



REPORT

“Places of Diversity”
Creative activities
Jordan

2014

Reviving public spaces project focuses on utilizing the public space to turn it into something else by utilizing it and creating change within the environment and members of the society. Leaders of tomorrow youth initiatives focuses mainly on Reviving public spaces project and activities provides comparative perspective on Social change in communities, framing cultures and mobilizing people. The project also helps shedding light on community behavior and practices, by giving out solutions and actual implementation of creative developing interventions. In addition to promoting cooperation that occurred between community members who influenced positive behavior in their surroundings and allowed positive behavior and practices to flourish, such as preserving their area and coming up with creative solutions for future development purposes.

Jordan activity #1: Diwanieh

DIWANIEH is an open, free and critical platform for debate. The platform utilizes the streets of Jordan as a venue for the debates in order to create a feeling of familiarity among attendees and to maximize dissemination. The initiative encourages Jordanian youth to frequently organize heated debates that take place in public arenas such as parks, archaeological sites, roundabouts, abandoned lands and what follows and other high capacity venues, during which localized pressing issues and contentious sociopolitical issues are deliberated in order to revive and take full advantage of underutilized public spaces in Jordan.



LOTs last Diwanieh was conducted in Wadi Mousa Governorate on Saturday; 29.03.2014 in front of Petra entrance. Under the motion "Do Petra Authorities have a positive effect on their region?" corresponding with the theme of "Petra Region Authority Tourism Development", in front of Petra entrance. Speakers; Dr. Mohammed Alnawafleh, and the Petra Commissioner and Deputy Head Dr. Imad Hijazeen .

On the other hand, Mr. Ali Raja Nasarat and Mr. Khadr Alnawafleh spoke against the motion whilst of the founder initiative Dr. Sami Al-Hourani was the moderator of the debate. More than 500 people attended the debate.

Jordan activity #2: Russeifah Murals

Russaifah is a city in Zarqa Governorate in the Kingdom of Jordan. It had a population of about 280,000, making it the fourth-largest city in Jordan, after Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa. This City was and still is a refugee place for many Circassians and Palestinians who fled from their countries. However it's an underdeveloped area by all means socially, politically, economically and environmentally. So based on reviving public spaces project we managed to implement some beautifying murals on abandoned school walls .

This initiative was implemented by young boys and girls, who were excited to indulge in this momentum and be part of this project in order to benefit from it on a personal level and also to serve their community in a way that might influence others. This was the result, members of their community and neighborhood were fully excited to paint and draw, and put their personal touch on a public property, giving them a feeling of satisfaction that they're doing good for their community and are beginning to understand the meaning of a public space and how to improve it, protect it and utilize it in the best way possible, even when resources are too scarce and minimal.

Many artistic creative murals were created to raise awareness on the water issue in Jordan and on the pollution issue that has been happening for the last decade in Jordan and in Russeifah specifically. They intended to paint school walls because they thought this could be a powerful method to influence students and send a direct message making them able to read it anytime during the day.













Jordan activity #3: Mo7aka

LoT's latest Mo7aka event was held two weeks ago on the 31 of May 2014, in Dana Nature Reserve, in al Tafila governorate. Mo7aka is a unique initiative run by leaders of tomorrow organization. It involves the execution of special training workshops during which youth are exposed to a variety of role playing and simulation activities. A group of young females and males were projected to a selection of activities run by Dr. Sami hourani on the topic of Gender, Equality and Women rights in the Jordanian Society. Participants came from all around the kingdom to participate in this initiative; such as Mafraq, Tafila, Amman, Zarqa, and Ma'an. These games are being presented to raise awareness on human rights issues, and having the chance for females and males to exchange their ideas and opinions.



Participants were divided into 4 groups and worked on executing; writing and acting out written scenarios where each scenario tackles a different societal issue that women in our society are suffering from. Most of the Scenarios discussed the bureaucracy within families, the overpowering authority of male figures, Indecisive mothers, Forcing decisions, women rights, Literacy and University life and obstacles. These four groups executed four different scenarios that were filmed by professional filmmakers. After each scenario a group discussion was formed by the actors and the moderator of the discussion Dr. Sami Hourani. Topics circulated about gender issues and prejudice, in addition to mixing up religious beliefs with morals and traditions.



Mo7aka also focuses on rejuvenating the area as well as redefining the meaning of a space by instilling new thoughts practices, ideas and concepts for participants from all around the region to help them interact with the nature and connect personally with each other on a social, educational and environmental level. Mo7aka usually take place in rural and distant areas from the city hub, to help participants disconnect from their daily routine and intake the absolute value of a space. In addition to that participants get the chance for exposure to different opinions, mentalities, and discuss various issues that concern women struggling in a manly society, and gender issues related to prejudice and injustice practiced against women.

Activity #4: Ajloun Murals

Ajloun Murals were implemented in Ajloun – Anjara Area that were done by a young group of people from Ajloun itself who were extremely excited to beautify their own city. Ajloun is usually known that it is the most green city among other cities here in Jordan. However Ajloun is famous for its historical value, and the youngsters tried to reserve it and at the same time install some joyful colors.



The Murals resembled nature with all its beautiful elements that it offers that ranges from colorful flowers, birds, trees and sunshine.

This is another Mural that was created in the same area, in between residential buildings which added vibrancy, harmony and a creative input that drives optimism within people.



The group of youth also took the initiative recently draw on walls of a main roundabout in Ajloun- Anjara, using drawings that focuses on patriotism hope to the place.





Ajloun youth society had put a great effort into this project and were held responsible of attaining the sustainability of such a project and promised to implement independent public space reviving projects that will help on perfecting their city and creating a great image of it.

Public space reviving was kind of a new idea for them and they never imagined that could make use of abandoned meters of walls or land to recreate something, inspirational, beneficial that leaves traces of what each of them had accomplished. They said " it felt really good to see the accomplishment in real life and feel its tangibility.