



UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT

# Culture. Future. Goal.

We Act to Bring  
Local Visions to  
Global Tables.

28 NOVEMBER  
1 DECEMBER 2023

A photograph of three children outdoors, engaged in video production. A boy in the foreground is crouched, adjusting a professional video camera mounted on a tripod. Behind him, a girl is also looking at the camera. To the right, another boy stands holding a boom microphone over the camera. The scene is set in a grassy area with trees in the background. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity

# THE SUMMIT

**The fifth UCLG Culture Summit will be held in Dublin** (Republic of Ireland) from 28 November to 1 December 2023, hosted by the Dublin City Council and the Dublin City Council Culture Company.

The UCLG Culture Summit is **the main meeting point at global level** of cities, local governments and organisations that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability.

The Summit is designed to send evidence-based and clear **messages to the** international community. Policies and programmes that do not fully involve cultural actors and aspects in policies and programmes fail. Sustainable development that ignores culture is impossible. In fact, UCLG and its members have continuously shown the crucial importance of local cultural policies and programmes. The concept of “circular culture”, adopted in the UCLG Culture Summit of Izmir, in September 2021, and the UCLG “Pact for the Future of Humanity”, adopted in the Congress of Daejeon in October 2022, as the roadmap for local public policy-making in the next years, go in this direction. The Pact is community and rights-based. Cultural rights play a strong role to leave no-one and no place behind.

The Summit will provide space and time to debate about the contribution of cultural policies in unfolding the UCLG Pact for the Future. The Summit will show that cities are leading the way in recognizing the absolute necessity of cultural factors as a key dimension of sustainable development, today and tomorrow. The Summit is also designed to be a moment of knowledge-sharing and learning for participant cities and local governments towards local action. Cities have long developed strong practices and experiences about the relationship between culture, citizenship and sustainable development. The adoption of Culture 21: Actions in 2015 during the first-ever UCLG Culture Summit, have allowed active cities to go even one step further in this exercise of public policy-making and local cultural practice. They have developed innovative and effective cultural policies, programmes and actions, in contexts of crisis, that address local challenges and necessities of their inhabitants. The most relevant examples from all corners of the world will be invited to explain contexts, keys of success and challenges.

The Summit will discuss progress and evolving engagement of the international community. True, engagement was noticeable in Mondiacult 2022, the global Conference on Cultural Policies organised in Mexico City, where UNESCO referred to culture as a global public good, promoted cultural rights to be the foundation of cultural policies and endorsed the need to advocate for a Culture Goal in the SDGs. UNESCO and many national governments explicitly and eloquently

supported these 3 elements. But... it is also true that the consideration of culture towards to UN Summit for the Future (to be held in New York, in September 2024) is not yet gained, with some actors still hesitating on the agency of cultural policies.

This is why the fifth UCLG Culture Summit is called **“Culture, Future, Goal. We Act by Bringing the Local Visions to the Global Tables”**.

The Summit has four main axis:

- First, the Summit will **reinforce the messages, build capacities and promote peer-learning about the role that culture plays in sustainable development at the local level** with concrete examples of policies, programmes and projects. These debates aim at promoting the cities with extraordinary cultural rights initiatives that manage to expand freedoms and improve the lives of people through cultural processes, whether in the field of heritage, creativity or diversity.
- Second, the Summit will **discuss the contents of a dedicated Culture Goal** in the UN post-2030 Agenda and the steps needed to convince all stakeholders that are not aware or still hesitate. With the leadership of the #Culture2030goal campaign, these debates aim at influencing the UN Summit for the Future (September 2024).
- Third, the Summit will **unfold the UCLG Pact for the Future** and **examine Culture 21 Actions** to renovate the peer-learning and capacity-building programmes for cities and local and regional governments worldwide. These debates aim at improving UCLG work and unfold the Pact for the Future with concrete actions.
- Fourth, the Summit will include an **Academy of Urban Journalism**, aiming to join efforts to increase the understanding and rigorous information about the local efforts for cultural rights and towards a Culture Goal in the UN Development Agenda.

And... the Summit takes place in Dublin, the city that received the UCLG Culture Award in 2022, in recognition of its outstanding work on the relationship between culture, sustainable development and caring societies. This award recognised the pioneering model of connecting people with culture through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence, putting the people of Dublin at the centre of cultural policy.

Additional information about the Summit themes and structure is presented in this document and is also available on the [Summit website](#).

# THE MAIN THEMES

- **A Culture Goal in the SDGs:** why it is needed and how you can be involved.
- **Cultural rights and communities:** unfolding the Pact for the Future in your city.
- **Culture and gender equality:** how cultural actions contribute to more equal and more democratic cities and territories.
- **Culture and climate resilient development:** why a cultural perspective is essential in climate action.
- **Culture, wellbeing and health:** discover the scientific evidences and most innovative local policies.
- **Culture and accessibility:** how communities are empowered with cultural programmes.
- **Culture and sustainable tourism:** how can local policies on culture and tourism can align or converge.
- **The cultural localisation of the SDGs:** the results of the Seven Keys workshops held around the world.
- **Culture, information and the media:** how to achieve more accountable and transparent institutions that inspire trust.
- Opening of the Call for the **International Award “UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21”**.

# SESSIONS

The Summit is a forum for knowledge-sharing, peer-learning and networking among cities and local governments. It is expected to gather approximately 500 participants from all world regions. Over three days, the Summit will combine plenary sessions, smaller and thematic parallel sessions, project presentations and networking spaces.

## A. PLENARIES AND HIGH IMPACT PARTNERSHIPS

The Plenaries will promote culture as an essential dimension of sustainable development and discuss the actions to unfold the UCLG Pact for the Future, as well as the steps towards the 2024 UN Summit for the Future.

## B. FUTURE ENVISIONING WORKSHOPS

The Summit is also underpinned by an aim to foster in-depth learning on a wide range of issues related to culture and sustainable cities. The Future Envisioning Workshops (approx. 60-90 minutes) will be designed to allow presentation of experiences, introduce on-going work and provide advice on needs and opportunities. The Summit is a place for peer-learning and networking among cities, local governments and other stakeholders.

Some of these events may be only upon invitation.

## C. HUB PRESENTATIONS AND PARALLEL EVENTS

The Summit aims at hosting new initiatives coming from all corners of the world. The Hub Presentations (approx. 15-20 minutes) introduce very concrete projects and/or proposals of future initiatives.

Should you be interested in organising a workshop or a Hub presentation, please write to us **before 26 August 2023**.

A photograph of two young people in a dance studio, overlaid with a teal color filter. In the foreground, a young woman with short dreadlocks is captured in a dynamic dance pose, leaning forward with one leg raised and arms extended. She is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark leggings. In the background, a young man is also in a dance pose, with one arm raised. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark pants. The text 'People Planet Government' is centered over the image in a white, sans-serif font.

# People Planet Government

# CULTURE IN UCLG: BACKGROUND

The mission of the world association of **United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG** is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through **cooperation between local governments**, and within the wider international community.

UCLG has played an important role since 2004 in promoting the role of culture in sustainable cities:



In 2004, UCLG adopted the **Agenda 21 for culture**, a declaration with 67 articles that describes the relationship between local cultural policies and human rights, governance, sustainable development, participatory democracy and peace. In 2015, UCLG approved **Culture 21 Actions**, a toolkit with 9 Commitments and 100 Actions: it is the most complete and practical document on the relation between culture and sustainable development in cities and allows self-evaluation, policy innovation and peer-learning.



In 2010, the Executive Bureau of UCLG approved the document “**Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development**” in its World Congress held in Mexico City. This document 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’.



Since March 2013, UCLG’s role as facilitator of the **Global Taskforce** has included Culture in local and regional governments’ inputs to the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.



The **Statement of the 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** resulting from this work, adopted in Quito in October 2016, establishes a commitment to ‘Integrate culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and take action to foster heritage, creativity, diversity and peaceful co-existence’. In 2022, the Global Taskforce adopted a **Statement** calling UNESCO’s Mondiacult global conference on cultural policies to call for a dedicated Culture Goal in post-2030 global development agendas.



The document “**Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals. A Guide for Local Action**”, published by UCLG in 2018, presents information on each one of the 17 Goals, helps to understand why cultural issues are important and provides relevant examples.



The **OBS**. The Committee has developed a database containing almost 300 good practices on culture, cities and sustainable development. The tool allows searches according to 3 criteria: the SDG, the Commitments of Culture 21 Actions, and keywords.



The **#culture2030goal campaign** includes global cultural networks. It advocates for a stronger place for culture throughout the implementation of the current global development agenda (the UN 2030 Agenda), and for the adoption of culture as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 development agenda. In 2022, the campaign launched a concrete proposal for the Goal.



The **UCLG Presidency Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath**, launched on 22 April 2020, identifies culture as one of the key priorities to guide the advocacy of UCLG in the coming years, as an “antidote for the secondary effects” of the crisis.



The **2020 Rome Charter** was adopted by the UCLG World Council in November 2020 as a contribution to the global conversation on culture and development. The Charter describes the right to participate “fully and freely” in cultural life as vital to cities and communities, and promotes the cultural capabilities: Discover, Create, Share, Enjoy and Protect.



The **Culture Goal proposal** was launched by the #Culture2030Goal campaign in Mondiacult, UNESCO’s global conference on cultural policies, held in Mexico City in September 2022. The necessity of a Culture Goal for post-2030 sustainable development agendas was recognised and included in the Mondiacult final declaration.



The **UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity**: for the People, for the Planet, for the Government, was adopted by the UCLG World Congress celebrated in October 2022 in Daejeon (Republic of Korea), as a key contribution towards the UN SDG Summit to be held in 2023 and the UN Summit for the Future to be held in 2024. The Pact embeds local and regional governments visions and aspirations and serves as the strategic vision for UCLG in the coming years. It promotes a sustainable local development based on communities and cultural rights, and advocates for cultural policies at a local, national and global scale to be explicit and operational.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a unique platform, which gathers cities, associations and networks that foster the relationship between local cultural policies and sustainable development. The Committee is co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and is vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome. It has members and partners across all continents.

# PEER-LEARNING PROGRAMMES ON “CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES”

Following the adoption of **Culture 21 Actions** in 2015, the UCLG Committee on Culture has established a set of capacity-building and peer-learning programmes. In particular, a wide range of cities in different world regions are currently participating in the following programmes:

- The **Seven Keys** is a workshop to integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs. Participants learn the cultural relevance of the SDGs, share knowledge and agree on a concrete list of achievable actions, the local “Seven Keys”, that will contribute significantly to the localization of the SDGs through culture policymaking. As of December 2022, the programme is being developed in Bulawayo, Burgos, Concepción, Izmir, Lilongwe, Lisbon, el Puerto de la Cruz, Saint-Louis, Xi'an and Yoff.
- **Culture 21 Lab** is a short workshop on “Culture in Sustainable Cities”. It enables cities to self-evaluate their work in this field. It provides key basic information on the place of culture in sustainable development, and it is a useful way to raise awareness of this field among local stakeholders. As of December 2022, the programme has been completed in Greater Dandenong, Kaunas, Makati, Sant Cugat del Vallès and Santo André.
- The **Leading Cities** programme gives support to cities that have experience in the implementation of culture and sustainability, through measures in the areas of Cooperation and Learning (technical assistance, capacity-building, good practices), Leadership and Advocacy (participation in international events and processes) and Communication (website, social media). As of December 2022, the Leading Cities programme includes Abitibi-Temiscamingue, Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Concepción, Dublin, Esch-sur-Alzette, Izmir, Jeju, Jinju, Lisbon, Malmö, Mexico City, Porto Alegre, Rome, Terrassa, Vaudreuil-Dorion and Washington DC.
- **Pilot Cities** is a learning programme based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions included in Culture 21 Actions. Lasting for approximately 30 months, it includes local awareness-raising, international peer-review, capacity-building, pilot local projects, public seminars and elaboration of good practices. As of December 2022, the Pilot Cities programme has supported the work of, or currently involves: Baie-Mahault, Chignahuapan, Córdoba, Cuenca, Elefsina, Escazú, Gabrovo, Galway, Konya, La Paz, Leeds, Mérida, Muriaé, Namur, Nova Gorica, Peñalolén, Santa Fe, Sinaloa, Swansea, the island of Tenerife and Timisoara.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG also works with other cities, local and regional governments and the UCLG regional sections in order to tailor specific capacity-building and peer-learning programmes to their needs.

# THE CITY OF DUBLIN

**‘When I die Dublin will be written in my heart.’**  
— James Joyce

Dublin. A contemporary capital city with a cosmopolitan outlook and a thousand years of history.

Framed by mountains, divided by a river and edged by a beautiful bay, Dublin is one of Europe’s richest cultural centres with streets and cobbled alleyways filled with a vibrant mix of art, music, drama and literature. From the world-famous Guinness Brewery on the banks of the Liffey, it’s a short stroll to the traditional open-air fruit and vegetable market at Moore St on the city’s northside. Cross the River Liffey via the Ha’penny Bridge and stroll through the cobbled lanes of Temple Bar to Trinity College, alma mater of Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett and home to the magnificent Book of Kells, which dates back to 800 AD. And onwards to the beautiful St. Stephens Green, the largest city square in Europe; a 22-acre oasis of calm in the midst of Georgian Dublin, while just beyond the city the UNESCO Biosphere of Dublin Bay offers coastal walks through charming villages and harbours, wide sea views and rugged mountain backdrops.

The capital city of Ireland, Dublin accounts for 44% of the national urban population and is home to 554,554 people. Its origins can be traced back to when Vikings established a settlement on the River Liffey at Dubh-Linn, or The Black Pool. Outside its protective walls, Viking villages sprang up along the Liffey valley and Dublin gradually evolved as the largest commercial centre in the country.

Despite being Ireland’s largest city, the Viking legacy of small settlements has yielded a modern-day tapestry of overlapping villages where communities still interact across streets and neighbourhoods. With a deep sense of community and connection, Dublin is the perfect synthesis of international scale and local familiarity, and thrives on collaboration and community participation.





Dublin is not just the epicentre of the Irish economy, but the gateway to Europe and the world. Small by global standards, it is a major economic driver for Ireland and home to many influential multinational corporations with substantial clusters in technology, finance and professional services. Dublin has been the biggest beneficiary of Brexit relocations, all driving strong economic growth in Ireland, which is now one of the fastest growing economies in Europe with GDP growth forecasts of 4.9% in 2023.

This strong economic platform attracts a highly skilled workforce and the city has become increasingly diverse over recent years, with 18% of residents now identifying as non-Irish and 20% of the population aged 19 years or younger, making it one of the youngest capital cities in the EU.

As Dublin enjoys rapid economic growth and commercial success, it hasn't been immune to wider global economic and social challenges. The combined impact of climate change, the ongoing war in Ukraine, rising inflation, fuel and living costs is having a direct impact on the city and those living within it. Rising property prices and pressures on city centre rental accommodation are forcing people to live at greater distances from the urban core, which in turn demands increased attention to planning and investment in order to sustainably manage this urban sprawl with appropriate community facilities, social infrastructure and services.

Over the last five years, Dublin has been quietly setting global standards for how cities connect people of all demographics with culture. Against this background, Dublin City Council established the Culture Company in 2018, with the objective of putting people at the very heart of cultural policy and supporting cultural inclusion and participation throughout the city. Their mission is a central part of the city's cultural strategy, highlighting the pivotal role culture plays in the daily lives of people who live in or visit Dublin.

In 2022 Dublin received the UCLG Culture Award in recognition of its outstanding work on the relationship between culture, sustainable development and caring societies. This award recognised the pioneering model of connecting people with culture through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence, putting the people of Dublin at the centre of cultural policy through cultural participation programmes in neighbourhoods and cultural spaces to improve accessibility, inclusion and create more ways for all communities and demographics to actively engage in the city's culture.

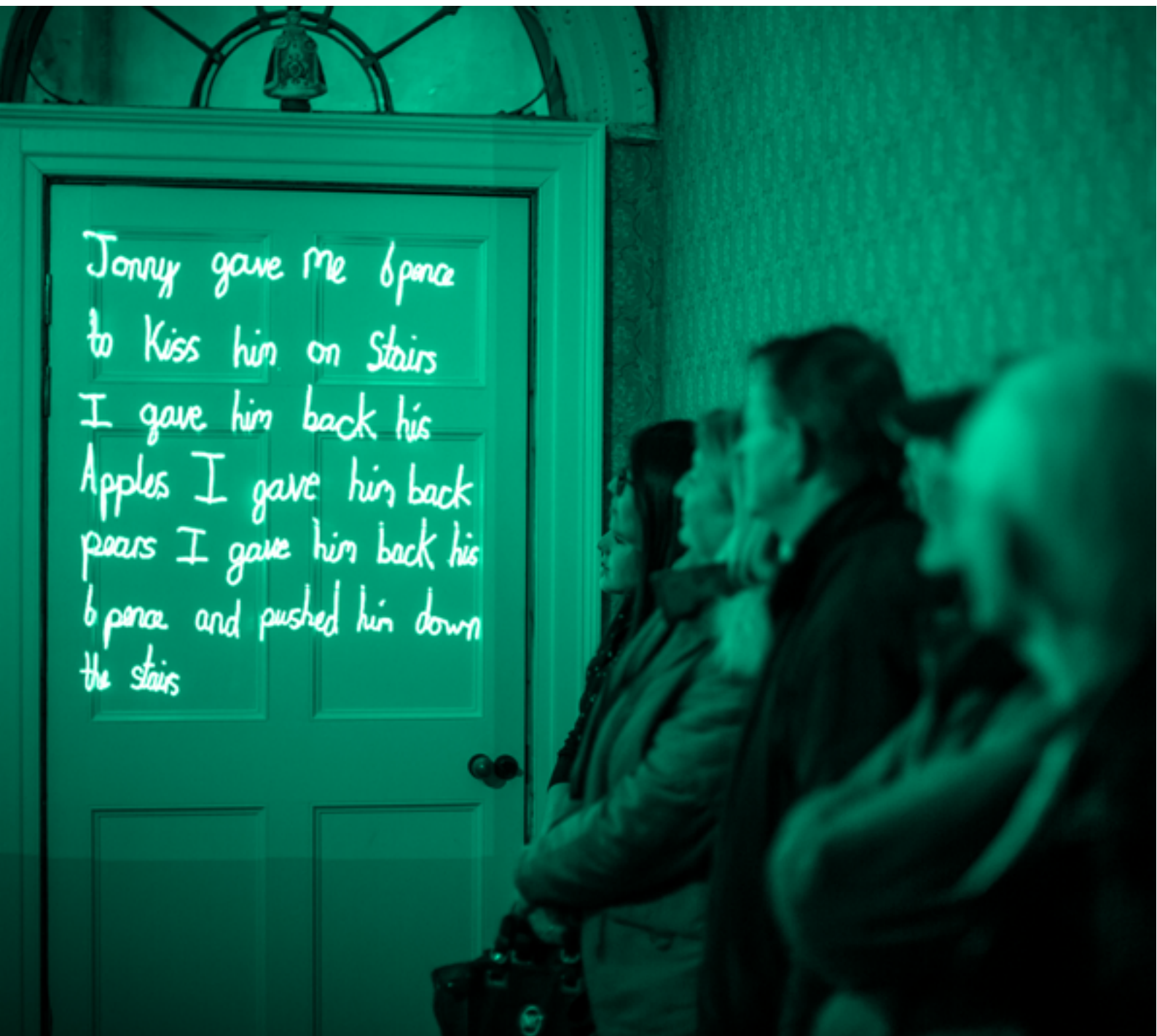
Dublin City Council has recently identified four strategic pillars for promoting and maintaining a sustainable city and communities: Economic, Social Inclusion, Environmental and Culture. The City Development Plan 2022-2028 confirms this commitment by highlighting culture as an ongoing priority in delivering its sustainable action plans for quality housing and neighbourhoods, planning, environmental, infrastructure, regeneration, built heritage and archaeology, movement and transport.



Although a small city by global standards, the diversity of Dublin elicits a rich cultural heritage that remains deeply rooted with its people, their stories and experiences. The city boasts 62 museums, 51 public libraries, three universities, and 52 art galleries and is home to the Europe's largest city park - The Phoenix Park - comprising 1750 acres. Famous for its literary figures including James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, Samuel Beckett and Anne Enright, Dublin is a UNESCO designated City of Literature. Dublin also enjoys a wide range of annual festivals including the Bram Stoker Festival, Bloomsday Festival, Dublin International Film Festival and the St. Patricks Day Festival - which attracts over 500,000 attendees each year. Dublin is also known for its dynamic live music scene and a unique pub network that supports traditional Irish music, dancing and language.

Dublin. The beating heart of Ireland. A vibrant city with the friendliness of a small town.

Much more, here: [www.dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie](http://www.dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie).



# ATTENDING THE SUMMIT IS ESSENTIAL TO...

- Discover and learn from Dublin, one of the world's strongest cultural cities.
- Engage in the advocacy for a Culture Goal
- Unfold the UCLG Pact for the Future to shape the future of your city with a complete cultural perspective
- Find out how to implement cultural rights at the local level.
- Deepen the relationship between cultural policies and gender equality.
- Integrate a cultural perspective in your city's wellbeing and health policies.
- Learn how to identify the inequalities in cultural participation.
- Make an explicit connection between cultural policies and the climate emergency.
- Balance the challenges of heritage, identity and wellbeing in sustainable tourism.
- Know all about the "localisation" of the SDGs with a cultural perspective, including how the "Seven Keys" can be useful in your city.
- Connect with the global cultural networks fostering the campaign #culture2030goal.

## **BUT ALSO IF...**

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





# REGISTRATION

We recommend registering as soon as possible.  
The Summit will accept up to **500 participants**.

Early birds registration for the Summit will close on 31 August 2023.  
Plain registration starting from 1 September 2023.

**This deadline cannot be extended.**

TO PARTICIPATE			
Early bird registration (until 31 August 2023)		Registration (from 1 September 2023)	
UCLG member <b>EUR 250</b>	Non-member <b>EUR 300</b>	UCLG member <b>EUR 300</b>	Non-member <b>EUR 350</b>

#DublinCultureSummit  
#UCLGmeets  
#UCLGculture  
#Culture21Actions  
#Listen2Cities

**[www.uclg-culturesummit2023.org](http://www.uclg-culturesummit2023.org)**

## **UCLG Culture Summit 2023**

### **Programme**

[culturesummit@uclg.org](mailto:culturesummit@uclg.org)

### **Registration**

[dublinsummit2023@dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie](mailto:dublinsummit2023@dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie)



Comhairle Cathrach  
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