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# OVERVIEW OF THE CULTURE SECTOR IN

# LEBANON

## CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

### PUBLIC

THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE CONSISTS OF THE:

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF CULTURE

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANTIQUITY

Supervises:

1. The Lebanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)
2. The National Music Conservatory
3. The International Centre for Human Sciences

### PRIVATE

INDEPENDENT/PRIVATE CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS/ INDIVIDUALS

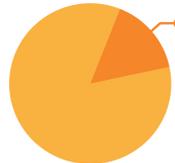
are the main players in the culture sector; they take the lead on the local, regional and international scene

In the cultural domain, the majority of the institutions are non-profit since this status allows them to get funds from foreign funding bodies

## FUNDING



THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE IS LOWER THAN **1%** OF THE NATIONAL YEARLY BUDGET



PART OF THIS BUDGET GOES TO SUPPORT:

- VISUAL ARTS
- PERFORMING ARTS
- PUBLISHING
- CINEMA
- CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Municipality of Beirut began to play a significant role on the cultural scene. In the regions, municipalities are realising the importance of cultural activities for their tourism economy and there is a real boom of festivals supported or initiated by the municipalities. The Ministry of Tourism plays an important role in supporting the major international festivals that are organised every summer all over the country.

## THE MAIN SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR ARTS AND CULTURE IN LEBANON:



### INTERNATIONAL FUNDING

European Union bi-lateral cooperation & regional EU-funded programmes, Ford Foundation, etc



### EUROPEAN CULTURAL CENTERS FUNDING (EUNIC)

- French Institute
- Goethe Institute
- The British Council
- Cervantes



### OTHER SOURCES

The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) and Al Mawred Al Thaqafy (Culture Resource)



### PRIVATE FUNDING

- Private funding (banking sector): Banks play a major role in sponsoring cultural events in Lebanon
- Philanthropic funding: a new phenomenon to which access depends on personal acquaintances & social status
- Crowdfunding

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE MANAGES:

1. The National Museum in Beirut
2. The National Music Conservatory
3. National Library - Sanayeh

### THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE SUPPORTS

public libraries in different regions of the country:

- 45 reading centers
- 106 partner libraries

### PRIVATE SECTOR:



### MUSEUMS

12 private museums  
Ameen Rihani Museum, Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut, Bsous Silk Museum, Byblos Fossil Museum, Byblos Wax Museum, Gibran Museum, Lebanese Heritage Museum, Museum of Lebanese Prehistory, Robert Mouawad Private Museum, Sidon Soap Museum, Sursock Museum (a modern and contemporary art museum in Beirut) and The Tourist Landmark of the Resistance



### THEATRES

- The theatre scene is rich but survives precariously, and mostly in Beirut.
- There are two main independent theatres in the capital: Al Madina Theatre and Sunflower Theatre
- Other theatres are affiliated to universities: - Monot and Gulbenkian.
- Theatres in Tyr and in Tripoli are privately owned.
- In villages, there is a growth in multidisciplinary centers where theatre productions are shown.



### CULTURAL SPACES

The Lebanese cultural scene is witnessing a boom in cultural spaces. They are mostly concentrated in the capital: Station Beirut, of Studio Zoukak, Mansion, Beit Amir, B Beirut, Hammana Artist House  
Cultural spaces are multifunctional as they combine different activities in one place: screening, reading, a cafeteria, a working space, etc.



### LIBRARIES

25 specialized private libraries  
The Oriental Library, Universities' libraries, Orthodox Studies Center Library, Engineering and Architects Order Library



### CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS/ ASSOCIATIONS/ INDIVIDUALS

There are established institutions, that played a major role in the visual arts, cinema, and performing arts such as Zico House, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut DC, SHAMS, Khayal and others.

## GENERAL AUDIENCE



The audience is eager to watch theatre plays, and is more demanding in terms of quality



The Lebanese audience is interested in international, Arab and Lebanese music concerts



There is a huge interest in paintings, designs of all sorts, installations, and sculpture



The movie sector has been always popular amongst the Lebanese audience. A lot of special weeks are being programmed like the ARTE and the Iranian Cinema weeks. There is a number of new cinema initiatives taking place like the outdoors Cabriolet Film Festival which is the 1st of its kind in Lebanon



FESTIVALS are big on the Lebanese scene and many have international renown like Baalbeck International Festival, Beiteddine Art Festival, Byblos International Festival and Jounieh International Festival.

Because of their impact on tourism, particularly from the Lebanese diaspora, the Ministry of Tourism supports many of these festivals.