Peace of Art NGO

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**Peace of Art’s Activities**

**(From December 2019 – January 2019)**

**December**

**"Hawli W Hawalaye" TOT at Peace of Art**

Peace of Art organized, in collaboration with Forum ZFD and STEPS Association a TOT training titled "Hawli w Hawalaye" for trainers and animators who work with children within NGOs and scouts in Baalbeck-Al-Hermel region. This training was based on children's summer and non-violent education toolkit "Hawli w Hawalaye", which is an interactive guide for animators using music and songs.

**"Peace of Art" as an Inspirational Initiative for Youth**

Peace of Art was selected by the Arab Youth Center as one of 14 most inspirational Arabic initiatives in the Arab region, taking part of creating solutions for the challenges that are facing the Arab region youth and promoting arts and culture as a tool for a more peaceful and expressive society.

**"Peace of Art" in the Arab-German Dialogue Forum**
"Peace of Art" project was nominated as one of ten best humanitarian and cultural projects in the Arab and European world, within the "Arab German dialogue" award, where the founder of the Peace of Art, Mehdi Yehya presented an overview about the NGO’s establishment, goals and strategy to a group of academic and professional activists in Berlin.

**"Sounds of Change Music Workshop" at Peace of Art**

Lucas Dols (Founder of Sounds of Change Organization/Director/Musician) and Sander van Goor (Music Therapist/Musician) implemented a 2-day training titled "Sounds of Change Music Workshop" at Peace of Art. The training was about creative music making with children and youth, and making music with a group in a playful way which started with building safety among the group members and focused on how to actively listen to others and how to express one-self. The training included improvisation and composing techniques and focused on the power of these creative processes as a tool for personal and community development in which youth collaborated with others.

**November**

**"Peace of Art" And "Global Music Academy" Cooperation**

The founder of Peace of Art organization and Academy, Mehdi Yehya, visited the "Global Music Academy" in Berlin, specialized in professional music education. Both parts agreed to making the European music educational curriculum available at Peace of Art, in addition to supporting Peace of Art's talented students to follow their musical education in Germany, as well as sending Musicians from Germany to follow up with our students in Lebanon. This step comes within the framework of developing the educational level of our academy and building global partnerships to support culture.

**Social Art Award entitled "WE ARE THE PEOPLE"**

The institute of Art and innovation in partnership with Peace of Art proudly announced their social art award entitled "WE ARE THE PEOPLE". The main question was, CAN ART CATALYZE CHANGE? The Social Art Award 2019 targets two categories: Category 1 is fully open, looking for the most impactful contributions to “We are the people – catalyzing peaceful revolutions through the power of the many”. Category 2 looks the most impactful global symbol (a visual logo) for peaceful revolutions, enabling anyone to show their commitment for non-violent change. Best would be an option that communities can localize/ co-brand with their flag or movement visual, thus it can be targeted as their specific local movement, yet showing solidarity with the global movement of peaceful change makers.

**September**

**Launch of short Film-Making and Content Creation Training**

Peace of Art launched a training on short film-making and content creation using basic software and on hand equipment, The training targeted youth between 16 and 25 years.

**The Visit of Journalist from Spain to Peace of Art**

The Spanish journalist "Joan Cabasés" visited "Peace of Art" to follow his academic research that focuses on the effect of arts on the civil society: building coexistence and social cohesion in the community, within his Masters studies in international journalism. Peace of Art has become a destination for several post-graduate students from different international universities studying the role of arts and culture on the social ground, especially in marginalized areas.

**August**

**The Band performs at the Baalbek International Festival of Film**

Peace of Art’s musical Band performs at the Baalbek International Festival of Film. The festival which is organized in its third edition included projections of Lebanese and Arabic award-winning medium and long movies, followed by discussions around the movies with the producers and the production teams.

**Peace of Art as a partner within the "Art of Peace" Project**

Peace of Art was selected as a partner to the University of Manchester’s Project entitled "The Art of Peace". The Art of Peace is a research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Manchester University exploring the role of arts in conflict and how it contributes to peace.

**July**

**Peace of Art’s team participates in "Hawli w Hawalaye" Training**

Peace of Art’s team participated in "Hawli W Hawalaye" training organized by Forum ZFD for 5 days, which aimed to develop the skills of the trainers and animators to manage children activities through arts, photography, film making and content creation.

**June**

**Launch of the Art Camp at Peace of Art**

Peace of Art launched its annual Art Camp's program to take place at Peace of Art's center. The artistic and cultural curriculums had been developed by more than 10 Trainers in various artistic and cultural fields targeting children and youth in Baalbeck-Hermel.

**"Joy Festival" Launched by Peace of Art**

Peace of Art organized a festival hosting more than 50 children in its playground in Al Fakiha. The festival included drawing exhibitions and activities, musical performances, and dance performances.

**May**

**POA founder's Interview on MTV**

The founder of Peace of Art, Mehdi Yehya was a guest of the morning show 'ALIVE' on MTV Lebanon on Monday 20/05/2019. Yehya talked about the activity of both NGO and academy and the challenges faced throughout the cultural work in Baalbeck-Hermel.

**Cultural Exchange with Europe**

A group of artists and cultural activists from all over Europe visited Peace of Art’s center, during a study trip entitled “Art international Cooperation”. The group interacted with the team, and took a tour around the center to check Peace of Art’s cultural and arts activities.

**April**

**The Emirates TV visits Peace of Art**

POA team was interviewed by the Emirates TV “AL-AAN”, where POA founder Mehdi Yehya was selected by the TV as one of 7 most inspirational young change-makers in the Arab world.

**Planning the launch of Modern Music School in Baalbeck**

We announced the partnership between "Peace of Art" NGO and "Modern International School" during an event which began with a musical performance by POA’s band, attended by social, civil and cultural activists.

**Peace of Art Band in Al-Fakiha Marathon**

Peace of Art musical band performed a musical work supporting the marathon titled "Be Their Voice" organized by the National Scouts-Al Fakiha.

**Participation of POA Team in Qudra Program**

Peace of Art partnered with the Social Movement organization within the "Qudra" program in Nabatieh, Majdal Anjar and Taanayel, providing artistic training for groups of Syrian refugee children. "Qudra – Resilience for Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities in response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises" is a regional action implemented by Social Movement and financed by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad' Fund and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), seeking to strengthen the resilience of Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities in response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises.

**Peace of Art towards Internationality**

Vera Mawla, the president of POA, represented the organization at the UN Headquarter in New York City, after skyrocketing in the European Parliament, where Miss Mawla spoke about the organization’s cultural programs in the ECOSOC 2019 conference at the United Nations Economic and Social council.

**March**

**Photo Exhibition by Peace of Art’s Students**

Three months of Photography and Drawing sessions at "Peace of Art" had been reflected by a fruitful exhibition for photographs and handicrafts, in Al-Ain Municipality; organized by The Social and Cultural Committee of Al-Ain within the "Mechanism of Social Stability" project.

The Mayor of Al Ain Municipality Mr. Zakaria Nasser Al-Deen, opened the exhibition that also included a panel discussion about the changing the culture of violence in Lebanon presented by Dr. Fadi Abi Allam.

**"Arts And Culture In Peace-Building" Workshop In Qatar**

Two of POA's members, Mehdi Yehya and Vera Mawla, were invited to deliver a workshop titled “Arts and Culture in Peace-Building” to be presented at ROTA’s 11th Annual Youth Conference EMPOWER. The conference took place from March 14th - 16th, 2019, in the Hamad Ben Khalifah University, in Qatar, where they presented Peace of Art and its approaches in the cultural and artistic fields to a group of young Arab leaders.

**February**

**Al Monitor Magazine's Article about Peace of Art**

An article was published about Peace of Art on “Al Monitor” Media site that is specialized in middle east news. The article was written by the Australian journalist “Sam Brennan” after his visit to Baalbeck-Hermel, who also interviewed the media officer of the organization "Hiba Soukarieh" and talked about her journey with Peace of Art.

https://www.al-monitor.com/…/creating-peace-through-art-in-…

**Petra Hawi's Visit to Peace of Art**

Peace of Art organization hosted the interior architect, music therapist, the founder of "Fer2et Ala Nota" band and the TV presenter of "Star Wars" program on New TV, Petra Hawi, centre following up with her project about Art and Ancient Heritage, and the role of Baalbeck region in the cultural history. The visit began with a tour in Peace of Art’s center and meeting the trainers, musicians and the team members, after which POA band performed oriental and folkloric music reflecting the cultural identity of Baalbeck.

**Al-Mabarrat Association Children's Visit to Peace of Art**

Peace of Art organization hosted more than 70 children from Al Mabarrat association for orphans' care-Hermel. The visit included arts and cultural activities with the children where the team introduced several musical instruments to the children and the musical band performed and sang with the children in an interactive ativity. The children expressed their extreme happiness for visiting the centre, and Vera Mawla, the president of POA, emphasized that Peace of Art’s space and activities are always open to everyone who would like to be part of its arts and cultural programs, as the organization is created to make art and music available for everyone.

**Future TV Interview with Peace of Art Team**

Peace of Art Team including the founder of the NGO, Mehdi Yehya, and its President, Vera Mawla, were invited to an interview on Future TV with Zaven, who was spotting the light on the importance of the NGO and its work in developing culture in Baalbeck Hermel and in addition to its role in breaking the stereotype built around Baalbeck and its youth. The interview also featured the musical band who performed live on the set.

**January**

**Photography and Drawing Workshops with UNDP**

The Social and Cultural Committee in Al-Ain organized free Drawing Workshops in partnership with Peace of Art for youth between 14 and 25. The project was organized by The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with Al-Ain Municipality and Permanent Peace Movement NGO, under the program titled "Mechanism of Social Stability" which comes within the framework of supporting and developing the hosting Lebanese Communities.

**Drawing, Music, Ballet and Folkloric Dance Classes**

Peace of Art Launched its academy’s music (Piano, Guitar, Oud, Violin) classes as well as ballet, drawing, Dabkeh and folkloric dance classes for different ages, aiming to give youth and children access to arts in one of the most marginalized and neglected areas.

**(From December 2018 – January 2018)**

**December**

## PoA Band Performance in "ABAAD’s" Event

Peace of Art Band performed in the event organized by "ABAAD" and "Creadel" organizations to celebrate the Day of Rural Women entitled "The Rural Woman and her Role in the Sustainable Development and Family Welfare Perspectives and Challenges" at the Dar Al Imam, Al Fakiha.

## Participating in the Youth Forum in the Arab Region

Vera Mawla (President of Peace of Art) headed to Morocco, to participate in the Youth Forum in the Arab Region organized by UNFPA and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Kingdom of Morocco as well as the Mediterranean Forum for Youth - Morocco/ FOMEJE. The forum aims to set and advance the youth agenda and promote youth engagement, peace and development in Arab states bringing together young people as well as, ministries, parliamentarians and other decision makers interested and engaged in youth affairs. Vera shared Peace of Art’s experience in the cultural inclusion of youth in Baalbeck-Hermel and the role of arts in empowering youth.

## "Snap for Human Rights" Competition's Participation

Peace of Art students participated in the Photo Competition ”Snap for Human Rights” organized by the European Union in Lebanon. One of the photos was selected by the jury for the finals with 9 other photos, and was displayed in the photo exhibition at Antwork - Beirut.

**November**

## Hosting DELTA Organization's Volunteers

Peace of Art Organization hosted a group of volunteers from DELTA association within “CHIPS” program that aims to raise awareness between youth about the danger of drugs. The program is funded by the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, for a whole day full of recreational awareness activities at Peace of Art Center. The event started by a welcome performance by POA’s Band and was followed by mural painting that spot lighted the importance of art in pulling out youth from social deviation. The event ended by a folkloric dance “Dabkeh” with POA’s ensemble. This activity is considered to be a huge step towards a real involvement in the journey of raising youth’s awareness, through art, about social problems and challenging them.

## Participating in the Lebanese Independence Day in Ras-Baalbeck

Peace of Art Organization participated in the 75th Lebanese Independence Day event organized in Ras-Baalbeck. The event started with the performance of POA’s Band and a folkloric dance performed by POA’s ensemble.

## Celebrating the Lebanese Independence Day in Baalbeck

Peace of Art organization participated in the festival organized by Safe Side association to celebrate the Lebanese Independence day in Khalil Moutran square in Baalbeck. The celebration included a musical performance by POA Band.

## Music Classes for People with Special Needs

Based on our beliefs in the importance of the inclusion of people with special needs in our community, and the importance of merging them in with civil society, Peace of Art started free music classes for youth and children with special needs in the center, so they can express themselves through art and music.

**October**

## Participation in CHIPS Program with DELTA Organization

Peace of Art members participated in the training camp organized by DELTA association for 3 days. The camp focused on developing the participant's communicational and social skills.

## Vera Mawla's Radio Interview

The President of Peace of Art Organization, Vera Al Mawla, was interviewed on Sawt Lubnan Radio (93.3). Vera shed the light on the future projects of the organization and on its impact in developing youth in North Bekaa and engaging them in arts and culture.

**September**

## Mr. Mehdi Yehya at the European Parliament

Mr. Mehdi Yehya was invited by the European Endowment for Democracy to deliver a speech at the European Parliament in Brussels-Belgium on the International Day of Democracy representing Peace of Art and its approaches in through arts and culture, and the importance of "Peace of Art’s" project in youth inclusion.

## "Art Against Discrimination" Closing Ceremony

Peace of Art organized a event in the presence of more than a five hundred local stakeholders, activists and NGO representatives from Baalbeck-Hermel region as the closing ceremony of "Art Against Discrimination" project funded by the European Endowment for Democracy. The closing ceremony showcased youth’s art works which reflected their concerns and messages. These art works included a photography exhibition, a short film produced by youth throughout the project, and musical performances. The program also included performance of PoA’s Band with the Iraqi band "Rondo”.

## Peace of Art’s Band's Performance in Baalbeck

Peace of Art band performed in the event organized by Baalbeck International Symposium in cooperation with Baalbeck Union of Municipalities and the presence of more than 36 foreign sculptors at Palmira Hotel. The band performed songs reflecting local heritage to emphasize on the rich cultural-artistic history in Baalbeck.

## Participation of PoA President in the "Youth Leaders of Civil Society" Program

Vera Mawla the president of Peace of Art participated in the "Youth Leaders of Civil Society" program in the Middle East and North Africa organized by Cairo center of Human Rights' researches and Norwegian People Aid from September 1 till September 15. Vera was chosen with 17 other civil activists to join this program. Cairo Center of Human Rights Studies is a non-governmental organization active in Tunisia, Geneva, Brussels and Cairo also it has an advisor capacity in the Economic and Social council of the United Nations.

**July**

## Participation of POA Media Officer in Media Training with Tahkikat

Peace of Art members including the Media Officer of the organisation participated in the Media training organized by "Tahkikat" organization. This training was in the Baalbeck Union of Municipalities and addressed how to write an investigative and objective article in addition to the modality of the professional work in media field.

## Participating in "Visualize 2030"

Peace of Art members participated in the training camp "Visualize 2030" organized by Arab Development Portal within the initiative of the United Nations Program with 50 youth from 13 different Arabic countries for 5 days in Beirut, to produce data driven visual products that express their visions for the region's future and how they visualize it in 2030, with focus on the goals of sustainable development

## Hanna Oberdorfer Visits Peace of Art

Peace of Art hosted Hanna Oberdorfer; the Irish Masters student majoring in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at "Queen's University Belfast" in the organization's center to conduct her research for her master's dissertation about the cultural heritage of refugees in Lebanon and the importance of creating a space to bring people from different backgrounds together. Her research also covered the role of the Lebanese NGOs in this particular domain as well as in the cultural field that involves refugees. Hanna expressed her interest in joining PoA's missions as a volunteer.

**Art Camp**

Peace of Art launched its summer Art Camp targeting children from different backgrounds. The camp included cultural workshops, arts and recreational activities focusing.

**June**

## POA band Participation in the Cultural Festival at Al Hermel

Peace of Art's band participated in the cultural festival organized by "Montada Al Fan wal Thakafa" in Hermel. The festival aimed to break the stereotype built around the Hermel area and to encourage talented youth in the artistic-cultural fields in Bekaa.

## POA’s Band Performs in the Music Festival-Baalbeck

Peace of Art’s musical band participated in the music festival (fête de la musique) organized by L'Institute Francais in Baalbeck-Al Moutran Square. The aim of the festival is to break stereotypes established on youth of Baalbeck-Al Hermel Region, and show the real cultural face of Bekaa. The festival also hosted several bands and talented youth coming from different regions in Lebanon.

## PoA band's Performance in the Music Festival-Sidon

PoA’s Band took part in the music festival (Fête de la Musique) in Sidon city organized by L'Institute Francais to encourage the touristic movement in Sidon, as well as encourage the cultural activities in all Lebanese areas.

## POA band's Performance in the Music Festival-Tyre

Peace of Art’s Band performed for a huge crowd in the music festival (Fête de la Musique) organized by L'institue Francais in Tyre. The festival aims to promote the touristic cities and places in Lebanon, as well as encourage the cultural activities in all Lebanese areas.

## PoA Members in USJ's Training

Peace of Art’s members participated in the training camp organized by USJ University (Université Saint Joseph) under the program "Operation 7éme Jour" in Taanayel which hosted local and international active entities. The training focused on camp management mechanisms and peace education through arts, theater and culture.

**May**

## Musician Video Competition

3 young talented young musicians won the video competition organized by POA to promote youth’s engagement in music in Baalbeck-Hermel. The winners were awarded with musical instruments.

## "Dan Whelan" Visits the Center

Peace of Art hosted the Irish guitar player "Dan Whelan", for a whole week, under the program of “International Exchange of Musicians and Experiences” between the center and the European Union countries. Many workshops were organized with "Dan" within Peace of Art and in other locations in Baalbeck-Hermel. This activity comes as the first rock to build the artistic and cultural fields' cooperation between "Peace of Art" and the European Community.

## Celebrating the International Heritage Day

During the International Heritage Day, PoA’s Band participated in Venus Temple in Baalbeck to celebrate this occasion, in collaboration with Safe Side organization, and under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture-Directorate of Antiquities, performing traditional music that reflects the bondage of people in Baalbeck with their identity.

## "Art and Heritage" Festival

Peace of Art organized "Art and Heritage" festival in Hayakel Baalbek Hall hosting more than 500 people from Baalbeck Hermel. POA’s band played traditional music along with the folkloric Dabke -a traditional heritage dance. Finally, Mehdi Yehya and Vera Mawla honored stakeholders and change makers from Baalbeck who had a significant impact on the improvement of the region's culture and art.

## Participation in the Book Fair Opening in Baalbeck

Peace of Art band participated in the opening of the fourth Book Fair organized by the Modern International School, in cooperation with "Book Post", under the sponsorship of the journalist "Zahi Wehbi".

## Fame FM Interview

An interview with Mehdi Yehya, the founder of Peace of Art on Fame FM-a local radio- with the interviewer Charbel Saadé, where they talked about the organization and its importance on the cultural and artistic fields, as well as its activities in Baalbeck Hermel.

## Participation of PoA Band in the Regional Conference

POA musicians played music during the opening of the Regional Conference titled "Financing Education 2030", the conference was held under the patronage of the minister of education, Marwan Hmeda, at "Le Commodor" hotel.

**April**

## The Band in the Commemoration of the Arabic poet "Nizar Qabbani"

Peace of Art band played live music during the poetry evening organized by "Modern International School" and "Sabt Baalbeck AL Thaqafi" celebrating the twentieth annual commemoration of the Arab poet Nizar Qabbani.

## "Peace Building in North Bekaa": An Article By Mr. Mehdi Yehya.

An article by the founder of PoA, Mehdi Yehya, on the European Endowment for Democracy website talking about Peace of Art Organization and the importance of the "Art Against Discrimination" initiative. The link of the article: [https://www.democracyendowment.eu/en/news/229:how-one-lebanese-youth-ngo-fights-discrimination-with-art.html](https://www.democracyendowment.eu/en/news/229%3Ahow-one-lebanese-youth-ngo-fights-discrimination-with-art.html)

**March**

## Matrix FM Radio's Interview with Mehdi Yehya

An interview held by Matrix FM 103.5, a local radio station, with Mehdi Yehya, Founder of "Peace of Art " Academy, Yehya talked about the importance of the organization in Bekaa region on both artistic and cultural fields in addition to the future projects and plans of the center.

**February**

## POA- Mechanism for Social Stability

POA members and local stakeholders from North Bekaa discussed together how they can prevent, manage conflicts and act as agent of change to contribute to social stability in the local community within “Mechanisms for Social Stability” program, organized by the UNDP Lebanon Host Communities Support Program.

**January**

## TV interview with Mr. Mehdi Yehya

An interview with Mr. Mehdi Yehya (Founder of Peace of Art Organization on NBN channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgQNMRQDGOg>

**Drawing and Music Classes**

Peace of Art Launched its academy’s music (Piano, Guitar, Oud, Violin) classes as well as drawing classes for different ages, aiming to give youth and children access to arts in one of the most marginalized and neglected areas.