

REVIEW OF LA PAZ CULTURE 21: ACTIONS SELF-ASSESSMENT

AUGUST 2018



culture 21

UCLG Committee

In accordance with its participation as a pilot city for Agenda 21 for culture, the city of La Paz, Bolivia carried out a self-assessment exercise in August 2018 on its cultural and sustainable development policies. This project was based upon the **Culture 21 Actions** document approved by the United Cities and Local Governments Committee on Culture in March of 2015. It allowed cities all over the world to examine their strengths and weaknesses with regard to these policies, based on common guidelines. Furthermore, the exercise compared the evaluation of each city with those opinions taken from a panel of experts on a global level.

The self-assessment of La Paz involved the participation of people from different areas within the municipality, including representatives from civil society, organisations, groups, cultural centres, and citizens (see Appendix 1). This document was written by Antoine Guibert, an expert with Agenda 21 for culture, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the UCLG Committee on Culture. It summarises and analyses the assessments made in the city of La Paz, compares these with elements of the global average, and posits suggestions for some aspects that may warrant follow-up. The report forms a basis for the La Paz work programme to be undertaken by a group of local actors, advised by Antoine Guibert. This will be the core part of developing the Pilot City programme.

SELF
ASSESSMENT

A stylized white graphic consisting of three upward-pointing chevrons of varying heights, resembling a roofline or a mountain range, positioned on the right side of the page.



GENERAL OVERVIEW

Overall, La Paz received intermediate scores for most areas relating to Culture 21: Actions. The city placed higher than the averages established by the 2015 global panel of experts in all but two areas where it scored below the average.

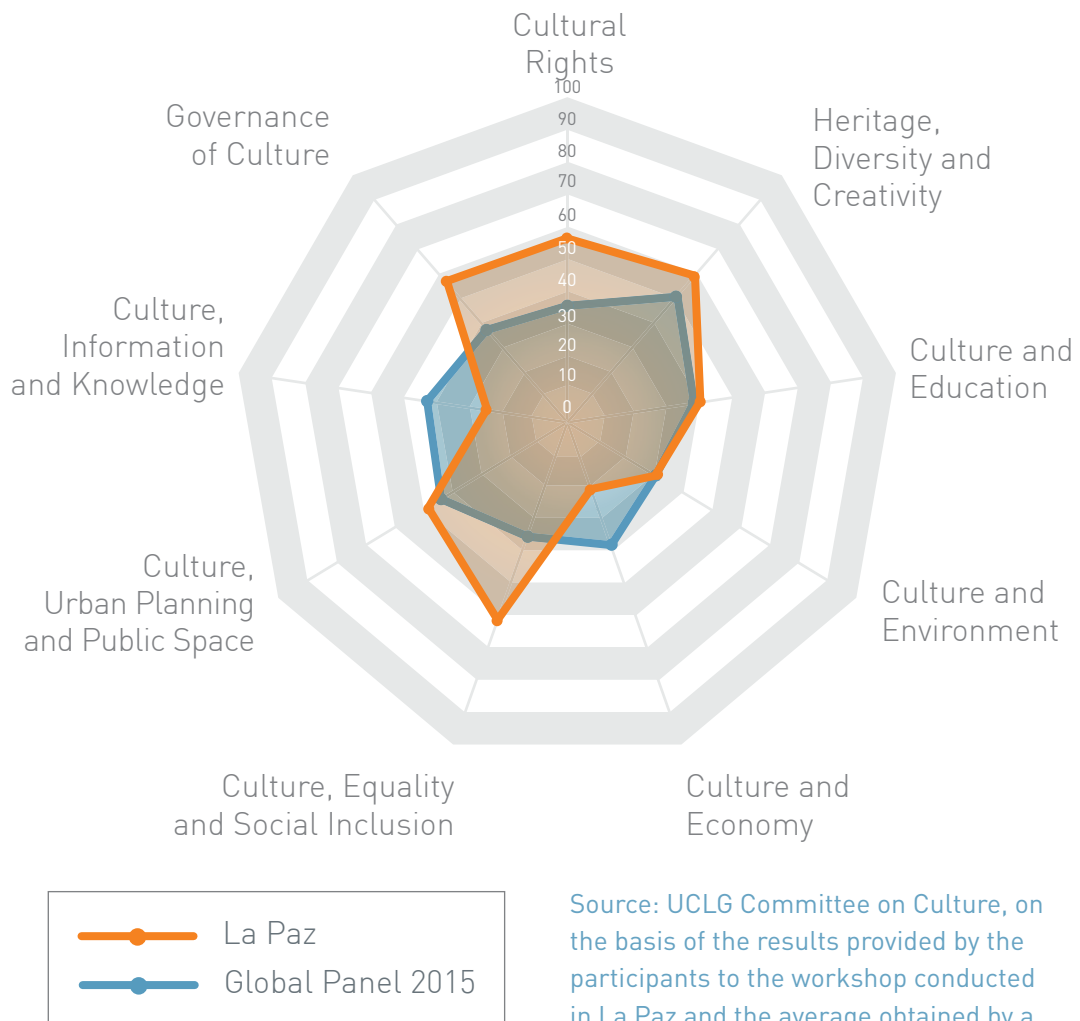
As figure 1 demonstrates, La Paz is particularly noteworthy in the areas of “6. *Culture, Equity, and Social Inclusion*” (with an average score of 62.50%, well above the global mean of 35%); “2. *Heritage, Diversity, and Creativity*” (with an average score of 59.50%, above the global mean of 50%); “1. *Cultural Rights*” (with an average score of 56.25% above the global mean of 35%); and “9. *Governance of Culture*” (with a score of 55.50%, well above the worldwide average of 37%).

The city received intermediate scores in the areas of “7. *Culture, Urban Planning, and Public Space*” (with an average score of 48%, slightly above a global mean of 44%); and “3. *Culture and Education*” (with a mark of 42.50%, slightly above the worldwide average of 38 %.)

La Paz was given lower scores for “4. *Culture and Environment*” (with an average score of 31.25%, just above a global mean of 30%); “8. *Culture, Information, and Knowledge*” (with an average score of 24%, far below a global mean of 43%); and “5. *Culture and Economy*” (with an average score of 21%, well below the global mean of 38%)¹.

¹ The Culture 21 Actions Self-assessment Guide asks cities to provide a score between 1 (undeveloped action or at the embryonic stage) and 9 (action in full development) for each of the 100 actions that conforms to Culture 21 Actions, as well as to offer an indicative description in order to establish the cities' positions. For each action, a score between 1 and 3 corresponds to an “embryonic stage”; a score from 4 to 6 indicates an “intermediate or development stage”; and an evaluation between 7 and 9 established the town at a “well developed stage”. The percentage figures accompanying each of the commitment areas from Agenda 21 Actions are taken from scores between 1 and 9 issued to every action that has been analysed.

Figure 1: Self-assessment of La Paz and data from the Global Panel 2015



Source: UCLG Committee on Culture, on the basis of the results provided by the participants to the workshop conducted in La Paz and the average obtained by a global panel composed by 34 experts.



CULTURAL RIGHTS

Where these issues are concerned, La Paz received an average score of 56.25%, above the worldwide average of 35%. This area was one of the city's strengths, and where it received its highest marks. Within the evaluated actions, three of the city's initiatives were classified in the "well-developed stage", six in the "development stage", and one in the "embryonic stage".

The city is particularly laudable for three actions identified at a well-developed stage. These related to:

- A reference text on rights, freedoms, and cultural responsibilities (Action B). In 2017, the city adopted Municipal Law on the Strengthening, Safeguarding, Development, and Promotion of Cultures and Arts in City of La Paz (hereinafter the Cultures Law). The score also reflected a series of instruments supporting this initiative such as the Law of Traditional Bolivian Ancestral Medicine, the Law of Interculturality, or the Law of Cultural Heritage.
- The mark was also for the level to which the city has adopted measures to facilitate residents' participation in setting priorities, decision-making, execution, or evaluating cultural policies (Action C). La Paz was also noteworthy for creating a civil society representative body, the Citizens' Council for Arts and Culture Planning (CONCIPCULTA), as well as a number of instruments for citizen participation outlined in the Cultures Law, such as the Cultural Sessions.
- The existence of policies and programmes to increase the number of people actively involved in cultural practices and cultural creation (Action F). These highlighted a number of actions and programmes such as the Culture Fairs, the La Paz Reads programme, the Megafestival, the Macrodistrict Fairs, the Cemetery Nights events, Museum Nights, or the Pipiripi Interactive Space.

Conversely, six actions scored at an intermediate level. They included:

- Establishing explicit local cultural policies on cultural rights (Action A, identified at an advanced intermediate level), particularly since the adoption of the Cultures Law in 2017. At the time of the self-assessment, it was noted that the new Law lacked regulations for its application.
- Special focus in cultural policies on the most vulnerable persons or groups (Action G, identified at an advanced intermediate level), such as the Real Neighbourhoods, La Paz Reads, the Workshop School, the CARES, Retirement Homes, the Women's House, or cultural activity in outlying areas or more remote populations, including the Living Community Culture programmes;
- The existence of policies and programmes to increase the number people who are active members of civil society organisations dedicated to cultural issues (Action



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J). Participants noted that this actions is based on a Western perspective that is maladapted to the context of La Paz's society, particularly given the fact that civil society is very organised, there are many organisations, and, therefore, there is no real need for programmes in this area;

- The existence of standards for ensuring minimum basic cultural services (Action D), where it was highlighted that, overall, there do not appear to be standards due to a lack of indicators and statistics. However, there is some ongoing work in this area, such as the La Paz Reads programme.
- The presence of a detailed analysis of existing obstacles to citizens' access and participation in cultural life (Action E), where participants underscored the fact that some instruments facilitate analysis, such as the Cultural Sessions or cultural surveys. However, there does not seem to be a detailed, systematic analysis in this area;
- The presence of programmes geared towards women's participation in cultural life, and combating all forms of gender discrimination (Action H), with noteworthy projects and activities such as the Women's House, or initiatives focused on local people of Indigenous descent. However, participants discussed the need to adopt an intercultural understanding of gender that considers a number of approaches, including perspectives from the Chachawarmi Indigenous group and the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the current definition of gender.

Finally, the city received its lowest marks and assessment at an embryonic stage, for its current level of civil society organisations working in human rights that explicitly include cultural rights in their priorities (Action I).

Overall, it should be noted that the Cultures Law represents a step forward in the city's recognition of cultural rights. On the other hand, there seems to be a debate on a tension between free, universal access to culture, and the need for fair compensation for culture professionals. It is also worth mentioning that the significant intercultural focus in La Paz is due to the fact that "cultures" are understood in the plural, thereby emphasising the need to recognise cultural diversity, the right to this diversity, and all the work that has been done on Indigenous cultural rights.

Participants identified examples of good practices in the area of cultural rights, which included: the Living Community Culture programme; the Sunday and Macrodistrict Fairs; the Mega Urban Festival and the support for the city's urban cultures; the Pipiripi Museum; the Real Neighbourhoods programme, with cultural and other activities that safeguard neighbourhood history; the Sexual Diversity Law; the Interculturality Programme, with a focus on traditional medicine and protection of sacred places; the involvement of civil society; and the Meeting of urban arts.



HERITAGE, DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

Here La Paz received an average score of 59.50%, above the worldwide average of 50%. This area was also one of the city's strengths, and where it received one of its highest marks. Within the evaluated actions, four of the city's initiatives were classified in the "well-developed stage", seven in the "development stage", and one in the "embryonic stage".

The city was praised for four actions assessed at a well-developed stage. These reflected:

- The presence of a department dedicated to cultural policies (Action A) with the Department of Cultures;
- The hosting of cultural events with the aim of lending visibility to artistic creation and promoting interaction between specific groups in the population (Action D);
- The existence of policies that support the arts with a special focus on certain disciplines (Action H);
- Interculturality and the recognition of diverse cultural expressions (Action F) where the city stood out particularly for its creation of an Intercultural Delegation, the Interculturality Law, and the diversity of its cultural expressions, both traditional and urban.

The city received intermediate scores in seven actions related to:

- The presence of a dedicated budget to culture suitable for enabling the sustainable development of local cultural life (Action B, identified at an advanced intermediate stage), in which 3.5% of the municipal budget is earmarked for culture as outlined in the Cultures Law, as well as 2% for the neighbourhood POAs (not mandatory);
- The existence and accessibility of structures dedicated to the formation, creation, and production of culture (Action C, identified at an advanced intermediate level), such as the Municipal Managers Unit, the Cultural Market, the CARES, CITEs, the Workshop School, and District Arts Centres;
- The existence of policies and programmes that build excellence through a close proximity to inhabitants and their initiatives (Action E, assessed at an advanced intermediate level), with a number of noteworthy programmes and activities in this area, including the El Prado Fair, the La Paz Reads programme, the Long Night of Museums, training for guides in traditional funerals, the Training Trainers Programme, participative mural painting, and the programme for the promotion and support of civil society projects;
- A significant and balanced presence of local activities in the city's events (Action K, assessed at an advanced intermediate level), for which participants highlighted a high level of local cultural expressions, but noted a lack of local dissemination infrastructures;



HERITAGE, DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

- The existence of policies and programmes for the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity, particularly for minority languages (Action G, identified at a low intermediate level), which include Aymara language education for civil servants, and other actions related to the Leko language or Aymara translations. However, participants emphasised that there is no stable, explicit policy in this area, and the fact that they should include other languages such as sign language or braille;
- The protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in all areas (Action I, identified at a low intermediate level), with the notable presence of some instruments in this area, such as the Cultures Law, which includes a chapter on cultural heritage. With respect to intangible heritage, significant efforts have been taken in recent years. However, there seems to be a national legislation problem which does not allow for the efficient protection of cultural heritage, particularly tangible heritage. Similarly, there is a lack of internal coordination in the municipality with respect to urban planning, a lack of resources, and a need for a stronger political will in this area;
- International cultural cooperation (Action L, assessed at a low intermediate stage), with a number of different programmes in the cultural sphere through international cooperation agencies. However, there has been a significant decrease in these programmes in recent years, and there is a very clear need for structuring between different levels of government and cooperation agencies.

Finally, the city received low marks and assessment at an embryonic stage for the existence of policies and programmes dedicated to scientific culture (Action J).

Participants identified good practices in this area which included: the Traditional Ancestral Medicine programme; the process of recognising the Witches' Market as intangible heritage; the recognition of sacred sites; contests and prizes that promote cultural creation; the promotion of urban cultural expressions; support for festivals, including international ones; the Real Neighbourhoods Programme, which includes a cultural aspect; the Living Community Culture Programme; the Workshop School; initiatives related to cemeteries; support for traditional festivals as intangible heritage; the recognition of design and all cultural expressions as a drivers of change; and Citizen Culture programmes, such as the Zebras, and other initiatives.



CULTURE AND EDUCATION

In this area, La Paz received an average of 42.50%, well above the worldwide average of 38%. Overall the city was rated at an intermediate stage in this area, with one action at a well-developed level, seven at an intermediate stage, and two at an embryonic stage.

The city was notable for measures that help share information on opportunities to access cultural activities and cultural education (Action E), where the city was assessed at a well-developed level for various tools established by the municipality to disseminate information, such as the Jiwaki municipal schedule.

Additionally, the city received intermediate scores for seven actions related to:

- Valuing local cultural resources in education strategies (Action A), highlighting an acceptable level of this in national and municipal education strategies, as well as in the Cultures Law, although there is a notable overall difficulty in application and dedicated resources;
- Links between municipal education policy and cultural policy (Action B), with a marked connection, such as through the Cultures Law or Findart, but it seems a specific local strategy has not been approved in this area;
- The existence of a local platform or network that brings together public, civic, and private stakeholders in the field of culture education, and lifelong learning (Action C), where participants emphasised the presence of CONCIPCULTA and other citizen councils, as well as a number of systems including the Living Community Culture or Telartes networks. However, it was noted that meetings were occasional and lacked more collaboration between actors, as well as the fact that platforms continue to be sectoral. There is a definite need for a global strategy that brings together all actors in the areas of culture and education, as well as other fields;
- The provision of educational activities for formal and non-formal environments (Action D), where there was a notable effort by cultural institutions in this area, specifically from cultural centres and universities and primarily in the non-formal sector, but participants underlined the fact that such efforts are limited and insufficient;
- The acquisition of cultural skills and knowledge in students' primary and secondary curricula (Action F), where it was pointed out that inclusion is accounted for in various laws, but, some participants felt that the application of these legal devices would not be very effective;
- The presence of cultural creation, circulation, and mediation activities in schools and education centres, associations, or companies (Action G), wherein participants underlined efforts in the area that are still insufficient.




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- The level of local arts education (Action H), where it was noted that there was a broad range of programmes, but that these were mostly paid, private, and informal (without institutional access or control, which seems to affect quality).

The city received scores indicating an embryonic stage of development for two actions related to:

- The existence of local training in cultural management and cultural policies which promotes a comprehensive focus on cultural factors of human development (Action I), where it was noted that the municipality has a programme for strengthening the productive sector of the arts, and that universities provide occasional training;
- The presence of cultural rights, as well as overall human rights, in the education programmes and training activities of the cultural sector.

In this area, participants identified good practices which included: folk dance activities in schools as well as the strong presence of intangible heritage in public and private education; the Zebras citizen culture programme; the Pumakatari public transportation with postings of etiquette on board; the Arusa Programme and the 21 municipal contests; the Marvellous La Paz campaign for pride and citizen education; the CAREs; the School Backpack with the provision of school supplies; the democratisation policy from the Arts Training Centre and the District Culture Houses; Sunday Fairs; the Long Night of Museums; voluntary activities by civil society focused on culture; the La Paz Reads programme; and the Las Chaskas civil society programme through the Living Community Culture initiative.



CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

The city received a score of 31.25%, slightly above the global average of 30% in this sphere. This area is one of the city's weaknesses, and subsequently where it received one of its lowest scores, which placed it at an embryonic stage of development. Within the evaluated actions, none of the city's initiatives were classified in the "well-developed stage", with five at an intermediate level, and the other five at an "embryonic stage".

The city received intermediate marks for actions related to:

- The recognition of gastronomy as an essential part of local cultural activity (Action E, evaluated at an advanced intermediate level), for which the city is notable for a series of initiatives related to local gastronomy, as well as fairs promoting local products. However, these projects were identified to be at an intermediate level as they were not very widespread;
- The promotion of production models and consumption habits based on the recognition of local products (Action D);
- The adoption of measures for facilitating and promoting citizens' initiatives regarding the sustainable use of public spaces, especially those linked to new gardening practices, and other examples of socio-ecological innovation. (Action F), with the noteworthy example of the green area master plan that considers such a perspectives, and other municipal initiatives in the rural area of La Paz, but which are still quite general and lack visibility;
- Recognising the cultural importance of natural spaces with specific programmes (Action H), with the example of the city's recognition of sacred spaces or the Huayna Potosí mountain, although there do not seem to be any significant initiatives in this area;
- The existence of bodies or platforms that link together public, private, and civil society agencies working on the relationship between culture and environment (Action J), with some occasional collaborations.

Additionally, five actions were rated at an embryonic stage. The scores reflected:

- Local strategies for the promotion of environmental sustainability, which do not seem to properly consider culture or cultural factors (Action A);
- Local cultural policies, which do not seem to significantly consider connections between culture and environmental sustainability (Action B);
- Coordination between the ministries of the environment and cultures (Action C), where participants noted a collaborative effort with the Ecolab programme in the Pipiripi space, although they noted a general lack of coordination between these sectors;



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- The preservation of traditional knowledge and practices that contribute to the sustainable use of ecosystem resources (Action G), for which participants noted few actions or programmes;
- The evaluation of the environmental impacts of cultural organisations (Action I), with few actions or programmes in this area.

In this area, participants noted good practices which included: the Ecolab programme in the Pipiripi space, the revival of gastronomy, and the recognition of sacred places.



CULTURE AND ECONOMY

In this area, La Paz received a score of 21%, well below the worldwide average of 38%. This area is one of the city's weaknesses, where it received its lowest scores, and where it was placed at an embryonic stage of development. Of the evaluated actions, none of the city's initiatives were classified as well-developed, four at an intermediate level, and eight at the embryonic stage.

Overall, it should be mentioned that while the Cultures Law address the relationship between culture and economy, this is a recent phenomenon for La Paz that is still in its initial development. The Ministry of Cultures has launched a cultural industries initiative and a cultural market project. It should be noted that this is a significant effort on the part of the municipality, but participants underlined the fact that this is also recent and still being developed.

The city received intermediate scores for four actions related to:

- Local economic development strategies, as they that do not demonstrate a clear understanding of the specific logic behind the economy of culture (Action A), given that the Ministry of Economy's focus on certain cultural sectors, like artisanship or gastronomy, and the fact that this is generally geared towards the business sector without always taking into account nuances within the cultural sector. Participants also underlined a lack of internal coordination in the municipality;
- The promotion of public or mixed economic schemes that strengthen voluntary contributions (Action G), for which the Cultures Law provides sponsorship support;
- Recognising the value of maintaining the region's traditional cultural trades (Action I), with notable support by the municipality for the artisan sector, as well as the Workshop School;
- Corporate social responsibility programmes that focus on cultural projects and issues (Action K), which seem to exist in some cases but still lack sufficient support.

The city received scores reflecting an embryonic level of development for eight actions around:

- Analysis of local economic contributions made by cultural actors (Action B), where participants noted some examples of assessments, such as on the economic impact of traditional festivals and fairs, as well as the study by the OEI centre on cultural richness created by La Paz. However, these studies are still emerging and infrequent;



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- The existence of recruitment and compensation schemes that align with the needs of culture sector workers, including the recognition of copyrights and other related rights (Action C), where it was noted that legislation does not seem to adequately ensure respect for these rights;
- The existence of information and training spaces on copyrights, economic models related to shared creation practices, or new forms of distribution (Action D), where participants highlighted various activities in this area through the Formart Unit or through the business incubator, as well as different workshops and information spaces. However, participants noted that these measures were in their early stages;
- Programmes focused on integration and access to employment (Action E), where it seemed that cultural skills or knowledge were not included, despite various projects with the Workshop School;
- Funding mechanisms for market-oriented cultural projects (Action F), where participants noted the existence of general funding mechanisms in the entrepreneurial sector that benefit businesses related to gastronomy or artisanship, for example. However, there is no specific focus on culture;
- Existing partnerships between cultural actors and businesses, such as through residencies or other systems of innovation and transfers of knowledge (Action H), where participants underlined the fact that there are collaborations in some sectors like literature, but these are not broad enough;
- Tourism (Action J), where it was noted that the tourism plan incorporates culture, but participants felt this was still in its early stages, and this lacked more internal coordination in the municipality, as well as better partnerships with local communities. According to participants, greater reflection is needed for a tourism model that goes beyond diffusion and promotion to strengthen prior intervention;
- Local business organisation, such as chambers of commerce (Action L), for which the city does not have specific policies and programmes in the area of culture, although it appeared that outreach had begun between the chamber of commerce and the Ministry of Cultures.

Participants identified good practices in this area which included the promotion of urban cultural expression, the Workshop School, and CITEs.



CULTURE, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

La Paz received a score of 62.50%, well above the worldwide average of 35%. This area was one of the city's strengths, and where it received its highest mark. Within the evaluated actions, four of the city's initiatives were classified in the well-developed stage, eight in the intermediate level, and none at an embryonic level.

The city was praised for four actions assessed at a well-developed stage. These reflected:

- The inclusion of disadvantaged groups, with a special focus on the region's most difficult areas in terms of poverty and exclusion (Action F), where it was noted that cultural institutions carry out a number of programmes and projects that either include such groups or are held in the city's more remote areas, such as the Real Neighbourhoods Programme and the Community Centres, the Cultural Tours Programme, activities related to traditional medicine, or the Focoarte Programme;
- The ability to identify and address cultural factors that obstruct access to certain public services (Action D), where it was clear that various training programmes are geared towards professionals and organisations in the social sphere, such as occasional workshops for health care workers, or Aymara language programmes for city officials;
- Strengthening cultural innovation for youth, incorporating elements of social inclusion, cultural languages, digital environments, and gender equality (Action J), for which there seem to be a number of projects, notably the La Paz Reads programme, the Arusa programme (an Aymara word that means "our voice"), the Megafestival, the "urban tribes" programmes, or activities by the Youth Institute;
- The existence of local platforms or networks for tertiary sector associations, groups, and organisations developing their activities with a consideration for the relationship between culture, equity, and social inclusion (Action K), where there was a high level of organisation in civil society, such as in the Living Community Culture network.

The city received intermediate scores for eight actions related to:

- The specific incorporation of cultural aspects into strategies in the social sphere, such as health, employment, wellbeing, and social inclusion (Action A), where there are a number of programmes, including the Real Neighbourhoods Programme or the Women's House;
- The analysis of factors used to determine the cultural vulnerability, or fragility, of certain groups or individuals in the region (Action B), in which occasional analyses are carried out, including the Real Neighbourhoods Programme that conducts



CULTURE, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

initial assessments of each community, or the analysis performed under the La Paz 2040 Plan

- Analysis of the relationship between personal wellbeing, health, and active cultural practices (Action C), with the example of studied carried out under the Traditional Medicine Programme. However, there is a marked shortage in analyses, which could be performed more often and more comprehensively with respect to personal wellbeing, health, and culture;
- The active promotion of women's participation in cultural activities and organisations (Action E), with a large level of organisation for activities geared towards women, as well as the presence of the Women's House
- Accessibility to facilities and cultural spaces for everyone, including persons with disabilities (Action G), with important new construction regulations, but these have not been applied to buildings constructed before the adoption of the new rules. In some regions like the south of the city, access for people with disabilities is better, but overall there is a lack reflection in this area;
- Local conflict resolution strategies that consider a cultural dimension (Action H), with the example of the "emotional intelligence violence prevention programme, other citizen culture programmes, and the Zebras. Participants underscored a need to make conflict resolution strategies more formal;
- The existence of programmes that promote intergenerational cooperation (Action I), with the example of a multitude of programmes in this area, including the Literacy Programme for Seniors, sports activities that foster inter-generational exchange, the Seniors' Club activities, Seniors' Conservatory, the Poet House or the Pipuripi space, the La Paz Reads programme, the Sunday Fairs, or seniors' meetings organised by libraries;
- The development of awareness-raising campaigns by local civil society organisations (Action L), with the notable dynamism and importance of activists and citizens' groups, as well as campaigns developed by educational bodies.

Participants identified the good practices in this area, which included: the Real Neighbourhoods Programme; the Interculturality Programme which involved traditional medicine and the safeguarding of sacred places; citizen culture programmes such as the Zebras; the Living Community Culture Programme; and the fairs, festivals, and cultural events that facilitate citizen interaction and meeting.



CULTURE, URBAN PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACE

In this area the city received a score of 48%, slightly above the global average of 44%. Overall, La Paz placed in the intermediate range for this area, with four actions assessed at a well-developed stage, four at an intermediate point, and four at an embryonic level.

The city was praised for four actions assessed at a well-developed stage. These reflected:

- The city's tangible, intangible, and natural heritage (Action C), with the notable existence of a registry on heritage, and that a protection regulation was developed within the Cultures Law. Participants noted the city's willingness and efforts in this area, although there is a notable difficulty in application and a lack of national regulations, with generally poor protections for heritage overall. They also noted a lack of protective measures for intangible heritage;
- The recognition of public spaces like streets, squares, and the city's other communal areas as key resources for cultural interaction and participation (Action G), with a number of notable cultural activities in public spaces, such as the Open Air Activities Programme, the Long Night of Museums, the Open Air Museum, and the open air festivals and fairs;
- The existence of programmes promoting the development and conservation of public art (Action I), where the city was noted for its murals programme and for strengthening the developing of public art. However, participants underscored a lack of protection for these types of projects;
- Policies that consider citizens' access to cultural life with respect to urban transport and mobility (Action K), with the example of the Pumakatari public transport system, which adapts to cultural events. However, participants noted that some of the city's areas are not well-connected by public transport.

The city received intermediate scores for four actions related to:

- The specific recognition of resources and cultural factors in local urban development plans (Action A), which included some urban development plans like the Comprehensive Regional Development Plan (PTDI) and the La Paz 2040 Plan which took culture into consideration. However, local urban development plans do not appear to address culture. Overall, there was a marked difficulty in efficient control and planning by the city due to significant informal growth, and poor coordination between different levels of government, including within the municipality. Furthermore, there does not seem to be a cross-cutting cultural plan that incorporated culture in all regional planning.
- The adoption of measures to promote the role of culture in revitalising historic centres and in development plans for territorial, neighbourhood, or district



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development (Action D), with particular mention of the Urban Centres Programme (PCU), and comprehensive renovation projects in heritage zones. There was a marked lack of a cultural perspective in the city's comprehensive plan for the historic centre;

- The existence of a formal list of spaces that, given their symbolic role, make up a communal good for inhabitants (Action H), which included the creation of a cultural map, the use of open air spaces for cultural use, and a registry of sacred sites (apachetas, etc.), although there were a lack of protective mechanisms;
- Citizens' active participation in urban planning and the territory's transformation (Action L), which include the Citizens Planning Councils that achieve a certain level of public involvement, although workshop attendees noted a lack of genuine participation and listening to proposals made in these spaces. Some examples include participative urban planning through the Urban Centres Programme (PCU), and participative workshops with the La Paz 2040 Plan. However, there is little active, direct participation in territorial planning, such as through urban design, architecture, or public art.

The city received scores reflecting an embryonic level of development for four actions related to:

- The evaluation of a cultural impact in urban policies (Action B), where there does not seem to be a document for evaluating cultural impacts, although some cultural mapping instruments are in place, as well as some initiatives related to this area;
- Planning for new cultural infrastructure as part of a broad cultural ecosystem which safeguards against any negative impacts (Action E), for which participants highlighted the fact that cultural infrastructure was not planned, and that there is an overall significant lack of cultural infrastructure in La Paz;
- The concept of landscapes (Action F), including the identification and protection of sacred sites, such as apachetas being converted into lookout points. However, there does not seem to be a general policy on the protection and management of landscapes that incorporates natural and cultural factors. Participants also noted a severe level of landscape destruction in the city;
- The absence of architecture guidelines for renovating existing buildings, or planning new buildings (Action J), although there was a clear development in the use of traditional construction techniques.

Participants noted the following as good practices in this area: the cultural heritage map; mural painting meets to beautify the city; municipal preservation areas, although



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there was a decline in these; the city's general use of public spaces and especially the appropriation of these for fairs, festivals, cultural events, and recreational ciclovias; the Real Neighbourhoods Programme; the Urban Centres Programme which established 12 new strategic centres in the city with an emphasis on cohabitation, and which incorporate cultural issues; the identification and protection of sacred sites converted into lookout points.



CULTURE, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

In this area, La Paz received a score of 24%, significantly lower than the worldwide average of 43%. This area is one of the city's weaknesses, and subsequently where it received one of its lowest scores, which placed it at an overall embryonic stage of development. Within the evaluated actions, none of the city's initiatives were classified as well-developed, while two were at an intermediate stage, and nine at an embryonic level.

The city received intermediate scores in two actions related to:

- Existing programmes that allow for cultural actors to participate in international cooperation networks (Action K), with the examples of the movement programme outlined in the Cultures Law, as well as exchanges established through the La Paz 2018 Ibero-American Capital of Culture Project, and by international networks the city is a part of;
- The participation of cultural institutions in debates on information and knowledge (Action I).

The city was rated at an embryonic stage for the remaining nine actions in this area:

- Due to the national political context, the city received very low scores for freedoms of expression, artistic expression, opinion, and information (Action A); the mechanisms for observing these freedoms (Action B); access to free and pluralistic information (Action C); and plurality of opinions in the media (Action D). There is a concerning situation regarding respect for freedom of expression, political freedoms, and strong control of the media, within in a very tense and polarized political context, with strong pressure from the central government and the related social movements. To be clear, in contrast to this situation, the Municipality of La Paz has built bridges across partisan issues, such as by promoting of freedom of expression, and it has sought to recognise actors in the area of culture and arts. It is precisely because of this activity within such a socio-political context that cultural management in La Paz has set a national benchmark.
- The city was also placed at an embryonic level for actions related to the existence of current systems for observing, researching, or analysing cultural realities (Action E); the analysis obstacles to cultural accessibility, or the use of information and communication technologies for cultural purposes (Action F); and the analysis of the relationship between cultural-based processes and social innovation (Action G) In this area, there is a general Satellite Account for South American countries for the cultural economy, and several measurement activities have been carried out providing some data and information on the cultural mapping of La Paz, the Cultural Sessions, public surveys, and specific



CULTURE, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

research studies by international organisations. However, there was a clear general lack of monitoring and information systems in the field of culture. It is important to note that the Cultures Law led to the creation of the Municipal Observatory on Cultures in La Paz, the body in charge of concentrating, elaborating, systematising, and providing information on cultures, arts, and cultural heritage. It is made up of support from the Department of Municipal Information and Research in partnership with the Planning Office, which has the necessary jurisdiction and experience in identifying and developing indicators. In addition, the city has the Intangible Heritage and Cultural Research Unit, a body that promotes knowledge creation, as well as the Municipal Arts and Cultures Plan being developed under the Law, which shall establish a line of action for research.

- Forms of creativity, production, or digital distribution (Action H), with the notable example of digital start-up spaces and incubators, which help develop digital production related to culture, as well as the current ongoing process of digitising the city's archives and photos. Some training or awareness-raising workshops are offered to cultural professionals. They focus on the social, cultural, and economic implications of existing or emerging forms of cultural access and reproduction. This includes copyright, copyleft, open access, and many others (Action J). However, in general, these projects and programmes are in their initial stages.

Participants noted the cultural extensions of universities as an example of a good practice.



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In this area, La Paz received a score of 55.50%, well above the worldwide average of 37%. This area was also one of the city's strengths, and where it received one of its highest marks. Within the evaluated actions, five of the city's initiatives were classified in the "well-developed stage", three in the "development stage", and three in the "embryonic stage".

La Paz was praised for five actions assessed at a well-developed stage. These reflected:

- The adoption of a cultural policy based on Agenda 21 for culture and Culture 21: Actions (Action A), with the adoption of the Cultures Law and the La Paz 2040 Plan;
- The existence of permanent spaces for dialogue, negotiation, and the regulation of their objectives and methods with the participation of all actors involved (Action D), which exist under the Citizens' Council for Arts and Culture Planning (CONCIPCULTA), as well as the Cultural Sessions and various programmes including the Real Neighbourhoods Programme;
- Developing a gender perspective for cultural programmes and institutions (Action F);
- Support for citizens' participation in managing facilities, programmes, and cultural events (Action G), where the city was particularly lauded for its high level of civil society involvement in cultural activities, including co-managing and co-constructing festivals with the municipality, or the Democratise Policy that strengthens participation in managing cultural spaces;
- Recognition and support for management practices that express local culture, which are developed around common goods (Action H), with mention of the fact that citizens generally use public spaces, streets, plazas, and common goods, as well as the notable Inhabit programme, which strengthens management between residents and cultural groups in communal spaces. Participants also underscored artists' right to use the city's unused spaces.

Conversely, three actions scored at an intermediate level related to:

- The existence of public participatory entities that include public, civic, and private actors (Action C) with the notable creation of CONCIPCULTA and its institutionalisation of the Cultures Law. However, there are clear difficulties in their functioning, and a low level of participation, which resulted in an advanced intermediate score for this area;
- Accountability and transparent evaluation by cultural institutions on the public service they provide (Action E), where participants highlighted accountability at the end of projects and programmes, with little control or participation during implementation. There was also a marked lack in the evaluation of the public services being provided;



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- The existence of a platform or network of civil society organisations which include citizens and cultural actors from all sectors (Action I), where there was a clear presence of various organisations of this kind, such as the Living Community Culture network. However, these networks are not grouped under one shared platform.

Finally, three actions were scored at an embryonic level around:

- Current local cultural plans at neighbourhood or district levels (Action B), where a cultural decentralisation policy exists, but overall it does not function locally or work within a “bottom-up” approach. Planning is carried out by major districts but this is a centralised process in coordination with local areas. Additionally, neighbourhood associations do not seem to have local cultural plans, nor do they consider culture. It is recommended that 2% of the budget of neighbourhood POAs be allocated to this area.
- Measures geared towards strengthening NGOs, trade associations, or unions in the area of culture (Action J), where there were a number of emerging initiatives;
- The existence of permanent frameworks for the distribution of responsibilities, or for collaboration among local, regional, and national levels of government (Action K), with the weak collaboration between municipal and national levels of government, primarily for political reasons, and a notable lack of mechanisms for the distribution of powers between these levels of government.

On a more internal level, there was a marked issue with coordination and communication in the municipality that seemed to affect cultural management. Internal collaborations appeared to depend primarily on individuals, and there were no existing mechanisms for collaboration or coordination between municipal departments. The model for planning and evaluation seemed inadequate for the purpose of strengthening cross-cutting, coordinated internal activity. To better understand the situation, it is important to highlight the fact that the local public administration in Bolivia involves transferring a greater responsibility onto Municipal management. Coupled with a sharply increasing citizen demands in recent years, this has made it difficult to use existing coordination mechanisms in the Municipality of La Paz.

The good practices noted for this area include: the Real Neighbourhoods Programme; the creation of CONCIPCULTA; citizen culture programmes, such as the Zebras; the La Paz Reads Programme due to the platform it offers between the municipality, other institutions, private organisations, and civil society; the Cultures Law, the Culture Sessions, and the La Paz 2040 Plan, for their institutional strengthening, municipal commitment, and involvement in culture; interinstitutional neighbourhood networks; the social control and citizen participation framework Law on citizen involvement and co-management; the Living Community Culture and Telarte programmes; the 21 municipal contests related to culture; and citizen empowerment in cultural events.



CONCLUSIONS

» In its self-assessment, La Paz placed higher than the global averages obtained by the 2015 global panel of experts in most of the areas and commitments analysed. The city is particularly noteworthy in the areas of “6. Culture, Equity, and Social Inclusion”, “2. Heritage, Diversity, and Creativity”, “1. Cultural Rights”, and “9. Governance of Culture”, which undoubtedly make up its strengths. In these areas, some projects have set an example and can act as models for other cities:

- In the area of cultural rights, La Paz developed a particularly noteworthy initiative on interculturality, cultural diversity, and Indigenous cultural rights with various programmes focused on interculturality, intangible heritage, traditional medicine, and traditional festivals. In fact, the Cultures Law and the Ministry of Cultures consider “cultures” in the plural sense, which is clearly demonstrated in their programmes and cultural activities;
- In the area of governance of culture, La Paz’s citizen participation initiatives also stand out as exemplary actions, which include the creation of the Citizens’ Council for Arts and Culture Planning (CONCIPCULTA), the Cultural Sessions, and the co-management of civil society. The city should also be noted for its efforts in institutional strengthening and in the professionalisation of culture services. Adopting the Cultures Law was a vital decision for structuring institutional cultural action, demonstrating a clear commitment to a cross-cutting understanding of culture and respect for cultural rights;
- With respect to Culture, Equity, and Social Inclusion, La Paz developed very original programmes, particularly with the “Zebras” of Citizen Culture, urban educators who roam the city streets dressed as zebras. Actions geared towards the city’s outlying neighbourhoods and areas must also be highlighted, as well as the multitude of festivals, fairs, and cultural activities in public areas that provide lifestyle and meeting spaces for citizens.

» Some areas required more immediate attention, and where La Paz could benefit from the examples set by other cities, given its lowest scores for the following:

- “5. Culture and Economy”: Participants recommended monitoring and significantly strengthening initiatives in this area, since the city received particularly low ratings on this issue. Here, the city is advised to adopt a specific approach that is adapted to the current reality and the needs of the cultural sector;
- “8. Culture, Information, and Knowledge”: It was recommended that efforts are taken to improve cultural monitoring instruments, and to build a system of analysis and indicators that establish a better understanding of the current realities and status of culture, which would make it possible to adapt cultural



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actions to local needs. This area was generally lacking, which was reflected both here and in other parts of the evaluation. Additionally, it may be pertinent to explicitly outline cross-cutting goals of cultural programmes so as to measure and broaden their scope. Some examples could include social inclusion or public safety. Finally, with respect to freedom of expression and pluralism in the media, it was suggested that La Paz engage in a reflection on how to respond to these challenges and how to counterbalance the country's complex national context, such as through freedom of artistic expression.

- “4. *Culture and Environment*”: The relationship between these two is touched on in a number of activities that focus on Andean culture, gastronomy, traditional knowledge, and sacred sites that could be improved as part of a more comprehensive work area.



In considering the results of the self-assessment, the issues facing La Paz, and the work proposals submitted by participants, some recommended areas of improvement included:

- The issue of territorial governance and social inclusion, in which it may be necessary to fortify action in the city's outlying neighbourhoods and areas. Cultural planning appears centralised in certain aspects, and does not necessarily favour local, neighbourhood actions. Carrying out local cultural plans and the institutional strengthening of neighbourhoods is vital for empowering cultural actions throughout the city, encouraging local identities and expressions, and for improving institutional stability around municipal cultural actions. The Real Neighbourhoods Programme seems to offer very interesting results and could be the foundation for building local governance around culture and establishing more decentralised action. On the other hand, there was a significant overall lack of cultural infrastructure in La Paz. Indeed, neighbourhood public spaces and community centres could perhaps be used in a more significant way. It was recommended that the city promote participatory creation projects with residents, given that the greatest changes and social transformations have been observed through active participation in cultural creation.
- With regard to governance, on several occasions participants emphasised a need for a global, cross-cutting strategy that integrates culture with other spheres, linking and bringing together cultural actors with those in other sectors. This is particularly important for stakeholders working in the areas of education, economy, social inclusion, regional planning, and the environment. It may also be necessary to initiate reflection and observations in order improve



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the understanding of co-management and co-responsibility with civil society and other regional public, private, or institutional stakeholders. For example, some cities have adopted a Charter of Cultural Cooperation (Lyon, France), or a joint declaration (Vaudreuil-Dorion, Canada) to establish a shared horizontal perspective alongside coordinated, coherent actions with other regional actors. Such a horizontal interinstitutional framework would spark a shared dynamic and movement with a plurality of actors, thereby offering long-term stability independent from political changes.

- Finally, there was a notable problem with the municipality's internal coordination and communication, which seemed to affect cross-cutting action in the area of culture. It is vital that these internal coordination and collaboration mechanisms are strengthened between the Ministry of Cultures and other areas.

APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANTS TO THE WORKSHOP

'PILOT CITY' WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

NAME - SURNAME	POSITION
Cultural Rights / Culture, Equity and Social Inclusion	
Edwin Mendez	Folklore Unit, Local Secretariat for Cultures
Sergio Rios	Director, Interactive Museum Memory and Future Local Secretariat for Cultures
Mabel Franco	Head of Unit, Local Facilities for the Performing Arts Local Secretariat for Cultures
Loretta Valle	Local Libraries Unit, Local Secretariat for Cultures
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Vida Tesdesqui	Officer, Cultural Heritage Directorate, Local Secretariat for Cultures
Ely Arana	Officer, Cultural Heritage Directorate, Local Secretariat for Cultures
Fanny Segurondo	Legal Advice Team, Local Secretariat for Cultures
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Ana Apaza	Social Management Directorate, Zongo District
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Victor Orozco	Director, Equality Policies
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Shirley Antequera	Human Development Unit, Peripheral District
Mario Rodriguez	Representative, Wayna Tambo
Iveth Saravia	Inti Phajsi
Jimmy Gira	Representative, CONCIPCULTA
Jhonatan Arancibia	LGTB movement
Carlos Avila	Representative, Cordon de Ouro
Juan Carlos Nina	Representative, Inti Watana

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Zacarias Bautista	Health Secretary, CODENAT
Ana Choque	Health Secretary, FEDEMENAT
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Veronica Rodriguez	Director, Murillo Museum, Local Secretariat for Cultures
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Leonel Francese	Cultural manager, theatre and film
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Mario Rodriguez	Coordinator, Cultura Viva Comunitaria
Silvia Fernandez	Collaborative economy, Telartes
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Michael Maldonado	Anthropologist, Association of Audiovisual Producers
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