

2015-2016
2ND EDITION

INTERNATIONAL AWARD
UCLG - MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21
COMMUNIQUE



COMMUNIQUE - MEETING OF THE JURY MEXICO CITY, 20 MAY 2016

CONTEXT

The objective of the “**International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21**” is to recognize leading cities and personalities that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a dimension of sustainable development. The Award reaffirms the leadership of Mexico City in the relationship between culture and sustainable development, and the commitment of UCLG to place culture as a fundamental dimension of sustainable cities through the Agenda 21 for Culture. The Award has two categories: city and individual.

The first edition was celebrated between 2013 and 2014, the “city” category was won by the programme “Arena da Cultura” presented by Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil), and the “individual” category by Manuel Castells and Farida Shaheed.

The second edition of the “International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21” was presented to the UCLG World Council in Paris (5 December 2015). Since then, forms for the presentation of candidatures have been available on the Agenda 21 for Culture website. Several organizations participated in the promotion of the call for candidatures, including the World Secretariat of UCLG, the Committee on Culture and the Government of Mexico City; at the same time, many international networks in the field of culture, as well as the UCLG continental and metropolitan sections, contributed to multiply the impact of the call through their members.

The deadline for the presentation of candidatures ended on 15 March 2016.





JURY

The **jury** of the Award made up of the following five members, all of whom are prestigious international experts with impeccable trajectories in the cultural field.

- ↘ **Eduardo Vázquez Martín** (president of the jury): poet, artistic promoter, editor and journalist. Councillor for Culture of Mexico City and co-president of the Committee on Culture of UCLG.
- ↘ **María Victoria Alcaraz**: expert in cultural policies and international cultural cooperation, former Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage and currently Director General of Teatro Colon in the city of Buenos Aires.
- ↘ **Emmanuel Kouela**: Director of Culture at the City of Ouagadougou and Director of the Local Centre for the Promotion of the Performing Arts (CMPAS) of Ouagadougou: a distinguished city with a special mention from the jury in the first edition of the Award.
- ↘ **Leônidas de Oliveira**: President of the Municipal Foundation of Culture of Belo Horizonte and President of the Belo Horizonte's Deliberative Council of Cultural Heritage, city winner of the first edition of the Award.
- ↘ **Farida Shaheed**: sociologist, she works at the Shirkat Gah-Women's Resource Centre in Lahore (Pakistan), a pioneer centre in sustainable development from a gender perspective. First Special Rapporteur of the United Nations in the field of Cultural Rights (2013-2015), and winner of the first edition of the Award.

The jury analysed the candidacies presented in the two categories between 1 April and 15 May 2016, and held their final meeting on 19-20 May 2016 in Mexico City.



CATEGORY “CITY, LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT”

This category awards a city, or local or regional government, whose cultural policy has contributed significantly to linking the values of culture (heritage, diversity, creativity and transmission of knowledge) with democratic governance, citizen participation and sustainable development.

The Award is given to the local or regional government that wins a competitive call, open to UCLG members.

The Award recognises an original policy, programme or project that explicitly includes the principles of Agenda 21 for Culture. Candidatures must have been implemented for at least two years and have documented proof of the impact and the successes achieved. The winning city receives 50,000 Euros, to be used for its international promotion (the publication of a book, participation in forums, international visibility) and to strengthen the local implementation of the Agenda 21 for Culture.

The second edition of the “International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21” received **83 submissions** from cities and local and regional governments from all corners of the world:

- ↘ **Abitibi-Temiscamingue** (Quebec, Canada), **Antonio Ante** (Imbabura, Ecuador), **Astrakhan** (Russia), **Azul** (Buenos Aires Province, Argentina), **Beit Sahour** (Palestine), **Bilaspur** (Chhattisgarh, India), **Busan** (Republic of Korea), **Büyükçekmece** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Canoas** (Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil), **Cape Town** (Western Cape, South Africa), **Cesis** (Latvia), **Cheboksary** (Chuvash Republic, Russia), **Chefchaouen** (Morocco), **Conche** (New Foundland, Canada), **Congonhas** (Minas Gerais, Brazil), **Coquimbo** (Chile), **Córdoba** (Argentina), **Curitiba** (Paraná, Brazil), **Dakar** (Senegal), **Dangjin-si** (Chungcheongnam-do, Republic of Korea), **Dublin** (Ireland), **Estrie** (Quebec, Canada), **EThekwinini** (Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa), **Florianópolis** (Santa Catarina, Brazil), **Gaziantep** (Turkey), **General Pueyrredon** (Buenos Aires Province, Argentina), **Gijón** (Asturias, Spain), **Guangzhou** (China), **Jbeil Byblos** (Lebanon), **Jeonju** (Jeollabuk-do, Republic of Korea), **Johannesburg** (Gauteng, South Africa), **Kaédi** (Mauritania), **Kashan** (Iran), **Kaunas** (Lithuania), **Kazan** (Republic of Tatarstan, Russia), **Konya** (Turkey), **La Paz** (Bolivia), **Lake Megantic** (Quebec, Canada), **Leeuwarden** (Friesland, the Netherlands), **Leiria** (Portugal), **Lisbon** (Portugal), **Liverpool** (England, United Kingdom), **Longueuil** (Quebec, Canada), **Lugo** (Galicia, Spain), **Lyon** (France), **Makati** (Metro Manila, Philippines), **Montevideo** (Uruguay), **New Brunswick** (Canada), **Nevşehir** (Turkey), **Nilüfer** (Turkey), **Nizhny Novgorod** (Russia), **Nottingham** (England, United Kingdom), **Oaxaca de Juárez** (México), **Passy** (Senegal), **Peñalolén** (Chile), **Pilsen** (Czech Republic), **Plaine Commune** (France), **Puno** (Peru), **Querétaro** (Mexico),



Raipur (Chhattisgarh, India), Ramallah (Palestine), Regensburg (Bavaria, Germany), Rio de Janeiro (RJ, Brazil), Roeselare (Flanders, Belgium), Rosario (Santa Fe, Argentina), Rostov-on-Don (Russia), Salvador (Bahia, Brazil), Seferihisar (Turkey), Segou (Mali), Solo (Java, Indonesia), Strasbourg (Alsace, France), Taichung (Taiwan), Talca (Chile), Tartu (Estonia), Tehran (Iran), Timbuktu (Mali), Tunis (Tunisia), Val-de-Marne (France), Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada), Volgograd (Russia), Wuhan (China), Yopougon (Abidjan, Ivory Coast), and Zitácuaro (Michoacán, Mexico).

The world faces enormous challenges, some of them with a clear cultural dimension. These challenges have a clear “localization” in a city scale; in fact, cities and local governments respond to these challenges with policies, programmes and projects. Despite the difficulties, often in some extremely difficult contexts, the world of culture reacts, builds and struggles for a better world. Unequivocally, culture is part of the solution to the challenges of our humanity.

The 83 submissions demonstrate how, throughout the world, the debate on sustainable urban development, democracy and freedoms, pass unequivocally by culture, that is, for diversity, knowledge, memory and creativity.

The jury wants to express his gratitude to all candidate cities for their effort and dedication, and for the resources and enthusiasm they invested in presenting their candidacies. The jury commends the commitment and willingness of the thousands of people associated with UCLG who have worked on all nominations for the second edition of the Award.

The jury decided that the winners of the Award (in alphabetic order) were the candidatures “**Cultural heritage and reinvigoration of socio-economic activities in Timbuktu**”, presented by city of **Timbuktu** (Mali) and “**I AM... / The adventure of one community in the middle of a transformation**”, presented by **Vaudreuil-Dorion** (Quebec, Canada). Both candidatures will receive 25, 000 euros each.

➤ **Timbuktu:** the programme “**Cultural heritage and reinvigoration of socio-economic activities in Timbuktu**” focuses on the rehabilitation of the cultural sector and the revitalisation of crafts, following the recent terrorist occupation of the regions of northern Mali. This caused significant damage to cultural heritage, practices, and expressions: population displacement; destruction of innumerable historical monuments, memorial sites and ancient manuscripts; intense pillaging of archaeological sites and museums; and prohibition and weakening of cultural practices and traditions. The project associates the rehabilitation of cultural heritage with the rehabilitation of socio-economic activity, in particular of crafts. It has worked on ways of reinvigorating intangible heritage and arts and crafts, and also suggests ways of strengthening the city council’s capacities and improving local governance.





↘ **Vaudreuil-Dorion:** the programme “**I am... / The adventure of one community in the middle of a transformation**” has been underway in Vaudreuil-Dorion since 2010, and works to promote the emergence of a united community that experiences differences as richness. Each year, 20,000 citizens take part in some 600 workshops based around 50 main activities. The goal: to create encounters which allow an understanding of others, and encourage respect for differences. Active citizen participation through cultural and creative acts is at the centre of community reinvention. Here, citizens rub shoulders, interact, and learn to understand one another. Besides working directly on social cohesion, these cultural activities contribute to solid progress in terms of environment, physical and mental health, economy or urban planning.

The jury has decided to make special mention of the following projects (in alphabetical order):

↘ **Busan** (Republic of South Korea), for the programme “**Historic downtown culture cluster ‘Totatoga’**”, which supports local artists’ activities, through the availability of venues, the structuring of sectors, and community activities for citizens.

↘ **Dakar** (Senegal), for the programme “**School of the Commons**”, initiated by civil society through “**Kër Thiossane**”, an association that develops solidarity initiatives, as well as neighbourhood and citizenship programmes around an artistic and collaborative garden, through art and free culture.

↘ **Kaunas** (Lithuania), for the project “**Cabbage Field Šančiai - Small scale seeks big transformation**”, that has mobilized residents in the transformation of a polluted and uncared for place in the Šančiai neighborhood through artistic projects of co-creation about the future of the city.

↘ **Lake Mégantic** (Quebec, Canada), for the programme “**Rebuilding Lac-Mégantic**”, an exemplary process of rebuilding the city after a catastrophe (in this case, a railway tragedy), through citizen participation which had cultural activities at its heart, in a process that allowed citizens to heal together.

↘ **Montevideo** (Uruguay), for the project “**Cultural Co-Management Civic Centre SACUDE**”, for its innovative point of view concerning policies and cultural management, focused on Integral Human Development, a rights-based perspective and community co-management, placing human beings at the centre of policy.

These five projects are excellent examples of local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture.





CATEGORY “INDIVIDUAL”

This category awards an internationally renowned person who has made a fundamental contribution to the relationship between culture and sustainable development. The award is given by the jury, without an open competition process. The selected individuals receive 25,000 Euros. The jury has decided that the individual award be shared ex-aequo by two people (in alphabetical order). Both personalities will receive 12,500 each :

- **Jon Hawkes.** Author of the book “The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: culture’s essential role in public planning”. With this book, **Hawkes** significantly contributed to transforming the basic structure of public policy making. The core concept that informs his work has become central to many policy development strategies at the local level throughout the world. By proposing culture as a fourth perspective from which to view sustainability (and indeed, all of the key concerns of public policy), Hawkes not only raised culture to the same level as the three traditional dimensions of policy development – economic, social and ecological – he also helped to focus the “sustainability” discourse on culture. For Hawkes, culture “has always been a process rather than a product” and its value “lies in its **making** far more than in what is **made.**” Consequently, locally generated cultural action becomes the key to sustainable development and takes place within and between communities. Without a vital and inclusive public culture, imagining a future (what else is planning?) can never be effective or wholesome. Always committed to practical local action, Jon currently works with Melbourne-based organisations, Ilbijerri Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co-operative, The Substation Multi Arts Centre and J-Studios, an artist run studio collective. Website: ‘[The Hawkes Library](#)’.
 - **Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui:** Sociologist and activist, she is a member of the free independent collective Colectivx Ch’ixi in Bolivia. **Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui** has been professor of Sociology at the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés in La Paz (UMSA), where she is now Emeritus Professor, and has been a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Columbia (New York, USA), Austin (Texas, USA), La Rábida (Huelva, Spain), Jujuy, and the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (Quito, Ecuador). Along with other intellectuals, in 1983 she founded the **Andean Oral History Workshop (THOA)**, a self-managed group which focuses on orality, identity and the indigenous and popular social movements, particularly in the Aymara region. In the last few years she has also been involved in the setting-up of **El Tambo Colectivo**, a cultural centre in La Paz which aims to combine academic knowledge, manual work and environmental practices. She is the author of several books, and she has also directed fiction and documentary videos and films. Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui’s work deals with continuity in the logic of domination of indigenous identities and cultures, including in those contexts where diversity and the value of indigenous cultures have been officially recognised. Website: [Colectivx Ch’ixi](#).
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CONCLUSION

This second Award has been a very enriching experience, enabling us to learn about policies, programmes and projects that cities and local governments around of the whole world have developed in areas connecting city, culture, citizenship, and sustainable development.

This Award unequivocally demonstrates that diversity, heritage and creativity, that is, culture, is a fundamental dimension of sustainable cities throughout the world.

Awards for both categories will be presented on October or November 2016 in Mexico City, in a special ceremony to which all the members of the UCLG Executive Bureau are cordially invited.



www.award.agenda21culture.net