

Historical Timeline



1928

A dominant Turkish culture with only 21 schools who taught in the Turkish language and a registered duration of education not exceeding 6 years



1948

The forced displacement of Palestinians from Israel to Jordan changed the latter's demographic. Many cultural missions came to Jordan to develop education, increase the number of schools and fund cultural projects.



1961

The population reached 800,900. 1/4 of which resided in Amman causing the city to flourish in terms of cultural education and economy.



1964

Establishment of the Ministry of Media Culture and Tourism entrusted with regulating the cultural sector and setting up a strong foundation for cultural growth.

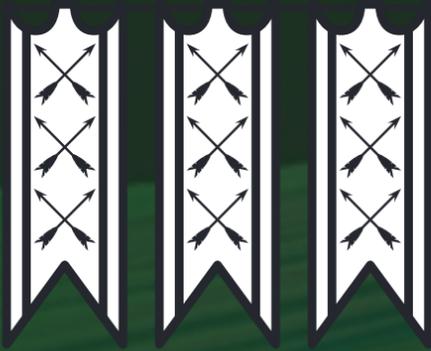


1967

The government encouraged artistic production about nationalist sentiments, resistance and allegiance to the homeland after the Israeli attack.



1980s



Under the influence of Queen Noor, Jordan defacto patron of the arts, government initiatives endorsed both traditional Jordanian culture and Western culture.

1991

The immigration Iraqi writers and artists to Jordan after the Gulf war, initiated a cultural renaissance. But this movement was not sustained due to the heavy focus on heritage, the absence of a clear cultural agenda and religious conservatism



Human rights

Limits on artistic freedom of expression



- The necessity to seek consent to organize public meetings (even if the Jordanian law allows public meetings and demonstrations without the government permission)
- The sudden disruption and end of meetings/public events without explanation
- Censorship
- Law banning speech that affects the king, the government, officials, institutions and religion
- The punishment of defamatory speech

Main violators

Media Commission

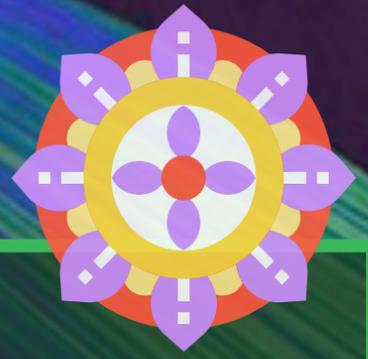
Security authorities
and services

Interior ministry
General Intelligence Department

It is to note that

Despite King Abdullah's call for more freedom in his speeches, the last five years have witnessed a decline in all types of freedom of expression. Limits on artistic freedom of expression are still very abundant.

Cultural ecosystem 2020/2021



Highlights

- Dominated by the private sector and the upper class
- Patronage and absence of cultural policy
- Government ownership of the cultural foundations: houses used by arts associations, cultural centers, film venues, and libraries that do not permanently host artists or groups, which restricts their development due to the cost of organizing an event.
- Local festivals are mostly organized by citizens who have lived abroad wanting to bring their cultural affinity back into Jordan.
- The government distributes less funds to grassroots cultural institutions run as NGO forcing them to seek private sponsorship.
- Cultural civil society organizations find it hard to compete with the Monarchy and impose their cultural identity.
- Creative industries sector remains small and struggles to break into international markets
- Private stakeholders lack sustainable funding opportunities from banks and venture capital firms.

As per the latest budget

State funding

2021

8,773,500 JOD
for Cultural services

Foreign Aid directed towards developing the cultural sector

Total country budget 2021/2022 =
£ 21,216,762.41

Fund spent on civil society 2021 =
4 million USD

Funds spent on culture and recreation in 2020 =
€ 144 Thousand

UK

US

EU

Foreign funded projects

British Council:
£ 10, 311, 110.59

The living Museum of Umm Qais:
£ 200, 7118.79

MADIH: Mapping Digital heritage in Jordan:
£ 174, 619.76

Learning from Multicultural Amman:
Engaging Jordan's Youth:
£ 192,935.31

Dhiban: Valuing Sites through valuable stories:
£ 202, 282.95

Re-writing the pre-history of Jordan
£ 151, 510.42

Archaeology to Business in Fanyan:
£ 86,819.76

Our Past, Our Future, All Together in Fanyan:
£ 202,383.72

A multi-isotope Base Map of Jordan:
£ 200, 405.46

UK El Hassan Research chair:
£ 480,000

European Neighborhood Instrument Global South Allocation

Local European union National institutes for culture clusters

- Embassy of Sweden (mandated)
- Embassy of Czech Republic (mandated)
- Embassy of Hungary
- Embassy of Italy
- Embassy of Spain
- Embassy of Ireland (mandated)
- Embassy of Poland