



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

5th EDITION - INTERNATIONAL AWARD

COMMUNIQUE



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21

UCLG Committee



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



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

CONTEXT

The objective of the **International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21** is to recognize leading cities and personalities that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a dimension of 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 and individual.

The **first edition** of the Award was celebrated 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 “Individual”, the Jury decided to award jointly Basma El Husseiny, and Patrice Meyer-Bisch.



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



The **fourth edition** of the Award was held in 2017-2018 and presented to the UCLG World Council on the occasion of the World Congress of UCLG in Durban (15 November 2019). 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 aims at recognising cities and personalities who have excelled in the promotion of cultural rights in the context of the Covid-19 crisis and post-pandemic recovery, and/or that have promoted culture as an important part of the caring system. The deadlines for the submission of candidatures were 22 April 2022 (for the first phase), and 27 May 2022 (for the second phase and the nominations for the “Individual” category). In May 2022, the list of the Best Actions was announced, with the labels “Innovative Sparks” and “Planning with Care”.



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



JURY

The Jury of the Award was made up of the following five members, all of whom are prestigious international experts with outstanding careers in the cultural field.

- I **Catherine Cullen** (President of the Jury), Special Advisor on Culture in Sustainable Cities. Former Deputy Mayor for Culture for the City of Lille, France, and former Chair of the Culture Committee of UCLG.
- I **Serhan Ada**, Professor at the faculty of Arts and Cultural Management Department, Director of Cultural Policy and Management Research Center, and Head of UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy at Istanbul Bilgi University.
- I **Diana Alarcón González**, Chief Advisor and International Affairs Coordinator of the Government of Mexico City.
- I **Claudia Curiel de Icaza**, Secretary of Culture of the Government of Mexico City. Programmer, producer and cultural manager with 15 years of experience in the public, private and independent sectors.
- I **Francisco d’Almeida**, co-director of “Culture and Development”, an international non-governmental organisation for studies and action in cultural cooperation for the development of the cultural sector at the local level in the Global South.

The Jury analysed the applications presented in the two categories in May 2022, and held its final meeting on 9 June 2022.

The results of the 5th edition of the Award were officially presented by Claudia Curiel, Secretary of Culture of the Government of Mexico City, at the Executive Bureau of UCLG, on 15 June 2022.



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



CATEGORY “CITY, LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT”

This category recognises a city, local or regional government the cultural policy of which has contributed significantly to linking the values of culture (heritage, diversity, creativity and transmission of knowledge) with democratic governance, citizen participation and sustainable development.

The Award is given to the candidate local or regional government that wins a competitive call process, open to direct or indirect UCLG members.

In the fifth edition, the Award recognises an original policy, programme or project specifically focused on the promotion of cultural rights in the context of the Covid-19 crisis and post-pandemic recovery, and/or that have promoted culture as an important part of the caring system. The action should have documented evidence of the impact and the successes achieved.

This edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 received **101 submissions from cities and local and regional governments** from all corners of the world:

Adelaide (Australia), **Agadir** (Souss-Massa-Draâ, Morocco), **Amman** (Jordan), **Ataşehir** (İstanbul, Turkey), **Baalbeck** (Lebanon), **Baie-Mahault** (Guadeloupe, France), **Balikesir** (Turkey), **Bandung** (West Java, Indonesia), **Barcelona** (Catalonia, Spain), **Belo Horizonte** (Minas Gerais, Brazil), **Bhopal** (Madhya Pradesh, India), **Bogotá** (Colombia), **Brasília** (Brazil), **Brussels** (Belgium), **Buenos Aires** (Argentina), **Bulawayo** (Zimbabwe), **Busan** (Republic of Korea), **Büyükcemece** (İstanbul, Turkey), **California** (United States of America), **Çanakkale** (Turkey), **Catbalogan** (The Philippines), **Concepción** (Chile), **Cuenca** (Ecuador), **Dakar** (Senegal), **Donostia/San Sebastian** (Basque Country, Spain), **Dublin** (Ireland), **Eghlid** (Fars Province, Iran), **El Carmen de Viboral** (Antioquia, Colombia), **Elefsina** (Greece), **Esch-sur-Alzette** (Luxembourg), **Fatih** (İstanbul, Turkey), **Gao** (Mali), **Gimhae** (Republic of Korea), **Giza** (Egypt), **Granollers** (Catalonia, Spain), **Guanajuato** (Mexico), **Gunsan** (Republic of Korea), **Havana** (Cuba), **Huechuraba** (Santiago de Chile, Chile), **Incheon** (Republic of Korea), **Iriga** (Camarines Sur, Bicol Region, The Philippines), **Izmir** (Turkey), **Jeju** (Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Republic of Korea), **Jinju** (Republic of Korea), **Kadıköy** (İstanbul, Turkey), **Konya** (Turkey), **Košice** (Slovakia), **Kraków** (Poland), **Krasnoyarsk** (Russian Federation), **Küçükçemece** (İstanbul, Turkey), **Kütahya** (Turkey), **Leeds** (England, United Kingdom), **Lima** (Peru), **Ljubljana** (Slovenia), **Lomé - Golfe 1** (Togo), **London** (England, United Kingdom), **Longueuil** (Quebec, Canada), **Makati** (The Philippines), **Malmö** (Sweden), **Mannheim** (Baden-Württemberg, Germany), **Mar del Plata** (General Pueyrredon, Argentina), **Medellín** (Colombia), **Melbourne** (Victoria, Australia), **Mérida** (Yucatan, Mexico), **Montevideo** (Uruguay), **Montreal** (Quebec, Canada), **Moscow** (Russian Federation), **Nilüfer** (Bursa, Turkey), **Niterói** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), **Nur-Sultan** (Kazakhstan), **Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso), **Palmela** (Portugal), **Peñalolén** (Santiago de Chile, Chile), **Porto Alegre** (Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil), **Puerto de la Cruz** (Canary Islands, Spain), **Qingdao** (China), **Quilmes** (Argentina), **Rajkot** (Gujarat, India), **Ramallah** (Palestine), **Rome** (Lazio, Italy), **San Antonio** (Texas, United States of America), **San Luis Potosí** (San Luis Potosí, Mexico), **Sancaktepe** (İstanbul, Turkey), **Santa Fe** (Santa Fe Province, Argentina), **Segou** (Mali), **Selçuklu** (Konya, Turkey), **Siheung-si** (Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea), **Songpa-gu** (Seoul, Republic of Korea), **Suwon** (Republic of Korea), **Suzhou** (China), **Taichung**, **Tehran** (Iran), **Terrassa** (Catalonia, Spain), **Tevragh Zeina** (Mauritania), **Trois-Rivières** (Quebec, Canada), **Ufa** (Bashkortostan Republic, Russian Federation), **Utrecht** (The Netherlands), **Vaudreuil-Dorion** (Quebec, Canada), **Wrocław** (Poland), **Xi'an** (China), **Yopougon** (Abidjan, Ivory Coast).



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



After more than two years since the pandemic outbreak, there is an impressive collection of cultural policies, programmes and projects that have been organised by cities and local and regional governments, often in partnership with civil society and/or other actors (networks, universities, activists, collectives, foundations, national or international institutions, etc.). The Award is an exceptional opportunity to place the way out of the pandemic crisis within a framework of protection and promotion of cultural rights, and to ensure that no-one, and no territory, is left behind.

The fifth edition of the Award is committed to giving visibility to dozens and dozens of initiatives from all continents that have responded to these challenges. Specifically, the 5th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21 has recognised the **best actions** in this field, promoting them with the labels “**Innovative sparks**” and “**Planning with care**”. These projects will also become good practices in the “OBS”, the database of UCLG Culture Committee on cities, culture and sustainable development.

The Jury expresses the sincerest gratitude to cities and local governments that are supporting cultural initiatives and infrastructure, encouraging collective reflection upon the relationship between cultural rights, democracy, freedoms, peace, equality, public space and wellbeing, and promoting international cooperation and solidarity, with initiatives that make evident that culture is a pillar of people’s lives, and it is central in the recovery of this and other crises, and beyond.

The Jury notes that in these difficult times, when peace among peoples, respect for Mother Earth and dignity for all are at stake, applications received 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.

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

The Jury decided that the winners of the Award (in alphabetical order) were the candidatures “**Abasto Cultural neighbourhood: Economic boost and urban regeneration**”, submitted by the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (Argentina), and “**AWE’ - Cultural engagement through accessibility, wellbeing and evidence**”, submitted by the city of Dublin (Ireland).



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



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



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



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



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



Bandung (West Java, Indonesia), for the project “Hutan Menyala (Glowing Forest)”, which has set the forest Hutan Mayala, one of the greater cultural and natural assets of Bandung, as an innovative post-pandemic destination in the form of an audio-visual experience. The project allows the protection and promotion of the forest, mixing advanced digital technology and traditional cultural elements.



Busan (Republic of Korea), for “Busan Galmaetgil, a cultural value promotion project manifested through urban trails”. This project enhances public health and cultural enjoyment through convenient and clean urban trails, showcasing cultural content, local traditions and history as well as its relationship with nature, and offering activities to promote sustainable tourism and respond to the climate emergency, among others.



Izmir (Turkey), for “Izmir’s Project on Boosting Up Culture as Key for Resilience and Development”. This project shows that political will can bring culture to the forefront in policies, plans and practices. Through a comprehensive and innovative policy, “Crisis Municipalism”, Izmir offers new models for public service delivery with culture as one of its main pillars, providing access to culture, encouraging participation and triggering solidarity.



Jinju (Republic of Korea), for “The Art Delivery Project”. Since 2019, this project has helped narrowing the gap in the enjoyment of cultural rights between urban and rural areas and enhancing participation of the underprivileged, marrying the traditional folk arts of Jinju with modern arts, and engaging local cultural actors in the framework of events such as the Jinju World Folk Arts Biennale.



Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), for the project “Cultural Development of Greater Ouaga, City of Wellbeing and Social Cohesion”. This project has contributed significantly to the balanced cultural development of Greater Ouaga and the wellbeing of its inhabitants, mainly made up of young people under 25 (60%), reducing the geographical inequalities of access to art and culture by providing adequate cultural infrastructure and educational activities for all.



Tevragh Zeina (Nouakchott, Mauritania), for the project “HEYA Nouakchott: Tevragh Zeina, Creative City”. This project has enabled the construction of a solid cultural policy for the city, centred on sustainable development. HEYA Nouakchott has also contributed to the professionalisation of the cultural sector and the improvement of working conditions for cultural actors and artists during the pandemic and beyond.

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



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



CATEGORY “INDIVIDUAL”

This category recognises an internationally renowned person who have excelled in the promotion of cultural rights in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, and/or that have promoted culture as an important part of the caring system. The award is given by the Jury, based on confidential nominations.

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



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

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



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



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

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



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



CONCLUSION

In the context of the recovery of the Covid-19 crisis and the systematic attacks on peace and democracy and entrenched racism and sexism facing the world, the fifth edition of the Award has been an extremely meaningful experience. It demonstrated that an impressive array of policies, programmes and projects that cities and local governments have developed are unchaining the potential of heritage, creativity and diversity -that is, culture- as an unequivocal part of the solution to humanity's challenges.

Cities and local governments are central. They are working to enshrining and guaranteeing the right to participate in cultural life for all, and placing culture at the core of the new social contract that will guide the future of humanity and the planet: The Pact for the Future. The pandemic has been the context for improving the quality of the wide-ranging cultural dialogues that humanity urgently needs to address, including human rights, the climate emergency, inequalities and the centrality of care, cooperation and solidarity.

These projects become especially relevant in a context such as the one our world is experiencing; many of them can be seen as “Innovative Sparks” and illustrative examples on how cities, networks and cultural actors are “Planning with Care” in the midst of the pandemic recovery and in the frame of the many other crises ravaging the world.

The Award is 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.

Awards for both categories will be presented on 27 September 2022 in Mexico City, in the framework of the celebration of Mondiacult 2022, the most important international conference of UNESCO on cultural policies, after 40 years of its first edition. All members of UCLG are cordially invited to attend.

www.agenda21culture.net/award



5th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



CONTACT

Technical Secretariat of the Award:

| cultureaward@uclg.org

| www.agenda21culture.net/award

