

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria
and
the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia
concerning
Cooperation in the Fields of the Arts and Culture**

The Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as “Sides”:

based on the friendly relations which exist between their two countries;
based on regional initiatives and initiatives of the European Union in South
Caucasus;
being aware of the fact that cooperation in the fields of culture and the arts
contributes to a better understanding between both countries;

have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

Both Sides welcome the cooperation in the fields of culture and the arts based on the principles of mutual respect and partnership.

Article 2

Both Sides encourage direct cooperation and exchange of artists and experts in the field of contemporary art, in the area of visual arts, traditional art, music, literature, film, theatre, photography, architecture and design.

Concrete proposals, actions and details will be discussed between the responsible institutions and organizations of their countries.

Article 3

Both Sides stress the importance of the UNESCO “Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” as well as the “Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage”. Both Sides aim at strengthening their bilateral cooperation for the creation of conditions conducive to the promotion of these Conventions.

Article 4

Both Sides welcome the activities of the Austrian Association “Kulturkontakt” in the fields of culture and the arts.

Article 5

Both Sides encourage direct cooperation between public cultural organizations, museums, libraries, archives and other cultural institutions of their countries.

Article 6

Both Sides welcome the organization of bilateral seminars, symposia and conferences at expert level to study issues related to the preservation of cultural heritage and to promote other forms of cooperation in the field of heritage protection including the prevention of illegal import and export of cultural goods according to the laws and regulations valid in their respective countries.

Article 7

Both Sides facilitate the participation of their representatives in international conferences, meetings and competitions on cultural matters organized by the other Side.

Article 8

Both Sides will protect copyright and associated rights in the fields of culture and the arts in accordance with the laws and regulations valid in their respective countries.

Article 9

Both Sides express their wish to invite two artists in the fields of contemporary art from each of the countries for a three month stay (artists in residence) every three years.

Article 10

The activities of cooperation to be carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the availability of funds and resources of both Sides. Each Side will endeavour to provide adequate resources for the implementation of its own commitments in relation to such activities.

Article 11

The present Memorandum of Understanding will take effect upon the date of signing. It will remain effective until 31 December 2019 and will be extended for additional five years unless it is cancelled in writing by one of the two Sides at least six months prior to the expiration of its effectiveness.

Article 12

The present Memorandum of Understanding does not result in the creation of any new obligations regarding international law nor will it have any effect on existing legislation.

Done in Vienna, on 19 January 2015, in two originals in English and Armenian, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation of the present Memorandum of Understanding the English text shall prevail.

Dr Josef Ostermayer

For the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

Hasmik Poghosyan

For the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia