



LLAT [Let's Let Artists Talk]

The organization / network / individual applying:	Studio Madane
Title of intervention:	Let's Let Artists Talk
Time of intervention (start-end):	-
Geographical area of the intervention:	Beirut, Lebanon
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Project Research Question

Can mobilizing the artists and craftspeople residing in Lebanon achieve needs-based policies that recover their respective syndicates, their 'microeconomies', and consequently parts of the Lebanese identity?

Narrative

Artists, craftspeople, and laborers are a community of workers that consume a significant 20% of civil society [ILO, 2022]. They are very essential historical components in the Lebanese identity, and over time, they have been involved in decision making and shape shifting the economy. Today, it is a space in civil society that is diminishing. They are separated from decision-making, and struggling to make ends meet. The government has been imposing illogical laws and regulations that hinder their productivity and suppress the emergence of new makers [NAHNOO, 2022]. These challenges disintegrate the community and are further pushing Lebanon in losing its history and identity.

Artists and craftspeople have the right to political participation, especially through unions, but even moreso, and contrary to stereotype, they can be direct contributors to reform. Given that artists and craftspeople in Lebanon can reauthorize their socioeconomic and political significance in the country and region, their communities' fruition could recover their enterprises, slowly mend the economy, and most importantly, build new policies that purify the corruption that is predominant in their respective syndicates.

If mobilized, they have the capacity to address the needs and issues that have accumulated due to informalities from the state. They can hold the right people accountable. This project aims to mobilize this community, tap into their potential to push for their political participation, and reauthorize their socioeconomic and political significance in the country. Their struggles and needs are directly equivalent to those of all civilians.

Bibliography

- *Lebanon follow-up Labour Force Survey January 2022 fact sheet - ilo.org.* (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_844837.pdf
- *NAHNOO is a research, capacity building and advocacy platform for participatory public policy-making, working towards an inclusive society in Lebanon.* Nahnoo. (2022, January 2). Retrieved from <https://nahnoo.org/>

- *Craftsmanship thrives in Lebanon despite scanty backing*. KUNA. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3028953&language=en>
- *Build back better*. Build Back Better | British Council. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.britishcouncil.org.lb/en/en/programmes/arts/building-back-better>

LLAT's Goals

- Mobilize artists, craftspeople, and relevant laborers by creating a chain of public communal discussions, called "functions," that gather listeners, experts, and stakeholders.
- Employ the rights-based approach in the Functions [commence with conversations about existing laws and policies, privileges, and restrictions in their sector].
- Eliminate information asymmetry and increase awareness by including all material in a visual presentation that will be taken around for every function, to set the ground for the discussion that follows, and also be dispersed amongst the community.
- Extract policy and reforms that are contextually driven and field-specific that aim to foster an ecosystem of artists and laborers within civil society that recreates the relations within the community and builds awareness of their labor and economic rights.
- Pressure the syndicate of artists and the syndicate of laborers to apply policies that were developed collectively in the Functions.
- Identify and prioritize community issues.
- Empower and include marginalized artists and craftspeople such as refugees in the fields, artists of minority ethnicities, socially ostracized laborers, LGBTQQIA+, disabled, and neuro-diverse artists.
- Assign permanent focus groups extracted from each function creating a sense of accountability amongst all stakeholders and consequentially, transparency in the mode of work.

Studio Madane's Goals

- Involving the Lebanese youth in tangible reform and the hands-on assessment of sectors/ causes/ sites/ issues that are under-maintained and/ or neglected by the corrupt ruling class
- Coining a new practice-based and result-oriented working methodology in sociopolitics that achieves long-term contextual needs
- Addressing taboos in socio-political behaviors with analytical intentions: documenting the givens and outlining realizations
- Emphasizing, to the Lebanese population, the qualifications, merit, and vision of the progressive alternative that the youth has to offer in substitution to the corrupt ruling class
- Allowing public accessibility to recent and reliable quantitative and qualitative studies of areas, systems, and sectors.
- Creating relevant job opportunities for the youth that achieve both personal earnings and development of the surrounding.