

Palm Trees Festival

March 2018

“First Round”

Bayet AlSinnari

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

"Final Report"

By : Nagwa Bakr

PFP

Festival Goals

- Increase awareness about the significance and benefits of palm trees.
- Build a network through the museum to gather community members annually.
- Create active and creative programs that support continuity of cultural heritage through agricultural customs and traditions.

Work progress from November 2017 to March 2018

- **Last week in November 2017**

Team work gathered to discuss the proposal and divide the work.

- **December 2017**

- **First week:** met the vice- minister of Agriculture to hold the festival at agriculture museum, Cairo.
- **Obstacle:** the museum is under the restoration work for one year.
- **Second week: Solution:** The venue changed to be at Bayet Alsinnary, Bibliotheca Alexandrina after meeting with the director and welcome the idea of the festival, besides they venue offered some Logistics helping and became partner.
- **Third week:** the team traveled to Aswan and Luxor villages to document palm trees crafts.
- **Fourth week:** catalogue team started collecting historical and heritage data about palm trees in Egypt.

- **January 2018**

- **First week:** Primary and preparatory schools are connected to raise children awareness about the benefits of palm trees in dietary system, crafts and its value in their society.
- **Second and third week:** 2 workshops presented for 20 children to produce products and art works from palm trees parts & date recipes.



- **Fourth week:** visited palm trees farmers in Giza villages (7 farmers in Mit Rahina & 10 farmers in Dashour to discuss the problem the faces in planting palm trees, then organized a session to fix different solutions to help these farmers and encourage them continue saving palm trees planting.



• February 2018

- **First week:** launched the festival page & application for participation in social media with paid adv.
- **Second week:** festival activities for children planned (Historical play, palm fronds doll).

- **Third week:** 4 workshops presented for 25 women in the field of palm trees crafts.
- **Fourth week:** finished the data of the catalogue with editing and translated in English



• March 2018

- **First week:** workshop for the teamwork with craftsmen.
- **Second week:** applications of the participants are collected
- **Third week:** final "the festival was 19th 7 20th March".



12 participants of craftsmen came from four Governorates - Cairo, Giza, Fayum and Aswan. We received requests from 3 Libyan and 1 Palestinian to participate with their crafts, but unfortunately for some security issues they couldn't come.











The two days of the festival had different activities besides the display of the crafts. The activities varied for adults and children with interactive workshops presented by the craftsmen to teach the visitors the secret of their art and crafts. Also, the first day a Sufi concert organized presented by my colleague "John Milad" one of the fellows " PFP".

The second day ended by ceremony and certificates for the participants.



We targeted 100 visitors and anticipated less than 100 will come, but we were lucky that we welcomed 310 persons during the two days of the festival and some audience sent messages to extend the days of the festival.

Alexandria Library offered some Logistics helping.

Partners:



= Bayet AlSinari: a

historical house in old Cairo and used as cultural center Follow the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.



Folk مصر = Egypt folklore initiative that working in documenting the folk life of Egyptian heritage.



Tourism development association in Dahshour =
NGO working in the field of palm trees crafts.

Team work

Organizer : Nagwa Bakr " PFP"

Catalogue: Manar Hassan, Nancy Ammar and Jackline George- Editing by Nagwa Bakr.

Community workshops: Famta Ahmed.

Children activities: Germine Georg, Enas Karim, Moatz Mekawy and Bayet AlSinnari' team.

Marketing: Mohamed Wahdan.

Finally

- Many thanks to Legacy International for supporting the idea of the festival and for the training and my placement as PFP at Smithsonian.
- Many thanks to my great supervisor: Mike DuVall for his supervision and orientation and it was an honor to attend the first day of the festival.
- Many thanks to Smithsonian "folk life and heritage center" for their supporting of my project specially my supervisor (Sabrina Motley) the great help of (Kim Sojin) and the great Editor (James Deutsch)