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Subject: Our meeting with the Curatorial Team of Timișoara, European Capital of Culture 2023 on March 24, 2022

Dear Alexandra Rigler,

Following the meeting with the Timișoara 2023 team on March 24, the Expert Panel for the Union's European Capital of Culture Action would like to express its gratitude for the huge work done by the team in recent months as well as its encouragement for the process going rapidly forward. We also thank you for the letter from the Curatorial Team of March 28.

In particular, the Panel was very pleased to meet and discuss with the new Curatorial Team selected through an international open call in the autumn 2021. We believe that this qualified addition to the team provides Timișoara 2023 with the high artistic standards and technical expertise necessary for the curation and implementation of a European Capital of Culture.

The Panel acknowledges the receipt of the revisited bid book delivered in January 2022. The Panel views this revised programme not as a new proposal but as an update of the programme that won the title of European Capital of Culture. The revisited bid book – while being fully in line with the thrust and structure of the original bid – also reflects recent developments, such as the COVID-19 crisis and resulting postponement of the title-year as well as the new geopolitical context, hence making the project's relevance and resonance at the European level even stronger.

The Panel views the revised bid book as a great achievement by the new Curatorial Team. Their thorough analysis of the state of development of the projects from the initial bid book and the necessary updates meets with the full approval of the Panel.

The Panel encourages the team and all stakeholders – including the relevant public authorities – to continue with the project, as it is planned now. The Panel wants to stress that for the success of the European Capital of Culture year in Timișoara in 2023 it is essential:

- To move without further delay with the contracting of the revisited bid book's projects with local, national, and European partners. These contracts must include a clear production plan.
- To ensure that the Curatorial Team can work independently and efficiently based on the revisited and approved bid book and that the Curatorial Team alone has the final say in decisions regarding programming.
- To guarantee that the European Dimension of the Timișoara 2023 programme is retained and enhanced throughout the implementation stage.
- To embark swiftly on unfolding the communication strategy and marketing plans of the Timișoara 2023 project.

Finally, the Panel stresses again that providing multi-annual funding to the Timișoara 2023 project should be achieved in order to ensure a smooth implementation process.

We congratulate the team on the work done so far, and look forward to witnessing the continued progress of the Timișoara 2023 project.

Wishing you well in your endeavours.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) all Panel's members