

CULTURE 21 [RE]VIEW | EDITION 2022-2023

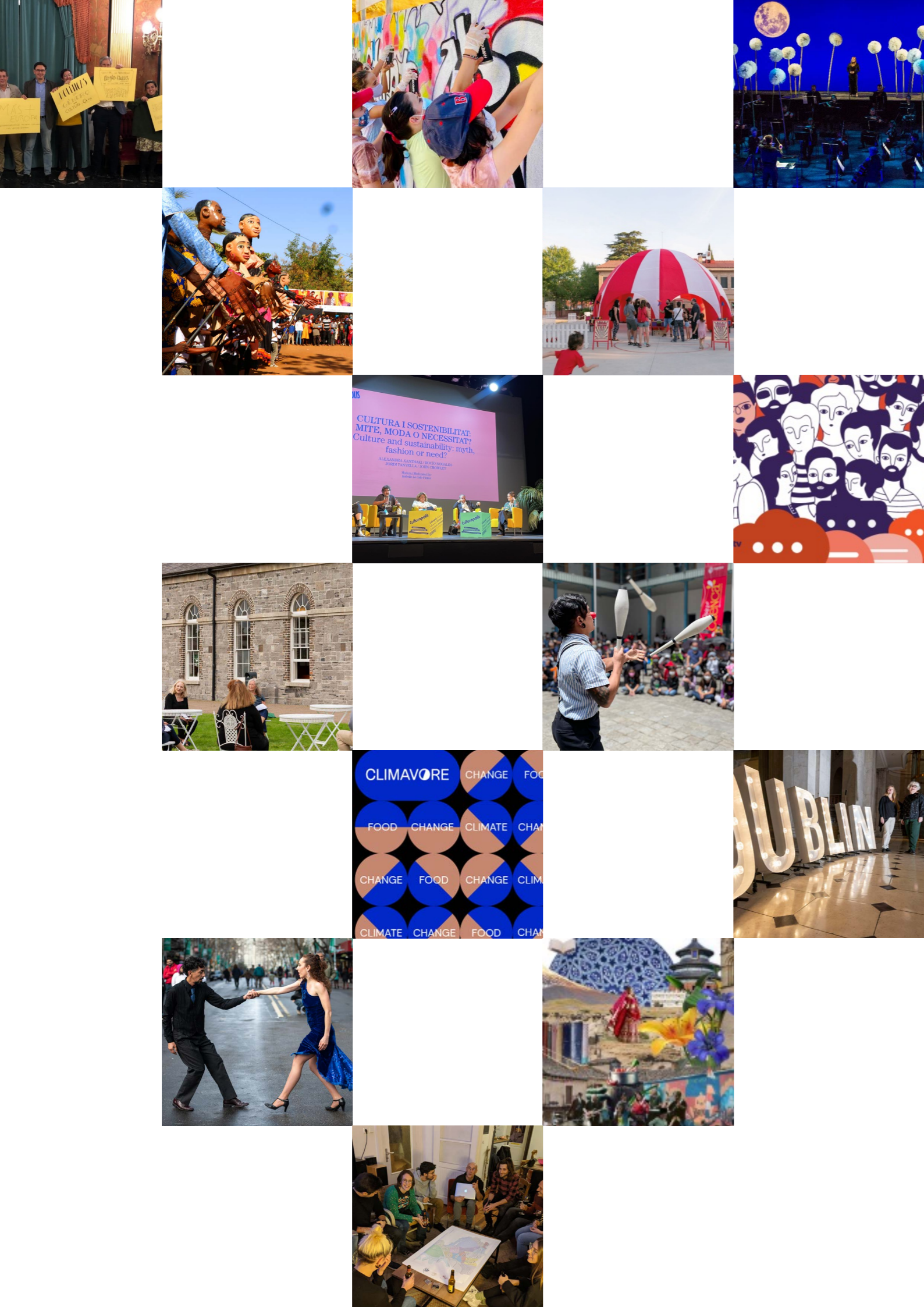
Localising global agendas through culture

# C21 [re]view



## Culture. Future. Goal.

**The International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.** Buenos Aires and Dublin, Dr. Lourdes Arizpe and Dr. Daisy Fancourt, winners of the 5th edition | **The Summit: Dublin, Culture. Future. Goal** | **Culture 21 Plus:** testing a new toolkit for Cultural Rights in Cities and Communities | Localising the SDGs through culture: the Seven Keys | The **#Culture2030Goal** campaign: a Culture Goal proposal



# Making culture a key dimension of sustainable development



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# United Cities and Local Governments: The power of a global organisation and local actions



**United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG** is the global network which represents and defends the interests of local, regional and metropolitan governments and their associations on the world stage.

Headquartered in Barcelona, UCLG is committed to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments to leave no-one and no place behind. Together we are the sentinels of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations held by individuals in communities around the world -- searching for a life in which the ideals of the SDGs are a lived reality.

Since its creation in May 2004, as an inheritor of the century-old International Municipal Movement, more than 250,000 towns, cities, regions and metropolises, and more than 175 local and regional government associations have joined this global network.

The **UCLG structure** comprises **1** world secretariat, **7** regional sections, **1** metropolitan section and **1** forum of regions section, and also several **consultation mechanisms** such as **4** committees, **6** working groups, **5** communities of practice, **4** fora, **2** taskforces and **5** policy councils.

# introduction

# UCLG Committee on Culture: Advocating for culture in sustainable cities



**The UCLG Committee on Culture** is the global The UCLG Committee on Culture is a unique global platform of more than 1000 cities, organisations and networks to cooperate and promote the role of "Culture in Sustainable Cities".

Its **mission** is "to promote **culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development** through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture", to foster and make more explicit the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. The network learns through exchanges, discussions and debates. This narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centred development and the co-creation of the city.

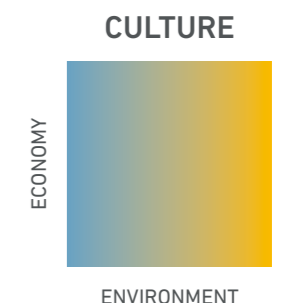
The UCLG Committee on Culture meets officially at least once a year, leads a biennial Culture Summit and a biennial International Award. Since 2004, it has released more than 50 public documents, including reports, briefings, articles and policy statements. Its activities also include global campaigns and advocacy.

## The UCLG Committee on Culture builds on 3 fundamental documents:

The **Agenda 21 for Culture** (2004) is the first worldwide document that promotes policies and actions by cities and local governments for cultural development.

The Policy Document "**Culture is the fourth Pillar of Sustainability**" (2010) engages local governments to explicitly include culture in a development model that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

The toolkit **Culture 21: Actions** (2015) updates and supplements the Agenda 21 for Culture and transforms it into 9 concrete commitments and 100 actions which promote self-assessment and innovation on the role of culture in sustainable cities. It is a cultural rights-based toolkit on culture and local development.



## Culture as a Compass for Caring, Sustainable and Inclusive Futures

**Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi** Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

The Asia-Pacific region (ASPAC), home to over half of the world's population and a mosaic of rich, diverse cultures, has long understood that culture is not a side note in development. It is its heartbeat. Local governments in ASPAC are showing, with clarity and determination, that when culture is embraced as a public good, it becomes a powerful lever for inclusion, resilience and transformation.

It is a great privilege to write the Editorial of this Review of the work undertaken by the UCLG Culture Committee in the years 2022 and 2023. As Secretary General of the UCLG section in Asia-Pacific, I affirm that UCLG ASPAC plays a strategic role in the global movement for culture and sustainability: we support the role of culture as a key element of sustainable development in cities and communities, encourage city-to-city learning, and promote policy innovation grounded in cultural rights. Our leadership is not only consistent, it is also visionary.

We are especially proud of Jeju's role, both as President of the UCLG ASPAC Culture Committee and Vice-President of the UCLG (Global) Committee on Culture. With its deep commitment to peace, sustainability, and international exchange, the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju has emerged as a vital connector between cultures and generations. Its annual Global Youth Creative Residency (GYCR) have empowered young people to become agents of change, fostering creative expression and intercultural dialogue. These spaces go beyond symbolic value: they help shape the cultural futures we need.

In 2023, the UCLG Committee on Culture began the work for the development of Culture 21 Plus, a renewed and forward-looking framework that expands our collective understanding of cultural rights. Building on the legacy of Agenda 21 for Culture (2004) and the practical guidance of Culture 21 Actions (2015), this process responds to today's complex challenges: the climate emergency, digital transformation, gender justice, and growing social inequalities. It reaffirms that cultural rights are essential to dignity, democracy, and development. In the next pages, you will find more details on the Culture 21 Plus process.

# editorial

These efforts have been powerfully echoed at the 2023 UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin, a milestone gathering that brought together local leaders, artists, academics and civil society to share ideas and renew our collective ambition. The Summit reminded us that culture is not only a space for expression. It is a driver of transformation, trust and hope.

In parallel, the 5th edition of the International Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21" celebrated remarkable cultural initiatives from across the world, and awarded the cities of Buenos Aires and Dublin, as well as Dr. Lourdes Arize and Dr. Daisy Fancourt. This award continues to shine a light on how local and regional governments are protecting cultural rights, empowering communities, and integrating culture in public policy, deepening the connection of culture with challenges such as health, nature and gender equality. It reminds us that innovation and commitment at the local level can inspire global change.

Finally, this Culture 21 [Re]View explains the organic connection between the work undertaken with and for UCLG members and the global advocacy for culture. Here, the outputs of the #Culture2030Goal campaign have been very useful. This campaign advocates the recognition of culture as a standalone goal in the post-2030 UN Agenda and future development frameworks. UCLG ASPAC stands firmly behind this call. Culture must be recognised not only as a cross-cutting theme, but as a goal in its own right—integral to building just, inclusive, and sustainable societies.

Across our region, cities are turning this vision into action, through heritage-based planning, participatory cultural policies, inclusive festivals, and creative economies that leave no one behind. These are not isolated examples: they are signs of a growing movement rooted in rights, co-creation, and care. As we deepen our contributions to the localisation of the SDGs, and as we help co-create Culture 21 Plus, our new international frame for cultural rights, I encourage all local and regional governments in our region to lead, connect, and inspire. I take the opportunity to extend this wish to all the readers of the Culture 21 [Re]View.

Let us ensure that culture remains a compass, guiding us toward cities of peace, equity, and dignity.



**Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**  
Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

2022

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p><b>21 January 2022, online.</b> UCLG-Africa webinars on Culture and the SDGs.</p>	<p><b>21-25 February 2022, Barcelona and online.</b> UCLG Retreat &amp; Campus.</p> <p><b>25-26 March 2022, Bonn and online.</b> SDG Global Festival of Action.</p>	<p><b>9-10 March 2022, online.</b> British Council Global Talk on "Missing Pillar: Common Sense and The Community."</p> <p><b>25-26 March 2022, Bonn and online.</b> SDG Global Festival of Action.</p>		<p><b>17-21 May 2022, Kisumu.</b> Africités Summit.</p> <p><b>23-24 May 2022, Fribourg and online.</b> The Fribourg Declaration +15 Colloquium.</p>	<p><b>13-15 June 2022, Seville.</b> UCLG Executive Bureau.</p> <p><b>21-22 June 2022, Brussels and online.</b> European Development Days (EU DevDays).</p> <p><b>26-30 June 2022, Katowice.</b> World Urban Forum (WUF) 11.</p>	<p><b>5-25 July 2022, New York and online.</b> HLPF – High Level Political Forum.</p> <p><b>7 July 2022, online.</b> #Culture2030Goal campaign's UN HLPF side-event: From Local Perspectives to Global Principles.</p>	<p><b>5-10 August 2022, Jeju.</b> Global Youth Creative Residencies.</p>	<p><b>20-23 September 2022, Malmö.</b> Cultural Policies and Anti-racism Conference.</p> <p><b>27 September 2022, Mexico City.</b> Events of the Delivery of the UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 Award.</p> <p><b>28-30 September 2022, Mexico City.</b> Mondiacult+40.</p>	<p><b>10-14 October 2022, Daejeon.</b> UCLG 7th World Congress and Summit of Local and Regional Leaders.</p>	<p><b>3 November 2022, Burgos.</b> Seven Keys workshop.</p> <p><b>7-18 November 2022, Sharm el-Sheikh.</b> UN Climate Change Conference – COP27.</p> <p><b>16-19 November 2022, Barcelona.</b> Culturopolis Conference – International Days on Cultural Rights.</p>	<p><b>1 December 2022, Montréal and online.</b> Webinar on "Cultural Leisure and Amateur Artistic Practice: A Look at Municipal Intervention Models."</p> <p><b>6-7 December 2022, Lilongwe.</b> Seven Keys workshop.</p> <p><b>13 December 2022, Yoff.</b> Seven Keys workshop.</p> <p><b>16 December 2022, Saint-Louis.</b> Seven Keys workshop.</p> <p><b>9-10 December 2022, Izmir.</b> Seven Keys workshop.</p> <p><b>14 December 2022, Buenos Aires and online.</b> Webinar on the "Abasto cultural neighbourhood: economic boost and urban regeneration" initiative and annual meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture.</p>

2023

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
	<p><b>20-24 February 2023, Barcelona.</b> UCLG Annual Retreat &amp; Campus.</p>	<p><b>16 March 2023, Lisbon.</b> Culture Leading Cities. Conference with Artemrede network.</p> <p><b>17 March 2023, Lisbon.</b> Culture Leading Cities. Seminar with Lisbon City Council.</p> <p><b>22-23 March 2023, Santo André.</b> Culture 21 Lab.</p>		<p><b>3-5 May 2023, Stockholm.</b> IFACCA Global Summit of Arts and Culture.</p> <p><b>23-24 May 2023, Rabat.</b> Forum of African Capitals of Culture.</p> <p><b>25-26 May 2023, Paris.</b> UNESCO Multi-stakeholders dialogue on Arts and Education.</p> <p><b>May 2023, online.</b> UCLG Future Envisioning Exercises: Redefining the Commons, Regaining Trust, Redefining finance and Renewing governance architecture.</p>	<p><b>5-9 June 2023, Nairobi.</b> UN Habitat Assembly.</p> <p><b>7-9 June 2023, Elefsina.</b> Culture Action Europe Beyond the Obvious Conference.</p> <p><b>12-15 June 2023, Brussels.</b> UCLG Executive Bureau and Metropolis Congress.</p> <p><b>13-15 June 2023, Brussels.</b> European Development Days (EU DevDays).</p>	<p><b>6 July, Jinju.</b> Culture 21 workshop.</p> <p><b>12 July 2023, New York.</b> Local and Regional Governments Day at the HLPF – High Level Political Forum.</p>	<p><b>2-6 August 2021, Jeju.</b> Global Youth Creative Residencies.</p>	<p><b>8 September 2023, Mexico City.</b> Culture 21 Plus workshop.</p> <p><b>14-20 September 2023, Jeju.</b> Global Youth Creative Residency.</p> <p><b>September 2023, Mexico City.</b> Iberoamerican Seminar on Cultural and Creative Companies of UCCI.</p>	<p><b>26-28 October 2023, Konya.</b> UCLG World Council.</p>	<p><b>13 November 2023, Lisbon.</b> Culture 21 Plus workshop.</p> <p><b>16-19 November 2023, Portugal.</b> Peer-learning meeting for Abitibi-Témiscamingue with Creatour.</p> <p><b>6-17 November 2023, United Arab Emirates.</b> Peer-learning meeting for Abitibi-Témiscamingue with Creatour.</p>	<p><b>27 November – 1 December 2023, Dublin.</b> 5th UCLG Culture Summit.</p> <p><b>1 December 2023, Dublin.</b> 20th annual meeting of the Committee on Culture of UCLG.</p>

# timeline



# local action

## THE SEVEN KEYS

As the newest programme of the UCLG Culture Committee, the [Seven Keys](#) offers to cities, municipalities and regions a participatory workshop designed to integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme aims to enable participants to learn, debate and agree upon specific actions to explicitly connect culture, sustainable development and the specific challenges in their city or town.

The workshop **integrates the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs**, drawing upon the United Nations' 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, which includes 17 SDGs and 169 targets to achieve them. The SDGs are being implemented between 2015 and 2030, with 2020-2030 being called 'The Implementation Decade'. The global organisation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) believes that in order for the SDGs to be successfully achieved, they need to be localised – that is, adapted to local realities, and addressed with full ownership and engagement by local and regional governments and stakeholders. These should be provided with adequate resources, and their cultural diversity and cultural assets should be respected and recognised.

In this respect, UCLG also believes that **the SDGs cannot be achieved unless their cultural dimension is fully recognised and explored**. Although only a few of the SDGs and targets explicitly refer to cultural aspects - namely targets 4.7 and 11.4 -, factors like heritage and memory, collective values, diversity, creativity, knowledge and participation in cultural life are essential in order to foster sustainable development, develop solutions to face the challenges of humanity and the planet, and make lives meaningful. Thus, cultural aspects must be integral part of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The Seven Keys programme is based on the "acquis" of UCLG in this topic, and uses thoroughly the 2018 document "[Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action](#)" and the [OBS](#) of good practices.

Within this context, the Seven Keys programme offers to cities, municipalities and regions a local workshop that gathers participants from different areas of the local or regional government, as well as civil society and local cultural actors, to jointly identify and co-create Seven "Keys" or specific actions that they can commit to in order to localise the SDGs through cultural policy making in their city.



**7 KEYS**  
CULTURE IS A  
KEY DIMENSION  
OF SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



The specific feature of the programme is that the Seven Keys are always locally identified: each city / territory identifies their own seven keys. The workshop counts with up to 50 participants, coming from the different areas of the local government (Culture, Ecology, Planning, Communities, International Relations, Economy...) and others representing civil society (cultural sectors, grassroots organisations, activists, academics...) who can potentially contribute to identifying and enabling the Seven Keys in a trusty and creative environment.

**The methodology of the workshop includes the following participative sessions:**

- Local challenges and the SDGs: An introduction to the SDGs and group discussion on relevant local challenges allow the participants to identify the main relevant SDGs in the context of their cities.
- Cultural mapping: "What are the main aspects that make-up culture in your city or town?" Group discussion on tangible and intangible aspects, forms of participation, events, symbolic places, artistic and creative works, narratives, stories, etc. that can be related to culture allow the participants to identify the cultural assets of the city and to relate them to the SDGs.
- Spotting the gaps: A facilitated collective discussion addresses the unexplored opportunities that exist to further connect the cultural aspects identified with the SDGs.
- Reaching the Seven Keys: In four groups, participants analyse existing and potential measures that could contribute to the localisation and achievement of the SDGs by connecting culture and sustainable development challenges. Each group will later present its findings and proposals, and a debate of all participants will take place, aiming to reach a consensus and active commitment on the seven actions or 'Keys' that can be implemented locally.
- Visual documentation and closing: Participants endorse the results of the workshop and a discussion on the next steps closes the day.

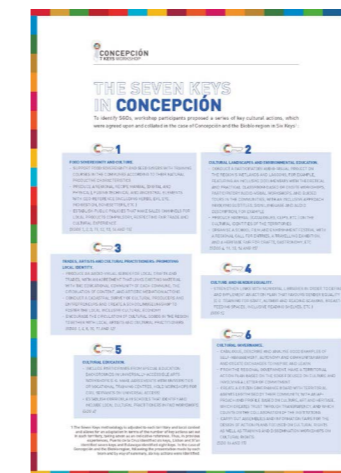
## THE SEVEN KEYS WORKSHOP IN OUR CITIES



BURGOS



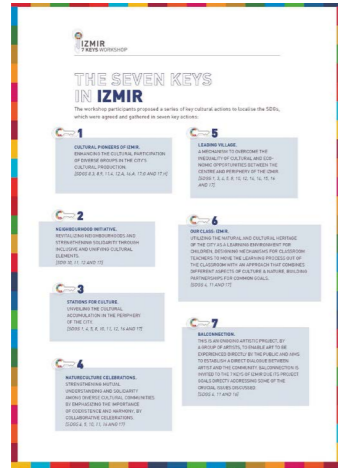
The City of Burgos (Spain) hosted its Seven Keys workshop on 3 November 2022. With a population of 175,000, Burgos is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, including the UNESCO-listed Santa María Cathedral and the Camino de Santiago. The workshop, attended by 20 representatives from local institutions, civil society, and the cultural sector, aimed to embed culture into the city's candidacy for European Capital of Culture 2031. Participants identified key challenges such as demographic decline, aging infrastructure, lack of creative industries, and governance hurdles. They proposed seven cultural actions to address these issues, focusing on gender-inclusive cultural spaces, sustainable urban transformation, and innovative cultural programming. For example, "Climarte" was introduced to integrate sustainable development into cultural events, while initiatives to revitalize crafts aim to reconnect neighborhoods with their artisanal heritage. Participants emphasized the importance of cultural governance and inclusivity, laying the groundwork for a city-wide cultural transformation that aligns with the SDGs.



CONCEPCIÓN



The City of Concepción (Chile) hosted its Seven Keys workshop on 16-17 June 2022, engaging 15 participants from the Biobío region to bridge cultural action and sustainable development. As the cultural capital of southern Chile, Concepción has a vibrant identity shaped by its universities, music scene, and historic resilience to natural disasters. Participants tackled local challenges such as territorial inequality, governance centralism, environmental degradation, and cultural inequities. Six key actions emerged, including the promotion of cultural landscapes through environmental education, fostering local identity via crafts and artistic production, and improving access to cultural education for marginalized groups. The workshop emphasized gender equality by proposing library-based programs and governance reforms, such as creating a citizen board for cultural policymaking. Food sovereignty also featured prominently, with plans for regional recipe manuals and training initiatives to preserve ancestral culinary knowledge. This approach reinforced Concepción's role as a leader in integrating cultural rights and sustainability into local governance.



**IZMIR**



The City of Izmir (Turkey) hosted its Seven Keys workshop in May 2022, as part of its Leading City program. Located on the Aegean coast, Izmir’s cultural history and biodiversity informed its approach to cultural policymaking. The workshop brought together diverse stakeholders, including local government, universities, and civic organizations, to identify seven cultural actions aligned with the city’s vision of becoming a hub for arts, design, and innovation. Outcomes included the “Neighbourhood Initiative,” which revitalizes community spaces through cultural solidarity, and “NatureCulture Celebrations,” promoting coexistence through public events that highlight Izmir’s multicultural heritage. Education was a priority, with the “Our Class: Izmir” project integrating cultural heritage into school curricula through outdoor learning. Participants also proposed “Stations for Culture,” which leverage peripheral areas to decentralize cultural activity and increase accessibility. These initiatives align with Izmir’s commitment to democratic and inclusive cultural policies, underpinned by the concept of “Circular Culture” launched at the 2021 UCLG Culture Summit.



**SAINT-LOUIS**



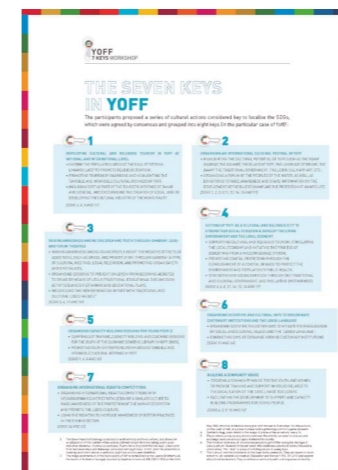
The Seven Keys workshop in Saint-Louis took place on 16 December 2022 and, for one day, gathered almost 30 participants of a wide cultural diversity. The workshop was facilitated by Enda ECOPOP, a partner of UCLG for implementation. As the former capital of Senegal from 1872 to 1957, and playing an important cultural and economic role in all of West Africa, the city of Saint-Louis identified the “local challenges” of the city in terms of urban security, local economic development, social cohesion, the health of marine ecosystems and the articulation between tradition and modernity. SDGs that could be relevant to these issues were also linked. Outcomes included, among others, strengthening cultural governance by involving cultural actors in the planning of the municipality’s cultural activities and raising awareness of the issues related to climate change among all population groups through cultural and artistic performances.



**LILONGWE**



The City of Lilongwe (Malawi) hosted its Seven Keys workshop on 15 December 2022, convening 26 participants from government, civil society, and international organizations. As Malawi’s rapidly urbanizing capital, Lilongwe grapples with challenges like informal settlements, environmental degradation, and limited cultural infrastructure. Workshop participants developed seven cultural actions to address these issues, emphasizing ecological preservation, health and wellness, and the role of cultural diversity in urban development. Key initiatives included enhancing green corridors along the Lilongwe River, creating festivals to celebrate the city’s multicultural heritage, and establishing policies to promote mental health and combat substance abuse. Participants highlighted the need for public spaces that facilitate the production and flow of cultural goods, offering new economic opportunities. Additionally, cultural education initiatives were proposed to engage youth and foster civic participation. By connecting cultural assets with local challenges, the workshop advanced Lilongwe’s goal of becoming a clean, green, and culturally vibrant city.



**YOFF**



The Municipality of Yoff (Senegal) organised the “Seven Keys” workshop on 13 December 2022 with Enda ECOPOP. Located at the north-western part of the Dakar region, and sitting at the west end of the Cape Verde peninsula, Yoff is the 16th district municipality of the capital city. Among local challenges, the municipality faces lack of employment opportunities, even fewer land reserves, the plundering of the oceans, loss of traditional livelihoods, and socio-cultural disorientation. Around 30 participants to the workshop proposed a series of cultural actions considered key to localise the SDGs, which were agreed by consensus and grouped into eight keys. These included, among others, organising capacity-building sessions for young people, and organising scientific and cultural days to disseminate customary institutions and the Lebu language.

## THE REPORT: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF THE SEVEN KEYS PROGRAMME

The Seven Keys programme has engaged ten cities across diverse regions since its inception, each using culture as a tool to localize the SDGs. From 2020 to 2023, these workshops have illuminated how cultural action can address unique local challenges while contributing to shared global goals. The recently published report "[Localising the SDGs with a Cultural Perspective](#)" offers an analysis of the outcomes, showcasing a rich tapestry of achievements.

### 10 Workshops: Themes and Progress

The workshops, spanning Africa, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, have consistently reflected the adaptability of the Seven Keys methodology. Each city developed its own "keys," or localized cultural actions, to address specific challenges. Together, the ten workshops have demonstrated how culture intersects with critical global issues, including urban sustainability, climate action, equity, and governance.

1. **Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)** initiated the programme in 2020, focusing on cultural tourism, youth empowerment, and ecological projects like tree planting to enhance food security and environmental resilience.
2. **Saint-Louis (Senegal)** emphasized cultural governance and artistic performances to raise awareness about climate change and promote social cohesion.
3. **Xi'an (China)** showcased its commitment to heritage preservation, leveraging cultural education to engage young people in safeguarding intangible heritage.
4. **Yoff (Senegal)** integrated local traditions into its strategies, promoting inclusivity through creative capacity-building programs.
5. **Lisbon (Portugal)** used the Seven Keys framework to establish community assemblies and foster participatory cultural governance, emphasizing inclusivity at the neighborhood level.
6. **Puerto de la Cruz (Spain)** focused on cultural connectivity and sustainable tourism, ensuring that local identity and creative industries were central to its strategies.
7. **Concepción (Chile)** addressed environmental education, food sovereignty, and gender equity, with initiatives linking ancestral knowledge to modern governance structures.
8. **Izmir (Turkey)** introduced innovative actions like "Stations for Culture" to decentralize cultural activities and promote harmony through nature-based celebrations.
9. **Lilongwe (Malawi)** prioritized ecological preservation and cultural diversity, establishing by-laws to support local cultural goods and create inclusive public spaces.
10. **Burgos (Spain)** aligned its cultural policies with sustainability goals, launching initiatives such as "Climarte" and promoting gender-inclusive cultural programming.



# THE SEVEN KEYS WORKSHOPS



## Emerging Trends Across Cities

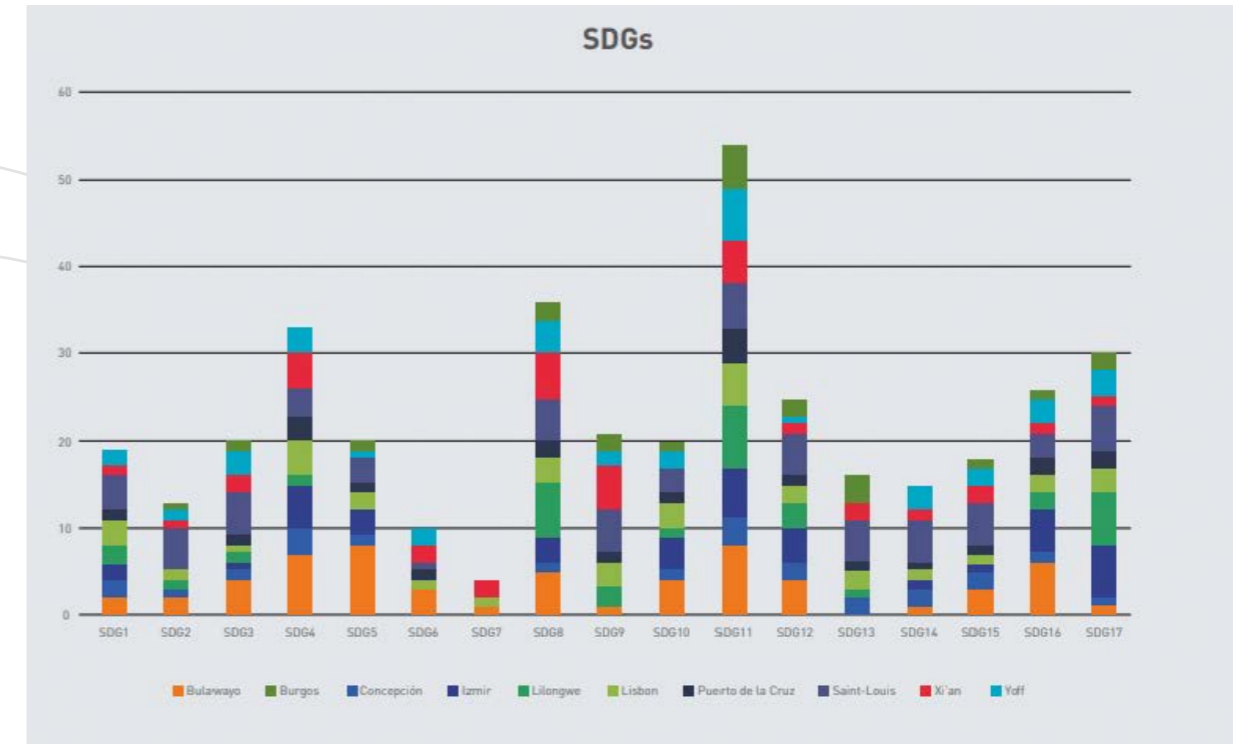
The report identifies key themes that connect the cities' actions, showcasing how culture is a versatile tool for sustainable development:

- **Climate Action:** From Lilongwe's ecological corridors to Izmir's nature-based celebrations, environmental themes have gained prominence, with culture serving as a catalyst for sustainability.
- **Cultural Governance:** Cities like Saint Louis, Lisbon, and Concepción developed participatory models to ensure transparency and inclusivity in decision-making.
- **Education and Inclusion:** Many cities, including Xi'an and Yoff, used cultural education to engage youth and marginalized groups, fostering a sense of belonging and civic responsibility.

## Analysis of Key Dimensions

The report offers a deeper analysis of the Seven Keys outcomes by connecting them with the following dimensions:

1. **SDGs:** All 17 SDGs were addressed through the workshops, with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) appearing most frequently, followed by SDGs 8, 4, and 17. Notably, SDG 13 (Climate Action) emerged as a priority in newer workshops, reflecting growing concerns about environmental sustainability.
2. **9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions:** The workshops demonstrated coherence with the nine commitments, with "Culture and Environment" and "Cultural Rights" being the most frequently addressed. These commitments underline the role of culture in advancing equity, education, and urban planning.
3. **Axes of the Pact for the Future of UCLG:** The workshops strongly aligned with the three axes: People, Planet, and Government. Actions focusing on inclusive governance, ecological preservation, and community well-being reflect these principles in practice.
4. **Entry Points of the Pact for the Future:** The majority of keys prioritized "Reclaiming the Commons," emphasizing equitable access to cultural and natural resources. "Redefining Finance and Economy" and "Rebuilding Trust" also featured prominently, showcasing culture's role in addressing systemic challenges.
5. **Themes:** The workshops highlighted common themes such as environmental issues, education, and urbanism. Social cohesion, gender equality, and cultural diversity also appeared as recurring priorities, affirming culture's cross-cutting relevance.



Source: Own elaboration, based on the 10 reports of the Seven Keys workshops

## The SDGs related to the key cultural actions of the Seven Keys workshop

### Outcomes and Looking Forward

Collectively, the ten workshops highlight the transformative potential of the Seven Keys programme. While earlier workshops focused on resilience and heritage preservation, recent ones have expanded to address global priorities like climate change and equity-driven governance.

As the programme evolves, its success underscores a critical truth: culture is not just an enabler of sustainable development—it is a driver. The Seven Keys methodology has proven adaptable across contexts, offering a model for other cities to localize the SDGs while embracing their unique cultural identities.

The report ends with a call to action: as cities worldwide strive to meet the SDGs, they must harness the power of culture to create more equitable and sustainable futures.

# THE SEVEN KEYS WORKSHOPS

## CULTURE 21 LAB

[Culture 21 Lab](#) is a capacity-building programme on culture in sustainable cities. A Culture 21 Lab could be seen as an environment for local dialogue and debate on culture in the city's vision of sustainable development, including interaction with other areas of

public, private and civil society action. Where necessary, the number of participants and duration can be adapted to suit local needs.

### CULTURE 21 LAB IN SANTO ANDRÉ



The Culture 21 LAB in [Santo André](#) was held over two days, on 22 and 23 March 2023, including a plenary session led by experts and local actors, and three participatory working groups. Preliminary visits were also organised on 20 and 24 March for the expert, José Oliveira Junior, and the UCLG representative, Marta Llobet. The working groups involved 50 participants representing a wide range of sectors. These working groups were held as parallel sessions, each focussing on a thematic commitment of Culture 21 Actions. Participants had the option to contribute to three of the nine thematic sessions. On average, each working group involved around 10-12 participants, which facilitated in-depth discussions.

Based on the perceptions of the participants, and as the [final report](#) reads, discussions evidenced that the municipality should reinforce what it already has underway regarding the commitments on Cultural Rights, Culture Governance, Urban Planning, Heritage and Education, notably with regard to long-term planning. But it should pay special attention to the identified or apparent weaknesses in terms of Culture and Economy, Culture and Equity and Culture, Information and Knowledge.

## PILOT CITIES PROGRAMME

The [Pilot Cities programme](#) is an international initiative that seeks to support cities and local governments in strengthening the role of culture in their sustainable development strategies.

On the basis of Culture 21 Actions, the UCLG Committee on Culture and the European network Culture Action Europe designed the Pilot Cities programme, which is being developed both at European and international level (in the case of the latter, spearheaded solely by UCLG).

Pilot Cities is defined as a learning programme. This is because it aims to work alongside cities in order to generate a culture of greater collaboration, between various dimensions and themes of public action, on the one hand, and between different actors living side-by-side in cities, on the other. Similarly, this is also because, assuming that the challenges faced by cities often have common features, it seeks to promote exchanges and other learning activities between cities in different countries, structured as a network, to recognise existing good practices and to give them visibility.

### ORGANISATION OF THE FINAL PILOT CITY CONFERENCE IN JINJU CITY



On 28 June 2022, to commemorate [Jinju City's](#) completion of its participation as a Pilot City of the UCLG Committee on Culture since 2019, the city held a closing ceremony that included a final conference, followed by the 7th Jinju International Forum on UNESCO Creative Cities on the next day.

The event provided a complete review of the programme, with key results and themes to be addressed, and took stock of the progress of pilot measures and activities implemented by Jinju City in the context of the programme. As the [final report](#) shows, it included: a) a review of the 2nd self-assessment workshop held on 30 March 2022 and the resulting radar; b) a general assessment of the implemented pilot measures and recommendations, c) future perspectives and

trends. It also included the facilitation of the serious game "More than a 100 green cultural dreams" by expert Sylvia Amann, Director of Inforelais, who later presented the results in the frame of the green culture action plan Jinju 2022. As recommendations steaming from the programme, Professor Byung-Hoon Jeong, focal point of the programme, mentioned: the need to keep including marginalized groups into the local cultural life; the internationalisation of the cultural assets of Jinju city; and the effective use of public space to promote cultural activities for all.

## TERRASSA PILOT CITY: PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL REPORT



On July 2022 the [final report](#) of the Terrassa Pilot City Europe programme was published. The report marked the closure of 6 years of work of Terrassa as a Pilot City of the UCLG Culture Committee. Terrassa has developed the Pilot Cities programme with great success, from the initial stage of the self-assessment to the exchanges with other pilot cities, through to local actions. The programme's key milestones are covered in detail in this report, which addresses the areas of cultural rights and gender equality, the decentralisation of cultural activity in neighbourhoods and districts, the governance of culture and the participation of civil society, the interrelation between cultural programmes and educational programmes, support for the audio-visual industry and special actions carried out in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The experience and successes that have been achieved make Terrassa undoubtedly one of the prominent cities in the UCLG Committee on Culture.

## ORGANISATION OF THE FINAL PILOT CITY CONFERENCE IN ESCAZÚ



In the framework of the finalisation of its participation as a Pilot City of the Agenda 21 for culture (from 2016 to 2023), [Escazú](#) held in May 2023 the closing stage of the process with a final seminar was organised with several Latin American and Costa Rican cities. The event, facilitated by expert Antoine Guibert, aimed to evaluate the implementation of the work programme, including the pilot measures and the different activities carried out in Escazú since 2016 within the framework of its work programme as a Pilot City, as well as to provide a critical analysis and recommendations for the future.

The [final report](#) provides an overview of the activities and work phases: (1) February 2017, self-assessment exercise; (2) November 2017, design of the work programme; (3) October 2018, peer-learning visit to Mexico City; (4) May 2019, work and evaluation sessions and workshop "Culture of peace and gender perspective in the territory: cultural and artistic community practices"; (5) Final evaluation session and closure of the programme. The report also includes final recommendations for further work.

## PEER LEARNING VISIT TO ELEFSINA



The city of Elefsina is a Pilot City of the UCLG Committee on Culture since 2019. As an activity within the Elefsina Pilot City programme, the first [peer learning](#) visit hosted by Elefsina was held from 8 to 10 June 2023. During three days, representatives of four Pilot and Leading Cities, Dublin, Izmir, Leeds and Timisoara, were invited to meet and exchange in Elefsina, European Capital of Culture 2023 alongside the cities of Timisoara and Veszprém, on the occasion the celebration of two relevant cultural events: a) the conference Beyond the Obvious 2023 Handle with Care | Culture for Social Wellbeing (7-9 June 2023), b) the 9th Culture Next Meeting (10-11 June 2023).

The visit to Elefsina addressed the progress of the ECoC 2023 policies and programmes, as well as the relationship of culture, health and the UN 2030 Agenda, and its implications at a local level, this being themes relevant to the work programmes of all invited cities.

Within the three days of exchanges the session “A cultural boost in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” was also organised. This session invited participants to reflect on the new analysis of the interactions between culture and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the UCLG Committee on Culture. It provided invaluable opportunity to discuss culture and SDGs with other European cities.

## LEADING CITIES PROGRAMME

The [Leading Cities programme](#) is aimed to support experienced cities through activities in the fields of leadership, advocacy, communication, learning and cooperation. Leading Cities are cities with experience in the implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture and possessing solid conceptual and practical experience as regards the place of culture in sustainable cities. As a result, they become leaders in the implementation of Culture 21 Actions and the promotion and advocacy activities of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

## ABITIBI-TEMISCAMINGUE – 2022 ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE LEADING TERRITORY AND PEER-LEARNING VISIT IN PORTUGAL



The 2022 Activity [Report](#) of the Leading Territory initiative highlights Abitibi-Témiscamingue's efforts in advancing cultural policies post-pandemic. Four thematic conference-debates were held to address, through culture, key areas such as inclusion and citizen participation, public spaces and urban planning, economy and sustainable cultural tourism, and environment and ecological transition. These discussions engaged experts from international cities, fostering valuable exchanges and recommendations for future actions.

A significant highlight was the peer-learning visit to Portugal in 2023, where stakeholders explored the CREATOUR initiative—a pioneering project in creative tourism. The visit provided insights into best practices that could inspire cultural tourism development in Abitibi-Témiscamingue. The delegation visited various spaces, including CERDEIRA Home of Creativity, New Hand Lab, The Wool Museum, Destination Caldas Association and Silos Creative Container, and gained a deeper understanding of integrating cultural heritage with sustainable tourism practices.

The report of the peer-learning visit underscores the importance of refocusing efforts on cultural tourism, strengthening regional cultural governance, and leveraging creative tourism as a driver for economic and social development. These experiences reinforce the region's position as a leader in implementing the Agenda 21 for Culture and provide a roadmap for future cultural sustainability initiatives.

## IZMIR - LEADING CITY FINAL SEMINAR



As part of the journey of Izmir as a Leading City within UCLG's Agenda 21 for Culture, a seminar was organised in December 2022, celebrating years of commitment to culture-led sustainable development. Building on its success as a Pilot City in 2019, Izmir embraced a collaborative approach to address local and global challenges through cultural innovation.

The seminar brought together municipal officials, cultural practitioners, academics, and international representatives to reflect on progress and envision future actions. Central to discussions was the concept of "Circular Culture," introduced at the 2021 UCLG Culture Summit. This approach, emphasizing harmony with nature, history, communities, and change, framed culture as a powerful tool to tackle global challenges like inequality and environmental sustainability.

The Seven Keys workshop, a core component of Izmir's Leading City program, was highlighted as an example of participatory action, co-creating cultural projects tailored to the city's needs. These initiatives underscored Izmir's dedication to inclusivity, environmental stewardship, and community engagement, providing models for cities worldwide. Izmir's experience demonstrated the transformative potential of culture in urban governance, showcasing how local action can inspire global progress. Its achievements position the city as a cultural pioneer, offering a roadmap for a sustainable and inclusive future.

## CULTURAL POLICIES AND ANTI-RACISM SEMINAR AND PEER-LEARNING VISIT IN MALMÖ



From September 21-23, 2022, Malmö hosted a peer-learning visit as part of the UCLG Culture Committee's Leading City programme. Representatives from cities including Barcelona, Bilbao, Izmir, Leeds, London, Lisbon, Montreal, and São Paulo gathered to exchange ideas and experiences focused on Malmö's cultural policies and its pioneering efforts in combatting anti-Muslim and anti-Black racism.

The visit combined insightful discussions with on-the-ground exploration of Malmö's cultural and anti-racist initiatives. It kicked off with a seminar on Islamophobia at Malmö's Old City Hall, featuring contributions from the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. Delegates explored cultural institutions such as the Malmö City Archive and Malmö Konsthall, which address racism through archives, exhibitions, public programmes, and community engagement. They also visited the Islamic Centre, which serves as a cultural and religious meeting point fostering intercultural understanding. The City Library presented its youth engagement programmes and anti-racist initiatives, while grassroots organizations like Helamalmö Anti-racist Centre and the KOLL collective shared their community-based efforts.

[Key takeaways](#) highlighted the importance of public art in fostering intercultural dialogue, the role of political leadership in combatting hate speech, and the need for inclusive cultural policies. Malmö's commitment to using culture as a tool for social cohesion inspired collaboration among visiting cities, strengthening efforts to tackle racism globally.

## CULTUROPOLIS CONFERENCE – INTERNATIONAL DAYS ON CULTURAL RIGHTS IN BARCELONA



From November 16 to 19, 2022, Barcelona became the beating heart of a global movement for cultural rights as it hosted the Culturopolis Conference: International Days on Cultural Rights. This groundbreaking event gathered an extraordinary coalition of cultural visionaries, practitioners, activists, and global leaders to redefine the future of cultural rights in a rapidly changing world.

Over three and a half days, participants engaged in international debates, knowledge sharing, and workshops addressing critical themes such as cultural work and sustainability, diversities, participation and communities, and digital environments.

The conference was co-organized by the City of Barcelona, represented by Mayor Ada Colau and Daniel Granados, the City Council's Delegate for Cultural Rights; Culture Action Europe, represented by Secretary General Tere Badia; and the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), represented by Coordinator Jordi Pascual. The opening ceremony featured a keynote address by Alexandra Xanthaki, UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, set the tone for thought-provoking discussions enriched by the participation of UCLG member cities such as Izmir, Malmö, Bogotá, Dakar and Mexico City. The program also featured esteemed experts such as Nicolás Barbieri, Luca Bergamo, John Crowley, Laurence Cuny, Lucina Jiménez, Ricardo Klein, Paola Leoncini Bartoli, Alfons Martinell Sempere, and Patrice Meyer-Bisch, who contributed to enriching discussions on cultural rights.

Culturopolis was a landmark moment, affirming Barcelona's commitment to advancing cultural rights and fostering international collaboration. It set a precedent for deeper global engagement on this vital issue, ensuring cultural rights remain a cornerstone of sustainable development.

## SEMINAR ON CULTURAL RIGHTS IN CONCEPCIÓN



On 29 March 2023 Concepción organized a [Seminar](#) on Cultural Rights, in the context of the Concepción Leading City programme. Participants from different backgrounds, including UCLG, Unesco, IberCultura Viva, Mercociudades, and the cities of Concepción, San Luis Potosí and Niterói, the IberCultura Viva programme, and Mercociudades discussed what are cultural rights, how are they made and what are they for, drawing from inspiring examples such as the Rome, San Luis Potosí and Niterói Charters on Cultural Rights. This event marks a significant milestone in the development of the Concepción Charter on Cultural Rights, which is set to be launched in 2024.

## CULTURE 21 PLUS:

# A new toolkit for Cultural Rights in cities and communities

**Culture 21 Plus** is the new guide for culture and sustainable development that the UCLG Culture Committee is shaping as the framework and toolkit for local cultural policymaking in the coming years. Building upon the solid foundation of the previous Culture 21 Actions, this initiative is being co-created by cities from across the globe and is set to be approved by UCLG in 2025.

The development of Culture 21 Plus is guided by several key frameworks, including the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity—adopted at the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon in October 2022—which emphasizes care-based and rights-based actions for people, the planet, and governance. Additionally, it draws from the principles outlined in the Culture 21: Actions adopted in 2015, the Rome Charter, and the innovative concept of circular culture.

With a comprehensive approach, Culture 21 Plus encompasses 200 actions, structured into 30 key areas, which are further grouped into six thematic blocks: rights, communities, prosperity, territories, nature, and governance.

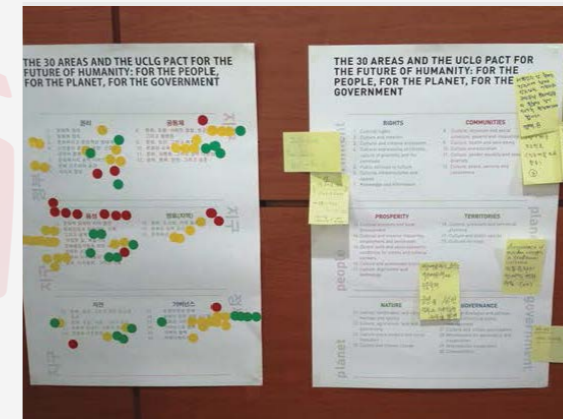
This framework offers the most extensive approach to integrating culture into sustainable development

The Culture 21 Plus serves a dual purpose: it i) enables cities and territories to conduct a self-assessment of their current cultural policies and ii) supports the design of future strategies grounded in cultural rights and sustainability. It is an invaluable tool for enhancing cultural policies at the local level.

Ahead of its official approval, the UCLG Culture Committee is initiating a testing phase through dedicated workshops. These one- or two-day workshops, facilitated by UCLG, provide a unique opportunity for diverse stakeholders to collaborate, identify urban challenges, assess cultural policy landscapes, prioritise key areas, and contribute to the co-creation of local cultural strategies for a sustainable future. So far, three cities have already conducted a Culture 21 Plus test: Jinju (July 2023), Mexico City (September, 2023) and Lisbon (November, 2023).



## JINJU



On 6 July 2023, and in the context of the 8th Jinju Creative Cities Forum, Jinju City, Republic of Korea, hosted the first-ever Culture 21 Plus workshop test as a Leading City of the UCLG Committee on Culture. The session marked a significant step in testing the new cultural policy toolkit designed by UCLG. The workshop brought together local cultural stakeholders from various sectors to explore how the toolkit's six thematic blocks and thirty key areas align with Jinju's cultural policies.

Participants identified "Prosperity" as the most relevant block, with a focus on areas such as decent work for artists, citizen participation, and social inclusion. The workshop highlighted Jinju's commitment to enhancing cultural governance, with key local policies and programmes aligning closely with the framework.

The insights gathered will contribute to refining Culture 21 Plus ahead of its global launch in 2025. The event reaffirmed Jinju's role as a leading city in cultural policy development, setting a precedent for future consultations and collaboration within the UCLG network.

## MEXICO CITY



On 8 September 2023, Mexico City hosted a Culture 21 Plus workshop, bringing together over 80 participants from diverse sectors to test and refine the new cultural policy framework. Organised by the UCLG Culture Committee in collaboration with the city’s Secretariat of Culture, the workshop aimed to assess the applicability of Culture 21 Plus in shaping local cultural strategies.

Participants engaged in discussions focusing on the city’s cultural challenges and strengths, with particular attention given to key areas such as cultural rights, social inclusion, and cultural governance. The prioritised areas included: culture, social inclusion and cohesion, poverty and inequality and cultural rights.

Outcomes of the workshop included key reflections on the integration of Culture 21 Plus into Mexico City’s cultural policies, highlighting the need for stronger cross-sectoral collaboration and enhanced citizen participation. The insights gathered will contribute to the ongoing development of Culture 21 Plus, ensuring it reflects the realities and aspirations of local governments worldwide.

## LISBON



On 13 November 2023, Lisbon hosted a Culture 21 Plus workshop as part of the Agenda 21 for Culture Lisbon Leading City programme. Organised by the UCLG Culture Committee in collaboration with the Lisbon City Council, the workshop gathered representatives from different Borough Councils to explore the implementation of the Culture 21 Plus framework.

Participants engaged in discussions across six key themes—Rights, Communities, Prosperity, Territory, Nature, and Governance—identifying priorities and challenges within local cultural policies. Key outcomes included the recognition of cultural rights as a fundamental pillar, the need for improved governance mechanisms, and the importance of fostering inclusive cultural policies.

The workshop provided an opportunity to assess Lisbon’s cultural landscape, also with specific proposals for implementation. Participants emphasised the necessity of cross-sector collaboration and enhanced communication between Boroughs and other stakeholders.



global impact

## The Award Buenos Aires, Dublin, Lourdes Arizpe and Daisy Fancourt, winners of the 5th edition

### THE 5th EDITION

The International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21 is organised by the City of Mexico and United Cities and Local Governments to recognise cities and local or regional governments' cultural policies and practices for sustainable development.

Every two years, an International Jury composed of prestigious international experts acknowledges key contributions to culture and sustainable cities and territories worldwide through two categories, namely: "Local or Regional Governments" and "Individuals".

After four successful first editions in 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, and 2019-2020, which gathered some 341 candidacies and awarded the cities of Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Lyon (France), Seongbuk (Republic of Korea), Timbuktu (Mali), Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada), Medellín (Colombia) and Ségou (Mali), as well as Manuel Castells, Basma El-Husseiny, Jon Hawkes, Patrice Meyer-Bisch, Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, Farida Shaheed, Eusebio Leal and Vandana Shiva, a 5th edition was organised in 2021-2022.

This new edition of the Award aims at recognising cities and personalities who have excelled in the promotion of cultural rights in the context of the Covid-19 crisis and post-pandemic recovery, and/or that have promoted culture as an important part of the caring system. The cities of **Buenos Aires** (Argentina) and **Dublin** (Ireland) were awarded as the winners, while Dr. **Lourdes Arizpe** and Dr. **Daisy Fancourt** received the recognition in the "Individuals" category for their exceptional work in cultural rights, health and sustainability. As a notable innovation for this edition, influenced by the global challenges posed by the pandemic, a list of the Best Actions was announced, categorized under the labels of "Innovative Sparks" and "Planning with Care".

UCLG - MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21  
5th EDITION - INTERNATIONAL AWARD

CGLU - VILLE DE MEXICO - CULTURE 21  
5ème ÉDITION - PRIX INTERNATIONAL

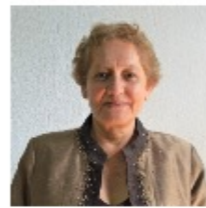
CGLU - CIUDAD DE MÉXICO - CULTURA 21  
5ª EDICIÓN - PREMIO INTERNACIONAL

## THE JURY

The [Jury](#) of the 5th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21 was made up of the following five members, all of whom are prestigious international experts with impeccable trajectories in the cultural field and inclusive cultural policies, underpinned by the concept of "Circular Culture" launched at the 2021 UCLG Culture Summit.



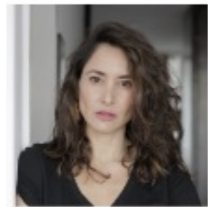
**Catherine Cullen**  
(President of the Jury),  
Special Advisor on Culture  
in Sustainable Cities.  
Former Deputy Mayor for  
Culture for the City of Lille,  
France, and former Chair  
of the Culture Committee  
of UCLG.



**Diana Alarcón  
González,**  
Chief Advisor and  
International Affairs  
Coordinator of the  
Government of Mexico  
City.



**Serhan Ada,**  
Professor at the faculty  
of Arts and Cultural  
Management Department,  
Director of Cultural Policy  
and Management Research  
Center, and Head of UNESCO  
Chair in Cultural Policy  
and Cultural Diplomacy at  
Istanbul Bilgi University.



**Claudia Curiel  
de Icaza,**  
Secretary of Culture of the  
Government of Mexico City.  
Programmer, producer  
and cultural manager with  
15 years of experience  
in the public, private and  
independent sectors.



**Francisco d'Almeida,**  
Pco-director of "Culture and  
Development", an international  
non-governmental  
organisation for studies and  
action in cultural cooperation  
for the development of the  
cultural sector at the local  
level in the Global South.

## THE WINNERS

The International Jury decided that the winners of the Award (in alphabetical order) were the candidatures of "[Abasto Cultural neighbourhood: Economic boost and urban regeneration](#)", submitted by the Autonomous City of **Buenos Aires** (Argentina), and "['AWE' - Cultural engagement through accessibility, wellbeing and evidence](#)", submitted by the city of **Dublin** (Ireland). In the Individual category, the Jury awarded Dr. **Lourdes Arizpe** and Dr. **Daisy Fancourt**.



CATEGORY  
CITY/LOCAL  
OR REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT



WINNER

**BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA**

**ABASTO CULTURAL  
NEIGHBOURHOOD:  
ECONOMIC BOOST AND URBAN  
REGENERATION OF BUENOS  
AIRES**

The project "Abasto cultural neighbourhood: economic boost and urban regeneration" is a comprehensive urban regeneration project based on the transformation of public space, promoted by the Ministry of Culture of the City of Buenos Aires since 2019. It draws on a model of participatory governance of culture that effectively promotes the collective creation of identity and social integration, enhancing the activity of the independent cultural spaces that distinguish the Abasto neighbourhood. The project has invested in infrastructure, leading to sound improvements in the public space such as increasing pedestrian accessibility and enhancing the quality of life of neighbours. It has also promoted the cocreation with the communities, allowing the implementation of a participatory governance model in which public space is understood as a stage and platform for cultural activities, and it has relied on the value of local cultural industries, boosting the reflection and shared construction of the tangible and intangible identity features of the communities as driving forces for social integration. The Jury highlights the impacts achieved by the project, including a better articulation among the cultural actors of the neighbourhood and their relationship with public spaces, the contribution to the reduction of inequalities within the community and the enhancement of the diversity of local cultural expressions.

See the good practice of Buenos Aires:

<https://www.obs.agenda21culture.net/en/good-practices/abasto-cultural-quarter>



CATEGORY  
CITY/LOCAL  
OR REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT



WINNER  
**DUBLIN**  
IRELAND

'AWE': CULTURAL  
ENGAGEMENT THROUGH  
ACCESSIBILITY, WELLBEING  
AND EVIDENCE

"'AWE' - Cultural Engagement through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence" was initiated by Dublin City Council Culture Company in April 2020 as a sustainable response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. 'AWE' was envisioned as a strategy to protect and promote the cultural rights of Dublin's citizens, and to actively engage with them and respond culturally to their needs, through 3 main strands: (a) Accessibility, (b) Wellbeing and (c) Evidence. The Jury commends the innovative and resolute work of the Culture Company, established in 2018 with the mission to engage with people and communities through conversation and culture, increasing cultural participation and practice throughout the city's neighbourhoods, continued their engagement work with community groups, youth leaders, artists, civil society, partners from the local authority, residential care homes, businesses and national cultural institutions. Through listening, responsive actions to improve accessibility, inclusion and create more ways into culture during the pandemic were created. 'AWE' has actively demonstrated the success, transferability and adaptability of an original methodology that not only ensured the cultural rights of citizens during the pandemic and beyond, but also undertook extensive research that could be considered as a benchmark for other cities.

See the good practice of Dublin:

<https://www.obs.agenda21culture.net/en/good-practices/awe-cultural-engagement-through-accessibility-wellbeing-and-evidence>

**SPECIAL MENTIONS**

CATEGORY CITY/LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

 <b>BANDUNG</b> INDONESIA	 <b>BUSAN</b> REPUBLIC OF KOREA	 <b>IZMIR</b> TURKEY
 <b>JINJU</b> REPUBLIC OF KOREA	 <b>OUAGADOUGOU</b> BURKINA FASO	 <b>TEVRAGH ZEINA</b> MAURITANIA

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

1. **Bandung** (West Java, Indonesia), for the project "Hutan Menyala (Glowing Forest)", which has set the forest Hutan Mayala, one of the greater cultural and natural assets of Bandung, as an innovative post-pandemic destination in the form of an audio-visual experience. The project allows the protection and promotion of the forest, mixing advanced digital technology and traditional cultural elements.
2. **Busan** (Republic of Korea), for "Busan Galmaetgil, a cultural value promotion project manifested through urban trails". This project enhances public health and cultural enjoyment through convenient and clean urban trails, showcasing cultural content, local traditions and history as well as its relationship with nature, and offering activities to promote sustainable tourism and respond to the climate emergency, among others.
3. **Izmir** (Turkey), for "Izmir's Project on Boosting Up Culture as Key for Resilience and Development". This project shows that political will can bring culture to the forefront in policies, plans and practices. Through a comprehensive and innovative policy, "Crisis Municipalism", Izmir offers new models for public service delivery with culture as one of its main pillars, providing access to culture, encouraging participation and triggering solidarity.
4. **Jinju** (Republic of Korea), for "The Art Delivery Project". Since 2019, this project has helped narrowing the gap in the enjoyment of cultural rights between urban and rural areas and enhancing participation of the underprivileged, marrying the traditional folk arts of Jinju with modern arts, and engaging local cultural actors in the framework of events such as the Jinju World Folk Arts Biennale.
5. **Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso), for the project "Cultural Development of Greater Ouaga, City of Wellbeing and Social Cohesion". This project has contributed significantly to the balanced cultural development of Greater Ouaga and the wellbeing of its inhabitants, mainly made up of young people under 25 (60%), reducing the geographical inequalities of access to art and culture by providing adequate cultural infrastructure and educational activities for all.
6. **Tevragh Zeina** (Nouakchott, Mauritania), for the project "HEYA Nouakchott: Tevragh Zeina, Creative City". This project has enabled the construction of a solid cultural policy for the city, centred on sustainable development. HEYA Nouakchott has also contributed to the professionalisation of the cultural sector and the improvement of working conditions for cultural actors and artists during the pandemic and beyond.



CATEGORY  
INDIVIDUAL



WINNER

**LOURDES  
ARIZPE**

**Dr Lourdes Arizpe** was appointed Secretary General and member of the United Nations Commission on Culture and Development at the same time that she was managing cultural projects in many countries of the world as UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Culture. As a consultant for UNESCO, she participated to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as well as to the Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Elected President of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), she was Chairman of the Governing Board of the UNRISD: United Nations Centre for Social Development Studies in Geneva. She also served on the Governing Board of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Dr Arizpe holds a PhD in social anthropology from the London School of Economics, and was Director of the Institute of Anthropological Research. She also was researcher at the Regional Centre for Multi-disciplinary Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, as well as Secretary of the Mexican Academy of Science. She also directed the National Museum of Popular Cultures of Mexico. She has received awards and distinctions from Mexican, European and Asian universities. Among her most recent publications: "Cultura, Transacciones Internacionales y el Antropoceno" (CRIM-UNAM, M. A. Porrúa, 2019) - also published in English by Springer-MacMillan, "Renovación y futuro del patrimonio cultural inmaterial en México" (CRIM-UNAM, 2017) and "Lourdes Arizpe: a Pioneer in Mexican Anthropology" (Springer Verlag, 2014).

See an article written by Dr. Lourdes Arizpe:

[https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward\\_uclg\\_cdmx\\_c21\\_article\\_lourdes\\_arizpe\\_en.pdf](https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward_uclg_cdmx_c21_article_lourdes_arizpe_en.pdf)

See the biography of Dr. Lourdes Arizpe:

[https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward\\_uclg\\_cdmx\\_c21\\_bio\\_lourdes\\_arizpe\\_en.pdf](https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward_uclg_cdmx_c21_bio_lourdes_arizpe_en.pdf)



CATEGORY  
INDIVIDUAL



WINNER

**DAISY  
FANCOURT**

The work of **Dr Daisy Fancourt** has decisively contributed to prove the benefits of cultural activities for people's health. She is Associate Professor of Psychobiology & Epidemiology and Head of the Social Biobehavioural Research Group at University College London. She studied at Oxford University and King's College London before completing her PhD in psychoneuroimmunology at University College London. Her research focuses on the effects of social factors on health, including social deficits (e.g. loneliness and social isolation) and sociocultural assets (e.g. community engagement, arts & cultural activities, and social prescribing). Dr Daisy Fancourt is also the Director of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Arts and Health ([www.artshealthcc.org](http://www.artshealthcc.org)) as well as a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on cultural and behavioural insights on health.

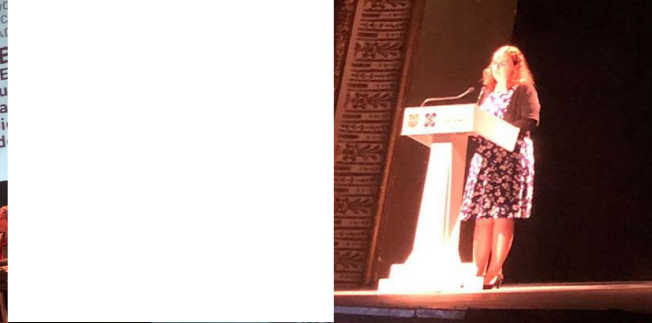
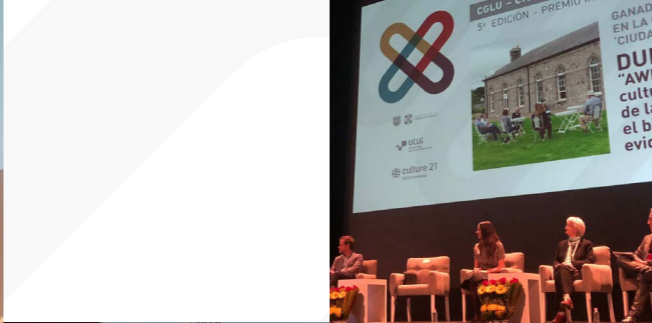
The report "[What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review](#)", based on the review of over 3000 studies was worldwide disseminated and acclaimed. The report and subsequent theoretical work from Dr Fancourt have shown that arts and culture combine many different components ('active ingredients') that are beneficial to health, for example involving the imagination, sensory activation, cognitive stimulation and social interaction. In further work published in the Lancet Psychiatry, Dr Fancourt has then shown that these components can prompt over 600 different psychological, physiological, social and behavioural mechanisms which are linked-in with the prevention, management and treatment of a range of different health conditions. Through Dr Fancourt's publications, the beneficial impact of cultural activities has a renewed scientific evidence base. The promoting of artistic and cultural engagement at the individual, local and national levels is becoming essential in public policies for sustainable development.

See an article written by Dr. Daisy Fancourt:

[https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward\\_uclg\\_cdmx\\_c21\\_article\\_daisy\\_fancourt\\_en.pdf](https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward_uclg_cdmx_c21_article_daisy_fancourt_en.pdf)

See the biography of Dr. Daisy Fancourt:

[https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward\\_uclg\\_cdmx\\_c21\\_bio\\_daisy\\_fancourt\\_en.pdf](https://www.agenda21culture.net/sites/default/files/files/documents/minidocuments/internationaaward_uclg_cdmx_c21_bio_daisy_fancourt_en.pdf)

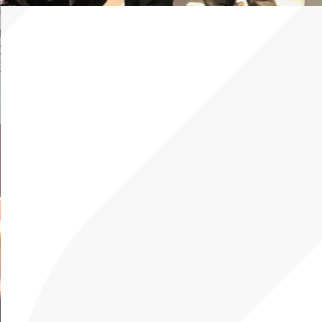
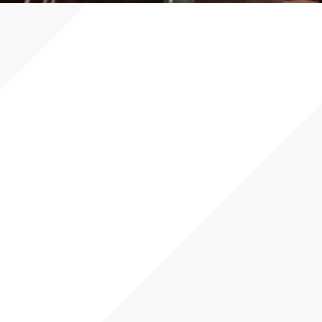
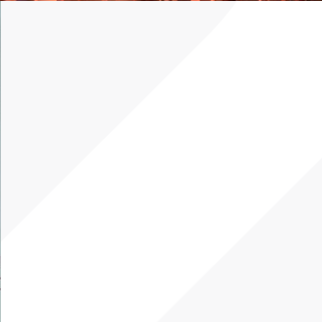


## THE AWARD CEREMONY IN MEXICO CITY

On 27 September 2022, the grand Teatro de la Ciudad “Esperanza Iris” in Mexico City set the stage for the prestigious 5th edition of the UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 Award. This illustrious event celebrated the unwavering dedication of cities and individuals to championing cultural rights and fostering sustainable development, shining a spotlight on visionary efforts that redefine the cultural landscape.

In the “City / Local or Regional Government” category, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was awarded for its programme “Abasto Barrio Cultural: economic impulse and urban regeneration,” with a speech by the Minister of Culture of Buenos Aires, Enrique Avogadro. Dublin, Ireland, received recognition for its programme “AWE: Cultural Engagement through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence,” with remarks from Deputy Mayor Vincent Jackson and Director Anthony Flynn. In the “Personality” category, Dr. Lourdes Arizpe and Dr. Daisy Fancourt were honoured for their contributions, both delivering inspiring messages.

Key speakers included Claudia Stella Curiel de Icaza, Secretary of Culture of Mexico City; Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Culture; Jordi Martí, Councillor for Culture, Education, Science, and Community of Barcelona City Council; Catalina Valencia, Secretary of Culture, Recreation and Sports of Bogotá; and Iñaki López de Aguilera, Director of Culture of Bilbao. The ceremony concluded with reflections on cultural rights, featuring these representatives along with Dr. Alexandra Xanthaki, UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights. The evening concluded with a musical performance by KlezmerSon.



# The Summit

## Dublin 2023

### Culture. Future. Goal.

The fifth UCLG Culture Summit was held in Dublin (Republic of Ireland) from 28 November to 1 December 2023, hosted by Dublin City Council and Dublin City Council Culture Company. The Summit has witnessed hundreds of great projects, programmes and policies developed by local and regional governments, and their associations, all around the world. They are already unfolding the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity approved in Daejeon in October 2022, and they are local incarnations and examples for the global commitments that the UN will discuss in the Summit of the Future (September 2024). This Summit is gathered voices from the all corners of the world to envision the future we want. Voices that shape the future.

The Summit evidenced the Power of We, the Power of Local Voices: this is why the 5th UCLG Culture Summit was named "Culture. Future. Goal. We Act to Bring Local Visions to Global Tables".

The Summit recognised the outstanding work of Dublin on the relationship between culture, sustainable development, trust and caring societies. Dublin is implementing a pioneering model of connecting people with culture through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence, putting the people of Dublin at the centre of cultural policy. Dublin has been the perfect place to host the 5th UCLG Culture Summit in 2023: sustainable development will only happen in cities and territories if we listen to people, consider their vision and experience and connect with their needs and aspirations.

The Summit covered many areas through a strong cultural lens. The Summit has been a place of learning and has built new capacities, to improve local action and to boost international connectivity in several areas:

- Culture, Climate and Eco Transitions: the need to connect the climate emergency with cultural policies.
- Keys to Gender Equality in Cultural Policies: the promotion of the fundamental role that gender equality has begun to play in cultural policies.
- Culture, Health and Wellbeing: new cultural programmes that implement the scientific evidence of the correlation between wellbeing, good health and active cultural practice.



# DUBLIN 2023

## Culture. Future. Goal.

- Public Spaces and Communities: the importance of the cultural use of public space and the engagement of communities.
- Tourism and Cultural Sustainability: the balance between people's ownership of local culture while it has also become one of the main sources of attractiveness of a territory.
- Localizing the SDGs with culture: the examples of cities that have held the UCLG "Seven Keys" workshop.
- Heritage for Today and Tomorrow: the testament to human creativity, as well as a resource for the construction of the identities of people and communities.
- Measuring the Impacts of Cultural Policies: the contribution of research to improve the capacities of local governments.
- Capitals of Culture, Working Together: the emerging collaboration among the various Capital of Culture initiatives around the world, in Europe, Africa and the Americas.

**The two main outcomes of the Summit were the following:**

- i) The new global toolkit "Culture 21 Plus", on Cultural Rights and Sustainable Development, based on the analysis of needs and challenges of cities on the implementation of cultural rights. This guide will be tested by cities around the world in 2023 and 2024, with a view to its adoption in 2025.
- ii) The unanimous claim for a dedicated Culture Goal in the UN post-2030 Agenda. Based on the proposal of the #Culture2030goal campaign, the Summit discussed the contents of the Goal and possible Targets, as well as the next steps needed to convince all stakeholders that are not yet aware or still hesitate. This is well reflected in the final statement of the Summit.

The 5th UCLG Culture Summit successfully came to an end with the release of the "**Culture. Future. Goal**" **Dublin Statement**. Having won the UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 Award in 2022, Dublin proved to be the ideal host for the Summit in 2023, reflecting its strong commitment to culture as a cornerstone of sustainable development. The city exemplifies how sustainable development can thrive by listening to people, valuing their visions and experiences, and addressing their needs and aspirations. Dublin's cultural policies, anchored in Accessibility, Wellbeing, and Evidence, place its citizens at the heart of decision-making, offering a model of inspiration for cities worldwide. The Summit celebrated Dublin's leadership in connecting culture with sustainable urban development and highlighted its role in shaping a future centered on inclusivity and shared responsibility.

The [full report](#) of the 5th UCLG Culture Summit is available online.



**“Global challenges can only be addressed by dealing with local challenges, and we, local and regional governments, are the holders of this change”.**



**Dublin is culture Development will only be sustainable if it is linked to culture, to our citizens and present in all our actions.**

**Culture has an important role to play in bridging the gap to bring societies closer together. We add our voice in solidarity for the campaign for a Cultural Goal.**

**It will give full coherence to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

**Daithí de Róiste,**  
Lord Mayor of Dublin



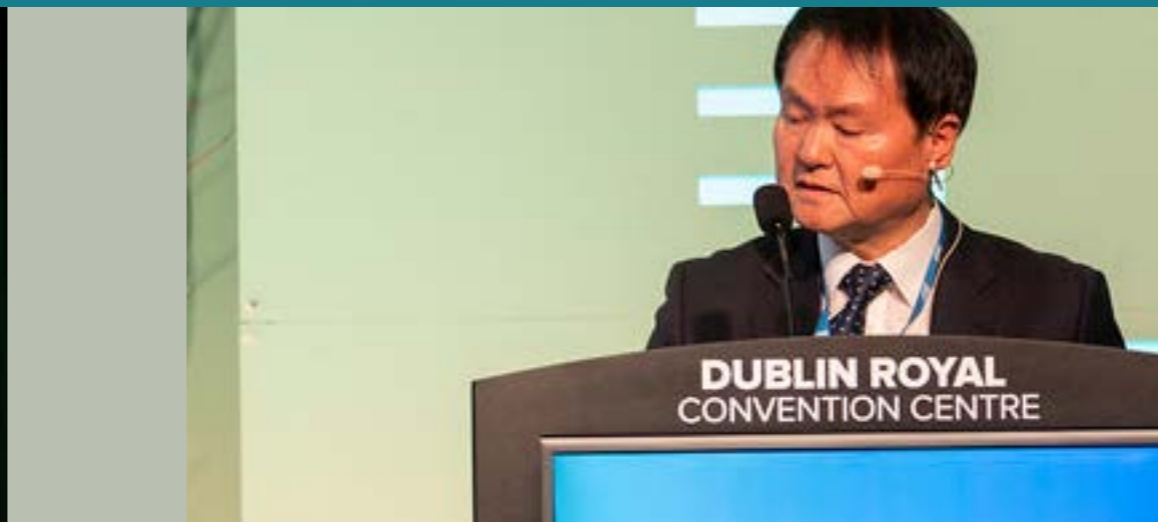
**Iseult Dunne, CEO,**  
**and Tracy Geraghty,**  
Director of Strategic Development  
and Research, Dublin City Council  
Culture Company



The Pact for the Future offers some solid guidance on how to put peoples' values into local culture.

Local and Regional Governments need to shout their positive practices, engage with national governments, go beyond the national framework and come to the international level and tell us about your successes and challenges.

**Alexandra Xanthaki,**  
UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights



Jeju has been active in the UCLG Culture Committee to promote exchanges and create a global culture network through active cooperation and solidarity

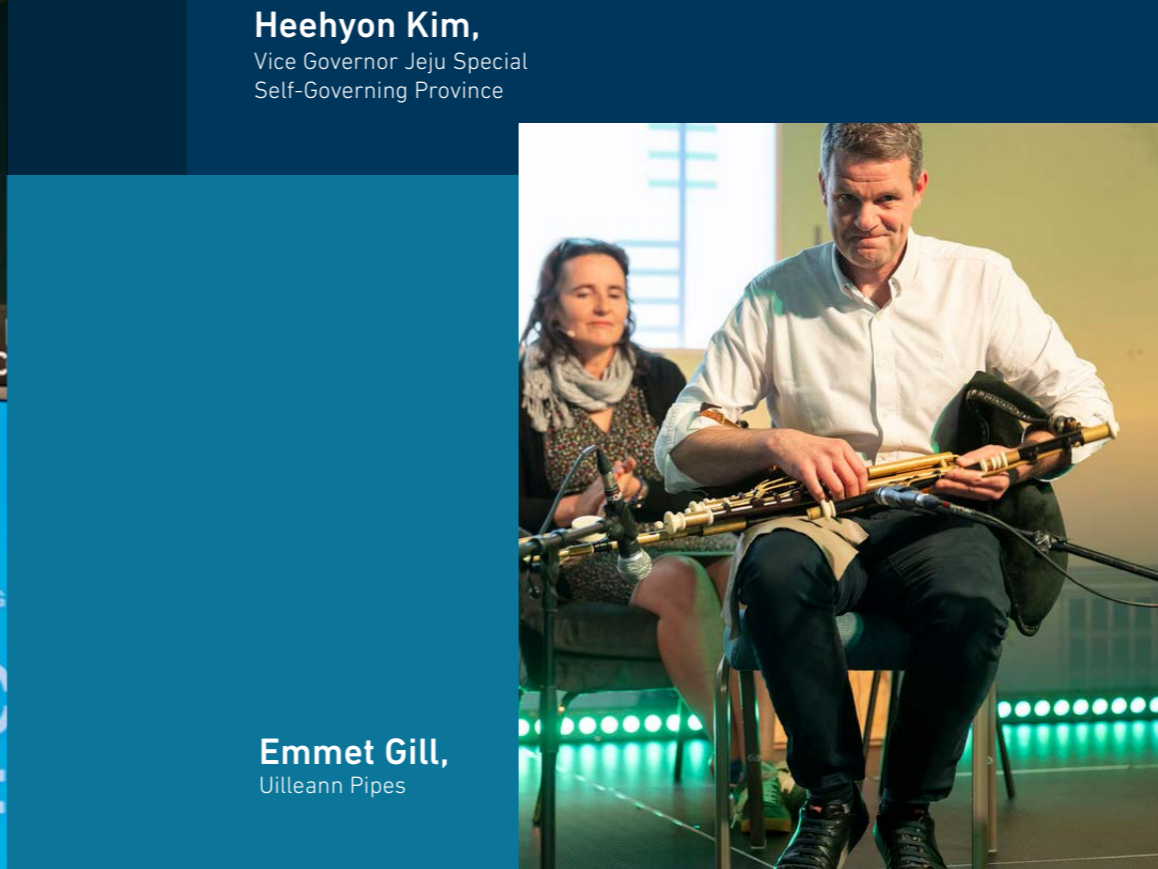
Jeju has been pursuing global cultural policies to create a global cultural community, with for instance the Global Young Creatives Residency, a workshop to boost the capacity of ASPAC region on sustainability.

**Heehyon Kim,**  
Vice Governor Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

It is an ambitious agenda that we came here to develop.

That will have to go beyond cultural policies. The new essentials of local public service provision, that will be the building block of the new social contract that we call the Pact for the Future.

**Emilia Saiz,**  
UCLG Secretary General



**Emmet Gill,**  
Uilleann Pipes

# UCLG 7TH WORLD CONGRESS AND SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS IN DAEJEON



From October 10 to 14, 2022, the city of Daejeon, Republic of Korea, hosted the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Congress and World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders. This significant gathering provided a platform for local and regional governments to deliberate on pressing global issues, with culture taking center stage in various discussions.

The Daejeon Congress reaffirmed culture's integral role in sustainable urban development, fostering inclusive and resilient communities worldwide. The UCLG Committee on Culture played an active role, organizing several key sessions:

- **Memorandum of Understanding Signing:** formalising a partnership between UCLG and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), underscoring the pivotal role of libraries in cultural development.
- **Town Hall Session "Culture and Climate":** exploring the intersection of cultural policies and climate action, and emphasising the need for culturally informed approaches to environmental challenges.
- **Local4Action Session "The Future of Cultural Rights:** Shaping New Sustainable Development": discussing the evolution of cultural rights and their integration into sustainable development frameworks.
- **Networking Session "Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals":** highlighting the importance of embedding culture within the Sustainable Development Goals, and advocating for its recognition as a fundamental component of development.



Additionally, the Congress featured the Learning Forum, where the Committee presented its latest Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on Culture and Gender, and Culture and Climate in the UCLG Marketplace.

A notable highlight was the announcement of the host city for the next UCLG Culture Summit, scheduled for 2023, reflecting the ongoing commitment to advancing cultural dialogues globally.



# THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE: FOR THE PEOPLE, THE PLANET AND THE GOVERNMENT

Adopted at the 7th UCLG World Congress in Daejeon in 2022, the Pact for the Future of Humanity is

a political declaration by local and regional governments worldwide, setting a transformative vision in response to today's most pressing challenges. Framed around three interdependent pillars—People, Planet and Government—the Pact calls for bold local action to address inequalities, environmental degradation, and renew democracy.

The document acknowledges that the COVID-19 crisis revealed deep systemic vulnerabilities, and in the face of compounding global emergencies—climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, rising xenophobia, and exclusion—the Pact asserts the need to redefine governance models and societal values. It sees this as a defining moment, not merely of change, but of a change of era.

At its heart, the Pact champions a feminist and caring world grounded in solidarity, equality, and cultural rights. It recognises culture as essential to building peaceful and inclusive communities and addresses the cultural divides that threaten cohesion. The right to participate freely and fully in cultural life is affirmed as a fundamental human right.

The Pact is not only a declaration of principles—it is a roadmap. It aims to shape a future rooted in care, equality, and resilience, supported by informed and empowered communities. UCLG members commit to leading by example, embracing systemic transformation, and working collaboratively to secure a just, green and peaceful future for all.



# UNESCO MONDIACULT +40 CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY.

The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable

Development – MONDIACULT 2022 was convened by UNESCO forty years after the first MONDIACULT to act for culture as a global public good. Hosted by the Government of Mexico, Mondiacult 2022 gathered 150 delegations from UNESCO Member States, 135 of which were led by their Ministers of Culture. The first World Conference of this kind was also held in Mexico City in 1982. Its results constituted a milestone and a historic benchmark in the evolution of cultural ideology and its link to sustainable development.

The United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) played an active role at Mondiacult 2022, reaffirming the importance of culture in sustainable development. The event provided a space to advocate for a stand-alone Culture Goal within the UN's 2030 Agenda, highlighting culture as an essential pillar for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UCLG actively contributed to two significant side events. The first was titled “From Policy to Practice: The Role of Culture in the 2030 Agenda and Beyond”, organised by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Arterial Network, CAE, ICOMOS, IFCCD, IFLA, IMC and the UCLG Culture Committee. This event featured the launch of a [Zero-draft of a Culture Goal](#) and the #CultureForSDGs Toolkit, both crucial in bridging cultural policies with actionable strategies. The necessity of a Culture Goal for post-2030 sustainable development agendas was recognised and included in the Mondiacult final declaration.

The second side-event, “The Role of Cities and Local Governments in the Future of Cultural Policies”, coorganised by the UCLG Culture Committee and WCCF, emphasised the key contributions of local governments in integrating culture into sustainable development frameworks.

As reflected in the [Final Declaration](#), Mondiacult 2022 underscored the increasing recognition of culture as a cornerstone for building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. The Final Declaration explicitly mentions the need for the UN to progress towards a stand-alone Culture Goal in the post-2030 Agenda, and refers to culture as a “global public good”; it also mentions the need that national cultural policies are aligned with cultural rights.

The UCLG Culture Committee played an active role in fostering dialogue, bringing together diverse voices to explore how cultural policies can effectively support sustainable development. By engaging with global stakeholders, the Committee reaffirmed the essential contribution of local and regional governments in shaping cultural frameworks that respond to contemporary challenges and opportunities.



## SIDE-EVENTS

The Committee on Culture of UCLG had an active role in Mondiacult 2022, the [UNESCO Global Conference on Cultural Policies](#) organised in Mexico City from 28 to 30 September 2022, forty years after the first conference of this kind.

In particular, the UCLG Committee on Culture successfully coorganised the following side-events:

- Side-event “Scale Matters: Cities upfront for Cultural Rights”, 28 September 2022. Organised by the UCLG Committee on Culture and the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- Side-event “From Policy to Practice: The Role of Culture in the 2030 Agenda and Beyond”, 28 September 2022 Organised by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the University of Toronto, Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe, ICOMOS, IFCCD, IFLA, IMC and the UCLG Committee on Culture.
- Side-event “From Policy to Practice. The Role of Culture in the 2030 Agenda and Beyond”, 27 September 2022. Organised by the #Culture2030Goal Campaign. The Campaign presented a zero-draft for a proposal of an explicit Goal dedicated on Culture in the future agendas and framework for sustainable development.

# THE #CULTURE2030GOAL CAMPAIGN: A CULTURE GOAL PROPOSAL

Culture remains structurally absent from the Sustainable

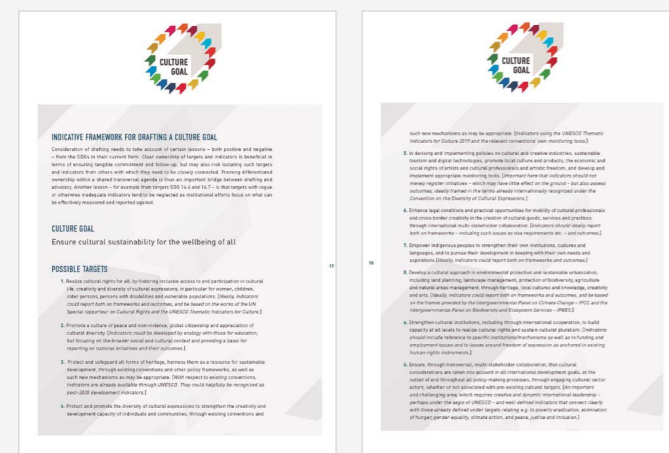
Development Goals (SDGs), despite its fundamental role in shaping sustainable societies. While the UN 2030 Agenda acknowledges culture's importance, it lacks explicit commitments, limiting its integration into global policies.

To address this gap, the #Culture2030Goal campaign—formed by [Arterial Network](#), [CAE – Culture Action Europe](#), [ICOMOS – International Council on Monuments and Sites](#), [IFCCD – International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity](#), [IFLA – International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](#), [IMC – International Music Council](#) and [UCLG \(United Cities and Local Governments\) Culture Committee – Agenda 21 for Culture](#)—published a [Zero draft Culture Goal Proposal](#), launched in [Mondiacult 2022](#). It is a key milestone based on expert input and global stakeholder surveys. The proposal addresses the current absence of culture in the SDGs and seeks to place it at the core of future development frameworks. Its overarching objective is: “to ensure cultural sustainability for the wellbeing of all.”

The draft outlines ten **potential targets**, including safeguarding cultural rights, promoting peace, preserving heritage, empowering indigenous peoples, and integrating culture into environmental and urban policies.

By embedding culture in the **post-2030 agenda**, we could foster inclusive communities, strengthen social cohesion, enhance environmental stewardship through cultural knowledge, and bridge systemic barriers in development. Recognising culture as a **fourth pillar of sustainability** would activate synergies across education, climate action, urban planning, and economic resilience, ensuring

a more integrated and effective approach to global challenges.



## ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

### UN HLPF 2022 side-event by the #Culture2030goal campaign: From Local Practice to Global Principles.

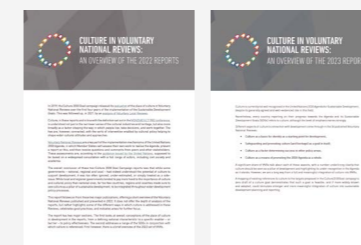
At the 2022 United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the #Culture2030Goal campaign hosted a side event titled “From Local Practice to Global Principles.” This session showcased how cultural actors and institutions are being integrated into local development strategies, offering valuable insights for achieving sustainable development by 2030 and beyond. The report by the campaign on culture in Voluntary Local Reviews was presented, highlighting that local and regional governments often surpass national counterparts in their work with culture. Also, participants reiterated the importance of the meaningful inclusion of cultural actors not just in the implementation but also the planning of policies, of visionary leadership and of a readiness to plan for the long term.



## REPORTS ON CULTURE IN THE VLRS

In 2022-2023, the Campaign widely disseminated the report the “[Culture in the Localization of the SDGs: An Analysis of the Voluntary Local Reviews \(VLRs\)](#)” (December 2021), including the main findings of the

analysis, which shows that there is great diversity of how local and regional governments (LRGs) address culture in their sustainable development policies and reporting. A good majority of VLRs have included the cultural dimension in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through substantive narratives. Cultural topics can be found at any level, as part of high-level policy frameworks and as practical examples of implementation, as separate sectoral headings, where LRGs have dedicated ‘cultural plans’, or supporting aspects of other policy headings, diffused throughout different Goals and Targets.



The Campaign also produced two more pieces on the analysis of VLRs: “[Culture in the Voluntary National Reports: an Overview of the 2022 Reports](#)” and “[Culture in the Voluntary National Reports: an Overview of the 2023 Reports](#)”, coordinated by IFLA and which highlights some of the different ways in which culture is addressed in these Reviews, celebrates good practices, and indicates areas for further focus.

## STATEMENTS

In 2023, As a follow-up of Mondiacult 2022, and as a vehicle to push for cultural rights and the Culture Goal, the campaign published the Statement [“Commitment to an explicit Culture Goal in Mondiacult Declaration welcome: Now is the Time to Deliver”](#) and organised a webinar as the launch on 1 February 2023.

Before the SDG Summit, and considering that the initial drafts (April and May 2023) overlooked the important role that culture plays in the delivery of the SDGs, the campaign advocated for the presence of culture in its final Statement, especially with the publication of [“The Missing Link: Still time to Correct the Failure of the SDG Summit Declaration to Mention Culture”](#), launched on 7 June 2023.

After the [SDG Summit](#), the campaign celebrated the existence of a paragraph devoted to culture in the Policy Declaration of the SDG Summit (“We reaffirm the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels”), and published the Statement [“Culture 2030 Goal Campaign Applauds Growing Government Recognition of the Role of Culture in Development”](#), published on 24 October 2023.



## CULTURE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS: SYNERGIES AND TRADE-OFFS

**Evidencing the potential of culture: An analysis of the interactions between culture and the SDGs**

In 2023, the Committee on Culture took a step further in the exploration of the role of culture in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Committee elaborated an analysis of the interaction between culture and the SDGs, with the objective to obtain an exhaustive understanding of the contribution of cultural policies, programmes and actions to other dimensions of sustainable development, and to capture the results in a simple picture. The analysis included both positive (synergies) and negative (trade-offs) aspects of cultural policies, programmes and actions and their relationship to each SDG. Thus, it provided a holistic overview of the role of culture in sustainable development, not just the positive interactions; in other words, the analysis also included areas in which cultural actors need to be challenged in order to achieve the SDGs.

To begin its analysis work, the UCLG Committee on Culture first collected statements that illustrate real (existing) interactions (synergies and trade-offs) between cultural policies, programmes and actions and the achievement of the SDGs. This process was informed by an in-depth literature review to gather the statements, as well as by further discussions among experts in the field. Statements, as discussed above, are short sentences that represent the impact of cultural policies, programmes and actions (explicit or implicit) on the achievement of the SDGs. Efforts were made to ensure that all statements are unique and unequivocal.







A total of 147 statements were collected and synthesized. These were subsequently divided and linked to the SDG to which they primarily referred. Finally, an analysis was conducted using the framework developed by the International Council for Science and Nilsson et al. to classify the interactions between culture and the SDGs through a seven-point ordinal scale.<sup>44</sup> The values of the scale range from -3 to +3 to indicate the extent to which the relationship is negative or positive (see Table 3.4.1). The evaluation was based on expert judgement and supported by the literature review.

Interaction scoring	
Score	Categories
+ 3	Indivisible
+ 2	Reinforcing
+ 1	Enabling
- 1	Constraining
- 2	Counteracting
- 3	Cancelling

The figure synthesizes the research findings. It showcases the synergies and trade-offs of cultural policies, programmes and actions within each SDG, evidenced by each of the 147 statements that were included in the exercise. The graphic displays the statements layered over each other at different heights.

Finally, the total number of statements assigned to each SDG was counted, along with the highly positive and negative scores for each SDG. The results show, not surprisingly, that SDG 11 is the goal with the strongest interaction with culture. On the one hand, positive interactions include the role of culture and heritage as enablers and key conditions of sustainable development and the uniqueness of each city, the relevance of cultural landscapes to enhance the relationship between humans and nature, and the importance of cultural plans to revitalize neighbourhoods and promote decentralization. On the other hand, negative interactions include the need for both the cultural sector and cultural policies to better address issues related to gentrification and the resulting loss of identity in cities and territories, as well as the environmental impact of mobility for cultural purposes.

This research will be continued in the second half of 2023 and the first half of 2024, with the hypothesis that the best way to fully integrate culture into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is through the creation of a stand-alone Culture Goal (SDG 18).

## THE REPORT

The analysis of the interactions between culture and the SDGs was part of the report “[A Cultural Boost in the implementation of the SDGs](#)”. The report was launched in the frame of the HLPF, in July 2023, and was included as “Paper 4” of the [annual report](#) of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to the UN High-Level Political Level 2023.

The GTF annual report focuses on providing the most comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the state of SDG localization worldwide. On that occasion, it placed particular emphasis on how LRGs are contributing to the achievement of SDG 11 and, through it, to the SDGs under review and all other SDGs in the 2030 Agenda. To do so, the report provided an analysis of elements that are key to enabling localization for the 39 countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2023, together with an overview of innovative and bold local actions by LRGs in territories across the world.

In this context, the report “A Cultural Boost in the implementation of the SDGs” produced by the UCLG Committee on Culture is a push for SDG progress, and summarizes the cultural boost needed to achieve the SDGs between now and 2030. It combines a focus on cultural heritage, as formulated in target 11.4, and the broader scope of culture and its relation to the achievement of the SDGs, with an analysis of key challenges and illustrative examples addressing this relation. Its final section uses the “analysis of the interaction” technique to show in synthesis and eloquently how strongly cultural actions and policies influence the achievement of the SDGs.



# THE OBS OF GOOD PRACTICES

## INTRODUCTION

Since its creation in 2004, the UCLG Committee on Culture has accumulated more than 15 years of practices and specific experiences. The Secretariat of the Committee

has worked on capitalising these experiences through the creation of a database, among other things, which is now better known as the "OBS", a database of "good practices" on culture and local sustainable development. The projects presented on this platform are indexed according to different parameters and selected on the basis of a set of criteria.

### The indexation tool

The database relates to 3 different kinds of indexation parameters which also serve as searching tags:

- **SDGs:** all good practices are indexed according to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **CULTURE 21 ACTIONS:** all good practices are indexed according to the 9 commitments (or "themes") of Culture 21 Actions.
- **KEYWORDS:** all good practices are indexed according to a list of +100 keywords, addressing all areas of culture, cultural policies and sustainable cities.

### The criteria of selection

The identification and selection of good practices builds on an evaluation process based on the following six criteria: innovation, participation, sustainability, efficiency, transversality and reproducibility.

## THE GOOD PRACTICES

Throughout 2022 and 2023, a total of 80 new good practices were integrated to the recently created OBS database, built on a good practices collection which originally included 287 case studies, bringing the total number of practices to 367 at the end of 2023.

The new good practices come from all regions across the world. All of them were previously candidacies to the 5th edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21, and were labelled in 2 categories: "Innovative sparks" and "Planning with care":

## INNOVATIVE SPARKS



**1. Adelaide:**  
Gender Equality  
Project EQ - Equaliser



**2. Agadir:**  
Public Reading  
Network



**3. Amman:**  
Women Creative Hub



**4. Ataçehir:**  
E-Culture centre



**5. Bandung:**  
Hutan Menyala  
(Glowing Forest)



**6. Buenos Aires:**  
Abasto Cultural  
Neighbourhood



**7. Busan:**  
Busan Galmaetgil



**8. California:**  
Cultural Resources  
Climate Change Task  
Force



**9. Çanakkale:**  
CABININ – Çanakkale  
Biennial Initiative



**10. Dublin:**  
‘AWE’ Cultural Engagement through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence



**11. El Carmen de Viboral:**  
International Theatre Festival ‘El Gesto Noble’



**12. Elefsina:**  
Mysteries of transition



**13. Fatih:**  
Yedikule Fortress Restoration and Culture and Art Space Project



**14. Granollers:**  
The Quiosca



**15. Guanajuato:**  
Digital Art #CultureAtHome



**16. Huechuraba:**  
Huechuraba School of Music



**17. Incheon:**  
Incheon Embracing the World



**18. Jinju:**  
The Art Delivery Project



**19. Krasnoyarsk:**  
In the Centre of MIRA



**20. Kūçükçekmece:**  
“Tale Istanbul” I. and II. International tale festival



**21. Ljubljana:**  
Center Rog Creative Hub



**22. London:**  
ENO Breathe



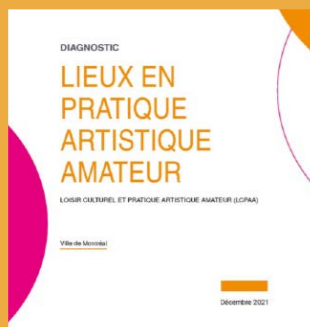
**23. Longueuil:**  
Culture-Health Days



**24. Mar del Plata:**  
Our Landscape, ‘The Value of a Beautiful and Privileged Land’



**25. Melbourne:**  
Flash Forward - Creative Laneways Programme



**26. Montreal:**  
Comparative Study of Innovative Municipal Models in Cultural Leisure



**27. Nilüfer:**  
Read Till Your Height!



**28. Ouagadougou:**  
City of Well-Being and Social Cohesion



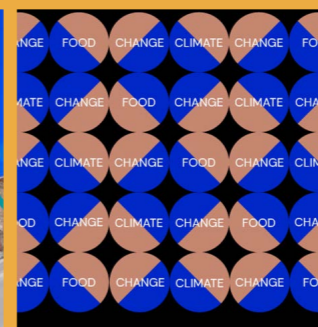
**29. Palmela:**  
«No meu tempo...»



**30. Quilmes:**  
Kakán, the Voice from Quilmes



**31. Ramallah:**  
Building Culture Forward



**32. Rome:**  
The Orchestras of Transformation



**33. Segou:**  
Creative City



**34. Selçuklu:**  
Selçuklu Heals with Culture



**35. Siheung-si:**  
A Non-Contact Community Art Project



**36. Songpa-gu:**  
Where Cultural Art Blooms around Seokchon Lake



**37. Suwon:**  
Lifelong Learning Programme to Secure Rights to Culture for the Disabled



**38. Terrassa:**  
Cultural Rights in the Territory



**39. Tévragh Zeina:**  
HEYA Nouakchott: Creative City



**40. Xi'an:**  
Public Experience of Traditional Local Operas



**41. Yopougon:**  
Educational City for Creative and Innovative Youth

PLANNING WITH CARE



**1. Barcelona:**  
Cultural Rights Plan: 'We Make Culture'



**2. Belo Horizonte:**  
The Cultural Emergency Law



**3. Bogotá:**  
The Programme 'This is Local Culture'



**4. Brasília:**  
Culture Connects



**5. Brussels:**  
Plan to Support the Cultural Actors of Brussels



**6. Büyükçekmece:**  
Büyükçekmece City of Culture and Art



**7. Concepción:**  
Culture Plan / Covid-19 Health Emergency Mode



**8. Cuenca:**  
Economic Reactivation of Cuenca Through Art and Culture



**9. Dakar:**  
Supporting Resilience and Relaunching Post-Covid-19 Cultural Activities (2020 - 2022)



**10. Esch-sur-Alzette:**  
Cultural Governance



**11. Gimhae:**  
Bulgasari Project



**12. Gunsan:**  
Outreaching Community Cultural Café



**13. Havana:**  
Creating and Sharing in Times of Covid-19



**14. Iriga:**  
Masarig na Irigueño (Resiliency and Recovery Program)



**15. Izmir:**  
Project on Boosting up Culture as a key for Resilience and Development



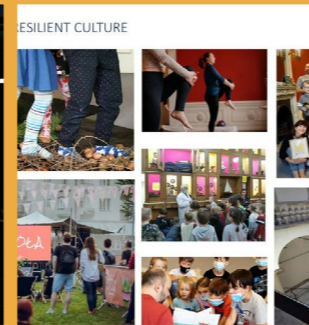
**16. Jeju:**  
Cultural Arts Policy in the Pandemic Era



**17. Konya:**  
Social and cultural activities during pandemic



**18. Košice:**  
Kosice 2.0



**19. Kraków:**  
Kraków Culture: Resilient Culture



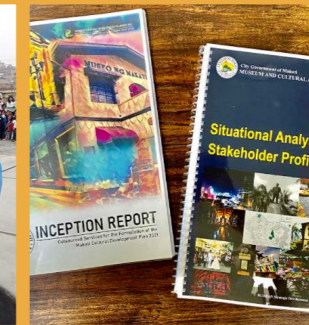
**20. Kütahya:**  
Strengthen the Human Capital of Culture Bearers



**21. Leeds:**  
Return to Cultural Vibrancy



**22. Lima:**  
New Cultural Policy



**23. Makati:**  
Makati Cultural Development Plan 2021-2026



**24. Malmö:**  
Corona-related support for the Independent Culture Sector of Malmö



**25. Mannheim:**  
Kultur in the City – A Cultural Festival in the Middle of the City "Cause" of Corona



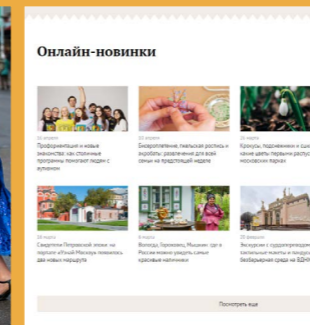
**26. Medellín:**  
Care Practices for the Cultural Sector in Pandemic Times



**27. Mérida:**  
Municipal Programme 'Merida Resilient Culture'



**28. Montevideo:**  
Culture Goes by Neighbourhoods



**29. Moscow:**  
Culture of Moscow. Online



**30. Niterói:**  
Cultural Emergency: Local Policies for Cultural Rights



**31. Peñalolén:**  
Peñalolén Digital Culture Plan



**32. Puerto de la Cruz:**  
Cultural and Creative Ecosystem



**33. San Antonio:**  
Cultural Heritage and Community Engagement during the Pandemic



**34. San Luis Potosí:**  
The Charter and Regulation of Cultural Rights



**35. Santa Fe:**  
Cultural Capital



**36. Trois-Rivières:**  
New Cultural Policy



**37. Vaudreuil-Dorion:**  
Living My Culture Here / Towards a Cultural and Collective Recovery



**38. Wrocław:**  
Wrocław Social Intervention Programme

# SYNERGETIC PARTNERSHIPS

In 2022-2023, the UCLG Committee on Culture has developed new partnerships, while simultaneously strengthening the existing ones, both to build and find new synergies with other international actors and organisations. These partnerships include, among others, those with:

## IFLA

The International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. In order to deepen and strengthen their close cooperation, UCLG and the International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on last 28 November 2023, in the context of the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin.



United Cities  
@uclg\_org

Nov 28, 2023

At the #UCLGCultureSummit @uclg\_org and @IFLAsign an MoU to reinforce cooperation in areas related to cultural and information policies in the framework of the 2030 agenda#Listen2Cities

Link to the tweet: <https://x.com/agenda21culture/status/1597181294496317443?s=20>

## THE CLIMATE HERITAGE NETWORK - CHN

On 24-25 October 2019 the UCLG Committee on Culture supported the launch of the [Climate Heritage Network](#), and since then, they have closely collaborated with the CHN on numerous occasions.

Towards the 2022 United Nations Climate Conference (COP26), on 28 October 2022 the Climate Heritage Network released the [Manifesto Culture At COP27](#) "Imagining and Realising Climate Resilient Futures: The Power of Arts, Culture and Heritage to Accelerate Climate Action", and it was supported by the UCLG Committee on Culture in its elaboration and dissemination processes. Also, in the frame of Culture at COP27, and in close cooperation with the CHN, the UCLG Committee on Culture participated in several activities to advocate for the voice of cultural actors to be heard, and for their role as key players in Climate Action to be recognised at all levels. Culture at COP27 hosted a series of events that aimed to accelerate climate action through arts, culture and heritage.



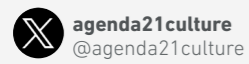
In 2023, ahead of COP 28 and with the support of the UCLG Committee on Culture, the CHN launched the [Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action](#) and creation of the Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action.

In 2022 the Committee on Culture of UCLG also produced a [MOOC on The Role of Culture in the Climate Resilient Development](#), based on the report elaborated in close collaboration with the CHN Working Group 5 in 2021 (see section "Interactive Tools"). This research work has been led by Andrew Potts, coordinator of the Climate Heritage Network, and documents

the initiatives of cities and local or regional governments from all continents on cultural policies, sustainable cities and climate resilient development.



# Synergetic Partnerships



Nov 19, 2022

We are happy to share with you the recent release of our MOOC on Culture and Climate Resilient Development, developed on the basis of the eponymous report coordinated by the @ClimateHeritage Network in 2021!

+Info: <https://agenda21culture.net/news/new-mooc-culture-and-climate-resilient-development>

Link to the tweet: <https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/culture-and-climate>

## CAPITALS OF CULTURE WORKING TOGETHER

In 2023, the UCLG Committee on culture worked with the European Union on the “Capitals of Culture Working Together” programme, which will connect the several initiatives among them, and with the global conversation on culture in sustainable development.

The concept of Capitals of Culture was designed not only to highlight the richness and diversity of cultures from across the world, but also to increase citizens’ sense of belonging to common cultural areas and foster the contribution of culture to the development of cities.

The programme “Capitals of Culture Working Together” will connect regional and continental “Capital of Culture” initiatives, offering spaces for dialogue, cooperation and innovation. Among these initiatives: the European Capital of Culture (organized by the European Union), the Iberoamerican Capital of Cultures (organized by the Union of Iberoamerican Capital Cities), the Mediterranean Capital of Cultures and Dialogue (organized by the Anna Lindh Foundation) and the emerging African Capital of Culture (organized by UCLG-Africa).

Between 2022 and 2026, the programme will:

- Support the organisation of a meeting of Mayors of cities of Africa in Rabat, Pilot Cultural Capital of Africa 2022-2023, bringing specific expertise and experiences from the rest of the world.
- Draft a structured methodology for the “African Capital of Culture”, including selection process and impact measurements tools.
- Engage with a selected number of strategic cities to localise the SDGs with cultural policies, through Seven Keys workshops, online webinars and a Culture Capital – Culture Goal report.
- Support the presence of Culture Capitals leaders in major international “City and Regions” Fora and events.

## GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE RESIDENCIES

The formerly named “Global Youth Culture Forum” (GYCF) took a new form, and was renamed “Global Young Creatives Residencies” (GYCR) for 2021 and the subsequent editions. This initiative, promoted by the Jeju Special Self-Government Province and the Jeju Foundation for Arts and Culture, and supported by the Committee on Culture of UCLG and the Jeju Free International City Development Center (JDC), links culture to the sustainable development of Jeju.



In 2022 and 2023, with the motto “Islands in Flow 2”, and “Rooted, Growing Island” respectively, the GYCR invited young artists to Jeju Island, as an international art exchange project, to engage in creative activities and share inspiration. The results from the residency program were presented through an online platform.



february 19, 2024

On September 25, 2023, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju hosted the 2023 Global Youth Creatives Residency on Jeju.

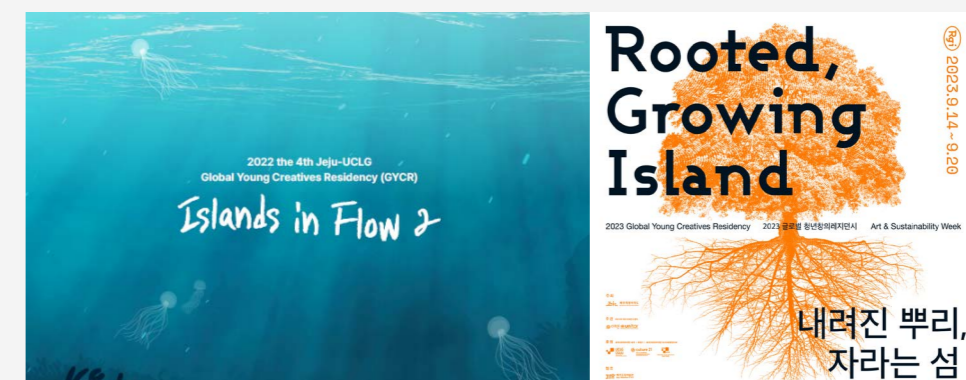
The Global Youth Creatives Residency is an annual international cultural exchange program that brings together young cultural and artistic professionals from various fields worldwide to share creative ideas on “Art” and “Sustainability” and to build practical networks.

This year’s event, the fifth edition, had the theme “Rooted, Growing Island.” It featured programs exploring Jeju’s environmental and traditional roots through trees, inspiring participants to enhance their creativity.

The event also included visiting programs alongside the opening ceremony of the “Jeju: Homo Migratio” special international exhibition at the Jeju Museum of Art. Group activities such as the Geomun Oreum tour and watching performances at ‘The Kitchen of Jeju’ were also part of the itinerary.

If you’re interested in connecting with the network of young creatives, please check out our content now!

Link: [https://www.instagram.com/p/C3hT3RdsfE4/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/p/C3hT3RdsfE4/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)



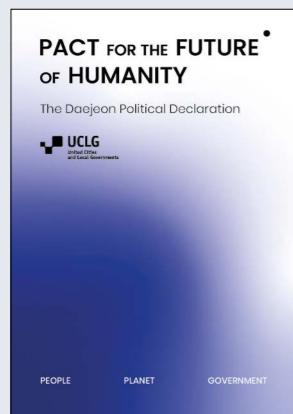
# Synergetic Partnerships

The UCLG Committee on Culture produced a number of documents in 2022-2023, related to the interests and challenges of the members and the constituency, including:



**Culture2030Goal Campaign (2022), “A Culture Goal is Essential for our Common Future”**

The #Culture2030Goal campaign, as major global cultural networks working together, has elaborated a zero-draft of a future Culture Goal. Based on expert inputs and a survey of actors across the field, the draft Goal should allow for a new focus in efforts to ensure that culture takes its place at the heart of development planning.

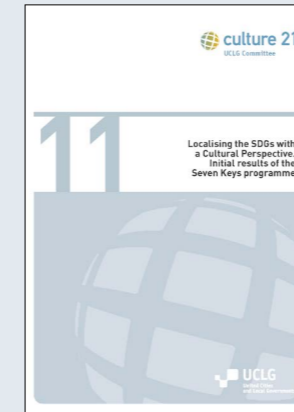


**United Cities and Local Governments (2022), “Pact for the Future of Humanity, the Daejeon Political Declaration”, October 2022.**

Local and regional governments and their associations from around the world gathered at the 7th UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, adopted the Pact for the Future of Humanity. Through this Pact UCLG members and the organized constituency of local and regional governments restate their commitment to the power of collective action, empowerment, shared ownership, cocreation, and international cooperation and solidarity: the very cornerstones of harmonious and sustainable societies.

 **United Cities**  
@uclg\_org

Oct 19, 2022  
The Pact for the Future has been adopted!  
A key outcome document of the 2022 #UCLGCongress that defines the Strategic Priorities for the Organization 2022 to 2028  
Moving Towards The @UN Summit of the Future and the SDG Summit <https://mailchi.mp/uclg/uclg-congress-adopts-the-pact-for-the-future-of-humanity>  
**Link to the tweet:** [https://twitter.com/uclg\\_women/status/1475488978786828293?s=20](https://twitter.com/uclg_women/status/1475488978786828293?s=20)



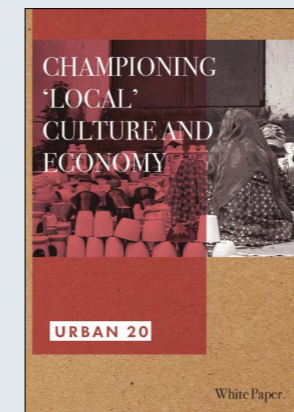
**UCLG Committee on Culture (2023), “Localising the SDGs with a Cultural Perspective. Initial results of the Seven Keys programme”, UCLG Committee on Culture Reports, n. 11, Barcelona, 15 September 2021.**

The report builds on the experience and results of the 10 cities and local governments that have organised a “Seven Keys” workshop in the past years, namely: Bulawayo, Burgos, Concepción, Izmir, Lilongwe, Lisbon, Puerto de la Cruz, Saint Louis, Xi’an and Yoff. The document emphasises the link between the work carried out by cities on SDG localisation through culture and various key frameworks, including the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the toolkit Culture 21 Actions and its 9 Commitments, relevant themes, and the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity and its axes and entry points.



**Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (2023), “A Cultural Boost in the Achievement of the SDGs: How local and regional governments are promoting cultural heritage and sustainable cities and territories”. Local and Regional Governments’ report to the 2023 HLPF (Paper 4).**

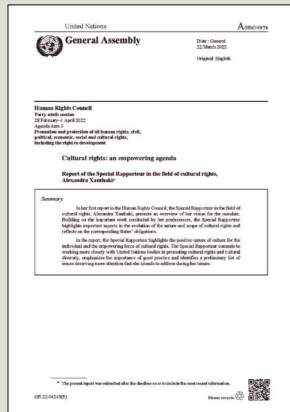
The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments facilitated by UCLG released its annual report to the UN High-Level Political Level 2023. More information in pages 59-63. It explores the crucial role of culture in achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG11 on cities and human settlements, and it examines projects, programmes and policies developed by local and regional governments, civil society organisations, heritage professionals. The paper also includes an analysis of positive and negative interactions between cultural policies and actions and each one of the SDGs, and it specifically provides evidence on the interlinkage between cultural policies and heritage and the SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17, where the interlinkages are the strongest.



**Urban 20 (2023), “Championing ‘Local’ Culture and Economy”, White Paper, India.**

The Committee on Culture of UCLG was a member of the Taskforce gathered to elaborate this paper, elaborated in the framework of the Urban 20 city diplomacy initiative chaired by India in 2023. This document aims to establish the essence of local culture that shapes identity and how we can foster local culture and economies for long-term resilience, sustainability and continuance. It also presents the associated challenges and puts forward policy recommendations and actions to achieve the above objectives.

# Publications



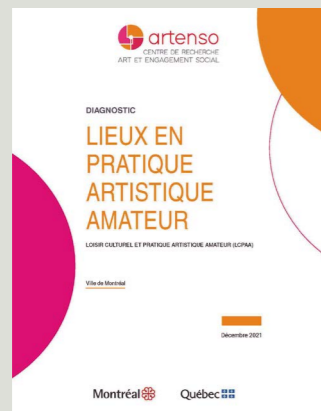
**Xanthaki, A. (2022) [Cultural rights: an empowering agenda](#) (A/HRC/ 49/ 54).**

This first report of the new Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights builds on the work of her predecessor and outlines her vision for the mandate, highlighting certain aspects of the evolution of the nature and scope of cultural rights, while also reflecting on the obligations of States. This report underlines the positive nature of culture for individuals, as well as the empowering force of cultural rights, calls for greater cooperation with UN bodies in promoting cultural rights and cultural diversity, and identifies key issues to be addressed during her mandate.



**European Commission (2023) [Culture and democracy: the evidence](#), Publications Office of the European Union.**

This report looks into "How citizens' participation in cultural activities enhances civic engagement, democracy and social cohesion: lessons from international research". The document analyses the concrete link between democracy and culture, and maps out how citizens who participate in cultural activities are much more likely to engage in civic and democratic life.



**Montreal (2022) [Report on cultural recreation in Montréal & Comparative study with other cities.](#)**

The City of Montréal published a 'Diagnosis of amateur artistic practice' to examine places and facilities specialising in amateur artistic practice and describe how they are used. In parallel, a 'Comparative study of municipal cultural leisure models' was launched, with ten case studies of major cities around the world in terms of management, organisation and municipal supervision of cultural recreation and amateur artistic practice.



**Xanthaki, A. (2023) [Cultural rights and migration.](#) (A/HRC/52/35).**

In this report, the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights urges the protection of the cultural rights of migrants, who have the right to access and participate effectively in all aspects of cultural life, both in host countries and in their own cultures. The rapporteur also stresses the importance of equality, regardless of legal status, highlights the challenges faced by migrant artists, and calls for intercultural exchange and interactions to foster dynamic, diverse and democratic societies.



**Xanthaki, A. (2023) [Development and cultural rights: the international governance.](#) (A/78/213).**

This report analyses how cultural rights are currently being overlooked in international development and trade organisations. Some of the main barriers identified include: the rejection by some organisations of their responsibility to respect cultural rights; limited understanding of their scope and connection to the work of the organisations; and the prioritisation of economic development or other interests. The report acknowledges that some progress has been made, but urges inclusive action to be taken and calls on States to ensure that international organisations endorse cultural development and respect cultural rights.

# Recommended readings

## Culture and Gender Equality



Hosted on the UCLG Learning platform (#LearningWithUCLG), this MOOC explores the **role of Cultural Actions to Support Gender Equality in Cities and Territories**, and provides a cultural perspective to addressing women's rights and gender-responsive policies for sustainable development. It is based on the [report on 'Cultural Actions Supporting Gender Equality in Cities and Territories'](#) coordinated by Farida Shaheed, former UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights and published in late 2021.

This course aims to **introduce the contents of the report to an audience of local government practitioners**, women's rights advocates and people interested in this subject. The modules of this online course are intended to be a good practice guide for municipalities and governments around the world who are **putting into practice** how to make their cities and territories more inclusive and egalitarian.

### What can you learn in this MOOC?

- The main policy and global agenda frameworks for local cultural action in the field of gender equality.
- Three key pathways to advance transformative policies with regards to gender equality from a local government perspective, including: institutional and governance arrangements; public spaces and values-oriented interventions; and new cultural activities modalities
- The role of the global municipal movement in advancing gender equality.

The MOOC is open to anyone interested in learning on the relation between culture, local public policies and gender equality. It is free of charge, available in English, and it includes a completion certificate.

You can access the MOOC at: <https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/cultural-actions-supporting-gender-equality-in-cities-and-territories>

## Culture and Climate Resilient Development



Hosted on the UCLG Learning platform, #LearningWithUCLG, this MOOC explores the **fundamental role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development**, and focuses on the perspective of local and regional governments, as well as cultural actors and institutions from all continents. It is based on the [report on 'The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development'](#) coordinated by Andrew Potts, coordinator of the [Climate Heritage Network](#) (CHN) and published in late 2021.

The MOOC showcases a **wide variety of case studies from all over the world** drawn from an open call for contributions for the elaboration of the report, a good practice from UCLG Learning peer-learning notes, and audio-visual resources within the modules, as well as **complementary in-depth materials**, which you will find at the end of the course. Moreover, it offers the opportunity to **test your own knowledge** in the field.

### What can you learn in this MOOC?

- How to make arts, culture and heritage take part as key factors for imagining new resilient futures; desirable ways of living neither wedded to the carbon economy nor dependent on unsustainable narratives.
- How to engage with climate change profiles and vulnerability scenarios.
- How cultural actors are and should be further involved in the emissions of their communities.
- How to further engage with interdisciplinary work towards tackling climate change, intertwining cultural actors with a wide range of different sectors.
- How to identify potential tensions or synergies that may arise between climate action and culture, thus reconciling trade-offs and maximising synergies.
- How to address the challenges of climate change through a cultural lens and from a perspective of equity and justice.

The MOOC is open to anyone interested in learning on the relation between culture, local public policies and climate resilient development. It is free of charge, available in English, and it includes a completion certificate.

You can access the MOOC at: <https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/culture-and-climate>

# New interactive tools

**José Teixeira Coelho** left his world in 2022. He was Professor Emeritus at São Paulo University (Brazil) where he coordinates a study group on Computational Cultures and Humanities at the Institute of Advanced Studies. He published a number of books on art and culture, besides being a novelist. A former director of the internationally known Museum of Contemporary Art in São Paulo and MASP – São Paulo Art Museum, he was considered a referent in the field of cultural policy.

**Sanjin Dragojević**, born in 1961 in Zagreb, taught Sociology of Mass Communication and Sociology of Culture at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb and was a permanent visiting lecturer in postgraduate courses on cultural management at the universities of Krems and Vienna. Dragojević headed the Department of Bilateral Cultural Cooperation of the Croatian Ministry of Culture (1995-1998). He sadly passed away in 2022.

Cultural policy expert **Biserka Cvjetičanin**, an Emeritus Research Adviser, and long-term Head of the Department for Culture and Communication at the Institute for Development (1985-2000) and International Relations (IRMO), Zagreb, Croatia, passed away in 2023. She actively contributed to the “Compendium. Cultural Policy and Trends” and was a great inspiration to the cultural policy community.

**Zayd Minty**, founder of Creative City South and expert of the UCLG Culture Committee, left us in 2023. Zayd knocked on our doors almost a decade ago, when he was leading the cultural policies of Cape Town. We began a closer work with him when he founded [Creative City South](#). In this project, he connected his profound knowledge and committed love for African cities with cities in other continents, especially in Latin America and East-Asia. In 2018, he was involved as a key expert in a [capacity-building](#) workshop organised in South Africa by the South African Local Governments Association on culture in sustainable cities. He came to our Culture Summit in Buenos Aires in 2019, where he ran a special workshop, and he was very much involved in the writing of the Rome Charter on cultural rights and in the initial steps of the Climate Heritage Network. At that time, he became Research Associate on Cultural Policy and Management at the Wits School of Arts, working with Avril Joffe. In 2020, we were lucky to have Zayd as our key expert in the first-ever “[Seven Keys](#)” workshop, in Bulawayo, and in 2021 he involved us in the first steps of the Local Cultural Governance Network of South Africa. He also brought his enthusiasm for urban cultural expressions to the UCLG Community of Practice on Inclusive and Accessible cities. He was a brilliant speaker and writer, and he had hunger to learn, to share and to include all in the conversation, with the genuine interest in improving the lives of all.

# In memoriam

# Newsletter

**culture 21**  
UCLG Committee  
Commission de CGLU  
Comisión de CGLU

Info 2022 / 24  
31 December 2022  
31 décembre 2022  
31 de diciembre de 2022

**MILESTONES OF CULTURE 21**

2004 2010 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

EN Bouncing towards 2023! | FR En route vers 2023! | ES ¡Impulsándonos hacia 2023!

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## Collaborators

Africalia	IFCCD
African Capitals of Culture (ACoC)	IFLA
AIMF	IOPD
Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)	IMC
Allas	JDC
Artemrede	JFAC
Arterial Network	JPDC
ASEF Culture 360	In SITU
Bozar	Interacció
British Council	Interarts
CCRE-CEMR	Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
CERAV	Julie's Bicycle
Climate Heritage Network (CHN)	Les Arts et la Ville
Conarte	LIKE
Cordial	MC2CM
Creative City South	Mercociudades
Creative Mobilitie(s)	Metropolis
Culture Action Europe	Nhimbe Trust
Cultural Development Network	PalaEXPO
Culture et Développement	Platforma
ECDPM	Red Latinoamericana
Educating Cities	Réseau Accès Culture
ENCATC	Réseau Culture 21
Eulac Foundation	SALGA
Europa Nostra	Trànsit Projectes
European Capitals of Culture (ECoC)	U40
European Commission	UCCI
European Culture Alliance	UCLG Africa
European Culture Foundation – ECF	UCLG ASPAC
European Lab	UCLG Eurasia
FCM	UCLG-MEWA
Flacma	UCLG Regions
GAOK	UN
Global Taskforce	UN-HABITAT
ICCPD	UNESCO
ICLEI	Urban Thinker Campus
ICOMOS	Voices of Culture
ICORN	World Urban Campaign
IETM	WCCF
IFACCA	

## Presidency

In 2022-2023, the UCLG Committee on Culture was co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City; and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Roma.





# C21 [re]view

