



Culture

The Safadi Foundation views culture as a means for developing communities. Its work has focused on encouraging cultural, artistic and intellectual initiatives, while coordinating with existing cultural institutions, through conducting activities and joint programs.

## Goals

- Helping highlight and publicize the cultural heritage of Tripoli;
- Establishing a permanent cultural forum that brings together various segments of society;
- Encouraging the participation of the local community in conducting cultural and media activities; and
- Supporting cultural and artistic associations and working to strengthen their developmental role.

## Programs and Projects

### Dialogpunkt Deutsch (German Dialogue Center)

In line with the goals set out upon its opening in 2004, the Dialogpunkt Deutsch conducted a number of cultural programs and activities in 2006, in cooperation with the Goethe Institut-Beirut, as shown below:

- **Music Club (Every Saturday of January and February)**  
Music appreciation and instruction of various kinds: note reading, the history of music, especially German music, and music criticism.
- **Pictures from a book (February 2006)**  
Exhibition of pictures from the finest German children's books, translated into Arabic, with readings and workshops to boost reading skills and encourage reading.
- **German Cinema Club (First Wednesday of every month)**  
The Dialogpunkt Deutsch screens German films, with English or French translation.
- **Jazz concert (1 March 2006)**  
A German jazz group held an evening musical performance at the Beit al-Fann - El Mina, as part of the annual arts festival.
- **Lecture on directing German video (March 2006)**  
Dr. Thomas Munz, artistic director of the German Video-Art Festival "Transmediale" and artist, lectured at the Arts Faculty of the Lebanese University in Tripoli, on his expertise in directing films for the "Transmediale" Festival, Berlin.





- **The German Spring and German Winter Fairs (25 March 2006; 9 September 2006)**  
In cooperation with German women residing in Tripoli, the spring and winter fairs were held, featuring traditional German products, special activities for children, and musical performances.
- **Exhibition of pictures from children's books (10-20 April 2006)**  
Featuring some of the finest children's books by German artists and illustrators, from the picture Book Museum Burg Wissem in Troisdorf-Germany.
- **Launch of the "Mine-Yours" website (15 April 2006)**  
Christian Hohker, supervisor of the Mine-Yours project, presented German-Arab youth website, designed and programmed by the Goethe Institute-Cairo. The website is from and to Arab and German young people, offering an easy opportunity for cross-cultural contact.
- **Lecture and workshop on school libraries in Germany (27 April 2006)**  
As part of the annual International Week of Reading, Martin Sachse lectured and presented a workshop on activities specific to school libraries; a number of specialized academics participated in the event.
- **Children's puppet show (3 May 2006)**  
At the Rashid Karami International Fairgrounds, the "Puppet Friends"(Les Amis Des Marionettes) troupe performed a play for more than 400 children, as part of the International Week of Reading.
- **European film festival (18-22 May 2006)**  
Screening of European films, to foster cultural contact between the Arab world and the West, in cooperation with the French Cultural Center, the Italian Institute, and the Cultural League.

- **The First Jazira (Island) Arts Festival (27 May 2006)**

Young poets, musicians, artists and actors met on Abdel-Wahab island, across from the Corniche in El Mina, to present the works to the public.

- **Children's puppet show (3 June 2006)**

At the Holy Family Sisters' School, a puppet show was held as part of International Orphans Day.

- **Festival of Lebanese - German short films (27 October - 4 November 2006)**

A number of the best works by Lebanese and German young people in directing short films were presented at the Cultural League theater.

- **Training session and workshop on graffiti art (29 November - 3 December 2006)**

Claudia Walde, a German artist, held a training session for young artists and executed a 30-meter long wall mural at Muharram in Tripoli, on the ugliness of war

- **"Pictures from Daily Life - Tripoli, My City" (December 2006)**

The Safadi Foundation sponsored an exhibition by students from various schools and civil institutions, of daily life in Tripoli, with the goal of acquainting children with the culture of the other.



## Joint cultural programs

### The Safadi Culture and Sports Center - Cultural Center

Work on the cultural section of the center began in mid-2006; this project will offer a number of services, such as:

- A public library specialized for university and vocational education students - an e-library - a multi-purpose hall for holding various cultural exhibitions and activities - auditorium seating 340 people.
- Also in 2006, an agreement was reached with several foreign delegations to create cultural centers in the Safadi Culture and Sports Center, in cooperation with these delegations, in order to strengthen the concept of dialogue between cultures.



- The Center includes classrooms for foreign language instruction.

In 2006, a number of events and activities were held at the Center, including the following:

- **Cooperation protocol with the Lebanese National Conservatory (June)**

On the sidelines of signing the protocol, the a group from the Conservatory performed a concert at the Center.

- **Honoring the al-Fayha Choral Group (6 March 2006)**

To mark the Choral group's winning an award at the Warsaw International Festival and its number two ranking internationally.



## Miscellaneous cultural activities

- **A ceremony to honor mothers (March 2006)**

Held at the Social Services Shelter and El Mina Shelter.

- **"Northern Heartbeats" exhibition (April 2006)**

Held in cooperation with the Beirut Marathon Association in Beit al-Fann, El Mina, with participation by cultural and sporting institutions and associations.

- **Safadi Foundation and Iqra (1 June 2006)**  
Sponsored a tourism-heritage day in Tripoli.

- **Sponsoring an exhibition by Samih al-Attar (2 June 2006)**

A salute to the sculptor Samih al-Attar (St. Joseph's University, Ashrafieh, Beirut).

- **Spanish-German play at the theater of the Cultural League, Tripoli (15 December 2006)**

Joint activity between the Safadi Foundation and the Spanish Cultural Center.



## Library

The Safadi Foundation Library is located in the Safadi Culture and Sports Center; the 1,000-square meter modern library fills an entire floor, and includes:

**One:** A public library will begin with 5,000 books, in Arabic, French and English; books and resources for secondary and university students; and specialized books for graduate students carrying out university research; technical encyclopedias and specialized books for doctors and engineers; legal encyclopedias for lawyers and law students; and other encyclopedias for all university majors, including the humanities.

Computer equipment at the library can be used for research, study and obtaining materials not available in the library's collection. Patrons can also read and consult newspapers and periodicals that are published and distributed in Lebanon and abroad.

**Two:** An e-library, which principally contains books and newspaper resources from international databases; the internet can be used to search for all required information or studies.

Patrons can also obtain electronic books containing all of the required or necessary information on all aspects of life, and in a number of specialized cultural, scientific, humanities or academic fields.

In the future, this e-library will connect with universities throughout Lebanon.

**Three:** A bookshop, for patrons' stationery and other needs while using the library.

**Four:** A reading area located within the library, with a lovely view of the Rashid Karami International Fairgrounds; it contains comfortable seating for a pleasant reading experience.

In 2006, the library obtained the most important publications by local and international publishing houses, and selected books, encyclopedias and magazines used in the leading universities in Lebanon and abroad, in order to serve the academic needs of students and researchers. The materials were electronically categorized and entered in a database. The library is expected to be open to the public following the completion of construction works in 2007.

With the goal of expanding the public library, the Safadi Foundation signed a contract with the Arabian Advanced Systems to digitalize the library, by using the Arab Libraries Management System (al-Ufuq), which provides information as a basic service to library patrons, and giving full support to the Arabic language, as it conforms to all of the needs of Arabic libraries.

