**Inclusive and charitable BioArt exhibition in Kazakhstan**

**"In Vivo: Human Diversity"**

Organizers: Nazarbayev University iGEM Club

Date: September 26-October 2

Location: Nazarbayev University

**Description:**

The "In Vivo: Human Diversity '' bioart exhibition is the first exhibition of artworks in combination with biological elements, held in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, which is organized by the student club of Nazarbayev University - iGEM. iGEM ​​is an international organization dedicated to the development of synthetic biology, within which a team of students from Nazarbayev University annually participate in a genetic engineering competition, representing not only our country, but the entire region of Central Asia. As part of our educational work aimed at popularizing science in Kazakhstan, as well as increasing the availability of inclusive educational materials, we are organizing this event. Here we decided to present works aimed at highlighting the uniqueness and diversity of human individuality through the prism of science, and in particular, biology.

Bioart is a new direction in art that merges scientific and creative activities into an extraordinary aesthetic symbiosis. It is a unique way to reflect on the accelerated development of biology and the resulting ethical implications, social dilemmas and discussions. In view of this, an important aspect of our event is accessibility for all, in particular we plan to adapt this exhibition for visually impaired people with accompanying audio descriptors and/or descriptions of works in Braille. Moreover, the exhibition will feature the works of children with visual impairments from school No. 10 in Nur-Sultan.

One of the main goals of this project is to raise awareness of the current problems in education. Our event will bring together people interested in inclusion in education and science, as well as people who want to help schoolchildren with visual impairments, to also raise funds for charitable purposes. The collected funds will be used to develop the Remisee social project, created by the iGEM NU Kazakhstan team, to further improve the quality of education among schoolchildren with total blindness and residual vision.

This project involved experts from the Kazakh National University of Arts represented by the chief curator of the exhibition Aigerim Mazhitkhan. Adaptation of artworks for visually impaired people is carried out with the support of the charitable foundation "Dara". Biological installations and works are presented by research scientists of the Department of Biology of Nazarbayev University, comply with all safety standards and do not cause any harm to the health of visitors to the exhibition.

Responsible persons: Malika Vasilova (leader of iGEM NU Kazakhstan), Anel Umirbaeva (main exhibition director)

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