



Arts Festivals Summit 2023 Peralada / Girona

Report – EFA meets the festivals from the region

25 April 2023, 17.00 – 18.30, Girona

With the contributions of: **Miquel Noguer** (President of the Diputació de Girona), **Marta Domènech** (General Director of Catalunya Turisme), **Jaume Dulsat** (Vice-President from Patronat Turisme Costa Brava), **Salvador Sunyer** (Director of Temporada Alta Festival), **Pablo Álvarez de Eulate González** (Área de Programación / Música of Acción Cultural Española), **Marta Barrecheguren** (Coordinator of FestClásica), **Jorge Losana** (ECOS Festival de Música Antigua de Sierra Espuña / FestClásica member), **Daniel Tarrida** (Bachcelona Festival FestClásica / FestClásica member), and **Eduardo García** (Artistic director of Festival de Música Antigua de Gijón / FestClásica member)

Facilitated by: **Sepehr Sharifzadeh** (Festival maker, independent curator, and producer), **Laia Tous** (General Coordinator of Festival Castell de Peralada), and **Judit Jordana** (Production & campus of Festival Castell de Peralada)

Introduction

This session offered the opportunity to meet and learn more about festival life, the arts and their issues in the city of Girona, the region of Catalonia, and the country of Spain.

The session began with an introduction to acknowledgments/code of conduct and later on moved into speeches by the speakers in this order:

- Welcome Oriol Aguilà, Director of Festival Castell de Peralada
- Welcome Miquel Noguer, President of the Diputació de Girona
- Welcome Marta Domènech, General Director of Catalunya Turisme
- Welcome Jaume Dulsat, Vice-President from Patronat Turisme Costa Brava
- Marta Montalban, Manager from Temporada Alta festival
- Narcís Puig, Director assistant to artistic direction from Temporada Alta festival

After, the moderator Sepehr Sharifzadeh introduced the layout of the session and three topics to be discussed:

1. Programming: internationalisation and local development/inclusion: a contradiction?
2. Festivals, Cities and their Region: place-making and the Role of Festivals in local and touristic development
3. Festivals and accessibility: rural versus urban, local versus global

This session, just like the session during the Arts Festivals Summit 2022 in Armenia, was divided into 3 sessions of 20 minutes. Albeit because of lack of time, only 1 session of 20 minutes was feasible.

The participants sat in three circles and each circle was moderated by an Alumni of The Festival Academy.

A set of suggested questions and notes were designed for each topic (see here below).

1st topic

- How is the access to your festival, locally and internationally?
- Who do you think are people that don't or don't want to participate in the festival, and why is that?
- Which are the funding bodies in your region that could boost transnational collaborations?
- Do your festivals only entertain the public or also intrigue and raise questions?
- What kind of value does your legal framework (government, funding, etc) give to culture? Or: based on what you can say to have done a good job?

2nd topic

- What makes this festival relevant to your city/context?
- What is it that the festival brings to your city/community that out of its time, you feel the lack of it?
- What are the local/regional challenges in programming/organising festivals?
- Are you trying to apply a fair and accessible relationship with your public? If yes, what are the obstacles for you to apply such approaches and perspectives in your curation, management, and production?
- Who are the local/regional artists we have no clue about in the world?
- Do you have any collaborative relations with other festival regions? If yes, with whom? If not, what is/are the reasons?

3rd topic

- How could a festival have an impact on the economic development of a city?
- How could the programming of the festival shape or reshape the way we think about festivals, the cities, and the cultures that are hosting the festival?
- What makes this festival relevant to your city/context?
- How to survive while having other festivals at the same time? Could a collaboration be a way?
- Which kind of interaction do you want to build with the locals and tourists?
- How to be a reference model for other festivals?

With the help of the moderators, the 20-minute session finished with the active participation of the attendees in all circles covering as many questions as possible within the time frame.

The session then left the audience with four questions to go back to and reflect on the future and on the discourse of their festivals.

1. What are the conversations we are still not having that we would need or like to have?
2. What stories do you like to see emerging out of the festival?
3. Would you like to change the relationship/cultural context in which your festival is working?
4. What do you think other cultural institutions or festivals could take out of your experience?