

Open Letter

To the City Councilor for Culture, Science, and Sport, Dr. Andreas Mailath-Pokorny

Dear Dr. Mailath-Pokorny,

To our dismay we have learned that the hitherto sponsored authors' theater project WIENER WORTSTAETTEN, which is well-known far beyond the borders of the city and the country, has been refused long-term concept funding by the jury that you appointed.

The precipitous termination of this in many respects unique project, which in recent years has distinguished itself especially through its support of authors who do not have German as their mother tongue and of innovative theater projects, represents an irreplaceable loss for contemporary Austrian dramatic art and the associated theater scene.

Not only the intercultural aspect of the project, but also the networking and communication at the international level have contributed substantially to the advancement of new Austrian dramatic literature and to the dialogue between the cultures. An outstanding example is "Habe die Ehre" by the Syrian-Kurdish author Ibrahim Amir. His play, developed and premiered under the auspices of the WIENER WORTSTAETTEN, was not only awarded the Nestroy Theater Prize in 2013, but has since then been translated into a number of languages and successfully performed in several countries (Germany, Denmark, and Norway, and in the near future in the USA and England). The special model of the long-term authors' funding of the WIENER WORTSTAETTEN also enabled other renowned authors, such as Julya Rabinowich, Ewald Palmethofer, and Dimitré Dinev, to make decisive development steps in their careers.

We therefore request that you reconsider this decimation of present-day Austrian dramatic art and hope for the continuation of this so eminently important authors' theater project.

For us, this project is indispensable.