

20 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 - MARDIN, TURKEY

Festival Visit Flying Carpet Festival

Open Call for Alumni of The Festival Academy

Deadline to register: 09/06/2024

“FLYING CARPET IS A SOURCE OF BUOYANT ENERGY AND LIGHT IN A WORLD HEAVING WITH TRAGEDY, DESTRUCTION AND LOSS. WHAT A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE FLYING CARPET SETS FOR ALL THOSE IN SEARCH OF A COUNTERBALANCE TO HOPELESSNESS. LONG LIVE FLYING CARPET!”

– David Harrington, violinist and founder of Kronos Quartet

Flying Carpet Children Festival is the first mobile festival for children living in difficult places and in conflict zones. The festival takes place in the Turkish-Syrian border, where many refugee children live, and it’s run by a volunteer-based collective of world-class musicians, performers, circus artists, visual artists, designers and visionaries who believe in the power of music and arts as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of children in war-afflicted regions. The festival visit will offer an immersive and meaningful experience, engaging with the artists, the team, and the local community of the festival, while studying and understanding firsthand the power and impact of festivals in extremely challenging contexts and how to bring back and apply the learnings of the experience to different contexts and communities.

Festival Visit meets Flying Carpet Festival

The Flying Carpet Festival and The Festival Academy invite Alumni to be part of the group that will come together for 10 days (20-30 September 2024) to study in depth the Flying Carpet Festival, in southeast Turkey.

This ‘Festival Visit’ follows the experience in Giortes Rokka (Crete, Greece) and in ROTA Festival and & AADK (Blanca, Spain), about which you can read more about [here](#) and [here](#), that aims to bring together, strengthen, and empower the community of alumni of The Festival Academy, to use festivals as catalysts for social change while studying the transformative power of festivals in caring for and revitalizing communities.

The Flying Carpet Children Festival is an intensive learning platform for artists and vulnerable children alike to create a harmonious experience through music, circus, dance, light, beauty and truth. The festival is organized specializing in forward-thinking design, music and art dedicated towards educating children who need it most. The festival selects artists, musicians and visionaries from all over the world with the common goal of creating the best possible educational experience for vulnerable children traumatized by war and conflict.

The festival headquarters are located in Mardin, where all the artists and staff are staying collectively. Throughout the festival, every day we will travel to different cities and village in the region, where the performances and the workshops take place engaging and inspiring children and local communities.

[**Register here!**](#)

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Topics to explore and research during the visit

- Impact of art and festivals on refugees and children
- Art as an educational tool
- Building democracy thought art
- Addressing fear narratives and trauma thought art
- Working, creating, and producing art in difficult circumstances
- Festivals and accessibility
- Models of community development
- Strategies for revitalizing socially and economically challenged regions
- Proving a caring and nurturing environment for dialogue and for reshaping society

- Addressing similar challenges and explore solutions for remote areas and cities
- International exchange as a revitalizing method
- Engagement with local communities
- Creating spaces of belonging
- The relevance of ‘common spaces’
- Strengthening international relations between regions facing similar challenges
- Festivals as platforms to advocate for social justice

About Flying Carpet Festival

The Flying Carpet Children Festival is a learning platform for artists and children, alike, to create a harmonious experience through music, light, beauty, and truth.

Cultural and artistic opportunities in modern societies form a large portion of social activities and are available to the citizens of those countries on a massive scale. However, the problems that such societies are mostly suffering from on a global scale such as terrorism, violence and delinquencies come from societies where cultural opportunities and exposure to beauty is rare to non-existent. Therefore, it is necessary for more privileged communities to invest in the cultural activities of deprived societies in order to educate and generate productive members for the world.

Children are the future of every community and by investing in their education and in their access to beauty and light, we are moving towards a brighter future on a global scale. The carpet of the festival, as a portable platform, flies to the most disadvantaged regions of the world in order to engage and connect with the most disadvantaged youth of every community. The festival engages them in artistic process, which functions as spiritual healing for those who have experienced darkness and horrendous incidents and are dealing with unimaginable challenges in life.



Every year, the Flying Carpet Children Festival creates a cultural experience consisting of various workshops and performances through the festival week for the most in need. The festival gathers and hosts around 30-40 composers, performers, circus artists, dancers, multidisciplinary artists and designers in order to create the most magical experience possible through a two-week residency in the city of Mardin. The collective performs in cities and remote villages in southeast Turkey, where cultural and educational opportunities for children are scarce.

The artists are curated and chosen by festival founder Sahba Aminikia and Sirkhane founder, Pinar Demiral, through an open call on social media and on various websites. The festival lasts 10 days, holding workshops and the most innovative educational experiences, incorporating technology, art, music and circus. After artists' arrival, they are paired and assigned to one another and to local child artists in order to form artistic collaborations and enrich their performances and their art. The performances are put into a unified context through storytelling techniques and will be taken to remote locations as one unified production.

The project is implemented by Sirkhane Social Circus School, a collective that helps restore confidence in refugee youth by teaching circus tricks in Mardin. Their mission is to provide safe, friendly and embracing environment for children, who are effected by conflicts. Replace their damaged childhood with happiness and enrich the children's imagination with colors of social circus pedagogy.

Sirkhane Social Circus School is carrying out activities in Turkey and Iraq. Children have opportunities to collaborate and form friendships with each other, beyond gender, social and cultural differences. In doing so, they manifest peace, harmony, open mindedness and cheerfulness in their local and global communities. Laughter is childhood, laughter is happiness.



Festival Visit programme

The programme of the festival has not yet been published. You can find information about last year’s festival artists [here](#).

The festival will take place from 20-30 September, and it’s essential to stay for the entire duration as participation is a collective process.

Arrival date is 19 September and departure date is 1 October. Transportation will be arranged from the nearest airport, Prof. Dr. Aziz SANCAR Airport (MQM).



BERNA KÜPELİ

Registration and conditions

The festival visit is open to 10 Alumni of The Festival Academy community. Members of our Alumni community are the ones who have participated in at least one of our training programmes in the past. If you are interested, apply soonest as places are limited.

The Flying Carpet has initiated a fundraising campaign to collect funds for the 2024 festival edition. Please consider supporting the project run by volunteers [here](#). All your donations will be tax-deductible.

What is offered:

- A meaningful, impactful and transformative festival experience
- In depth exchange with the collective who run the festival on their artistic and social vision, education project, and work processes the why and how of the festival, exchanges with the villagers, the local community, immersion in the surrounding landscapes.
- In depth exchange with the artists and musicians of the festival, witnessing their creative and creation processes
- Connection and networking with Alumni of The Festival Academy and reflection amongst an international crowd of the festival.
- Accommodation for 12 nights in shared double rooms (check-in 19 September, check-out 1 October 2024)
- Meals
- Local transport

What is not included:

- National or international travel costs
- Visa costs
- Insurance

How to register:

Fill it in the [registration form](#), explaining your expectations and motivations to take part of the Festival Visit – Flying Carpet Festival 2024.

[Register here!](#)

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