



Art Yard

PROJECT OF A DOORSTEP THEATRE

Ljubljana, Novo Brdo neighbourhood

(28. 9. – 2. 10. 2021)

Ljubljana, November 2021



ART THAT BUILDS COMMUNITIES



The doorstep theatre project *Art Yard* is a format that innovatively connects theatre creation in public space with social engagement. It is art that builds communities! With its help, we at *Ana Monro Theatre* address people that might be very different from one another, but live in a mutual local space, and help them connect, develop an (intergenerational) cooperation among themselves and, as a result, encourage building of communities in new-built housing estates.

INDEX

1	About the project	4
2	Intention and contents	4
3	Première	5
3.1	Programme / contents / programme content	5
3.2	General report / evaluation	6
3.3	Feedback (opinions) of residents	7
3.4	Interviews with residents about living in the neighbourhood.....	7
3.5	Opinion of our professional partner	7
3.6	Responses of participating artists / creators	8
4	Concluding thoughts	8
5	List of appendices	8
	APPENDIX 1: <i>About Ana Monro Theatre</i>	9
	APPENDIX 2: Promotional poster	11
	APPENDIX 3: Programme leaflet.....	12
	APPENDIX 4: Analysis of questionnaire results.....	13
	APPENDIX 5: Report of IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies	16
	APPENDIX 6: Opinion of our professional partner	21
	APPENDIX 7: Responses of participating artists	22

We are delivering the *Art Yard* project
with the support of the ***City of Ljubljana's Department for Culture***
and in cooperation with ***City of Ljubljana's Public Housing Fund***
and ***City of Ljubljana's Office for Local Self-Government.***

1 About the project

In spring 2020, when due to the covid-19 epidemic the world practically stopped in its course and we suddenly got cut off from our audience, *Ana Monro Theatre* started to look for a chance to keep in live contact with people and to give them the opportunity to be in direct contact with theatre, no matter the restrictions. With this goal in mind we developed a genre of a theatre serenade as a new and safe format of performative events, and embarked on a mission to bring *Theatre on every yard*.

We launched the *Ana Under Your Window* (*Ana pod oknom*) project (<https://www.anamonro.si/en/creation/ana-under-your-window/>), within which we delivered 24 *pro bono* artistic interventions that people could watch from their windows and balconies – from 16 April until 1 July 2020 in estates in Ljubljana as well as villages in Goriško and Vipavsko. Wherever we came, people accepted us with enthusiasm. In 2021, on the basis of those experiences, we started developing a larger scale project of a doorstep theatre – *Art Yard*.

We developed its format in cooperation with Simona Savickaitė from Lithuania, a community work adviser and a long-standing coordinator of a similar project *We, the people* that is part of the *European Capital of Culture Kaunas 2022* programme.

2 Intention and contents

The intention of the *Art Yard* project is to give the residents of estates a possibility of a direct contact with performative arts in their own home environment and, as a result, awaken interaction and cooperation among them – with an intention to connect them into a community. We will mostly be visiting new estates and – in their community spaces – delivering a programme lasting several days, for which we have developed the following format and contents.

- **Visit of the neighbourhood before the start of the project** to get-to-know the residents and let them know about the project.
- **Artistic event** to help us open the space. We will stream it over internet, in our innovative multichannel format **SIMS – synchronous interactive multi stream** (www.anamonro.si/steber/sims/), and through that reach or address even the more shy or sceptical residents that won't join us in person.
- **Practical workshops** that help the residents build interpersonal connections and, at the same time, gain some new skills.
- **Neighbours' day** with entertaining activities – a longer event where residents can get-to-know one another even better and, possibly, show one another what skills they have gained in the workshops.

3 Première

In the first phase of the *Art Yard* project, following the principles of *Ana Under Your Window*, we created a new, interactive show *Circus Corona* that addresses the life in times of Corona in an entertaining and light way (www.anamonro.si/steber/cirkus-korona/). We played it in courtyards of estates – on 15 June 2021 also in the new-built Novo Brdo neighbourhood in Ljubljana that opened its doors to residents only a month prior.

We noticed that here the distance between people was larger than in other neighbourhoods where we played before. One of the reasons was surely the social distance that people developed or succumbed to in times of the epidemic and the socialising restrictions connected to it. We noticed such distanced behaviour in the framework of our other events as well. But the fact that people seem to be rather distant from one another could well be down to the fact that they are all new neighbours that don't know one another yet. This is why we chose this neighbourhood to be the one where we deliver the *Art Yard* project for the first time due to the project's aim being establishing good dynamics, encouraging interpersonal relationships and building a neighbourly community.

3.1 Programme / contents / programme content

The première happened in the courtyards or community surfaces of all the blocks in the Novo Brdo neighbourhood between **28 September** and **2 October 2021** and comprised of the following phases and contents.

- 22. in 24. 9. // Two visits of the neighbourhood in the week before the start of the programme, when we – in cooperation with children living there – hung **promotional posters** ([Appendix 2](#)) on the entrances of the apartment blocks and gave out **programme leaflets** ([Appendix 3](#)).
- 28. 9. // Staging of the ***Circus Corona*** show on one of the courtyards that was attended by many residents – some of them from the windows and balconies of their apartments – and we also streamed it online over our **SIMS** channel. After the show we addressed the residents and invited them to be part of other planned activities in the following days.
- 29. 9.–1. 10. // Hour-long workshops – separately for adults and children or youngsters – that were happening simultaneously for three days. For adults we prepared a workshop of **making key rings** from recycled materials, a **circus** workshop and an **improv** workshop. For children and youngsters we prepared a **movement and exploration** workshop, a workshop of **creating things from paper** and a **circus** workshop. Workshops for children and youngsters were happening under the wide blue sky, workshops for adults in a community pavilion at the edge of the neighbourhood that is set up like a conference room with tables and chairs.
- 2. 10. // Neighbours' day – a **four-hour programme** that was happening in the whole neighbourhood (courtyards and lawns) and consisted of artist **animations**, **playground equipment** made out of recycled materials, another, if a bit different, rendition of the **movement and exploration workshop** for children, free **catering**

with **crêpes** and squash, **neighbourly conversation** with specialists from *IPoP* who also made a **survey** with the present residents, and to wrap it all up a **music concert**.

PHOTO: www.flickr.com/photos/anadesetnica/albums/72157720048121758.

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zpa5CQvWvA>

3.2 General report / evaluation

The atmosphere in the Novo Brdo neighbourhood was very vibrant, residents accepted our programme well, even very well, and responded to it with enthusiasm. Especially children and youngsters, of which there was a smaller group that eagerly expected us every day, took part in all activities, stayed on our side at all times, talked to us and, at the end of the last day, found it hard to let us go, giving us passionate hugs and grateful thanks.

Adults were less active than what we were hoping for. Most of them joined us on the last day, on the so called neighbours' day (maybe because it was happening on a Saturday hence on a work-free day?), and some of them joined the social activities. Most obviously they enjoyed the music concert of engaged folk songs from the region of Balkans (and even let themselves dance a little) that we'd chosen not really knowing that many of residents originate from the republics of former Yugoslavia.

It is worth mentioning that in the framework of this programme we also indirectly addressed residents that didn't join our events, but did notice them from their windows and balconies. It makes us particularly joyful that in the five days of our presence in the neighbourhood, some of them found their courage and actually joined us in the courtyards.

We did realise, though, that there are many more possibilities to make the programme better and bring the doorstep theatre project *Art Yard* to its full potential. In the framework of its further development we will **upgrade** the current contents or **add** new and different contents such as the following ones.

- **Preliminary research** of the structure of residents in the neighbourhood (nationality, age, social status ...);
- **Direct dialogue with residents** after the artistic event – with the goal for them to share with us their positive and negative thoughts, feelings and experiences or actual living situations that they are facing in the (new) neighbourhood and with making new acquaintances, relationships. On the basis of the gained data we will set up the programme in a way to address the mentioned topics/challenges/problems and encourage the residents to think and talk about them to hopefully find some good solutions.
- **Research** of the possibilities of using social networks in the framework of *Art Yard* – with the goal of building a residents community within an individual neighbourhood and with the goal of setting up a dialogue or experience exchange between residents of different neighbourhoods that will be part of it all.

3.3 Feedback (opinions) of residents

The *Art Yard* project is so far still in the development phase. To be able to assess the success and efficiency of the première rendition and get the guidance on how to develop the programme further, we conducted a survey among the residents on the last day of activities. The results showed that all the residents liked *Art Yard* and that for most of them it was a new and interesting experience that connected them (even more) into a community. This is why they want more of such events, what we take as a sign of great success.

In the Appendix 4 we share the detailed results of the questionnaire.

3.4 Interviews with residents about living in the neighbourhood

In the framework of the *Art Yard* project we connected with Slovenian specialists from *IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies* that employ themselves with sustainable development of public/communal spaces, placemaking and research of participatory practices in the space management.

For the last day we planned a conversation of residents with the IPoP specialists, but it turned out that they don't (yet) feel comfortable to share their opinions about living in the neighbourhood openly or in front of other residents. The conversation leaders hence used an entirely new method – interviewing in space – that they developed in the process of preparing for the cooperation in our project, as a potentially efficient method of including neighbourhood residents into their participatory processes. Using this method they managed to draw in residents of all age groups, which is why they want to develop it even further.

In Appendix 5 we share a detailed report.

3.5 Opinion of our professional partner

Our invitation to join the first rendition of *Art Yard* project was also answered by **Simona Savickaitė** who has several years of experience in coordinating projects that build neighbourhood communities with the help of arts in Lithuania. At the end she shared with us her observations, opinions, suggestions and guidance about how to improve or further develop our project. Some of her thoughts were: *“It is obvious that you enjoy working and communicating with people and you (also) care about their experience. You re open, emphatic and kind, which not everyone is capable of. /.../* Residents were not only guests or audience, but you managed to successfully include them into the project and stimulate them into cooperation.”

In Appendix 6 we share the full opinion of our professional partner.

3.6 Responses of participating artists / creators

All the programme (co)creators of the first rendition of *Art Yard* have several years of experience in performing in public space and/or leading workshops which makes them very good in interacting with people/audience. A lot of them were also involved with the *Ana Under Your Window* project that the *Art Yard* project grew out of.

They expressed that being part of *Art Yard* was a very special and wonderful experience for them that stimulated them to search for new and different approaches to build a dialogue with their audience and build relationships with them as well as with other artists, to search for new possibilities of (differently) using the space, as well as to develop new performative, pedagogical and communicational approaches, methods and tools. All this enabled their artistic and personal growth and, as a result, empowered them – as artistic creators/facilitators and as people.

In Appendix 7 we share expressions of some artists about their impressions and experience.

4 Concluding thoughts

On the basis of everything presented above, we conclude that the first rendition of the *Art Yard* project was successful, for we managed to stimulate the residents to make new acquaintances and to socialise. We presented them with the possibility of a community, and we believe that we've sown its seed. Doing that, we have to a high degree achieved the social goal that we had set – to contribute to forming a group of people that can long-lastingly become a driving force of the neighbourhood community. And this is exactly the mission of our doorstep theatre project *Art Yard* or its lasting effect – building a community!

5 List of appendices

- *Appendix 1*: About Ana Monro Theatre
- *Appendix 2*: Promotional poster (originally in A3 format, author Mateja Štruc)
- *Appendix 3*: Programme leaflet (originally in A5 format, author Mateja Štruc)
- *Appendix 4*: Analysis of questionnaire results (author Leja Forštner)
- *Appendix 5*: Report of *IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies* (authors Aidan Cerar and Anja Slapničar)
- *Appendix 6*: Opinion of our professional partner (author Simona Savickaitė)
- *Appendix 7*: Responses of participating artists

APPENDIX 1: *About Ana Monroe Theatre*



HISTORY, MISSION AND VISION

Ana Monroe Theatre Association (GAM Association) was founded in 1990 descending from the activity of a small, but expressively and artistically strong theatre group *Ana Monroe* that was founded in 1981 and was for round three decades (1982–2012) creatively active for the street and on the street – in its homeland and abroad. In this period its members brought into Slovenian space street theatre, theatre improvisation and caustic satire known as “monroe humour or monroery” (slov. monrojevski humor or monrojevstvo), and played an important part in founding the (former) cultural centre *KUD France Prešeren*. They have founded an association for the purpose of formalisation, professionalisation and strengthening the recognition of different alternative forms of theatre or theatre creation oriented towards the audience.

The members of *The GAM Association* bound ourselves to always act in the spirit of its founders and respect and take into consideration their guidelines of quality artistic creation as well as its popularisation and international recognition. *The GAM Association* works in public interest in the field of culture (since 2014) and in the field of upbringing and education (since 2017).

The mission of *GAM Association* is a continual use, research and development of public space as a space of creation and presentation of theatre art, a space of education and artistic communication, as well as a space of gathering, socialising, cooperation and connection of wider crowds. The vision of *GAM Association* is keeping the public space open for arts and people.

ACTIVITIES

Today, the GAM Association is the central Slovenian organisation in the field of contemporary performative street arts. Various activities of *Ana Monroe Theatre* are systematised into four pillars – *Festivals, Creation, Knowledge transfer* and *International* – each one of them consisting of various local, all-Slovenian and international activities that interact and contribute to one another.

The main field of our work is public space and we are specialists in organising and delivering festivals (*Ana Desetnica, Ana Mraz, Ana Plamenita*) and other freely accessible cultural and social events in this space. With these events, we address the most heterogeneous audience that we make into a community for a short time, and change the use of urban spaces, into which we also invite people that would otherwise not choose to attend a cultural event. We strive for the public space to be a space of free and equal expression and work.

In the field of creation we've recently been making original works that specifically address environmental, climate, energetics and biodiversity topics (*Last Catch, River of Seven Names*) as well as international co-productions. We are developing applied theatre – productions that are directed at specific audience from non-cultural environments like tourism, schools, economy, ecology, neighbourhood societies, but are also interesting for a general audience (*Ljubljana Stories, Circus Corona*). As producers we also support creation or development of original works of other artists from our street community and various artistic and/or non-artistic initiatives, programmes and projects.

We are the leading and referential specialists for training in the field of contemporary performative street arts in Slovenia and wider international space. Since 2007 we organise a programme of informal education and training for young artistic creators *ŠUGLA, School of contemporary performative street arts*, from which a number of shorter programmes have arisen in recent years that are addressed at pupils, professional pedagogical workers, theatre mentors and others that are actively involved in working with young people and groups of them. Within the knowledge and experience transfer work we are also actively connecting with similar organisations and in cooperation with them delivering projects of the so-called lifelong learning with performing arts.

An important segment of our work (that enables a continual growth and development) is also international connection and cooperation. This is why we regularly visit European festivals and actively connect with kindred organisations at home and around the world, on the level of (co)production, artist exchange as well as knowledge and experience exchange. We are (founding) members of various European associations (*EFETSA, European Federation for Education and Training in Street Arts*), initiators of professional gatherings, an important agent in the field of international education (*SAWA*) and founders of an international accolade (*urbANA ljubljANA / URBana LJUBLJana*). We are increasingly active in the field of mobility of young people.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.anamonro.si/en

CONTACT

anamonrotheatre@gmail.com

APPENDIX 2: Promotional poster

GLEDALIŠČE ANGE MONRO PREDSTAVLJA IN VABI NA

Art Yard

PROJEKT SOSEDSKEGA GLEDALIŠČA
(soseska Novo Brdo, 28.9.—2.10.)

Cirkus korona
atraktivna interaktivna predstava o življenju v času korone
28.9. ob 17:00



Delavnice
za odrasle in otroke
29.9.—1.10.
od 17:30 do 18:30



sosedski dan
zabavno druženje in skupno(stno) kosilo
2.10. od 11:00 do 15:00



GLEDALIŠČE NA VSAKO DVORIŠČE!

APPENDIX 3: Programme leaflet

Dejmo še mi zganjat cirkus z gledališčem!

Predstava **CIRKUS KORONA**, ki na zabaven in lahkoten način nagrajuje občutke, stiske in konkretne bivanjske situacije, s katerimi se v obdobju korone, ko je življenje postalo cel cirkus, tako ali drugače soočamo vsi, je zmes komedije, drame absurda in freak showa – skratka zrcalna slika realnosti, v kateri živimo!

med bloki, 28.10. ob 17.



A gremo malo delat, pa se zraven fajn imet?

DELAVNICE ZA ODRASLE

- **RECIKLAŽA (29.9.)**
predelaj in izdelaj
- **CIRKUS (30.9.)**
upaj si biti igriv
- **IMPRO (1.10.)**
delavnica za najstnike

DELAVNICE ZA OTROKE

- **ZELENI ZAKLAD (29.9.)**
razgibaj telo in duha
- **USTVARJANJE DOBRE
SOSEŠČINE (30.9.)**
papir prenese vse
- **CIRKUS (1.10.)**
spoznaj in osvoji veščine

vse delavnice se začnejo ob 17:30



Ko ni treba v službo, je čas za dobro družbo!

Pojdimo vsi na dvorišče in si na njem ustvarimo svoje igrišče! Imejmo **SOSEDSKI DAN** in se skupaj sprostimo, poveselimo, kaj sočnega pogovorimo ter nekaj novega in lepega doživimo. In ko bo čas za **KOSILO**, si ga privoščimo zunaj, na pikniku skupaj s sosedi! Za konec druženja se pa še malo dobri glasbi prepustimo.

med bloki, sobota 2.10., med 11. in 15. uro

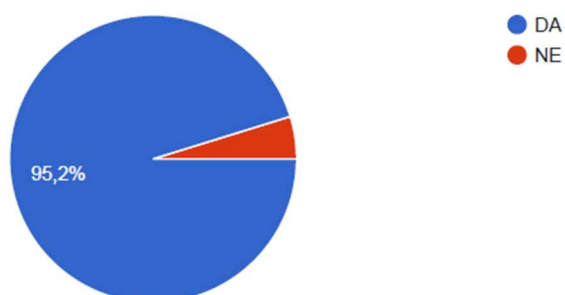


Člani **Društva Gledališče Ane Monroe** (Goro Osojnik, Tea Vidmar, Anže Mohorič, Ankica Radivojevič in Leja Forštner) projekt izvajamo v sodelovanju z našimi rednimi sodelavci (Tina Žen, Polona Prosen, Camilo Acosta Mendoza, Drago Zadnikar in Tim Car), **Društvom Impro**, **Društvom Gibatorij**, **Inštitutom za politike prostora** in **The Balkan Experience of Song and Ritual**, s podporo **Mestne občine Ljubljana** in soglasjem **Javnega stanovanjskega sklada** in **Službe za lokalno samoupravo MOL**. Promocijske materiale oblikuje **Mateja Štruc**, avtor fotografij in fotograf dogodka je **Luka Dakskobler**.

APPENDIX 4: Analysis of questionnaire results

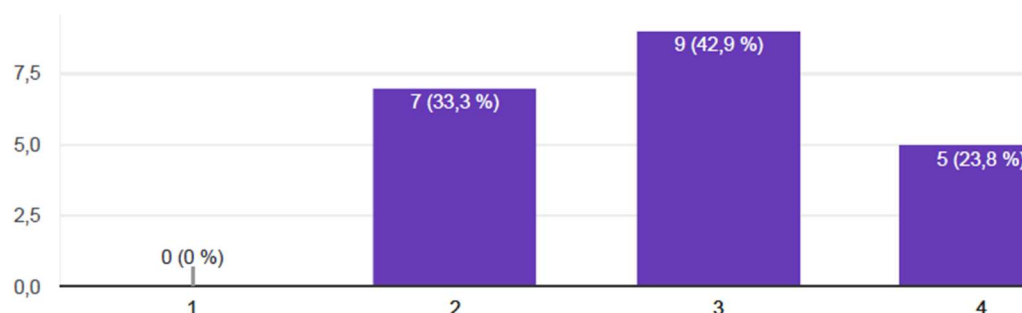
The questionnaire was answered by 21 people of both genders, of which 12 were adults and 9 were children or youth.

1. Do you reside in the Novo Brdo neighbourhood?



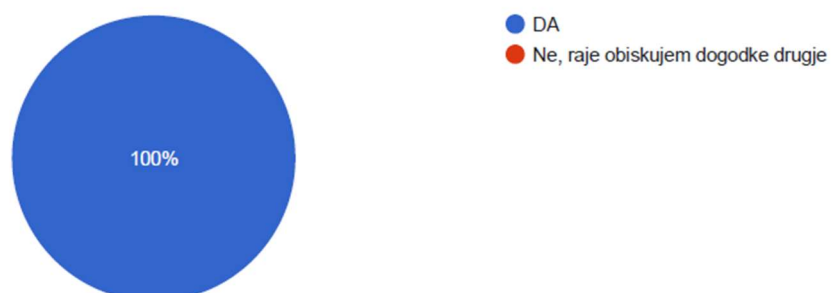
19 (95.2 %) of respondents resides in the Novo Brdo neighbourhood, two of them were only visiting it.

2. How often do you take part in cultural and social events?



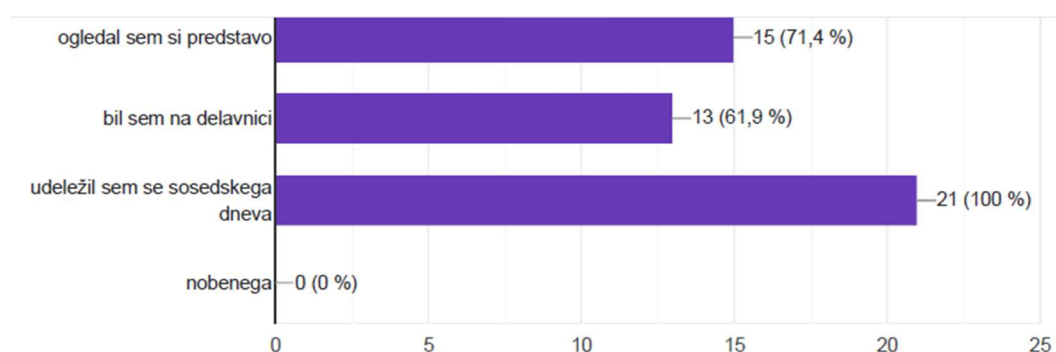
7 (33.3 %) of responding residents **rarely** takes part in cultural and social events, 9 (42.9 %) of them **occasionally**, 5 (23.8 %) **regularly**.

3. Do you like the idea of *Art Yard* to bring theatre to your doorstep?



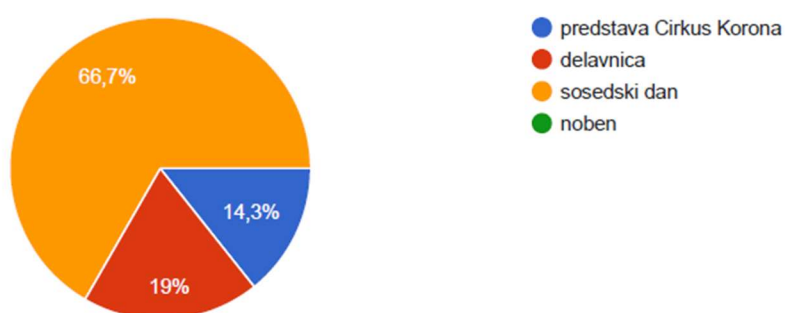
All of the 21 (100 %) respondents liked the idea of *Art Yard* project to bring theatre on their doorstep.

4. Which events of the *Art Yard* project did you take part in?



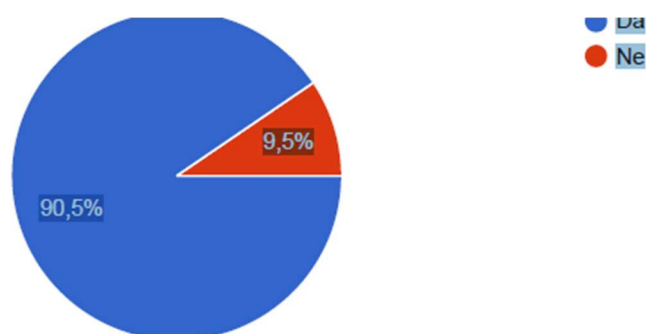
All 21 responding residents took part in the “neighbours’ day”. 15 (71.4 %) of them also watched the show *Circus Corona*, 13 (61.9 %) of them took part in at least one workshop.

5. Which event did you like the most?



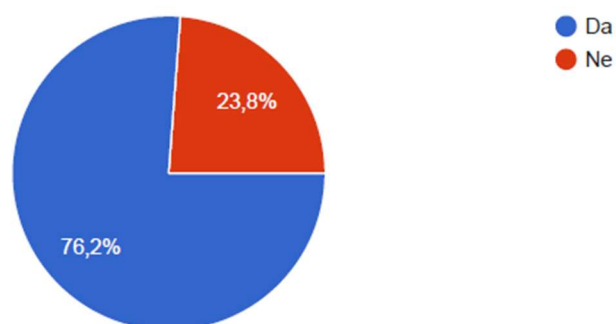
Two thirds, that is 14 (66.7 %) respondents, liked the “neighbours’ day” the most, 4 (19 %) of them the workshops, 3 (14.3 %) of them the show.

6. Was the *Art Yard* project a new and interesting experience for you?



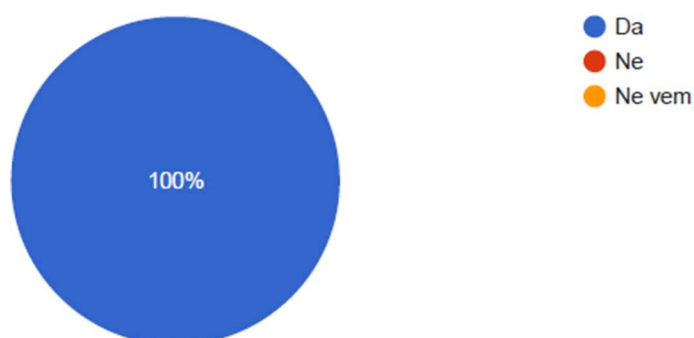
For most of the residents, that is 19 (90.5 %), the project was a new and interesting experience.

7. As part of the *Art Yard* project, did you make new neighbourly acquaintances?



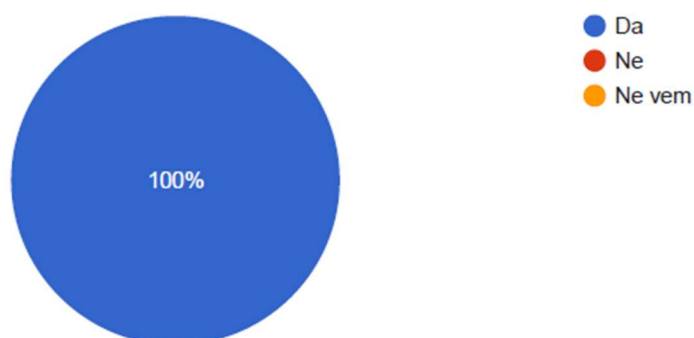
More than three fourths, that is 16 respondents (76.2 %), made new neighbourly acquaintances as part of the project, the remaining 5 (23.8 %) didn't.

8. Do you think the *Art Yard* project connected the residents into a community (even more)?



All of the responding residents think that *Art Yard* connected them (even more) into a community.

9. Would you like more of such events?



All of 21 residents (100 % of respondents) would like to have more of such events.

APPENDIX 5: Report of IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies



SHORT INTERVIEWS WITH RESIDENTS OF THE NOVO BRDO NEIGHBOURHOOD IN LJUBLJANA

Interview report

Authors of the report: Anja Slapničar, Aidan
Cerar Date of report: 5 October 2021

1 Introduction

In Novo Brdo neighbourhood in Ljubljana, *Ana Monro Theatre* delivered the *Art Yard* project that aimed at connecting the residents into a community. A good part of activities consisted of theatre and other cultural and social activities in the neighbourhood. The job of *IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies* was a delivery of a survey workshop with the residents of the neighbourhood. The objective of the workshop was to gain knowledge about how the residents feel in the neighbourhood, what they like, what they don't like, and what are their suggestions about improving the neighbourhood or the standards of living in the neighbourhood.

We have planned a workshop in a pavilion on the eastern side of the neighbourhood. However, due to not many neighbourhood residents coming to the workshop, we chose to use a different method of interacting with the residents – interviewing in space. With posters that were to be filled up with opinions of the residents, we approached people and if they were residents of the neighbourhood, we asked them a few questions.

- Do they like residing in the neighbourhood?
- What do they like?
- What do they not like?
- Do they have any suggestions for improving the neighbourhood or the standards of living in the neighbourhood?

2 Data and map

- Date and time of carrying out the interviews: Saturday, 2. 10. 2021 // 12:00-13:30.
- Number of interviewed residents of the neighbourhood: Between 25 and 30 residents of all age groups.
- Area of carrying out the interview: Marked on the map below.



Source: Housing Fund of Republic of Slovenia.

3 Report and picture of the poster

3.1 Playgrounds and public spaces in the neighbourhood

Residents like it most that in the neighbourhood there are many children and many playgrounds, where they can gather and socialise. They also like it when there are things happening in the neighbourhood – an example of theatre and activities that were happening within *Art Yard*. Residents also cherish peace in the neighbourhood. Children like the smooth ground surface, that is good for skating, the hill and the playgrounds. They miss a climbing wall and even more playgrounds and equipment: they mentioned a wish for a football pitch on the south-eastern side of the neighbourhood and a merry-go-round.

Adult residents often mentioned that they would like more green on their roofs where they see an opportunity for community gardens and beehives.

Residents miss lighting as the lights of public lighting are very rarely switched-on.

They are also worried about vandalism and improper attitude towards the mutual property in the neighbourhood. About the vandalism groups of teenagers were mentioned. On the paths paved with cobble there are puddles. Some dog owners are negligent about keeping the public surfaces clean.

3.2 Traffic

There were less suggestions about the traffic than we expected. Most of the residents are satisfied about the good spot of the neighbourhood and the possibility to visit the shops on foot. Some of them mentioned a wish to have a better bus connection to Šiška (another district of Ljubljana) because it is relatively close and many of them used to reside there, which is why many of their children still go to school there.

3.3 Parking and garage

There were two remarks about the parking:

- Some residents don't respect the parking regime in the garage and park in bays that don't belong to them. Residents mention a possibility to mark the parking bays with the registration numbers of the cars that the bays belong to.
- The outside parking area for visitors is mostly filled-up with vehicles of the neighbourhood residents that didn't manage to get an additional bay in the garage. Some residents mentioned a wish to have additional parking bays built or to establish a payment regime in this parking area.

Problematic are the bars that let some cobbles fall down on the parked cars in the garage. Also, there were already some floods in the garage. Residents would like some mirrors installed in the garage to aid their vision when turning around the corners or parking.

3.4 Management

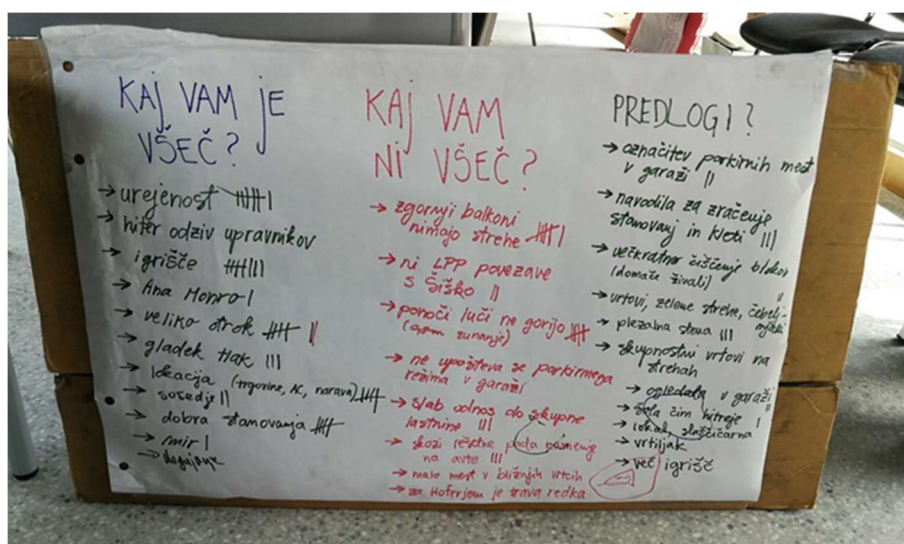
Residents are mostly satisfied with the general tidiness of the neighbourhood. Management was hardly mentioned. It was mentioned that the manager is adequately responsive, but that they would like to have some sort of a management representative that would be accessible in the neighbourhood.

3.5 Buildings

Residents mostly mentioned problems with balconies:

- Upper balconies don't have a roof which is a disturbing fact for the residents of these apartments.
- Some would like to close or glaze their balconies, but are not sure if this is allowed or if they have to follow any architectural guidelines. This is why they suggest for the manager to set up guidelines for glazing the balconies.

It was also mentioned that the mutual parts of the buildings could be cleaned more often.



Picture 1: Opinions and suggestions of residents.

3.6 Apartments

Most of the residents praised their apartments. They are worried about the moisture in the basements as well as in apartments. They suggest for the manager to prepare an information leaflet about how to air basements and apartments. It was mentioned there are occasional troubles with the outer bells below at the main entrances into apartment blocks

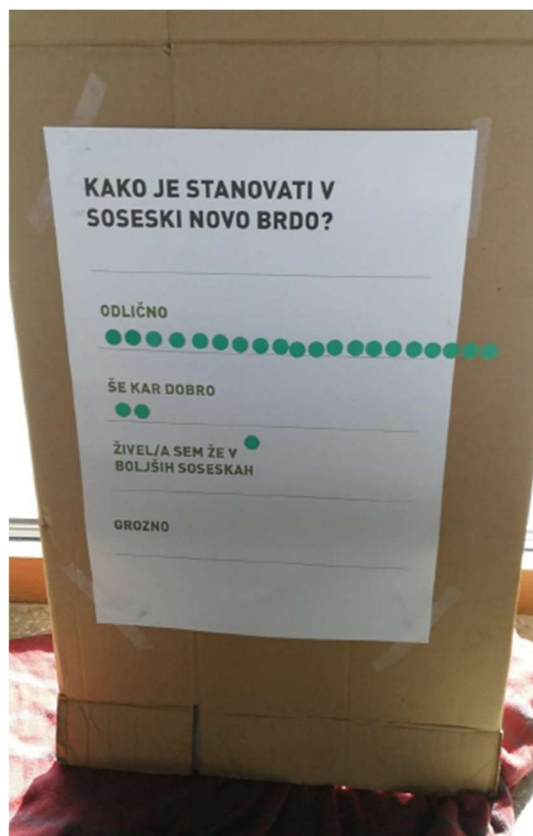
3.7 Infrastructure

Most of the residents mentioned they would like to get a spot for their child in the neighbouring nurseries. They also hope for a new school to be built nearby. They would appreciate a café in the neighbourhood.

4 Questionnaire

Residents we talked to also filled in a simple questionnaire about how it is to live in the Novo Brdo neighbourhood.

Results show that most of them think it **outstanding**.



Picture 2: Results of the short questionnaire.

APPENDIX 6: Opinion of our professional partner

Author: **Simona Savickaitė**

Since 2018, Simona Savickaitė is a coordinator of a community programme of the Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022 (Lithuania) project. The main area of her work are large scale community events such as “Courtyard Feast” and “Festival Fluxus” in Lithuania. Since 2010, she has actively participated in various cultural activities as a volunteer. She finished six trainings organised in the frame of European Union in different European countries as well as a six-month training for community facilitators.

In western cultures community arts have existed in different forms for about thirty years. However, only in the first decade of XXI. century one has started to delve into them theoretically.

The theatre troupe *Ana Monro* from Ljubljana (Slovenia) boldly and courageously started to delve into this new, unexplored field – community arts, community involvement, cultural decentralization. Their *Art Yard* project covers all aspects of community art – project takes a few days so that its effect would be deeper and more meaningful, the community is invited to create content for the project, they communicate with the community the entire time, professional artists, who are involved in the project, help the community to create better quality content for the project. Activities are open for everyone, from children to adults.

Theatre, circus, stage arts performances are great tools that help strengthen the community, familiarise people with one another, get braver through creative activities. The celebration created in the yard of residents encourages pride of their residence, strengthens their loyalty to it, increases the happiness index.

Ana Monro's activities are very necessary and meaningful in this changing, ever-freezing society. Cultural decentralisation, when culture itself comes to people's yards, is especially needed for people in need and those who cannot afford culture. And getting-to-know your neighbours is one of the most important aspects to living a full, communal and safe life.

I would like to encourage theatre troupe *Ana Monro* to visit as many yards as possible and with their project bring even more happiness to the people of Ljubljana!

APPENDIX 7: Responses of participating artists

- **Tea Vidmar** (performer, creator and pedagogue, *Ana Monroe Theatre*) – co-creator of the *Circus Corona* show

“As an actor and singer, I've discovered some new possibilities or a new way of communicating/artistically interacting with the audience, because in my character I could enter their domestic, everyday, intimate and personal space where I could approach them and encourage them to experience something out of the ordinary.”

- **Tina Žen** (designer and costume maker, contractor of *Ana Monroe Theatre*) – co-creator of the *Circus Corona* show and facilitator of a creative workshop

“I find Art Yard a brilliant project for connecting people, for getting-to-know one another, cooperation, opinion exchange, mutual spending of time. In new neighbourhoods, where the community is only been build, I find the way for people to meet one another over culture, creative and movement workshops and games especially appropriate. With regards to the high number of participants of the workshop I led, I can conclude that residents are also excited about such projects. I think that their response at the end of the programme said everything. Art Yard can easily become a regular feature of our neighbourhoods.”

- **Polona Prosen** (performer and creator, *Ana Monroe Theatre*) – facilitator of a creative workshop

“I spent a fairly short time in the space, but when there I was very surprised by the reactions of children that were very driven, full of energy, curious, willing to create and socialise. Some offered help to prepare the space for the workshop. Even though they go to different schools, they've already started to socialise.”

- **Katjuša Kovačič** (creator, performer and pedagogue, *Gibatorij Association*) – facilitator of a movement workshop

“For me Art Yard was a brilliant experience! I am looking forward to even more such projects for we could really connect with the residents of the neighbourhood – more than we normally connect to our audience or visitors of our events. The workshop that I led was very successful, children and parents were having fun, and so did the pedagogues and the artists. Among the residents, especially children, there was talk about them never having been socialising, getting-to-know one another and enjoying themselves so much. Thank you to the Ana Monroe team!”

- **Nikola Orešković** (creator, performer and pedagogue, *Gibatorij Association*) – facilitator of a movement workshop

“I would deem Art Yard project very successful. I think that we managed to offer, especially to children and youngsters, highly various content that clearly made them enthusiastic about it. Organisation of events was very good, the response of the residents outstanding, and Ana

Monro Theatre staff proved themselves once again to be a great team. In regards to this experience, I am looking forward to cooperate on further deliveries of this project."

- **Vesna Cesar** (pedagogue, Gibatorij Association) – facilitator of a movement workshop

"I find Art Yard an incredibly good idea for connecting neighbourhood residents into a community. It is great that we can use theatre techniques to immerse people into creating something new in an entertaining and at the same time educational way. Personally, I don't have many such experiences and am happy to have had the opportunity to learn something new."

- **Brigita Marko** (singer in *The Balkan Experience of Song and Ritual* group) – performer in a music concert

"We have never had such a vibrant, young and lively audience as the one among the blocks of the new Ljubljana Novo Brdo neighbourhood. The sentiment of home we can feel everywhere where we get to feel our heart and our body. Where we connect with others and with the space through creativity, play, music, laughter, conversation, multi-level exchange. And this is exactly what was happening in the framework of the Art Yard project, in a neighbourhood that still "smells new". I believe the project gave people an opportunity to step out of their tidy boxes, differently and more confidently than before. In a creative way, with an attention to one another, with an intention of meeting, not going past one another, in an in-between-space of their homes, where they will, I hope, be meeting on, letting the spirit of aliveness blow into their space."