

KULTURA NOVA FOUNDATION

What we do

Foundation's purpose is the promotion and development of civil society in the Republic of Croatia in the fields of contemporary arts and culture.

Kultura Nova Foundation is the result of years of successful cooperation between a number of civil society organizations and initiatives that advocated the establishment of an independent foundation dedicated to civil sector in culture.

The initiative was recognized and supported by the Croatian Government and the Ministry of Culture that continue to support further development of the Foundation. Kultura Nova is not a competing or substitute source of financing for the existing institutions on national or subnational levels, which continue to secure funding for cultural programs in the civil sector, instead it aims to serve as an additional measure within the system of financing culture that will contribute to the stabilization and development of civil society organizations in the fields of contemporary arts and culture. Within the framework of the Croatian model of cultural policy, Kultura Nova oses an important example as an autonomous body responsible for providing professional and financial support to culture's civil sector. It is the first such institution in the sector of culture founded by the state. By establishing Kultura Nova Foundation, Croatia made a significant step forward towards the practice of those European countries that employ different mechanisms with the aim of further developing and improving the system of financing the arts and culture.

Kultura Nova was founded by the Republic of Croatia in a special act adopted by the Croatian Parliament on July 15, 2011 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 90/11) as a foundation whose core purpose is the promotion and development of civil society in the Republic of Croatia in the fields of contemporary arts and culture.

Kultura Nova provides professional and financial support to programmes developed by organizations of civil society in culture that: support the development of programme implementers' production and organizational capacities; increase the level of professional activities through informal education and professional training; support cooperation between sectors; work to improve programme networking and cooperation on national, regional and international levels; promote creativity and cultural activism of the youth; support other programmes directed at the realization of the foundation's objectives. Kultura Nova also implements its own programmes in the above mentioned areas.

Kultura Nova is funded from the portion of profits made on games of chance and promotional award games in accordance with the Law on Conducting Games of Chance and the Regulation on the Criteria of Selecting Beneficiaries and Modes of Distributing the Portion of the Profits Made on Games of Chance as well as from its core assets, income made from core assets and other incomes in accordance with the law.

The decision passed by the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia on November 25, 2011, allowed for the registration of Kultura Nova Foundation in the Official Register of Foundations, Foundation Book No. I, File No. 180.

The decision passed by the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia on February 27, 2012, approved the adoption of the Statute of Kultura Nova Foundation.

History

The establishment of Kultura Nova Foundation marks one of the most significant steps forward in cultural policy in the period of past ten years in Croatia.

Kultura Nova Foundation was founded as an answer to the existing situation within the system of culture with the aim of ensuring an efficient measure that would allow for the improvement and further development of the position of civil sector in culture.

In the period of the past fifteen years, civil society organizations active in the fields of contemporary arts and culture have played an important part in the cultural system of the Republic of Croatia. In their work they promoted contemporary artistic cultural and practice mostly unknown to the Croatian public. By encouraging interaction between various artistic, cultural, technological, political and social fields, they made a considerable contribution to the development of contemporary culture and the society on the whole. Such self-established organizations created a new space for social engagement, contributed to a greater intensity of intersectoral collaboration, and developed new models of networking. Besides their activities in Croatia, many organizations cooperated with different international institutions, and the number and diversity of such organizations helped place the sector of Croatian civil culture among the more developed in Europe. Their accomplishments and expansion were recognized on the international cultural level in the form of financial support from different foreign institutions and foundations, which was particularly important in the 1990s when the support from national and local governments was mostly inadequate.

With the beginning of the new millennium, certain steps that would have a positive impact on the development of this cultural field were made, however, these changes were not sufficient to secure the field's sustainability. With the passing of the Law on Councils of Culture (2001), the Ministry of Culture founded the Council of Media Culture (the Council of New Media

Culture from 2004 to 2013; the Council for Innovative Artistic and Cultural practices since 2013), which began financing programs of culture's civil sector through the system of public needs in culture. The establishment of such committees, and, subsequently, councils on local levels, granted the organizations of civil society active in culture access to national as well as subnational sources of funding for their programmes. However, the changes in the general model of financing did not follow such opening of the cultural system and thus the model still cannot support self-established collectives in the civil sector nor provide answers to their needs in the same way it caters to public institutions in culture, which receive financial support for their operative costs and programmes on a yearly basis.

Not dealing with the systemic problems of the sector of civil culture (insufficient financing of programmes, the lack of adequate space for work, the non-existence of cyclical financing extending over several years, etc.), the lack of reforms in the public system and cultural system on the whole, as well as the ongoing crisis that is cause to cuts in the budgets for culture, became a key obstacle to the stabilization and further development of the organizations of civil society in the fields of contemporary arts and culture.

The reform of the cultural system requires a serious analytical backing, well-developed steps, principles and standards of implementation, as well as the methodology that would allow for a high degree of participation and inclusion of a wider specter of interested partakers in the process. Taking into consideration that the implementation of such all-encompassing, efficient and transparent transformation of the system understands a process that would take a number of years to implement, it was necessary to ensure efficient measures within the existing cultural model, i.e. system of financing, that would allow for the improvement of the position of the civil sector in culture as well as its further development and professionalization.

Due to the said situation, in 2004, a number of civil society organizations active in the fields of contemporary arts and culture began advocating the establishing of a separate foundation for the sector of civil culture that would serve as an additional source of funding within the financing system for culture. On several occasions, the reasons for establishing such foundation were presented and discussed at numerous public events (conferences, seminars, public debates, round tables, etc.). With the support of the Council of New Media Culture, the idea of a new foundation was presented to the Ministry of Culture, which, after careful consideration, instituted a working group responsible for developing a Draft of the Proposal of the Law on Kultura Nova Foundation. The founding of a special foundation for civil sector in culture was anticipated in the National Program for the Youth for 2009 – 2013 Period.

The process of founding Kultura Nova, extending over several years, included representatives of civil society organizations, different state administration bodies, public government bodies and experts, and its purpose, activities, core assets, financing, as well as other regulations concerning the foundation's activities are defined by the Law on Kultura Nova Foundation which was adopted by the Croatian Parliament in 2011 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 90/11). The establishment of Kultura Nova Foundation, as a new source of financial support for the organizations of civil society in the fields of contemporary arts and

culture, marks one of the most significant steps forward in cultural policy in the period of past ten years or so.

Structure

The managing Board works closely with the management in overseeing how to achieve Foundation's goals.

- [Managing Board](#)
- [Director](#)
- [Administrative service](#)

The managing Board and the Director are the managing bodies of the Kultura Nova Foundation and the work is organized within the framework of the administrative service that is coordinated by the Director.

The Foundation also appoints supporting bodies, such as the Committee for the evaluation of the quality of the applications received through the Foundation's public calls and other constant and/or temporary supporting bodies and working groups for implementing activities within the Foundation's work scope, that are established by a decision of the Managing Board, and if they pertain to operational activities, they can be established by the Director. Besides that, the Foundation is developing a rich network of external experts whom which it cooperates on the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the Support Programme and on the conception and realization of different development programmes and projects within the framework of its operational functioning.

