



STUDY VISIT by UCLG CULTURE COMMITTEE to LYON

DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIAN, ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE, BILGI UNIVERISTY OF ISTANBUL, MALMÖ, KONYA, SCHAEERBEEK, STRASBOURG,
TERRASSA, VAUDREUIL-DORION

25, 26, 27 September 2019 - Lyon

REPORT

Background

Lyon is the winning city of the 2018 edition of the [International Award UCLG – City of Mexico – Culture 21](#) (ex-aequo with Seongbuk, Republic of Korea), with the programme “[The Sustainable City of Lyon: the Charter of Cultural Cooperation](#)”. For more than a decade, the Cultural Cooperation Charter approach has been a political and operational programme. The Charter connects the cultural sectors to shape Lyon as a “Sustainable City” in the long term. The Charter is coordinated by a small team that works as a “transversal” entity in the City Council; this team is the “Cultural Cooperation Mission”. It aims at deeply engaging cultural public services by mobilising cultural, artistic and heritage resources in the production of the Sustainable City. This approach involves 28 cultural venues, events and services managed or supported by the City, by other local authorities as well as by the State; it is based on 8 main thematic axes proposed by the cultural cooperation community, which generally correspond to both local and national programmes.

Beyond this acknowledgement, the City of Lyon (France) has been very actively involved in various activities carried out by the Committee on Culture of UCLG, among which the participation of the city in the three editions of the Culture Summit convened by UCLG since 2015 ([Bilbao, 2015](#) ; [Jeju 2017](#) and [Buenos Aires 2019](#)), as well as its participation in the International Seminar on “[Cultural Rights and Peace in the City](#)” organized by the Mexico City in November 2018, with the adoption of the “[Culture and Peace](#)” Declaration.

On the other hand, the **City of Lyon** is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a territory for innovation, and offers a rich and diversified cultural landscape. For 40 years the city and its metropolitan area have been committed to social and urban cohesion policies aimed at eliminating disparities. In the last 15 years, they have also focused on sustainable development strategies to face contemporary challenges.





The study visit

In this context, the City of Lyon and the UCLG Committee on Culture jointly organized a study visit on **“Culture, Governance and Sustainable Cities”** on 25-27 September 2019. The event aimed at: (a) introducing the main cultural policies of the City, with the key elements, as well as the various programmes and projects, and (b) fostering exchanges and learning among different cities and local or regional governments from across the world.

The study visit included presentations and discussions with city officials and officers, as well as with on-the-ground actors involved in the Charter of Cultural Cooperation. Also, the group had the opportunity to visit some key areas and relevant projects (although time was limited).

The main topics covered by the visit were:

- History of the city. The physical layers of the city. The role played by archaeology in cultural policies.
- Cultural, creative and heritage policies. The balance between “sectorial” policies for arts / heritage / events / culture with the “transversal” work of the Charter of Cultural Cooperation.
- Governance of cultural policies, including the support to large cultural institutions and the programme of grants to small-scale cultural actors, often based in neighbourhoods.
- Specific links between cultural policies and the long-term “Sustainable development” plan of the city. “Governing the international and national frames that influence sustainable development”: the Sustainable Development Goals, the French national “Urban Policies / *Politique de la Ville*”, the local policies for sustainable development, the UCLG Culture 21 Actions toolkit on “culture in sustainable cities”, etc.
- Meetings in Mermoz and understanding the urban, economic, social and cultural challenges of the neighbourhood. The role played by social actors. The growing place of the artistic teams that support the social and urban development of the territory.



- Meetings with cultural institutions involved in the Charter of Cultural Cooperation. In-depth analysis in the programmes and projects led by the Opera of Lyon and the Dance Parade, as well as the Dancehouse and the arts factory Les Subsistences.
- Meeting with cultural actors involved in the role of collective memories on difficult cultural issues, as well as in taking into consideration diversities in cultural and education policies. In-depth analysis of projects by Francas du Rhône, L'Olivier des Sages and the TRACES Network.

What we have learned

All the participants considered the visit was extremely useful. We reproduce herewith some of the comments by the participants:

On the Charter of Cultural Cooperation:

- It is no doubt that the Charter constitutes a successful guideline for other cities aiming to bring culture to the forefront of their urban strategy. Serhan Ada, Bilgi University, Istanbul / Expert Agenda 21 for culture.



- At the level of the municipal organization, it is very interesting to note that the various missions (especially the Cultural Cooperation Mission that we have analyzed in detail, but also the Sustainable Development Mission and the Equality Mission) interact effectively across all municipal services; the result is that the Municipality of Lyon has very strong projects, really owned by all stakeholders. Anna Farràs and Imma Vilches, City of Terrassa.
- It is interesting to understand that we are working with quite the same challenges in every city as well as that we take similar approaches. [...] The way in which Lyon works with the Mission and their Charter is very interesting and we would like to spend more time asking questions about the organization behind the Charter. Ivana Baukart, City of Malmö.
- The Cultural Cooperation Charter is an example of transversality and collaboration between many actors, especially cultural, which Schaerbeek could draw on to achieve its own Sustainable Development Goals. Delphine Morel from Westgaver, Schaerbeek Municipality.

On the cultural policies and its governance:

- Lyon exemplifies how local public agents can take the initiative to include diverse sectors of the population in the decision making and implementation processes, and trigger a bottom up feedback which in turn creates governance practices in cultural policies. Serhan Ada, Bilgi University, Istanbul / Expert Agenda 21 for culture.
- The rich program of visits, meetings and exchanges allowed us to have a better understanding of the urban policies and the important role played by cultural policies in the whole, with the Charter of Cultural Cooperation as an engine for the involvement, the mobilization and the long-term work that cultural structures in the deprived neighborhoods (the City's Priority Neighborhoods - QPV). Aymée Rogé, Brigitte Gadouleau and Mohammed Ahab, City of Strasbourg.



- The important support of the City of Lyon to its organizations and cultural structures becomes an important driver of cohesion and cultural and social development. Chloé Marcil, City of Vaudreuil-Dorion
- The high budget allocated to culture, with major infrastructures (for example, the Opera, the House of Dance, ...) and major events (for example, the biennale of Dance and its Parade, the Biennale of Contemporary Art, the Lumière Festival) is an example to be followed by all cities around the world. Anna Farràs and Imma Vilches, City of Terrassa.
- Is the active participation of the public (in the sense of cultural creation by the public most often) really an essential model for mediation, especially if we aim at the insertion of specific audiences? This injunction to participation could be questioned ... [...] for example, "being" and "becoming a spectator" are also processes to be accompanied by mediation. Céline Schall, City of Esch-sur-Alzette.
- Lyon is able to protect its cultural assets and, also, it has decided to invest in cultural activities and events. The host gave us lots of detailed information about the content of these events. Selim Yücel Güleç, City of Konya.

On specific programmes and the visits:

- The visit to the Laennec-Mermoz neighborhood with the visit to the House of Culture and Youth, the Social Centre, the mobile library Bibliobus, and the strolling in the public spaces was a live case of how cultural animation could be an integral part of all urban processes including regeneration plans. Serhan Ada, Bilgi University, Istanbul / Expert Agenda 21 for culture.
- In our city, Vaudreuil-Dorion, the example of the deployment of the Cultural Cooperation Charter in Lyon resonates in many ways with our philosophy of cultural intervention in the neighborhoods. We are putting in place a policy of recognition of organizations in the coming year and some key elements put forward by the City of Lyon could be resumed to promote a



- more concerted work of the various stakeholders (this is certainly well aligned with guidelines of the Agenda 21 of culture which we follow). Chloé Marcil, City of Vaudreuil-Dorion.
- For the Culture Night that we organize in Esch, the Parade of the Dance Biennial could be an inspiration, especially for the selection of projects within the whole of Luxembourg and the financing method. Céline Schall, City of Esch-sur-Alzette.
- The public interest in the biennales was truly inspirational. I have new ideas on how Konya can develop its biennial Traditional Islamic Arts Contest and lure the attention of its citizens to cultural events. We will discuss and develop our plan in accordance with these new ideas. Selim Yücel Güleç, City of Konya.
- The outreach work was interesting especially the Fine Arts School example with courses for individuals that don't hold formal competes that enables them to apply for art school. Ivana Baukart, City of Malmö.
- The visit to the association L'Olivier des Sages was very rich in exchanges. Schaerbeek also hosts an aging population from different waves of immigration, and it is a challenge to offer cultural services that meet the challenges of loneliness. Delphine Morel de Westgaver, Schaerbeek Municipality.

The Charter of Cultural Cooperation of Lyon is a model that can be adapted to local circumstances to guarantee that the key cultural institutions and cultural events of a city are explicitly connected to cultural policy and relate their programmes to urban challenges such as human rights, equality, inclusion, education, neighbourhoods, gender or climate change.

The UCLG Culture Committee wishes to congratulate, once again, all actors and persons involved in the Charter of Cultural Cooperation of Lyon.

ANNEX 1. PROGRAMME

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

Morning. Place: Hôtel de Ville de Lyon – the City Hall (1, place de la Comédie, Lyon 1er) Venue: "Salle de la doc". Access: Métro Line A: Station "Hôtel de Ville Louis Pradel"

10.15: **Welcome**

10.30: **Setting the scene and the context.** "Jeu de cartes": Presentation of the City, from the 2nd century to our days. Speaker: Laurent Strippoli

General presentation of the City and of the Cultural Policy of the city. Speakers: Loïc Graber, Councilor for Culture; Xavier Fourneyron, Deputy Executive Director on Culture, Heritage and Student Life; Sophie Lacroix, Head of Artistic Creation and Distribution Service; Piéranne Gausset, Head of Heritage Management Service

Presentation Urban Policy. Speaker: Michaël Baska, Deputy Executive Director on Urban Development

General presentation of the Charter of Cultural Cooperation. Speaker: Marc Villarubias, Head of the Cultural Cooperation Mission

Afternoon. Place: National Opera of Lyon (1, place de la Comédie, Lyon 1er). Access: Métro Line A: Station "Hôtel de Ville Louis Pradel"

14.00 – 14.45: **Presentation of the National Opera of Lyon:** actions on publics and citizens in the territory, also actions on eco-responsibility. Speaker: Claire Hébert, Deputy Executive Director. National Opera of Lyon

15.00 – 17.00: **Presentation of the Sustainable Development Mission, the Equality Mission and the "Insertion Culture" Mission.** Presentation of the three missions and the interconnection with Culture. Speakers: Isabelle Niesseron, Head of the Sustainable Development Mission, Souhila Omar, Officer in the Disabled Mission, Rémi Le Floch, Officer in the Gender Equality Mission and Myriam Albet, Head of the Taskforce on Cultural Integration

DAY 2: THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Morning. Place: MJC Laënnec Mermoz - Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture - House of Culture and Youth (21, rue Genton, Lyon 8ème). Access: Métro Line D – Station « Mermoz-Pinel »

9.15: **Welcome**

9.30: **Presentation of the House of Culture and Youth. Presentation of the neighbourhood, the programme of Urban Renewal and the Cultural Project of the Territory.** Speakers: Florence Galipot, Officer in charge of "Habitat Mission" in the Entrée Est Mission; Anaïs Lavot, Officer in Cultural Cooperation Mission



10.00: **Presentation and exchanges with artistic and cultural actors in the neighbourhood.**
Speakers: MJC Mermoz, Augustine Turpiaux Company, Grabuge Theater, Municipal Library

11.30: **Departure**

12.15: **Presentation of the Social Centre Mermoz.** Lunch offered by association "Vivre Ensemble"
(Living together)

Afternoon. *Places: Maison de la Danse - Dancehouse (8, avenue Jean Mermoz, Lyon 8ème). Les Francas du Rhône (43 Rue Salomon Reinach, Lyon 7ème)*

14.00: Departure by bus

14.30 – 16.30: **Meeting with the teams of the Dancehouse and the Dance biennial.** Speakers:
Teams of the Dancehouse and the Dance Biennial; Xavier Phélut and Stéphanie
Claudin from the Dance Biennial Parade.

16.30: Departure by bus

17.00: **Meeting with les "Francas du Rhône", presentation of the Working Group on
Culture and Popular Education.** Speaker: Bernard Noly, Director of "Francas du
Rhône"; Yann Darnault, Fine Arts Museum; Fanny Thaler, Contemporary Art Museum
and Virginie De Marco, Numelyo – BM Lyon.

Evening (optional)

18.00: **Afterwork at the Jardin Îlot d'Amaranthes (Lyon 7ème): Visit and presentation of the
project**

19.00: **Opening of the "Saison aux Subsistances" (Lyon 2ème): "Party en exil" with the workshop
of artists in exile**

DAY 3: FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

Morning. *Place: Hôtel de Ville de Lyon – the City Hall (1, place de la Comédie, Lyon 1er) Venue: Salons
rouges. Access: Métro Line A: Station "Hôtel de Ville Louis Pradel"*

9.15: **Welcome**

9.30: **Open professional Meeting on "Culture and Sustainable Development".** Speakers: Opening:
Councillor for culture, City of Lyon; Isabelle Niesseron, Head of Sustainable Development
Mission, City of Lyon; Jordi Pascual, coordinator UCLG Culture Committee; Marc Villarubias,
Head of Cultural Cooperation Mission, City of Lyon

10.45: **Exchanges with cultural institutions, parties of the Charter of Cultural Cooperation.**
Speakers: BM Lyon, Les Subsistances, Archaeological Service of the City of Lyon, the Croix-
Rousse Theatre, the Fine Arts School of Lyon, the National Opera of Lyon and the
Dancehouse.



12.15: **Closing remarks by the Councillor for Social and Solidarity Economy, City of Lyon.**

12.30: Departure from the City Hall to the association L'Olivier des Sages

Afternoon. *Place: Association L'Olivier des Sages (8 Rue de l'Épée, Lyon 3ème). Accès: Métro ligne D direction Gare de Vénissieux, Arrêt Guillotière*

13h00: Lunch at the Association L'Olivier des Sages

14.30-16.30: **Presentation of the Association L'Olivier des Sages and meeting and exchanges with the cultural actors involved in the consideration of diversities.** Speakers: Zorah Ferhat, director of the Association L'Olivier des Sages, Kadia Faraux, choreographer, Dance Biennial Parade; Yves Benitah, videoartist; the team of the TRACES Network.

16.30-17.00: **Final meeting and débriefing.**

ANNEX 2.

PARTICIPANTS

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Ms **Delphine MOREL de WESTGAVER**, Coordinator of the Sustainable Development Plan of the City, SCHAERBEEK

Ms **Nathalie BERGHMANS**, Responsable Service de la culture francophone, SCHAERBEEK

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