

The Freedom Theatre

GlobalGiving Project Brief | Core Support and Program Development

Requested Amount: USD 100,000

The Freedom Theatre (TFT), founded in 2006 in Jenin Refugee Camp, is an independent Palestinian cultural institution that uses theatre, multimedia, and community-based arts to create safe spaces for expression, learning, and cultural resistance. Despite displacement, damage to its main headquarters, and the move to temporary spaces, TFT continues to serve children, youth, women, artists, and wider audiences across Jenin and beyond.

March 2026

1. Short introduction to The Freedom Theatre

The Freedom Theatre is rooted in Jenin Refugee Camp and has developed into one of Palestine's leading cultural institutions. Its mission is to empower children, youth, and women through artistic practice, critical consciousness, and community participation, while maintaining professional artistic production and cultural advocacy.

Its integrated programming combines theatre production, community cultural work, children and youth activities, women's creative programming, and a growing multimedia practice spanning photography, film, podcasts, screenings, and digital media production.

2. Short project description

This project seeks USD 100,000 in core support to sustain The Freedom Theatre's continued presence and creative work during a period of displacement, restricted access to its main headquarters, and severe political and economic pressure. The funding combines immediate institutional needs with artistic and digital development.

The grant will support four interconnected areas: the development of Pulse Before Birth, staff salaries that sustain daily operations and program continuity, rent and space costs for temporary operations, and multimedia development to strengthen documentation, digital storytelling, visibility, and future media production.

Proposed budget allocation (USD)

Budget line	Amount / purpose
Pulse Before Birth development	USD 10,000 rehearsals, technical development, and touring readiness
Staff salaries	USD 48,000 artistic, administrative, technical, and program continuity
Rent and space costs	USD 9,000 temporary operating space and occupancy costs
Multimedia development	USD 33,000 media production, documentation, digital storytelling, and studio development
Total	USD 100,000

3. Why this support matters now

Following repeated military incursions and the large-scale military operation in February 2025, Jenin Refugee Camp's residents were forcibly displaced, the camp was left largely uninhabitable, and The Freedom Theatre's headquarters became inaccessible. The theatre continues from temporary premises in Jenin city while redesigning its programming to reach a dispersed community.

In this context, core funding protects continuity: salaries that keep the team working, rent that keeps a functioning space available, multimedia that allows the theatre to document and communicate its work, and artistic development that keeps public cultural life alive.

4. Impact on children, youth, and the wider community

The Freedom Theatre remains one of the few institutions able to provide structured creative activity, psychosocial support through the arts, and collective cultural space for displaced and marginalized communities linked to Jenin Camp. This support will help sustain:

- safe and inclusive cultural participation for children and youth through clubs, camps, screenings, and workshops;
- women's access to creative workshops, movement and theatre practice, and collective expression;
- stable work and planning capacity for artists, trainers, technical staff, and coordinators;
- public performances, screenings, digital storytelling, and a continued Palestinian cultural presence in Jenin and beyond.

Appendix A. Pulse Before Birth

Pulse Before Birth is a visual and physical performance produced by The Freedom Theatre that blends theatre, contemporary dance, and circus arts. It explores what it means to choose life under conditions of displacement and violence, using embodied storytelling, movement, and strong visual imagery to engage audiences with questions of fear, hope, memory, and identity.

The work premiered in October 2025 in collaboration with Al-Kasaba Theatre and is planned for further development and touring in 2026. This project allocates USD 10,000 to strengthen rehearsals, technical development, and touring readiness so that the production can continue reaching audiences in Palestine and serve as a visible example of TFT's continuing artistic capacity.

Role	Team
Concept & Direction	Ranin Odeh
Performers	Nour Samaro, Dema Zahran
Assistant Director & Lighting	Firas Abu Sabbah

Appendix B. Multimedia development

Multimedia is already a core pillar of The Freedom Theatre's work. The theatre's profile and planning documents describe an integrated program of photography, filmmaking, podcasts, digital media production, film screenings, documentation, and media literacy work. The 2026 plan includes establishing Freedom Studio – Media & Podcast Production to support advocacy, documentation, and income-generating activities.

The proposed USD 33,000 for multimedia development will help strengthen this direction through improved documentation of artistic and community work, digital storytelling, public visibility, podcast and media content production, and the practical infrastructure needed for a stronger multimedia department. This will support both local community connection and wider international reach.

Selected organizational highlights

- TFT has maintained operations from temporary spaces in Jenin city and surrounding venues while its main headquarters remains inaccessible.
- In 2025 it continued children and youth activities, women's programming, touring work, and artistic productions despite displacement and infrastructure damage.
- Its integrated model combines theatre, multimedia, education, and community engagement, making core support especially important to sustain all parts of the institution together.