

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



Image 1: The teacher with dough toys

Between June and October 2026, the National Trust of Georgia (NTG) continued its dedicated efforts to empower young people through hands-on heritage education, creative exploration, and living traditions. By taking children out of traditional classrooms and bringing them directly into historical landscapes, traditional workshops, and interactive folklore sessions, we provided them with immersive experiences that bridge past and present.

During this reporting period, our activities focused on deepening young participants' connection to Georgia's multicultural and tangible heritage—from deciphering medieval scripts in ancient Samshvilde to exploring the connections between native wheat varieties, local place names (toponymy), and traditional baking customs. Furthermore, building on our educational work, we are currently expanding our initiatives toward rural regions, preparing targeted cultural and youth development projects in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli. We extend our deepest gratitude to our global donor community whose sustained support keeps Georgia's living heritage accessible, vibrant, and meaningful for the next generation.

Immersive Heritage Field Quest in Samshvilde Archaeological Site

Tuta Workshop concluded its academic year with an intensive, experiential field lesson at the historic site of Samshvilde, bringing together Tuta Workshop students, their parents, and local youth. Hosted in collaboration with our local partner, the social enterprise Orbis Bude, the activity transformed an ancient archaeological landscape into an interactive learning environment.



Children actively explored the site through educational riddles, spatial orientation challenges, and alphabet-based quests designed to make history tangible. The highlight of the day was an interactive challenge centered on the eastern façade of the historical Samshvilde Sioni church, where children worked together to read and decode a large inscription written in Asomtavruli (the oldest form of the Georgian alphabet). By deciphering the hidden message, participants directly connected their classroom studies in epigraphy and art history with authentic archaeological heritage. Led by educators Nana Kvitsiani, Veriko Shanidze, and Archil Tumanishvili, this field lesson demonstrated how hands-on heritage quests foster teamwork, historical literacy, and a lasting appreciation for preservation among youth.



Images 2–6: Activities of Tuta Workshop students, parents, and local youth at the Samshvilde archaeological site

Exploring Georgia via Toponyms: Living Traditions and Wheat Culture

In July, NTG hosted an interactive educational event for children and youth, led by linguist and folklore researcher Nana Khocholava. The session focused on the intimate relationship between Georgia's native endemic wheat varieties, traditional agricultural heritage, and place names (toponymy).

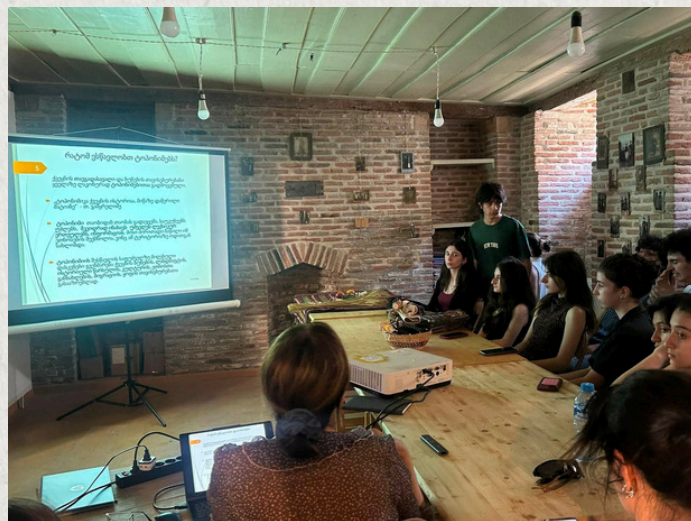


Image 7: Ms. Nana discussing the importance of toponyms with the children



Image 8: Group photo following the lecture, under the mulberry tree in the NTG courtyard

The speaker introduced participants to indigenous baking customs, presenting traditional dough toys as visual aids and distributing them among the audience. The session concluded with a community sharing circle where attendees and young participants broke traditional Georgian wheat bread together, while members of the Amer-Imeri folklore-ethnographic studio performed traditional songs associated with Georgian grain culture.



Image 9: A teenager holding a traditional toy made from dough.

New Academic Year & Heritage Masterclasses

September marked the launch of new educational cohorts for the 2026–2027 academic year across Old Tbilisi. NTG opened registration for specialized, multi-disciplinary heritage courses tailored for children and teenagers:

- **Folklore House (Tbilisi Branch):** Initiated hands-on masterclasses in traditional folk instruments (chianuri, garmoni, salamuri) and traditional Tushetian vocal techniques to help preserve oral music traditions. Currently, classes are held for adults, with plans to form a children's ensemble in the near future.



Image 10: Registration at the Folklore House branch:
Poster



Image 11: A new Folklore House student learning to play a traditional instrument

- **Tuta Workshop:** Resumed its weekly creative heritage modules starting September 19 for students in grades IV–X. The curriculum combines artistic practice with historical analysis, offering practical training in goldsmithing, ceramics, monumental painting, traditional reliefs, wooden puppet making, and Pirosmeni-inspired folk art.



Image 12: Tuta Workshop students in the process of making wooden puppets.



Image 13: A Tuta Workshop student

October 2026

Looking Ahead: Expanding Youth & Cultural Initiatives in Rural Communities

Building on the success of our heritage education model, the National Trust of Georgia continues to explore new opportunities for fostering youth development, social cohesion, and cultural empowerment in rural regions, with a particular focus on communities in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli.

As part of these ongoing regional efforts, NTG has been working on a community-based initiative titled "Promoting Dagheti's Tangible and Intangible Heritage through Cultural Activities," which builds directly upon our successful collaboration with Orbis Bude in Samshvilde. Grounded in research and preliminary planning around Dagheti's unique multicultural landscape, the initiative approaches heritage as a dynamic bridge for dialogue, social integration, and intergenerational learning. Through structured preparations for future youth engagement, creative documentation, and local cultural exchange, NTG reaffirms its commitment to making living heritage an inclusive resource for education, mutual understanding, and rural youth empowerment.

Thank you for standing with us!



Image 14: Drawing by a Tuta Workshop student, free theme