

DEPARTEMENT CULTUUR, JEUGD & MEDIA

ULTIMAS 2016
Flemish Culture Prizes
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ULTIMA 2016 SOCIOCULTURAL WORK WITH ADULTS TOESTAND VZW

Since 2012, Toestand has reactivated empty or forgotten buildings, sites and public or private spaces through actions and interventions. The organisation began with the dream of having a place to express your 'Toestand' (condition or situation), without restrictions. From the beginning, Toestand experimented by taking a spatial approach to sociocultural work. Toestand brings diversity and initiative together and provides space for them. Toestand holds dialogue, creation, autonomy and action in high regard. By connecting a space to an initiative and by bringing together different target groups and creating opportunities in a vacant building, Toestand helps to create various dynamic city projects. Toestand organises what are known as Spontane Actie Zones (Spontaneous Action Areas) in problem neighbourhoods. These SAAs become meeting places that go beyond language, culture and generations. In principle SAAs are always long-term initiatives, and before they come to an end, result in the revival of the social fabric of a neighbourhood or in the physical design of a space.

Toestand also organises short-term initiatives. These vary in length from a few hours to several weeks. Such an initiative can be an intervention at the request of an organisation, a collective or an individual. Through a co-creation process, the parties work to devise and implement an intervention. Three projects are located in Brussels: Allee du Kaai (Brussel Stad/ Bruxelles Ville & Sint-Jans Molenbeek/Molenbeek-Saint-Jean), Biestebroek (Anderlecht) and Marie Moskou (Sint-Gillis/Saint-Gilles).

-Allee Du Kaai is a Spontaneous Action Area for one and all along the Brussels canal in partnership with Leefmilieu Brussel/ Environnement Bruxelles. The 9,000 square metres of buildings and outdoor space were made available to around 60 partner organisations which developed all kinds of activities there (screen printing, vegetable gardens, capoeira, a skatepark, a community kitchen, etc.) for very diverse target groups (young people of Molenbeek, hip-hoppers, persons with a psychiatric background, etc.) The project attracts around 40,000 visits each year.

-BIESTEBROEK: the municipality of Anderlecht has made the former offices of the record label PIAS available for a temporary community centre of 6000 square metres. Toestand accommodates artists, sports organisations and a youth club here in shared spaces, with lots of young initiatives. Overall, 20 partners offer them support with communications, logistics and coordination.

-MARIE MOSKOU: together with Sint-Gillis/Saint-Gilles, Toestand uses the vacant Marie Jansonsquare (carré Moskou) as an open air Spontaneous Action Area. The temporary use prepares the upcoming renovation.

-Termokiss: Toestand worked together with InfoQuartier Mâche (Switzerland) and Kosovo Architecture Foundation (Pristina). 25 Belgians, 15 Swiss and around 20 Kosovans worked together for a week to reactivate the abandoned Termokos heat exchanger and turn it into the alternative sociocultural centre 'Termokiss'.

Allee Du Kaai and Termokiss received a lot of press coverage. Toestand goes abroad every year to initiate other Spontaneous Action Areas.

<http://www.toestand.be/>

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