

## SAPA Strategy 2023-2027 - Summary for external communication

### 1. Assessment

The fusion of the Swiss Theatre Collection and the Swiss Dance Archive, which took place on 01.01.2018, and the subsequent process of fusion, have facilitated a competent management of the collections. Through the use of the professional expertise available at all sites, problems have been identified, particularly in the area of conservation and storage management, which need to be addressed in the future.

The major problem remains the funding of the foundation. In many areas (competence centre, digital transition, storage and collection management and valorisation), action is essential, which can only be done with additional staff resources.

### 2. Perspectives

Since the 1980s, the field of performing arts has continued to grow and diversify. As a result, potential archives are increasing in quantity, scope of content and form of transmission (different types of documents, digital formats).

On the archivists' side, there is a growing need for personal advice, support in the documentation process and archiving solutions.

As a result, SAPA is setting acquisition priorities, intensifying cooperation between archival institutions and developing its operational structure in terms of staff, finances and strategy.

### 3. Vision

SAPA's action is focused on two priority areas:

- The identification, collection, processing, preservation, promotion and communication of performing arts archives when they document activities and actors of national interest or uniquely represent the performing arts of a region or artistic movement.
- The development and management of a centre of competence in the field of the performing arts in Switzerland capable of providing access to reliable sources of information and documentation as well as expertise and support in the field of cultural heritage preservation to the actors and institutions concerned.

As a specialised institution and thanks to its two strategic axes, *Archives* (Funds and collections) and the *competence centre* (National information and documentation centre for the conservation of the performing arts in Switzerland), SAPA plays a leading and recognised role in the conservation of the cultural heritage of the performing arts of national interest.

SAPA fulfils a national mission, supported by the cantons and cities where it is located (location advantage).

In particular, SAPA detects gaps and covers niches that are not taken into account in the archival landscape.

SAPA takes into account the scope of the field (different sectors), the regional specificities and the constant evolution.

SAPA fulfils these tasks in a wide variety of ways: as a knowledge broker, as a partner or with its own projects in the field of research and development, as a service provider and through the exploitation of special archives and the communication of its own funds and special collections.

SAPA has qualified staff in the fields of archival informatics, archival science, information and documentation, conservation, performing arts science, can cover its operating costs with public funds and engages in project partnerships with third parties in the field of research and development.

In terms of company structure, SAPA applies hierarchies and a clear division of tasks where it makes sense for the company's operation and removes them where they are in conflict with innovative development.

#### 4. Goals

In the axis *Archives*, SAPA is implementing the collection policy that came into operation on 01.05.2020 by defining practical bases or areas of action for the current and future collection areas. It is developing a plan for the complete integration of the Swiss cabaret archives, which have already been bequeathed to the foundation through a donation contract, but which until now were managed by the founder himself.

Based on the above, SAPA is developing the *Competence Centre* axis. With the aim of disseminating cultural heritage beyond its own collection activities, it makes its expertise, data and services available to third parties.

The field of Oral History represents a strong point, both in terms of collection building, research cooperation and mediation.

SAPA transmits its funds in a coordinated and efficient manner and seeks to collaborate with partner institutions. The foundation has a mediation concept that promotes cross-site collaboration, defines the indicative scope of annual activities and competencies. Three levels of mediation are distinguished:

SAPA communicates along the *Archive* and *Competence Centre* axes and carries out punctual lobbying work, specific to each project, depending on its human and financial resources. Besides, the foundation develops formal partnerships with institutions that are active in the field of performing arts.

With regard to commercial premises and depots, SAPA develops a strategy with concrete implementation scenarios that determine a future strategy as a priority for action and thus ensure the long-term preservation of the funds.

As an institution of national interest that also provides services to cantonal and communal authorities, SAPA ensures the sustainable financing of its core activities through public contributions and develops specific projects with the support of partners interested in these developments and services.