

The National Trust of Georgia

Activity Report for the Period from October to December 2025

This seasonal review of activities is provided with gratitude to all our supporters, volunteers, and donors who continue to help the National Trust of Georgia (NTG) make an impact in protecting and celebrating Georgia's natural and cultural heritage

The National Trust of Georgia (NTG) continues its work to preserve and promote both tangible and intangible cultural heritage across the country. In the current context, we have focused on developing self-sustainable initiatives and strengthening our direct engagement with youth.

Guided by our mission and vision, we believe that the active involvement of communities is essential for the preservation of cultural heritage. Therefore, our priority has been to raise awareness among children, the young generation, and the wider public, encouraging them to value, protect, and engage with their own shared heritage through creative, educational, and participatory formats.



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Between October and December 2025, the NTG implemented several key projects that reflect this approach. These included:

- **A puppet theatre performance dedicated to preserving cultural and natural heritage;**
- **“TuTa workshop” – Expanding Through New School Partnerships;**
- **The establishment of the “Rustaveli House” educational program at the NTG space;**
- **Walking tours in Tbilisi and the first Guests from the USA;**
- **International collaboration and knowledge exchange;**
- **Folklore House Tbilisi Branch – Children’s Classes Launched Alongside Adult Programs;**
- **And the concluding exhibition of a hybrid art residency hosted at the NTG space.**

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how community engagement, education, and creative practice contribute to safeguarding cultural heritage while supporting the sustainability of the National Trust’s work.

Puppet Show About Cultural and Natural Heritage

October-December

Project Launch and Activities

The National Trust of Georgia (NTG) launched the Understanding Heritage – Regional Activities project this year, featuring the puppet show “Salvation” for children and young audiences in Tbilisi. The script was developed in October, rehearsals began intensively in early November, and the premiere took place successfully on 20 December at the NTG’s space, attended by around 100 people, including 35 children.

Artists and Civic Engagement

Most of the performers are former volunteers from previous NTG projects, such as the rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower, proving the project’s civic and cultural significance. The show allows children and youth to engage with Georgian cultural and natural heritage interactively and creatively. The premiere already attracted strong positive feedback from children and local communities, generating new invitations for future regional performances.



Pic 1. Performance Poster



Pic 2. Rehearsal



Pic 3. Performance Day



Pic 4. Performance Day



Pic 5. Performance Day _audience

Tuta Workshop

October-December

Children's Engagement

The number of children participating in the workshop is steadily increasing. Classes are held every Saturday at the NTG space, where children are initiated into different fields of tangible and intangible heritage of Georgia. The workshop comprises two components, theoretical and practical, allowing the children to create their own artworks inspired by well-known examples of Georgia's cultural heritage from the Neolithic period until now.



Pic 1. Fun and creative working process



Pic 2. Fun and creative working process



Pic 3. Hands-on ceramic painting

End-of-Year Exhibition

At the end of the year, an exhibition was held at the NTG space, where children presented to a wider audience the artworks they had created over the three months



Pic 4. Day of the Exhibition

Impact of Tuta Workshop

The impact is already perceptible. The project fosters children's creative development. The interest towards educational activities in the heritage field is growing. A key development is that during the reporting period NTG started collaborating with schools, namely with Buckswood School and the British International School of Tbilisi (BIST) thus significantly expanding Tuta Workshop activities. These activities are also essential for the NTG's resilience and visibility.



Pic 5-6. Logos of Buckswood School and BIST

Rustaveli House – Children and The Knight in the Panther’s Skin

October-December

Project Launch and Children’s Engagement

The Rustaveli House was established at the NTG’s space, offering children the opportunity to join weekly sessions held every Thursday as part of the project “We Read, Learn, and Illustrate The Knight in the Panther’s Skin.” The classes already have several regular participants.



Pic 2: Sound recording process



Pic 1: Working process with young students

School groups also visit the sessions from time to time. Through The Knight in the Panther’s Skin, children are introduced to universal values presented in a child-friendly language.

Long-Term Vision and Cultural Significance

The project aims to expand beyond the capital and reach regional communities across Georgia. Plans also include announcing a nationwide competition to reveal the best illustrations and the best reciters of the poem, as well as creating an animated adaptation of The Knight in the Panther’s Skin based on children’s drawings and recorded performances.

It is important to note that The Knight in the Panther’s Skin is one of Georgia’s most treasured elements of intangible cultural heritage, and initiatives like this play a vital role in passing it on to future generations.



Pic 3: School students visiting the Rustaveli House



Pic 4: Animation created from children’s drawings

Walking Tour 'From Antiquity to Modernity'

Tbilisi's Cultural Heritage Tour

October

The National Trust of Georgia developed a walking tour, "From Antiquity to Modernity." The tour begins at Tbilisi's archaeological site of the Roman period, continues through historic sites of the Old City and examples of modern architecture. The experience concludes at the NTG space, an 18th-19th century traditional Tbilisi house, carefully restored a few years ago. Guests are welcomed with traditional bites and a glass of wine, enhancing the warm and authentic atmosphere of the traditional architecture. The NTG aims to offer additional cultural programme for both local and international visitors, helping them fully experience Georgian culture and enjoy a memorable visit.

First International Visitors

The tour hosted its first visitors from the United States. Guests expressed strong interest in Georgia's history, culture, and current context.



Pic 1: Co-Chair of the NTG with American guests at the Roman Baths ruins



Pic 2: Walking tour with the backdrop of Old Tbilisi



Pic 3: Tour concluding at the NTG space with traditional bites and wine

International Engagement – New Partnerships and Leadership Participation

October-December

In October 2025, Giorgi Burjanadze, Co-Chair of the National Trust of Georgia, visited France, where he took part in a seminar held in Paris and the Île-de-France region within the framework of the Erasmus+ Heritage Leaders and Volunteers IV project, organized by the REMPART Association. The visit strengthened international partnerships and supported knowledge exchange on volunteer-based cultural heritage initiatives.



Pic 1: NTG Co-Chair Giorgi Burjanadze together with seminar participants



Pic 2: Working process

A key outcome of this cooperation is that Georgia is planned to be included in REMPART's 2026–2027 programme, enabling the National Trust of Georgia to select five young people to participate in cultural heritage work camps in France during the summer. This opportunity will contribute to youth professional development and networking in the heritage preservation field.

In October 2025, Marine Mizandari, Chair of the National Trust of Georgia, participated in the Europa Nostra Summit in Brussels, Belgium, where she was invited as a jury member to the Europa Nostra Awards 2025 Winners' Ceremony. Her participation highlighted the National Trust of Georgia's expertise and active role within the European heritage community.

In December 2025, She also took part in the Iberian Cultural Heritage Biennale in Sintra, Portugal, where she shared the Trust's experience in volunteer engagement, particularly in the rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower, and participated in professional discussions on heritage management.



Pic 3: NTG Chair Marine Mizandari participating in a panel discussion



Pic 4: Marine Mizandari together with international partners

Together, these international engagements strengthened the visibility of Georgian heritage initiatives, expanded professional networks, and opened new opportunities for youth involvement and cross-border collaboration.

Folklore House Tbilisi Branch

October-December

Student Enrollment

The Tbilisi branch of the Folklore House continues to enroll students. In recent months, children’s classes were added alongside adult programmes, creating an important opportunity for families who wish to introduce their children to authentic traditional Tushetian music.



Pic 1: Teacher demonstrating traditional instrument playing

Research-Based Traditional Music Education

As part of the learning process, students study traditional musical instruments and Tushetian songs. The programme is based on archival materials collected through research, ensuring the authenticity and cultural value of the education.



Pic 2: Student playing the chianuri (traditional Georgian string instrument)

Impact and Significance

Engaging children and young people in folklore education supports the transmission of Georgia’s musical heritage to future generations and strengthens the NTG’s role in cultural education grounded in research and tradition.

“Influence Effect” – Residency Exhibition

October



Pic 3: Exhibition poster – “Influence Effect”

The National Trust of Georgia hosted the “Influence Effect” exhibition, organised by Art Yard Community, featuring 13 artists from Belarus and Georgia. Art Yard Community is composed of young people from Belarus who have faced political persecution. The organisation has been active in Georgia for years, implementing international art projects. The exhibition marked the culmination of a two-week hybrid residency focused on dialogue, creative research, and experimental artistic practices. Artists acted as guides in research and interactive practice, demonstrating how art can foster civic, ecological, and cultural dialogue while helping audiences reflect on their place in the world.

**Thanks for your
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**We're deeply
grateful for your
continued belief in
our mission – your
generosity keeps this
work alive**