

August 28, 2024

Another wonderful road

About the VI All-Russian Congress "Wings of Faith" in Yekaterinburg

On August 27, the VI All-Russian Congress for People with Disabilities "Wings of Faith" started at the Ural Cultural Center. It has been held in different cities of Russia for several years and for the third time in Yekaterinburg. It is noteworthy that this year the congress was held in the Ural capital on the initiative of Vera Semchenkova.

"My name is Vera Semchenkova, I live in Yekaterinburg, I move in a wheelchair, and I type with my nose, because my hands don't work. All this did not prevent me from getting a higher education in the field of journalism and taking an active life position. I am one of the organizers of the 6th All-Russian Congress for people with disabilities "Wings of Faith". We want to invite the editorial staff to the opening of a unique event," the girl wrote on the social network "Cultures of Yekaterinburg". It seemed important to us to accept this invitation, and very soon we were convinced that it was not for nothing: it is really worth writing about such an event.



Text: Daria Sannikova

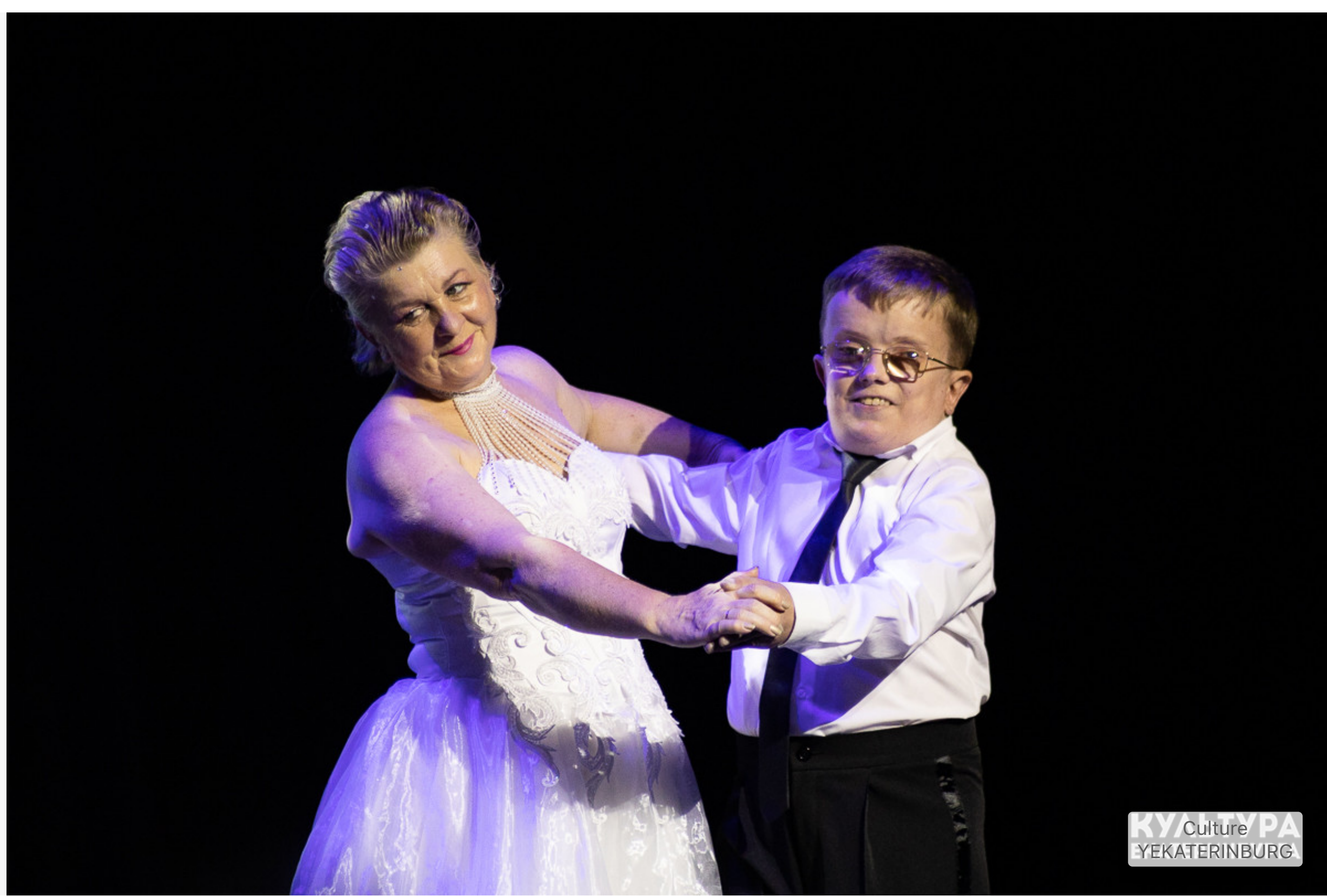


Photo: Georgy Sapozhnikov



Vera Semchenkova

The point, however, is not only and not so much about the event itself. The Congress is essentially a platform for communication for people with disabilities. And this is certainly important: although today they have much more opportunities for an active life than 10-15 years ago, major events remain a real holiday. Here you can communicate with like-minded people, tell the story of your family, rejoice in the success of others, do something together: read poems, sing to the guitar, dance, walk, practice the art of origami...



But to make all this possible, you need a person who is ready to take responsibility for organizing the event. World congresses for people with special needs have an initiator and organizer - Thomas Kraus (Berlin), who even in the current conditions found an opportunity to come to Yekaterinburg. Another organizer is the founder of the medical and pedagogical center "Berdam" Liya Ivanova (Kazan), who held the fifth congress in her homeland in 2023. But they did not come up with the idea of continuing the event in Yekaterinburg - it was Vera Semchenkova.



This year's theme came about thanks to Vera. And this is symbolic: without the wings of faith, nothing would have happened. For the first time in the history of congresses, a person in such a life situation took the initiative, said "I will do it" - and did it. And thanks to Vera, we are here now. I hope that participation in this congress will be meaningful for each of us and will leave its mark. And we will bring these impressions to our cities, share them with friends and relatives.

Thomas Kraus, initiator and organizer of the World Congress for People with Special Needs



I really hope that the congress will be significant and fruitful, fun and joyful. I prepared for it as if I was going for a holiday. Here we can be ourselves, we can smile, hug and develop. I pass the baton from the fifth congress to the sixth in the hope that our meetings will continue.

Lia Ivanova, founder of the medical and pedagogical center "Berdam"

Vera also set the tone for the sixth congress: her friend Alexandra Rubtsova read a letter that the initiator of the congress in Yekaterinburg addressed primarily to her family - mother and grandmother. She briefly described her path - the path of a girl who did not have an ordinary life with running around in the yard, hooliganism at school breaks, student parties and rock concerts. Another one happened - with a family that unconditionally believed in the success of their daughter and granddaughter, with loyal friends and amazing teachers, with the youth communication club "Parachutists". In this life there is a place for the mathematical lyceum, and chess, and journalism, and literature, and theater, and travel, and yoga in hammocks, and speech classes.



"In November 2023, I took a second wind. It happened at the V All-Russian Congress for People with Disabilities in Kazan. I wanted to continue the business - so there was a firm intention to hold this significant event in Yekaterinburg. On the day when I decided to thoroughly organize the congress, I asked my grandfather, who is now with me only in soul, to dream of me - and he dreamed. And opened another wonderful road. I sincerely thank everyone who put their heart into our event."

Vera Semchenkova, organizer of the VI All-Russian Congress "Wings of Faith"

There are three busy days ahead with a variety of events: practical seminars, master classes, round tables, discussions, creative evenings, excursions around Yekaterinburg and concerts. I want the congress to help the participants continue to believe - in themselves and their strength, in the kindness of people around and in the fact that the will, fantasy and desire to live will become less and less limited every year.

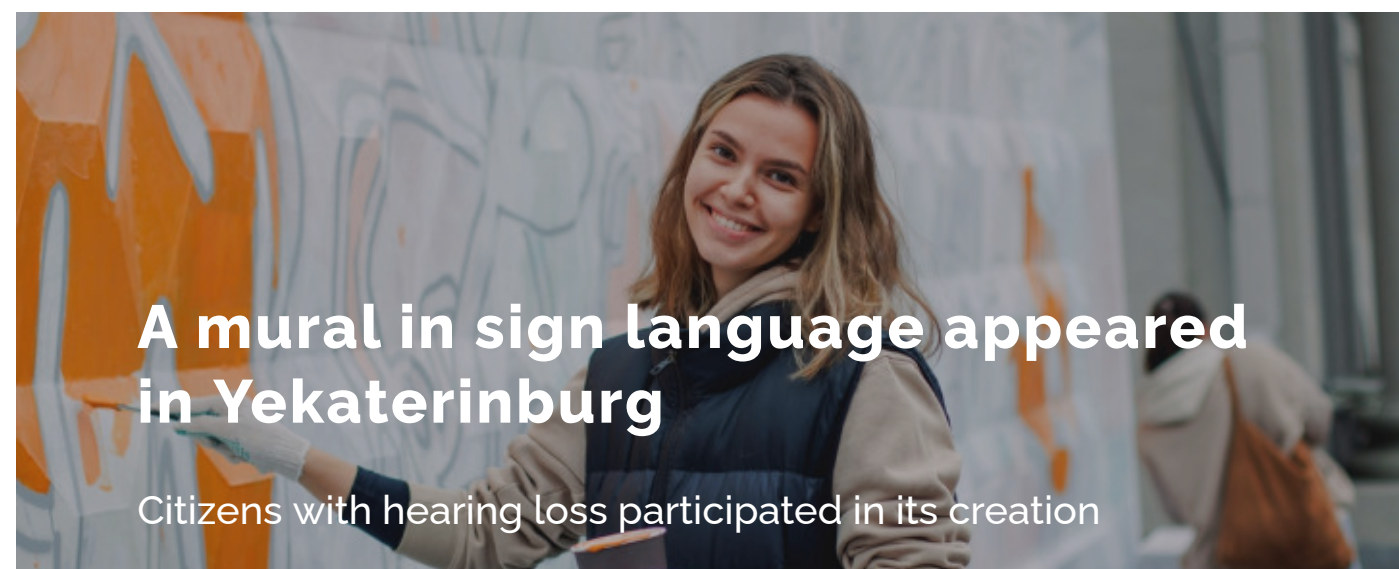


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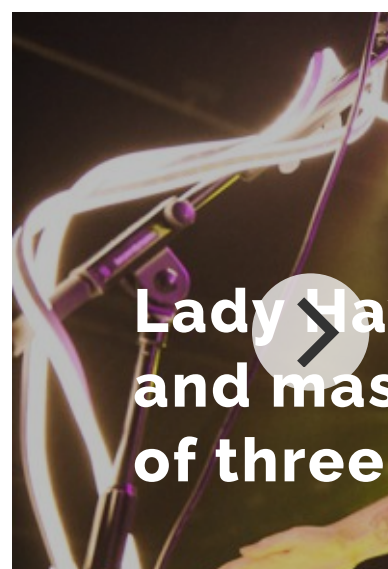
A mural in sign language appeared in Yekaterinburg

Citizens with hearing loss participated in its creation



"We want to make Yekaterinburg a mecca of inclusive tourism"

The project "Map of Accessible Yekaterinburg" was presented at the Sinara Center



Lady Sinara and mas of three

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