

Cultural governance and citizenship

For the 10th anniversary of the Agenda 21 for culture, several thematic notes have been written.

Each note capitalizes our knowledge, quoting drafts we have produced during 10 years, and other basic documents.

These notes have been elaborated by Mariona Peraire and Joana Valent (Ramon Llull University, Barcelona) and Jordi Pascual (UCLG Culture committee coordinator).

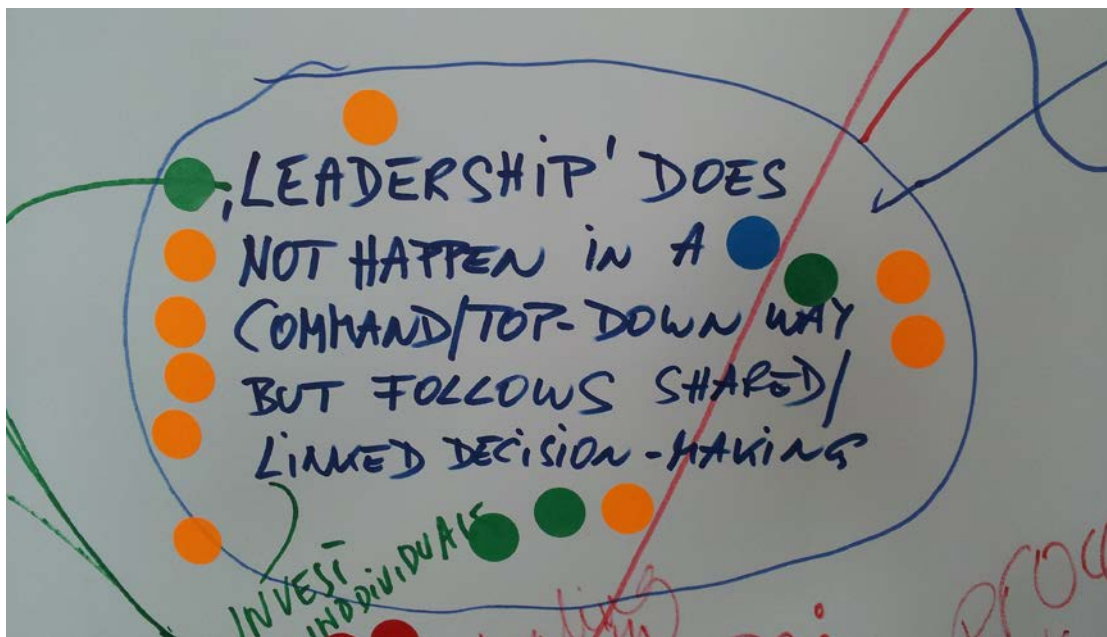


“**Local governance**: a joint responsibility of citizens, civil society and governments”. [Agenda 21 for culture](#).

“Policies for the **inclusion** and **participation** of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace.” **UNESCO**, [Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity](#) (2001), article 2: "From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism."

"Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the **pre-eminence of public policy**, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be **reaffirmed**." UNESCO, [Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity](#) (2001), article 11 "Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society".

"**Governance** has become an essential priority. From a relational" approach, governance is understood as a collaboration between citizens and local administration in which citizens are allowed to participate in cultural life and deliberative cultural policies. This governance affects different levels of government (international organizations, national governments, local governments) and the agreements between these levels are achieved in long-term programs with shared responsibilities." [Web Agenda 21 for culture: Local policies and cultural diversity](#).



"**Governments, local or otherwise, can no longer do it all alone** (and never could). More than that; society no longer wants them to do it all alone. The **participation of civil society** on an equal footing with local governments, sharing tasks, resources, and decision-making power, is indispensable if we truly intend to get somewhere." **Teixeira Coelho**, Professor at the University of São Paulo, curator of the São Paulo Museum of Art and a consultant at the Itau Cultural Observatory, in ["For an effective and contemporary Agenda 21 for culture"](#), Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture (2009).

"The evidence is clear that effective **local cultural development** increases the likelihood of re-engagement in civil society. The hugely important function that active collaborative arts activities perform in the health of communities, particularly in the enhancement of trust, connectivity and willingness to co-operate with others is well documented. These experiences / feelings / consciousnesses are the essential soil in which positive dialogue and collaborative action flourish." **Jon Hawkes**, Resident Cultural Analyst for the Cultural Development Network (Victoria) and author of 'The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: Culture's essential role in public planning', in ["Challenges for local cultural development \(abridged\)"](#), Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture (2009).

“**Energetic local cultural** production is the foundation of a healthy arts ecology. It is also at the foundation of much more: our sense of ourselves, our sense of each other, our collective memories, our collective problem-solving capacities, our pleasure in living. I simply do not understand how investment in local culture-making is not a top priority for any government committed to sustainability, social justice or democracy.” **Jon Hawkes**, Resident Cultural Analyst for the Cultural Development Network (Victoria) and author of ‘*The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: Culture’s essential role in public planning*’, in [“Challenges for local cultural development \(abridged\)”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“Local Solidarity Governance means **building a wide range of civic alliances and partnerships**. In other words, the creation of a type of collective strength made up of communities, workers and employers’ associations, mothers’ associations, trade unions, churches, NGOs, private and state companies and the Government in the search for solutions to urban problems.” **Sergius Gonzaga**, Councillor for culture, Porto Alegre City Council, in [“Agenda 21 for culture and local solidarity governance”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).



“**Widespread and enthusiastic community participation in the process of determining our collective future** is a familiar objective in many governance visions. Achieving this goal should be the most important priority for governments and for the people.” **Jon Hawkes**, Resident Cultural Analyst for the Cultural Development Network (Victoria) and author of ‘*The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: Culture’s essential role in public planning*’, in [“Challenges for local cultural development \(abridged\)”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“The Agenda 21 for culture is both a code and an option for community engagement with «its **own identity**».” **Kurt Eichler**, Head of the Cultural Department of the City of Dortmund, in [“Strategic and Programme Development of Municipal Cultural Policy. How Agenda 21 for culture has driven culture in Dortmund and the Ruhr metropolitan area”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“**The Agenda 21 keeps on mixing clear purposes** – being present in every developed country’s constitution such as copyright protection – **with others that are harmless** but which unveil bleak memories. That is what commitment 35 does, highlighting the need for “inviting creators and artists to commit themselves to the city and the territory by identifying the problems and conflicts of our society, improving coexistence and quality of life, increasing the creative and critical capacity of all citizens and, especially, cooperating to contribute to the resolution of the challenges faced by the cities”. This stands as an unnecessary exhortation. The purposes of such a proposition are laudable in their essence and should be promoted by everyone.” **Teixeira Coelho**, Professor at the University of São Paulo, curator of the São Paulo Museum of Art and a consultant at the Itau Cultural Observatory, in [“For an effective and contemporary Agenda 21 for culture”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“In the spirit of Agenda 21 for culture, **Intercultural cities’** point of departure is that local policies must be culturally sensitive or “literate” and that cultural planning must not be a niche activity confined to a few specialists, but must penetrate all areas of public policy. The purpose is to propose practical tools and approaches for managing the challenge of diversity at the local level. The key message of the programme is that **diversity can be a resource for the development of the city**, if the public discourse, the city institutions and processes and the behavior of people take diversity positively into account.” **Irena Guidikova**, Head of Division, Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, Council of Europe, in [“Who is afraid of diversity? From threats to benefits: lessons from the European programme of Intercultural Cities”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).



“Echoing many of the principles set down in the Agenda 21 for culture – adopted by Montreal in June 2005 – **Culture Montréal** has pursued three main aims over the past seven years: the right to, participation in and access to culture for all citizens, the prominent role of culture in the development of the city and, lastly, the profile of Montreal as a cultural metropolis by its creativity, cultural diversity and national and international projection.” **Simon Brault**, President of Culture Montreal, in [“The city we love”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“Loja (Ecuador) seeks to initiate the implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture in Loja, considering the **multiple coincidences between this document and the vision of the Municipality in the cultural field**. The aim is to work not only from conservation and dissemination, but also from the perspective of invention and participation, in order to make culture an integrating axis around which activities such as education, tourism, recreation and coexistence are developed.” **Web Agenda 21 for Culture, [Our fund for local culture governance: "Establishment of the Provincial System of Culture as a tool for governance and development."](#)**

“Culture Montréal is an independent non-profit organization providing a platform for all those interested in fostering culture as an essential part of the development of Montreal [...]. Through research, analysis, communication, and educational activities, **Culture Montréal is involved in defining and recognizing Montreal culture** in all its richness and diversity.” **Jean-Robert Choquet**, Director of cultural development of Ville de Montréal and **Marie-Eve Bonneau**, Director of cultural development, department of cultural development, life quality and ethno-cultural diversity, City of Montreal, in **["Montreal's local cultural policies. Montreal, cultural metropolis: from a municipal policy to a collective action plan"](#)**, *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“The city of Rosario (Argentina) aims to design and implement the tools recommended by Agenda 21 for culture in the city of Rosario. It seeks to **enhance and expand the cultural development in the city of Rosario** through institutional consolidation, and strengthening governance and cultural management in all districts. To this end, there will be an evaluation of the cultural impact produced by some local development projects. The information obtained will enable an approach to processes of revision of cultural policies generated in the territory, based on mechanisms of training and construction of democratic and participative processes.” **Web Agenda 21 for Culture, [Our fund for local culture governance, "Governance and citizen participation in the development of local cultural policies"](#)**”.

“Local governments must promote a model of development that '**meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**', as well as ensuring the enjoyment of culture and its components by all, and protecting and enhancing the rights of citizens to freedom of expression and access to information and resources.” UCLG Declaration, **[Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development](#)** (2010).

“In Agenda 21 for culture the approaches and positioning taken by actors, who are no longer timorous but rather by working together have achieved a great deal of maturity, are precipitated and crystallized. Local cultural policies achieve a considerable degree of centrality and the **Agenda 21 for culture is both a driving force for and a reflection of that**.” **Jordi Martí**, Councillor for culture, Barcelona City Council President of UCLG's Committee on culture and **Carles Giner**, Executive Secretary, Barcelona Culture Council, in **["If the Agenda 21 for culture is the answer, what was the question?"](#)**, *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“Cultural actors and civil society also have to draw the attention of government to commitments that the latter has entered into. **Participation**, the main cultural right included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and one of the strengths of our current political system, needs to be **real** and **democratic**.” **Paz Sánchez**, Director General for Culture at the Institute for Culture and the Arts, City Council of Seville, in **["The cultural challenges of Seville"](#)**, *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

“The Agenda 21 for culture, an exemplary and formidable movement of ideas, will only be able to become a truly international movement of actions if a **leadership** emerges at the same time **in communities and policy-makers**. The process will also need to expand its networks, enrich its sources of expertise and promote a significant breakthrough in the mobilization of citizens.” **Simon Brault**, President of Culture Montreal, in [“The city we love”](#), *Report 5: Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture* (2009).

Contact

UCLG Culture committee
UCLG
C/ Avinyó, 15
08002 Barcelona

Email info@agenda21culture.net

Web www.agenda21culture.net

Twitter [@agenda21culture](https://twitter.com/agenda21culture)

