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**Cultural Grants Program**  
**FY 2013**

**The Embassy of the United States of America**  
**Public Affairs Section**

*Ljubljana, June 2014*

### **Student Cultural Center**

#### **“28TH LJUBLJANA GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL”**

(1,812 USD)

The purpose of the festival was to present to the public films that would otherwise be overlooked or ignored because of their subject matter or lack of marketing opportunities. Few films with LGBT themes get the opportunity to be widely distributed in Slovenia. Each year the festival presents over 20 feature-length films (three screenings per day) and over 20 short films, with accompanying events. The festival brings to light a number of issues that are addressed in the selected films, directly or indirectly. The public is also exposed to classic, historical, and less known filmmakers, and it contributes to the fight for LGBT rights and the visibility of the LGBT minority. The organizers of the festival also introduced the New York based film artist Barbara Hammer, who is considered a pioneer of queer cinema. The festival hosted discussions with Ms. Hammer following some of her films, all of which were extremely well received.

### **Academy of Design**

#### **“10TH GIDE - GROUP FOR INTERNATIONAL DESIGN EDUCATION LJUBLJANA 2013”**

(4,000 USD)

GIDE is an international consortium of higher education design institutions which work together to enrich the experience of students in the areas of 3-D modeling, architecture and interior design. Beginning this year, the program also included industrial and interactive design, along with art and interdisciplinary design practice. GIDE was founded in 2003 and consists of seven main partner colleges in Scotland, Slovenia, England, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Switzerland. The consortium promotes the exchange of design education with an



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ethical dimension; exploring multidisciplinary and intercultural experiences; and, working practices and competences. Academics and students investigate a common theme: sharing experiences, cultures, and design capabilities. Each participating school brings varied approaches and perspectives to the project, promoting discourse and debate over the role that the design of spaces and 3-D design have in developing new concepts of contemporary living. This year students and their mentors were organized into twelve groups and were given the task of redesigning twelve Ljubljana bridges. Representatives of the College of Visual Arts and Design, University of North Texas, were also part of this year's GIDE event.

### **Društvo Metronom**

#### **“2ND EDITION OF THE SLOVENIAN MUSIC WEEK”**

(1,200 USD)

On four different the venues organizers of the Second Slovenian Music Week created more than 45 hours of program. The aim of the project was to introduce significant potentials of Slovenian music, to further develop of the and further develop the Slovenian music scene and participants, and to promote innovative and fresh music energy. American musician Spinz, a well-known hip-hip artist throughout Europe, also took part in the program. Spinz has been touring continually for the past 8 years both nationally and overseas in places like Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Australia, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Holland, Slovenia, France and Czech Republic.



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## **Druga Godba**

### **“29TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL DRUGA GODBA”**

(4,000 USD)

29 hours straight of the 29th International Druga Godba Festival offered a diverse and intensive musical program presenting the trends and latest developments in the world of traditional and urban music. Druga Godba International Festival was founded in 1999 with the aim of securing better conditions for the future organization of the festival, first held in 1984. In addition to the festival, Druga Godba is also involved in publishing, promoting and representing promising young musicians and groups, while additionally producing cultural events. The closing concert was performed by Blitz the Ambassador, who merges his African musical background with more American styles like soul, hip hop and jazz into an inspiring and mind-blowing new style. About 500 people attended the closing event.

## **House of Experiments**

### **“SCIENCETIVAL 2013”**

(5,000 USD)

The House of Experiments organized a festival which showed new interesting and attractive ways to promote science among all generations, mainly among young people. The House of Experiments attracts more than 25,000 visitors a year. It is a "hands-on" science center with exhibits that can be performed by visitors themselves. The House of Experiments seeks to promote science among young generations in an effort to build a richer society, one which is open to the exchange of ideas, scientific discoveries, innovations in industry and personal insights. The project is organized annually in several public locations throughout the center of Ljubljana. During the four days of Sciencetival 2013, people could watch and actively participate in a wide variety of science shows performed by



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Slovenian and foreign guests; also, American science communicators Chris Chiaverina, Bob Friedhoffer, Brian Jones, Eugenia Etkina and Stanley Micklavzina took part in the Sciencetival. This year the festival celebrated its 5th anniversary and for this occasion the organizers prepared a special treat called “The Biking Bridge.” The activity was meant for those adults who wanted to test their fear of heights by riding a bike on a wire across Ljubljanica river. Sciencetival was visited by more than three thousand visitors.

### **Cankarjev dom**

#### **“54TH LJUBLJANA JAZZ FESTIVAL”**

(10,000 USD)

The 54th Annual Ljubljana Jazz Festival brought the greats of jazz together for a series of incredible concerts, many of them performed by American musicians such as David Murray Infinity Quartet featuring Macy Gray, Jason Adasiewicz, Hamid Drake and Ken Vandermark & Chad Taylor. The 54<sup>th</sup> Ljubljana Jazz Festival boasted an impressive array of compelling configurations in a relaxed yet bold atmosphere. Apart from 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 records show that the festival was attended by nearly 2000 visitors. The festival received great media coverage and an excellent response; it featured a diversity of events and numerous concerts.

### **Nova Gorica Arts Center**

#### **“17TH INTERNATIONAL SAXOPHONE MEETING”**

(2,000 USD)

The 17th International Saxophone Meeting in Nova Gorica is a set of special music events with an important meaning for cultural life in Gorica region. The 17<sup>th</sup> International Saxophone Meeting included events such as master classes, a



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festival, and the 7th International Saxophone Competition. The main goal of the project was to popularize the saxophone and display the instruments importance in classical music. A summer saxophone master class with great national and international saxophone players motivated young participants to further their study. More than 60 young musicians from 20 countries of the world participated in master classes and competition. Each of eight concerts was received with wide acclaim by members of the audience. Hosting teachers prepared interesting concerts in collaboration with different Slovenian musicians. One of the evenings was titled "American style," featuring one of the most renowned American saxophonists for classical music, Timothy McAllister, who presented five contemporary American composers.

## **Kinodvor**

### **"HALLOWEEN HORROR MARATHON"**

(5,000 USD)

The 1959 horror-thriller film by American producer and director William Castle, *The Tingler*, screened as part of Kinodvor's Halloween Horror Marathon. The film tells the story of a scientist who discovers a parasite in human beings called a "Tingler", which feeds on fear. The American film programmer, producer, archivist, and historian Bruce Goldstein, who has done the reconstructions of William Castle shows for several years, spoke and prepared some gimmicks for this event. Kinodvor is a public institution whose main aim is to screen a diverse selection of quality films. As well as being a city cinema with a regular film program, Kinodvor is also a venue for special events offering its facilities, services, and expertise to Slovenian and international partners.

### **Slovene Writers' Association**

#### **“28TH VILENICA INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL”**

(2,000 USD)

The 28th Vilenica International Literary Festival is one of the largest of its kind in Slovenia, aiming primarily to creating a platform for writers, poets, essayist, critics, and publishers from Central European countries. The theme of this year's edition is Inspiration of Borders. The festival takes place annually in Lipica and at other venues in 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 field of literature and essay writing. By inviting American writers to be actively involved in the festival, the project aims to address Mission's goals of promoting American culture in Slovenia.

### **International Centre of Graphic Arts**

#### **“30TH BIENNALE OF GRAPHIC ARTS”**

(5,500 USD)

The 30th Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts focuses on projects with a fresh, contemporary approach to traditional methods. Most of the artwork reflects a perspective on the current situation in the world. The curator of last year's edition, Deborah Cullen, was the Director & Chief Curator of the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University in New York City. The Biennial, entitled “Interruption,” is featured in different locations around Ljubljana, including at the Jakopic Promenade in Tivoli Park, where a special exhibition by the artist Charles Juhasz-Alvarado “From Hand To Hand” was opened on August 7, 2013. Puerto Rican artist Juhasz-Alvarado's exhibition in Ljubljana included 118 photographs depicting the gestures of sign language and poetic inscriptions in



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Slovenian and English. The International Biennial of Graphic Arts is the best-known activity of the International Centre of Graphic Arts, which has been taking place regularly since 1955, making it the world's oldest and most important graphic arts event.

### **Studio Dansa**

#### **“LOUIS ARMSTRONG SECOND LINE REVIVAL IN LJUBLJANA”**

(1,000 USD)

“Louis Armstrong Second Line Revival” took place in the center of Ljubljana on August 10, 2013. The parade was dedicated to the great American jazz musician Louis Armstrong. More than 150 participants gathered in the main square in Ljubljana and started to slowly move with the band called “Zeleni Zajci” through the old part of town towards the square. The band performed Armstrong’s music and led the procession of dancers and music lovers. A host guided the audience through different eras of swing music with a special tribute to Louis Armstrong and his music. Along the way, professional swing dancers showcased their dancing skills and invited others to try. Second line is a tradition in brass band parades in New Orleans, Louisiana. The purpose of the second line is to pay tribute to artists that have passed. This event was the first of its kind in Slovenia.

### **City of Women**

#### **“THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS - CITY OF WOMEN”**

(5,000 USD)

An American art group La Pocha Nostra and the performing duo, Eleanor Bauer and Heather Lang, participated at the 19th International Festival of Contemporary Arts - City of Women, held in Ljubljana October 2 - 13, 2013. The theme of last



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year's festival was "Let's create a place for ourselves." City of Women aims to raise the visibility of high-quality innovative creations by women artists and activists from all over the world. The City of Women festival presents the artistic and cultural participation of women in the performing arts, music, visual arts, film and video, literature and theory, and is aimed to provoke debate and raise awareness about the disproportionate representation of women in arts and culture, as well as in society as a whole.

### **Vintage Society for Preservation and Development of Swing and Rockabilly Culture**

#### **“VINTAGE SWING FESTIVAL 2013”**

(5,000 USD)

Vintage Swing Festival 2013 took place in Celje from October 18 to 20, 2013. The aim of the festival was to celebrate swing dance, music, style and friendship. The festival consisted of dance workshops, lectures on swing dance history and influence, and evening swing dance parties. These parties offered live music and a set-up of an old-fashioned hairdresser booth, a vintage photo booth, and a vintage market. Two well-known swing dance instructors from the United States, Dax Hock and Sarah Breck, participated in the festival.

### **Brumen Foundation**

#### **“THE 6TH BIENNIAL OF SLOVENE VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS”**

(3,270 USD)

U.S. Embassy Ljubljana supported the 6th Biennial of Slovene Visual Communications, held from October 22 to November 24. It is a broad, high-profile cultural event with the most prominent international visual communications designers showing their work at an exhibition in the National Gallery and giving



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lectures at Kino Šiška Centre for Urban Culture. The American design artist Roger David Black also participated in the program as a jury member and a lecturer. Black's unique career path includes working for the well-known American magazines and newspapers, like Rolling Stone, New York Times, Newsweek, Esquire and many more.

### **Šentjakobsko Theater Ljubljana**

#### **“MUSICAL URINETOWN”**

(4,650 USD)

Šentjakobsko Theatre Ljubljana produced the American Broadway musical *Urinetown*, written by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis in 2011. It satirizes the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics, and musical theatre itself. Urinetown is a place where water consumption has to be regulated and the use of private toilets has been outlawed, and where the citizens must use public, pay-per-use amenities owned and operated by Urine Good Company, a malevolent corporation run by the corrupt owner, Mr. “Hotshot. The musical *Urinetown* is a great champion of the culture modern democracy provides, as is cultivated in the United States.

### **Cankarjev dom**

#### **“24TH LJUBLJANA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL”**

(5,000 USD)

The 24th Ljubljana International Film Festival, popularly known as LIFFE, is the largest and most important film festival in Slovenia. In its 24 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



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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 mainstream festival and an event that must not be missed. Last year more than 100 films were presented over two weeks at different locations throughout Ljubljana. The film festival features twelve American films this year: “This is the End” by Seth Rogen, “Big Sur” by Michael Polish, “The Wild One” by Laszlo Benedek, “Frances Ha” by Noah Baumbach, “Upstream Color” by Shane Carruth, “Nebraska” by Alexander Payne, “Gun Crazy” by Joseph H. Lewis, “Spring Breakers” by Harmony Korine, “Rebel Without a Cause” by Nicholas Ray, “Dazed and Confused” by Richard Linklater, “The Immigrant” by James Gray, and “Inside Llewyn Davis” by Joel & Ethan Coen. The Ljubljana International Film Festival is the largest and most important film festival in Slovenia. The festival was launched in 1989 as the Film Art Festival 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.

### **Paul N. Roth**

#### **“JAZZ OF THE PAST, REMADE FOR THE FUTURE”**

(3,000 USD)

The project entitled “Jazz of the Past, Remade for the Future” took place in various locations in Slovenia. The project was a new collaboration between three US jazz musicians, Paul Roth, Derek Shirley, Jesus Vega, and a Slovenian jazz musician Boštjan Simon. The musicians went on a 5-day tour, visiting Šmartno, Ljubljana, Brežice, Slovenj Gradec and Ravne na Koroškem. Performances featured two different yet parallel objectives – a performance presentation of seminal jazz styles of the past, alongside a discussion of why these styles are historically important in both US and global history. Through a set of concerts,



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master classes, educational/cultural outreaches, and discussions, musicians presented newly commissioned works written by members of the proposed quartet. These illustrated the ability Jazz possesses to bring together and blend musical influences from different parts of the world, in ways that are new, exciting, original, and creative.

### **Big Band Grosuplje**

#### **“TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA - CHRISTMAS SPECIAL CONCERT IN SLOVENIA”**

(3,000 USD)

Concert »A Swingin' Affair – Christmas Special« was performed by young vocalist Blaž Vrbič in cooperation with Big Band Grosuplje. Blaž was accompanied by another young female singer, Katja Koren. The concert was a tribute to the first ever pop idol Frank Sinatra, presenting Sinatra's original arrangements, best hits and also some of lesser known songs from his repertoire. Frank Sinatra was one of the most popular entertainers of the 20th century, forging a career as an award-winning singer and film actor. Born in Hoboken, New Jersey, on December 12, 1915, Frank Sinatra rose to fame singing big band numbers. In the '40s and '50s Sinatra had an array of hit songs and albums, and subsequently went on to appear in dozens of films, one of which earned Sinatra an Oscar. He left behind a massive catalog of work that includes iconic tunes like "Love and Marriage" and "New York, New York."



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## **New Culture Litija**

### **“GOSPEL AND SPIRITUAL WITH ANDRE J. THOMAS”**

(5,000 USD)

New Culture Litija Christmas organized a concert entitled “The Hope is Born,” which took place on Christmas Day in Saint Nicholas Church in Litija. The concert of spiritual and gospel music was performed by the Saint Nicholas Choir Litija and conducted by Andre J. Thomas, Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music Education at Florida State University. It was one of four concerts the choir has done with Mr. Thomas during his stay in Slovenia. The concert was part of a project that aimed to deepen understanding and appreciation of gospel and spiritual music in Slovenia. Mr. Thomas also held a two-day seminar, wherein he lectured on topics such as the history of spiritual and gospel music, as well as the correct vocal approaches this kind of music requires.

## **Ypsilon Institute**

### **“SITI ARTSTORE - USA NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST”**

(4,000 USD)

USA National Black History and Culture through the Eyes of an Artist were combined to feature photographic and culturally rich events throughout the month of February. The project was organized by the Ypsilon Institute in coproduction with Signum Artisma and young artist's store SiTi ARTstore. SiTi ARTstore is an art store that sells artworks and design pieces from young, well-educated, yet unrecognized Slovenian artists and designers. The store's primary goal was to give young unknown artists a place where they can present themselves to the public, connect with their potential buyers, and attain greater possibilities to establish themselves. Works of the following young artists, Arnož Božič, Jernej



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Maučec, Anka Simončič and Valerie Wolf Gang, were on display in the gallery part of the SiTiARTstore in the Cristal Palace throughout February 2013.

### **EN-KNAP Production**

#### **“BOUND – INTERNATIONAL DANCE PROGRAM WITH STEVE PAXTON AND JURIJ KONJAR”**

(6,000 USD)

As a result of an international dance collaboration between Steve Paxton and Jurij Konjar, Konjar presented Steve Paxton’s composition *Bound*. An American choreographer and dancer, Steve Paxton created this famous piece 30 years ago, combining improvised dance sequences and theatrical actions. Paxton’s visit, which included also his lecture on “A Short History of Dance from an Outsider’s Point of View,” was part of EN-KNAP Productions’ international program Import/Export. Paxton’s early background is in gymnastics, and his later training included three years with Merce Cunningham and a year with José Limón. As a founding member of the Judson Dance Theater, he performed works by Yvonne Rainer and Trisha Brown. He was a founding member of the experimental performance group Grand Union, and in 1972 developed a dance form known as Contact Improvisation, which utilizes the physical laws of friction, momentum, gravity, and inertia to explore the relationship between dancers.

### **Center for Contemporary Arts Ljubljana**

#### **“ART WORLD IN AMERICA AND SLOVENIA: HOW DIFFERENT ARE WE?”**

(5,000 USD)

As part of the project entitled “Art World in America and Slovenia: How Different Are We?” the Center for Contemporary Arts Ljubljana invited two American experts to Slovenia; Jayme McLellan and Paul O’Neill. Jayme McLellan, an artist, curator, and professor presented her profession and assisted Slovenes in the



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field of contemporary art. McLellan has founded two successful contemporary galleries in Washington, D.C., and has curated over 100 exhibitions and events in galleries, museums and alternative spaces since the mid-nineties. In her lectures and workshops, McClellan discussed the various platforms for showcasing contemporary art and different means of support for artists and galleries. Dr. Paul O'Neill is the Director of the Graduate Program at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College in New York. He has co-curated more than 50 exhibition projects across the world. In his lecture "The Exhibition-as-Medium, the Exhibition-as-Form: Co-productive Exhibition-making and Attentiveness" and workshops, O'Neill demonstrated how curation is truly a constellation of activities that can be represented by the final exhibition-form.



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