



UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT

CULTURE IS ALWAYS IN THE ANSWER

From local solutions to global actions for today and tomorrow

BARCELONA

26-28 SEPTEMBER 2025

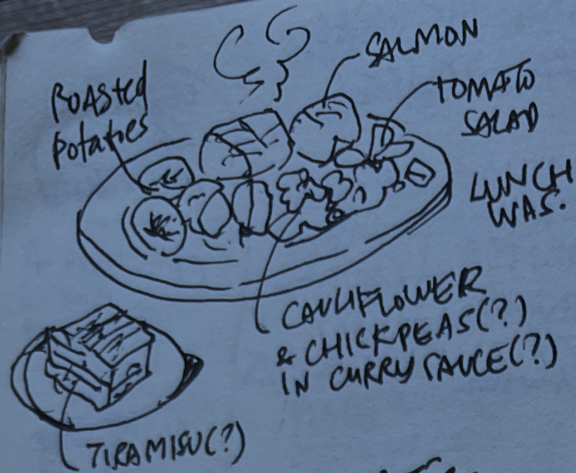


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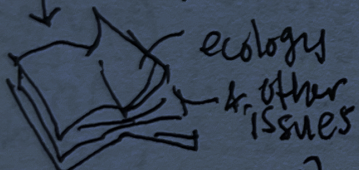


DEMOCRACY ↔ IMAGES & PERCEPTION OF SOCIETY ↔ IMAGES

CITY

"GOAL 18"

CULTURAL POLICIES FOR BOOKS → STRASBOURG UNCAPITAL OF BOOK 2021



[FIGHT FAKE NEWS]

BOGOTA

LEARN HOW TO CARE → GENDER POLICY



ECONOMY → POLITICAL SCIENCE

DATA INFO SYSTEM

IMPACT MEASUREMENT

VISIONS OF CULTURAL RIGHTS

PROPER ASSESSMENT

HOW TO ENGAGE those outside the BIG / MAIN VENUES

OLYMPIC & PARA-OLYMPIC @PARIS

FOR EVERYONE

ARTS & SPORTS

[CULTURAL OLYMPICS]

SHAPING A CULTURE GOAL

WORKING

W/ SCHOOLS

IMPACTS WORLD-WIDE

REINFORCING POLICIES

CULTURAL PASS @BUENOS AIRES

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FOR STUDENTS

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[CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP]

EXPANDING to ELDERLIES

CHALLENGE!

[FRUSAL INNOVATION]

KAMALLAH A CITY UNDER OCCUPATION

CIRCULAR CULTURE IZMIR 2021

CULTURE = HUMAN RIGHTS

to ADDRESS challenges

SDG



THE SUMMIT

The 6th UCLG Culture Summit will be held in Barcelona from 26-28 September 2025. The Summit is the **main meeting point at the global level of cities**, local governments and organisations that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability.

Today, the world faces several critical challenges, ranging from the climate crisis to social exclusion, limited access to basic services and human rights for many citizens, severe inequalities between countries and regions, endangered rights and freedoms, disruptions and unprecedented transformations brought about by technology, armed conflicts, and political debates that frequently incite polarization. While this context can easily generate uncertainty and fear, across the world local communities also demonstrate energy, creativity and commitment to imagine and build a more just, caring and sustainable future.

It is frequently in cities, towns and other human settlements, at the local level, where communities and local and regional governments act to tackle today's challenges and bring about a systemic transformation – one that bridges local actions and global trends, cares and guarantees equal rights for us all, is driven by well-informed, critical and empowered communities, and is based on solidarity.

The UCLG Culture Summit is designed to host these discussions and send evidence-based and clear messages to the international community. Sustainable development that ignores culture is impossible. Crises that do not acknowledge their cultural dimensions will never be overcome. Policies and programmes that do not fully involve cultural actors and aspects fail. In fact, UCLG and its members have continuously shown the crucial importance of local cultural policies and programmes. The UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity, adopted at the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon in October 2022, and the Local Social Covenant, to be released in November 2025, as the roadmaps for local public policy-making, both go in this direction. And so does the adoption of Culture 21 Plus (April 2025), which effectively invites active cities to go even one step further in this exercise, linking cultural rights, sustainability, care and transitions. UCLG frameworks are rights-based. Cultural rights are essential to leave no-one and no place behind.

The Summit will discuss progress and evolving engagement of the international community on the intersection between culture and sustainability. Engagement was very noticeable in Mondiacult 2022, the global Conference on Cultural Policies organised in Mexico City, where UNESCO referred to culture as a global public good, promoted cultural rights to be the foundation of cultural policies and endorsed the need to advocate for a stand-alone Culture Goal in the SDGs. UNESCO and many national governments explicitly and eloquently supported these 3 elements. But... it is also true that the battle to include culture in the global agenda is not yet won, with some actors still hesitating on the agency of cultural policies, and with some nations still doubting the need for a Culture Goal.

This is why the 6th UCLG Culture Summit is called “**Culture is Always in the Answer**”.



AN EXCEPTIONAL SUMMIT

The Summit takes place in Barcelona, in recognition of the city's outstanding work on the relationship between cultural rights, public spaces and democracy.

This 2025 Summit will be somewhat exceptional, as it will be held on 26-28 September 2025, back-to-back and within the framework of **Mondiacult 2025**, the UNESCO Global Conference of Ministers for Culture (29 September - 1 October 2025).

It is also exceptional that the Summit is connected to the **Civic Agora**, a 5-day programme of public debates on culture and development, organised by the City Council of Barcelona, the Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació), the Government of Catalonia, and Spain's Ministry of Culture, in the context of Mondiacult 2025 and in close cooperation with UNESCO. Participants in the Summit will be able to register for the sessions of the Civic Agora.

THE MAIN THEMES OF THE SUMMIT

- **A Culture Goal in the SDGs.** Why it is necessary and how you can be involved.
- **Economies of Care and Wellbeing.** Preparing the UCLG Local Social Covenant and the 2026 UCLG World Congress.
- **Culture, Equality and Gender Policies and Sustainability.** Cultural actions towards more equal and more democratic cities and territories.
- **Culture and Climate Action.** Culture as a strategic approach to climate action and ecological transitions, and how actors are preparing for COP 30 in Belem and beyond.
- **Creative Cities and Cultural Policies.** How local cultural programmes place people at the centre of policies.
- **Heritage, Identity and Communities.** Heritage, as a key enabler of cultural empowerment.
- Opening of the Call for the **7th edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.**

PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

PEOPLE · PLANET · GOVERNMENT ·



UCLG CONGRESS
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL LEADERS

G Mee

OVERVIEW

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER




15.30 - 18.00 CEST	Session “ Care, Wellbeing, Creativity and Sustainability ” at the CCCB (sala Mirador) .
18.45 - 19.15 CEST	Workshop with the Night Commissioner of Barcelona (upon invitation) (carrer d’Avingó 15).
19.00 - 20.15 CEST	Opening and reception at the UCLG Global headquarters (carrer d’Avingó 15).

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER



09.30 - 11.00 CEST	Session “ Global Networks on Climate and Culture: Towards COP30, and beyond ”, at the CCCB (sala Mirador) .
11.30 - 13.30 CEST	Session “ Why We Need a Culture Goal Now ”, at the CCCB (sala Teatre) .
16.00 - 18.00 CEST	Session “ Summit of Mayors ”, at the CCCB (sala Mirador) . Includes the sessions: CULTURAL RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES. MONDIACULT 2025 IS HERE: THE KEY MESSAGES.

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER



11.00 - 12.00 CEST	Enjoy Barcelona. World Heritage, Local Identities and Communities (Palau de la Virreina. La Rambla, 99).
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THE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER



SESSION “CARE, WELLBEING, CREATIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY”

15:30 - 18.00 CEST

CCCB, SALA MIRADOR, BARCELONA

Interpretation available in English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

Culture is what makes us human, and development is only sustainable if its cultural dimension is explicit. This includes heritage in all its forms, creativity, diversity, the transmission of knowledge, and intercultural dialogue. In recent years, evidence linking wellbeing and active cultural participation has multiplied. Cultural participation and rights foster trust, belonging, and social cohesion — all essential to building caring and equitable societies and ensuring sustainability.

Local and regional governments are effectively developing people-centred approaches to cultural policies, with care, wellbeing, creativity and sustainability at their core. Culture can challenge exclusion and discrimination, playing a key role in advancing women's rights and promoting gender-responsive policies for sustainable development. With a focus on women's political participation and leadership, LRGs are untapping the power of culture to address gender stereotypes and biased social norms, promoting the transformation of the communities we inhabit, and the common imaginaries, beliefs, traditions and costumes that often threaten an inclusive and equitable society for all.

This session will be a panel discussion aiming to explore how cultural rights can embody care-based approaches, and how creativity, cultural values and practices can enhance care for one another while promoting more sustainable and resilient communities. It will also show how cultural rights and practices can further advance territories towards a model of development rooted in care, creativity, feminism and shared responsibility towards the people and the planet.

This session is organised with the support of the WYDE Women's Leadership Initiative. WYDE is led by UN Women and funded by the European Commission, in partnership with UCLG and others. It seeks to enhance women's political participation and decision-making, focusing on advocacy, capacity-building, social norm transformation, and knowledge-sharing to promote inclusive and equitable local governance.

WYDE
Women's Leadership



CHAIR

| TBC.

INTRODUCTION

| **Anna Calvete Moreno**, Head of Research of UCLG.

CARE IS ALREADY AT THE HEART OF CULTURAL POLICIES

- | **Mehmet Kasım Gülpınar**, Mayor of Sanliurfa.
- | **Lara Yousif Eshaq Zara**, Mayor of Alqosh.
- | **Antonio Grassi**, Director of the Culture and Tourism Society, Maricá, Rio de Janeiro.
- | **Maria Rosa Boladeras**, Councilor for International Relations, Terrassa.
- | **Michel Vallée**, Director General and President, Culture Pour Tous.
- | **Luz Elena Aranda**, Director General for Cultural Cooperation, Mexico City.
- | **Maria Victoria Alcaraz**, Director of Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Culture, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES AND CARE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT

- | **André Diniz**, Secretary of Creative Economy, Niteroi.
- | **Hugues Gervais Ondaye**, Sociocultural Councillor, Brazzaville.
- | **Valeria Marcolin**, co-director, Culture et Développement.
- | **Mutau Kyany'a**, Head of Programs and Outreach, African Digital Heritage Kenya.
- | **María Soledad Cisternas**, lawyer and former Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility.
- | **Iván Abril**, member of the Committee on Education, Culture and Sport, Cuenca.
- | **Jacob Ellis**, Director for External Relations and Culture, Wales.



RECEPTION AT THE UCLG GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

19.00 - 20.15 CEST

AVINYÓ, 15 — GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR.



WORKSHOP WITH THE NIGHT COMMISSIONER OF BARCELONA (BY INVITATION ONLY).

18.45 - 19:15 CEST

AVINYÓ, 15 — THIRD FLOOR.

The workshop is in English.

This workshop will bring participants together with Carmen Zapata, Barcelona's first Night Commissioner. She is responsible for coordinating and mediating the city's nightlife, especially with regard to cultural and night-time activities, while ensuring peaceful coexistence and respect for the rest of the residents. The Night Commissioner helps to improve time management in the city at night, guaranteeing that Barcelona —a city that is active 24 hours a day— balances, harmonises and takes into account the different uses and needs of its population, including those occurring during the night.



SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER



SESSION “GLOBAL NETWORKS ON CLIMATE AND CULTURE: TOWARDS COP30, AND BEYOND”

9:30 - 11.00 CEST

CCCB, SALA MIRADOR, BARCELONA

Interpretation available in English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

Although culture holds a clear transformative power, it remains largely absent from global climate policy frameworks. Overlooking cultural knowledge, institutions and practices in key global frameworks not only undermines the ability of climate strategies to respond to local realities and community identities, but also misses opportunities to unlock the full potential of culture to enable climate resilience, solidarity and justice.

This session sets out to challenge this marginalisation and amplify the call for culture to be recognised as a key driver of climate action. By bringing together leading global networks, cities and organisations working where culture and climate converge, the discussion will showcase innovative initiatives and strengthen common narratives, strategies and advocacy efforts.

The workshop-style format of this session will foster dialogue, connection and co-creation of all participants. Through open debate and collective reflection on shared priorities and challenges—together with the presentation and unfolding of the Culture and Climate module of the new UCLG **Culture 21 Plus** framework document—, this session will outline how cultural networks and local and regional governments can deliver meaningful action on the road to COP30. We will build on momentum and help secure a key role for culture in shaping the climate agenda beyond 2025.

CHAIR

- | TBC.

INTRODUCTION

- | **Agnès Ruiz**, UCLG Policy Officer and Focal Point for Culture.
- | **Pablo Mariani**, UCLG Programme Manager, Ecological Transition.

LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ON CULTURE AND CLIMATE ACTION

- | **Dominic WY Kanak**, Councillor and First Nations Leader.
- | **Rassikh Sagitov**, Secretary General, UCLG-Eurasia.
- | **Julianne Polanco**, California State Historic Preservation Senior Advisor.
- | **Dr. Ralf Weiß**, 2N2K Germany – Sustainability in Arts and Culture Network.
- | **Edgar Garcia Casellas**, Director, Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies.

CULTURE AND CLIMATE ACTION: CHALLENGES AND AGENDA

- | **Jenny Hay**, Regional Coordinator for North America of the Climate Heritage Network.
- | **Isaac Eseet**, Regional Coordinator for Africa and the Arab States of the Climate Heritage Network.
- | **Marcele Oliveira**, COP 30 Presidency Youth Climate Champion (2025 – 2026).
- | **Alison Tickell**, Julie's Bicycle.





SESSION “WHY WE NEED A CULTURE GOAL NOW”

11:30 - 13:30 CEST

CCCB, SALA TEATRE, BARCELONA

Interpretation available in English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

The Culture 2030 Goal campaign addresses a long-standing gap: the absence of comprehensive coverage of culture in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While culture appears in some targets, the lack of a dedicated Culture Goal has two major drawbacks that are widely recognized:

- First, within the culture sector, broadly understood, the non-recognition of culture represents a missed opportunity to use the shared language of sustainable development to connect diverse cultural dimensions around common objectives — including the sustainability of institutions, jobs, gender equality, and other SDG-related goals. Sustainable development requires sustainable culture.
- Second, the absence of a Culture Goal limits the transformative potential of culture — understood not only as a sector but as a set of beliefs, practices, and behaviors — to support progress on climate, biodiversity, oceans, freshwater, and cities. Sustainable development requires a culture of sustainability.

A Culture Goal will provide the common language and shared framework that the cultural field currently lacks. It would empower the sector to demonstrate its value, help implement existing SDGs with their cultural dimensions in mind, and support cultural rights, participation, and vibrant local ecosystems.

The Culture 2030 Goal committed to deliver a full proposal of a Culture Goal, with targets and indicators, based on the **zero-draft** released in the Mondiacult 2022 in Mexico City and based on the **roadmap for 2025** of the campaign. The full proposal of the Culture Goal will have been released in September 2025 and is available at the **[site of the campaign](#)**.

This session will offer the premiere space to present **Version 1 of a Culture Goal**, including its targets and indicators, and to open a global conversation around it. It will be a key moment to hear the loud and clear voices of the global cultural networks, that is, the members of the Culture 2030 Goal campaign on this turning point for culture in the global sustainable development agenda. The session will also include the voices from leading countries and key actors in this conversation.

It is time for the national and international spheres to hear a clear and united message: culture matters, and the time for a dedicated Culture Goal is now.

PANEL 1 - THE PROPOSAL: TARGETS AND INDICATORS

CHAIR

- | **Jordi Pascual**, UCLG.

PRESENTATIONS

- | **Sònia Hernández Almodóvar**, Minister for Culture of Catalonia.
- | **John Crowley**, President PHGD Group, lead author of the version 1 of the Culture Goal.

SPEAKERS

- | **Sharon Memis**, Secretary General, International Federation of Libraries' Associations and Institutions - IFLA.
- | **Naima Benkari**, SDGWG Focal Point, International Council on Monuments and Sites - ICOMOS.
- | **Medea Ekner**, Director General, International Council on Museums - ICOM.
- | **Lars Ebert**, Secretary General, Culture Action Europe - CAE.
- | **Marie-Julie Desrochers**, Secretary General, International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity - FICDC.
- | **Alassane Insa Babylas**, Chairman, Arterial Network.
- | **Dr. Sheila Woodward**, President, International Music Council - IMC.

PANEL 2 - THE ENGAGEMENT: TURNING THE THREATS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

CHAIR

- | **Catarina Vaz-Pinto**, Consultant for Arts and Culture; Member of the Supervisory Board of the European Cultural Foundation, and Former Deputy Mayor for Culture of Lisbon.

SPEAKERS

- | **Valentina Riccardi**, Director, Culture Department, Asia-Europe Foundation.
- | **Francesca Thyssen**, President, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary - TBA21.
- | **Josep Ferré**, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation.
- | **Raphael Callou**, Director for culture, Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos - OEI.
- | **Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailović**, Secretary General, Europa Nostra.
- | **Ştefan Teişanu**, Secretary General, Culture Next Cities Network.
- | **Camille Giertler**, Director for Culture, City and Eurometropolis of Strasbourg.
- | **Ibone Bengoetxea**, Vice-President, and Minister for Culture of the Basque Country.

PANEL 3 - THE TIMING: KEY STEPS FROM 2025 TO 2030

CHAIR

- | **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General of UCLG.

SPEAKERS

- | **Alexandra Xanthaki**, UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights.
- | **Mamou Daffé**, Minister for Culture, Mali.
- | **Margareth Menezes**, Minister for Culture, Brazil.
- | **Ernest Urtasun**, Minister for Culture, Spain.
- | **Ernesto Ottone Ramirez**, Assistant Director General for Culture, UNESCO.





SESSION “SUMMIT OF MAYORS”

16:00 - 18:00 CEST

CCCB, SALA MIRADOR, BARCELONA

Interpretation available in English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

Coinciding with Mondiacult 2025, the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, hosted in Barcelona from 29 September to 1 October 2025, this session offers a timely space for cities and local governments –through UCLG and its global network– to bring key messages to the table in the frame of these intergovernmental discussions.

In a context marked by growing inequalities, the climate crisis, conflicts and rapid digital transformations, cities are at the forefront of cultural innovation, inclusion and resilience, playing a crucial role in safeguarding cultural rights, facilitating cultural access and boosting the power of culture in people's daily lives.

Gathering UCLG leading cities on cultural rights, sustainability, care and transitions, this session reaffirms a powerful message: there is no sustainable development without culture. Local and regional governments have been consistent advocates for a stand-alone Culture Goal in the post-2030 global development agenda, recognising the transformative power of culture in building just, inclusive and sustainable societies.

This session will amplify their voices through two high-level panels with Mayors and other high representatives of globally active and leading cities to share, exchange and acknowledge their experience and leadership in cultural policy – and to ensure that their voices are clearly heard in the lead-up to Mondiacult 2025.



CULTURAL RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

CHAIR

- | **Jordi Pascual**, UCLG.

SPEAKERS

- | **Santiago Trujillo**, Councillor for Culture, Bogotá.
- | **Pınar Okyay**, Deputy Secretary General, Izmir.
- | **Dave Moutrey**, Director Culture and Creative Industries, Manchester.
- | **Gonzalo Olabarria**, Councillor for Culture, Bilbao.
- | **Abderrahim Zebbakh**, Head of International Cooperation, Culture and Communication, Cabinet of the Mayor, Tangier.

MONDIACULT 2025 IS HERE: THE KEY MESSAGES

CHAIR

- | **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General of UCLG.

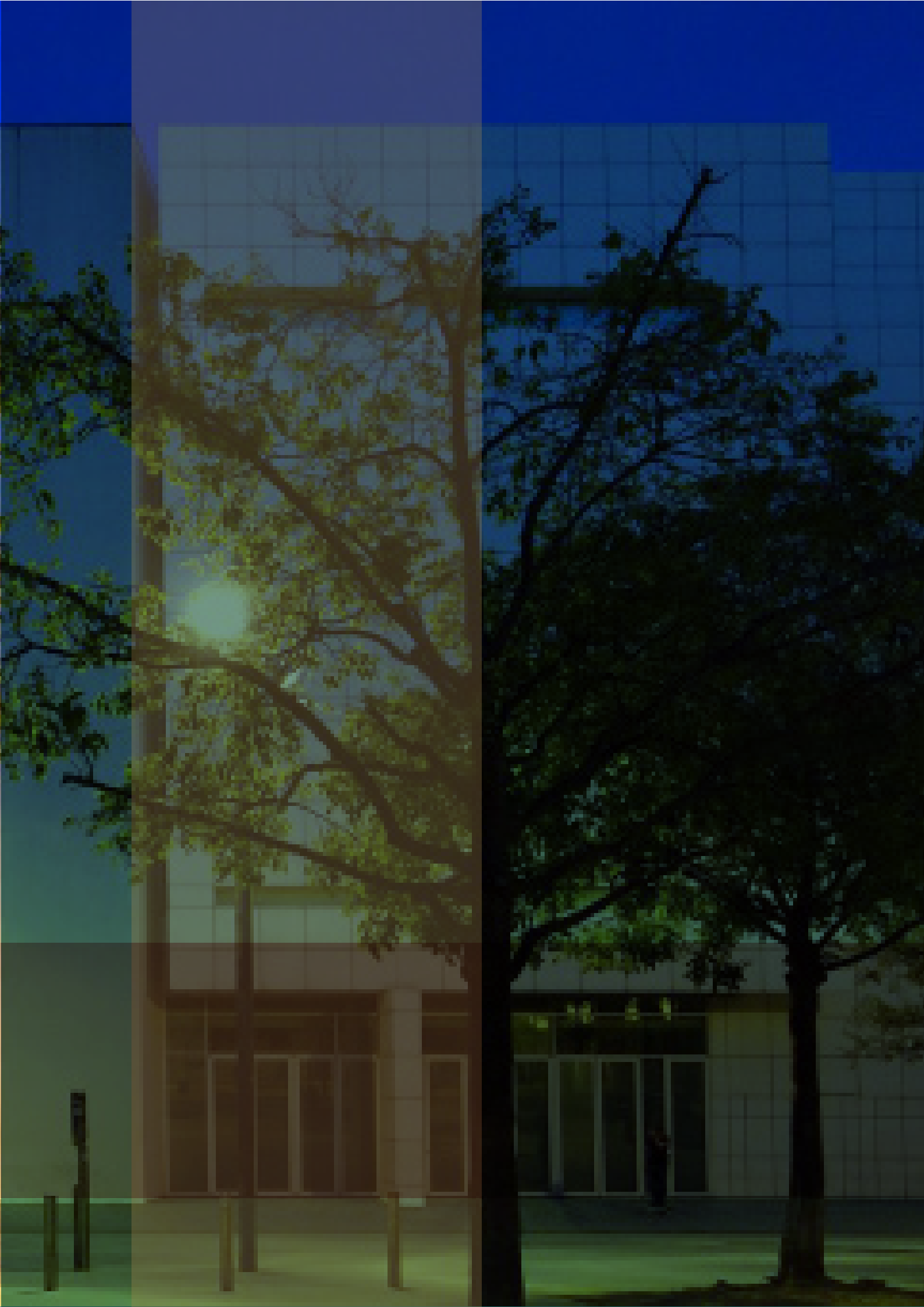
SPEAKERS

- | **Fatimetou Abdel Malik**, President of the region of Nouakchott, President of UCLG-Africa, President of UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality.
- | **Ahmet Akin**, Mayor of Balıkesir, UCLG Vice-President, and President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism.
- | **Dieudonné Bantsimba**, Mayor of Brazzaville.
- | **Hélène Polifonte**, Mayor of Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe.
- | **Yun Donguk**, Vice-Mayor of Jeonju.
- | **Massimiliano Smeriglio**, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Rome (TBC).

CLOSING WORDS

- | **Alexandra Xanthaki**, UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights.
- | **Jordi Martí Grau**, State Secretary for Culture, Spain.
- | **Ernesto Ottone Ramirez**, Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO (TBC).
- | **Jaume Collboni**, Mayor of Barcelona.





SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER (MORNING)



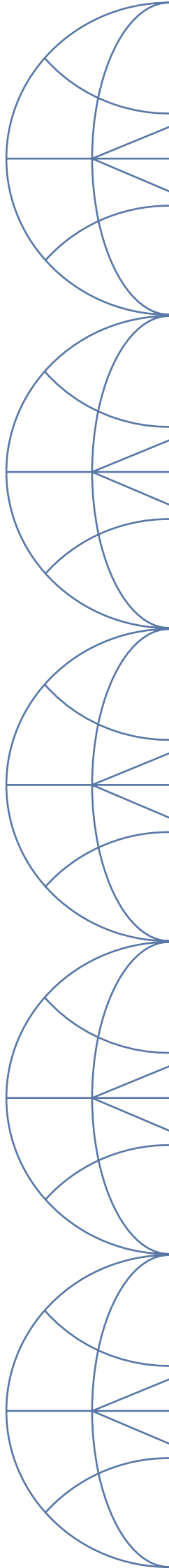
“ENJOY LA MERCÈ”

11:00 - 12:00 CEST

PALAU DE LA VIRREINA. LA RAMBLA, 99, BARCELONA

WORLD HERITAGE, LOCAL IDENTITIES AND COMMUNITIES

As part of La Mercè, Barcelona's annual festival, the city will be filled with music, popular traditions, live performances, and community and heritage celebrations. Within this festive and vibrant context, the Summit will offer an informal session that will allow participants to learn about the highlights of La Mercè and some key elements of the local popular culture. The session will take place at Palau de la Virreina de Barcelona, where participants will have the opportunity to see the foremost figures of the festive imagery of the city.





BARCELONA

Barcelona, with an area of 102 km², was founded by the Romans 2,000 years ago and has historically been a strategic point in the Mediterranean. Today, the city is home to more than 1.7 million inhabitants (3.2 million in the metropolitan area), and stands out among the cultural capitals of southern Europe for its international character, with residents born in more than 180 countries. The language of Catalonia is Catalan, which shares official status with Spanish.

Internationally recognised for its avant-garde creativity across various disciplines, Barcelona has been home to renowned artists such as Dalí, Miró, Picasso and Gaudí. One of the treasures of the capital of Catalonia is the modernist style, which includes nine sites declared World Heritage by UNESCO. The city also has 61 museums and major exhibition centres; 55 performing arts venues; 3 large auditoriums and 52 live music venues; 152 screens across 21 cinemas; a network of 11 public “creative factories” and 41 libraries in the public network, not including those belonging to other public and private entities and institutions. In 2024, performing arts venues received 3.1 million spectators, the library network 5.6 million visits, and museums and exhibition centres nearly 25 million visitors.

Culture is one of the city’s main assets. Barcelona cannot be understood without considering the role that cultural expressions play in its institutional, economic, and social spheres. Moreover, culture in Barcelona has historically been linked to the struggle for freedom and democracy, and the defence of language, which has been promoted by all sectors of civil society.

Barcelona is undoubtedly a city of talent and creativity par excellence, and multiple creative sectors thrive there. From the creative industries concentrated in the city—which include areas such as audio-visual, fashion, video games, technology and innovation, and account for 13% of employment and 12.2% of the city’s business fabric—to the fields of music, audio-visual and publishing, in which Barcelona has consolidated its strong leadership in recent years: UNESCO City of Literature since 2015; Guest of Honour at the Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL) 2025; Barcelona participates in and leads major international projects with the support of a strong and active publishing sector.

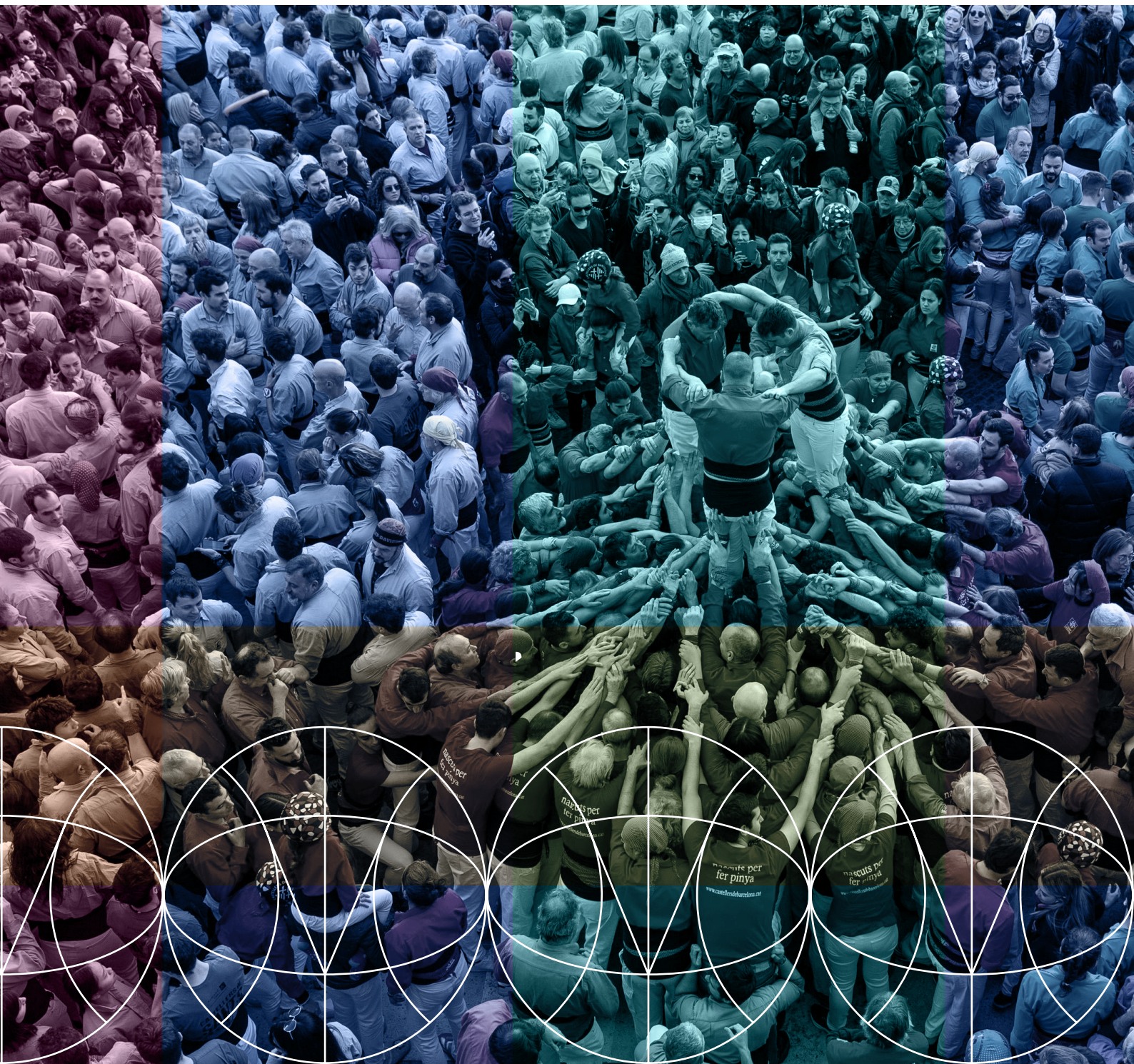
Barcelona, aware of the new urban model and with the horizon set for 2035, is undergoing a period of major urban transformations. In many of these, culture is expected to play a central role, whether through the redesign of existing facilities to improve access to culture and foster collaboration with cultural agents and territories, or through the improved governance of the city’s major cultural institutions.

The cultural policies of Barcelona focus on guaranteeing access to culture in a decentralised way, through its public programmes, always in close coordination and collaboration with its network of centres at neighbourhood and district level, as well as the centres for artistic education. All these centres become cultural hubs across the territory, where artistic excellence drives change in this highly demographically diverse city. Barcelona also implements solid policies to

support innovation, research and cultural production, and maintains consistent work lines with international networks, in which the city plays a key role.

Since its creation in 1996, the municipal Barcelona Institute of Culture (ICUB) has been the main driving force behind the city's cultural policies. With a budget of €165 million, it promotes support for the city's cultural sectors; participates in the governance of Barcelona's cultural institutions; directly manages various cultural facilities; works to decentralise culture in neighbourhoods; and organises and produces a programme of cultural festivals in the city.

The Barcelona City Council, through the ICUB, is a founding member of the UCLG Committee on Culture, where it has worked to promote Culture 21 as a founding principle for cultural development in cities.





UNESCO'S MONDIACULT

The city of Barcelona will host the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, Mondiacult 2025, from 29 September to 1 October 2025. Throughout three full days, the Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB) will welcome this intergovernmental meeting, held every four years, to address and discuss critical cultural policy priorities of our time.

UNESCO is shaping Mondiacult 2025 "in a context marked by growing inequalities, the climate crisis, conflicts, and rapid digital transformation, among others". The Conference Mondiacult 2025 seeks "to strengthen multilateral collaboration and solidarity among countries while advancing culture's role in the global development agenda through inclusive and constructive dialogue." The Conference will focus on six priority domains outlined in the **Mondiacult 2022 Declaration**: cultural rights, digital technologies in the cultural sector, culture and education, the cultural economy, culture and climate action, and culture, heritage, and crisis. It will also pay attention to two focus areas: culture and peace, and artificial intelligence and culture, while highlighting key policy enablers such as data production and management tools, policy frameworks and standards, and models for multilateral cooperation.

The Conference Mondiacult 2025 will be based on the legacy of the Mondiacult 2022 Declaration, and will also include the key contributions on culture and development raised in the period 2022-2025 in other global forums such as the G20, the Brics, the G7, and the COPs 27, 28 and 29.

UCLG has been present in all the regional pre-conference events, organised by UNESCO between December 2024 and March 2025, in order to discuss initial priorities for Mondiacult 2025. Our messages were clear: the need to place cultural rights at the centre of cultural policies, the need to connect cultural policies with all the dimensions of sustainability and the transitions, as well as the crucial contribution a stand-alone Culture Goal would have to the post-2030 UN development agenda. This paragraph is also a word of gratitude for all those members and partners of UCLG that have joined these events.





THE CIVIC AGORA

The **Civic Agora** is the result of a collective agreement between four public institutions: the Government of Catalonia, Barcelona City Council, Barcelona Provincial Council and the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

The Agora will discuss the key topics of Mondiacult in different venues of Barcelona between 26 September and 1 October, open to local and international audiences. The aims of the Agora include influencing Mondiacult debates, promoting civic engagement and fostering connections between local and international cultural actors. The Agora will also contribute to global discussions on the role of culture in building sustainable cities and defining a post-2030 Agenda that includes a stand-alone Culture Goal dedicated to culture.

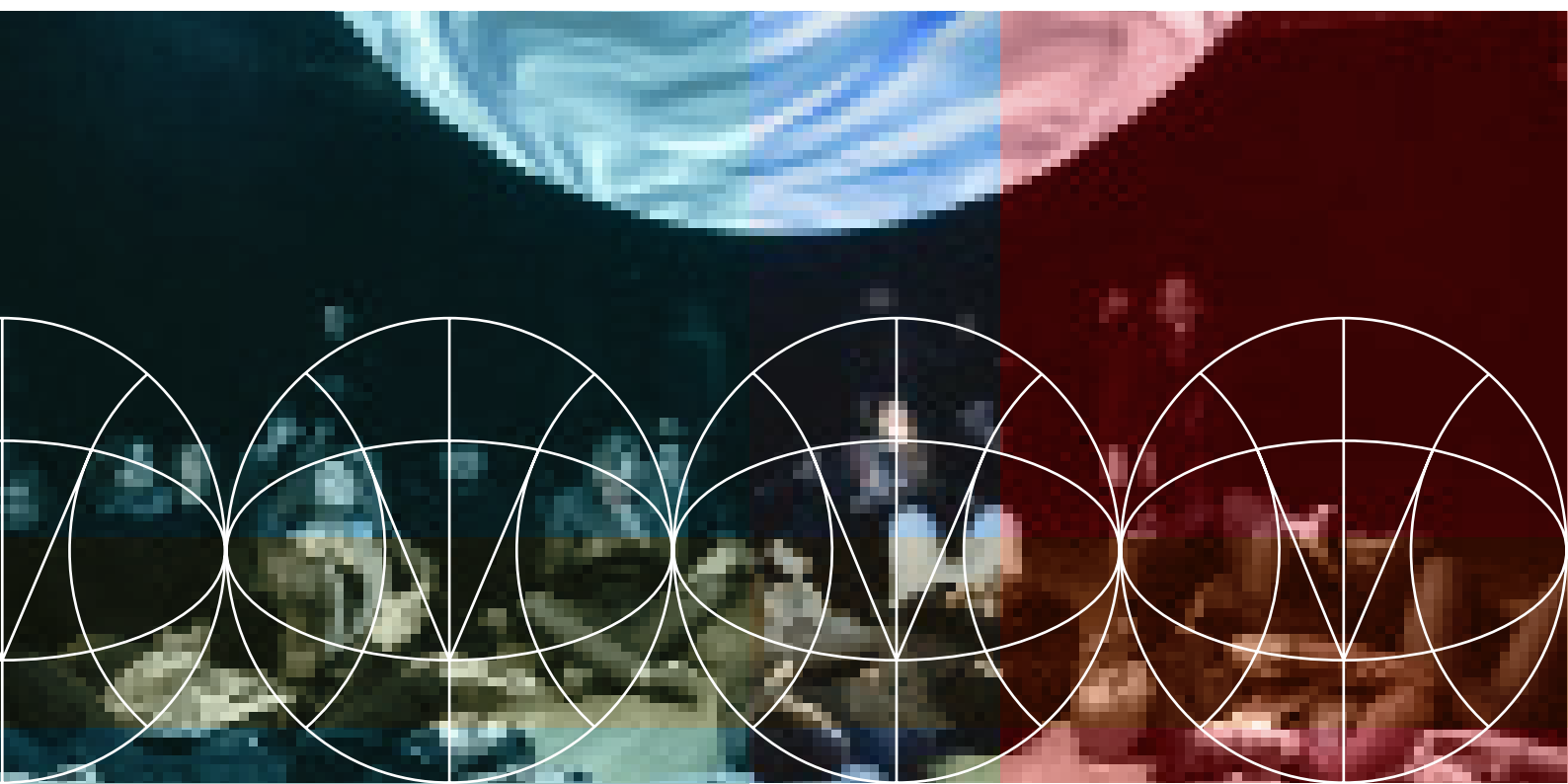
The programme of the Agora will comprise sessions around six thematic axes:

- a. Cultural rights
- b. Cultural and linguistic diversity
- c. Technologies and artificial intelligence
- d. Culture and peace
- e. Cities and a Culture Goal in global agendas
- f. Cultural ecosystems

The UCLG Culture Summit will integrate two of its most important sessions into the Agora's programme, namely the workshop on culture and climate and the release of the full proposal of the Culture Goal.

All participants to the UCLG Culture Summit are invited to consider attending the Civic Agora.

Registration to the **Civic Agora** is free of charge.



ATTENDING THE SUMMIT IS ESSENTIAL TO

- Learn from Barcelona, a city with an exceptional cultural life and a very well-established cultural policy framework.
- Discover Culture 21 Plus and use the modules on self-evaluation and policy design.
- Learn about the UCLG Local Social Covenant and learn how you can use it to shape the future of your city with a comprehensive cultural perspective.
- Prepare your contribution to the UCLG World Congress in 2026.
- Be ready to candidate your city in the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.
- Find out how to implement cultural rights at the local level.
- Deepen the relationship between cultural policies and gender equality.
- Make an explicit connection between cultural policies and the climate emergency.
- Balance the challenges of heritage, identity and wellbeing in sustainable tourism.
- Connect with the global cultural networks leading the campaign #Culture2030Goal.
- Engage in the advocacy for a Culture Goal and be vocal in the next steps, in 2026 and 2027.
- Take advantage of the events taking place in Barcelona around Mondiacult and its Civic Agora.

BUT ALSO, IF...

- You don't know enough about the issues listed above, and you are ready to learn!

CREDITS OF THE PICTURES IN THIS DOCUMENT

Page 2: Tita Larasati

Page 4: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Page 6: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

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