AND THE
AUDIENCE DURING HAPU
FESTIVAL 2026**

IT IS FORBIDDEN

It is forbidden:

to cry without learning,
to wake up one day not knowing what to
do, to be afraid of your memories.

It is forbidden:

not to smile at problems,
not to fight for what you want,
to abandon everything because of fear,
not to transform your dreams into reality.

It is forbidden:

not to show your love, to make someone
pay for your debts and your bad mood.
It is forbidden to leave your friends,
not to try to understand what you lived &
shared together, to call them only when
you need them.

It is forbidden:

not to be yourself in public, to feign with
people you don't care about, to fake being
funny just to make them remember you, to
forget all the people who love you.

It is forbidden:

not to make things by yourself,
not to believe in God and forge your fate,
to be afraid of life and its engagements,
not to live each day like it was your last.

It is forbidden:

to miss someone without cheering, to
forget his eyes, his smile, just because
your paths stopped being embraced, to
forget his past and pay it with his present.

It is forbidden:

not to try to understand people, to think
that their lives are more valuable than
yours, not to know that each person has
his own ways and his own happiness.

It is forbidden:

not to create your history, not to have a
moment for the people who need you, not
to understand that whatever life gives you,
it takes it away as well.

It is forbidden not to search for your
happiness, not to live your life with a
positive attitude, not to think that we can
be better, not to feel that, without you, this
world wouldn't be the same.

– Pablo Neruda

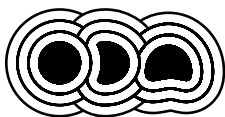
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MORE ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

As a result of the work carried out through the project “Common Ground: Art Between Generations”, as well as drawing on the experiences of previous activities organized by ODA Theatre, we would like to put forward a number of concrete recommendations for local institutions and public authorities. These recommendations aim to introduce feasible improvements to the everyday lives of girls and women, both younger women and women with experience beyond retirement age, particularly by promoting more equal access to public spaces, cultural and social life, and opportunities for active participation in the community.

1. Create public calls and dedicated programmes for women of different age groups, particularly girls and young women aged 18–30 and women aged 65+, with a focus on cultural, social, educational, recreational, and artistic activities.
2. Establish regular intergenerational programmes where girls and women of retirement age can meet, exchange knowledge, experiences, and skills, and create together. These programmes could include art, crafts and textile-making, oral histories, writing, photography, books, gardening, and other forms of everyday knowledge.
3. Create spaces for women’s public expression and visibility, where their experiences, memories, stories, and perspectives can become part of the city’s cultural life through exhibitions, installations, open archives, murals, performances, or public art projects.
4. Include women and girls in the planning of public spaces. Before parks, squares, streets, and shared spaces are designed or renovated, direct consultations should be organized with women from different age groups to understand their needs and identify what prevents them from using these spaces.
5. Create and maintain more accessible and safer green spaces, with seating, shade, adequate lighting, suitable walking paths, and areas where women of different ages can spend time, meet, and participate in activities.
6. Organize regular activities in parks and public spaces, including artistic, cultural, sports, recreational, and educational activities that are accessible to women of different ages and abilities.
7. Improve physical accessibility in public spaces, particularly for women over 65 and people with mobility difficulties. This includes well-maintained sidewalks, safe pedestrian crossings, seating at reasonable intervals, adequate lighting, and accessible public transportation.

8. Create places to rest along streets and in public spaces. Benches and resting areas should be considered part of the city's basic infrastructure. This is particularly important for women of retirement age, while also making the city more usable and accessible for everyone.
9. Ensure adequate lighting and a sense of safety in public spaces, particularly in parks, alleyways, public transport stops, and streets used during evening hours. Safety should be addressed not only through surveillance, but also through the way spaces are designed and used.
10. Create mentoring and guidance programmes for girls and young women, connecting them with experienced women professionals from different fields to provide support with education, career orientation, entry into the labour market, and personal development.
11. Create opportunities for women of retirement age to contribute their knowledge and skills through mentoring programmes, workshops, volunteering, and community activities. Their experience should be recognized as a valuable source of knowledge.
12. Establish a women's volunteer network through which women can both offer and receive practical, social, and community-based support, creating forms of solidarity among women of different generations.
13. Support small-scale, women-led artistic and community initiatives through micro-grants, free access to spaces, and simplified project application procedures.
14. Create a public calendar of activities for women, making artistic, cultural, and social activities more visible and easier to find and access for women of different age groups.
15. Create community spaces dedicated to meeting, creating, and socializing, where women can spend time without being required to consume or pay for a service.
16. Develop policies and programmes that view the city from the perspectives of women of different generations. A city that is accessible to a woman with experience beyond retirement age and to a young woman should be a city where both can walk, spend time, meet, create, feel safe, and have a voice in how their community develops.

The project “Common Ground: Art Between Generations” is organized by
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Program coordinator: Renea Begolli

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Administrator: Lumnije Komoni

This publication is part of the #HumanRightivism project, implemented by the Community Development Fund (CDF) with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Pristina. The views and interpretations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of SIDA or the Swedish government.



