

ESC ACTIVITY IN THE EMIGRATION MUSEUM IN GDYNIA!



Hosting organization: Emigration Museum in Gdynia
(OID E10047945)


Coordinating organization: Centre for Youth Cooperation
and Mobility (E10049556)

Place: Gdynia, Poland

Dates: 15.11.2023 - 13.12.2023

We are looking for volunteers (18-30 years old) to help us create large-scale puppets, costumes and set design for a series of performances.

Project Description



We would like to invite volunteers to help us during a project under the title “Agathe’s Ark”, created for the Emigration Museum in Gdynia by Stefanie Oberhoff, a German puppeteer, stage designer and director, in collaboration with artists from Poland, Germany and Australia. The main idea behind the project is to engage the residents of Gdynia, with a particular focus on immigrants and refugees, in a series of performances, workshops as well as theatrical and musical activities.



The project will begin with a 2-week long large-scale puppet making workshop, costumes and set design. Gdynia’s residents, especially people with migration background, will be invited to participate in the series of workshops led by the artists with help of an international team of volunteers. Participation in the workshops will be free and open to all ages, no special skills or previous experience will be required. The next stage of the project will focus on public space interventions in the Tri-City. The puppets created during the workshops will go out of the Museum to interact with residents. They may visit train stations and take a ride by city train, conduct workshops for children in one of local community centres, take a walk through the streets of Gdynia, Sopot and Gdańsk etc.

Project Description



The final performance (theatre and music), with the participation of all invited artists, immigrants (including children and youth) and a local musician, will take place at the Marine Station building. The event will be open to the public with free admission.

The narrative of the project is a story of Agathe, a Congolese girl, who, after a long wandering around the world, arrives at the port of Gdynia on her ark accompanied by a bestiary of creatures lost on the globe. All of them had to leave their homes for various reasons. In Gdynia, they will try to build their lives anew. They will get to know the city and the people, and search for a good place for themselves. This is a story about the individual and collective experience of migration, from the perspective of both: newcomers and host society.



Volunteer's Role & Tasks

What Volunteers Will Do ?

By taking part in the project, volunteers will contribute to the process undertaken by the Museum in order to achieve two main goals:

- 1) to initiate a discussion on the problem of migration in the contemporary Europe and the change of Poland's status from an emigration country to a host society, through a series of engaging performative and artistic activities in the public space and at the Marine Station in Gdynia,
- 2) to initiate activities that integrate Gdynia residents with immigrants and refugees, and to strengthen the local community by inviting long-time residents of Gdynia as well as newcomers to a creative collaboration process and dialogue.

- Assistance in the implementation of workshops – preparation of materials and tools, venues etc., assisting the leaders and participants during the workshops,
- Active participation in building puppets and making costumes,
- Working on performance ideas and scripts with leading artists and people experiencing migration,
- Support in contact with local migrants' community,
- Assistance in promoting events (in collaboration with Museum's PR department),
- Documenting the project (suggesting ideas for creative documentation, taking photos, videos and editing them),
- Active participation in the events during the project - participation in workshops, artistic interventions, final performance, navigating puppets





What will volunteer learn?

- Have a chance to cooperate with artists and people from other countries,
- Learn or improve your skills in project management and working in a group, including an international group,
- Observe how to organize this kind of events and what risks may occur during the implementation,
- Broaden your horizons by meeting new people and others perspective and experiences,
- Have the opportunity to develop but also present and use your skills,
- Learn about the history of Polish emigration and the current situation of people with migration experience in Poland,
- Be a part of a project that contributes to the local community and discuss important current issues.

Volunteers Profile

- Open to others and working in an international group,
- Open to new experiences and willing to test themselves in a new situations and environment,
- Not afraid of new challenges and contact with a diverse group,
- Have interested in art
- Open to a bit of physical and manual work as well as performative tasks,
- Who have interest in culture and/or topics related to migration, including social, artistic and performative activities.
- People with manual, musical or acting skills or interests are welcome.
- People with experience or interest in social media documentation (photo, video, other formats) or social media promotion are very welcome too.
- Daily participation in the project is necessary the exact scope of work and time frame of shifts will be determined at a later stage.



More About Host Organization



The Emigration Museum in Gdynia is a historical museum, which presents 200 years of Polish emigration, from the 19th century to the present day. It is located in the former Maritime Station, from which thousands of Polish emigrants left for their new homelands.

The core of the museum is an interactive exhibition which focuses on different types of migrations (immigration, emigration, internal migrations). One of the main principles behind the museum's permanent display is combining the history of migrations with current social issues and migration flows.

It is even more visible in other projects conducted by the museum, especially research and educational projects, as well as debates and temporary exhibitions. An important aspect of the museum's projects is creating a platform for migrants to speak about their experiences for themselves.

The museum's cultural and educational projects vary in terms of audience, from local communities to international participants. Currently, one of the priority groups whose needs we want to take care of are migrants and people with refugee experience.



Practical Information

As a part of European Solidarity Corps Programme, the volunteers are provided with an international travel cost (up to the travel limit per country) food, pocket money, local transport and the accommodation in Gdynia in shared flats.

Food: You will get 3,5 EUR per day converted into PLN for own cooking



Pocket money: You will get 5 Euro per day converted into PLN of pocket money which is devoted for your own expenses.



Local transport: You will be provided with a monthly ticket so you can freely travel around Gdynia.



Working time: You will work 5 days per week (around 35 hours per week) including training days, evaluation, meetings in the coordinating organization office. Also, you will have 2 days of holiday during your stay in Gdynia. All the volunteers must use them at the same time according to our schedule.

Application: You can apply for a team volunteering by filling in the application :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSes-10Sel_c7W5RRAL5ChqmAo7S0D27i-PtNgSerhVBkdwy7Q/viewform

