

10TH EDITION



SINCE 2014



ONE CAUCASUS

24-27
08/2023

ONE CAUCASUS FESTIVAL & Program

2

“

Everything here is like the song “Imagine” by John Lennon.
All the words of his song are about this place”

Erik Khanoyan -the guitarist from the Armenian band The Clocker as told to the Azerbaijani online TV, Abzas.net. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan suffer from a war that divides both nations.



“

We do not just spread some peace slogans from the stage, we put different people with different values in a common space... That is the exact idea of the festival!”

Elene Babakishvili,
One of the One Caucasus co-founders



ONE CAUCASUS

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One Caucasus is an interdisciplinary annual festival and a long-term borderland program organized in Georgia (Eurasia) since 2014 in a region of Kvemo Kartli at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It is an Inspirational & safe space to foster meetings and collaboration of people from the entire Caucasus region and rest of the world.



TSERAKVI



9 YEARS of the FESTIVAL – in 2 PARAGRAPHS

In the beginning of every August we go to Tserakvi - “the home of One Caucasus’ to start a 3 week pre-festival program. International volunteers from all around the globe arrive to prepare for the festival. They merge into specific teams to accomplish all the tasks required to put on the festival. Musicians coming from Caucasus and beyond gather not just to present their own music but to co-create inter-genre cross national music projects and to lead workshops. The multifunctional One Caucasus Town is created by volunteers, it is designed and built by architects and students of architecture from around the world. This festival space is also known as the “Not-Perfect Town of Our Dreams” and it changes for every edition.

We run interdisciplinary workshops with local citizens (especially youth) who are co-creators of films, animations, exhibitions, and art installations that are all presented also during the festival. Prior festivals also lead to the restoration of the public school building in Tserakvi (our headquarters), repair of some of the roads in the area. The Festival also leads to the implementation of the first participatory budget in the Caucasus. Now One Caucasus architects will contribute to the public space planning in 3 villages in Marneuli. The festival is accessible for all people with its free admission, free living zone and free transport policies.

More than **420** volunteers from **40** countries working in dozens of international task teams,

558 international musicians / **86** bands & collectives from at least **21** countries created **48** new international music projects.

We made **105** workshop cycles organized by **190+** educators for more than **1580** participants coming from at least **28** villages of Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Greek and Armenian-Azerbaijani (mixed) ethnicity.

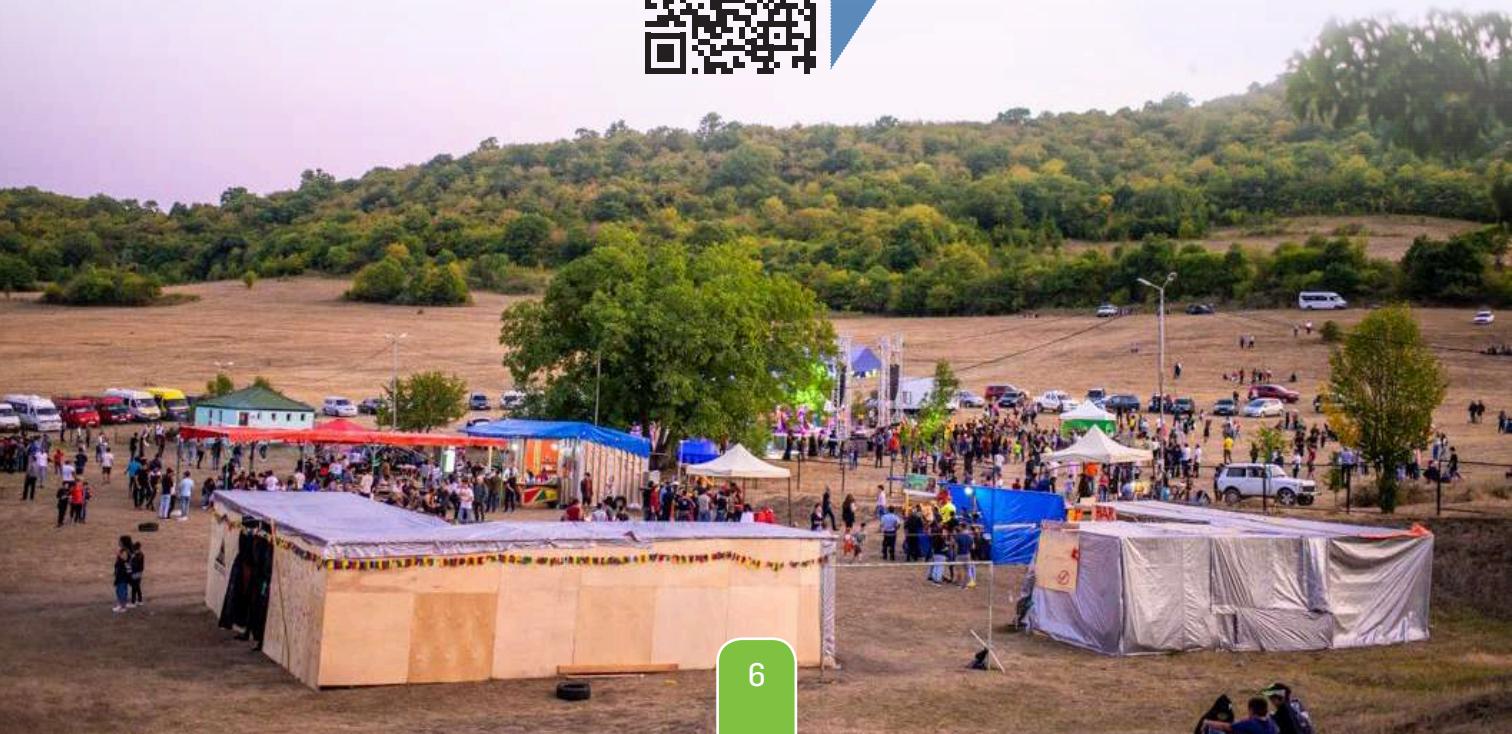
WHY DID WE CHOOSE TSERAKVI TO ORGANIZE ONE CAUCASUS FESTIVAL?

Kvemo-Kartli is a borderland region of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and is known for being a place where diverse ethnic and religious groups have been living in peace for many years. It is quite unique for the Caucasus which continues to suffer from a range of conflicts and tensions. In this specific area multinational groups of Georgians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis and others have coexisted for centuries.

Watch the story about Tserakvi -
told by its youngest residents



<https://youtu.be/00J0BLJgFNc>



WHAT MAKES ONE CAUCASUS FESTIVAL UNIQUE?



In contrast to many festivals organized
across Western world –
We implemented a still revolutionary
approach to the co-creation!



FESTIVAL of THE NEXT- GENERATION

FESTIVAL of THE NEXT GENERATION

WE ARE NOT JUST **PRESENTING ART**, WE ARE **CREATING IT!**
WHAT ELSE ARE WE DOING ?

- **Blending disciplines** which are normally not blended
- **Creating music projects** by bringing together musicians coming from a variety of countries and who represent different genres;
- **Building the One Caucasus Town** that is unique every year; The town is designed and constructed by architects and students of architecture from around the world;
- **Running educational programs** which make local kids co-creators of new movies, animations and other art pieces which are then presented to the festival audiences.



JOINT INTERNATIONAL MUSIC PROJECTS
RECIPE FOR EXTRAORDINARY, MULTICULTURAL, INTER-GENRE MEAL



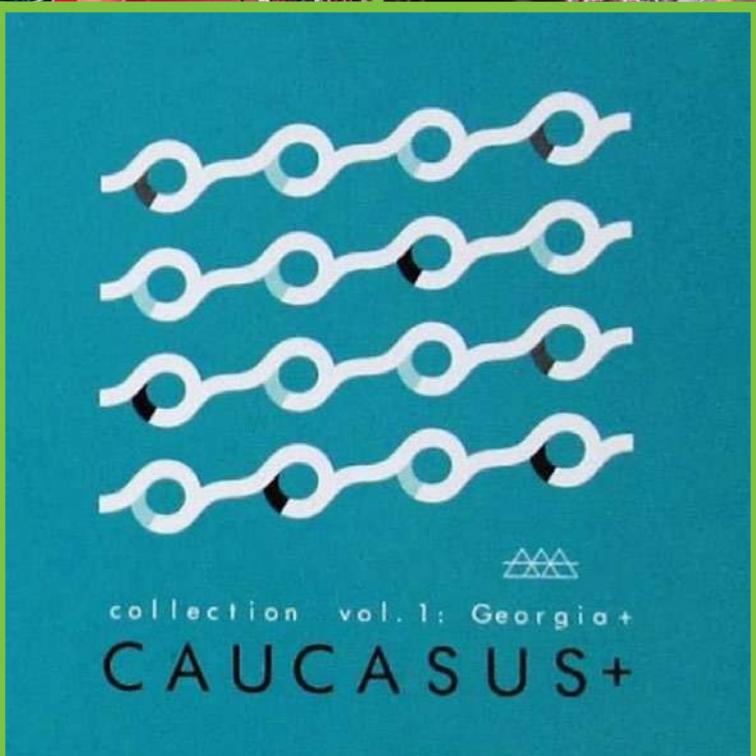


One Caucasus brings musicians to the Festival not just to present their own music to the audiences but to work together with other musicians who come from other countries and who represent other genres. You will find fusions of all types of sounds and musical styles: traditional Georgian polyphonic music, Armenian punk-rock, Jamaican gospel, Azerbaijani mugham, American modern jazz, French afro-blues, Nigerian reggae, Senegalese funk, Polish hip-hop, Ukrainian ethnic-ska and many more! Musicians are teamed up for joint rehearsals and for concerts. These rehearsals lead to exciting new projects which are presented for the very first time to the One Caucasus audience on the main stage.

Creating music projects

So far **505** musicians and dancers from **75** bands and ensembles have co-created **37** new international music projects during the 8 years of the festival.





In 2015 "Caucasus+.
Collection volume #1:
Georgia+" was published.
Each of 10 music tracks is the result of
the joint work of top Georgian musicians
collaborating with artists *from Poland, UK/
Jamaica, USA, Senegal and Nigeria.*

Building the One Caucasus Town

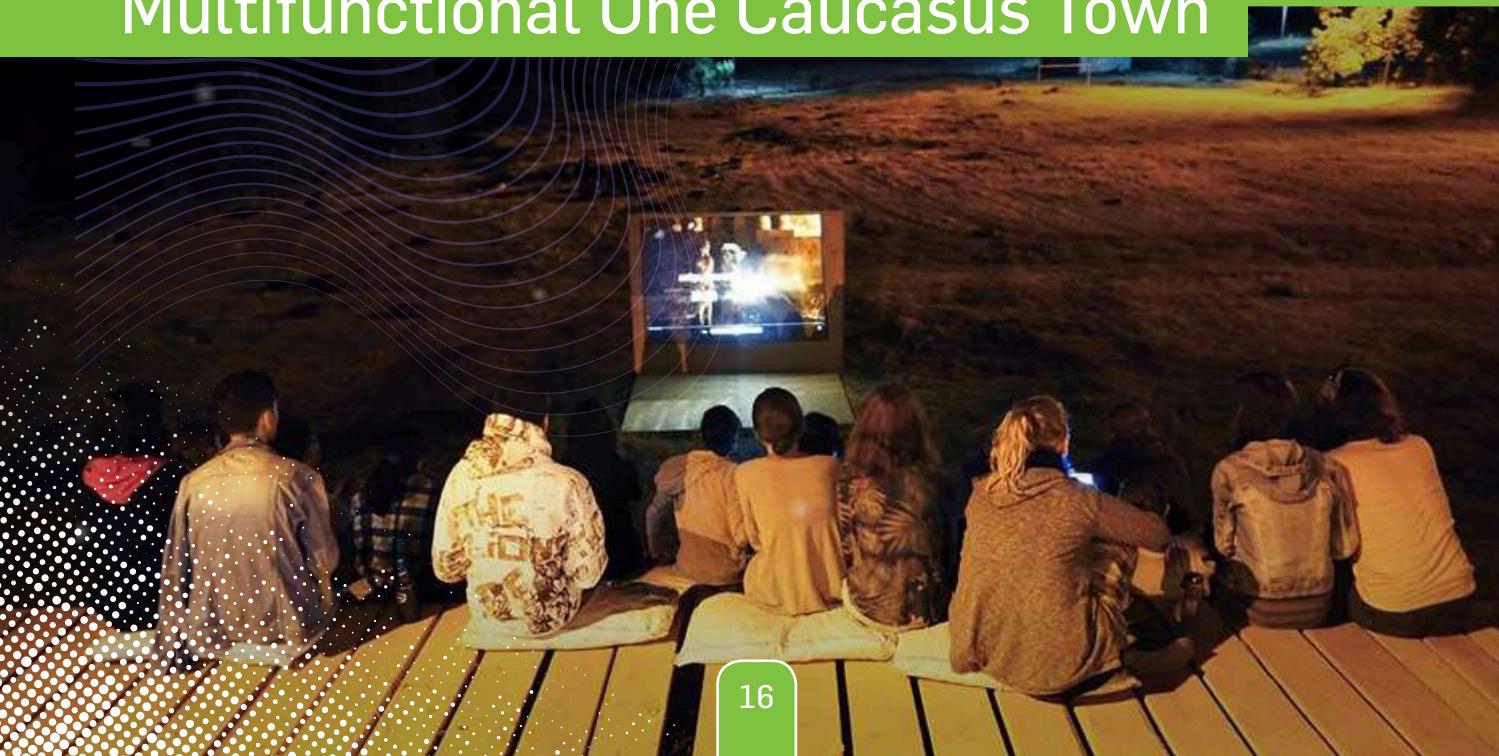


The One Caucasus Town is a unique type of festival venue co-created by architects, designers and visual artists from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Poland & other countries working together alongside local residents.

Known as the "Not Perfect Town of Our Dreams" the festival is packed with programs of various interdisciplinary activities that occur in a space with informal cinemas, kids zones, bazaars, info-point, camping area, and more.



Multifunctional One Caucasus Town



For most of our **PARTICIPANTS** it is the **FIRST SUCH EXPERIENCE** in **THEIR LIFE!**



“A strong group of kids is always ready for their next movie. Each has found their role in the team. No one questions the attribution of the director function to Nata, a creative 10-year-old girl, and no one dares to dismiss Levon, a 13-year-old boy, from his camera-operator function.”

Lude Reno, OC Workshop Team Coordinator / Filmmaker

Educational programs





Student is not a **PUPIL** -
a student is a **Co-CREATOR**

The Educational Program is a big part of the festival. Together with international educators we organize workshops for youth from local communities of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian ethnicity. By using interdisciplinarity and learning-by-doing methods we create art projects including: short movies, animations, installations and performances. Our students become co-creators!



2014
2022

105 workshops/circles conducted in **28** villages with **1580+** participants/young co-creators by more than **160** educators from **30** countries.



FESTIVAL made by **PEOPLE** for **PEOPLE**

This is all possible due to our philosophy that everyone is a co-creator: from local kids to international musicians.

Watch the video tribute to the team of One Caucasus 2016

FREE  **ADMISSION**
LIVING ZONE
TRANSPORT
Access to WORKSHOPS



<https://youtu.be/r8WuKIMKpJQ>





Volunteers from all over the world come to help with various tasks from promotion and education to construction. **Citizens**, mostly **local youth** from nearby villages, become co-creators themselves and produce art projects working together alongside professionals: filmmakers, visual and sound designers, and animators.

Residents of the region contribute to workshops and exhibitions, bringing their family heritage and knowledge to the cooperative projects with contemporary artists.

One Caucasus was the only one with free entry among **"5 CAN'T-MISS GEORGIAN MUSIC FESTIVALS"**.



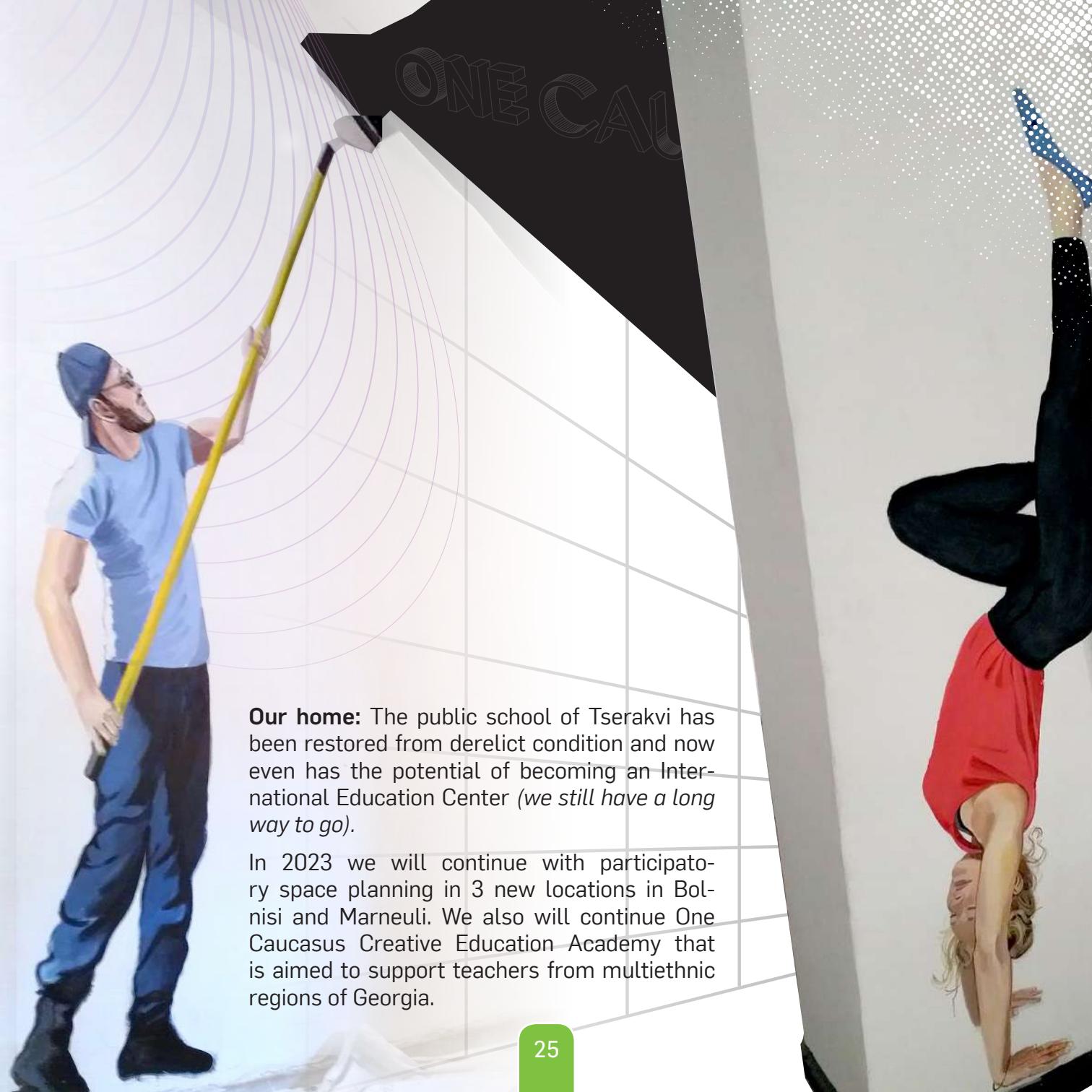
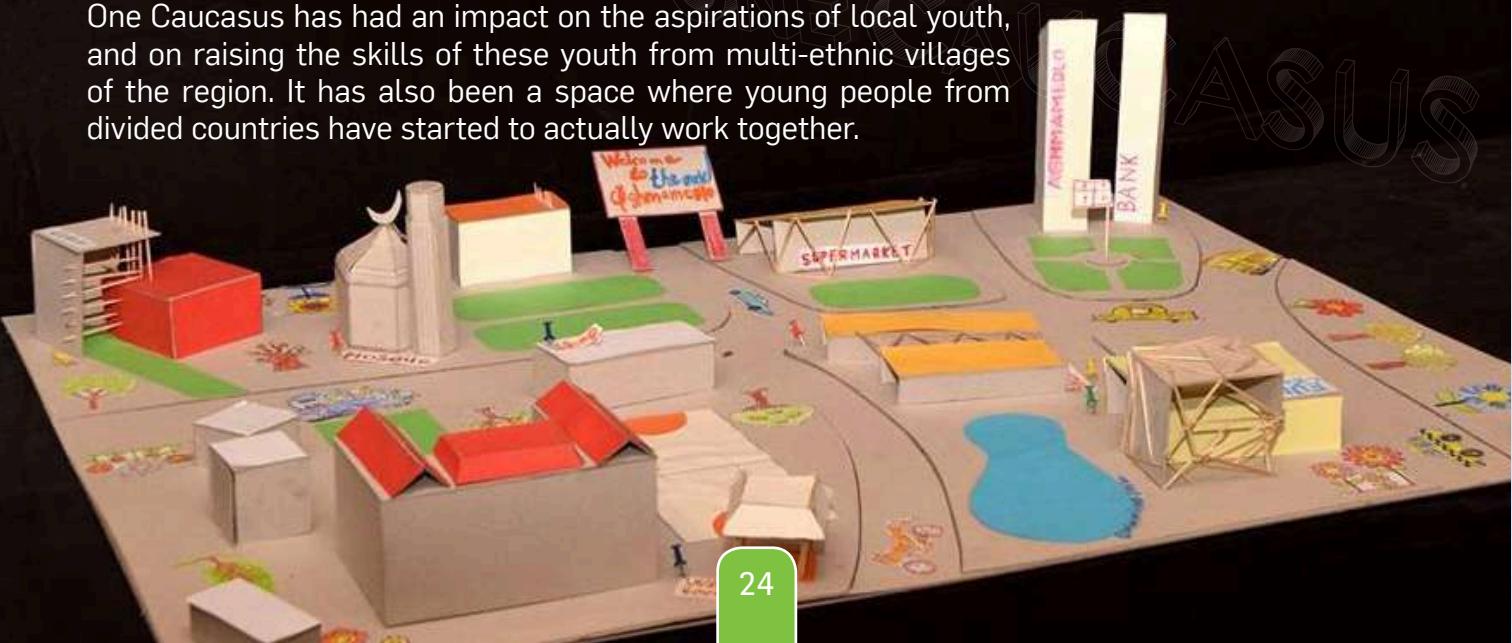
CHANGE-MAKER also to NON-FESTIVAL LIFE

WE BELIEVE THE CRAZIEST FESTIVAL CAN INSPIRE TO THE REAL CHANGE.

One Caucasus initiated the first ever **citizen (participatory) budget** in the whole of the Caucasus region. Residents of various regions of Georgia can now decide directly on part of their local government spending budgets.

One Caucasus was also the impetus for some of the infrastructure developments in the region (like road renovations and improving water and electricity systems in Tserakvi school and Poladauri scouts camp). In 2019 and 2021 the One Caucasus team took part in renovation of the Tserakvi public school, making it accessible for people in wheelchairs.

One Caucasus has had an impact on the aspirations of local youth, and on raising the skills of these youth from multi-ethnic villages of the region. It has also been a space where young people from divided countries have started to actually work together.



Our home: The public school of Tserakvi has been restored from derelict condition and now even has the potential of becoming an International Education Center (*we still have a long way to go*).

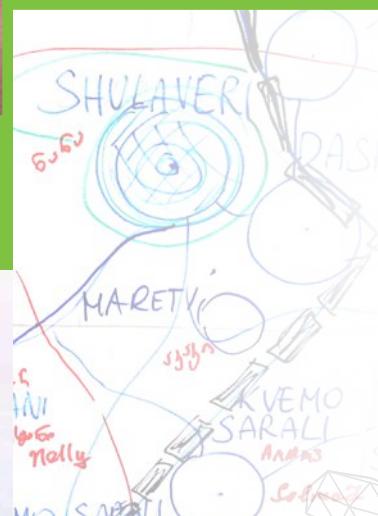
In 2023 we will continue with participatory space planning in 3 new locations in Bolnisi and Marneuli. We also will continue One Caucasus Creative Education Academy that is aimed to support teachers from multiethnic regions of Georgia.



PARTICIPATING IN A LOCAL CHANGE

Participatory BUDGET

In 2015 One Caucasus Festival initiated the very first full-scale participatory budget in the Caucasus region and one of the first in the whole post-Soviet period. The Marneuli Municipality assigned 5% of the total local budget (which is actually much more than a standard participatory budget for example in Poland) for projects created by residents and selected by the residents (in meetings that work on consensus). Now the participatory budgets are spreading all over Georgia and the implementation is continuing with the assistance of the **Solidarity Fund PL**.



LOCAL CHANGE



Two major changes - one in infrastructure (road, water system renovations, school improvements and from this year new public spaces in villages across the region) - change that wouldn't be possible if not leading role of Marneuli municipality, second change is in education - inspiring local kids to be change-makers and artists, providing local teachers with tools for more inclusive, creative and efficient education - One Caucasus continues to be one of the important factors of local change.

ABOVE the CONFLICT LINES



“ I really feel sorry that we are not communicating, these two nations that are so similar, so spiritually - I can say - close to each other.

We have this huge political conflict which keeps us away from each other, that makes us hate each other and when i go back for sure I'm going to tell all my friends that all you know, all you feel, it's bullshit and we should somehow, i don't know how, but we should try think otherwise and be open to overcome this problem.”

Armine Ghazaryan from 1243K band (Armenia) about her first impression after joining One Caucasus Festival in 2016 during interview for Meydan TV. Berlin-based Azerbaijani non-profit media organization

This festival is not just a meeting place. It is a space where we work together with people from the entire world beyond any possible differences or things that divide people. Everyone coming to support One Caucasus gets to co-create in international teams in music, education, filmmaking, promotion, documentation, architecture or logistics

In the unstable times for Caucasus - we realize that the experience of young Azerbaijanis and Armenians working and performing together - will have a stronger impact than many of the international mediation workshops about conflicts of Caucasus.



SOLIDARITY ACTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MARNEULI AND BOLNISI

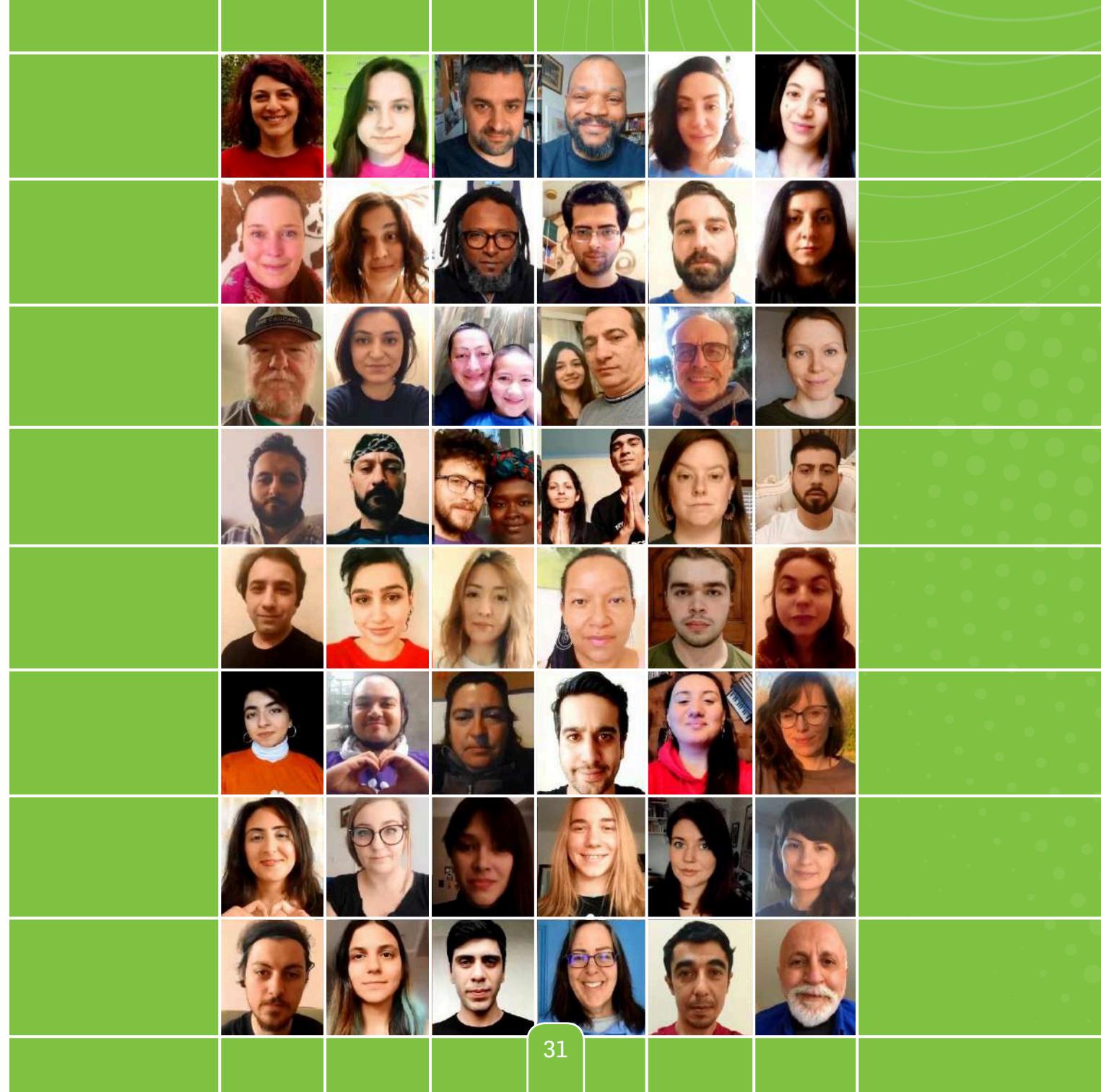
To support local multiethnic communities during the first hit of the pandemic, in April 2020 we organized a public awareness action related to COVID19 situation in 2 regions of Kvemo-Kartli.

The video created by 54 people of One Caucasus International Team (including volunteers, architects, educators, musicians) from 17 countries from all over the world included concrete recommendations on how to protect yourself from contracting COVID. The video was available in 5 languages (Azeri, Armenian, Georgia, Russian and English) and was retransmitted by 2 Georgian national TV channels.

Watch the video



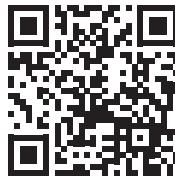
<https://youtu.be/hh52LAnfbo0>



VACCINATION MARATHON & OC MOBILE

Working in Georgia in time of the most tragic wave of pandemic (2021) we decided to dedicate our efforts to supporting the vaccination process for local multiethnic communities in villages distanced from regional centers. In partnership with the Georgia's National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), and with the motto "If you cannot visit the home of music, music will visit your home" - we visited 6 villages of Marneuli (Sadakhlo, Kizilajlo, Tserakvi, Sioni, Shulaveri, Khojorni) and 2 in Dmanisi (Amamlo, Bezaqlo) with the OC mobile (a live music platform) and the vaccination van provided by the NCDC (with doctors and vaccines). In four action days we managed to successfully outreach to locals and provide for 200+ people an on-spot vaccination.

Please see more in the One Caucasus 2021 Festival online video:



<https://youtu.be/bUaT3IL2HGE?t=707>



SUPPORTING



One Caucasus was created in the middle of Caucasus - where the conflicts brought tragedy to thousands and have stunted the growth and aspirations of millions.

Yet One Caucasus became a kind of oasis - that provided safe and inspirational space for youth and proved that another future is possible.

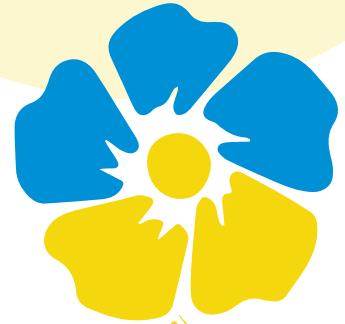
That is why we stood up with Ukraine:

We implemented a multilayer Program to Support Ukraine and Ukrainian Artists, Architects, Musicians and Educators - giving opportunity for more than 20 Ukrainians (including refugees) to be perceived not as victims of the war but as creative and professional contributors for the hosting communities.

Please read the full, public report on One Caucasus 2022 and its support for Ukraine



www.onecaucasus.org//images/docs/OEOC_for_Ukraine.pdf



Ukraine

#Євромайдан - це
#Euromaidan is...



...коли читаєш майбутнє
по зірках.
...when you're reading future
in the stars.



ONE CAUCASUS PARTNERS multi-actor approach

Through our multi-actor approach, we built relations with those who focus on real problems and opportunities and have common/mutual interest.

Even the most difficult times for our region, after two years of pandemic and war of Karabakh in 2020, during the on going Russian invasion of Ukraine- we secured the asylum that brings hope for young people across the region. In 2023 One Caucasus will stand again for Peace, Freedom, Human Life & Dignity. You can be part of our joint effort: by supporting One Caucasus

Even though One Caucasus has been financially more sustainable in 2019-2022 in 2023 we are looking for support to make One Caucasus activities again possible.



JOIN US NOW !



CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:
OneCaucasusFestival.com



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



CREATING MUSIC PROJECTS
ONE CAUCASUS TOWN

MULTIFUNCTIONAL PROGRAMS
ALSO TO NON-FESTIVAL LIFE

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
ALSO TO NON-FESTIVAL LIFE

FREE ADMISSION
FREE LIVING ZONE

FREE TRANSPORT
ACCESS TO WORKSHOPS

THE MOST INSPIRATIONAL FESTIVAL IN CAUCASUS
CHANGE-MAKER ALSO TO NON-FESTIVAL LIFE
ABOVE THE CONFLICT LINES
FESTIVAL OF THE NEXT GENERATION



ONE CAUCASUS