

SPRING 2025 - 2026



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #4

*Building
Community*

*Exploring the
scene*

*Note from
President*



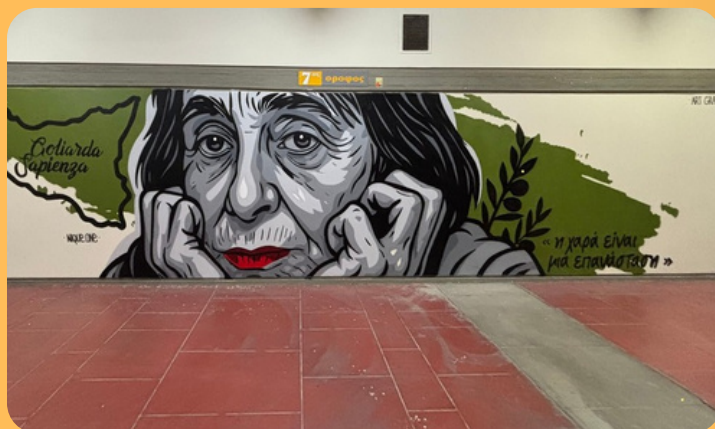
A Year to Remember

Art, Graffiti in the City (Τέχνη, Γκράφιτι στην Πόλη) or simply “AGC” is a non-profit which adheres to the motto that, if you want to know more about a city, you should look at its walls.

As global citizens, we discover and ‘build’ the city through dialogue, research, creating cultural and personal artifacts, enhanced through education, awareness, inspiring the spirit of collective memory and healing. This issue highlights some of our activities and collaborations, bringing us to the ‘winds of change’ for the AGC team. We give heartfelt gratitude to members, and community supporters, in making this past year one to remember!



<https://artgraffcity.gr/>



G. Sapienza mural by Nique (more on p. 2)



B. Kondilis, MSW, MPH, Ph.D.
& E. Athanasekou, Ph.D.
(President, and Secretary
General of AGC, respectively)
in Aegina for MH Festival 2025.

MONTH(S)	Actions/ Events	Actions/ Events
MARCH 2025	"Building the Community Compass" On-line Panel with Citizen Tales Commons Youth Forum	Articles written by AGC & contributors
MAY 2025	AGC Board members at <u>3rd Arts & Mental Health Festival by EPIONI</u> for European Mental Health Week on Aegina Island.	Cultural walk exploring graffiti and street art, combined with creative writing, in Exarcheia w/ <u>V. Manoussakis</u> & K. Koundouri
SEPTEMBER 2025	Presentation for International Conference "Images of Greek Antiquity, and the Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Cinema (<u>27-28th Sept., Thessaloniki</u>)	Event with IASIS at Centro "Co-Create my City" (12 th September)
OCTOBER 2025	Cultural walk in Gazi (graffiti, street art) with We Adore Museums	AGC President visits Jordan, documenting graffiti/street art
WINTER - JANUARY 2026	Unveiling of a mural of Goliarda Sapienza and related symposium (School of Philosophy, NKUoA, in collaboration with Sapienza University of Rome)	Conference seminar on the occasion of the International Day against Violence Against Women
MAY 2026	Exarcheia Graffiti walk with We Adore Museums	AGC at 4th Mental Health Festival and Arts "EPIONI", Aegina



A "voice" against domestic violence –
AGC in collaboration with the Dean's Office of the
School of Philosophy, NKUA



Dr. Dionysis Mourelatos (AGC Honorary member)
& Dr. Kalliopi Koundouri (pro-bono Scientific Advisor to AGC)
preparing to speak about the mural art created by NIQUE.
More information on the adjacent event can be found on the
AGC webpage: "Goliarda Sapienza as a Model of Feminine
Emancipation."

All photographs taken by the AGC team

Special thanks to the generosity of ENAON who donated
funds for the mural creation.

MEET OUR PANELISTS

Welcome Message by Edward Tick, Ph.D., nonfiction writer and poet, author of "Soul Medicine." He is a transformational healer, holistic psychotherapist, educator, consultant and international journey guide. <https://www.edwardtick.com/>



MAGDALINI AGRAFIOTI
Speaker
<https://therapistmagdalini.gr/>



MARKOS PERRAKIS
Speaker
<https://fractality.gr/>



BARBARA KONDILIS
Speaker
<https://www.graffiti.com/>
<https://facebook.com/barbarakondilis>

Mar 15, 2025
10:30 a.m. EST
17:30 Athens Time

Moderators:
Vassiliki Rapti, PhD, Founding Director of
Citizen TALES Commons

Youth Mentorship Forum on Civic Innovations
co-leaders: Katerina Triantafyllou, Valentinos Dardas, Tiffany Goh, Jacqueline Goh

<https://citizentales.org/>

March 2025 – webinar “Building the Community Compass”

Moderators: Vassiliki Rapti, PhD, Founding Director of Citizen TALES Commons and representatives of its Youth Mentoring Forum on Civic Innovation.

The online panel moderated by members of the non-profit organization CitizenTALESCommonsYouth, featured an introduction by psychotherapist, author, poet, and honorary member of AGC, Ed Tick, author of several books including his most recent, “Soul Medicine.”

The motto “Strength in Unity” inspired **speakers** Magdalini Agrafioti (Psychotherapist), Dr. Markos Perrakis (Psychologist and Director of Fractality), Barbara Kondilis (Professor, Mental Health Counselor, AGC President 2022–2026) to share “best practices” with an audience spanning two continents. Graffiti and street art can be useful to build community memory, build cohesion, and community healing.



Anastasios Kountouris, Ph.D.
& Kalliopi Koundouri, Ph.D.

September 2025 – conference presentation, Thessaloniki

Dr. Kalliopi Koundouri and Dr. Anastasios Kountouris, Scientific Advisors to AGC (pro bono) presented, “Receptions, perceptions, representations and significations of “classical Greek” themes on public murals in Athens,” for the Conference “Images of Greek, Antiquity, and the Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Cinema – Aesthetics, Identities, Ideologies



Photographs of street art on Benaki St., Exarchia and Omonoia Square areas, taken by AGC

Autumn 2025 Two great community events!

EVENT #1 Co-Create My City with IASIS at Centro. An afternoon featuring an open discussion, a presentation of our non-profit organization and a proposed design concept, focusing on what citizens would like to see in their city or neighborhood. The audience—comprising individuals with special needs, therapists, and students—collaboratively shaped a shared vision of a better tomorrow featuring more greenery and public art (such as street art) with speakers being Barbara Kondilis AGC Mental Health Counselor, Professor, and President of AGC (through 2026), Paraskevi (Evi) Athanasekou, Legal Counsel, Trainer, and AGC Board Member Stavroula Alevizou-Marinos.

The winner of the "most practical idea" category won a small tree donated by FlowerBar in Alimos for the occasion.



“Thanks AGC volunteers for helping us better understand our community and our own strengths” (workshop participant comment).

Autumn 2025 *Two great community events!*

EVENT #2 Graffiti/street art cultural walk in Gazi with the cultural organization We Adore Museums.



A rainy afternoon in October, in the public space across from Technopolis, in Gazi, an area where people can view public “art,” we were guided by our Scientific advisor and collaborator (pro-bono) Dr. Kalliopi Koundouri, who offered us an in-depth analysis of the meanings behind various well-known public murals, such as Ino’s “The Last Supper” (a 90-meter mural, part of the “Leonardo” series, or the complexities of the relationship between human and machine).

We also paused at the commemorative sculpture dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Tempi tragedy.



Another cultural tour — collaboration between AGC and We Adore Museums — took place in Exarcheia in the spring of 2026, focusing on selected murals and graffiti (more on page 8).

Arts & Healing Aegina Island



Aegina - collage workshop



We attended both the 3rd and 4th year of the "Art and Mental Health Festival" in Aegina island, held May 2025 & May 2026, under the auspices of the Region of Attica, the Municipality of Aegina, and the Greek Carers Network EPIONI.

Both years we were involved in experiential activities sharing information, facilitating artwork with active audience participation, movement and mindfulness exercises. Year 2026 involved group collage creation as part of the Trust Therapy "Healing through Arts and Nature" theme for better processing of trauma, caring for caretakers as part of a collective approach, within the backdrop the Kapralos Museum.

All photographs taken by the AGC team



Exploring the scene - Jordan (November 2025)



All photographs taken by B. Kondilis

Visiting Jordan Fall of 2025, for an educational and cultural visit, AGC president photographed many graffiti tags, unique street art, and murals, in central East Amman and Madaba (towards Petra). These selected images reflect the both the diverse historical past, and the present. City walls were sprayed with expressions, poetry, in the native Arabic language or in the English language.

(Top Right) Large murals in downtown Amman—a game of colorful marbles, and in the background, a Bedouin in modern attire balancing a Corinthian column on his head, highlighting the Greco-Roman history associated with the city's nearby citadel.

(Left) Ayola Queen of Madaba in byzantine garb, with the dove of peace painted by Arab Graffiti Artist Saleh Elaiwa. The mural is near Saint George built on the exact foundations of an older, 6th-century Byzantine church dating back to 560 AD., internationally famous for housing the Madaba Mosaic Map, a stunning cartographic floor relic from the Byzantine era.

Aristotle: "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."

Exploring the Graffiti Scene in Athens, the Greek Islands, and historic Medford, Mass.



Spring 2026 – Political and cultural graffiti – stencils, tags symbols of groups and crews, political slogans and the like—as well as street art—can be found on most of the walls in Exarcheia.

A lively group toured the streets of this vibrant, historic neighborhood (as part of an initiative organized by We Adore Museums in collaboration with AGC), aiming to gain a better understanding of the city's complexities and the artworks that serve as a source of inspiration.



AGC from the other side of the Atlantic photographs a 'continual mural' which showcases the community of Medford, Massachusetts with ALL its residents, including local animals, to honor local history and remembrance, and to raise awareness.

Photographs by B.. Kondilis



"Views from Windows" photos by Natalia Emmanouil, AGC member, who shared her two favorite photographs showcasing youth's and local artist's creations from schools and the street. Street art photos were taken from various areas like the streets of Leipsoi, Argostoli (Kefalonia), Heraklion and Rethymno (Crete).

We thank you Natalia!



Closing thoughts...

Immediate Past President and Co-Founder



My interest in buildings and neighborhoods, wellbeing and mental health, goes way back. Having family and friends who care for or build buildings, householders “νοικοκύρηδες” people who engaged and cared deeply for their communities. It’s common knowledge that community and social psychology, environmental engineering of the everyday surroundings influence our mental, physical and spiritual health. Physical structures, including parks and playgrounds are no exception.

Coming and going, finally moving to Athens in year 2004, I witnessed many changes, good and not so great. I met people who were sad about their property being ‘vandalized’, still others ecstatic because a new graffiti ‘piece’ added beauty and value for them. I started talking, interviewing, taking hundreds of photos, had more conversations, met with colleagues who patiently listened and dreamt with me. We collaboratively started the idea of Art, Graffiti in the City, an observatory, but also a cultural non-profit, a place to share ideas, build networks and create change. “Building up” individuals and communities has been my side volunteer ‘project’ this last decade. I try to understand and be understood. We collaborated on local and international efforts, a rollercoaster of emotions and triumphs these last five years! Small drops – mere ideas -- building up to ‘waves’ of change.

*We are amazingly powerful when we **bind our ideas together**.*

This Spring, I returned to my old neighborhood in Central Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts seeing and photographing new community murals, stepping on paved walk-paths. Finally, feeling completely safe. “A Dream Called Home” etched on a mosaic shows the diversity of a neighborhood, and this statement stuck with me. This urban area took over 20 years to be restructured and rebuilt. The book “Streets of Hope” © 1994 by Medoff & Sklar, is a true story of the urban neighborhood in Dudley square, Boston, given a chance to change and prosper through combined efforts of businesses, educational institutions, community leaders, residents, volunteers, musicians and artists. Hearing and witnessing change for community wellbeing takes time and effort. Keep sharing and showcasing your ‘stories’ as public space deserves our respect to live and prosper within.

*We are **global citizens** and obligated to help each other find a voice, and to heal.*

Thanks for allowing me this chance to work with all of you.

Looking ahead, wishing continued creative endeavors and success to the new AGC Board team!

