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İZMİR SAMSUN ANTAKYA YALOVA **KAYSERİ** SAM

RABZON VAN KONYA HAKKARI YALOVA KAYSERİ TUN

MALATYA İZMİR SAMSUN ANTAKYA KARI MALATYA İZM

ON VAN KONYA HAKKARI MALATYA İZMİR

KARS INITIATIVES

AN KONYA HAKKARI **MALATYA** İZMİR SAM

DIYARBAKIR KARS MARDİN ESKİŞEHİR ÇANAKKALE MERGİN BURSA ANKARA BATMAN GAZİ



ANADOLU KÜLTÜR

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Anadolu Kültür Initiatives in Kars

Anadolu Kültür launched its projects in Kars in 2004 by supporting the Kars Caucasus Cultures Festival organized by Kars Municipality to promote cultural collaboration with Caucasian cities. Kars Art Center (KSM), founded in February 2005 in collaboration with Kars Municipality, gave further momentum to Anadolu Kültür's activities in Kars. In March 2006, a meeting was organized with the objective of developing local cultural policies in collaboration with local NGOs and Kars Municipality. Numerous NGO representatives and artists came together with the municipality to determine the priorities and needs of the city in the cultural and artistic sphere and decided to develop a "Kars City Guide" at the conclusion of the two day workshop. The Kars City Guide, prepared with a participatory approach with the contributions of local researchers, writers and photographers, was the first concrete step of launching local cultural policy initiatives and implementing them in a participatory manner. As a result of the meetings and workshops geared towards developing participatory local cultural policies in Kars, numerous projects based on the initiative and needs of the city residents were realized with the support and facilitation of Anadolu Kültür. In 2008, along with Antakya and Çanakkale, Kars became one of the three pilot cities of the "Invisible Cities: Building Capacities for Local Cultural Policy Development in Turkey" project.

As the only multi-purpose cultural center in the city, Kars Art Center founded in 2005, became a center where the city residents came together for a variety of activities and

purposes. In addition to the activities it undertook in the scope of KSM, Anadolu Kültür also provided support for activities such as the Kars Caucasus Cultures Festival and the Festival on Wheels. KSM, which hosted many exhibitions, workshops, panels, plays and concerts until March 2009, was transferred to Kars Directorate of National Education Public Educational Center with the decision of the Kars Municipality following the 2009 local elections.

Anadolu Kültür still continues to implement Kars and Caucasus targeted initiatives it launched in Kars in 2005. We have tried to support the empowerment of civil society initiatives; to build capacity through practice and enhancing collaboration and communication between NGOs with the activities we undertook and supported in Kars. We would like to thank everyone, and especially the people of Kars, for working with us in this program.

This booklet aims to share the projects realized in collaboration with NGOs in Kars. For detailed information on our work in Kars, please visit our website at www.anadolukultur.org.

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Kars Art Center (KAC)

As the only multi-purpose culture center in the city, KAC founded in 2005, became a center where the city residents came together for a variety of activities and purposes. KAC hosted numerous activities and events between 2005-2009 as an art complex with its multi-purpose auditorium with the infrastructure to stage film screenings, plays and concerts and seating up to 311 people, art gallery, a dark room for photography activities and two seminar / workshop rooms. It became a cultural communication center not only for Kars, but also for Turkey, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The concert organized on the opening day of KAC was attended by Turkey ambassadors of 27 countries and featured musicians from Turkey, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Caucasians from various countries were able to develop relationships free of prejudice and conflict through artistic collaboration such as "Young Eyes of Caucasus Photography Project" organized at KAC.

The Center, which hosted many exhibitions, workshops, panels, plays and concerts until March 2009, played a crucial role in transforming Kars into a center of attraction as an important meeting point for both Kars and the surrounding regions.



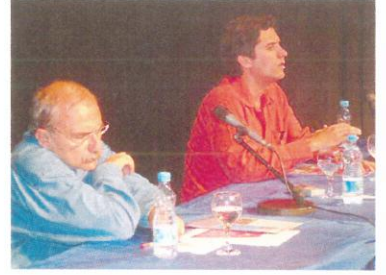
Workshops

Since its foundation, KAC hosted numerous workshops on subjects ranging from music to theater, writing to photography, painting to ballet in accordance with the workshop program developed based on the demand from city residents. The outcomes of the workshops, conducted sometimes by experts from Kars and sometimes by trainers from other cities, were also exhibited at the KAC.

Film Screenings

KAC, a significant meeting point for people of Kars and surrounding regions, also became of one of the venues for the "Festival on Wheels and Golden Goose Film Competition" held in Kars. The Center, which hosted the film screenings throughout the festival, also provided the necessary technical infrastructure with a 35 mm film projector, DVD and projection system and sound system.

In addition to the above, the weekly film screenings and discussions organized by the Kars Cinema Association founded in 2008 also took place at the KAC.

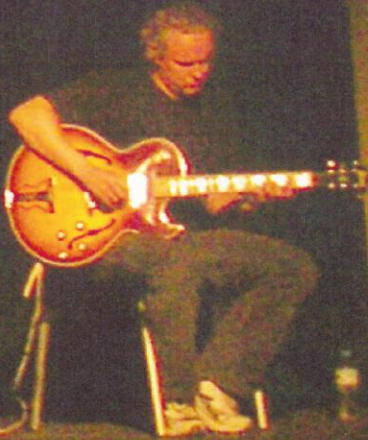


Exhibitions

KAC Gallery hosted local, national and international exhibitions since its foundation in 2005. Kars residents thus found the opportunity to follow various lives, art forms and experiences ranging from photography to painting, with exhibitions from cities expanding from İstanbul to Malmö in Turkey and around the world. KAC also hosted international exhibitions such as the Young Eyes of Caucasus.

Panel Discussions

Panel discussions, one of the main activity areas of KAC, provided the opportunity to welcome numerous people in Kars ranging from Memet Ali Alabora to Cem Yılmaz, Ulla Lemberg to Şükrü Erbaş.



Kars City Guide

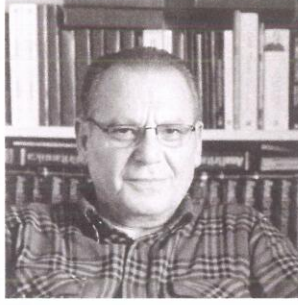
Kars City Guide is the first concrete outcome of the discussions around developing local cultural policies in the city. The first edition of the guide was published in 2007 following the meetings held by city residents, in which a city guide identified as an important emerging need. The content of the guide was developed entirely by local citizens. When the first edition of the Kars City Guide, aiming to increase the visibility of Kars, was disseminated and ran out quickly, the demand from various organizations and institutions and the need to update the guide, urged residents to prepare a second edition.

The second edition of the guide, which will be published in the scope of the “Invisible

Cities: Building Capacities for Local Cultural Policy Development in Turkey” project will feature updated and revised content and design, and will target a broader outreach through proactive dissemination.

A website (www.karscityguide.com) has been designed to reach a broader audience. In this process, the methodology developed with the participation of various civil stakeholders during the initial guide preparation phase was repeated. The revision and update of the Guide originally published in Turkish and English was completed between June 2009 and February 2010 by Kars Association for Culture and Arts. The re-design and printing of the Kars City Guide is expected to be finalized in June 2010.





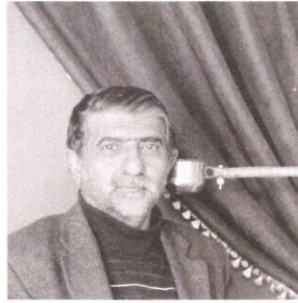
Sezai Yazıcı
Local historian,
researcher

"This has been a good project reflecting everyone's efforts and thoughts. This guide prepared by people whom we may call civilians fills an important gap. The dissemination of the first edition was not so good. A reference section should be included in the new edition. Guides are for those visiting from outside. And in this respect, this project has reached its aim and target."



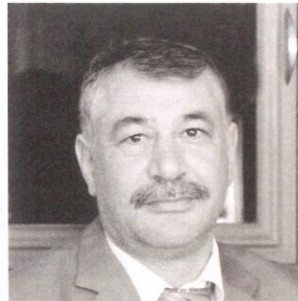
Vedat Akçayöz
Kars Association for
Culture and Arts

"The preparation process of the Kars City Guide has been very valuable for us. Using the resources of Anadolu Kültür and with the support of Özcan Yurdalan we produced a book for the first time in our lives. The book was compiled by four editors and the contributions of a team of ten people from Kars working with them; so this is our book with all its merits and shortcomings. 1000 copies were printed of the first edition and they were immediately disseminated. Now we are in the process of revising and preparing the second edition. As opposed to official city guides, our Kars City Guide is an objective, original, fresh guide; and this has received extensive attention and praise especially from foreigners."



Yıldırım Öztürkkan
Photo Çilem

"It is a beautiful book. For years, this was an unaddressed need. There was no such book depicting the richness of Kars from the foundation of the Republic to the present. It played an important role in promoting the city. Kars's potential was recognized. It could have had a broader scope. For the new edition they can include the fort, the natural beauties of Kars and focus more on old Kars and Ani."



Tazebey Çakas
Local historian

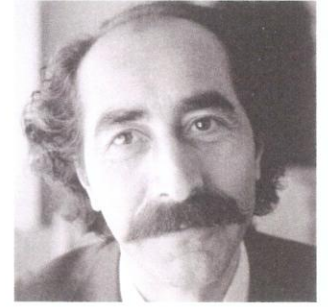
"I find Anadolu Kültür's book project successful, despite its shortcoming. The dissemination was not well organized and remained limited. The fact that the guide was prepared by a civilian team is perhaps a first in Turkey."



Kars Children & Youth Program

Arts and Culture Activities with Children

This program has been designed by Kars Association for Culture and Arts with the support of the "Invisible Cities: Building Capacities for Local Cultural Policy Development in Turkey" project. In the scope of the program, cultural and artistic events targeting children living in Kars were organized each weekend at the Association in Support of Contemporary Living Library. The objective of the program was designed to broaden the horizon of children through participation in art activities and increase the quantity, quality and diversity of cultural events for children in Kars, where children's participation in artistic production and available culture and art events remains limited. During the four month program, theater workshops, reading groups and film screenings for children were organized each weekend. The program, which drew extensive interest from the children, is still ongoing.



"We were anyway doing theater with children, this program allowed us to continue this. Book clubs and animated film screenings began with this project. Now we are doing them with our own resources. These activities raised children's self confidence and boosted their imagination. They began to read better. The families are thanking us."

İsrafil Parlak ve Buluş Oygur

Actors, Kars Association for Culture and Arts

Cultural Heritage Activities with Children & Youth

Cultural heritage activities, organized together with Community Volunteers' Foundation (TOG), Kars Museum and PACE Children's Art Center, were launched in 2009. They embarked on this program to rediscover the city's cultural heritage through creative and participatory methods with university and primary school students with the projects entitled "Lets Rediscover Kars!" and "Lets Rediscover the Kars Museum!" Youth volunteers, who were able to reach 700 students with city-focused projects in 2009, aim to reach at least 800 students this year with museum activities.

Kars Gül Ahmet Aytemiz Public Anatolian High School for Fine Arts Summer Camp & Art Workshops

Anadolu Kültür's collaboration with Gül Ahmet Aytemiz Public Anatolian High School for Fine Arts, which began in 2006 with an oral history project, continued with the "Art and Cultural Heritage Summer School" that took place in July of the same year. During the two week workshop realized with the participation of 25 students, the participants worked and created artworks together with trainers from Istanbul in the fields of painting, music, photography, sculpture, film, theater and dance. The students, who also explored fields of archeology, art history and museology in addition to the above, thus had the opportunity to discover Kars and its environs with their trainers. The activities and various art workshops in the school continued until 2009.



Kars Kafkas University Film Club Workshops

Following the open film workshops for city residents organized by Kars Art Center in 2006, during the 2008-2009 school year, Anadolu Kültür organized film workshops on world and Turkey's film history, script writing and short film production to support and promote Kars Kafkas University Film Club. The program started with workshops on Turkey and world film history in collaboration with the Monthly Altyazı Film Magazine (www.altyazi.net) published by Bosphorus University Mithat Alan film Center, and upon demand from youth, continued in 2010 with workshops on script writing and short film production. Anadolu Kültür also provided archive support to the club. In addition to Kars, the project was also implemented in Çanakkale, Mersin and Diyarbakır.



Kars Women's Program

City Tours for Women

City Tours for Women project was implemented by Kagi-Kader: Kars Women Entrepreneurs Association between May-September 2009. During the four month implementation period, three city tours were organized with an outreach of 105 women from Kars. The project objectives were to provide women, who had limited mobility, the opportunity to interact with the city they live in; to contribute to the preservation of cultural

heritage by raising awareness; and to increase women's self-confidence in the social sphere by facilitating their active participation in city life. The daily tours included Kars Castle, Twelve Apostles Church, Stone Bridge, public baths (hamams) in the Kaleiçi area and Kars Museum in the city center, followed by a tour of the Ani Ancient City with student guides from Kars Kafkas University Social Sciences Vocational School Tourism Program.





Serap Çağatay

Kars Women Entrepreneurs Association
(Kagi-Kader)

“This was a very rich project, which I really enjoyed. How women enjoyed the tours really touched me. Women were able to expand their social circle, make new friends, visit the city without having to be accompanied by men, have lunch at a restaurant together. If I can find the funding, I want to expand and continue the program. We all learned new things as we were implementing the project; we were also able to learn from the challenges. For example, I learned that I really need to be careful in team work. This project also helped publicize and promote our association among women of Kars. We gained more knowledge on project management. We discovered how useful it is to collaborate with civil society organizations. For example in the final presentation of the project, the atmosphere was great, I felt really comfortable presenting before a crowd, and this really encouraged me. After that I gave speeches and presentations at various meetings; at least I was able to shake off my fear.”



We would like to thank everybody who supported the implementation of the projects in Kars!

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BOEKMAN *stichting*



Organizations that supported other activities in Kars:

CHREST
FOUNDATION



Hasla

