

Mr. Minister of Culture

From 2011 to 2016 the BAN! Buenos Aires Negra - International Noir Novel Festival - was held with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.

BAN!, whose motto is "Where real crime mixes with crime fiction" not only brought together authors but also professionals who work with real crime: judges, police, prosecutors, forensic and criminologists (among others). In this way BAN! became a forum for social discussion on the problem of crime and violence.

During those five years, BAN! gathered the best emerging writers and the most prominent of the police literature. And he brought them together with crime professionals. In doing it installed the social debate on the pressing problem of criminality, something that not only concerns governors and officials, but the entire community.

BAN! stood on an equal footing with other international festivals of the genre, such as Semana Negra de Gijón, Barcelona Negra and Getafe Negro, in Spain; Polars du Sud and Quais du Polar and Polar Avignon, France. Lea Festival, from Greece;

BAN! Not only was a noir festival, was also a formidable launching platform for Argentine authors at the national and international level: In the domestic: Organized several contests: novel, novels for adaptation to the cinema, stories and awards for the best presentation in BAN! That they meant income, publicity and transcendence for the participating authors.

Internationally: Authors such as Horacio Convertini, Guillermo Orsi, Enzo Maqueira and Claudia Piñeiro (among many others) agreed to be invited to festivals in Europe and to be translated by European publishers, thanks to the agreements of reciprocity that we had with publishers and festivals from Spain, England, Germany, France and Holland. In the same way, a large number of international authors accessed a Latin American audience thanks to their participation in the festival. Petros Markaris, Qiu Xiaolong, John Connelly, Emmanuel Dongala, Andreu Martín, Carlos Zanon, Vanessa Monfort, Rosa Ribas to name just a few.

Professionals such as forensic psychiatrists Raúl Torre and Mariano Castex; Judge Monica Atucha of the Chamber of Crime; journalists like Rodolfo Palacios, Miriam Molero, Virginia Messi, Marcelo Larraquy, Gustavo Sierra and Reinaldo Sietecase; historians like Lila Caimari and ex-delinquents like Hugo "La Garza Sosa", Pedro Palomar and Daniel Rojo, were part of the game.

BAN! He was also a great promoter of childhood reading with programs that involved public schools. We gave away thousands of books to the attendees, and many thousands more were sold during the festival through independent bookstores without it contributing a cent to the festival or its organizers. We have contributed significantly to the dynamisation of the publishing industry.

The 2017 edition could not be made because Mr. Ángel Malher, your predecessor in office, withdrew his support because he considered that "the festival was not profitable." How could it be with free admission? Evidently the ex-minister has a commercial concept of success and seems to ignore that culture is not a business, it is an investment. In this regard, the writer Andreu Martín said:

"I have always considered Buenos Aires one of the most educated and enlightened capitals in the world, I can not even imagine that it does not have a festival of the level

of Buenos Aires Negra (BAN!) Simply because it is not profitable. What does it mean that a literary festival is not profitable? What benefit is expected from it if it is not a cultural and intellectual benefit obtained by the mere fact that it exists?

The correct question is: What irreparable loss results from the disappearance of a festival like BAN !? Can Argentina afford it? "

Those of us who have participated or enjoyed this festival, believe that no, that Argentina can not afford it. In this regard, we urge the Minister to give his support to BAN! Buenos Aires Negra - International Festival of Noir Literature, with the assurance that it will be contributing to the permanence of an event beneficial to the community, to the publishing industry and to the culture.

Cordially,