

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



Photo 1: Neighbourhood children posing with their completed artworks in the courtyard of the National Trust of Georgia.

Over the past several years, the National Trust of Georgia has been developing educational programmes that help children discover and engage with cultural heritage in Tbilisi and across the regions of Georgia. In line with our mission, we view heritage education as a long-term investment in future generations and one of the most important ways to strengthen awareness of cultural heritage.

Our approach is based on creative and informal learning, making heritage accessible, engaging, and enjoyable for children. Through community-based projects, heritage-themed puppet theatre performances, traditional music lessons, literature-inspired educational activities, and hands-on workshops, we have worked with hundreds of children from diverse backgrounds, including those living in regional and ethnic minority communities. These programmes have encouraged children to explore local history, traditional crafts, folklore, literature, and cultural landscapes through direct participation and creative expression.

The project “Empower Children through Heritage Education” builds on the experience and educational methods developed through these initiatives. By combining creative workshops, literature, traditional music, crafts, and heritage-based learning, the project helps children explore their cultural roots, develop creativity and confidence, and build a lasting connection with Georgia's cultural heritage. Through this work, we aim to ensure that heritage is not perceived as something distant or static, but as a living and meaningful part of children's everyday lives and identities.

Regional Puppet Theatre Performances

The first months of 2026 marked the completion of the second major phase of the project: bringing heritage-themed puppet theatre performances to regional communities and creating opportunities for meaningful interaction between audiences, performers, and local communities.

A key component of the programme was audience engagement. Each performance was followed by interactive activities that encouraged children to communicate directly with the main characters through conversations, songs, poetry, and creative expression. Participants also received character-themed stickers, while informal hosting created additional opportunities for discussion and feedback.

Samshvilde – February

After the premiere in Tbilisi, our first regional performance took place in Samshvilde at *Orbis Bude*, a community space familiar to us from a previous project. The event attracted approximately 90 attendees, including residents and visitors from Tbilisi.

The performance focused on cultural heritage and generated particularly strong engagement among children, who eagerly interacted with the characters after the show. These informal exchanges helped transform the performance into a participatory learning experience rather than a one-way presentation.

The event also highlighted the cultural diversity of the region. As part of the post-performance programme, women from the local ethnic Armenian community prepared traditional dishes and led a lavash-making masterclass. This activity created opportunities for cultural exchange while strengthening engagement with local minority communities and showcasing living heritage traditions.



Photo 2: Audience members in Samshvilde waiting for the puppet performance to begin



Photo 3: An Armenian lavashi baking workshop led by a local woman as part of the cultural programme

Dimi–March

The final stop of the tour was the village of Dimi in the Imereti region, where the performance was hosted at the historic Phulariani Oda. Approximately 70 people attended the event, including around 40 children.

Following the performance, participants joined a hands-on workshop led by the production's lead designer and puppet creator, during which approximately 20–30 children and young people created traditional angel puppets inspired by Georgian folk culture.

The event also supported local participation beyond the performance itself. Alongside the programme, local women entrepreneurs presented and sold their products, creating an opportunity to showcase local craftsmanship and small-scale production to visitors.



Photos 4 and 5: Puppet performance in Dimi, western Georgia, attended by local audience members.



Photo 6: Angel puppet inspired by traditional ethnographic motifs



Photo 7: Puppet master Manana Abzianidze leading a workshop for children and adults.

Tuta Workshop Community

Educational Outreach and School Partnerships – January-February

Throughout February, we welcomed nearly 200 students from grades 1–5 from the British International School of Tbilisi. During their visits, students explored our sixteenth–eighteenth century historic building and participated in hands-on workshops led by the Tuta Workshop team.

In January, our Tuta Workshop expanded its activities through a new partnership with Buckswood School. As part of the school's extracurricular program, weekly workshops now introduce students to traditional crafts and creative practices connected to cultural heritage.



Photo 8: Group photo of students with their teachers and members of the Tuta workshop team.



Photo 9: The Chair of the NTG introducing students to the history and rehabilitation process of the building.



Photo 10: Students engaging with educational and theoretical materials



Photo 11: Workshop in progress: students constructing a model of an oldest Georgian dwelling using clay bricks.



Photo 12: Student presenting a hand-painted clay pot created during the workshop.

Neighbourhood Children Visit Tuta Workshop _June

As part of the International Children’s Day celebrations, the National Trust of Georgia welcomed 15 children from the Metekhi neighbourhood to Workshop Tuta.

The activity introduced children to a traditional artistic technique while providing an opportunity for creative learning and social interaction. The workshop also helped strengthen the National Trust of Georgia’s connection with the local community and encouraged children to engage with the cultural heritage of one of Tbilisi’s oldest historic neighbourhoods.

Maintaining strong ties with the local community is especially important as many historic neighbourhoods in Tbilisi are undergoing rapid change. By involving local children in heritage-based educational activities, we aim to foster a sense of belonging and encourage future generations to value and care for the historic environment in which they live.



Photo 13-14: Neighbourhood children during and after the workshop, posing with their completed artworks.

Tuta Workshop Closing Exhibition_June

On 20 June, the National Trust of Georgia hosted the closing exhibition of Workshop Tuta, celebrating a year of creativity, learning, and heritage education.

Throughout the academic year, students explored various aspects of Georgia’s cultural heritage, including mosaics, ceramics, illuminated manuscripts, traditional crafts, the Georgian alphabet, and historic architecture. Through hands-on activities, they created a wide range of artworks inspired by these traditions.

Beyond learning about heritage, Workshop Tuta became a space where children developed friendships, creativity, and a sense of connection to culture and place. The closing exhibition provided an opportunity for participants to present their work to families and visitors and reflect on their achievements throughout the year.



Photo 15: Exhibition display at the National Trust of Georgia.

The academic year will conclude with an educational visit to the ancient city of Samshvilde, where students will explore one of Georgia's most significant archaeological and cultural heritage sites. Workshop Tuta will resume its activities in September.

Workshop Tuta is a creative educational programme of the National Trust of Georgia that introduces children to Georgia's cultural heritage through storytelling, practical learning, and creative expression.



Photo 16: Student-created mural painting projects inspired by Georgian cultural heritage.

Tusheti in the Metekhi District_June



Photo 17: Children from Tusheti performing traditional folk songs in a circle.

On 16 June, the National Trust of Georgia, the NGO Tushetian Brand, and the House of Folklore hosted "Tusheti in the Metekhi District," a public cultural event celebrating the living heritage of the Tusheti region.

A special highlight of the event was the participation of children's and youth folk ensembles from Tusheti, who travelled to Tbilisi to perform traditional songs before a wide audience. Together with other performers, they introduced visitors to the rich musical traditions of the region and demonstrated the importance of passing folk heritage from one generation to the next.

The event brought together approximately 200 visitors, who explored Tushetian culture through traditional music, photography, documentary film, crafts, and regional cuisine. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed performances, exhibitions, and opportunities to learn more about the customs and traditions of one of Georgia's most distinctive mountain regions.



Photo 18: The second part of the event featuring children from Tusheti performing together with folk ensembles.

The event also marked the conclusion of another successful year of activities by the House of Folklore at the National Trust of Georgia. Throughout the year, the programme offered lessons in traditional Georgian songs and musical instruments to both children and adults, helping participants engage directly with Georgia's rich intangible cultural heritage.

Ongoing Development of a New Educational Initiative _ January–June

During the reporting period, the NTG team continued developing a new educational project titled “We Read, Illustrate and Reimagine The Knight in the Panther’s Skin.”

The initiative aims to engage children from different regions of Georgia in creative educational activities inspired by Shota Rustaveli’s literary masterpiece.

The project seeks to encourage reading, artistic expression, and a deeper understanding of one of the most important works of Georgian cultural heritage.

As part of the project’s development, NTG is collaborating with a technical team to combine this medieval poem with contemporary digital technologies. Through interactive creative processes, children will be able to bring literary characters to life, develop their own interpretations and storylines, and transform their ideas into animated content. By connecting cultural heritage with innovative learning tools, the project aims to make Rustaveli’s work more accessible, engaging, and relevant for younger generations.



Photo 19: Project development session with the project authors.

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