



January 2019

## 2018 in Review



### **Syrian and Lebanese Artists Present a Unique Visual Concert in Beirut Supported by UNHCR**

On Tuesday December 18, DABAKA a one-of-a-kind performance took place for one night only at Beirut's The Grand Factory.

DABAKA is a musical project that brings together Lebanese and Syrian artists around a visual concert and an exceptional album. Funded by the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, the show was one of the fruits of a collaboration that lasted numerous months. Revisiting the folkloric "dabkeh", a dance and musical practice emerging from the Levantine's common heritage, the artists joined their passion and talent to reclaim its place within a contemporary context. [Read more](#)



**Inauguration of “Doors. Please Touch” at the National Museum of Beirut**

Red Oak, in partnership with the “Omero” National Museum of Ancona in Italy, inaugurates the "Doors. Please Touch" project at the National Museum of Beirut and opens the doors of museums in Lebanon to the blind and visually challenged. The project aims to promote the social and educational value of cultural heritage through an innovative approach to the heritage itself, based on multi-sensory experiences and in particular on touch, and focused primarily on the cultural and social inclusion of people with visual disabilities and the possibilities of a tactile way to art for everyone. [Read more](#)



### **Training on Accessibility to Museums and Educational Inclusive Tactile Activities**

In the framework of "Doors. Please Touch", a training on "Accessibility to Museums for the Blinds" took place at the Sursock Museum under the supervision of Aldo Grassini and Andrea Socrati from the Omero Tactile Museum of Italy. It was followed by the implementation of an educational tactile activity for blind & visually challenged students at MACAM, where they enjoyed a special guided tour focused on touching artworks followed by a tactile educational activity where the children reproduced from memory a specific piece with clay.





### Launching of "Red Oak Blind-Friendly Market"

Red Oak launched the "Red Oak Blind-Friendly Market", the first of its kind initiative in Lebanon and the Arab region, which aims at facilitating blind and visually challenged people's daily lives by helping them secure their purchases with ease.

Three supermarkets are now blind friendly: Marqet, Bunnie and Center Sayegh. The staff was trained in collaboration with the YAB and Blessed school. This initiative will continue to expand across other most regions in Lebanon. [Read more](#)





### **Blind & Visually-impaired Youth Dancing with "Tumulus" & "Red Oak"**

German choreographer Andrea Sitter and Philippe-Ahmed Braschi conducted a dance workshop for the blind and visually challenged students of the Lebanese School for the Blind and Deaf (LSBD) and Dar al Aytam. The collaboration between Red Oak and Tumulus aims at empowering the visually handicapped through the performing arts, by giving them the opportunity to experience dance and improve their mobility skills. [Read more](#)

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