

FESTIVAL BELLUARD BOLLWERK INTERNATIONAL 23.6.-2.7.2016

SEND US YOUR PROJECT IDEAS ON “LIVING TRADITIONS”



The Festival Belluard Bollwerk International and Migros Culture Percentage are looking for new or nascent artistic projects on the theme of “Living Traditions”. Selected projects will show either in the festival’s main venue - a medieval fortress - or in an appropriate, alternative venue. All forms of artistic expression will be considered. The more interdisciplinary the better! An international jury will select the projects that will receive a production grant of between CHF 2,000 and CHF 12,000. These will then be produced within the framework of the Belluard Festival (23rd June to 2nd July 2016) in Fribourg, Switzerland.

Applications shall be accepted from interdisciplinary artists and practitioners from other fields – citizens of Fribourg or the rest of the world, individuals or groups – submitting performative or installative projects or interventions engaging with the Festival’s chosen theme.

Deadline for submissions: 30th November 2015.

THE THEME

Swiss and international artists are invited to deal with the theme of living traditions (whether specific to Fribourg or elsewhere) to explore and question them, to appropriate them in a playful way and to give them an artistic reinterpretation.

Cultural heritage is more than monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions, know-how and living forms of expression. UNESCO classifies intangible cultural heritage into five categories: oral traditions, performing arts, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts. A living tradition is one that has been transmitted for at least two generations, is constantly evolving and gives those who practice it a sense of identity and continuity.

How do geography, religion and even political agendas influence the genesis, reactivation or development of traditions? How does participation in social and cultural practices contribute to the construction of identity? What kind of living traditions are currently emerging but have yet to be recognised as such? What will the living traditions of tomorrow's society, shaped by mobility, commuting and migration, look like?

Global human migration is a 21st reality. Local identities are on the move worldwide, with migrants bringing along memories of their own festivities, music and forms of expression, which then come face to face with the traditions of the places where they arrive. This prevails in the canton of Fribourg too. Demographic growth is high and the canton has the youngest population in Switzerland. Some 20 percent of its resident population are foreigners, with over 160 different nationalities. This constitutes a very real challenge: How do the cultural and social practices of "new" and "old" residents cohabitate?.

Viewing identity and culture not as something static but as processes which are being constantly renewed and shaped by narratives and contradictions, creolization and confrontation, mixes and separations opens up an immense creative potential for the societies of tomorrow.

Against the backdrop of a society which is progressively splintering into diverse parallel universes of cultural affiliation, Belluard Festival is in search of unexpected connections, surprising short circuits as well as formats that cross both cultures and generations.

EXAMPLES OF FRIBOURG'S LIVING TRADITIONS

Every year French-speaking districts stage plays in the local patois, a Franco-Provençal dialect. Stylised and traditional folk dances are practised by groups dressed in regional costume. Almost one in 35 Fribourg residents belongs to a choir; the Fribourg Choral Federation has around 7,200 members in 234 choirs. The reference to the Middle Ages is quite present in the imaginary of Fribourg, as in the annual commemorations of the Battle of Morat for example, or in legends and tales about the Dukes of Gruyère. It is from this universe that the figure of Chalamala emerges. The court jester to the Dukes of Gruyère, he was a prototype of the figure - still found in Fribourg today - who lives on the margins of society but dares speak truth to power.

Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of Fribourg, is celebrated every first Saturday in December with a procession attended by tens of thousands of locals. In autumn and at other points in the year, Bénichon brings together the people of Fribourg around sumptuous feasts and festivities. Pilgrimages are another tradition that is still much alive, as is the #relation with Nature. Fribourg is also part of a larger region home to the ancient practice of "Le Secret", the gift of healing through prayer.

A more recent addition to Fribourg's list of living traditions is perhaps the "Our Lady of Centaurs Rally" in which hundreds of motorcyclists come to Fribourg Cathedral to have their bikes blessed. Likewise, the "Salons de Modeste", which is held in February and involves around 20 Fribourg residents open their homes to strangers for the evening.

Living Traditions of Fribourg website (French and German only): www.fr.ch/tradifri

Living Traditions of Switzerland website: www.lebendigetraditionen.ch

Website of the UNESCO on intangible cultural heritage: www.unesco.org/culture

HOW TO APPLY?

Only applications sent by email will be accepted.

Each application must contain the following documents:

1. The entry form completed in English. Click [here](#) to download. *(Save the form on your desktop before filling it in. We advise you to use Acrobat Reader - get.adobe.com. Please make sure all the information you have entered has been saved on the form before sending it to us.)*
2. A project outline describing the artistic idea of the project, as well as the practical details. This can be no longer than three A4 pages and should be written in German, French or English.
3. Biographies of the key project members.
4. A projected budget.
5. Where applicable, web links to previous works.
6. Please note that the data volume should not exceed 5 MB.

Applications must be sent by email only no later than Monday, 30th November 2015 (11 pm, Central European Time) to: call2016@belluard.ch

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

January 2015	The jury meets to select projects
February 2016	The jury informs successful entrants of their decision
February/March 2016	Possible meetings in Fribourg with invited artists, incl. tour of the venue and on-site project development, where necessary
June 2016	Production of projects
23 rd June – 2 nd July 2016	33 rd Festival Belluard Bollwerk International

FAQs

How much money is granted to each of the productions?

The selected projects will receive a production grant of between CHF 2,000 and CHF 12,000. The jury will decide on the exact amount based on the size of the project and the submitted budget. Funding permitting, Belluard Festival will additionally cover the costs of travel, transport and accommodation as well as technical expenses.

Can I submit an existing project?

No. The opening has to be at the 2016 Belluard Festival.

Can I search for additional funding ?

Yes. As soon as the projects have been selected, Belluard Festival shall endeavour, to the best of its ability, to obtain additional funding. However, this should not prevent the invited artist, from seeking out other sources of financial support.

When do I know if my project has been selected?

All participants will be informed of the jury's decision in February 2016.

Does the jury explain its decision?

No. The selected projects will be made public at the Festival's press conference in May. No comment will be issued on the project proposals that were rejected.

Is the Belluard fortress the only venue?

No. The Arsen'alt studios, public areas or other spaces, depending on the specific requirements of the production, may be used too.

Does the project have to deal with all of the points set out in the theme description?

No. It is entirely sufficient to deal with one of the aspects referred to in the theme description, or even an aspect that we may have completely overlooked.

Is there a minimum/maximum running time?

No. Very short productions that could perhaps be repeated are as welcome as durational, rather installative forms or even classic performative formats.

I can't save my text in the application form even though I have saved it on my desktop and have used Acrobat Reader to fill it in! What can I do?

Don't worry. Send us a Word document containing all the information asked for in the form.