

04 Organizers

Main Organizer

The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic is a central state administration body in the field of culture. The Ministry was established upon Act No. 2/1969 Coll., which makes provision with respect to the establishment of ministries and other central state administration bodies of the Czech Republic. Between 1969 and 1989 all official cultural activities were centrally managed and ideologically controlled within a system comprising the Communist Party machinery and “creative associations” in individual areas of culture. In spite of occasional liberalization periods, one of the most important being the second half of the 1960s, this design essentially remained until 1989. After the fall of the Communist regime in November 1989, numerous major changes took place in the sphere of culture, mainly extensive denationalization of the field of culture, which removed all political and ideological influence. Many cultural institutions and organizations formerly managed by the Ministry of Culture were privatized and some central institutions were abolished. Numerous powers that had previously belonged solely to the state were transferred to local government. The range of activities of the Ministry of Culture is very broad and includes the arts, cultural education, cultural monuments, church and religious society affairs, press affairs including the issuance of non-periodical press and other information materials, preparation of bills and other legal regulations for radio and television broadcasting and implementation of the Copyright Act as concerns production and trading in the field of culture. Since 2003 the Ministry of Culture has had its seat in the Nostic Palace, a cultural monument protected by legislation. It is located in the centre of the Prague Heritage Site, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Link:

www.mkcr.cz/en

Conference Programming Arts Institute

ProCulture

The Arts Institute was founded in 2005 with the aim to contribute to the promotion, and public recognition, of the role of the arts and its development, to support the exchange of information and experience among individual artistic fields; to provide information and advisory services; and to present and promote Czech arts abroad and to attend to educational activities. The institute maintains a Czech-English cultural portal (institutumeni.cz) containing information about current grants and opportunities from the field of culture; a database of cultural operators; documents related to cultural policies, and an overview of funding possibilities. It also maintains a Czech-English music portal (czechmusic.org) and a multilingual literature portal (czechlit.cz). The Institute coordinates the Artists in Residency Programme, and works on projects on topics related to cultural policies. Currently, the Arts Institute is made up of three independent sections, in the fields of dance, music and literature. It is also the seat of the Czech Music Council. The Arts Institute is the part of the Arts and Theatre Institute. The Theatre Institute is a modern information centre and research institute, its main mission is to provide Czech and foreign public with a complex information services in the area of theatre, ballet, dance, puppet theatre and other forms of the performing arts (institutetheatre.cz, theatre.cz)

Link:
www.institutumeni.cz

ProCulture Center is part of the non-profit organization, the Open Society, a public benefit company, which aims to help strengthen the civil society in the Czech Republic by establishing principles and promoting policies that are based on the rule of law and the protection of human rights. The Open Society, p.b.c. implements new approaches, and as a programme laboratory it helps launch new initiatives drawing upon good practices. The Open Society serves as a source of information, analyses, expertise, and provides a knowledge-base in all of the areas it works in: people's public participation; police service reform; cultural policy; social inclusion; equal opportunities for women and men; social economy. The main objective of ProCulture is to transform the role of culture and attitudes toward it in the Czech Republic via building a pro-active cultural policy. ProCulture concentrates on providing external assistance for cultural institutions, including research and analysis, documentation and monitoring, consultations and educational activities. The policy held by ProCulture is that a "healthy cultural sphere is vital for the development of the civil society."

Link:
www.proculture.cz

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