

CULTURE AND ART – THE FOUNDATION OF THE THIRD RENAISSANCE

Yusupaliyeva Dilafruz Kahramonovna

Acting Professor at the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture, Doctor of Political Sciences
(DSc)

Abstract: The article provides a detailed analysis of the goals, objectives, and prospects of the cultural reforms being implemented by our country in recent years. Through reforms in the field of culture and art, enhancing social equality and strengthening cultural cooperation on both national and global scales are gaining significant importance.

Keywords: renaissance, foundation, development, reforms, activities, national performance, culture.

One of the important pillars of the nation's progress is the radical reform of the field of culture, which began with the Presidential Decree "On Measures to Further Improve the Management System in the Field of Culture and Sports," signed by President Sh. Mirziyoyev on February 15, 2017. In 2004, a unified management system for the culture and sports sectors was established, but it did not prove effective after more than 12 years of operation. The experience of the past years has shown that the merger of the culture and sports sectors under one ministry, without fully studying their diverse and complex aspects, resulted in an inability to effectively implement measures related to the promotion of major areas of culture and art, such as theaters, museums, children's music and art schools, classical music, cultural centers, museums, culture and recreation parks, and folk art, as well as the large-scale development of mass physical education. These tasks were not fully carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Sports, which was the responsible authority. To eliminate the negative consequences, it became necessary to restructure the activities of the ministry. Therefore, under the initiative of the Head of State, the Ministry of Culture and Sports was abolished, and in accordance with the Presidential Decree, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State Committee for Physical Education and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan were established. It is worth noting that favorable conditions were created for the development of two essential sectors for the life of the country's population. The thoughtful policy aimed at the future of culture and art has become of great historical significance for the further development of our national culture. Thus, necessary opportunities were created for Uzbek art and sports to achieve high results on the global stage.

As history shows, no society can imagine its future without developing culture and art, which are among the main tools for shaping the national, moral, and spiritual values of people in their consciousness.

Indeed, it was no coincidence that on August 3, 2017, our esteemed President, during a meeting with representatives of Uzbekistan's creative intelligentsia, compared the roles of the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Culture. This comparison led to the conclusion that just as a state cannot survive without defense, a nation cannot be complete without culture and art, which form the foundation of society. During the meeting, the President thoroughly discussed the development processes of our culture and art, highlighting both the positive traditions and some negative aspects that have affected society, offering a critical assessment and reflecting on urgent issues that need to be addressed and solutions to overcome them.

During this meeting, very appropriate critical remarks were made regarding the activities of the Ministry of Culture and its system organizations, and several important issues necessary for the future of our national culture were addressed. Specifically, based on the initiative put forward by the Head of State to establish “friendship clubs” within leading creative organizations, major enterprises, banks, and companies in our country were assigned as sponsors to support cultural and artistic institutions. Furthermore, the establishment of the Uzbekistan People's Artists Club was discussed, and it was emphasized that its members should regularly meet to study the latest developments in national and world art, identify and nurture young talents, and ensure their participation in international competitions. The necessity of developing new ideas and proposals for these tasks was also highlighted. A significant shortcoming noted was that more than 50% of the personnel working in cultural and artistic institutions lacked higher education. The Head of State, during his visit to the Khokand Musical Drama Theater, lamented that out of the 53 creative staff members in the theater, only 11 had higher education, while the remaining 42 had only secondary or specialized education.

As we were still reflecting on the powerful impressions of the meeting, decrees and decisions began to be issued in the press regarding measures to address the issues and shortcomings raised during the gathering. To address the shortage of qualified personnel in the field in the Ferghana Valley, just two weeks after the meeting, on August 16, 2017, the President signed a decree to establish the regional branch of the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture in Ferghana. This event was of particular significance in the history of the country's culture and arts. Additionally, on October 16, 2017, the President signed a decree on the establishment of the Culture and Arts Development Fund under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, followed by another decree on October 18, 2017, to strengthen the material and technical base of the Ministry of Culture. On June 27, 2018, a decree was signed on measures to organize the activities of the Uzbekistan State Philharmonic. November 17, 2017, became an unforgettable day in the last four years of the history of our national culture. On this day, President Sh. Mirziyoyev signed a decree titled “Measures to Further Develop Uzbek National Maqam Art.”

This decree is undoubtedly a historic document regarding the future of maqam art, which is one of the symbols of our national culture. It was time to distinguish the original from the fake, and false pop singers and unprofessional performances were to be curtailed. The decree addressed important issues such as the role of national maqam art in spiritual and moral development, the restoration and enrichment of ancient national and spiritual values and traditions, as well as the state's support for the development of classical art in the context of market relations. These issues are of crucial importance for the future of the field. Based on this decree, measures were outlined to eliminate existing shortcomings and problems in the classical singing art, conduct in-depth studies of the history of Uzbek maqam art, carry out scientific and theoretical research, publish educational and methodological literature, raise its unique performance schools and traditions to a new level, create and enrich its "golden fund," increase its international prestige, and widely promote it.

In order to achieve these goals, the Uzbekistan National Maqam Art Center was established. Every two years, an International Maqam Art Festival will be held in Shahrizabz, with awards in categories such as "Best Maqam Singer," "Best Maqam Instrumentalist," "Best Maqam Teacher," "Best Maqam Promoter," and "Youngest Maqam Artist." A number of important tasks were entrusted to the Maqam Center, including the construction of a new building for the Maqam Center in Tashkent that meets modern standards. Creative groups and ensembles working in the

maqam genre will be exempt from taxes until 2023, and scientific research, textbooks, translations, and necessary literature related to the study of maqam art will be funded by the national state budget. The measures outlined in this decree have become an important step in ensuring the spiritual upliftment of the country.

In 2017, significant and unprecedented work was carried out in the history of Uzbekistan's culture and art, marking the beginning of a new historical period in the development of the sector through the initiatives of our country's leadership. Over the course of the year, nearly 20 decrees and decisions were adopted for the future of culture and art, which is a clear indicator of the importance given to the sector. Meetings and discussions with representatives of the sector were held. As President Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized, "We must never forget one truth: if culture and art do not progress in our country, society cannot develop." Today, culture and art are regarded as crucial and necessary factors in the rapid implementation of reforms. In 2018, extensive work continued to develop the field of culture and art.

During his visit to the Surkhandarya region on January 19-20, President Sh. Mirziyoyev, with his initiative, established the Bakhshis School in the city of Termez to foster a sense of devotion to our national and spiritual values, our homeland, and the heritage of our ancestors among the younger generation. The aim was to further develop the art of Bakhshi (epic poetry singers) and dastan (epic storytelling), which are unique treasures of our national culture.

Bakhshi art, which has passed down through generations and has become a cornerstone of our people's artistic heritage, conveys devotion to the homeland, love, brotherhood, heroism, courage, and many other values. The President's decrees "On the Organization of the International Bakhshi Art Festival" (November 1, 2018) and "On Further Development of Bakhshi Art" (May 14, 2019) became a major historical event in the cultural life of our nation. One of the most important areas in the field of culture and art is improving the activities of museums and strengthening their infrastructure and material-technical base in line with modern requirements. A series of regulatory and legal documents have been adopted to address these goals, and the tasks outlined in them are being implemented step by step. For instance, the President of Uzbekistan's decree "On Innovative Development of Culture and Art in the Republic of Uzbekistan" (August 26, 2018) marked a new step in the preservation and protection of the cultural heritage housed in our museums. According to the decree, from 2017 to 2027, eight new museums are to be opened, 21 existing museums are to be reorganized, and by 2027, nine new buildings for state museums are to be constructed. Reconstruction works are planned for 11 museums, and 68 museums are to undergo major repairs and re-equipment.

On November 28, 2018, the President of Uzbekistan approved the decree "On the Concept of Further Development of National Culture," which is a crucial historical document aimed at addressing existing problems and shortcomings in the culture and art sector. The concept primarily outlines the creation of a regulatory and legal framework for the culture sector and the further improvement of the institutional system and activities of cultural institutions. Additionally, it includes the drafting and adoption of the "Culture Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan." A working group of qualified specialists was formed under the Ministry to develop the draft law "On Culture," which was submitted to the Committee on Science, Education, Culture, and Sports of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. The document also emphasizes important issues such as the preservation and safeguarding of our historical and cultural heritage, its widespread use in the education of the younger generation, instilling national and universal values in the

minds of our youth, supporting folk creativity, organizing and developing effective international cultural exchanges, and viewing our national culture as an inseparable part of world culture. The concept consists of five chapters and eight directions, with the seventh direction titled "Science, Education, Training, and Qualification Improvement." This chapter holds significant importance in improving the activities of educational institutions within the ministry's system. In particular, the concept sets key tasks for preparing professional and qualified personnel for the sector, nurturing talented creators, creating literature related to folklore, academic, and pop music, supporting scientific research, implementing scientific results in practice, exchanging experience with foreign cultural and art institutions, and widely using the best achievements of foreign educational systems and technologies for the development of culture and art education.

Before 2017, there were 37 theaters in our country, but now the number has reached 40. Between 2015 and 2016, 3 theaters were reconstructed, and from 2016 to 2023, 11 theaters underwent major renovations and were re-equipped. In 2017, state theaters organized 15 local tours and 7 international tours, while in 2022, 28 international and 160 local tours were carried out. Between 2009 and 2021, 193 works were staged in theaters, and the authors of 63 of them were owed royalties amounting to 2.1 billion soums, which was fully paid off in 2021.

In 2017, only 3 works received state funding for staging in theaters, but from 2018 to 2022, a total of 70 works were funded by the state. Specifically, in 2022, the state allocated 15 billion soums for 40 works, and in 2023, 6 billion soums for 23 works. Before 2017, there were 35 historical works in the theater repertoire, but now the number has increased to over 55. In terms of theatergoer attendance, the annual plan was 70%, but between 2018 and 2022, the annual attendance increased to over 3 million, reaching 94%. The number of new productions staged annually has risen from 110 to 126. Additionally, considering the growth in the scientific potential and prestige of theaters, the Berdakh State Musical Theater of Karakalpakstan was granted academic status, and the Uzbekistan State Puppet Theater was given national status. Between 2016 and 2023, several new theaters were established, and necessary conditions were created for the quality and full-fledged operation of existing ones. For example:

- Puppet theaters were newly established in the Navoi and Namangan regions.
- New buildings were constructed for the Karakalpak State Youth Theater and the Jizzakh Regional Puppet Theater.
- Reconstruction work was carried out in the buildings of the Jizzakh and Syrdarya Regional Musical Drama Theaters.
- Comprehensive repairs and equipping were carried out at the Uzbek National Puppet Theater, Karakalpak State Puppet Theater, and the "Diddor" Youth Experimental Theater Studio.

In the field of national opera and ballet, "mentor-apprentice" traditions were developed, and 12 qualified artists, including People's Artists of Uzbekistan and Honored Artists of Uzbekistan, were involved in establishing "master schools." A foreign, renowned, and talented specialist was invited for a 2-year term as the chief conductor of the Alisher Navoi State Academic Grand Theater of Uzbekistan. Additionally, a plan for foreign tours of the theater's team for 2022-2026 was approved, and today, the team has completed tour performances in cities like Baku (Azerbaijan), Daegu, Busan, Kochang, and Pyeongtaek (South Korea), as well as Paris (France), Dortmund (Germany), and Beijing (China). A separate plan for staging national and world opera and ballet works was approved for 2022-2026, with 6.6 billion soums allocated for the staging of the operas "Alisher Navoi" and "Masquerade Ballet" and the ballet "Jaloliddin Manguberdi."

Every year, national competitions for “Young Vocal Performers,” “Young Ballet Performers,” and “Conductors, Directors, and Choreographers” are held and continue to be organized. In addition, the "Art of Opera and Ballet" international festival was held in 2022 at the Alisher Navoi State Academic Grand Theater of Uzbekistan. Currently, 837 cultural centers operate under the Ministry of Culture, with the number of clubs in these centers increasing from 1,258 in 2017 to 3,749 in 2023. Furthermore, the number of exemplary folk ensembles in cultural centers rose from 375 before 2017 to 576 in 2023, an increase of 201 ensembles.

In 2023, these cultural centers were provided with 6,780 copies of educational and methodological manuals in five categories and 8,670 musical instruments in eight types. Significant efforts have been undertaken to compile and continuously enrich the local and national inventories of intangible cultural heritage. Specifically, 28 local and 358 national elements of intangible cultural heritage were registered in 2017. By 2023, the number of local elements reached 897, and national elements increased by 71.

February 4, 2020, became a significant and unforgettable day in the history of Uzbek culture and art. On this day, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed two decrees aimed at fundamentally reforming and advancing the unique and historically significant art of Uzbek national dance. These decrees were: On Measures for the Further Development of National Dance Art (No. PQ-4584) and On Measures for the Fundamental Improvement of the Training System for Highly Qualified Specialists in Dance Art and the Further Development of Scientific Potential (No. PQ-4585). These documents outlined objectives such as expanding the activities of professional artistic ensembles in national dance, identifying and nurturing talented youth, creating creative laboratories to form a new generation of choreographers and ballet artists, and enhancing their skills and experience. It is worth noting that the revival of the Mukarrama Turgunbayeva State Dance Ensemble “Bahor,” which had once gained worldwide fame through the efforts of master artists but ceased operations for various reasons, marked a major historical event in the country's cultural life as its former prestige was restored.

A long-awaited historical milestone was achieved with the decree declaring April 15 as the Day of Cultural and Art Workers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Additionally, the Yunus Rajabi Uzbek National Institute of Musical Art was established as the leading higher education institution for training specialists in maqom performance, storytelling, and major song genres. Indeed, cultural and artistic workers actively participate in the ongoing processes of monumental change and renewal under the leadership of the country's president. Their dedication ensures the further development of national culture, embodying the idea of advancing "from national revival to national progress." Over the last four years, the concepts of culture, art, and cultural heritage have become some of the most frequently used and cherished terms in our society.

They have seamlessly merged with the idea of the "New Uzbekistan," making it challenging to imagine them as separate notions. Historically, the East has always been a cradle of culture. The great and invaluable spiritual heritage left by Eastern scholars has become a treasure of humanity and continues to serve people worldwide as an expression of universal culture. Culture transcends nationality—it lives in every person's heart. Culture and art possess immense power to unite people around noble objectives and shared goals.

By 2022, the number of cultural competitions in the fields of culture and art had doubled compared to 2017, increasing from 10 to 24, with the number of participants growing from 38,000

to 62,000. To widely promote the culture and art of our country, preserve art forms shaped over centuries, and pass them on to future generations, a system for organizing international events in various fields was introduced. Notably, festivals and conferences such as the International Festival of Bakhshi Art, the International Maqom Art Forum, the Lazgi International Dance Festival, the International Festival of Embroidery and Jewelry, and the International Handicraft Festival were held. To provide quality cultural services to residents of remote districts and villages, two specially equipped vehicles with music equipment and portable stages—the only ones of their kind in Central Asia—were purchased for the "Culture Caravan" events. Uzbekistan's cultural and artistic cooperation with foreign countries has reached a new level over the past five years. The country's cultural diplomacy has advanced significantly, including hosting cultural days of Uzbekistan in 13 foreign countries and the cultural days of nearly 10 foreign countries in Uzbekistan.

References:

1. Yusupaliyeva, Dilafruz K. "The Importance Of National Values In The Formation Of Intellectual Power." *Journal of Positive School Psychology* 6.7 (2022): 5199-5206.
2. Kaxramonovna, Yusupaliyeva Dilafruz. "Mass-Cultural and Concert-Calendar Year Plans of Watching the Formation of the Event." *CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF ARTS AND DESIGN* 4.10 (2023): 30-35.
3. Yusupaliyeva, D. K. "Political role of television in the development of national ideology." *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 06 (86) (2020): 665-667.
4. Kaxramonovna, Yusupaliyeva Dilafruz. "Modern Trends in the Development of Culture and Art Management." *Journal of Innovation in Education and Social Research* 2.1 (2024): 181-188.
5. Kaxramonovna, Yusupaliyeva Dilafruz. "Implementation of Public-Private Partnership in Culture and Recreation Gardens." *Journal of Innovation in Education and Social Research* 2.1 (2024): 172-180.
6. Yusupaliyeva, D. K. "Development of mutually beneficial cooperation of Uzbekistan within the SCO." *ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science*, 05 (85) (2020): 901-903.
7. Юсупалиева, Дилафруз Кахрамоновна. "ОПЫТ ЗАРУБЕЖНЫХ СТРАН В СФЕРЕ РЕГУЛИРОВАНИЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ ИНСТИТУТОВ ТЕЛЕВИДЕНИЯ." *Russian-Uzbekistan Conference*. Vol. 1. No. 1. 2024.
8. Yusupaliyeva, Dilafruz Qahramonovna. "ROSSIYADA BOG ‘-PARK QURILISHI TARIXIDAN." *Oriental Art and Culture* 5.5 (2024): 444-450.
9. Kalkanatov, Asilbek. "PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION OF THE MANAGER IN THE CULTURAL FIELD." *JOURNAL OF ECONOMY, TOURISM AND SERVICE* 2.9 (2023): 19-23.
10. Kalkanatov, Asilbek. "THE IMPORTANCE OF MANAGING THE PARTICIPATION OF CULTURAL AND ART INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES." *Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Art* 2.9 (2023): 7-10.
11. Irisboyeva, D. E. "AMIR TEMUR DAVRIDA MADANIYATNING YUKSALISHI." *ARXITEKTURA, MUHANDISLIK VA ZAMONAVIY TEXNOLOGIYALAR JURNALI* 2.5 (2023): 31-33.
12. Kalkanatov, Asilbek. "IFTIKHORI TIMSOLI TUMOR BRANCH." *JOURNAL OF HEALTHCARE AND LIFE-SCIENCE RESEARCH* 2.11 (2023): 67-69.

13. Nazarbay o'g'li, Qolqanatov Asilbek. "OMMAVIY TOMOSHA MUASSASALARI FAOLIYATI TAHLILI." *Academic Integrity and Lifelong Learning (France)* 2 (2023): 15-21.
14. Nazarbai, Kolkanatov Asilbek. "NEW VOICE IN UZBEK DIRECTION." *Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Art* 2.12 (2023): 65-70.
15. QOLQANATOV, Asilbek. "MA'DANIYAT VAZIRLIGI VA MADANIYAT MARKAZLARI: TARIXIY TARAQQIYOT JARAYONLARIDAN." *News of UzMU journal* 1.1.1. 1. (2024): 16-20.
16. Nazarbay o'g'li, Qolqanatov Asilbek. "OMMAVIY TOMOSHA MUASSASALARI FAOLIYATI TAHLILI." *Academic Integrity and Lifelong Learning (France)* 2 (2023): 15-21.
17. Nazarbaevna, Qolqanatova Alfiya, and Kojalepesov Sultanbay Serjanovich. "The Importance of Scenario in Cultural Events." *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INNOVATION IN NONFORMAL EDUCATION* 4.2 (2024): 259-262.