

# The National Trust of Georgia

newsletter June-September 2024

This seasonal review of activities is provided with thanks to all our supporters, volunteers and donors who help the NTG make an impact in preserving Georgia's historic landscapes and buildings.

## Busy and interesting summer

We have hosted events in our office, went on long expeditions to capture and showcase the rich heritage of Georgia, celebrated award-winning achievement, and gathered to share knowledge from different fields. We also announced a residency and welcomed an amazing writer from the USA. For details, read more.



## Experience exchange

On June 19, Eva Stuetzenberger delivered a presentation at the National Trust of Georgia, discussing the diverse needs of monument conservation, management, and accessibility, as well as the business model and organizational challenges faced by the National Trust.

Eva Stuetzenberger is the Operations Manager for the Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites World Heritage Site, along with 10 other sites managed by the National Trust in the UK.



JUNE

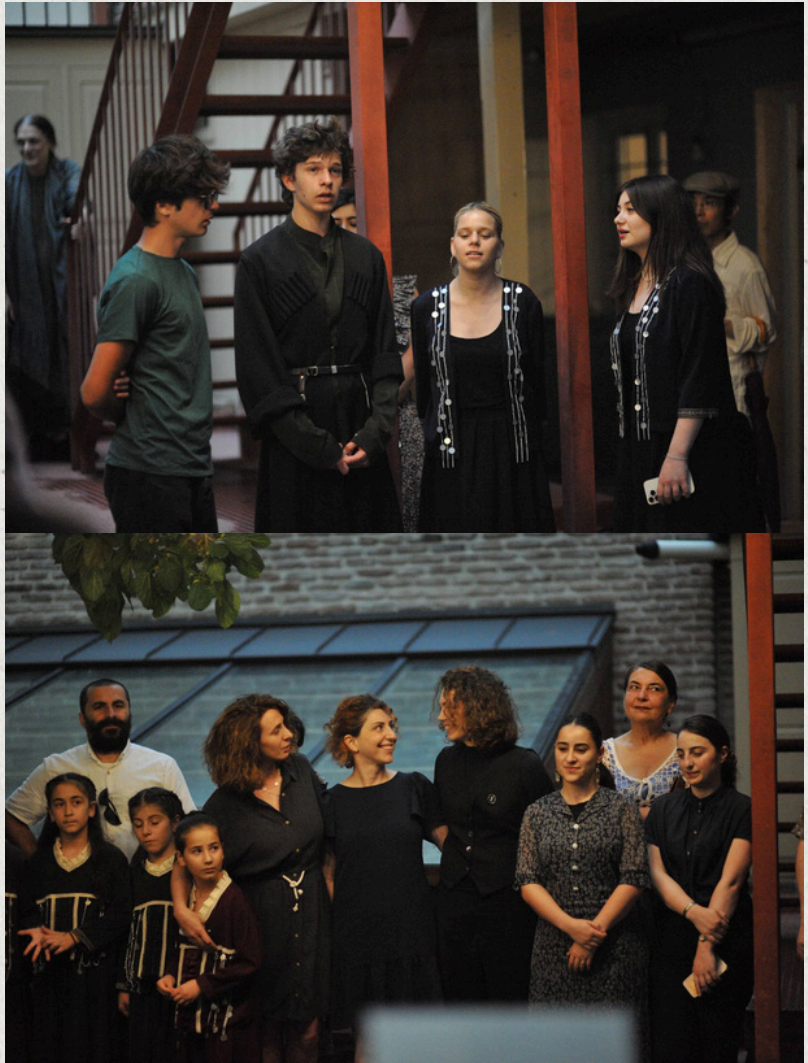
# Cultural exchange

On June 20, the National Trust of Georgia hosted the event "Tush-Kakhetian Ethnographic Adventure in the Metekhi District."

The program included a photo exhibition showcasing the ethnographic heritage of the Tush people—their society, history, culture, and economy.

There was also a screening of the documentary film "Omalo" by Vakhtang Mikeladze and Gia Chubabria, provided by the Tusheti Protected Areas Agency.

The event featured an exhibition-sale of folk crafts and gastronomy, and a performance of traditional Tush and Kakhetian music by Folklore House. The National Trust of Georgia and the Tusheti Brand jointly welcomed Georgian and international guests.



# Medal of honor

The president of Georgia hosted the participants of "Rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower in Arkhoti" in her palace Regarding the "Europa Nostra" award. The president of Georgia awarded the mason of the project an Order of Honor. All the Volunteers were personally presented with acknowledgments from her.

[Link](#)



# JULY

# Public Lecture

As part of its educational projects, the National Trust of Georgia hosted a public lecture titled “Architectural Diversity of Tao-Klarjeti,” presented by architect Nino Bagrationi.

In her lecture, she examined the landscape of Tao-Klarjeti, discussing its architectural and engineering structures, as well as the current condition of the monuments still present in the region.

For further context, Tao-Klarjeti is a historical region of Georgia that is currently located in Turkey. Many cultural heritage monuments in this area are in poor condition today.



# Tuta writers residency

In July, the National Trust of Georgia welcomed Kim Cordova as a resident in its writers' residency program.

Kim is a Mexican-American art writer and cultural journalist whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Art Forum, frieze, and other notable publications. She was shortlisted for the International Award for Criticism in 2016 and 2020, and in 2023, she received an Andy Warhol Foundation Art Writer Grant.

A ZhiXing Eisenhower Fellow (2020-2024) and a Fulbright Scholar, Kim was also the Urban Researcher in Residence at the Tbilisi Architecture Biennale in 2022.



# Racha Field Trip

# AUGUST

The team of the National Trust of Georgia, along with volunteers and Eva Stuetzenberger from the National trust of Britain, visited the mountainous region of Racha to explore local cultural heritage monuments and assess their needs. During the field trip, the group examined the unique "Duroiani houses" in the villages of Ghebi and Chiora. In Chiora, they discovered a rich photo collection from a local ethnographer, and in the municipality of Oni, they visited a museum, housing significant archaeological examples, including a synagogue from 1895 and an 18th-century residential house of historical importance. The visit showed the region's rich cultural heritage and the urgent need for preservation efforts.



# Tuta residency open call

The Trust announced the "Tuta Stipend" writing competition, with a focus on memory and heritage, supported by PEN Georgia and Ilia State University.

# Europa Nostra award

The delegation of "Europa Nostra", representatives of Rempart association, Internation National Trust Organisation together with the National Trust of Georgia, ceremoniously opened the bronze plaque denoting the award of "Europa Nostra" on the defensive tower in Akhieli village and inspected the restored tower.

[Link](#)

# SEPTEMBER



# Medals of honour

The president of Georgia hosted a delegation of international partners, local professionals and volunteers of the Tsiskarauli tower rehabilitation project for the second time. Medal of honour was given to the chair of the National Trust of Georgia Marine Mizandari, lead architect Nino Kordzakhia, project manager Salome Tsiskarauli, active volunteer Sandro Bakhtadze, president of the association Rempart Marie-Georges Pagel-Brousse, secretary-general at International National Trusts Organisation Catherine Leonard and Archeologist from Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University Przemysław Nocurń

[Link](#)



# Intangible heritage of Adjara

The National Trust of Georgia, in collaboration with the Gallery, proudly organized the charity exhibition and market titled "Where the Mountain Meets the Sea." This event was part of the "Let Me Show You Something Beautiful" initiative and was dedicated to celebrating the rich tradition of Adjarian hand embroidery. The exhibition provided a valuable platform for women embroiderers to showcase their intricate craftsmanship and gain recognition from a wider audience, helping to preserve and promote this unique cultural heritage.



# Georgian Islamic heritage

A tour of mosques in Upper Adjara was organized by the Solidarity Community, with the support of the Norwegian embassy and UNDP, including NGOs' and media organisations. Architecture of Georgian Islamic buildings in Adjara, represents unique pieces, merging traditional wooden house craftsmanship with Islamic influence, geometric, abstract and floral ornaments. The majority of visited mosques are in bad condition, but still preserve their initial function, all of them need some kind of construction reinforcement, ornament restoration, repair of an electrical network, protection from heavy precipitation. Salome Tabatadze, manager of the trust and restorator-architect participated in a tour to choose the mosque for rehabilitation.

[Video](#)

