



Artistic brief - Concept

This document is intended to serve as support in the creation process within the open call contest launched in the context of organizing the Magic Garden exhibition, part of a project with the same name. Magic Garden is a project that is being financed by SEE Grants 2014-2022 within the RO-CULTURA programme.

Therefore, all contestants may understand easier and better the way that their proposals need to integrate with the overall feel and concept of the project.

The project aims to bring the public closer to the , especially the young one Garden of the Baroque Palace from Oradea through the use of new media technology and contemporary art activities. A magical world shall be created, meant to draw attention over the architecture, the botanical species in the garden, meant to bring back into the light impressive episodes from the history of the Palace and the city of Oradea and also to make the visitors acknowledge the baroque style that characterizes the location. The experience will be a stimulative one and the educational role will be accomplished naturally and interactively.

The story

Saint's Ladislau statue will come to life in order to make the introduction in the story of the place and it will invite the visitors to start the tour towards it's left. Saint Ladislau was one of the most loved kings of Hungary from all times.

The visitor will catch an eye over the mythical Phoenix Bird and the guide will explain the meaning of it, connecting it to the rough history of the city that has been destroyed 4 times by the invasions of turks and tatars, managing to rebirth each time



with dignity.

Occupied with sketches, it shall be observed the young architect of the palace, Franz Anton Hillebrandt, who shall become the chief architect for the Imperial Court in Vienna. To his name are linked the Palace of Buda Citadel, Bratislava's Citadel or Vienna's Hofburgh.

Emperor's Franz chariot will appear next to the rebel empress Sissi riding freely. An astronomical scientist will show an old sea map and will say that when Columbus was discovering America, the city of Oradea was the zero meridian of the world and the first astronomical observatory in Europe functioned within the walls of Oradea Citadel.

The sudden apparition of the dragon that crosses the park will bring hints of memories about the military order of the dragon, that has been established during the dark ages in Oradea with the purpose to protect against the Turkish Empire threat.

In the amphitater's area or in the backyard we will meet young Michael Haydn, the first conductor of the Bishopric's orchestra. We find that he will be called to Salzburg to become a musician at the court, the first violinist of Maria Theresia, where he will have in the orchestra the young Mozart. He will invite us in the concert hall to listen to his Requiem.

Next to the historical references, the design of the installations will remember of the baroque style, through grandiose design elements, through dramatical scenery, exuberant details and clear-obscure technique.



Research

Ladislau, the first, king of Hungary in the 11th century is the spiritual father of the city of Oradea and one of the most beloved kings of Hungary. He founded the Diocese of Oradea, around which the fortress and the city will flourish. He completed the Christianization of the Kingdom of Hungary and introduced codes of law, especially those concerning private property, similar to those in Western Europe. Many legends remain about his divine courage, generosity, and grace.

The city was destroyed by the Tatars in 1241, but it experienced a new period of flourishing after a few centuries reaching its peak during the Renaissance. In 1474 the Turks devastated the city under the rule of Ali Pasha. In 1660 the Turks occupied the fortress and destroyed most of it. The Austrian imperial forces liberated the city in 1692, but after 32 years of occupation and as a result of the siege only 21 buildings were habitable in the fortress. The following year they were destroyed by the Tatars so that in 1720 Oradea had only 216 inhabitants.

Franz Joseph and Sisi will remain for eternity a legendary couple, among the most admired of all time, between a man of duty and a rebellious woman. They were united for better and for worse, having together some joys and innumerable personal and political tragedies, all anchored in European memory as preludes to the end of a world, the one before 1914. In the Palace of the Episcopate they had a royal apartment, where they stayed. every time they came to visit.

Franz Joseph, emperor and king, is a legendary, respected and loved figure of the painful destiny of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. A sovereign of reference, a parent and a wall of defense. However, a paradoxical leader.



His 68-year reign, the longest in Habsburg history, was marked by European revolutions, including the emergence of the railways, to which he would pay full attention to modernizing the empire's vast mosaic. Although he was considered conservative, even retrograde because of his desire and struggle for the restoration of absolutism, the beginning of the twentieth century gave him the opportunity to be the first monarch of his dynasty whose voice was recorded on records and could be filmed. on the occasion of family ceremonies.

Sisi was rebellious and extravagant, she hated obligatory worldliness, the looks of others, stupid customs; she was a fearless Amazon in the saddle of a horse, a poet who wanted to be a bird, an ardent traveler who loved departures and hated returns. She did not want to be the Empress of Austria, she fought for the liberation of the peoples subject to the double monarchy. Sisi had avant-garde, modern conceptions, surpassing the closed manners and narrow visions of his time. A pioneer of what would later be called feminism.

Oradea had an intense musical life. Johann Michael Haydn, a close associate of Mozart, was the first conductor of the orchestra in the Episcopal Court. The orchestra would become very popular in Europe, being even more numerous than the one in Vienna. He will be called to Salzburg as a court musician and concert master. It is said that Mozart may have used Michael Haydn's Requiem in C minor, at the premiere of which 15-year-old Mozart had played in the orchestra.

The Order of the Dragon was a medieval Catholic military order created in 1408. The day of its founding could also have coincided with the coronation of its founder, Sigismund of Luxembourg, as King of Hungary in 1387.

It was a military order similar to the Order of the Templars, which was established in



central Europe. It was created by Emperor Sigismund of Luxembourg in 1408, mainly to protect Christianity from the Ottoman threat.

For more than two centuries, the reference point, the Zero Meridian that was used to make navigation maps, was in the Oradea Fortress. This is also where the first astronomical observatory in Europe was born. In the period between 1464-1667, the Zero Meridian was in Oradea, somewhere near the Episcopal Palace Building of those times. The first astronomical observatory in Europe operated in Oradea Fortress.

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