



Template for Report of the Side Events

This template aims to collect key information on each side event held during the **UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2025**, which took place at the Barcelona International Convention Center (CCIB) from 29 September to 1 October 2025. The information gathered will help **document and consolidate the outcomes of the side events**, thereby contributing to UNESCO's overall knowledge-building and reporting on the Conference.

Please use this template in **English** and transmit the filled-out version by **15 October 2025** to the **UNESCO-MONDIACULT Secretariat** at mondiacult2025@unesco.org. Should you have any questions, please contact the Secretariat at the same address.

Final Title

Weaving Cultural Futures: Artistic Freedom, Feminist Advocacy, and Local Governance in Action

Organizer(s)

Red Mujeres X la Cultura/ Women X Culture Network

UCLG - United Cities and Local Governments

ARC - Artists at Risk Connection

Institut de Cultura, Ajuntament de Barcelona

Date, time and location

29 September 2025, 13:30 – 14:30, Room 120-121

MONDIACULT 2025 domains or areas addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital technologies and culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture and education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economy of culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture and climate action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture, heritage and crisis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture and peace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Artificial intelligence and culture	

Final programme and speakers

Final programme

- Welcome
- Organisations' presentations:
 - ARC - Artists at Risk Connection
 - UCLG – Cities at the Forefront of Cultural Rights Governance, including the host, city, the Institut de Cultura, Ajuntament de Barcelona

- Narrative and Visual Performance - *Red Mujeres X la Cultura – Women Cultural Rights and the Kipu of Memory*

Julie Trébault, Executive Director, ARC - Artists at Risk Connection

Jordi Pascual, Coordinator, UCLG Culture Committee

Oriol Martí Sambola, Director of the Institut de Cultura, Ajuntament de Barcelona

Sally Abu Bakr, Director of Cultural Development in Ramallah Municipality

Luz Aranda, Director for Cultural Cooperation, Secretary for Culture, Mexico City

Women X Culture Network – Members of the network participating in the side event included:

- Romina Bianchini and Susana Salerno (Argentina)
- Loreto Bravo (Chile)
- Karla Quispe (Perú)
- Denisse Dahuabe (an immigrant in Barcelona from Chile/Palestine)
- Mercia Britto (Brazil)
- Karol Bergeret, Laura Iglesias, Sonia Puyol, Sira Ruiz and Mireia Tresserres (Catalunya)
- Raquel Martínez-Gómez (Spain)

Key messages raised during the discussion (250 words maximum)

Please summarize the key messages, main issues, challenges and perspectives that emerged from the discussion.

The session highlighted that artistic freedom is an essential pillar of democratic resilience and is an integral part of feminist cultural advocacy and local policy-making. Speakers emphasized that gender-based repression and shrinking civic space disproportionately impact women and marginalized artists. Consequently, their creative labor is often undervalued or rendered invisible in cultural governance frameworks. ARC spotlighted the rise in state and non-state attacks on artists globally, calling for integrated protection mechanisms rooted in cultural rights. UCLG stressed the unique role of cities as frontline defenders of cultural rights, capable of implementing people-centered cultural policies with the use of the Culture 21 frames and toolkits. Three different realities were explained: Barcelona, capital of Catalonia and host of Mondiacult 2025, Ramallah, capital of Palestine, and Mexico City, one of the world's main metropolises. Women X Culture Network demonstrated through their collective Kipu performance that memory, storytelling, and feminist methodologies are vital tools for reimagining cultural futures beyond extractive and patriarchal systems. Across the interventions, participants affirmed that cultural rights are not symbolic—they are lived experiences and rights requiring enforceable commitments, cross-sector collaboration, and new forms of participatory governance. The discussion positioned cultural actors not only as creators but as powerful agents of democratic change.

Key outcomes and follow-up actions (250 words maximum)

Please list the main outcomes, outputs, conclusions and any follow-up initiatives or commitments identified during the event.



These outcomes contribute to a broader movement to embed feminist cultural governance and artistic freedom into human rights and local policy frameworks.

- **Strengthening Local Governance for Cultural Rights:** UCLG and participating municipalities expressed their commitment to exploring how artistic freedom indicators and feminist methodologies, such as the Kipu practice, can be integrated into local cultural policies and monitoring tools.
- **Feminist Cultural Policy Innovation:** Women X Culture Network proposed expanding the Kipu narrative methodology as a participatory policy consultation tool to collect testimonies from women artists informing municipal and national strategies.
- **Cross-Sector Collaboration Mechanisms:** ARC is committed to initiating a translocal working group linking cities, feminist networks, and protection organizations to map systemic protection gaps for artists and cultural workers at the city level.
- **Recognition of Artists as Policy Actors:** Participants agreed that artists must be included not only as beneficiaries but also as co-designers in cultural governance processes, particularly in shaping the post-2030 Agenda.
- **Collective Memory and Resilience as Policy Tools:** The performance highlighted the power of memory-based feminist practices in building resilient cultural ecosystems; several institutions requested further documentation to replicate the methodology in their own contexts.
- **Ongoing Dialogue and Knowledge Sharing:** Actors committed to continued exchange spaces in the lead-up to the MONDIACULT follow-up sessions, with the intention of producing a joint statement or policy brief that centers on feminist approaches to cultural rights.

In sum, the event laid the foundation for feminist, artist-led, city-driven approaches to cultural rights to develop tangible, co-created policy action.

[Link to dedicated webpage or other relevant online resources](#) including partner pages, press releases, multimedia, recording, etc.

ARC - Artists at Risk Connection

- Website: <https://artiststatriskconnection.org>
- Social
 - Instagram [@atriskartists](#)
 - Facebook [@atriskartists](#)
 - Bluesky [@atriskartists.bsky.social](#)
 - YouTube [@ArtistsatRiskConnectionARC](#)
 - LinkedIn [Artists at Risk Connection](#)
 - Hashtags #Artisnotacrime #ArtisticFreedom

Media

[@atriskartists](#)

Women X Culture. Red Mujeres X la Cultura. Red Internacional de gestoras y creadoras culturales



<https://sites.google.com/view/mujeresxlacultura?usp=sharing>

Facebook: [mujeresporlacultura.wix.com/encuentro](https://www.facebook.com/mujeresporlacultura)

<https://www.instagram.com/mujeresxlacultura/>

UCLG - United Cities and Local Governments

- Instagram [@agenda21culture](https://www.instagram.com/agenda21culture)
 YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@agenda21culture2>
 X/Twitter [@agenda21culture](https://twitter.com/agenda21culture)
 Hashtags #UCLGMeets #UCLGCulture #CultureSummit

Selected quotes (optional; max 3)

("Quote." – Name, Title, Organization/Entity)

Artistic freedom is not a luxury: it is a human right tied to democracy and peace. Every day, somewhere in the world, an artist is silenced. But every day, too, one rises, singing, painting, filming, writing, in defiance. When artists are free to create, they become forceful voices that bear witness to inhumanity, articulate cultural critique, and accelerate social progress. Our task is to ensure that rising voices always outnumber silenced ones, and that no artist—especially in times of repression and war—remains invisible to the world.
 - Julie Trébault, Executive Director, ARC - Artists at Risk Connection.

UCLG promotes, supports, coaches and awards projects and programmes developed by local and regional governments. With cultural rights as the foundation, and placing heritage, creativity, diversity and knowledge at the heart of cultural policies. The new Culture 21 plus is a modifiable frame that can be used by any city around the world. Jordi Pascual, coordinator, UCLG Culture Committee.

We have knotted together the voices of women who live and feel culture, who participate in it, who create it, who recover memories and imagine more just and sustainable ways of living together. (...) They push us behind the curtain — and we tear it open because we want to create together, listening to the legacies of women before us, each stitch, each oral story told in our mother tongue about who we are. A race full of obstacles, without space, support, or recognition, where inequality turns every hole into an abyss. So we lay planks, build bridges, paint our faces to make them finally see our long-awaited equality. Women X Culture Network

Estimated audience

Please indicate the number of participants who attended your side event, both onsite and online (if applicable).

71

Any comments to the UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2025 Secretariat

Please include any comments, suggestions or reflections that could help the Secretariat in compiling the overall report or improving future conference processes.

Having access to the MONDIACULT participant list would have made outreach and invitations much more effective, particularly with so many parallel sessions taking place. Because information was fragmented and schedules kept shifting, many meaningful connections never happened due to schedule conflicts. From a



participant's perspective, the constant flow of emails and last-minute adjustments made it challenging to navigate the program and make informed choices about which events to attend. The cost of essential services like translation and live streaming also limited wider inclusion. For future editions, I suggest simplifying communication channels, sharing participant information early on, and identifying more cost-effective ways to provide key services so that participation is as accessible and impactful as possible for everyone.

Please complete and submit the present report to mondiaucult2025@unesco.org before 15 October 2025.

