

Annual Report 2024–2025

Stichting Kastanje – Dutch-Ukrainian Cultural Centre

Formal Institutional Edition

Executive Summary

In 2024–2025, Stichting Kastanje organised and co-curated eight cultural events across four European countries — the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, and Belgium. These included exhibitions, performances, educational programmes, and public discussions featuring more than twenty artists and cultural professionals. Together, these initiatives reached hundreds of visitors and participants, strengthening intercultural dialogue and advancing the foundation’s mission to connect Ukrainian and Dutch cultures.

Director’s Introduction

As the Director of Stichting Kastanje, I am proud to present this Annual Report, reflecting a year of meaningful cultural exchange, creativity, and resilience. Amidst a time of global uncertainty, our foundation has continued to grow as a bridge between Ukrainian and Dutch cultures, providing platforms for dialogue, art, and shared understanding. The vision of establishing a Dutch-Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Amsterdam continues to guide our efforts. Each exhibition, event, and partnership described here brings us closer to this goal.

– Mariana Dzhulai, Director

Report by the Board of Directors

The Board of Stichting Kastanje met regularly throughout the year to provide strategic oversight and ensure effective governance. The Board maintained compliance with ANBI standards and continued to support the Director in project execution, partnerships, and fundraising. Board Members: Tetiana Polietaieva (Chairperson), Dr. Vira Kartseva (Treasurer), and Viktoriia Gryshko (Secretary).

Mission, Vision, and Objectives

Mission: To introduce, connect, and continuously develop cross-cultural dialogue between Ukrainian and Dutch cultures.

Vision: Stichting Kastanje supports inclusion and understanding through cultural exchange, art, and education.

Objectives: To showcase Ukrainian culture, foster collaboration, support artists, promote intercultural learning, and contribute to an inclusive society that celebrates diversity.

Activities and Achievements 2024–2025

During 2024–2025, Stichting Kastanje successfully implemented a wide range of projects across Europe, reinforcing its mission to promote Ukrainian culture and intercultural understanding.

Exhibition 'A View from Kyiv'

Embassy of Ukraine, The Hague | October 2023 – February 2024

Curated by Mariana Dzhulai, featuring artists Oleh Tistol and En Rozen. The exhibition explored personal and collective experiences of life during war, merging visual and poetic narratives. It served as a landmark event for cultural diplomacy between Ukraine and the Netherlands.

Performance 'Portrait of Love for Planet Earth'

Griffoen Social Center, Amstelveen | November 22, 2023

Belgian-Ukrainian artist O. Rabycheva led a participatory art performance involving displaced Ukrainians. The collective painting expressed hope, unity, and resilience.

Exhibition at the Ministry of Justice – 'Location Manager's Day'

The Hague | March 5, 2024

Featured works by Barro Donker, Olga Tykhonova, and Olena Rabycheva. The pieces reflected on displacement, resilience, and the enduring role of art during war.

Exhibition 'Light in the Darkness' and Artist Talk

University of Amsterdam | March 8–11, 2024

An exhibition and discussion with artists Barro Donker and Olga Tykhonova focusing on creative response to trauma and renewal through art.

Exhibition 'War in My Canvas'

Suzanne Biederberg Gallery, Amsterdam | March 16 – April 13, 2024

Presented works by Dutch and Ukrainian artists, including Nieck Verschoor, Anton Shchebetko, and En Rozen, highlighting dialogue through artistic resistance.

The House of Light: A Tribute to Polina Raiko

Ukraine House, Copenhagen | January – May 2025

Curated by Mariana Dzhulai. A continuation of the 'Polina Raiko. Disappearing' project, honouring the self-taught artist Polina Raiko and her visionary art destroyed in the war. Supported by Politiken Fonden, Open Society Foundations, and the Danish Art Foundation.

Panel Discussion 'Ukrainian Art in the Time of War'

Art The Hague | October 5, 2024

Curated by Mariana Dzhulai, featuring Ukrainian artists and cultural leaders. The discussion examined the evolving identity of Ukrainian art under war and its role in European cultural dialogue.

Grant Management Q&A with Alona Karavai

Amsterdam Law Hub | November 29, 2025

A professional development event for Ukrainian creatives in the Netherlands. Alona Karavai shared practical guidance on European grant applications and project management.

Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

Throughout the year, Stichting Kastanje collaborated with cultural institutions, embassies, and universities, fostering meaningful partnerships that advanced its mission. Notable partners included the Embassy of Ukraine in the Netherlands, the University of Amsterdam, Suzanne Biederberg Gallery, and the Ukraine House in Copenhagen.

Financial Overview

Stichting Kastanje remains a non-profit foundation, applying all funds received toward cultural projects and operations. During 2024–2025, the organisation secured donations, grants, and pro bono contributions to support exhibitions, artist mobility, and educational programmes.

Governance, ANBI, and Compliance

Stichting Kastanje adheres to ANBI requirements and maintains transparency through annual reporting. Board members serve voluntarily without remuneration. The Director's role remains non-compensated pending sufficient funding. The foundation's accounts are maintained at ABN AMRO and audited annually.

Team and Volunteers

The foundation's work is made possible by a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers who contribute their expertise in art management, communications, and administration. Their collective effort enables the foundation to maintain a high standard of cultural programming.

Future Outlook 2026

In the coming year, Stichting Kastanje will focus on establishing the Dutch-Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Amsterdam. The foundation aims to expand partnerships, secure

sustainable funding, and continue its work in promoting cultural understanding between the Netherlands and Ukraine.

Acknowledgements

Stichting Kastanje extends sincere gratitude to all partners, artists, volunteers, and supporters who made this year possible. Their contributions ensure the ongoing vitality of cultural dialogue and mutual respect between our communities.

Annex I – Overview of Activities 2023–2025

“The Road to Paradise” – Ukrainian Stand on the Life and Art of Polina Raiko – Museumsuferfest, Frankfurt | August 25–27, 2023

Exhibition 'A View from Kyiv' – Embassy of Ukraine, The Hague | October 2023 – February 2024

Performance 'Portrait of Love for Planet Earth' – Griffioen Social Center, Amstelveen | November 22, 2023

Exhibition at the Ministry of Justice – 'Location Manager's Day' – Amersfoort | March 5, 2024

Exhibition 'Light in the Darkness' and Artist Talk – University of Amsterdam | March 8–11, 2024

Exhibition 'War in My Canvas' – Suzanne Biederberg Gallery, Amsterdam | March 16 – April 13, 2024

Lecture 'Discover the History of Ukraine Through Art' by Alevtina Kakhidze – Law Hub, Amsterdam | September 19, 2024

Exhibition 'The House of Polina Raiko. Disappearing' – Lycka Buurtkamer, Amsterdam | September 2024

Kids Workshop and guided tour on the exhibition 'The House of Polina Raiko. Disappearing' – Lycka Buurtkamer, Amsterdam | September 14, 2024

Lecture 'Global Naive Art and the Place of Polina Raiko Within It' by Ihor Sukhorukov – Lycka Buurtkamer, Amsterdam | September 14, 2024

Kids Workshop and guided tour on the exhibition 'The House of Polina Raiko. Disappearing' – Lycka Buurtkamer, Amsterdam | September 21, 2024

Lecture 'Global Naive Art and the Place of Polina Raiko Within It' (2) by Ihor Sukhorukov – Lycka Buurtkamer, Amsterdam | September 21, 2024

Choir Makivka Performance & Fashion Show by Natalie Ryzhenko – Lycka Buurtkamer, Amsterdam | September 22, 2024

Panel Discussion 'Ukrainian Art in the Time of War' – Art The Hague | October 5, 2024

Grant Management Q&A with Alona Karavai – Amsterdam Law Hub | November 29, 2024

Window Exhibition and Video Projection 'The House of Polina Raiko. Disappearing' – Amsterdam Law Hub, University of Amsterdam | December 24, 2024 – January 21, 2025

Exhibition 'The House of Light: A Tribute to Polina Raiko' – Ukraine House, Copenhagen | January 2025– May 2026

Light Installation 'The House of Light: A Tribute to Polina Raiko' – Copenhagen Light Festival, Ukraine House, Copenhagen | January 31 – February 28, 2025

The Art of Taste – Ukrainian Charity Dinner. Exhibition ЇЖА. Charity Auction– Ocean, Haarlem | May 17, 2025

Sip & Sculpt Session for Ukrainian Women 65+ for the “Here and Now” Club from ARTZUID, a guided tour of the sculpture biennale for Ukrainian art lovers – ARTZUID, Amsterdam | September, 2025



Stichting Kastanje
Flammarionstraat 4
1097JX Amsterdam

RISIN 866352703

KvK 93318804

Namens Stichting Kastanje, volgt hieronder een overzicht van de ontvangsten en bestedingen over het jaar 2024:

Ontvangen donaties:	€ 1.429
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Besteed onder andere aan:

Website hosting & advertenties	€ 275
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Bankkosten	€ 106
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Videoapparatuur voor project 'Polina Raiko'	€ 274
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Kas € 781 per 31/12/2024.

V. Kartseva, penningmeester

stichtingkastanjefinancial@gmail.com