

## **Oman**

*Actual situation in regard to artist employment in most important cultural fields:  
Approximate number and main activities*

### **Literature :**

- Men of letters, authors, writers, poets, novelists, storytellers : 200-250 assorted literary groups
- "Annual" competitions of the cultural forum, "biennial" festival of Omani poetry, "biennial" cultural weeks, "annual" cultural activities carried out by the Organization for Youth and the university.
- Literary publications, "books, magazines, periodicals..." published by the cultural forum, the Organization for Youth and the university.

### **Theatre:**

- Artists, specialists, directors, authors, writers, critics : 50-75 professionals, 100-125 practitioners, 100-150 amateurs
- Cultural weeks, theatrical competitions, theatre festival, periodic competitions.
- Books, periodicals, studies, pamphlets, documentary films issued by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, the Ministry of Information, the Organization for Youth and the university.

### **Visual arts and photography:**

- Draughtsmen, potters, calligraphers, weavers, oil painters, photographers: 190 artists and 25 photographers
- Visual arts exhibitions, exhibitions of Arabic calligraphy, photography exhibitions during the annual cultural weeks, regular annual exhibitions.
- Books, booklets, pamphlets, periodicals, documentary films issued by the Organization for Youth, the university, the Omani Association for the Visual Arts.

### **Popular arts (folklore, song, dance, music) :**

- Singers, performers, chorales, dancers, musicians
- Omani song festival, annual cultural weeks, festival shows.
- Books, booklets, pamphlets, research, films, audio tapes, issued by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Directorate General of Tourism and the Organization for Youth, Sports and Cultural Activities.

### **Cinema:**

- Artists, directors, authors, specialists, writers, cameramen : 40/55
- Omani cinema festival: "Annual International Festival in the Sultanate"
- Reviews, studies, booklets, documentary films.

## **INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Responsible Sector in charge of Art and Culture: Ministry of Heritage and Culture  
The culture sector is one of the most dynamic sectors of life and is pivotal for all around

development in the Sultanate. Complementing the role of that sector the government has intensively promoted and established the conditions for an appropriate cultural environment, including its human, material and moral aspects, with a view to the human factor which is the basis for and the means of achieving development.

In this regard, the cultural situation of the cultural community in the Sultanate enjoyed considerable attention in the period of national revival in which various government units and bodies participated, working together in line with clear-cut strategies and plans which were used by and guided the entire cultural community in all its branches (literary, artistic, scientific, vocational, educational, etc.)

### **Cultural Policy**

In accordance with the above, the government established a structure supported by plans, programmes and mechanisms for the purpose of organizing, promoting, developing and preserving the creative capabilities and intellectual production of these various cultural branches, forming an extensive framework for this initiative which may be described as follows:

- Cultural facilities

The creation of the substructure for cultural work (such as literary clubs, cultural centres, public libraries, theatres, exhibition halls, cinemas, cultural institutes for music and dance)

- Enhancement of legal framework

The enactment of legislation, with the publishing of laws and regulations governing the execution, monitoring and renewal of cultural activities (including the law on the supervision of artistic works, the law on the protection of the rights of authors, the regulations governing the operation of theatres, popular libraries and popular arts groups)

- Training

The preparation and execution of specialist and general study and training programmes, and the provision of material and moral support to all levels of these cultural branches

- Employment

The incorporation and enrolment of these cultural branches in trades and services corresponding to their skills and abilities, be they government entities or private institutions

- Copyright

The organization of protective measures, for all aspects of intellectual property in different cultural branches, is afforded by domestic civil regulations and laws, or by relevant international conventions

- Cultural activities

The linking of different cultural fields by various kinds of festive events, such as festivals, and cultural weeks and activities.

## **COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION**

The following are some artists trade unions and institutions providing cultural facilities

- Literature :
  - The literary forum (Sib District, P.O. Box 1777, postcode 111, tel.: 620023/00968)
  - The cultural club (Bausher District (AI-Qarm), P.O. Box 3954, postcode 112 Rawl, Tel: 563401)
  - The scientific club (P.O. Box 211, postcode 113 Muscat)
- Theatre :
  - The two theatres of the Ministry of Heritage and Culture in Muscat and Salalah (P.O. Box 668, postcode 113 Muscat, Tel: 602555)
  - The Youth Theatre (Organization for Youth, Sports and Cultural Activities, P.O. Box 211, postcode 113)
  - City Theatre (Muscat Municipality, P.O. Box 79, postcode 113)
  - Falajj Castle Theatre ; Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Directorate General of Tourism) (P.O. Box 550, postcode 113 Muscat)
  - Technical College Theatre ; Ministry of Social Development (P.O. Box 560, postcode 113 Muscat, Tel: 602444)
- Visual arts and photography
  - Omani Association for the Visual Arts (P.O. Box 1795, postcode 114 Matrah, Tel: 694969)
  - Photography Club (P.O. Box 1795, postcode 114 Matrah, Tel: 694969)
  - Youth Studio ; Organization for Youth, Sports and Cultural Activities (P.O. Box 211, postcode 113 Muscat)
  - Oman Music Centre ; Ministry of Information (P.O. Box 600, postcode 113 Muscat)
  - Omani Association for the Visual Arts
  - Sultan Qaboos University
- Popular arts (folklore ; song, dance, music) :
  - Centre of the Sultan's Orchestra, centres for popular arts groups, Oman Music Centre.
- Cinema :
  - Association of Film-Makers, cinemas: "AI-Shati', AI-Nujum"
  - Cinema Association (P.O. Box 150, postcode 134, Jawaharat AI-Shati, Fax: 781898)

## **CONTINUING TRAINING AND FINANCIAL AID**

The following are some supporting institutions

- Literature :
- Ministry of Heritage and Culture
  - Organization for Youth
  - Sports and Cultural Activities

- Sultan Qaboos University

Theatre :

- Ministry of Heritage and Culture
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Directorate General of Tourism
- Organization for Youth, Sports and Cultural Activities
- Sultan Qaboos University
- Muscat Municipality

Visual arts and photography :

- Ministry of Heritage and Culture
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Organization for Youth, Sports and Cultural Activities
- Sultan Qaboos University
- Omani Association for the Visual Arts

Popular arts (folklore; song, dance, music)

- Diwan of Royal Court
- Ministry of Heritage and Culture
- Ministry of Information
- Organization for Youth
- Sports and Cultural Activities

Cinema :

- Ministry of Heritage and Culture
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Muscat Municipality

**Source: Ministry of Heritage and Culture, December, 2004.**

<http://www.mnhc.gov.om>