STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ART CONTEST "STORIES ON THE DANUBE"

Article 1

Project Organizer

The organizer of the international art competition "Stories on the Danube" (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") is BIBIANA, International House of Art, with its registered office at Panská ul. 41, 815 39 Bratislava, Slovak Republic, ID No.: 00682357 (hereinafter referred to as the "Organizer") in cooperation with the embassies and cultural institutes of the Danube countries (hereinafter referred to as the "Partners").

The Project is financially supported by the Organizer.

Article 2

Project Objective

The project, the international art competition "Stories on the Danube," is an accompanying event to the interactive exhibition Ahoy! Danube, produced by the Organizer, which aims to present the Danube River as a significant natural and cultural phenomenon that connects people along the Danube while also representing a dynamic, ever-changing element of the European landscape.

The project's goal is to support the creativity of children and youth (ages 6–15) through the illustration of stories and legends related to the Danube region. The project is not only a competition but also an extensive online showcase from which a panel of experts will select works for a subsequent physical exhibition.

The intention is to create a digital archive of works and stories in Slovak, English, and the national languages of the Danube countries, which will remain accessible even after the project ends and will serve to foster long-term cultural connections and strengthen mutual relations.

Article 3

Participants

The project is intended for **children and young people aged 6 to 15.** The competition is divided into two categories and is open to participants from the participating Danube countries:

Category I: 6–10 years old

Category II: 11–15 years old

Article 4

Rules for Submitting Artwork

1. Each participant may enter the project by submitting a maximum of one illustration of a story or legend related to the Danube in their country. Stories and legends from participating countries will be published on the Organizer's website https://bibiana.sk/en/dunaj for the benefit of contestants, where they will be clearly organized by country.

2. The illustration must be an original work created by the participant specifically for this project and must not infringe on the copyrights of other artists.

3. Only two-dimensional works in digital form may be submitted to the project. The contestant chooses the format size and artistic technique.

4. Entries must be submitted exclusively electronically via the registration form on the project website https://bibiana.sk/en/dunaj/submit.

5. File format: JPG or PNG

6. Recommended resolution: minimum 2000 × 2000 px, recommended 2480 × 3508 px (A4 at 300 DPI) to ensure the work is usable in print quality; file size up to 10 MB. Submit digital illustrations in their final size and without the author's name on the work itself; the author's name should be listed on the application form.

7. Do not upload your work as a thumbnail—it is important to preserve details and colors.

8. We recommend that a legal guardian review the work before submission to avoid technical issues.

9. Entries that do not meet the technical requirements may be excluded from the project.

10. Each submitted entry must include an application form containing:

    a. The author's first and last name, age, and country of origin,

    b. Contact information for the legal guardian (first and last name, email),

    c. Contact information for the teacher (first and last name, email), if the entry is submitted by a school,

    d. Consent to the processing of personal data under the GDPR. By submitting a competition entry, the participant (or, in the case of a person under 16 years of age, their legal guardian) grants the Organizer consent to process personal data for the purposes of presenting the artwork and promoting the project.

    e. The statue, application form and consent to the processing of personal data under the GDPR for the purposes of the competition can be found in the competition rules https://bibiana.sk/en/dunaj/rules.

Article 5

Publication and Protection of Personal Data under the GDPR

1. By submitting an entry to the Organizer, the Participant (or, in the case of a person under 16 years of age, their legal guardian) grants consent to the processing of personal data for the purposes of presenting the artwork and promoting the project. Consent is granted to the following extent:

o For the purposes of the online gallery and presentation: Publication of the author's first name, age, and country of origin along with the competition entry on the Organizer's website.

o In the event of winning and selection for a physical exhibition: Publication of the first name, last name, age, and country of origin on the project's website, at the exhibition venue, and on the Organizer's official social media accounts.

2. Personal data will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of personal data (GDPR) as well as Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on the protection of personal data, exclusively for the purposes of implementing the project and creating a digital archive of the project. This consent may be revoked at any time in writing by emailing monika.machova@bibiana.sk.

3. Each submitted entry will be registered in the Organizer's system under a unique reference number, which will also be published alongside the work on the website.

4. Competition entries will be published gradually on the project website https://bibiana.sk/en/dunaj/gallery, along with the information specified in Article 5, point 2 (registration number, first name, and country).

5. If a work is selected for an award or shortlisted in a competition, the author's first and last name, age group, and country of origin will be published (subject to prior consent).

Article 6

Cooperation

1. The project is implemented in cooperation with the embassies and cultural institutes of the Danube countries participating in the project (hereinafter referred to as "Partners").

2. A Partner from each participating country shall provide, for the purposes of the project, a story or legend related to the Danube River within the territory of that country. The Organizer undertakes to publish this content on its website in Slovak, English, and the Partner's respective national language.

3. The Partner undertakes to cooperate in the presentation and promotion of the project, particularly toward educational institutions (schools) and the general public within its country.

Article 7

Evaluation

1. At the conclusion of the project, an evaluation will be conducted as part of the art competition, and the winning entries will be selected.

2. The highest authority of the competition will be a panel of experts consisting of representatives of the Organizer and representatives of diplomatic and cultural institutions of individual countries operating in Slovakia.

3. Voting will take place online. Representatives of the diplomatic and cultural institutions of each country will select 3 winners in each category from each participating country.

4. In addition to the expert jury, the public will also participate in the voting. From each participating country, the public may vote for one work, which will receive the People's Choice Award.

Article 8

Awards

1. The expert jury will select 3 winning entries from each participating country in every age category.

2. Through a public vote, the public will select 1 entry from each country to receive the People's Choice Award.

3. The authors of the winning entries will receive:

a. Exhibition of the work at the Organizer's premises.

b. Publication of the work in the printed publication **Danube Stories**, scheduled for release in March–April 2027. A copy of the publication will be sent to the author via the embassy of the respective country.

c. A free family ticket to exhibitions organized by the Organizer, valid for 2 years.

Article 9

Project Timeline

Selection of stories and legends: April – July 2026

Project preparation on the Organizer's website: April – May 2026

Project launch: June 1, 2026

Submission of entries in electronic form: June 2 – November 11, 2026

Publication of entries: submitted entries will be published on an ongoing basis at https://bibiana.sk/en/dunaj/gallery

End of the contest: November 13, 2026 (Deadline for submitted entries)

Jury voting: November 16 – December 6, 2026

Public voting: December 7 – December 13, 2026 at https://bibiana.sk/en/dunaj/vote

Announcement of winners: after December 16, 2026

Award ceremony: January 2027, in person or via representatives of individual countries

Exhibition of winning entries: January 2027 at the organizer's premises

Graphic design of the publication: December 2026 – February 2027

Publication release: March – April 2027

Article 10

Organization and Management of the Competition

1. The organizer, BIBIANA, International House of Art for Children, Panská ul. 41, 815 39 Bratislava, is responsible for the organizational aspects of the competition.

2. Martina Pavlikánová, martina.pavlikanova@bibiana.sk, is responsible for the preparation and organization of the competition.

3. Competition Secretary and contact person: Monika Machová, monika.machova@bibiana.sk

Article 11

Final Provisions

1. By participating in the competition, the participant and their legal guardian confirm that they have read and agree to the rules.

2. The rules take effect on the date of their publication on the project's website.

In Bratislava, May 28, 2026

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Ing. Petra Flach

Director