

Virág Arany
Experience Report
Life Long Burning - Support System Internship
2022.06.01.-2022.10.31.

I started working at Workshop Foundation (WSF) five months ago as an intern in the frame of 'Life Long Burning - Support System' program. I would like now to use this report to sum up my experiences and formulate my short and mid-term goals.

In the past 15 years I have been most active as a professional dancer, choreographer/artmaker but I was also involved in numerous interdisciplinary projects as an organizer. Coming from an artistic background also means that I have gained such skills that can be useful when communicating and negotiating with artists. The very fact of knowing thoroughly the other party's priorities creates a common ground, which helps to establish the base for a well-functioning work-relation with lighter communication and mutual understanding.

This internship gives me the opportunity to work in a supervised context, having the chance to learn and grow in a supported way. WSF creates a safe space with its horizontal-thinking environment where my qualities and skills feel used and appreciated, and where my shortcomings are also seen and constructively feedbacked.

My recent/ongoing SuSy tasks are the following:

LLB - "Choreographic Conventions VII. / In Other Words: A Future"

Starting my internship with co-organizing this program was quite a dive right in. I was in charge of corresponding with the twenty five selected artists, organizing their travel, accomodation, contracts and invoicing. Apart from the practical organization I also had the chance to help shaping the artistic profile of the program by curating a site-specific event which has happened on the private joint trainride from Budapest to Vienna (09.07.2022)

Dance-guide

The Foundation has recently relaunched their regular recommendation of dance performances. It includes a wide range of genres (classical, folk, modern, contemporary, experimental, site-specic etc). It is my task to collect, organise and send it out at the beginning of each month.

Archive

WSF has a thirty years long hirtory in organising artistic programs, exchanges and supporting dance makers by providing them with opportunities to work, to learn, and to develop their artistic ideas keeping the focus on the creative process instead of the final product. This record is unique in the Hungarian dance cultural scene, therefore it is crucial to organise that huge amount of documentation and make it available for research. I am in charge of finishing the uncatalogued documents and to finalize the phisical structure, as well as maintaining the constantly growing archive.

As I am one of the formerly supported artists, working on the archive it is a strange experience to encounter my work from this aspect. Seeing how my artistic work is part of the 'big picture' and how it shapes what we know about the past, helps me recognize the meaning and importance of archiving.

Partnerships

- Organizing the upcoming event of the bilateral exchange program between Philadelphia Dance Project and Workshop Foundation, which offers cultural exchange between the two countries for dancers.
- Developing and co-organising a three-lateral exchange program
- Taking over the correspondence with existing US-related partners
- Helping to develop a Central European network for distribution of artworks and setting common goals within the regional partners.

Administrative tasks

- contributing to write and submitting applications for state and private funds
- financial and experience reports
- preparing documents for payroll accounting

Goals

In the focus of my personal interest are offsite/non-urban artistic residency venues. I am interested in exploring and finding more sustainable ways of creating artworks in terms of space, time and mental energy. In our current zeitgeist there is a perceptible interest and a growing need for such residency formats in the performative art scene, especially since the global pandemic hit our society. Many artists are eager to leave the city for shorter periods and give full attention to their work instead of scattering their energies between multiple jobs and daily life challenges. These venues are not or barely present in Hungary and many of the artists have the desire to create such place, including myself.

Using the foundations' network I would like to map the already existing residency venues focusing on Central-Europe and to organise visits/exchanges/sharings for the interested in order to gain transferable knowledge of organisational structures, business models and operative challenges.