



Katowice supports its culture and creative sector during the pandemic

Katowice (Poland), a UNESCO Creative City of Music since 2015, has been using its cultural and creative industries as a lever for the city's urban regeneration and sustainability.

Committed to further nurturing its creative industry, the city has launched its five-year Cultural Zone programme - the largest investment in cultural infrastructure in Poland to date. This includes the recent adoption of a financial package amounting to 500,000 PLN (approximately 120,000 USD) to support its cultural and creative sector during the ongoing pandemic.

The city believes that there is a positive correlation between the quality of life of its inhabitants and the strength of its leisure industries. Therefore, amidst the ongoing health crisis, the city has undertaken several consultations with local artists and cultural industries to design a tailor-made assistance to alleviate their loss of income and support them in resuming their work and livelihood.

The new package supports different stakeholders, including artists but also NGOs and businesses working in cultural sectors including music and theatre. The support packages include measures ranging from specific grants for artists and creators, rent exemption, 50% reduction in rent for municipal office space, and property tax exemptions, amongst others.

In addition, the city has also encouraged its property owners lending space to artists and creative professionals to show solidarity and flexibility and reduce rents for the lockdown period.

To further regenerate and revitalize culture and creativity particularly affected by the pandemic, the city also plans to offer direct financing to selected cultural projects. These projects are foreseen to be conducted in the second semester of 2020 or via digital means, to be determined by the evolving situation of the pandemic.

To know more:

<http://www.katowice.eu/ngo>

<https://koronawirus.katowice.eu/katowicki-pakiet-dla-kultury>

- KEY WORDS:**
- Access to and participation in culture
 - Solidarity and mutual aid
 - Financial and policy support