

Atelier Programme

Atelier Nicosia

7 – 13 October 2022

POOL OF EXPERTS

Programmer

- Mike Van Graan South African Playwright and currently a Richard von Weizsaecker Fellow, Robert Bosch Academy, Berlin Germany/South Africa
- Inge Ceustermans General Director The Festival Academy Belgium

Facilitators

- **Brett Pyper** Associate Professor Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg South Africa
- Horacio Pérez Curator, creative producer, cultural manager, and artist Chile
- Vigdis Jakobsdottir Artistic director at Reykjavik Festival Iceland

Opening keynote speakers

- Darya Bassel Producer, head of industry of Docudays UA Ukraine
- Jacob Boehme Multi-disciplinary theatre maker, choreographer and artistic director, founding creative director of Yirramboi Festival, Director First Nations Programs Carriageworks – Narangga and Kaurna Nations/Australia (online)
- Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis Founder and president of Fondation Connaissance et Liberté/Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète/Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty (FOKAL), former First Minister and Minister of Justice and Public Security of Haiti – Haiti (online)
- Mike Van Graan South African Playwright and currently a Richard von Weizsaecker Fellow, Robert Bosch Academy, Berlin Germany/South Africa (online)
- **Orwa Nyrabia** Artistic director International Documentary Festival Amsterdam Netherlands/Syria (online)

Festival mentors

- Darya Bassel Producer, head of industry of Docudays UA Ukraine
- **Ellada Evangelou** Cofounder of Rooftop Theatre, member of the Leadership Circle of the IMPACT project, artistic director of Buffer Fringe Festival Cyprus/United States of America
- Horacio Pérez Curator, creative producer, cultural manager, and artist Chile
- Shahidul Alam, writer and human rights activist, initiator of Chobi Mela International Photography Festival Bangladesh
- **Thobile Maphanga** Durban-based dance practitioner, writer, creative collaborator, and emerging festival curator, curatorial mentee for JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience South Africa
- Vigdis Jakobsdottir Artistic director at Reykjavik Festival Iceland

Cross-sector mentors and experts

- Atje Drexler Senior Vice President international cooperation and understanding at the Robert Bosch Stiftung Germany
- Hooman Nassimi Founder of Society in Motion and the New Faces toolkit Netherlands
- Lea Perekrests Deputy director for operations Europe and MENA Region, Institute for Economics and Peace Belgium
- Mira El Mawla MENA lead program manager at Build Up Lebanon
- Mwandwe Chileshe Global Policy Lead for Food Security and Agriculture at Global Citizen Zambia
- Nadia Sokolenko Performing Arts Programme Manager at Ukrainian Institute Ukraine
- Organisation for European Programmes and Cultural Relations (OEPCR)

Guest speakers

- Colin Stewart Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of UNFICYP and Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus Cyprus
- Christian Grotnes Halvorsen Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Athens Norway/Greece
- Darius Cuplinskas Director of the Ideas Workshop, a new hub for critical thinking and inquiry at the Open Society Foundations and director of the London office of the Open Society Foundation – Lithuania/UK
- Diego Aparicio founder and artistic director of Queer Wave: the Cyprus LGBTQIA+ film festival Cyprus
- Gabriel Gauler Director Goethe-Institut Cyprus Germany/Cyprus
- Home For Cooperation representative
- Leisa Shelton Performance artist, teacher + curator with a practice that foregrounds collaboration and an advocacy for new Australian trans-disciplinary work Australia
- United Nations Head in Cyprus
- Xenios Symeonides and Maria Efstathiou Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre
- Yiannis Toumazis Deputy Minister of Culture Cyprus

Academic experts

- Brett Pyper Associate Professor Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg South Africa
- Christine van Winkle Professor at the University of Manitoba and associate faculty member at Royal Roads University Canada

Buffer Fringe Curatorial Team

- Amy Gowen Works across the fields of programming, publishing, curating, editing, and writing The Netherlands
- **Bryce Ives** Co-founder of the Present Tense ensemble and Director of the Arts Academy Ballarat Australia
- **Derya Ulubatlı** Art Historian specialized in Cypriot Art, bi-communal art projects and the role of art in peacebuilding Cyprus
- Kat Kats Writer and dramaturg who writes for stage, screen and live art Australia
- Maria Varnakkidou Cypriot theatre director. Her facilitation work focuses on theatre for social change – Cyprus/Uk
- Nihal Soğancı Part of the Home for Cooperation team and PhD in Social Anthropology at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens Cyprus
- **Raffi Feghali** Director, storyteller, performer, percussionist, theatre sound designer, and peacebuilder Lebanon/Armenia

Artists/Cultural Programme

- Compagnie Inflexions Interdisciplinary performance company France
- Compañía Encuentro Dance company Spain
- Costas Constandinides Film scholar and former Curator from Cyprus Film Days Festival Cyprus
- Die Wolke Art Group Dancetheatre group Greece
- Diomedes Koufteros Outreach & Communications coordinator Buffer Fringe Festival Cyprus
- Fatosh Olgacher Video/audio installation artists Cyprus
- Inal Bilsen Award-winning composer of electronic, classical, contemporary, and experimental music, lecturer at Eastern Mediterranean University and PERA school of contemporary dance Cyprus
- Martín Álvarez Music performer and researcher Netherlands
- Melita Couta Award-winning composer of electronic, classical, contemporary, and experimental music, lecturer at Eastern Mediterranean University and PERA school of contemporary dance Cyprus
- Nicoletta Demetriou Ethnomusicologist, creative writer and singer of Cypriot folksong Cyprus
- Ody icons Multidisciplinary musical performing group Cyprus
- Theodoris Scrivanos Film Director Cyprus
- Vasilikí Anastasiou and The Amalgamation Choir Music performing group Cyprus

PROGRAMME

This programme (dated **06/10/2022)** can change prior to and during the Atelier as it considers the needs of the participants.

DAY ONE: Friday, 7 October		
10:30	Departure to Goethe-Institut Zyper – Gathering at the lobby of hotel Castelli and hotel The Classic (8 minutes' walk)	
11:00 - 12:00	Arrivals and Registration at Goethe-Institut Zypern – Markou Drakou Ave. 21	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 - 15:30	Introductory session.	
	Facilitated by Vigdis Jakobsdottir	
15:30 - 16:00	Break and welcome drink	
16:00 - 18:00	Official Welcome and Opening Session	
	Opening ritual – Welcoming Song by Nicoletta Demetriou	
	Speakers: Mr. Yiannis Toumazis - Deputy Minister of Culture of Cyprus, Dr. Gabriel Gauler – Goethe-Institut Cyprus, NIMAC representative, Ellada Evangelou – Buffer Fringe Festival, Inge Ceustermans – General Director The Festival Academy	
	Situating the Atelier:	
	 An overview and brief history of Cyprus A brief introduction of the Buffer Fringe Festival & its team Introduction of the Atelier and The Festival Academy by Inge Ceustermans 	
	Keynote: The Arts, Festivals and Peace-Building: The hits, the myths andsome things to think about.	
	People in the arts sector often make bold claims for the arts – including arts festivals – as means to cure all kinds of social ills – promoting social cohesion, addressing poverty, resolving conflicts, etc. This provocation will interrogate these claims, sorting the immodest from the possible, the general myths from the contextual truths, focusing in particular, on the (possible) roles of the arts and of arts festivals in areas of conflict and social, political, economic and cultural polarisation.	
	Speaker: Darya Bassel, Jacob Boehme (online), Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis (online), Orwa Nyrabia (online), Mike van Graan (online)	
	Facilitated by Horacio Pérez	
18:00 - 18:30	Departure to Hamur – İkinci Selim Cd (checkpoint crossing – 5 minutes' walk)	
18:30 - 20:00	Cocktail event	
20:00 - 20:30	Departure to Rüstem Kitabevi – Girne Cd (10 minutes' walk)	
20:30 - 21:15	Cultural programme: "Una Guerra Entre Nosotros" (Spain – Compañía Encuentro) – Hangar	
21:30 - 22:40	Cultural programme: "Nostalgia for the Future" (Cyprus – Inal Bilsen) – Hangar	
23:00	Return / End of day programme	
DAY TWO: Satu	ırday, 8 October	
08:45 - 09:00	Departure to Goethe-Institut Zypern – Markou Drakou, 21 (8 minutes' walk)	

09:00 - 11:00Plenary: The fundamentals as a starting point
Provocation by experts: definitions; what is peace, what is a festival, what is a successful festival?
Speakers: Brett Pyper, Atje Drexler, Mira El Mawla, Lea Perekres, Mwandwe Chileshe

Facilitated by Vigdis Jakobsdottir

This session will invite participants to speak to the following questions from within their experiences and seek to arrive at possible definitions based on the diversity of experiences in small working groups.

What are the chief causes of conflict in your country/region or in your direct experience?

How would you define/understand "Peace" in your context? There has been an interesting conversation, problematizing the word 'Peace', asking "is Peace a dirty word", commenting on the complicated nature of the term in various places.

What are spaces for resistance? In the physical and digital world? How to protest and resist safely in these spaces?

What is a "festival"? (Participants share descriptions of festivals that they are engaged in, or are aware of)

What is a "successful" festival? What criteria may be used to determine a festival's success? Is the definition of 'success' relative to context or are there universal standards by which to evaluate festivals?

Responses to and engagements with the Opening Keynote Provocation by participants. Working groups.

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 13:00 Plenary

The New Abnormal: How the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the arts generally and Festivals in particular – the good, the not-so-good and the never-to-be-repeated. What have festivals in conflict zones learned from the COVID experience that could be to their advantage?

COVID-19 has generally devastated the arts sector over a period of more than two years. And yet, the pandemic and its related lockdowns forced the arts sector to be innovative, to think out the box, to explore online, hybrid and other forms of creating, producing and distributing work. What are the positive consequences of COVID-19 for festivals? What have we learned during this time that we can build on? And what should never be repeated?

Panel discussion with facilitated conversation.

Participants share their learnings through the COVID pandemic lockdowns, particularly those that they have integrated into their post-COVID practice.

Speakers: Vigdis Jakobsdottir, Horacio Perez, Christine van Winkle, Leisa Shelton, Diego Aparicio

Facilitated by Brett Pyper with Q&A with participants

13:00 – 14:00 Break

14:00 – 15:30 Working Groups: Towards a manifesto for festival-making in situations of conflict

Workshop: developing a festival along the 8 pillars of positive peace – Introduction of the 8 pillars of the Institute for Peace & Economics

Workshop leader: Lea Perekrests

Facilitated by Brett Pyper

Participants will be divided into working groups, each having the task of formulating 3-5 key arguments/reasons for why festivals matter in conflict situations. Each working group will make their arguments for different policy-makers/funders resident in conflict regions and will pitch their respective manifestos to these, role-played by mentors, the next day.

One group will pitch to a national government department in a country experiencing political conflict and violence; another to an international development donor advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, a third to a multinational company's marketing department and a fourth to a EUNIC institution (Goethe Institute, French Institute, etc).

15:30 - 16:00	Break	
16:00 - 17:30	Participants present their festivals/activities	
	Each day, participants will each have 5-7 minutes to introduce their festival to the group to facilitate potential networking and collaboration. These presentations should be as visual as possible.	
	Facilitated by Brett Pyper.	
17:30 – 18:00	Departure to Theatro Polis – Tempon Street, 12 (21 minutes' walk)	
18:15 – 19:30	Cultural programme: "Poetics of Space" (Greece – Die Wolke Art Group)	
19:30 – 20:15	Cultural programme: "As We Drove Short Short Horizon Lines" (France – Compagnie Inflexions)	
20:15 – 20:45	Snack break	
20:45 – 21:45	Cultural programme: "POLYDRAMA" (Cyprus – ody icons)	
21:45 – 23:00	Cultural programme: "[from west to east]" (Cyprus – Vasilikí Anastasiou and The Amalgamation Choir)	
23:00	Return / End of day programme	
DAY THREE: Sunday, 9 October		
08:45 – 09:00	Departure to Goethe-Institut Zypern – Markou Drakou, 21 (8 minutes' walk)	
9:00 - 11:00	Panel discussion: The arts and festivals as meaningful change-makers	
	Panellists from a variety of contexts will provide practical examples of failures and successes of the arts and/or arts festivals as contributors to progressive social transformation. What were the intentions of these pieces? How did they engage those active in conflict? What were concrete outcomes? What were failures? Why did they fail? This panel will provide the catalyst for participants to share their own experiences in this regard.	
	Speakers: Shahidul Alam, Ellada Evangelou, Lea Perekrests, Mira El Mawla, Nadia Sokolenko	
	Facilitated by Vigdis Jakobsdottir	
11:00- 11:30	Break	
11:30 - 13:00	 Roundtables: Participants will select one of four roundtables facilitated by a mentor to delve into festival-making in the context of particular forms of conflict. Facilitated by Horacio Pérez Festival-making/the arts in contexts of physical violence (armed conflict) Facilitated by Darya Bassel and Lea Perekrests Festival-making/the arts in contexts of ethnic/tribal divisions Facilitated by Thobile Maphanga and Vigdis Jakobsdottir Festival-making/the arts in contexts of political division or religious intolerance Facilitated by Brett Pyper and Shahidul Alam Festival-making/the arts in the context of patriarchy, gender-based violence, gender discrimination Facilitated by Mira El Mawla and Horacio Perez 	
	 Questions to consider: a. Could/should festivals take place in such contexts? b. What is/should/could be the role of festivals in those respective contexts? c. How are festivals impacted by these contexts? d. Are festivals the best forms of artistic intervention in such contexts? Why/why not? e. How can festival-making happen – and have an impact – in such contexts? f. If they are to take place, what form/s might they take? g. How can festivals be sustained in these contexts? 	

13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Plenary: Report-backs from the previous day's roundtables. Mentors/facilitators share key themes that emerged, followed by discussion
	Facilitated by Horacio Pérez and Vigdis Jakobsdottir
15:00 - 16:15	 Break + Cultural programme in two alternating groups: Installations at The Moat* 1. "STATE" (Cyprus – Melita Couta) 2. "KYΠ RIS" (Cyprus – Fatosh Olgacher)
	* This cultural programme is optional, as these installations stay at the Home For Cooperation – The Moat space from 15:00 – 22:00 and 15:00 – 21:00, respectively, and can be seen at different times by the participants.
16:15 – 17:15	Presentation of Festivals
	Facilitated by Brett Pyper
17:15 – 18:15	One-on-one sessions with mentors
18:15 – 19:00	Drinks with Buffer Fringe Festival curators
	Curators: Amy Gowen, Anamaria Cruz, Bryce Ives, Derya Ulubatlı, Jasmina Ibrahimovic, Kat Kats, Maria Varnakkidou, Nihal Soğancı, Raffi Feghali
	Facilitated by Ellada Evangelou
	* From 19:00 onward, dinner will be offered at a food truck in front of Home For Cooperation. Participants can grab their share at any time in the evening.
19:00 - 20:00	Cultural programme: "Where Words Become Music" (Netherlands – Martín Álvarez)
20:00 - 20:30	Karla Isadourou at the buffer zone (15 minutes)
20:30 - 22:00	Festival closing party
22:00	Return / End of day programme
DAY FOUR: Mor	nday, 10 October
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- 16:30 17:00 One-on-one sessions with mentors
- 17:00 17:15 Break
- 17:15 18:30 Panel discussion: Support mechanisms for festivals in contested spaces (pending)

Speakers: Colin Stewart – Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of UNFICYP and Deputy Special Adviser on Cyprus, Christian Grotnes Halvorsen – Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Athens, Home For Cooperation, United Nations Head in Cyprus, Dr. Gabriele Gauler-Director of Goethe Institut, **Xenios Symeonides and Maria Efstathiou** - Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre

Moderator: Brett Pyper

- 18:30 18:45 Break
- 19:00 20:30 Projection of film "Crossings" Buffer Fringe Festival 2021 & Q&A
 Speakers: Film Director Theodoris Scrivanos and Diomedes Koufteros
 Moderator: Film Scholar and former Curator from Cyprus Film Days Festival: Costas
 Constandinides
- 20:30 Dinner and Music Party
- 22:00 Return / End of day programme

DAY FIVE: Tuesday, 11 October

07:45 – 08:00 Departure to Home For Cooperation – Markou Drakou, 28 (9 minutes' walk)

- 08:00 08:15 Gathering at Home For Cooperation
- 08:15 10:00 Departure to Famagusta Castle Arcade/Mağusa Kale Pasajı Mehmet Ali, Görmüş Sk (90 minutes' by bus)
- **10:00 11:30** Plenary: Solidarity, solidarity fatigue and networking

Panel conversation with local artists and community.

Those living and working in conflict situations often rely on the solidarity of individuals, organisations and agencies in more resourced regions, often liberal democracies. But this itself places such actors in danger sometimes with repressive regimes labelling them foreign agents intent on regime change.

There are also so many issues and areas in need globally that even ardent allies may suffer from solidarity fatigue.

How do we build solidarity and networks? What are the pitfalls and challenges? How do we sustain them?

Speakers: Brett Pyper, Horacio Perez, Hooman Nassimi, Mira El Mawla + local artists

Facilitated by Vigdis Jakobsdottir

- 11:30 13:00 Q&A with local artistic community and organisers
- 13:00 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 14:15 Departure to Varoshia gates Kemal Server Cd (8 minutes' by bus)
- 14:15 16:30 Free afternoon
- 16:30 Re-gathering at Varoshia gates Kemal Server Cd
- 16:30 18:30 Buffer Fringe Festival 2021 Guided Walk in Varoshia with Giulia Landolina and Nurtane Karagil
- 18:30 19:00 Departure to restaurant
- 19:00 20:15 Dinner
- **20:15** Return to **Home For Cooperation** (90 minutes' by bus)
- 21:45 Return / End of day programme

DAY SIX: Wed	DAY SIX: Wednesday, 12 October		
08:45 - 09:00	Departure to Home For Cooperation – Markou Drakou, 28 (9 minutes' walk)		
09:00 - 11:00	Introductions to the Festival Academy's Toolkits and discussions around their themes, particularly as they apply to conflict situations - Facilitated by Brett Pyper		
	Each roundtable will last for one hour. Participants may choose two roundtables.		
	 Models for Curating and Programming Festivals Facilitated by Horacio Pérez Climate Change and its meaning for festivals Facilitated by Vigdis Jakobsdottir Digital Technology and Festivals Facilitated by Mira El Mawla Sustainable business models and practices for Festivals Facilitated by Darya Bassel Caring for Artists and Technical Crew Facilitated by Thobile Maphanga Audience Development and Retention Facilitated by Brett Pyper 		
11:00 - 11:30	Break		
11:30 - 13:00	Plenary: Role-plays with presentations made by working groups. Followed by discussion.		
	Facilitated by Brett Pyper.		
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 - 15:30	Time for personal reflection, and one-on-ones with fellow participants.		
	This session is for each participant to reflect on the learnings of the last week, to connect with participants with whom they would like to engage further and to think about further themes to discuss in the Open Space session.		
15:30 - 17:00	Open Space: Plenary on solidarity		
	Participants propose themes for discussion: new themes that have not been addressed, or themes already raised that need amplification.		
	Moderator: Horacio Pérez		
17:00 - 18:30	One-on-one with mentors		
18:30 - 20:00	Dinner		
20:00	Return / End of day programme		
	hursday, 13 October		
09:30 - 10:00	Departure to Theatro Polis – Tempon Street, 12 (14 minutes' walk)		
10:00 - 13:00	Closing Plenary		
	Facilitated by Horacio Pérez and Vigdis Jakobsdottir		
	Each participants shares:		
	 Key learnings, takeaways from the Atelier What each most needs going forward; what each can offer 		
	 Atelier Nicosia: The good, the enjoyable and the not-so-great 		
	Participants complete Evaluation Forms.		

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

ATELIER NICOSIA

Organiser

The Festival Academy believes festivals are bridging platforms with a direct link to people and civil society structures. We believe a critical reflection between artists, arts and cultural managers worldwide and cross-sectoral stakeholders can bring about positive change, informed awareness, ideas and proposals for actions through personal human relations and based on knowing, respecting and tolerating different value and belief systems. We are a global community of 1100 festival managers from 95+ countries today.

The Festival Academy receives a grant of **Open Society Foundations** for 2020-2022.

If you wish to strengthen our global inclusive conversation and support young festival managers and our international activities, click here.

Organising partners

The Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival (BFPAF) is a space of encounter for artists and audiences, aiming to support local and international inter-disciplinary, fringe performance art. The 2019-21 editions were based on the theme of Displacement and engaged with preconceived ideas of the "other" through that lens. It also inaugurated new curatorial practices to better work with artists and communities across the island and internationally, through the challenging times of the pandemic, but also to continue to propose new narratives to the frozen conflict on the island. The Festival plans to further explore those practices in its 2022 edition.

The Home for Cooperation is a unique community centre located in the heart of Nicosia. It is the embodiment of intercommunal cooperation, contributing to the collective efforts of civil society in their engagement with peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue. Using its sources, it encourages people to cooperate with each other beyond constraints and dividing lines.

The Home for Cooperation essentially aims to act as a bridgebuilder between separated communities, memories, and visions

Atelier Nicosia 2022 is supported by Goethe-Institut Cyprus.

The Festival Academy's initiator, European Festivals Association

The Festival Academy is an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA) which unites distinguished music, dance, theatre and multidisciplinary arts festivals from Europe and beyond since 1952. It connects about 100 festivals and festival associations in 40 countries. EFA's activities are implemented with the support of the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

With the support of Open Society Foundations

Thanks to the support of the **Open Society Foundations**, The Festival Academy is able to further extend its activities geographically as well as its global community of festival makers. More people worldwide will have the chance to participate in its programmes and will become part of its growing community.





















Supporting partners

These partners of The Festival Academy support participants for the Atelier Nicosia:

Up to 2 participants per Atelier receive support from Creative Europe through the European Festivals Association's project Revealing the Alliance - Step 1 2 3. This is the new Creative Europe Network programme of the European Festivals Association (EFA) that runs from 2022 till 2024. Revealing the Alliance aims to initiate, consolidate and disseminate a trans-sectorial and interactive European Festivals Alliance by, for and through festivals. Building on EFA's work in the past seventy years in 2022, the project offers a platform for festivals' development and interaction with cities and businesses to implement the European Festivals Alliance 70-Years-On Agenda

Dutch festival managers are encouraged to apply to Ateliers and may have their applications recommended for support from the Dutch Performing Arts Fund, which supports Dutch theatre, music, and dance abroad. The Performing Arts Fund NL is the national fund for professional music, theatre, dance and festivals in the Netherlands. For organisations based outside the Netherlands we offer a number of grants.

The Performing Arts Social Fund -Social Fund Podiumkunsten is the skills and development organization of the professional performing arts and music sector in the Flemish Community, joint committee 304. We want everyone involved in the performing arts and music sector to be able to build a high-quality career. To achieve this, we strengthen organizations in their role as employers and offer development opportunities to those who wish to work in, are working in or have worked in this sector. In doing so, we pay particular attention to groups who get fewer opportunities in the labor market.

The Creative Industries Fund invests in Nova Scotia registered cultural businesses that are focused on global and supports not-for-profits exporting and social enterprises focused on development of the culture sector outside of Nova Scotia.

The Canada Council for the Arts contributes to the vibrancy of a creative and diverse arts and literary scene and supports its presence across Canada and around the world. The Council is Canada's public arts funder, with a mandate to "foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts." The Council's grants, services, initiatives, prizes, and payments support Canadian artists, authors, and arts groups and organizations. This support allows them to pursue artistic expression, create works of art, and promote and disseminate the arts and literature. Through its arts funding, communications, research, and promotion activities, the Council fosters evergrowing engagement of Canadians and international audiences in the arts.



dutch performing arte

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for the Arts



Canada Council Conseil des arts du Canada