



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD – 6th EDITION

COMMUNIQUÉ



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

INTERNATIONAL AWARD **UCLG - MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21** 6TH EDITION

CONTEXT

The objective of the 6th edition of the **International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21** is to celebrate the work of cities, local or regional governments, and leading individuals who have excelled in the promotion of innovative practices linked to the exercise of cultural rights, citizenship and sustainable development. The Award reaffirms the leadership of Mexico City in the relationship between culture and sustainable development, and the commitment of UCLG to place culture as a fundamental dimension of sustainable cities. The Award has two categories: “City, Local or Regional Government” and “Individual”.

CATEGORY “CITY, LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT”

This category recognises a city, local or regional government whose policy, programme or project has significantly contributed to the promotion of the exercise of cultural rights in local sustainable development.

The Award is given to the local or regional government that wins the competitive call process, which is open to direct and indirect UCLG members, as well as to any local or regional governments collaborating with UCLG partner organisations. Indirect members of UCLG include local or regional governments that are members of an association or federation of local or regional governments that is, in turn, a member of UCLG.

In the 6th edition, the Award recognises the leadership of cities in the promotion of cultural rights as a transversal driver of local sustainable development, highlighting the diversity and excellence of policies and actions of local governments from all over the world. This shows that there is no single model of development, and that each project and policy is inscribed in specific and different local contexts, and constitute unique and original proposals. It is important to note that the action should have documented evidence of the impact and the successes achieved.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

The Jury decided that the winners of the Award (in alphabetical order) were the candidatures **“Capital of Youth Culture”**, submitted by Gwanak-gu (Republic of Korea), and **“Traditional Medicine Information and Guidance Centres - Qullañ Uta”**, submitted by La Paz (Bolivia):



Gwanak-gu. “Capital of Youth Culture” aims to actively engage youth in the local community and public policy processes, and to enhance cultural rights of young people who have been socially excluded. With the country’s highest ratio of youth population, Gwanak-gu responds to local challenges such as youth alienation, as well as addressing mental health and suicide in the city. More specifically, this initiative brings young people into a renewed system of collaborative governance in which they can participate in the design and implementation of policies, for example through the Youth Policy Committee or the Youth Network and Public Forum programmes. Gwanak-gu also launched a youth culture project and created many spaces to support the formation of youth communities and artistic initiatives. The Jury identified this project as an excellent initiative addressing a very concrete problem, and highlighted the articulation achieved between policy, place and future, as well as its impacts: increasing the youth employment rate and becoming the area with the second largest population of young artists in the country.



La Paz. “Traditional Medicine Information and Guidance Centres - Qullañ Uta” is an intercultural health project that intertwines cultures with the care of life. The project seeks to influence the quality of the intercultural health system in the Municipality of La Paz, and promote the incorporation of knowledge and practices of traditional medicine among the population of the Municipality. The “Qullañ Uta” Centres are cultural spaces located in different areas of La Paz that provide information, guidance and care services in traditional medicine. In this endeavour, attention is paid to the use of native languages, as well as to the promotion of intercultural dialogue and training for the exchange of knowledge on traditional medicine with local inhabitants. The Jury highlighted that it constituted an inspiring municipal initiative around indigenous knowledge that rescued traditional medicine, and commended its potential for replicability given its modest budget.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

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



Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain), for “Bilbao Balioen Hiria (BBH) – Bilbao City of Values”. The project has strengthened cultural values as the backbone of sustainable development of the city. The project is very collaborative: it has involved more than 2200 members stakeholders, including institutions, NGOs, companies, the media, political groups and other actors, through analysis, dialogue, reflection and collaboration. It has delivered a local “Bilbao Charter of Values” and it has launched several international actions, too. The participative methodology is an example to be adapted by other cities.



Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo), for “Poto-Poto Cultural Circle”. The project began in former City Hall, a listed national heritage building, which has become the hub of a broad network of urban cultural infrastructures. This project illustrates a long-term proactive cultural policy that serves the needs and expectations of cultural actors, the creativity of the local youth people, the preservation of heritage and the several challenges of local development (diversify the local economy and encourage people to live together). Brazzaville has recently been appointed African Capital of Culture (2024-2025).



Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), for “Great dreamers”. This project illustrates how a large cultural event (the ECOC programme, that is, the European Capital of Culture in 2022) can become a vector of inclusion, participation, co-creation and local innovation. The essence of Great Dreamers is the connection between cultural governance and sustainable development, with the continuous involvement of the cultural actors, the neighbors, the commercial fabric, the municipal services, and the vast network of civic urban organizations in shared and sustainable decisions, within the ECOC year, and beyond.



Novi Sad (Republic of Serbia), for “Cultural Policy Regeneration of Urban Heritage through the Culture of Dialogue”. This project is embodied in three heritage areas of the city, the Almash, the Creative District and the Cultural Station Network. It unfolds the long-term cultural policy of the city, written and approved during the planning and implementation of the city’s most ambitious cultural endeavor – the European Capital of Culture, 2022. It is based on various participatory techniques (focus groups, forum of culture, divan – dialogue with citizens) to establish new cultural services in the city.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee



Ramallah (Palestine), for the project “Moving Culture Forward”. The long-term cultural strategy of Ramallah is built on an essential directive of the city which is to contribute to the liberation of Palestine, and emphasizes the ongoing struggle of Palestinians against occupation. Despite the interruption caused by the pandemic in 2020, and the current war, the municipality continued the process of unfolding the cultural strategy of Ramallah, embedding the new realities, emphasizing the role of culture as a tool for resilience and resistance, and spreading out the strategy with cultural practices to maintain social cohesion and collective narratives of all citizens. The engagement of Ramallah in global networks and international partnerships underscores its commitment to seeking support, sharing information, and advocating for solidarity in the face of adversity.



Xi'an (People's Republic of China), for the project “Culture for All Policies”. This project is aimed at achieving the goals of cultural accessibility, cultural dissemination and cultural equity through effective leadership, sustained financial input, extensive advocacy and intensive collaboration among arts practitioners. The project collects and unfolds the main programmes of the city's cultural policies, with major efforts made to enhance cultural accessibility by building neighbourhood libraries in various public spaces, building small museums at important metro stations and promoting collaboration among various theatres in planning and presenting free performances, among many other specific examples.

Winners and special mentions are excellent examples of local implementation of **Culture 21 Actions**.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

CATEGORY “INDIVIDUAL”

This category recognises an internationally renowned individual who has made a fundamental contribution to cultural rights, and to the relationship between culture and sustainable development. The Individual award will be designated by the Jury without an open competition process, based on confidential nominations.

The Jury has decided that the Individual Award be shared ex-aequo by two people (in alphabetical order):



Milena Dragičević Šešić. Professor Emerita of the Faculty of Performing Arts (University of the Arts of Belgrade), former Rector of the University of Arts (Belgrade), and founding director of the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Management - Interculturalism and Mediation in the Balkans (2004-2019). Milena has an impressive career as professor of Cultural Policy & Cultural Management, Cultural Studies and Media Studies. As an expert in cultural policy and management, Milena has been involved in more than 50 projects, and has participated in numerous public art projects and radical cultural projects and programmes in Europe and in the Balkans as a civil society activist. As an academic and activist, throughout her career, Milena has contributed to training, raising awareness and advocating for cultural policies as a core component in the building of democratic societies. While originally from Eastern Europe, her engagement has been visible across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and Asia, developing strong networks of collaboration at the international level. Among other positions, she has been the President of the Cultural Policy Research Award (European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam); the President and current Member of the Board of the European Diploma in Cultural Project Management (Association Marcel Hicter, Brussels), and has been a Board Member of ENCATC and ELIA.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



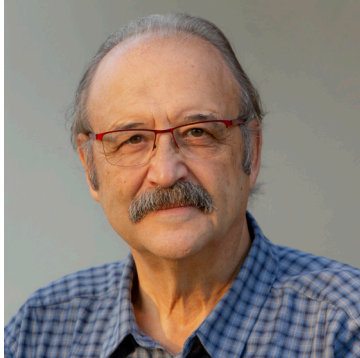
GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee



Alfons Martinell Sempere. Professor at the University of Girona (Catalonia, Spain), and co-director of the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair (on music and promotion of Peace and Human Rights). He was the founding director of the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Policies and Cooperation at the University of Girona (2000 - 2014) and also the founding President of the Interarts Foundation (1995), in an initiative shared with Eduard Delgado and Eduard Miralles. In 2004-2008, Alfons served as Director General of Cultural and Scientific Relations of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID) and he was key in the launch and implementation of the “Culture and Development” Window of the UNDP Millennium Goals’ Achievement Fund. Alfons is one of the global leading experts in the field of Cultural Policies, Cultural Management, Cultural Cooperation and Development. He has taught in universities in Spain, Europe, Latin America and Africa, and has given a founding footprint to many academic and civil-society led initiatives in these fields. He has also contributed to the training of hundreds of cultural managers, officials and officers, as well as through countless publications, conferences and research projects, to a better (and action-oriented) understanding of the relationship between culture and sustainable development. He has also addressed, in recent years, the relationship between culture and the SDGs and how to strengthen this connection with a standalone Culture Goal.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



culture 21
UCLG Committee

THE JURY

The Jury of the International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21 is made up of the following five members, all of whom are prestigious international experts with impeccable trajectories and a proven track record in the cultural world, ensuring in this way the notoriety and relevance of the Award:

- I **Serhan Ada** (President of the Jury), Professor at the Arts and Cultural Management Department, Director of Cultural Policy and Management Research Center, and the Head of UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy at Istanbul Bilgi University.
- I **Iseult Dunne**, Project Director and Producer, CEO of Dublin City Council Culture Company. She led the winning candidacy of Dublin for this Award in 2022. Also, she was the director of the 2015 team for Dublin's European Capital of Culture 2020 bid process.
- I **Yarri Kamara**, Cultural policy researcher, writer, member of the UNESCO 2005 Convention Expert Facility and former member of the selection panel for UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity.
- I **José Antonio Mac Gregor**, Professor of Cultural Manager at the Autonomous University of Querétaro. He has a wide career as an academic and a wide experience in supporting the cultural policies of cities.
- I **Arturo Morell**, Coordinator of Advisors and International Affairs of the Government of Mexico City. He has a wide career as diplomat and has served the Mexican Foreign Office in various continents

The Jury analysed the applications presented in the two categories in May 2024, and held its final meeting on 11 June 2024.

The Jury expressed the most sincere gratitude to cities and local governments that are supporting cultural initiatives, programmes and infrastructure, encouraging collective reflection upon the relationship between freedoms, cultural rights, public commons, care and wellbeing, community building, equality, democracy and peace, and the promotion of international cooperation and solidarity, with initiatives that make evident that culture is “a” driver if not “the” driver of development, and central in the transitions we, the humanity, is facing today.

The Jury also wished to express their gratitude to all candidate cities for their effort and dedication, and for the resources and enthusiasm they invested in presenting their candidacies, and commended the involvement of the thousands of people associated to UCLG and Mexico City who have worked on the candidacies and the nominations.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

PARTICIPANT CITIES

This edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 received **87 submissions** from cities and local and regional governments from all corners of the world:

Acton (Quebec, Canada), **Greater Amman Municipality** (Jordan), **Atlixco** (Puebla, Mexico), **Bahía Blanca** (Argentina), **Baie-Mahault** (Guadeloupe, France), **Belfast** (Northern Ireland, United Kingdom), **Bilbao** (Basque Country, Spain), **Bogotá** (Colombia), **Braga** (Portugal), **Brazzaville** (Republic of the Congo), **Bristol** (England, United Kingdom), **Busan** (Republic of Korea), **Caguas** (Puerto Rico), **Catbalogan** (The Philippines), **Cologne** (Rhine-Westphalia, Germany), **Concepción** (Chile), **Crete** (Greece), **Curitiba** (Paraná, Brazil), **Dakar** (Senegal), **Dubai** (United Arab Emirates), **Elefsina** (Greece), **Esch-sur-Alzette** (Luxembourg), **Esteban Echeverría** (Argentina), **Fortaleza** (Ceará, Brazil), **Gabrovo** (Bulgaria), **Gauteng** (South Africa), **Goyang** (Republic of Korea), **Granollers** (Catalonia, Spain), **Guadalajara** (Jalisco, Mexico), **Gwanak-gu** (Republic of Korea), **Hargeisa**, **Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council** (Finland), **Hildesheim** (Lower Saxony, Germany), **Iloilo** (Western Visayas, the Philippines), **Istanbul** (Turkey), **Jakarta** (Indonesia), **Jalisco** (Mexico), **Jerez de la Frontera** (Andalusia, Spain), **Kadıköy** (Turkey), **Kanawaza** (Japan), **Khabarovsk** (Russia), **Konya** (Turkey), **L'Hospitalet de Llobregat** (Catalonia, Spain), **La Paz** (Bolivia), **Lille** (Hauts-de-France, France), **Metropolitan Municipality of Lima** (Peru), **Lisbon** (Portugal), **Makati** (The Philippines), **Manabí** (Ecuador), **Mandela Bay** (Eastern Cape, South Africa), **Marmara Municipalities Union** (Turkey), **Mashhad** (Iran), **Matera** (Basilicata, Italy), **Medellín** (Colombia), **Minoa Pediada** (Greece), **Montevideo** (Uruguay), **Moscow** (Russia), **Nairobi** (Kenya), **Ngada Regency** (Indonesia), **Novi Sad** (Republic of Serbia), **Padang** (Indonesia), **Pasto** (Nariño, Colombia), **Pikogan** (Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Quebec, Canada), **Port-Louis** (Mauritius), **Puebla** (Mexico), **Ramallah** (Palestine), **Rio de Janeiro** (RJ, Brazil), **Rosario** (Argentina), **Rouen Normandy Metropolis** (France), **Salvador** (Bahía, Brazil), **San Antonio** (Texas, United States of America), **San Salvador Metropolitan Area** (El Salvador), **Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz** (Argentina), **Santo André** (São Paulo, Brazil), **São Paulo** (SP, Brazil), **Tandil** (Argentina), **Tehran** (Iran), **Tepeaca** (Mexico), **Terrassa** (Catalonia, Spain), **Timișoara** (Romania), **Toyooka City** (Japan), **Trois-Rivières** (Quebec, Canada), **Vratsa** (Bulgaria), **Windhoek** (Namibia), **Xi'an** (People's Republic of China), **Yerba Buena** (Argentina), and **Yoff** (Dakar, Senegal).



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

PREVIOUS EDITIONS

The **first edition** of the Award was held between 2013 and 2014. The “City, Local or Regional Government” category was won by the programme “Arena da Cultura” presented by Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil), and the “individual” category by Manuel Castells and Farida Shaheed.

The **second edition** of the Award was held in 2015-2016. The Jury granted the Award to the project “Cultural heritage and reinvigoration of socio-economic activities in Timbuktu”, from the City of Timbuktu (Mali), and to the project “I AM... / The adventure of one community in the middle of a transformation”, presented by Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada), in the “City” category. In the “Individual” category, the Award was also given jointly to Jon Hawkes and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui.

The **third edition** of the Award was held in 2017-2018. The cities of Lyon (France), and its cultural policy “The Sustainable City of Lyon: the Charter of Cultural Cooperation” and Seongbuk (Seoul, Republic of Korea), with the programme “Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance” were recognized by the International Jury as winners in the category “Cities”. In the category “Individuals”, the Jury decided to award jointly Basma El Hussein, and Patrice Meyer-Bisch.

The **fourth edition** of the Award was held in 2019-2020. The winners in the “City” category were Medellín (Colombia) with the project “Network of Artistic and Cultural Practices”, and Ségou (Mali) with the project “Ségou: A Creative City”. In the “Individual” category, the Award was given to Eusebio Leal and Vandana Shiva.

The **fifth edition** of the Award was held in 2021-2022, in the context of the Covid-19 crisis and post-pandemic recovery; the winners in the “City” category were Buenos Aires (Argentina) with the project “Abasto Cultural neighbourhood: Economic Boost and Urban Regeneration”, and Dublin (Ireland) with the project “AWE - Cultural Engagement through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence”. In the “Individual” category, the Award was given to Lourdes Arizpe and Daisy Fancourt.



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

CONCLUSION

The Jury notes the rise in the quality of applications that relate cultural practices to care, health and wellbeing. The winning projects in this 6th edition of the Award belong to this connection. The Jury encourages all cities to develop local projects and programmes that explicitly address this field, in locally meaningful processes that have people at the centre, and that are nationally and internationally connected.

The candidacies to this edition of the Award are fully consistent with the urgent need to continue to create and support new possibilities to access heritage and knowledge, to build stronger systems of protection for the cultural workers, to strengthen the promotion of cultural rights considering broader frameworks of inequality, to multiply the collaboration between cities and governments, to foster measures which connect culture to broader debates that our societies are holding and to consolidate culture as a pillar of sustainable development.

The Jury notes that in these difficult times, when peace among peoples, respect for Mother Earth and dignity for all are at stake, applications to this Award show that, throughout the world, many initiatives arise as beacons of human development with heritage, memories, diversity, knowledge, creativity and quality of life at the core, incorporating cultural rights as a building block of peace and wellbeing in all caring cities and regions. Cities and local governments are central for sustainable development because they localise and promote the right of all to participate in cultural life. The leadership of cities and local governments is a precondition to “leave no one and no place behind”. This is what UCLG has enshrined in its Pact for the Future – Daejeon Declaration.

The Jury also notes that local cultural policies, programmes and projects are essential to promote peace, human rights and democracy. Unchaining the potential of heritage, creativity and diversity -that is, culture- and turning this potential into a reality (with a standalone Culture Goal in the SDGs) is an unequivocal part of the solution to humanity’s challenges.

Awards for both categories will be presented on 25 July 2024 in Mexico City, in the frame of a Global Dialogue on Peace, Cultural Rights and Development. All members of UCLG are cordially invited to attend.

www.agenda21culture.net/award



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD - 6th EDITION



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21
UCLG Committee

CONTACT

Technical Secretariat of the Award:

| cultureaward@uclg.org

Organising entities:

UCLG – Committee on Culture

Government of Mexico City – Secretariat on Culture

