

# SPACE FOR PARTICIPATORY ART PRODUCTION

ARTSOCIALSPACES, BRUNNENPASSAGE,  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA



## CATEGORIES

- S** Community spaces where diverse people meet
- A** Connecting activities & community events

## PRESENTER

Anne Wiederhold-Daryanavard, Künstlerische Leitung

## DESCRIPTION

Art Impacts provides space for participatory artistic activities, strategically located next to a highly frequented market area to attract diverse participants and spectators. The project focuses on artistic production in transdisciplinary collective spaces that enable social cohesion as well as an authentic and self-determined coexistence of people with different biographical contexts. Here, art works as a catalyst; these new incubator spaces are meant to contribute to the tackling of core societal challenges such as inequalities, migration, climate change, social justice, conflict, and violence.

## MOTIVATION

- Social activation through the arts, building a relationship with diverse communities and creating common / shared spaces
- Democratizing art and production processes
- New narratives and discourse apart from heteronormative, western modes of representation  
Encounter at eye level and strengthening social cohesion
- Best practice examples for generating social capital for local citizens
- Foster civic engagement; reflecting social realities on diverse levels of artistic production
- Experimenting in the field of art with approaches, methods, and thematic spotlights which are highly important in way more fields of current political questions in society
- Resources and framework for an in-depth local as well as European-wide collaboration, including a profound knowledge transfer between cultural players

- Sharing of methodologies with artists, curators, cultural players, grassroots and established institutions -> especially with policy makers: in order to demonstrate possibilities for transformation
- By entering three-year partnerships between Brunnenpassage and established cultural institutions in the first district of Vienna, participation, and redistribution beyond the immediate local level are made possible
- Connecting these new collective spaces with established institutions, currently among others: Weltmuseum Wien, Burgtheater Wien, Wiener Konzerthaus

## PROBLEM ADDRESSED

---

How can cities develop artistic practices and formats that foster an art production which allows broad perspectives and thus lives up to the social plurality of society? How can participative/co-creative/transcultural art production and cultural work influence the dominant cultural institutions?

## MORE DETAILS

---

Since 2007, Brunnenpassage ArtSocialSpace operates as a laboratory and space for the practice of transcultural and participatory art processes. The space offers alternative ways for art reception and production investigating methodologies for participation/co-creation and access to contemporary art to all population groups. Transcultural encounters are recognized as the driving force towards a shift in perspectives regarding dominant aesthetics as well as cultural policies. It is a space for research and implementation with an intersectional approach.

The space is strategically located in the 16th district, at Brunnenmarkt in Vienna, a street market area characterized by a high percentage of socially marginalized residents and individuals with migration experience (1st, 2nd, 3rd generation). Aware of the asymmetries in society (and the cultural landscape), Brunnenpassage actively reaches out to diverse audiences, offering spaces for informal learning and possibilities for encounter. New artistic models are developed and reflected regarding their quality and prospects for participation. The overall concept is specifically designed to foster an art practice that challenges the status quo and allows for post-migrant positions and complex perspectives, thus lives up to the social plurality of society.

## OUTCOMES

---

In accordance with SDG 4.7. (targeted at the contribution of culture and the arts for a sustainable development) the work of these new spaces through the building of strategic partnerships also aims to induce sustainable changes by opening processes for target groups, artists, and programs of established cultural institutions.

400 events and 25.000-27.000 visitors each year, most of them active participants.

Staff: 12 people and a group of 35 active volunteers. They are all united by their common interest in transcultural art practices and their personal experiences with the post-migrant living reality.

Since there is a high demand for decentralised art and social space throughout Vienna, Brunnenpassage implements an increasing number of projects in other districts like in Brigittenau and Simmering (currently "Stadtlabor" in collaboration with Wiener Konzerthaus)

Upon request by the city of Vienna, a new ArtSocialSpace similar to Brunnenpassage called "Stand 129" was founded by Caritas in 2013 at Viktor-Adler-Markt. Formats for this location are being designed under an independent artistic direction. Further venues are being planned.

## LESSONS LEARNED

---

It is beneficial to secure the basic financing through cultural policy or the urban development department at the inception of a new ArtSocialSpace location. Financing of joint productions and of a possible financial redistribution with so-called high art institutions has not yet been sufficiently clarified. In our book „Art Practices in the Migration Society – Transcultural Strategies in Action at Brunnenpassage in Vienna“ we published eight different projects with lessons learned.