



**UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21**

INTERNATIONAL AWARD – 6th EDITION

CATEGORY

**“CITY / LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT”**

**SUMMARY OF THE 87 CANDIDATES**



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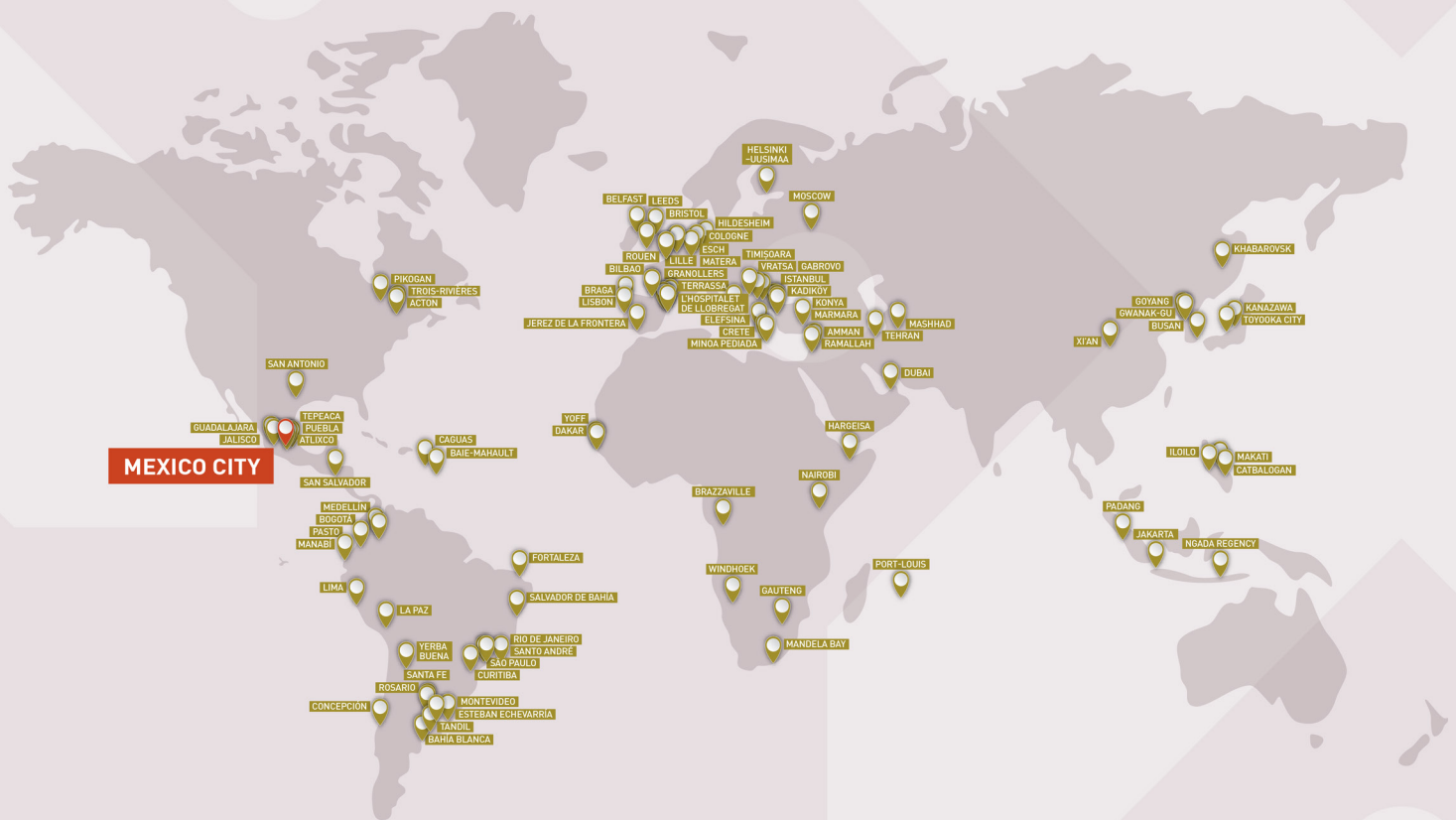
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The objective of the International Award UCLG – **MEXICO** City – Culture 21 is to recognize leading cities and people that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a dimension of sustainable development. The initiative is consistent with the aim of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to represent and defend the interests of local governments on the world stage.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award will recognize cities and personalities who have excelled in the promotion of cultural rights in sustainable development.

This edition of the International Award UCLG – **Mexico** City – Culture 21 (2023-2024) has received 87 submissions from cities and local governments from all regions of the world. Following to the Rules of the Award, this document reproduces the abstract of each one of the 87 submissions.



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### ACTON (MRC), QUÉBEC, CANADA CULTURAL POLICY OF ACTON MRC

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The Regional Committee Municipality (MRC) of Acton adopted its first cultural policy in 2011. In recent years, partners, artists, cultural workers and citizens have been able to benefit from a number of projects supported by Acton MRC. Building on this experience, the Council of Mayors of Acton MRC has decided to update the cultural policy and continue the Acton MRC's commitment to the arts and culture sector. The starting point for this renewal was the concern towards the integration and inclusion of culture in the overall development of the community. In order to make this new policy complementary

to other mandates of Acton MRC, as well as to integrate it with the pillars of sustainable development in the community, a consultation process involving over forty people from all spheres of activity was carried out. The result was an integrated vision of culture as part of the sustainable development of the region. A new cultural policy was therefore adopted in February 2022 by the Council of Mayors. Thanks to the mobilisation of the community, this new policy is now firmly rooted in the daily lives of local residents and in the local economy. The actions underway over the last two years have already demonstrated this.

### AMMAN (GREATER AMMAN MUNICIPALITY), JORDAN REVIVING THE FOLKLORE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

2

This program is one of many initiatives launched by the community development sector through the Zaha Cultural Center. It aims to achieve the strategic goals set by GAM (Greater Amman Municipality).

Launched in 2022 at the Zaha Center's main branch in Khalda, Amman, the program serves women, youth, children, and people with disabilities within the local community. It offers a variety of projects including:

1. Cultural awareness by conducting workshops and training courses.
2. Handcraft such as: Mosaic, Porcelain, pottery and clay craft, Brass Craft, Embroidery, Straw Craft, Glass Painting, Recycling, 3D-printer...

3. Festivals and cultural events.
4. Economical empowering and employment projects.

The number of beneficiaries of the projects:

- Cultural awareness courses: the number was initially 1321 in 2022 and has reached 14469 in 2023.
- Handcraft: the number was initially 700 in 2022 and has reached 2865 in 2023.
- Festivals and cultural events: the number was initially 10800 in 2022 and has reached 87705 in 2023.
- Economical empowering and employment: the number reached 50 in 2023.



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The program aims to:

1. Developing cultural awareness and cultural heritage and introducing lesser-known tourist areas
2. Developing traditional handicraft skills through establishing and equipping handicraft workshops and training courses in many branches of the centers
3. Spreading the culture of digitization, utilization of technology and innovation by linking handicrafts with three-dimensional printer, as a number of famous tourist areas were chosen in every governorate in Jordan.
4. Empowering the beneficiaries to acquire required skills and become able to work in the vocational and handicrafts sectors, and to support them in increasing income by advising them and developing their capabilities in project management and marketing programs then link them with the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) to support these projects.
5. Consolidating the volunteer culture and improving social cohesion.

### ATLIXCO, PUEBLA, MEXICO HUEY ATLIXCÁYOTL FESTIVAL

3

Among Mexico's great riches are its traditions, living treasures that emanate from the diverse expressions of our peoples; valuable experiences that are transmitted from one generation to the next and transcend from the material to the intangible through a link between the past and the present, communicating a sense of belonging and identity to the people who make up a community.

Huey Atlixcáyotl is the name of a cultural festival that takes place on the hill of San Miguel, in an open-air stage, known as Netotiloayan (place of the dance), in the Municipality of Atlixco, Puebla, on the last Sunday of September every year. The name

of this festivity, that is celebrated around the Saint Miguel the Archangel, is of Nahuatl origin and means "great festivity of Atlixco". However, if we translate it by the roots of the Nahuatl language, the suffix "Yotl" added to Atlixco translates as "Atlixquedad".

Huey Atlixcáyotl has been devoted to show and preserve the music, the singing and traditional dances of the ethno-geographical regions that make up the state of Puebla and a guest state, movingly reliving ancestral customs when witnessing an indigenous wedding, the election of the "Xochicihuatl", "the Flower Woman" or the "voladores of Cuetzalan" among many other dances.



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### BAHÍA BLANCA, ARGENTINA FERROWHITE WORKSHOP MUSEUM

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Located on the grounds of the former General San Martín power plant, a building declared a Historic Monument of the Argentine Nation, Ferrowhite is a Workshop Museum: a place where things are not only exhibited, but also manufactured.

And what does a Workshop Museum produce? It produces tools. Useful for broadening our understanding of the present and, therefore, our perspective of the future, forged in the work with objects and documents of the past, but also close up with the vital experience of hundreds, thousands of workers who form part of, and shape, that history.

More than 5000 pieces from the railway and the port, stolen by a group of railwaymen

during the privatisations of the 1990s, are the starting point to try to understand how the workshops in which these tools were used were organised, what the order and conflicts of the society they served were like, and in comparison, how things are today. Books and shopping bags, baskets and videos, theatre and tool boxes... Perhaps everything that this museum-workshop generates proves relationships. An amalgam of words, images, bodies and things that seeks to configure, even in a modest way, new ways of understanding and practising life in common by revising the hierarchies consecrated when it comes to narrating the past, analysing the current situation or imagining the future.

### BAIE-MAHAULT, GUADELOUPE, FRANCE "THE ABC OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY", A CULTURE OF CITIZEN CONSULTATION IN BAIE-MAHAULT

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"The ABC of participatory democracy" or how to promote citizen consultation in Baie-Mahault to encourage citizen participation, the expression of cultural rights and a better quality of life in the area. The idea is to capitalise on all the useful tools for local consultation, co-constructing for biodiversity, culture, cooperation, sustainable development...

Far from being the first of its kind, as part of the Energy Performance Plan (PPE), some twenty public meetings were held to gather the

views of local residents in order to modernise the city's public lighting. This has made it possible to reduce light pollution, preserve the black screen to protect natural areas and endemic species, and to facilitate interaction between citizens and municipal services, an application (Bima ville) has been created. It should also be noted that the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Cultural Action has been implemented thanks to the participation of around thirty people in workshops, initially held every fortnight, then every week. The practice of participatory democracy is also



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reflected in the three Neighbourhood Councils which bring together residents from different neighbourhoods of the municipality, within the ten Neighbourhood Houses. In addition, a shared garden has been created for the enjoyment of the residents in one of these neighbourhoods.

In 2023, workshops were organised in the Convenance, Fond-Richer, Moudong and city centre areas. Twenty-five people on average met to discuss various themes (education, participatory democracy and citizenship,

heritage preservation, etc.) and define actions that could help to localise the 17 sustainable development objectives.

The future eco-neighbourhoods have already undergone a consultation phase before becoming operational in the near future. In addition to taking part in cultural, sporting, social and accessing heritage, these citizen meetings enable our community to guarantee freedom of expression for all citizens, regardless of gender, race or geographical origin.

## BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED KINGDOM BELFAST 2024

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Belfast 2024 is Belfast's homegrown celebration of culture and creativity throughout 2024. We had hoped to be European Capital of Culture and had galvanized huge citizen support to do so. In the absence of this designation, we know we have residents' support to celebrate who we are and share that with the world. So....

Belfast 2024 is a programme of world-class spectacle events, performances, and activities across the city.

The city is invited to get involved through innovative participation opportunities from January, with a calendar of exciting live events taking place across the city from May and running through to December 2024.

We have '24 for 24' extra special projects organised, on top of Belfast's already amazing cultural calendar, to enable everyone to explore Belfast and express themselves creatively in a deeper way than ever before.

## BILBAO, BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN BILBAO BALIOEN HIRIA (BBH) – BILBAO CITY OF VALUES

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Bilbao lacked a consolidated framework that strengthened the cultural values shared by its citizens, and that facilitated sustainable development through a common vision to guide its future as a city.

In response to this challenge, Bilbao Balioen Hiria – Bilbao City of Values (BBH) was created, a collaborative project with more than 2200 members, which has consolidated a common space in which institutions, NGOs, companies,



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the media, political groups and society build the territory together through analysis, dialogue, reflection and collaboration.

Its backbone is the Bilbao Charter of Values, with 17 values that define the city and guide specific actions for its development. Culture becomes a central and transversal vector in the Charter, in values related to cultural rights, inclusion, diversity, intercultural dialogue, tolerance and coexistence, and preservation of cultural and social elements.

BBH is deployed in actions within three lines of work:

1. Recognition of initiatives that promote values such as access to culture and cultural participation. The award-winning projects were “Mari Makeda” (employment of women in social exclusion, with African culture as a central theme); “Otxarkoaga Modern Art Festival” (creative talent in deprived areas); “Jazz Cultural Theatre of Bilbao” (raising awareness of recycling with jazz as a common thread); “Etorkizuna Musikatan” (children’s orchestras in disadvantaged communities) or “Arbotante” (intergenerational didactics around art).
2. Municipal initiatives to work on values in the city, including the creation of spaces for creation and to meet people, the promotion of cultural diversity and the integration of values in the educational sphere.
3. Dissemination of the Bilbao Charter of Values at local and international level, such as the travelling photographic exhibition “We are Values”, featuring citizens; or the BBH category of the Mikoleta literary prizes, aimed at school students.

## BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

“CALMA PROGRAMME” - CITIZEN CULTURE STRATEGIES BASED ON ETHICS AND CARING CULTURE TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE GENDER EQUITY, REDISTRIBUTION OF CARE WORK, THE ELIMINATION OF GENDER VIOLENCE AND THE PROMOTION OF NON-VIOLENT AND CO-RESPONSIBLE MASCULINITIES IN BOGOTÁ.

The “Calma programme” emerges from the commitment of the Bogotá District Development Plan to reduce social and institutional acceptance of machismo, combat gender-based violence and promote equal participation of men in care work. Calma focuses on understanding and tackling the cultural motivations behind them, based

on a citizen culture approach, addressing social norms and collective representations of masculinity and care, and developing mechanisms for cultural and behavioural change, based on scenography, performance and narrative, with an ecological approach reaching the district, territorial, family and individual levels, with territorial,





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communicative and digital work components. Calma contains two strategies: the Calma Line, which offers telephonic support and psycho-educational accompaniment for men facing difficult emotional situations that lead to situations of interpersonal and intimate partner violence motivated by sexism, and the “Men in Care School”, which seeks to involve men in care work, thus contributing to the equitable redistribution of care responsibilities and the promotion of co-responsible and non-violent masculinities. Calma stands out for its effectiveness and sustainability by addressing these issues from a holistic perspective and offering services and resources that

promote lasting changes in the community, demonstrating an exceptional commitment to cultural transformation and sustainable development, aligning with the United Nations SDGs, especially with regard to gender equality and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. It also responds to the Buenos Aires commitment of the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2022, regarding the promotion of co-responsible and non-violent masculinities to transform gender roles and stereotypes, through the participation of men with an innovative approach.

### BRAGA, PORTUGAL

#### CIRCUITO: ARTS & TECH FOSTERING SOCIETAL CHANGE

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In 2017, Braga embarked on a journey to become UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts, positioning it as the steppingstone of its ambitious cultural strategy, “Braga Cultura 2030”.

The city perceived this endeavour not only as a recognition of its vast potential but also as an opportunity to confront significant challenges head-on. By integrating culture and creativity into its overarching sustainable development strategy, in alignment with the objectives of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) delineated by the United Nations 2030 Agenda, Braga outlined a visionary path for its future.

At the core of this ambitious initiative was the launch of CIRCUITO, Braga’s Media Arts educational and training programme. CIRCUITO plays a pivotal role in Braga’s action

plan as a UNESCO Creative City, serving as a platform for capacity building and as a means to foster new audiences and creative talent. The concept behind CIRCUITO is twofold: it symbolizes both an electronic component closely linked to the realm of Media Arts and a metaphorical pathway representing the educational journey of continuity and progression. To stimulate artistic knowledge, critical thinking, and broaden audiences, CIRCUITO promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together individuals, formal and non-formal groups, and bridging the gap between generations, in order to cultivate new communities and nurture talent. Through its regular programming, it engages a wide range of audiences – including individuals, families, schools, communities, children, teenagers, adults, seniors, specialists, amateurs, and the curious –, further emphasizing its commitment to artistic innovation and cultural development.





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### BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### PROJECT TO TRANSFORM THE POTO-POTO CULTURAL CIRCLE INTO A CULTURAL, ARTISTIC AND CIVIC CENTRE

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“The New Circle”, a project to transform the POTO-POTO cultural circle into a cultural, artistic and civic hub, under development since 2021, is the outcome of our proactive policy to promote culture, heritage and tourism in Brazzaville with the aim to highlight the dynamism of young people and diversify the local economy, in line with our “Cultural and Tourism Development Strategy” and its action plan adopted in 2012. As a result, we were awarded the UNESCO Creative City designation in 2014.

By progressively renovating the entire Poto-Poto Town Hall and its cultural area, a listed national heritage building, the CDM (Departmental and Municipal Council) aims to launch a programme of urban regeneration

and to provide the metropolis with a network of cultural infrastructures to encourage people to live together and support the creativity of its youth, particularly in the performing arts.

The missions of the “Nouveau Cercle” are: to help strengthen the technical skills of actors in the performing arts; to support creation and young talent (M/F); to meet the cultural and civic needs and uses of the residents of Poto Poto; to offer catering services, work and rehearsal spaces, equipment hire, and tourist and civic information. The aim is also to encourage synergies with other cultural, educational and sports facilities in Poto Poto, making it a cultural and creative district that will serve as a model and network leader for other boroughs.

### BRISTOL, ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

#### BRISTOL CITY CENTRE AND HIGH STREETS RECOVERY AND RENEWAL: CULTURE AND EVENTS PROGRAMME

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A dynamic series of locally distinctive and inclusive activities, Bristol City Centre and High Streets Culture and Events Programme celebrates the city’s cultural diversity. Freely accessible to all, events were co-designed with local communities to help animate high streets, increase economic activity, and reconnect people and place.

At its heart is the recognition that equitable access to cultural activity can drive economic development and recovery of our

community hubs. Providing employment, retail, hospitality, healthcare, leisure facilities and much more, the city centre and local high streets are important spaces serving a growing, diverse population. Culture can be the catalyst for reimagining how we use our high streets and how citizens enjoy and engage with their neighbourhoods, instilling a sense of pride and injecting new vibrancy into public spaces.

Core programme principles:



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- | Engaging, collaborating and co-designing with communities, businesses and stakeholders
- | Supporting the creative and cultural sector to create locally distinctive places and experiences
- | Skills development and employability for improved access and economic inclusion
- | Environmental sustainability and climate: considering, addressing, and raising awareness of priorities through interventions
- | Supporting equality and diversity: celebrating, integrating and delivering inclusive and open interventions to meet the needs of communities.

Programme activities to date range from night markets to comedy walks and Grand Iftar events to lantern parades.

Central to the 2023 events series was a celebration of Bristol's UNESCO Creative City of Film status, a flagship cultural asset for the city.

Bristol's Summer Film Takeover saw nine diverse film-based events delivered at city centre venues from June to September 2023. Highlights included a specially curated film programme to mark Windrush 75; projection walking tours of the Old City; a Cycle-Powered Cinema weekend; Aardman animation workshops; immersive light and sound installations, and celebrations of 50 years of Hip-Hop and 100 years of works filmed in 16mm.

## BUSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### BUSAN UN WEEK: BRIDGING CULTURES FOR GLOBAL PEACE

12

Busan UN Week is an annual cultural project aimed at realizing the vision of Busan as the "Hub of World Peace." For three weeks, it enhances international understanding and cooperation through various cultural, artistic, and peace-promoting events, commencing with United Nations Day (October 24), a national holiday in Korea, and culminating in a memorial ceremony for the United Nations Veterans (November 11). Leveraging Busan's unique role, home to the world's sole United Nations memorial park, the week promotes global peace and serves as a bridge between different cultures and nations.

Since 2019, this project has featured several key programs, including a United Nations Day ceremony, UN Peace Film Festival, Peace Wave Concert, UN Peace Festival, World Peace Forum, a commemorative event for Korean War Veterans, various cultural and artistic exhibitions, and performances, totaling over 20 initiatives. All programs are filled with Busan's unique stories that resonate with the world, covering topics of the Korean War and Busan as a city for war refugees, Busan Port, and the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMCK). It welcomes the participation of the international community as well as



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Busan citizens, promoting awareness and education about peace and cultural diversity.

The week is hosted by Busan Metropolitan City and the Busan Global City Foundation in collaboration with about 30 local and international organizations, including the UNMCK, Busan Cultural Center, Busan Regional Veterans Administration, and the United Nations Peace Memorial Hall. Through interactions with participants from diverse cultural backgrounds, it enhances

international cultural exchange and strengthens understanding and cooperation among multicultural communities.

While enhancing the global profile and identity of Busan as a city of peace, this project contributes to establishing Busan as a global cultural exchange hub. Through these efforts, Busan continues to work towards sustainable urban development and international peace.

### CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO BOMBAZO CRIOLLO

13

Dance is a cultural manifestation, a way of expressing the distinctive characteristics that define its people as a society with its own identity. In dance, distinctive elements are expressed that describe the ethnic, linguistic bases and social values that represent the unique qualities of a people, as opposed to the conglomerate of nations. Dance is an expression of customs and traditions passed down from generation to generation through oral history. Bomba emerged by the 17<sup>th</sup> century as the oldest musical genre in Puerto Rico, being banned by the Spanish colonisers because it was understood that beyond being a dance, it was a means of corporal communication among the black slaves to conspire and plan uprisings and eventually rebellions against the crown. Bomba among

the slaves was also a sign of resistance, a revolutionary political instrument, whose codified language, loaded with African words, served to evade the vigilance of the European colonialists. The city of Caguas, conscious and proud of its Afro-Caribbean roots, presents Bomba as a common thread between generations of Puerto Ricans who treasure their origins. Our citizens have taken on the task of preserving the Bomba as a cultural expression that includes religious elements, intertwined with the traditions and customs of the black population that exposed the scars left by slavery under the Spanish conquest and colonisation. This folkloric manifestation of our people takes place in the Plaza Santiago.



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### CATBALOGAN, THE PHILIPPINES

#### 20<sup>TH</sup> MANARAGAT FESTIVAL: TWO DECADES, TWO ADVOCACIES, ONE IDENTITY

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The Manaragat Festival pays homage to the city's Patron Saint, Señor San Bartolome. Originally held as a religious and local fiesta, it has since expanded to include events honoring history, culture, and advocacy. Every Catbaloganon's sentiment—remaining faithful to the Creator, remembering the history that defines our identity, and celebrating with the present that determines our future—is reflected in the fusion of encouraging cultural preservation and environmental protection in our activities and programs. Different community sectors come together, with a shared sense of identity, in making the festival a vibrant and thriving cultural celebration.

Celebrating the Manaragat Festival, one of the city's prominent cultural practices for the past 20 years, is the focal point of Catbalogan City's rich heritage. More than the contribution to local tourism, festival celebrations also influence a variety of spheres, including the community's economic well-being and impact on the physical environment and sociocultural domains. It has become an avenue to establish cultural origins and values and facilitate the preservation of customs and traditions. This celebration has been instrumental in shaping the Catbalogan City we know today.

### COLOGNE, RHINE-WESTPHALIA, GERMANY

#### AFRICAN FUTURES – ALL AROUND

15

Around 100 events in two weeks – African Futures – All Around transformed Cologne between May 30 and June 11 into a stage for science, socio-political and development discussions, workshops, theater, dance, performance, film, music and literature. Visions of the future, challenges and the complexity, diversity and creativity of modern Africa and the African diaspora were presented in Cologne under the motto "African Futures – All Around".

The two-week event was organised by the Africa–Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS), an association of Europe's major Africa research centres, to mark the 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African

Studies (ECAS), Europe's largest biennial conference on African studies. Together with the University of Cologne, the City of Cologne and numerous cooperation partners, the citizens' programme "African Futures" was organised to involve the entire city in African issues and to make the diverse black perspectives in Cologne accessible to all citizens. The programme included a music festival, a theatre festival and numerous civil society events under the motto "African Futures – Together on the Way", which was intended to make visible the rich commitment in Cologne. Exhibitions, discussions and workshops revealed a complex, multi-layered and creative picture of modern Africa and



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its diaspora. The view of Africa and black people in Germany is overshadowed by a colonial past that is still largely suppressed and continues to have political repercussions today. “African Futures – Together on the

Way” explored the question of what this shared history means for today’s coexistence in Cologne and created space for discourse and encounter. <https://african-futures.koeln/en/>

### CONCEPCIÓN, CHILE

#### CHARTER OF CULTURAL RIGHTS OF CONCEPCIÓN: CULTURAL POLICIES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

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The “Charter of Cultural Rights of Concepción”, the first in Chile, is the result of a process initiated by the Municipality of Concepción after the social outbreak of 2019, a local and national context marked by the struggle against inequality and for people’s rights.

The initiative was developed in parallel to the national constituent process and despite its failure to generate a new Constitution for Chile, at the local level, it managed to generate a Charter that represents a proposal for the future, focused on making visible and strengthening the cultural rights of the inhabitants of Concepción. It represents a commitment to inclusion, diversity and active participation of all sectors of society in Concepción. In a first section, the Charter recognises and highlights the cultural rights derived from legal instruments existing in Chile. The Concepción Charter is structured in 5 axes: participation, contribution and access; artistic freedom and development of

creativity; memory, heritages and identities; cultural diversity and substantive equality; and lastly, cultural democracy. The Charter will be a guideline for the development of the city’s cultural policies, promoting collaboration between the public sector, the private sector and civil society, thus seeking to amplify their impact.

The initiative demonstrates that a cultural public policy, developed in a participatory and collaborative manner, can channel community discomfort in times of crisis and be an effective means to address social challenges and build a more resilient and united community. The elaboration of the Charter involved a participatory process that included surveys, workshops with representatives of the community and cultural institutions, ending with the approval by the Municipal Council, which symbolises the commitment of the authorities to strengthening cultural rights.



## CRETE (REGION), GREECE

### QUALITY EDUCATION INTO PERSPECTIVE OF REGIONAL CIVILIZATION – “CHANIA FILM FESTIVAL EDU”

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The Region of Crete, in co-organization with the Cultural Society of Crete, plans and implements educational activities throughout Crete with the object of audiovisual education.

The educational programs are implemented within the framework of the Chania Film Festival / CFF Edu and were designed with the aim of covering an integrated approach to audiovisual and film literacy. They are addressed to Primary and Secondary Education teachers, as well as to the students of Schools.

In the context of the above planning, the Chania Film Festival in Education / Chania Film Festival Edu (CFF) has designed and implements the educational programs:

- | CineCourses (training of educational community groups in film production in a school environment).
- | CineGraphics (training of groups of teachers in audio-visual and cinema literacy).
- | True Stories / Crete Education Documentary Project / CR.E.DOC (experiential investigation of the integration of documentary in the educational process).
- | Crete, Oral History / Crete Oral History (raising awareness of the local community for the value of preserving the intangible cultural heritage, as an element of collective identity and memory and recording it).
- | Film Club in Schools (program for the creation of a Film Club in Schools).

- | “Voices” – oral history in the spotlight (awareness and education about oral, local and public history issues).

- | CFF e-edu (our distance learning programs).

In the year 2023 were carried out:

- | 16 in-room screenings specifically for the educational community.
- | Over 6895 children watched a movie in theaters.
- | 15 movies specifically for the Online education community.
- | 507 school classes saw films from all over Greece.
- | About 12000 children watched a movie Online.
- | About 3500 children participated in special actions.
- | 57 workshops for students and teachers.
- | 1026 students participated in workshops.
- | About 550 children talked to creators in their school.
- | Special workshop to get to know Radio, its art and technique, in a real studio.
- | Special workshop for disabled students.
- | Production of 17 complete films in collaboration with schools, as part of the cineCourses and CreDoc educational activities.
- | 37 Visits Outside the Walls.
- | Actions with remote schools.





## CURITIBA, PARANÁ, BRAZIL

### URBAN FARMS PROJECT – BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

18

The first Urban Farm of Curitiba was inaugurated in 2020, and its physical structure is consolidated. On the other hand, the dissemination of the taught concepts is a continuous process. The aim of this initiative is a change in mindset and relationship with the natural environment through urban and peri urban food production. To accomplish this, the technicians in the Urban Farm teach:

- a. Basic techniques for cultivating vegetables based on regional food culture, both for people who wish to produce for their own consumption in small spaces and for those who want to generate income by producing and locally selling surplus production.
- b. Principles of agroforestry management. In the Urban Farm there is a basic agroforest module, where it is taught how to intercrop woody tree species with edible species.
- c. Techniques for cultivation in protected environments (greenhouses).
- d. Composting on a small and medium scale.
- e. Healthy cooking and full utilization of nutritious food parts (e.g. peels, stems)
- f. Management of stingless native bees.

The Urban Farm celebrated its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in June 2023. During this time, 183 courses have been conducted on the aforementioned topics. Another form of interaction of the project with the people are the guided tours and free tours. Approximately 4997 individuals were directly impacted since the inauguration of the space. It is important to note that another Urban Farm will be inaugurated in mid 2024.

As part of the strategy to increase healthy and sustainable food production in urban and peri-urban areas, the Urban Farm has been serving as a knowledge dissemination hub among different sectors (public, private, and third sector). The Urban Farm provides the theoretical support for the Urban Agriculture program of Curitiba which consists of 166 urban vegetable gardens located in the city, totaling an area of 19 hectares, benefiting more than 37.000 people.

## DAKAR, SENEGAL

### RICAD (INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON CULTURE, CRAFTS AND TOURISM)

19

With the aim of making Dakar a cultural and attractive city with a rich and recognised international agenda, the city of Dakar, through its Mayor Mr Barthélemy Toye DIAS and the DCT (Direction de la Culture

et du Tourisme) of Dakar, has established a partnership with the President of the GOORGORLOU KOOM KOOM Association, Mr Khalifa DRAME as part of the RICAD-Dakar.





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For one week, Dakar, through its 19 communes, is the convergence and attraction point for cultural players, craftsmen and tourism promoters, locals and guests from different countries and regions.

This is an annual event held in Dakar, which celebrated its second edition in 2023. The event involves the participation of other actors of different nationalities in the fields of culture, crafts and tourism, to create opportunities for exchanges and shared experiences, creating a B-to-B and B-to-C platform for actors to enhance

their business cards, find opportunities to export more of their products and make new discoveries. These meetings help to strengthen the links between the different communities that take part in these events.

Such events help to boost creativity and generate income for both participants and visitors, and contribute to the influence, promotion and attractiveness of Dakar as a destination. It also helps to introduce people and professionals to the TICAE (Tourism, Cultural Industries, Crafts and Environment) projects/programmes carried out or supported by the City of Dakar.

## DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DUBAI 2040 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

20

Established as a small fishing village in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century on the shores of the Arabian Gulf alongside the Dubai Creek, Dubai today stands tall as a living example of modern-day urban city intertwined on its cultural and social heritage values. The cultural gene of Dubai extends beyond its old neighborhoods and guides its future urban growth through focused planning interventions. As a global city of 3.4 million inhabitants from 180 different nationalities that is projected to grow to 5.8 million by 2040, Dubai adopts a community based spatial planning approach that integrates aspects such as cultural identity, social equity, people centricity, diversity and innovation as founding principles of its future growth.

The Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan (the umbrella project,) was developed to guide

the emirates growth, focus on delivering a sustainable urban growth, aligned with UNSDGs (UNSDG10 & UNSDG11), and provide an ambitious long-term roadmap to transform Dubai into “the world’s best city for living”. The plan was developed under extensive collaboration between public, private and government stakeholders and set an inspiring example of harnessing the power of tangible and intangible historic and cultural assets to create social cohesion and build a safe, smart, and resilient city. The plan is supported by a comprehensive implementation program “Dubai 2040 implementation program” comprising of a set of policies, strategies and initiatives at various domains, levels, and scales. The set of initiatives will hereafter be referred to as ‘projects’. Heritage & culture framework plan, natural conservation area framework plan (“Natural Reserves” – Photo)



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and STEAM corridor framework plan are a key part of this implementation agenda that demonstrates the ambition of the emirate to instill cultural values in decision making.

Today Dubai ranked 1<sup>st</sup> regionally and 8<sup>th</sup> internally in the Global Power City index 2023 and retained its 4<sup>th</sup> position within the cultural interaction parameter for the second consecutive year. The city places enormous emphasis on protecting its cultural identity,

social cohesion, and inclusiveness, as an integral part of its quality-of-life measurement.

This detailed submission will highlight the multiple achievements and projects that Dubai Municipality has been pursuing as part of Dubai 2040 Implementation program to better the lives of its citizens, residents and visitors and fortify their connection with the city's cultural identity ("Emirati Child" Photo).

### ELEFSINA, GREECE

#### ARKOPOLIS, AN ARK OF ETERNAL YOUTH AND CULTURE

21

In February 2023, Elefsina welcomed the Belgian collective Timecircus, and with them the longest pilgrimage in the 3,500 years of the city's history. The members of the Belgian collective set off from Antwerp on 27 May 2022, and traveled 3,000 km on foot in nine months, crossing all of Europe, towing the Landship, a construction made by recycled materials, which moves only by human power. Their long journey was an exercise in being "on the road" and a vivid commentary on the 21<sup>st</sup> century of recession, climate change and the unmitigated consumption of natural resources. At the same time it was an action of encouragement, strength, hope and participation of all European citizens, and a valuable contribution to the Opening Ceremony of 2023 Eleusis.

Arriving in Elefsina, Timecircus started the construction of The Ark. Within a few months, and with the contribution of the youth group Cultterra, they created a cultural and recreational space in an abandoned area

at the heart of the city, which was named ARKOPOLIS. This new cultural park includes architectural & sculptural structures but also the only Skatepark in the region, built after four years of effort by the city's youth, and with an exclusive donation from the Onassis Foundation.

Through the close collaboration of Cultterra and TimeCircus, the space has been ever since enriched and systematically activated as a place of meeting, collaboration, inclusion and free creation, through cultural and social programmes. It is a free space, an "Ark of youth and culture", open to all without restrictions. It brings together communities of all ages, hosts and strengthens new ideas from every community who wishes to activate the park.

A space that is constantly evolving dynamically, proving that culture is not a commodity for a few but an integral part of Elefsina.



## **ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE, LUXEMBOURG** GREAT DREAMERS

22

Since 2017, the city of Esch-sur-Alzette has been committed to the cultural strategy, [Connexions] 2017-2027. This cultural policy is based on pillars that include cultural governance and sustainable development. Since then, a large project of inclusion, participation, creations and local innovations has been conceived and created. Launched at the beginning of 2018, in connection with the big project “The Night of Culture”, “Great Dreamers” emerge to work on the construction of the city of tomorrow. The project covers not only cultural, urban planning and tourism aspects, but also human and accessibility aspects of a “city factory” in which the key partners are: the local community and commercial fabric, residents, all the city’s services, the various cultural, sporting, educational and hospitality institutions... everything that makes and builds the city. “Great Dreamers” responds to a number of needs: (1) to enable all the key actors of the city to participate in the creation of major artistic and cultural projects, (2) to enable all the key actors to make shared and sustainable decisions together with cultural actors, in a more democratic, transparent

and sustainable way, (3) To be as close as possible to everyone, where they live, work, train and learn; (4) To create a neighbourhood culture, to discover both their neighbours and where they live, and to feel proud to be there; (5) To create a network of residents, curious people, artists, volunteers, businesses, etc. with Esch at their heart. More specifically, the “Great Dreamers” project involves: (1) creating an open community of Great Dreamers who will act as “ambassadors” for the town. (2) equipping these ambassadors with the tools they need to get involved as they wish at different levels; (3) including them in the city’s various cultural projects, by involving them in the design, information, training, communication and logistics of these projects; (4) encouraging connections and encounters by multiplying joint actions and participatory initiatives, while placing the notion of exchange at the heart of the projects; (5) using diversity to create new values and encourage inclusion. “Great Dreamers” has been the focus of two publications covering different aspects of the project and linked to the European Capital of Culture year, Esch2022.

## **ESTEBAN ECHEVERRÍA, ARGENTINA** A NEW WORK CULTURE

23

Through the School of Arts and Crafts, with a view to meeting and resolving the growing demand for opportunities to enter the labour market, the local government of Esteban Echeverría decided to implement a new

educational paradigm shift in education and/or training for work. The purpose was to provide an update of people’s skills and abilities and thus contribute to the employability of the district’s residents.



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The post-pandemic local scenario required concrete and effective actions by the authorities to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 and guarantee citizens' rights. In this sense, the transformation focused on a new teaching methodology that emphasises the importance of learning by doing, the focus on skills, peer-to-peer teaching and, in turn, encourages self-esteem, the multiple intelligences model, innovation and agile entrepreneurship.

From the more than two hundred courses offered by the School of Arts and Crafts, four concrete examples were taken in which the following concepts were applied:

- I Cosmetics: learning techniques that will lead to the acquisition of initial working capital. The hairdressing students also carried out their internships with the community free of charge.

- I Gastronomy: courses with trainings in bromatology to understand good food handling practices that teach them to subsequently produce for sale. They are provided with equipment for employment and supplies for community activities.
- I Cutting and sewing: participation of the beginner and advanced students of this course in the Expo Esteban Echeverría (local space of entrepreneurs and artists) selling their clothing, accessories and lingerie.
- I Dry construction: internships at the centre for retired people "9 de Abril" and at the History Museum "La Campana", thus contributing to public civil society institutions.

## FORTALEZA, CEARÁ, BRAZIL CUCA NETWORK

24

The CUCA Network is a public policy of the City of Fortaleza, through the Municipal Youth Secretariat, which offers social protection, opportunities and training for young people aged 15 to 29 through free activities in the areas of culture, art, science and sport. The CUCA Network has five Urban Centres of Culture, Art, Science and Sport (Cuca), located in the neighbourhoods of Barra do Ceará, Mondubim, Jangurussu, José Walter and Pici. It also aims to offer the youth of Fortaleza opportunities to access, produce and disseminate art and culture in the most varied languages and expressions. The CUCA Network has arts courses (dance, theatre and music), training workshops (in the areas

of technology, languages, science and educommunication), as well as spaces such as performing arts, theatre, cinema, radio, music, TV and photography studios and a library. In addition to learning and developing their artistic skills, the young people of the CUCA Network can also participate in strategic events, festivals, shows, exhibitions and permanent programming of shows, performances and cinema, which bring possibilities and alternatives for cultural enjoyment to the outskirts of the city. These events highlight local, regional and national products, promote cultural diversity and encourage exchanges between artists and audiences.



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The CUCA Network also seeks to strengthen youth leadership and the promotion and guarantee of human rights, through training and production actions in the area of

communication and educommunication, involving journalism, photography, audiovisual, social networks, radio and TV.

### GABROVO, BULGARIA CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE CENTER

25

Gabrovo Municipality applies the principles and ideas of Agenda 21 for culture aiming to achieve consistent and sustainable growth through implementation of a coordinated variety of cultural activities. In realizing this, the Municipality has developed Strategy for culture 2014–2024 and municipal programme “Culture”, applied for European capital of culture in 2014, became a pilot city under the Programme “Pilot cities” in 2014 and a member of the creative cities network UNESCO in 2017.

Currently Gabrovo Municipality is developing a brand new space, field of interest and institution with contemporary art, design and textiles in its focus – the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Center, named after Gabrovo-born Christo. <https://cjcenter.gabrovo.bg/the-center/>. The main objective of the transformation for the old textile school in Gabrovo is to create a unique place within the city that celebrates the method, thinking and practice of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, as well as support the urban development, livability and create a local driver for creative businesses.

The project for the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Center has a 30-year history. A wide community has been working for

the establishment of a new art center in Gabrovo, the hometown of artist Christo. The project aims to address local and global social challenges through artistic license, cross-disciplinary sustainable and future-oriented solutions. The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Center focuses on a multidisciplinary approach and has a strong focus on ecology. The main strategic goals for the art center are: to create an active and attractive art center with an international outreach – based on the art and working method of Christo and Jeanne-Claude; to ensure a strong sustainable concept based on carbon zero and life cycle assessment and local potentials; to create a resilient concept, that includes all and especially supports local startups, young initiatives and uplifts local skills in the city of Gabrovo.

We aim to create a site of knowledge production and collaboration, evoking the complex process Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s projects relied on – involving architects, engineers, manufacturers, production managers, photographers, film directors, collectors, curators, ecologists and even financiers (the artists couple were known for securing credit lines for their projects, realized in public space, free and open to all).



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The terrain consists of a main building on 4 floors, spacious yard and small adjacent premises. The total area of the property is ca. 13 000 sq. m. It was built in the 50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and served as a vocational Textile School, which closed down in 2008. The construction is in a very good condition, suitable for showing contemporary art both for its spacious workshops, classrooms and labs and also because of the link between the subject of the school - textile and the works of Christo and Jeanne-Claude. The site is in

close vicinity to the Museum of Humor and Satire <https://humorhouse.bg/> – a leading cultural center, major tourist attraction and an anchor to the city's identity as a “capital of humor”.

The surrounding public area is subject to revitalisation through an architectural and urban redevelopment project in progress. It is situated in the center of Gabrovo along the banks of Yantra River and provides facilities for culture, sports and recreation.

## GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA CONSTITUTION HILL HUMAN RIGHTS PRECINCT

26

Constitution Hill has historical links to several iconic moments that the country keeps in its memory of oppressive events that served as a basis for our current Human Rights policies and legislation, including the unlawful imprisonment of icons such as Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Ghandi and several freedom fighters during the South Africa fight against Apartheid.

The We The People's Park project is an extension of the Constitution Hill precinct and is conceptualized as a new international destination that is also incorporating the economic value of the Creative Industries. The overall objective of the proposed park is to create a public park that keeps with the ethos of the Republic of South Africa's Human Rights and world acclaimed Constitution, and to provide hubs where artists may collaborate to include the culture and ethos of the people of South Africa, and specifically, the Gauteng region.

The park is accessible to the public, and is used for gatherings and public events that reflect on South Africa's Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Human Rights commemorative days in South Africa's annual calendar. The site is located in the Gauteng Region. The park lies south of South Africa's Constitutional Court, the Constitutional Court library and the infamous No.4 Prison with a pathway marking the Great Africa Steps.

The park will provide a space for contemplation which will help the architecture reach more spiritual realms by allowing the occupants to have a space where they can think, pray, meditate, memorialize past history, memory or simply just be in the present moment. In addition, the precinct also accommodates a Creative Industries hub that supports the development of creative industry skills. The precinct has space for affordable hubs for various art forms including music; art; design; dance, theater and poetry. This is





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to promote creative entrepreneurs and the small business sector. The approach has a direct influence on the We The People's Park as it seeks to attract ordinary people to the precinct and inspire creative engagements in various sectors. Given the historic spatial arrangement of the Gauteng City Region,

accessible working spaces are few due to the old Apartheid style township planning in the region. The agglomeration of creative spaces for citizen interaction is thus the key approach for new social and economic upliftment development of citizens in the Gauteng City Region.

## GOYANG, REPUBLIC OF KOREA INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURE GOYANG KOREA

27

The International Horticulture Goyang Korea, initiated in 1997, has evolved into a premier international floral exhibition in South Korea, drawing millions of domestic and international visitors by its 15<sup>th</sup> edition. The most recent festival was the 2023 International Horticulture Goyang Korea, hosted at Ilsan Lake Park from April 27 to May 8, spanning 12 days. It witnessed participation from 25 countries and over 200 floral-related institutions, organizations, and companies, presenting a diverse range of floral varieties and innovative floral products from across the globe.

The festival presents a rare plant exhibition, indoor gardens embellished with floral sculpture art, a variety of outdoor themed gardens, floral cultural experience programs, flower arrangement competitions, and an array of additional attractions. It is a multi-sensory celebration of flower culture, highlighted by

vibrant performances, engaging events, and a bustling flower market where local farmers directly offer their cultivated blooms for sale.

The International Horticulture Goyang incorporates three fundamental themes: regeneration, recycle, and recreation. Regeneration embodies the concept of flowers in life, with a primary focus on restoration and recovery. Recycle symbolizes flowers on Earth, emphasizing the festival's commitment to recycling and zero-waste practices, all while remaining deeply embedded in the fabric of our urban surroundings. Lastly, recreation represents the ideals of creation, imagination, and expansion, with its motto being "flower in the universe." These three interconnected themes create a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to celebrating horticulture, acknowledging its significance in our daily lives and its boundless potential in broader contexts.





## **GRANOLLERS, CATALONIA, SPAIN**

### **INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TO REFLECT ON ENERGY PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION: “LA TÈRMICA” ROCA UMBERT IN GRANOLLERS**

28

Roca Umbert was a former textile factory that has been converted into a centre for artistic, audiovisual and popular culture creation. The complex includes “La Tèrmica”, the installation that provided electricity and steam to the old factory using fossil fuels, which has preserved the building itself and the machinery intact.

The museum project of this space has the fundamental purpose of recovering and adding value to the city’s industrial heritage in order to promote collective reflection and social debate on energy and the environment.

Based on the idea that “La Tèrmica” was created to respond to the factory’s energy supply problems, the project is positioned as a benchmark in the field of industrial heritage, energy and environmental education. In the current context marked by the climate crisis and the scarcity of resources, the project underlines the need to transform production and consumption practices and promote a change towards a more responsible energy model for the planet.

The programme of activities includes immersive visits, research exhibitions, educational programmes and participatory activities designed for all age groups and educational levels. It also promotes the promotion of renewable energies and sustainable technologies. Inclusion and accessibility are prioritised and measures are implemented to reduce the ecological footprint of the museum itself.

Thus, through an innovative museographic project, with immersive technological proposals and a programme of routes, exhibitions and activities, it seeks complicity with citizens, the economic sector and institutions committed to sustainability.

For all these reasons, “La Tèrmica” contributes to the global objectives defined by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Urban Agenda, as it recognises and recovers the heritage of the municipality, while at the same time promoting reflection on the model of energy consumption and production in the territory.

## **GUADALAJARA, JALISCO, MEXICO**

### **CULTURE POINTS GUADALAJARA**

29

“Culture Points Guadalajara” is the programme with which the Directorate of Culture of Guadalajara creates the foundations for territorial equity, governance, diversity and cultural democracy in the city, recognising

the importance of community cultural organisations and civil society in the cultural ecosystem, overcoming the paradigm of “taking culture to the neighbourhoods”, to the knowledge, recognition and strengthening of



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cultural diversity and the cultural life of the territories based on the participation and protagonism of organised civil society and the exercise of cultural citizenship.

This has been achieved through various lines of action, among which the following stand out:

- | Mapping of community cultural organisations
- | Networking
- | Awards
- | Carrying out a diagnosis in seven areas of each organisation.
- | Programme governance based on assemblies
- | Training (Seminars, talks, conferences and congresses)

- | Delivery of financial support
- | Exchanges of international experience
- | Two EU-funded triangular cooperation initiatives with Barcelona, Bogota, Argentina and Brazil, which contribute to SDGs 10, 11, 16 and 17, as well as facilitating qualitative and quantitative leaps of scale in programme impact.

These actions have led to the recognition of citizens' recognition of the exercise of their cultural rights, especially the right to participate in local public policies, which resulted in the creation of the initiative of the "Regulations for the promotion of cultural participation", which was a citizen and participatory construction that is in the process of approval in the city council, which will lay the foundations for moving from a government programme to the first public policy of its kind in the city.

## GWANAK-GU, REPUBLIC OF KOREA REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S CAPITAL OF YOUTH CULTURE

30

This initiative aims to make youth to actively participate in the local community and public policy process and to enhance cultural rights of young people who have been socially excluded. Looking back on 2017, as young people began to flock to Gwanak-gu city in the metropolitan area of Seoul from the countryside for study and employment, Gwanak-gu city became a city with the highest youth population ratio in South Korea (41.46% as of Dec. 2023). Accordingly, social issues such as youth alienation, mental health and suicide emerged in the city. Until then, young

people were not the main beneficiaries of the municipal governance system. To address these issues, Gwanak-gu city has established governance with young people from various backgrounds since 2018 and launched a youth culture project.

First, Gwanak-gu city underwent an institutional revamp. In 2018, Gwanak-gu city expanded its Culture, Tourism and Sports Division and created the Youth Policy Division as the first municipality in South Korea to oversee youth policies and devote itself to cultivating youth



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culture. Then in 2022, Gwanak-gu city again became the first municipality in South Korea to set up the Youth Culture Bureau, and also enacted an ordinance to support the cultural and artistic activities of young artists.

Second, Gwanak-gu city built a new collaborative governance system that many young people from various circles can participate in to plan and implement policies. Some major examples include the Youth Policy Committee as well as the Youth Network and Public Forum programs.

Third, Gwanak-gu city created many attractive spaces to support the formation of youth communities and artistic activities. Some

major examples include the busking zone along the Byeolbit-Naerincheon Stream as well as Culture Platform S1472, Gwanak Youth Center, Sillim 3 Room, and the public-private partnership space Youth Culture Zone.

Project outcomes include: Gwanak-gu city was awarded the grand prize by the National Assembly for two consecutive years for its youth-friendly policies. In addition, the youth employment rate in Gwanak-gu city has increased. In 2022, while the youth employment rate dropped by 0.2%p in Seoul, it rose by 8.3%p in Gwanak-gu city. Moreover in 2023, it became an area with the second largest population of young artists in the country.

## HARGEISA

### RESETTLEMENT AND RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS FOR FLOOD RISK ZONES OF DAAMI IDPS IN HARGEISA CITY

31

The project “Resettlement and Resilient Livelihoods for flood risk zones of Daami IDPs in Hargeisa City” addresses the pressing challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in flood-prone areas of Hargeisa. Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable solutions, the project focused on two key objectives: resettlement and livelihood resilience.

Firstly, the project aim was to facilitate the safe resettlement of IDPs from high-risk flood zones to safer areas within Hargeisa City. This entails comprehensive planning and infrastructure development to ensure the provision of adequate housing, amenities, and essential services for the displaced population.

Secondly, the project prioritized the enhancement of livelihood resilience among resettled IDPs, through targeted interventions and capacity-building initiatives, the project was seeking to empower individuals and communities to withstand and recover from environmental shocks and stresses. This includes the promotion of income-generating activities, vocational training, and access to resources that foster economic stability and self-reliance.

By addressing both resettlement and livelihood resilience, the project adopts a holistic approach to improving the well-being and resilience of vulnerable populations in Hargeisa City through collaboration with



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local stakeholders, implementation partners, and community engagement. The aim of the project was to create sustainable and inclusive solutions that contribute to the long-term development and prosperity of the city.

Overall, the project represents a concerted effort by Hargeisa Municipality to promote cultural rights, social inclusion, and sustainable development, aligning with the objectives of the International Award “UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21”.

## HELSINKI-UUSIMAA REGIONAL COUNCIL, FINLAND LUOTO – ACTION PLAN FOR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTORS

32

The Luoto project focuses on the environmental effects of the cultural and creative sectors, more precisely on decreasing concrete emissions of the sectors and on highlighting the power of art and culture in building an ecologically sustainable future.

Arts and culture can support and speed up the ecological transition as they can have a significant impact on our understanding of the concept of good life within planetary limits. This creative potential needs to be fully identified and be put in use, and that is what we try to achieve in the project.

The Luoto project offers guided principles for the transition of the creative sector towards a well-functioning and low-carbon future in a circular economy. The creative sector is already doing a lot for an improved sustainability, but the activities often belong

to projects, and thus very little information is shared between different fields. In the Luoto Action Plan, we have gathered an overview about the current situation of sustainability transition in cultural and creative sectors, and mapped out a set of suggestions for activities for each creative sector to improve their sustainability.

The Action Plan for an ecological transition in the cultural and creative sectors has been created in close cooperation with actors from different fields of arts and culture. In a sustainability transition, all fields of society are rapidly adjusting their activities to the limits of the planet's carrying capacity – to slow down the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, in order to meet the targets set in the Paris Agreement, all fields of society have to be included in the sustainability transition, including arts and culture.



## **HILDESHEIM, LOWER SAXONY, GERMANY**

### **WE CARE – 16 MUNICIPALITIES PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER**

33

“We Care” was the title of Hildesheim’s bid to become European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 2025. The bid unleashed positive energies, paved the way to strengthen a sustainable local, self-designed collaboration and exchange structure, and both vision and objectives remained the same: The Hildesheim region, with its numerous cultural offerings and significant cultural heritage, aims at making a name for itself as a model for sustainable regional cultural development. Our main objectives: Developing cultural life beyond the metropolitan areas and showing that social change can be shaped through culture.

In 2022, the City and District of Hildesheim therefore signed a follow-up cooperation agreement to promote inter-municipal cooperation in the field of culture 2022–2024, which almost all district municipalities’ councils have signed up to. “The participants are united by the common goal of comprehensively strengthening the regional cultural landscape and ensuring that the entire population can participate equally in the broad variety of culture and education

in the Hildesheim region in the long term” (excerpt of the agreement). This agreement enables direct cultural cooperation between the municipalities in the region – between the big city, smaller towns and rural villages. The decision-making body is a large steering group consisting of mayors, politicians, representatives of cultural umbrella organizations, business and civil society, which is seeing itself as the driving force and advocate of cultural development in the District of Hildesheim.

The Project Office Cultural Region Hildesheim is responsible for its implementation. It acts as an interface, initiator and networking point between cultural administrations, local politics and cultural players. Its tasks include the initiation of regional cooperation projects such as the development of a new, region-wide festival format. It is part of the administration of the City of Hildesheim and has been sharing an office with the cultural offices from the city and district for two years, next door to the two cultural umbrella organizations of the region.

## **ILOILO, WESTERN VISAYAS, THE PHILIPPINES**

### **“LORE, LEGACY, AND LIFESTYLE”: THE ILOILO CITY HERITAGE PROGRAMME**

34

The Iloilo City Heritage Program: “Lore, Legacy, and Lifestyle” started in 2000 as a city government initiative. In partnership with

the Iloilo City Cultural Heritage Conservation Council, the program provided a platform to create sound cultural policies and projects



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focused on integrating sustainability to cultural identity and urban balance.

As one of the oldest cities in the Philippines, Iloilo City is faced with the challenge of protecting over 250 heritage houses, buildings, monuments, and sites pre-dating 18<sup>th</sup> century; promoting its adaptive re-use and inspiring generational appreciation to preserve the City's classic charm.

The program adopts an inclusive approach through collective introspection, knowledge exchange, innovation, research, and evaluation. It facilitated synergies among stakeholders, such as local architects associations, academic representatives, heritage advocates, and other cultural actors resulting in an impressive inventory & mapping of heritage properties, conservation incentives, and over Php3 Billion in project investments.

Its operational focus revolves around three fundamental elements:

- a) LORE emphasizes on history tied to tangible heritage infrastructure. The

program maintains inventory of the city's heritage structures, accurately document their history, and establish rules and regulations for their conservation that include the granting of incentives;

- b) LEGACY refers to the physical markers, plaques, and other official indicators of structures that have been assessed to have cultural heritage value. Local policies have been instituted to ensure enduring preservation of its cultural structures;
- c) LIFESTYLE transformation results from success in achieving behavioral change and pride of place. The program reinforces these ideals by events and activities that promote cultural learning and appreciation.

Development should not come at the cost of losing valuable cultural assets. The Iloilo City Heritage Program aspires to guide and involve stakeholders to be stewards of cultural heritage and position Iloilo City as a model city committed to inclusive co-creation & co-production endeavors.

## ISTANBUL, TURKEY

### THE BUS OF THE REPUBLIC: MOBILE CULTURE FOR THE NEIGHBORHOODS

The “Bus of The Republic” project in Istanbul aims to decentralize cultural activities and enhance access to arts for children, especially in underprivileged neighborhoods. By using a bus transformed into a mobile cultural event space, the initiative brings a variety of cultural and

artistic events and workshops, directly to the communities. Operating until October 29, 2024, the project celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Turkish Republic and emphasizes social equality, accessibility, and cultural diversity. Feedback is gathered post-events for continuous





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improvement, and the project's details are shared widely through social media. So far, the "Bus of The Republic" has visited 306

neighborhoods, focusing on creating social awareness and motivation, and encouraging cultural participation among the youth.

### JAKARTA, INDONESIA

#### URGENCY IN IMPLEMENTING IMPACTFUL AND SUSTAINABLE PLACEMAKING FOR THE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL DISTRICT 'LAPANGAN BANTENG' THROUGH PENTAHHELIX COLLABORATIONS

36

The Mondiacult 2022 resolution emphasizes the pivotal role of culture as the foundation of the creative economy and public goods. The Placemaking initiative for Lapangan Banteng, responding to the 2022 Mondiacult resolution and Cultural Advancement Law, aims to establish Indonesia's first Cultural Advancement District. This ambitious project revitalizes the historical district, turning Lapangan Banteng Square into a dynamic, multicultural hub. The current development includes a Park/Sport/Amphitheater Square, Performance Theater, Worship Places, Creative Hub, Hotels, Art Gallery, National Monument, Major Rail Station, Old Market, and other sustainable public spaces.

Cross-sector collaboration among the Pentahelix sectors expedites progress, integrating perspectives from Public, Government, Academic, Corporation, and Media. Building on the success of the 2023 National Cultural Week of Kalcer (Cultural) Movement, this initiative optimizes historical buildings and enhances connectivity, fostering a sustainable and impactful Cultural Promotion District.

Anticipated impacts extend beyond physical transformation. The Happiness Index and

Human Development Index are expected to improve, reflecting the initiative's contribution to community well-being. By prioritizing culture as the foundation of the creative economy, Lapangan Banteng sets a precedent for future cultural initiatives, showcasing Indonesia's commitment to sustainable urban development and cultural advancement.

The anticipated impact of the Lapangan Banteng Square Cultural Advancement District extends beyond physical transformation. It is expected to contribute positively to key indices such as the Happiness Index and Human Development Index. By prioritizing culture as a cornerstone, this initiative not only enhances the creative economy but also fosters a sense of community and well-being among the residents and visitors of Lapangan Banteng. Ultimately, the success of this placemaking endeavor serves as a replication model for future cultural initiatives and reinforces Indonesia's commitment to cultural promotion and sustainable urban development.

Keywords: Sustainability Public Space, Cultural Advancement District, Creative Placemaking, Happiness Index, Human Development Index, UNESCO Mondiacult 2022.





## JALISCO, MEXICO

### INTERMUNICIPAL MEETING ON CULTURAL PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

37

The initiative “Intermunicipal Meeting of Cultural Public Management” (EIGPC) is an innovative instance to meet, exchange, collaborate and strengthen capacities for and among municipal civil servants, cultural policy designers and heads of the cultural sector at the local level.

It takes place in the form of an intensive annual camp, using participatory, horizontal and peer-assisted learning dynamics, so that all theoretical knowledge acquired can lead to implementation and practical application.

The EIGPC is strategically linked to other spaces of State deliberation, such as the Regional Culture Meetings (RRC), where every

year the criteria for accessing the budgetary resources allocated to the different Municipal Cultural Development Programmes are presented transparently and shared among the 12 regions of Jalisco; likewise, it identifies as its immediate antecedent the State Culture Meetings (EEC), which for 20 years have been promoted by the Jalisco Ministry of Culture in a trans-governmental manner. It is a comprehensive and exhaustive training strategy that brings together a representative sample of the plurality of actors who carry out public work in favour of culture from and for their municipalities and localities, in support of the decentralisation strategies framed in the vision of cultural development 2024 of the State of Jalisco.

## JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, SPAIN

### “YOUR CULTURE. OUR CULTURE”. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND CO-CREATION PROGRAMME.

38

In 2019, we decided to present our candidacy to become a European Capital of Culture in 2031. This path we have embarked on must be carried out through a process shared with all citizens and with all the people who live in our city. We present the participatory process that, whether we win or not, will allow us to listen and co-create collaboratively and design the future of our city. And with culture as the backbone of this transformation.

This shared path will help us think, share, exchange and dream together the Jerez of the future. The journey began in 2020. A first participatory process, aimed at listening to what we need to improve, took place in 2021. By listening, we discovered that participation

and co-creation are key and that culture must cease to be a silo in our city plan and become an integral transforming lever. In this second phase (2024 and 2025) we are going to give our citizens a voice and turn them into the true protagonists of the story of our city. The participatory process we are presenting is in itself a project with a soul of its own. Whether we win or not, the great project is to create together.

We expect a lot from this second phase. We want to obtain and promote innovative ideas that will have an impact on a more inclusive, closer, sustainable, diverse and creative city.



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This process will involve all social agents in thinking and co-creating: companies, youth associations, children, refugees, immigrants, artists, the media, the elderly, groups at risk of exclusion and in urban and rural areas.

We will not only listen to their contributions, we will also activate multi-sectoral, multicultural and autonomous working groups to think, design and activate their own projects. We are convinced that this union of multidisciplinary talents, from diverse backgrounds, will help us to transform Jerez.

### KADIKÖY, TURKEY SINEMATEK/CINEMA HOUSE

39

Sinematek/Cinema House, established in 2018 under the auspices of the Kadıköy Municipality, is a beacon for film heritage and culture. Founded by Jak Şalom, a key figure in the Turkish Cinematheque Association, this initiative is a testament to the resilience of cinema in the face of adversity. The project stands as a symbol of continuity and revival, having been closed down after the military coup d'état on September 12th, 1980, only to be resurrected by the Kadıköy Municipality. Driven by a commitment to cultural rights and local sustainable development, the Municipality's support underscores the importance of preserving cinematic heritage and fostering a vibrant cultural ecosystem. Sinematek/Cinema House serves as a testament to the power of cinema to transcend political upheaval and emerge stronger than ever.

From the main screening hall, archive room, and library to exhibition spaces and individual film watching units, every aspect of the institution is meticulously designed to facilitate engagement and exploration. But

Sinematek/Cinema House is more than just a venue for screenings. It is a dynamic hub of cultural exchange, hosting exhibitions, panels, seminars, workshops, and courses that enrich the cinematic discourse and promote a deeper understanding of the art form. By opening its doors to all, it fosters a sense of community and belonging among film enthusiasts and professionals.

Moreover, the institution's dedication to accessibility ensures that its resources are available to researchers, students, and filmmakers seeking to delve deeper into the world of cinema. The library and archive serve as invaluable repositories of knowledge, offering a treasure trove of material for scholarly inquiry and creative inspiration. Sinematek/Cinema House is a testament to the power of cinema to unite, inspire, and provoke thought. Through its commitment to cultural preservation and promotion, it continues to be a vital force for positive change in the local community.



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### KANAWAZA, JAPAN

#### KANAZAWA CREATIVE CITY PROMOTION PROGRAMME

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This programme aims to improve cultural facilities and support young artists and creators in order to make Kanazawa a creative city, and promotes international cultural exchanges such as holding the UNESCO Creative Cities Network general meeting 2015 and UNESCO Crafts and Folk Art Creative Cities meeting 2019.

A committee consisting of representatives of the local business community and traditional

craft artists, directors of national and municipal art museums, and the president of the College of Arts and Crafts decides on policies and works with the mayor to promote creative city policy. In particular, 26 young artists have been sent to Santa Fe etc. and accepted from Chiang Mai etc. over the past 14 years, making a valuable contribution to nurturing the next generation of artists with an international perspective.

### KHABAROVSK, FEDERATION OF RUSSIA

#### CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF KHABAROVSK URBAN DISTRICT IN 2021–2030

41

Culture plays an important role in the city's social and economic development, development of moral and spiritual aspects of personality, achievement of worthy standard and quality of living for city residents.

The program details are expanded in the Strategic Plan of Sustainable Development of Khabarovsk City until 2030.

In this context, efforts of the City Administration provide for the rights of people to create, preserve and learn cultural values, develop cultural, spiritual and moral potential of every individual and the community, and the efforts of the City Administration are aimed at efficient (up-to-date) management of cultural processes in the city based on the needs and concerns of city people, analysis of the culture sector of economy and development trends thereof.

Main objectives of the Program and Strategic Plan:

- improve quality of services provided by municipal cultural establishments;
- provide people with greater access to cultural values;
- maintain existing network of musical / art schools and the number of students;
- support and develop amateur arts, crafts and creative activities (amateur-talent groups and clubs organized under various community centers);
- upgrade facilities to meet statutorily established standards;
- preserve cultural and historical heritage;



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- | promote professional art;
- | set up a municipal universal e-library.

Main expected results from Program implementation:

- | increase a consumer satisfaction index regarding quality and accessibility of services in the field of culture to reach 85 %;
- | increase the number of 5- to 18-year-old participants in creative events

from 6% to 8% of the total number of children in the city;

- | in 2021–2030, increase the number of attendees at cultural venues by 51,2% as compared to 2020;
- | an increase in museum attendance by 12.9 %
- | improve the physical infrastructure of municipal cultural establishments.

### KONYA, TURKEY ŞİVLİLİK CHILDREN'S DAY

42

The tradition of Şivlilik is one of the deep-rooted and unique cultural heritage of Konya. This tradition is a special celebration tradition that covers the first Thursday of the month of Recep and the morning of the Regaib Kandil. The tradition is celebrated with various events, such as processions with lanterns and torches through the streets, home visits and the distribution of traditional gifts.

A large program and some activities are being carried out by the Konya Metropolitan Municipality in order to ensure that this tradition, of which starting date is not exactly known, but there are historical records that it has been celebrated since the 10<sup>th</sup> century, is kept alive.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality, which wants to turn this tradition into a big festival, has been carrying out important works since 2007, but the scope of these works has been expanded in the last three-year period and a

festive atmosphere has been created in the city.

Thanks to the activities organized to keep this unique tradition alive, children have fun in the field of musicals, stage shows, workshop activities and technology during the day, while parents are informed about children's education at conferences attended by experts in the field. Gifts are given to all participants, young, old, women and men who participate in the festival. In addition, gifts are also sent to all children who do not have the opportunity to participate in the festival by contacting the schools in the city.

Konya Metropolitan Municipality not only keeps the tradition alive with these events, but also strengthens the climate of peace, tolerance and love in the city. These activities ensure that traditional values are blended with modern life and transmitted to future generations.



## L'HOSPITALET DE LLOBREGAT, CATALONIA, SPAIN SECOND HOME

43

"Second Home" is a project of reflection and artistic creation about public space. It has been carried out in L'Hospitalet in parallel with four other European cities (Brussels, Graz, Lisbon, Rennes), through a cooperation project that reflects the centrality of public space in cities and how artistic creation can contribute to it.

In its development in L'Hospitalet, similar to that of the other participating cities, the project consisted of the following phases:

1. Planning: which led to choosing the neighbourhood La Florida as the site for the project.
2. Focus groups: 50 people living in La Florida discussed public space in three sessions. The text resulting from their reflections highlighted the multiplicity of meanings of public space and its character as both a place of conflict and of encounter.
3. Artistic residency: for a week, three people (an artist, a councillor from L'Hospitalet City Council and a resident of La Florida) shared a flat and explored La Florida together

(visits, meetings with neighbours and organisations, etc.), taking the text of the focus group as a starting point and looking for ways to transform their reflections into an artistic creation.

4. Production of an artistic work entitled "Notas a pie de calle: voces de La Florida" ("Footnotes from the streets: voices from La Florida"), by the artist Andrea Lería, one of the three residents. The work gathers, in 10 metal plaques and miniature portraits which are permanently installed along the perimeter of La Florida, different perspectives on the meaning of the neighbourhood and its public space, reflecting its plurality and contributing to the resignification of its public space. Since its inauguration, several visits have taken place for neighbours and visitors.

The project has been designed by L'âge de la tortue, together with the City Council of L'Hospitalet and Trànsit Projectes, and co-financed by Erasmus+.

## LA PAZ, BOLIVIA TRADITIONAL MEDICINE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE CENTRES "QULLAÑ UTA".

44

The "Qullañ Uta" Traditional Medicine Information and Guidance Centres project aims to influence the quality of the intercultural health system in the Municipality of La Paz,

promoting the incorporation of knowledge and practices of traditional medicine in the population of the Municipality. The project is framed within the planning of cultural policies,



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which aim to interweave cultures with the care of life.

The “Qullañ Uta” Centres, whose name means medicine house in the Aymara language, are cultural spaces installed in different areas of the Municipality of La Paz where information, orientation and care services in traditional medicine are provided by spiritual guides (amawt’as, yatiris, etc.), midwives and traditional birth attendants. ), traditional ancestral midwives, naturopathic doctors and traditional doctors (kallawayas, qulliris, qaquiris, etc.), including the use of native languages (Aymara and Quechua), during the process of traditional medicine care, who in turn manage and care for communal medicinal plant gardens that are part of this intercultural health project.

The “Qullañ Uta” Centres also develop spaces for intercultural dialogue and training for the exchange of knowledge about traditional medicine with the inhabitants of the territories where the centres are located, with an extension to people from neighbouring municipalities, provinces and departments.

According to data from the Survey of Participation and Cultural Consumption of the Municipality of La Paz (2019-2020), 63.8% of the population uses traditional medicine, and during the time of the COVID 19 pandemic, this use of traditional medicine increased. The health-related knowledge of ancestral cultures and indigenous peoples are an alternative for the exercise of cultural rights and sustainable development.

## LILLE, HAUTS-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE LILLE CALLS FOR A LESS CARBON-INTENSIVE AND MORE INCLUSIVE CULTURE

45

Instigated by the City of Lille in September 2022 at the Eurocities Culture Forum, the Call of Lille is a political manifesto that encourages the mayors of big European cities to recognise the importance of the arts and culture in promoting the ecological transition and inclusion. The manifesto identifies 16 concrete priorities for action under two pillars: ecological transition and inclusion.

The appeal has now been signed by 46 cities, which have committed to implementing at least one priority from each pillar of the call, and to disseminating the results within

a working group in order to share best practices and obstacles encountered at this level. This group will also create connections with European institutions, so that the voice of cities can be heard in the efforts to make cultural policies greener.

In Lille, these 16 priorities have been translated since September 2022 into an action plan of 51 measures aimed at implementing the city’s “shared sustainable culture” strategy.

In order to implement these measures, the aim, between 2022 and 2024, is to experiment a transformation of the practices of the 600





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employees of the Department of Culture and International Relations. The city's "shared sustainable culture" strategy is an ambitious one, and will require change management to move towards even better cultural practices.

In order to achieve this objective, a "sustainable culture" department has been created within the City's Culture

and International Relations Division. To implement the measures outlined above, it relies on a network of 40 volunteer municipal staff within the Department. It also acts as an interface between the European cities of Eurocities and the cultural actors in the area, identifying existing good practices and supporting those who need help in implementing change.

### LIMA (METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY OF LIMA), PERU LIMA'S PARADE

46

This programme promotes the creation of spaces to meet, recreate, exhibit and exchange artistic expressions; it consolidates the cultural heritage through artistic events and celebrations that foster peaceful coexistence; it promotes our identity and strengthens our citizenship, and keeps customs alive, hand in hand with the citizens.

Since its inception, this programme has promoted cultural rights through street parades, held every Saturday and Sunday. A total of 53 parades were carried out with the collaboration of 329 cultural dance groups and institutions such as the National Police of Peru, among others. Approximately 556,800 national and foreign citizens visited the Historic Centre of Lima.

### LISBON, PORTUGAL ENSAIO GERAL

47

ENSAIO GERAL is a programme that promotes access to culture for audiences at risk of social exclusion.

The main objectives of ENSAIO GERAL are to improve the exercise of cultural rights and the quality of life of people in that situation, thus contributing to their social inclusion. It seeks inclusion through culture, as it makes them feel part of cultural life and contributes to the creation of relational ties with the artistic

world and its professionals. At the same time, ENSAIO GERAL aims to raise awareness of the social responsibility of cultural institutions.

In practice, ENSAIO GERAL takes these audiences mainly to dress rehearsals, where they can attend artistic events and meet the artists, making them feel involved in cultural life.

Dress rehearsals have been chosen because they do not involve costs for the organiser





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and because they are more likely to involve direct contact between the audience and the artists, as well as facilitating a possible visit to the theatre and backstage.

However, venues often offer tickets for public performances and our audiences also take advantage of these opportunities.

Within the framework of an inclusive cultural policy and aware of its importance, the Municipality of Lisbon, through Loja Lisboa Cultura –Polo Cultural Gaivotas | Boavista – (LLC), has launched this pioneering project for social accessibility to cultural performances in the city.

LLC bridges the gap between artistic structures with empty venues during dress rehearsals (or regular performances) and people at risk of social exclusion, supported by third sector or non-governmental organisations (NGO).

LOJA LISBOA CULTURA, a cultural assistance office, is a pilot measure within the framework of Lisbon's participation in the UCLG's Pilot Cities Europe programme. ENSAIO GERAL is one of LLC pilot actions on the social responsibility of cultural organisations and social inclusion.

## MAKATI, THE PHILIPPINES MAKATI CITY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

48

Music serves as a universal language, and this is recognized by the City Government of Makati through the establishment of the Makati City Youth Orchestra (MCYO) in 2019. MCYO comprises 44 public school students representing 25 elementary, 10 secondary, and 2 standalone senior high schools within Makati City, providing opportunities for education, inclusion, and collaboration among diverse youth populations.

Created to provide musical pathways for Makati's youth, MCYO aims to empower students through training in classical music. This program particularly benefits those from Makati public schools who have limited opportunities to engage in classical music training due to their socio-economic background. This initiative is a partnership between the City Government of Makati,

Department of Education Makati Schools Division Office (DepEd Makati) and the Manila Symphony Orchestra Foundation, Inc. (MSO) - one of Asia's oldest orchestras and the longest surviving artistic institution in the Philippines founded in 1926. Through this partnership, MSO provides professional training for the young musicians who are carefully managed by personnel of DepEd Makati, all fully-funded by the City Government of Makati.

Members of the orchestra are selected from students of various public schools through a musical aptitude test where their sense of tone and musical appreciation are assessed through their singing.

The MCYO has performed in various events hosted by the city, including two (2) shows in the Samsung Performing Arts Theater



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– Makati's premier venue for cultural performances. They have played for members of the diplomatic corps, their families and co-students and the general public on different

occasions. They have brought pride to all Makatizens as a growing grassroots organization for classical music training and performances.

## MANABÍ, REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR MANABÍ TELLS YOU A STORY

49

“Manabí Tells You a Story” is an innovative and transformative initiative that seeks to promote art and culture among children, adolescents and young people in the districts and regions of the province of Manabí. Through the development of physical, corporal and mental spaces, the project focuses on workshops in painting, theatre, dance, music and film to provide comprehensive training to participants.

With 25 agreements signed with different entities, including foundations, decentralised autonomous local and distrital governments, a network has been established to support the implementation of the project. Since 2020, the art and culture schools created cover disciplines such as dance, music bands, symphony orchestra, painting, theatre and cinema, benefiting various communities.

The impact of the project is reflected in the active participation of 1430 children, adolescents and young people who will be benefited between 2020 and 2023. The total investment of the Provincial Government of

Manabí reaches \$253,291.20 during this period.

The technical approach of the project includes a variable duration of 3 to 8 months for each participant. The Provincial Government, as a public policy articulating entity, seeks to restore the rights of priority groups, demonstrating a comprehensive commitment to the development of the province.

Through face-to-face workshops, the participants represent the customs of the Montuvias and Cholas communities, highlighting historical aspects, landscapes, flora, fauna, legends and agricultural production. Projected achievements include the revitalisation of musical memory, active family participation, the reactivation of public spaces and a high cultural level in the community.

“Manabí tells you a story” not only seeks to develop artistic skills, but also to build a strong cultural identity and promote community participation in the preservation and projection of Manabí's cultural wealth.



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### MANDELA BAY, SOUTH AFRICA THE ST. PETER'S HERITAGE PRECINCT

50

The St Peter's Anglican Church was built in 1875, which was an integral part of the old South End community. It was part of the landmarks affected by the forced removals of the apartheid government in the 1960s. By 1972, the empty building was vandalized and irreparable. The Mandela Bay Development Agency purchased this piece of land with the aim of developing it as an inclusive public space for all, specifically the community whose lives were destroyed. It is intended to be a place of reflection, remembrance and diversity in culture and heritage.

The precinct is located in a culturally sensitive area of South End which was a cosmopolitan community before and during the time of apartheid in South Africa until the Land Act and the Group Areas Act came to law. This precinct falls within the development agenda of the city, which is to preserve culture and heritage, enable social cohesion, embrace cultural rights and freedom of expression. The heritage precinct was conceptualized to address the consequences of apartheid and the legislative laws that oppressed black, Indian, Chinese and colored communities.

To activate the site and to tell the story of this once cosmopolitan community, the MBDA commissioned public art for development in this precinct. The first public art piece installed was a cross which is a conceptual replica of the old cross that used to be on the site one hundred years ago which was a beacon for incoming ships and fishing boats. More public art pieces that connect to the story of this resilient community have since been commissioned and installed and additional are the Amphitheatre, Walk way, Benches, Curio shop, Coffee shop and an open deck for dialogues and conversations. These are crucial in keeping the memory of South End alive through story-telling. The South End Museum as pillar and a source for all archived information about the South End community is an integral part of this heritage precinct. The site is strategically linked to the South End Museum which is a walkable distance from the precinct. The precinct includes a heritage trail that is visited by both the locals and international tourists.

### MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION, TURKEY ORTAKLAŞA: CULTURE, DIALOGUE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ORTAKLAŞA MEANS "IN COMMON" IN TURKISH)

51

The programme aims to focus on solutions and recommendations based on a framework promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and engagement, paving the way for a

more participatory cultural policy-making environment. The programme consists of three main pillars: capacity building, sub-grant programme, and advocacy activities.



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These activities are complemented by comprehensive field research, communication and dissemination activities, evaluation and monitoring. The main purpose of the capacity-building programme is to empower cultural professionals working in CSOs and municipalities in cultural planning, cultural policy, and cultural management. The Sub-Grant programme aims to improve the dialogue between CSOs working in the field of culture and arts and municipalities across Türkiye through collaborations and joint projects and to encourage the creation of inclusive and participatory cultural policies. To realize this objective, a sub-granting mechanism with a budget of EUR 1.3 million will be opened for joint cultural projects of CSOs and municipalities. CSOs and municipalities need to develop a collaboration model to receive the funding. Therefore, the project will bring civil actors and local authorities closer and make them work together. The purpose of the advocacy activities is to develop and establish a collaborative working model between the

local authorities and CSOs in the field of cultural policy in the light of international conventions, such as the UNESCO 2005 Convention on “the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” putting “support sustainable systems of governance for Culture” as a primary goal. As an Istanbul-based organization, İKSV cooperated with another Istanbul-based but regional public institution Marmara Municipalities Union to mobilize all relevant stakeholders in Türkiye to make significant progress in the promotion of civil involvement in cultural policy-making. The expected impact of the project is the enrichment of cultural cooperation nationwide and the expansion of awareness of the importance and necessity of civic participation in local cultural policy-making processes. The overall objective of the Ortaklaşa is to align more closely the status of Türkiye’s democracy with the EU Acquis through the democratization of culture and cultural democracy.

### MASHHAD, IRAN

#### REGIONAL PLANNING FOR THE MASHHAD GLOBAL CITY: AN INCLUSIVE CITY FOR ALL (IMMIGRANTS AND CITIZENS)

52

The holy city of Mashhad, a metropolis spanning over 350 square kilometers with a population exceeding 3 million, and more than 15 million annual pilgrims, stands as a pivotal urban center in the eastern and northeastern regions of Iran. Its significance as the second metropolis of the Islamic Republic of Iran is primarily due to its proximity to the border of Iran and Afghanistan, which is always affected by the endless wars and social and political

Instability of this country. In addition to its economic role along the Silk Road route, Mashhad serves as a multifaceted social nexus, embracing diverse ethnicities and cultures from both within and outside Iran. The city has historically attracted a variety of regional ethnicities, notably becoming a prominent destination for Afghan citizens seeking refuge from security, economic, health, and cultural challenges. These



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individuals aspire to build a better life, relying on their own social and cultural frameworks. The geopolitical events of 2021, specifically the fall of the government in Afghanistan and the resurgence of the new government of Taliban, triggered a significant surge in the number of Afghan immigrants. Mashhad, due to its proximity to Afghanistan and the established Afghan community within the city, has emerged as one of the foremost immigration centers for Afghan citizens. In the ongoing project, our focus is on enhancing the social satisfaction and coexistence of residents in the northern area of Mashhad city, particularly emphasizing non-Iranian ethnic groups. The predominant immigrant community comprises Tajik, Hazara, Pashtun, Baloch, and Turkmen from Afghanistan, alongside Kurdish, Turkic, Baloch, and Fars ethnic groups contributing to the immigrant-friendly society. The primary objective is to establish a foundation of acceptance and unity within this immigrant-friendly society,

aiming to enhance the overall living standards for both immigrant and non-immigrant citizens in the northern region of Mashhad metropolis. Recognizing the potential challenges, such as the tendency for informal settlements and the risk of neighborhoods resembling Dharavi in Mumbai or experiencing suburbanization leading to increased violent crimes due to poverty and economic hardship, city and regional managers have proactively sought solutions. The approach involves meticulous planning and a focus on the social capabilities of the approximately 150 thousand residents. The aim is to identify and harness the cultural and social potentials within this population, fostering the development of a progressive and synergistic culture. This initiative is implemented through a strategic chain of rural-urban accommodation and the linear expansion of services, aligning with the broader goal of creating a sustainable and harmonious living environment.

### MATERA, BASILICATA, ITALY

#### MATERA – CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP FOR AN OPEN AND DIVERSE CITY

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In 2019 the City of Matera was the European Capital of Culture (ECoC).

The objective of the underlying program is to promote cultural citizenship, to “encourage an ethos whereby citizens can become shapers, makers and co creators of their evolving city”. In this sense, Matera adopts the “open culture model” stemmed from the open-source movement, based on the principles of sharing, peering, openness that could generate new forms of culture.

After the year of Capital, the city of Matera is delivering public policies in close continuity with the ECoC program. In this sense, the values and methods of Matera 2019 program cross-fertilized policies concerning different sectors, such as social inclusion, gender equality, urban planning, commons, accessible tourism and cultural policy. As such, we can consider the Matera 2019 program and the closely-related legacy policies as the “Cultural citizenship program of Matera” here presented.



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The “cultural citizenship” challenge implies a hard work to mobilize the greatest possible number of people, with special attention to those people who feel “unworthy” of culture, in a region marked by a very low rate of cultural participation. In this process, the alliance with grassroot organizations (such as parishes, schools, LGBTQ+, migrants, disabled, mum’s association) is of paramount importance, as well as the involvement of peripheral fringes of Matera.

Several examples give evidence of the capacity of this program to engender public

commons and heritage communities (like for instance the community of volunteers that has founded a legacy association to encourage cultural participation for people on the edge), to enhance diversity (like the migrants engaged in a contemporary version of the “Gospel according to St. Matthew” or like the dancers of every age and ability questioning the authority of “dancing well” in favor of pure joy of performing), to encourage creative placemaking or fostering individual and collective well-being.

### MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

BUILDING AUDIENCES: STATE, CIVIL SOCIETY, MUSEUMS, THEATRES  
AND CULTURAL SPACES UNITED TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE AND CONNECT  
MEDELLÍN WITH ART AND CULTURE.

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Since its creation, the project works to democratise the arts and culture as engines of sustainable development in the economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions, through joint actions with museum and theatre entities, aimed at facilitating free access to artistic and cultural scenarios and events, for the appreciation, appropriation and cultural consumption. This project dynamises the stages, articulates different actors and agents, promotes artistic expressions and practices, recognises cultural assets and their symbolic value, mobilises populations towards cultural enjoyment and social inclusion, strengthening the social fabric at urban and rural levels - with special attention to low socio-economic levels - children, young people and the vulnerable population. Cultural managers and strategic actors (cultural leaders and managers, social,

community, institutional, business, trainers and international allies) are also involved in facilitating and accessing training processes.

“Building Audiences” (BA) can be summarised in three axes: 1. Cultural Appropriation, 2. Audience Management and 3. Artistic and Cultural Diversification Strategies. BA focuses on performing arts (dance, music, theatre, diversity), fine arts, science, technology, innovation, software, contemporary art, environment, urbanism, and transformation of the District’s heritage, culture, identity, urban planning and architecture. It includes: Immersive Lab experiences, Guided Experiences (to museums, theatres and city spaces), Travelling Experiences within the territory, Fan Club, new audiences, co-creations and Training Seminars. See graph of strategic axes.





The BA project is aligned with the cultural policies of the city and the country, in terms of strengthening the spaces for training and

citizen participation based on the exercise of cultural rights.

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## **MINOA PEDIADA, GREECE** **THE THRAPSANO TRADITIONAL POTTERY PROJECT**

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Thrapsano, in the Municipality of Minoa Pediada, is the most important Cretan ceramic

centre, active since the 16<sup>th</sup> century CE and even earlier. The Thrapsano Traditional Pottery Project, promoted by the Municipality, aims to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Thrapsano, to act as a cultural hub of active potters of the region, and to pass down of the potter's craft to the younger generation. The Municipality supports the activities of the Thrapsano Cultural Association. The Association has succeeded in having the potting tradition of Thrapsano included in the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Greece. The most important activity of the Association is the cultural festival EARTH WATER FIRE: Celebrating Cretan Pottery from Antiquity to the Present, organised in collaboration with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, the British School at Athens, and the Centre for the Study of Modern Pottery – G. Psaropoulos

Foundation, together with Thrapsano potters.

Events include lectures by prestigious academics, with particular emphasis on the Thrapsano and Cretan in general ceramic tradition as a living heritage, workshops for adults and children to introduce them to the potter's art, visits to archaeological sites, art exhibitions, ceramic workshops by Cretan potters, and music evenings with traditional Cretan music. The impressive attendance, including not only inhabitants of Thrapsano but also those from the nearby towns, demonstrates the importance of preserving the Cretan culture, a precious living heritage with a rich past and a wealth of future prospects. Another initiative, included in the general policy of the Municipality to promote the Thrapsano traditional pottery, is the establishment of an educational centre in collaboration with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the University of Western Macedonia.



## MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

### “BODY AND SOUL: 300 YEARS OF MONTEVIDEO”.

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The work programme of the project “Body and soul: 300 years of Montevideo” was created in a collaborative and participatory way with the different actors that are part of the city, for the commemoration of its third centenary. This agenda was designed through a participatory process with citizens, social organisations and academia.

In order to design the activities for Montevideo's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, thematic commissions were formed. These are spaces open to participation where they discussed actions to be developed between 2022 and 2025, under four thematic axes: science, culture and innovation; migration, communities and coexistence; diversity, equity and rights; and children, youth and opportunities.

These include 40 shows on 20 January 2024, free of charge and in the open air, involving more than 600 Uruguayan artists on five stages distributed throughout the city centre, and with the participation of more than 250,000 people.

As part of the agenda of commemorations of the 300 Years of Montevideo, a delegation of the Government of the Republic of Angola visited the city, with the aim of strengthening ties, cooperation and twinning between Angolan cities and Montevideo; as well as their special participation in the main artistic-musical expression of the Afro-descendant community, the “Desfile de Llamadas”, in the traditional neighbourhoods of this community.

The proposals also include competitions such as “Celebrate your neighbourhood”

in which citizens are invited to propose activities linked to claims, memory and celebrations; competitive funds; exhibitions such as the Children's Biennial of Plastic Arts and the festival of Young Contemporary Art; narratives such as the Dioramas - 300 years of Montevideo in 12 fragments; an itinerant theatre cycle; publications, development of digital platforms and acknowledgements.

On the occasion of the 300 years of Montevideo, there will also be cycles of activities during specific months. In the case of the Month of Afrodescendence (during the whole month of July), the Afro Festival will be held at the Antel Arena facilities, which will take place at the end of July 2024 and will include numerous free proposals to vindicate the contribution of the Afro-descendant community to our city.

Among the highlights, there will be an art exhibition of Afro-descendant artists, a fair of Afro-descendant women entrepreneurship and religion of African origin, and several conferences with international guests. The festival will also feature a musical line-up of local and international artists of different genres.

Thematic commissions have been formed to design the activities for the 300 years of Montevideo. These are spaces open to participation where actions to be developed between 2022 and 2025 were exchanged under four thematic axes: science, culture and innovation; migration, communities and coexistence; diversity, equity and rights; and children, youth and opportunities.



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Likewise, in the thematic commission on migration, communities and coexistence, the project for the elaboration of a guide

of procedures aimed at migrants, with the objective of facilitating their insertion in the city, was highlighted.

### MOSCOW, FEDERATION OF RUSSIA THE RUSSIAN ART PROJECT “OUTLINES OF CULTURE”

57

“Outlines of Culture” is a Russian art project aimed at modernizing public spaces by integrating contemporary art into their interior environment. Launched in 2022, the art project was a successful example of rebooting more than four dozen cultural institutions in Moscow with the help of contemporary art and showed the relevance and interest in the initiative across the artistic and cultural community, as well as among the residents of various districts of the capital. Thanks to the support of the Government of Moscow, Moscow Department of Culture, the project was scaled up and launched on a regular basis. In September 2023, the second season was successfully completed.

Within 2 years the project managed to attract young contemporary artists from different

regions of Russia, to create unique platforms for creative expression and integration of art, which for a long time remained the prerogative of gallery exposition or illegal urban projects, into the contemporary urban cultural discourse.

In turn, the Russian art project “Outlines of Culture” actively supports the educational agenda and contributes to expanding the cultural horizons of Moscow residents. Within the framework of the project, artists from all over Russia integrate contemporary art into public spaces and in their murals, create a cultural dialogue about the world of art, accessible for perception by people of all ages and levels of training, and with the help of compositional and color solutions transform the interior of the city.

### NAIROBI, KENYA UNESCO – ASCHBERG PROGRAMME FOR ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS – STRENGTHENING THE CULTURAL SECTOR THROUGH STRONG REGULATORY FRAMEWORK MAPPING AND CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH THE COUNTY

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The objective of this project is to embed a systematic, evidence-based approach to the development of strategies and plans conducive to an attractive, vibrant and prosperous

Nairobi City County by building capacities for consistent data collection, and policy and legislation formulation. Nairobi County passed a culture heritage law in 2017 which does not



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reflect the realities of the city. This law does not recognize the artist, or the status of the artist. It does not expressly protect the right to create without censorship. As a result, the artist in Nairobi remains exposed to several threats including censorship, no allocation of production spaces, no classification within the County government's system thereby denying them proper services, among others.

This project is aimed at rectifying this in three broad ways: comprehensively reviewing the laws and policies related to culture; drafting a statistics framework that supports collection of cultural data in the county at devolved levels; capacity building of the county cultural staff on matters pertinent to creative cultural industries. In doing this, it is expected that Nairobi City County will benefit significantly in many ways including: having a better understanding of the creative economy; restructuring the county's administrative processes to improve the ease of doing business for creative cultural practitioners; appreciating the cultural assets within its boundaries; regularly collect empirical evidence to back strategic direction and justify using culture as a tradable proposition for job creation; allocate sufficient budgets to culture, among others. The impact of this project is anticipated to be national. Presently, there

is no county which recognizes the status of the artist or has a comprehensive framework for collecting cultural statistics. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics also struggles to give accurate information on cultural statistics. This project would form a baseline for review throughout the country at both national and county levels of governments.

The implementation of this project is intended to take 12 months through meetings with a core team, various stakeholders including artists and technical experts, and county officers in charge of culture and tourism. Nairobi City County had started to relook at its statistical framework following a UNESCO training on cultural statistics for county governments. It constituted a technical team comprising various national institutions namely, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis and the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and the National Government Ministry of Culture and Heritage. However due to lack of funding the technical committee has not begun its work. This project would enable this team and others from the government and civil society to be involved in the process.

### NGADA REGENCY, INDONESIA

#### WOLOBOBO NGADA FESTIVAL, LIVE IN WONDER OF WEAVING, COFFEE, AND BAMBOO CULTURE

Wolobobo Ngada Festival is a special moment for raising the potential of Ngada Regency, which has started from 2019 until the present. This festival is one of the events that

was selected in the Karisma Event Nusantara (KEN) 2022, 2023, and 2024 by the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy Republic of Indonesia. There are 3 (three) themes



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raised in the Wolobobo Ngada Festival, namely COFFEE, BAMBOO, and WEAVING, as synthesis to emphasize branding of Ngada culture products. Coffee, Bamboo and Weaving are elements of natural wealth. A culture that makes its name proud goes

to the national level as well as international. Apart from 3 themes, the Wolobobo Ngada Festival is also an opportunity to promote the economic creative activity of the Ngada people as entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector, livestock, fishermen, and tourism.

### NOVI SAD, REPUBLIC OF SERBIA CULTURAL POLICY REGENERATION OF URBAN HERITAGE THROUGH THE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE

60

We intend to introduce international public to the Cultural Policy Regeneration of Urban Heritage Through the Culture of Dialogue (hereafter: the Model) developed in the City of Novi Sad. Novi Sad, the second-largest city in Serbia, has set an ambitious goal to re-examine its compromised identity and lay strong foundations for further sustainable city development while positioning itself on the European and global cultural map through urban heritage regeneration via the culture of dialogue. The City has defined a long-term and systemic cultural policy in its first Culture development strategy (2016-2026) (hereafter: CDS), which outlines three main objectives: decentralization, participation and democratization of culture. Novi Sad has committed to three principles of regeneration through the culture of dialogue:

1. Decentralization - four units of endangered and devastated urban heritage selected:
  - ┌ Sub-district of Petrovaradin fortress (17<sup>th</sup>-century heritage) (hereafter: SDPF),
  - ┌ Almash area (18<sup>th</sup>-century heritage) (hereafter: AA),

- ┌ Creative District – Center for Cultural and Creative Industries (hereafter: CD) (20<sup>th</sup>-century heritage),
  - ┌ Cultural Station Network (hereafter: CSN) (19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>-century heritage).
2. Participation - comprehensive and diverse dialogue methods:
    - ┌ Focus groups – dialogues with neighbours and tenants,
    - ┌ Forum of Culture – dialogues with the expert community,
    - ┌ Divan – dialogue with citizens.
  3. Democratization - numerous art competitions opened to strengthen the local scene, utilizing renovated urban heritage spaces through two cultural programs:
    - ┌ Doček – the artistic celebration of two New Years unique in Europe,
    - ┌ Kaleidoscope of Culture – significant showcase of artistic production in this part of Europe,
    - ┌ Other programs organized by the City through open calls.



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Consequently, we renovated devastated cultural heritage places, 12 CSN, and reconstructed 9 industrial heritage buildings.

That is 22 hectares of authentic neighbourhood, the eldest in the city, 5000 m<sup>2</sup> for decentralization of culture and 11 hectares for cultural and creative industries.

### PADANG, INDONESIA

#### PADANG OLD CITY: A CULTURAL BRIDGE TO THE WORLD

61

Padang Old City has a unique cultural heritage. This area holds stories about spice trade and the development of Islam in West Sumatra. The Old City is a silent witness to the development of Padang civilization, buildings from the Dutch colonial era and the influence of Minangkabau culture. It is not only a historical area, but also a valuable cultural melting pot. Every trace of Malay, Chinese, Indian and Nias civilization is like threads woven into a unique and colorful mosaic of identity. Preserving the Old City means preserving this cultural heritage, ensuring harmony and diversity are maintained for future generations. Cultural development can revive this area, create jobs and increase the income of local people. With government support, private sector and community, Padang Old City has the potential to become a vibrant and sustainable cultural area. They have

potential to become a popular historical and cultural tourist destination in the world.

One of the efforts to preserve the old city are implementing events and revitalizing buildings. Cultural events such as the Padang International Music Festival (PiomFest), Siti Nurbaya Festival, Muaro Padang Festival, Multicultural Festival which invites you to explore the rich culture of Malay, Chinese, Indian, Nias and Minangkabau which have long coexisted in Padang. Apart from that, the Old City formation Management Agency preserve and develop this area. This agency was formed with the aim of preserving and developing this area in a sustainable manner, improving the quality of the environment and public spaces, creating employment opportunities and improving the welfare of the local community to be an attractive and competitive cultural tourist destination.

### PASTO, NARIÑO, COLOMBIA

#### ARTISTIC AND HANDICRAFT TRAINING SCHOOLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PASTO

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The artistic and craft training schools project focuses on providing education in various cultural areas that are key to the identity

of the Municipality of Pasto, including its 17 districts, with an inclusive and diverse approach, offering training programmes





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in band and Andean music, traditional and indigenous dances, theatre, lanigraphy, film, audiovisuals and painting. Similarly, and taking into account the importance of generational renewal of artistic traditions, the workshops include the techniques of the black and white carnival and Pasto varnish, which are recognised and included in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Colombia. The schools serve more than 1400 people, including children, adolescents, adults and older adults.

The initiative seeks to strengthen and preserve the artistic talents of new generations, while safeguarding and promoting the richness of Pasto's cultural identity. By taking advantage of the city's

designation as a creative city in crafts and folk art by UNESCO, the project aligns with global efforts to protect and promote the region's unique cultural heritage. Through training in these disciplines, the project fosters the integral development of the local population, providing them with tools both for their personal growth and their possible insertion in the labour market in the field of culture and the arts.

This project not only represents an investment in the education and cultural development of the population, but also contributes to the preservation and promotion of the rich cultural legacy of Pasto at a national and international level.

### PIKOGAN (BAND COUNCIL), ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE, QUEBEC, CANADA NIN, AN EXHIBITION ON THE ANICINABE LANGUAGE AS PART OF THE DECADE OF ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

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Not so long ago, we were known as the 'Invisible People', but now we have gone all the way to Paris, to UNESCO, to symbolically mark the start of the Decade of Indigenous Languages by presenting our Nin (I am) exhibition on our ancestral language. This is an important milestone for all Anicinabek people, because it shows that we are still very much alive and ready to defend our language and culture. Nin is a nomadic exhibition designed to make tangible the perception of the world inherent to the Anicinabe language, and to arouse the interest and pride of the Anicinabek in their identity and ancestral heritage. The exhibition is made up of five thematic zones that allow visitors to explore

certain aspects of our ancestors' history and their relationship with the land and the world through their language "Anicinabemowin", which is the pillar of knowledge transmission. The "Nin" exhibition is intended to be a place where people can meet and reflect on the challenge of revitalising the Anicinabe language.

"Nin" has visited every community in the nation. Everywhere it went, this exhibition got people talking, breaking a silence that had lasted for too long. It has touched hearts and moved minds, creating the movement we wanted. "Nin" has raised awareness among the younger generation, and it also seems



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to have given them a taste for taking part in the movement. Each presentation of the exhibition was accompanied by a round table with the older women. An action plan for the decade of languages emerged from this tour, as did the creation of a working group to

revitalise the Anicinabe language.

Throughout the decade, “Nin” will continue to reach out to other communities who are aware that their message is universal and topical.

## PORT-LOUIS, MAURITIUS REVIVING CHINATOWN

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Chinatown is a historical landmark in Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius. It is one of the oldest Chinatowns in the African region. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Chinese immigrants came to set up their shops in Port Louis since it was not only the capital but also the only port of the island, where all the goods were shipped. Chinese traders revolutionized the economic landscape of Mauritius and transformed Chinatown into a vibrant sector of the city. However, Chinatown is nowadays struggling to retain its attractiveness.

‘Reviving Chinatown’ is a project set up by the New Chinatown Foundation, a local NGO which is very dynamic in promoting the tangible and intangible heritage of the Chinese immigrants. The contribution of the New Chinatown Foundation to revive a historical and important area of the city is recognised by the City Council of Port Louis.

The main objectives of the New Chinatown Foundation are to restore and promote the cultural heritage represented by the old shops, houses, street food corners, pagodas. It also aims at creating a melting pot of different cultures in Chinatown while

preserving the Chinese culture and traditions with an opening towards the Mauritian multicultural environment. Chinatown can also be transformed into an international landmark for tourists with artistic, cultural and culinary experience. The Foundation also wishes to link Chinatown to overseas Chinatowns through cultural and economic exchanges, and establish and reinforce links with partners worldwide.

The following activities were carried out by the Foundation:

- I Cleaning and refurbishing infrastructure through improvement of street lighting and provision of eco bins for recycling purposes.
- I Decorating the main street walls of Chinatown with mural art work.
- I Organising exhibitions to promote exchange between foreign and local artists.
- I Supporting traders to upgrade their business.
- I Marketing Chinatown’s attractions through key stakeholders.



## **PUEBLA, MEXICO**

### **RESTORATION TRAINING WORKSHOP SCHOOL OF PUEBLA**

65

On 15 June 1999, an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale affected a large part of the built heritage of the State and the City of Puebla. Faced with the lack of qualified workforce to undertake reconstruction tasks, the governmental level proposed the need to have a training body in traditional construction systems. For this reason, on 22 September 2000, a collaboration agreement was signed between the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development - AECID, the Secretary of Culture of the State of Puebla, the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla - BUAP, and the National Institute of Anthropology and History - INAH.

The Restoration Training Workshop School of Puebla is a practical educational programme with technical training in traditional trades, such as: construction, carpentry, stonemasonry, blacksmithing and forging, as well as electrical and hydro-sanitary installations. Its objective is to promote the

conservation of the built heritage through the training of skilled labour, the programme is aimed at young people between 18 and 24 years of age, in search of better opportunities for employment and development.

Through nine completed generations of the Training Workshop School, more than 387 technicians and technicians have been trained as skilled labour in the conservation of built heritage, more than 400 graduates in extension courses, as well as more than 367 intervention actions carried out in buildings of historical value. In February 2023, activities corresponding to the tenth generation will begin, thereby providing, among other activities, the continuity of the so-called Work Orders, which are conservation actions and practical activities that the students carry out following the learning model, implemented by the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID), "Learning by Doing".

## **RAMALLAH, PALESTINE**

### **MOVING CULTURE FORWARD**

66

The Municipality of Ramallah's initiative to develop a participatory Cultural Policy which was finalized in March 2022 which reflects an understanding of culture as a tool for resilience and resistance.

Despite the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the municipality continued the process of

establishing a cultural policy for Ramallah, embedding the new reality sequences into its cultural policy document which demonstrates a commitment to adaptability and responsiveness to the local context and needs.

Cultural policy copes with an essential directive of the city which is to contribute to



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the liberation of Palestine. The Palestinian narrative emphasizes the ongoing struggle of Palestinians against occupation. Particularly highlighted during the commemoration of the “1948 Nakba” and the subsequent aggression in Gaza and the West Bank late 2023. The passage underscores the entrenched political beliefs of Palestinians regarding their rights, such as the right of return, Jerusalem as the capital, and the establishment of an independent state in relevance to the International law. It also sheds light on the unique challenges faced by Palestinians under occupation, including displacement, ethnic cleansing, and the theft of cultural heritage.

Culture emerges as a central element of Palestinian resistance against occupation, serving as a means of preserving identity, memory, and connection to land and heritage. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, Palestinians demonstrate resilience by leveraging cultural practices to maintain social cohesion and collective narrative.

The genocide in Palestine that is of its greatest manifestations nowadays and the loss of civilian lives, especially children and women, is indeed a tragedy that demands immediate unification and act.

Ramallah cultural policy being flexible and responsive to the local context and needs

is a commendable approach. It shows an understanding of the importance of adapting to the current situation and addressing the specific challenges faced by the people. The municipality's efforts to develop a study about the city's resilience during the ongoing war, following resilience qualities and indicators, will provide valuable insights for future planning and response efforts. Understanding how the city has coped with the challenges and identifying areas for improvement will be instrumental in building a more resilient and sustainable future for Ramallah. The commitment to resilience building, as outlined in the Urban Resilience road-map, is also essential. Building resilience in cities and communities is key to withstanding and recovering from crises effectively. By taking proactive measures to prevent, detect, and respond to the challenges arising from the genocide, Ramallah is demonstrating its commitment to the well-being of its residents.

Ramallah's engagement in global networks and partnerships underscores the city's commitment to seeking support, sharing information, and advocating for solidarity in the face of adversity.

It is importance of collective action in seeking freedom, safety, and protection for all individuals. It is important to remind the world with human rights and humanity.



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### RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL LOCAL ACTIONS

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“Local Actions” is a sponsorship program for artistic projects that promote positive socio-cultural impact in peripheral communities of the city of Rio de Janeiro, created in 2014. The objective is to contribute to the exercise of citizenship, inclusion, and the positive transformation of territories through culture.

Projects are selected through a public call, using a methodology of prospecting, registration, and selection specifically designed to meet the characteristics of cultural entrepreneurs who historically struggle to access resources through traditional funding programs.

Local Actions targets initiatives primarily related to people in situations of poverty; victims of violence; homelessness; those in situations of restriction and deprivation of freedom; people with disabilities; facing mental health challenges; LGBTQIA+; women; children, youth, and the elderly; traditional communities; Black population; Indigenous; and Gypsy communities.

The program is divided into different strategically designed stages with the purpose

of bringing closer those agents who are more distant institutionally. It begins with an extensive search for artists and sociocultural projects in favelas and peripheries with the potential for participation; promotes training actions for these groups; conducts the submission of proposals through forms that facilitate the description of actions; conducts in-person interviews between applicants and judges; and finally, the selected projects are monitored for the strengthening and sustainability of actions.

The program arises from the recognition of the significant inequality in cultural investments in the city, primarily affecting the poorest areas. The intention of Local Actions is to democratize and decentralize the cultural policy, as well as to expand the scope of beneficiaries, including cultural entrepreneurs with greater social vulnerability who have not had access to professional training or the formalization of their enterprises.

In the 2023 edition, the program selected 164 initiatives, and among them, 53% of the proponents had never received public funding for the realization of their activities.

### ROSARIO, ARGENTINA MUNICIPAL PROGRAMME “MUSICAL TERRITORIES”

68

The Municipal Programme “Musical Territories” is a public cultural policy of the Municipality of Rosario, aimed at promoting musical, pedagogical and social artistic projects for

children and young people from 6 to 25 years of age in different neighbourhoods of the city, with emphasis on those communities in situations of social and economic vulnerability.



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Through this programme, the Municipality has so far provided 550 children and young people with access to cultural goods and services, guaranteeing their social inclusion through musical training and collective practice, enriching and enhancing the cultural value of the city and the region.

The musical projects - orchestras, bands, and children's and youth ensembles - are located in the Municipal District Centres, public spaces of decentralisation of the relevant local government for the residents of the neighbourhoods in which they have jurisdiction. The projects are developed throughout the year, proposing a comprehensive, quality and free artistic training and education through which students attend individual and group classes on instruments, musical reading and writing, joint practice, and periodically perform concerts for the community.

The implementation of the initiatives involves teachers of musical instruments who generate a constant link with institutions, neighbourhood organisations, students, families and neighbours, fostering their collective appropriation, promoting artistic co-creation from the perspective of the beneficiaries.

The Secretariat of Education and Culture of the Municipality has an allocated budget line, through which it manages the necessary resources for the programme, such as salaries, purchase and maintenance of musical instruments, logistical expenses and refreshments for concerts, acquisition of teaching materials and clothing. The programme has tools for constant monitoring and evaluation in order to reorient actions for the fulfilment of objectives, thus guaranteeing its social and financial sustainability.

### ROUEN (ROUEN NORMANDY METROPOLIS), FRANCE ROUEN NORMANDY METROPOLIS: TRANSFORMING THE REGION THROUGH THE PRISM OF CULTURAL CHALLENGES

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The Metropolis is implementing a policy of transforming the territory through culture. Based on cultural rights, this policy is a tool for social transition and is inextricably linked to ecological transition, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> structural axis of metropolitan public policies. In particular, it takes the form of:

- I Public policy:
  - I Drafting the 2023-2038 cultural policy Culture in an era of transition (ecological, cooperation, diversity).
- I Development of the city's heritage policy and the label "Art and History Metropolis" (multiple narratives, social-ecological transition of the living environment, regional hospitality).
- I Signature with the Council of Europe of the commitment to work towards the Faro Convention (framework convention on the value of cultural heritage for society).





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### I Projects and actions:

- I A “European Capital of Culture // Rouen Seine Normandie 2028” bid in terms of form and content (creation of a pluralist and transgenerational Seine Assembly, sensitive and collaborative metropolitan trails, an Children’s adventure playground...) in line with cultural rights.

- I Organising the European Participation Days (July 23) and launching a citizens’ convention.

- I Drafting of a Citizen Participation Charter (December 23)

### I Organisational methods:

- I “Living the public space” this working group considers and

organises cross-functional projects between different entities (services, consultants, artists, residents...) in a cooperative mode, to improve people’s lives in the public space through artistic interventions.

- I A cross-disciplinary unit (housing, energy and heritage departments) that plans energy-efficient renovation that respects the region’s heritage.

These policies, actions and methods can only exist if the actors involved are supported in anchoring new models of cooperation, participation and governance in their professional practices. This “Cultural Rights Objective” approach is the focus of our application.

## SALVADOR, BAHÍA, BRAZIL

### CIDADE DA MÚSICA DA BAHIA (“CITY OF MUSIC OF BAHIA”)

70

The Cidade da Música da Bahia (“City of Music of Bahia”) is structured on four immersive floors through Bahia’s rich musical history and production, in addition to having a library and media room where you can access the space’s entire archive. The first floor highlights the rhythm and experiences of the city by neighborhood, named “The City of Salvador and Its Music”. The space has interactive stations depicting the city’s neighborhoods and their specific music, stories and testimonies, as well as an installation using a large interactive model and three large projection screens depicting artists’ testimonies about the city.

The second floor introduces visitors to the “History of Music in Bahia”, which has the Tropicália theme as its setting. On this floor, there are nine booths depicting the various rhythms and artists that are part of the history of Bahian music, as well as a room dedicated to orchestral music, with a video presentation of the Bahia Symphony Orchestra, and a room dedicated to the city’s new musical talents and peripheral music groups.

On the third floor, the space offers educational entertainment. There are karaoke clip recording studios where visitors choose



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a graphic background and, at the end, have their clip ready to post on social networks. There is also the “Rap and Trap, conscious poetry” room, which shows videos of various rappers, trappers and poets from all over Brazil, especially young artists from Bahia, and the percussion and recording studio room, where musical workshops are held and the artists from the city can access a

professional studio for free. As another means of democratizing the space, entrance is free every Wednesday throughout the year.

Between March 2021 and March 2023, Cidade da Música had 104,660 visitors, 91,765 of whom were from Bahia, expanding local access to their own heritage.

## SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CENTRO DE ARTES: A GALLERY FOR ALL

71

The City of San Antonio's Department of Arts & Culture began managing and programming a two-story art gallery in the center of the city in 2016. In order to honor the space's history of being a center for Latino culture, the department developed an exhibition program that relies on proposals submitted by the arts community, evaluated by an expert panel, all with the focus of telling the Latino story while providing access to high-quality art to all regardless of background or income. While this process and gallery program might seem straightforward on first blush, in reality it has become an innovator in developing present and the future curators and artists of Latino arts and culture while creating and developing community through education opportunities, art openings, artist and curator meet-and-greets and more. Through the gallery's free and open-to-the-public programming, both San Antonio residents

and visitors are learning that art is truly for all, not just those who can afford high-dollar ticket and entry fees. The gallery has also created connections with San Antonio and cities across North and South America, with artists from various cities across Texas, New York, Los Angeles, Mexico, Argentina, Guatemala, Brazil and more exhibited in the space. Finally, the gallery program has created a safe space for all to exhibit and experience art, with the program focused on giving individuals of all walks of life a space to tell their stories including LGBTQIA+, immigrant and first generation, and emerging and established artists. This program became more important than ever, and is continually breaking attendance records, after reopening following the pandemic. It is proof that art builds community and a better understanding of the world around us.



## **SAN SALVADOR (METROPOLITAN AREA), EL SALVADOR** **METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY MUSEUMS (MCM)**

72

The “Metropolitan Community Museums” (MCM) represent a metropolitan commitment to the promotion of local cultural expressions, creative economies and reappropriation of community public space. El Salvador has been a country hard hit by insecurity, turning public space into a symbol of threat, deteriorating the social fabric and community identities. Against this backdrop, culture and community memory face the reconciliation with the inhabited territory and act as catalysts for new meanings. The public space, with its forms and resources, serves to project the polysemy, uses and populations of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (AMSS).

Casa Maya is a neoindigenist building dating from 1925 and intervened by the San Salvador Metropolitan Area Planning Office (OPAMSS) since 2020. As part of this process, work began on its recognition as an immovable cultural property with the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador. In 2022, during the participatory design phases of the public space, the community history was collected, obtaining the first inputs for the Metropolitan Community Museums.

In the first exhibition “Transformation of the urban landscape”, the building was shown as a silent witness to the growth of San Salvador and its transformation to the current city. The popular housing policies of the 1950s surrounded it with multi-family buildings until the Colonia Atlacatl was formed. For this exhibition, a community archive was created, with photographs from family albums, interviews with long-lived residents and focus groups.

With this experience, the archive of Parque Texincal, in Barrio San Sebastián, Ciudad Delgado, is currently under construction. Together with the neighbouring Barrio Paleca, they are known for the practice of ceramic handicrafts and the dance of Moros y Cristianos, traditions that persist within the urban dynamics. In the municipality of Nejapa, an inventory of cultural assets is being carried out, as there are multiple findings of archaeological material, possibly from the Classic Period (250 AD to 900 AD).

## **SANTA FE DE LA VERA CRUZ, ARGENTINA** **LIBRARY-PARK AND MUSEUM OF THE CONSTITUTION: CREATIVE** **TERRITORY AND CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RIGHTS**

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Santa Fe is proud to be the city where the foundations of the Republic were laid; home of the Constituent Congress of 1853 that managed to establish an order of social

coexistence by sanctioning the National Constitution, putting an end to years of confrontation.



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The Municipal Government proposed the construction of a commemorative park to foster a sense of belonging, reflecting the local identity as the City of the Constitution, reaffirming its commitment to reach agreements that contribute to the collective welfare. This Library-Park is conceived as an intervention that integrates cultural, environmental and social-urban inclusion aspects. The planning recovers an abandoned site, enhances the landscape conditions of an exceptional natural park and offers a new public space to socially vulnerable neighbourhoods, promoting harmonious coexistence with the river and the coastal environment.

Located in the Park, the Museum of the Constitution represents an emblematic space resulting from the joint effort of hundreds of residents, creatives, researchers and professionals from various disciplines,

companies and institutions that actively participated in the project. Conceived as an interpretation centre, it recreates the historical narrative through an innovative museographic script with interactive exhibition devices that offer an enriching experience, combining technological resources and mise-en-scènes that stimulate, from multiple senses, both the cognitive and emotional dimensions of the visitors. Through different thematic rooms, it highlights the role of Santa Fe as the scene of historical encounters and emphasises the value of the most significant agreement of the Nation. It encourages reflection on our history and present, on the principles and values embodied in the Magna Carta and its impact on everyday life. Through numerous complementary activities, it aims to promote democratic culture, human rights, cultural diversity and cultural rights in order to lay the foundations for a better future.

### SANTO ANDRÉ, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL SANTO ANDRÉ É VOCÊ! (YOU ARE SANTO ANDRÉ)

74

Created in 2018, the Santo André é Você Program is a long-term proposal that aims to

bring citizens closer to collective memory, placing them at the forefront of the city's

transformation processes and discussions about local cultural heritage.

With an estimated population of 748,919 inhabitants and a territorial area of 175,782km<sup>2</sup> (IBGE, 2022), considering distances, geographic barriers and the

diversity of social groups, added to the limitations of a small team given the needs of an ambitious proposal for dialogues that encompassed the entire society, on a topic as dense as cultural heritage, it was necessary to create strategies that would guarantee that each territory and group could participate in the discussion process.

Some tools were developed with this objective, such as playful questionnaires, for non-literate and literate audiences, which address the way children and adolescents



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learn and relate to their surroundings and everyday life. Throughout 2019, teachers and monitors from the Municipal Education Network worked on the questionnaire with approximately 2,700 students.

Another way of accessing collective references was public listening on social networks, with the aim of identifying people considered references for the community.

Among the most recent tools is the creation of a board game designed so that groups can identify their cultural references, in a collaborative and fun dynamic. But these

tools needed to be worked on in dimensions beyond the possibilities of the Department of Culture, they needed to reach all the specificities of the municipality. In this sense, partnerships were established with strategic segments of public power and civil society, such as municipal education networks, libraries and social assistance, cultural spaces and agents, movements such as the Movement for the Defense of the Rights of Favela Residents (MDDF), creating a system to activate these initiatives. Favela Residents (MDDF), creating a system to activate these initiatives.

## SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

### JORNADA DO PATRIMÔNIO (HERITAGE JOURNEY)

75

Jornada do Patrimônio (“Heritage Journey”) was instituted by the Municipal Law n 16.546/2016 and aims to enhance the cultural heritage of the Municipality of São Paulo. It is carried out by the Municipal Department of Culture through its Department of Historical Heritage (which is called by “DPH” in portuguese abbreviation) and the Cultural Programming Coordination (“CPROG” by the same reason), in addition to being an educational activity

that aims to approach the population to their historical heritage. The event takes place in different regions and involves public and private spaces, highlighting the importance of preserving the city’s material and immaterial heritage. It is an opportunity for residents and visitors to learn more about the history and culture of São Paulo, through its monuments, museums, squares, churches and other places of historical and cultural interest.

## TANDIL, ARGENTINA

### KILOMETRE ZERO: MADE IN TANDIL

76

The municipal government’s “Kilometre Zero - Made in Tandil” programme aims to highlight local production, support Tandil’s producers and encourage the consumption of products

and services produced in the territory, strengthening the link between genuine products and Tandil’s values and identity. This policy encourages and offers citizens a type



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of local consumption and production, which mainly implies an increase in the quality of life of the population by accessing healthy products, as well as the protection of the environment by promoting short marketing circuits from the producer to the consumer. The “Kilometre Zero” concept brings multiple benefits: the defence of traditions, the revaluation of artisanal production, small-scale production, territorial development, self-sustainability of the community, local tourism and healthy habits, together with the consumption of fresh products, with better flavours, aromas and colours. The key to the programme is the involvement of different food sectors in each of the proposals, based on the joint work of the Municipality with the

private sector (entrepreneurs, cooperatives, SMEs, associations and chambers).

Since its implementation, local markets, festivals and popular events are held in the city and in rural towns; the municipal market is strengthened with community processing facilities and sale points; agro-ecological vegetable gardens have been promoted; and awareness has been raised about environmental protection and the benefits of local consumption. In short, opportunities for development and inclusion were generated for the entrepreneurial ecosystem, small producers and SMEs in Tandil, respecting harmony with nature and contributing to the identity and roots of a territorial food system (SAT).

### TEHRAN, IRAN ANAARESTAAN (POMEGRANATE GARDEN)

77

The Municipality of Tehran has decided to preserve and expand the Pomegranate Garden in District 5, which is the only remaining fruit garden in the area. This garden features numerous pomegranate, walnut, and angel trees that are well-maintained that creates a natural habitat for various species of birds and insects. Despite the dense urban environment, the garden thrives beautifully.

The construction of this one-hectare garden was a massive undertaking that required careful planning and execution. Pomegranate Park was built to offer secure and peaceful surroundings to residents of the predominantly apartment-dwelling neighborhood. The

garden also provides various amenities, such as benches, observatories, connecting bridges, cafes, and restaurants. The garden had been left abandoned for many years that made it unsafe and vulnerable to social damage, which led to many complaints from the residents.

Overall, the Pomegranate Park plays a significant role in the citizens' welfare by providing a much-needed space for relaxation and unwinding away from the stresses of daily life. The garden also contributes to the environment by providing a natural habitat for various species, and it is a true oasis that brings a sense of peace and serenity to those who visit it.





It is worth mentioning that the pomegranate tree has a rich cultural history in Tehran and it has been a beloved fruit among the people of this city for many years. Historical evidence also shows that the pomegranate has been

a popular fruit in Tehran since ancient times. This tree is even mentioned in Persian literary and historical sources, and pomegranates hold a special place in the culture of Iranian people as it represents heaven.

## TEPEACA, MÉXICO

### THE TRADITION OF BARTERING IN TEPEACA, PUEBLA

78

The barter of Tepeaca in Puebla is considered to be one of the largest and oldest bartering practices, dating back to pre-Hispanic times in Mexico, which continues to exist thanks to the efforts of the local bearers. The form of trade is based on the exchange of material goods or services that differ from the usual buying and selling using local currency.

This form of purchase, which has practically disappeared all over the world, resists to remain despite the pressures of large-scale production, where local and regional traders converge once a week in the market located 15 minutes from the centre of the municipality of Tepeaca de Negrete, Puebla.

In this space, one can see lines of people waiting to engage in verbal negotiation with an interested party, offering their products, animals, handicrafts, goods, food, beverages and products from the countryside that cover the basic food basket. It is common to find mostly women doing the bartering, while men do the sowing and harvesting work in the fields.

In this sense, this project seeks to revalue and protect the permanence of this manifestation as a reference of the intangible cultural heritage of the State of Puebla at national and international level, based on the policies of cultural rights, social inclusion, social cohesion, the fight against poverty and inequalities.

## TERRASSA, CATALONIA, SPAIN

### GAS TRANSVERSAL PROGRAMME (GENDERS, ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY)

79

The “GAS transversal programme” (Genders, Accessibility and Sustainability) is an initiative promoted by the Department of Culture of Terrassa City Council with the aim of ensuring that all cultural projects, activities and events carried out in the municipality meet the following requirements:

1. Genders. Incorporation of a non-sexist and non-androcentric vision in the cultural sphere and promotion of artistic creation of all genders.
2. Accessibility. Facilitation and participation of all people with



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equal opportunities. Adoption and incorporation of an inclusive and accessible approach from the outset when organising performances and events open to the public.

3. Sustainability. Reduction and elimination of disposable and single-use products in the pursuit of the zero-waste objective in municipal events. Taking appropriate measures to ensure the sustainability of cultural projects.

### TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

#### CENTRE FOR PROJECTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIMIȘOARA

80

The Centre for Projects of the Municipality of Timișoara (the Centre) is one of the youngest public institutions in Timișoara aiming to contribute to the development of a dynamic, creative and inclusive community in the city. Established in March 2021 by a Decision of the City Council and placed under the authority of the Timișoara City Hall and the Timișoara City Council, the Centre is the main legacy organisation of the Timișoara 2023 European Capital of Culture Programme and has been assigned the leading role in the implementation of the cultural year, including the monitoring and evaluation of the cultural programme in the years to come.

The Centre for Projects of the Municipality of Timișoara has been established in March 2021, driven by the need of unifying the overall vision of the Timișoara 2023 Cultural Programme with the cultural strategy at city level, innovation in cultural policy making, especially at the level of funding mechanism accessible to local cultural operators, generating knowledge and information in the field of culture, advocating for the role of

culture in general public governance of the city and participating in various networks at European and international level.

The initiative has also contributed to create a climate of confidence in the success of the Timișoara 2023 European Capital of Culture Programme and has provided the necessary legal framework in pulling together the financial resources for the implementation of the cultural programme. The Centre for Projects, through its grantmaking process has supported the cultural programme Timișoara 2023 with 79% of its total budget, out of which 42,30% was the direct financial contribution of the Timișoara City Hall, making culture more accessible and more diverse for the citizens of Timișoara. The impact of this constant investment in the cultural programme is reflected at the number of the cultural projects financed through the Centre for Projects, more than 220 in 2023 only, and at the level of the growth of the cultural ecosystem, from 349 cultural organisation part of the cultural programme in 2022 to 829 cultural organisations at the end of 2023.



## TOYOOKA CITY, JAPAN

### CREATING DEPTH-INFUSED CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PERFORMING ARTS / TOYOOKA THEATER FESTIVAL

81

Toyooka City is working on regional revitalization projects to realize “Local & Global City”. For that vision, Toyooka City is primarily focusing on culture and art to improve the value of the city.

Toyooka City features Eirakukan Kabuki Theatre, the oldest playhouse in Japan’s Kansai region (since 1901), and Kinosaki International Arts Center, a prominent performing arts residency embraced by the local community.

In April 2021, the first public college for performing arts and tourism was opened in Toyooka City, led by renowned playwright Oriza Hirata as university president, fostering an annual increase in students and young residents studying in the city.

In addition, communication workshop classes using theatrical techniques have been introduced since 2017 in elementary, junior high, and high schools in Toyooka City. The classes aim to develop communication skills that enable students to assert themselves and understand others in equal relationships

beyond gender and age, providing rural children exposure to external perspectives and diversity.

In the welfare field, workshops are held at nursing homes to think about how to interact with people with dementia while having fun, and artists also visit special-needs schools for students to enjoy community dances.

These initiatives are not just about creating a town where people can enjoy theater performances, but also where performing arts of thinking are embedded in diverse aspects of society and daily life,” Depth-infused city community development through performing arts.”

The Toyooka Theater Festival, a leading project in the above initiatives, has been held annually since 2020. The festival offers a multi-layered cultural experience, combining theater, dance, street performances, and local elements like nature, food, and hot springs. In 2023, it drew 23,600 visitors with 90 groups and 111 programs, boosting the city’s cultural vibrancy. The Festival Night Market, held during the event, fosters interaction with locals and street performances.

## TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QUEBEC, CANADA

### « RESSEMBLE À PERSONNE » (YOU DO NOT LOOK LIKE ANYBODY ELSE), AN EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY ART FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

82

The City of Trois-Rivières, through its paramunicipal agency Culture Trois-Rivières, is presenting the youth exhibition “Ressemble à personne”. The exhibition was born out of

a desire to celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and the conviction that art is a vehicle for change.



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The exhibition makes citizen participation in culture and cultural rights vectors for change and well-being. Over twenty professionals working with young people have been involved in the design of the activities. Citizen consultations and cultural mediation activities were then carried out with around thirty young people from Trois-Rivières, including members of various cultural communities and First Nations.

The exhibition has been imaginatively and sympathetically conceived as a genuine celebration of bodily diversity. It invites us to question our perceptions, redefine our reality, and open up a dialogue.

Contemporary artists have been invited to create and present works that provoke reflection on certain issues related to the

body (Appearance, Doing, Being). As well as highlighting each person's identity and what the body can achieve, the "Ressemble à personne" exhibition addresses themes of self-affirmation and difference in a context of body awareness and perception. Although it was conceived and designed for young audiences aged 7 to 13, its content remains relevant and accessible to all age groups.

"Ressemble à personne" is an authentic experience where beauty is redefined in many forms where "Every child is like a work of art; different and unique!"

You. Your shade. Your line. Your expression.

Like a work of art, you're unique.

Like no one else. Just you.

### VRATSA, BULGARIA

PROJECT BGLD – 1.003 – 0004 "VRATSA YOUTH CENTER – A FACTOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHWEST", UNDER THE PROGRAM "LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION AND IMPROVED INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS" FINANCED THROUGH THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM OF THE EEA 2014–2021.

83

Youth Center – Vratsa works with young people aged 15–29 the youth workers and Roma mediators bring quality education through the methodology of non-formal learning. Our mission is:

- ! Everyone to have equal access to education, training and work.
- ! Cultural, sports, environmental, and social events activities for children and young people.

- ! Changing public attitudes towards more tolerance for young people at risk

The youth workers from the Youth center Vratsa have organized many activities and events in the last three years. For this time, they had covered over 4000 young people. Youth Centre – Vratsa works with young people and children from different ethnic groups at risk of social exclusion, successfully engaging them in various non-formal campaigns.



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The Youth Center – Vratsa gives opportunities for young people to participate in different clubs. There are Talents Club, Board Games Club, Club Youth Development and Entrepreneurship, Sports Animation and Tourism Club and Club Creators, Japanese culture, Vlogger club, Let's be Eco club.

Youth Centre Vratsa organized the youth initiative "Creating Together". It's aimed to materialize the ideas of young people and

to develop their competencies for active participation in the social and cultural life of the local community. Youth Centre Vratsa cooperates at the international level with FiTT – Timisoara the only Youth center in Timisoara with Quality Label from the COE and Youth Centre Hamarín in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland. Together with FiTT – Timisoara we created the handbook Participatory Arts, which introduces art as a way for activating young people.

## WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

### WINDHOEK/ AE// GAMS ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

84

The Windhoek /Ae //Gams Arts and Cultural Festival aims to celebrate the city's rich cultural diversity, including eleven (11) ethnic groups. The festival strives to highlight the valuable contribution of arts and creativity as a means of expression and understanding, and has throughout the years maintained its identity as a multi-disciplinary arts and cultural festival. Celebrating the multicultural lineage of the city, the Windhoek /Ae //Gams Arts and Cultural Festival spans over two days and is an annual event. The Windhoek /Ae //Gams Arts and Cultural Festival provides for a unique experience of Namibian culture, and greater expression and participation in the arts and culture, in all its many forms. The Windhoek /Ae Gams Arts and Cultural Festival is made up of an exciting, lively and wide-ranging traditional and contemporary programme of music, visual arts, comedy, poetry, theatre, fashion, film, song and dance, food and crafts.

Over two days, the Windhoek /Ae Gams Arts and Cultural Festival supports and brings together artists, people and places through

innovative and creative activities. The festival programme is artistically diverse, relevant to all cultures, ages and backgrounds.

The Vision of the festival is "To serve as a vehicle to enhance cultural and artistic expression to celebrate Windhoek, its people and diverse cultures, whilst promoting tourism and contributing to local economic development". The festival is celebrated under the standing Motto "Diverse Cultures – One Vision", which aims to contribute to a united and integrated city.

The objectives of the festival are:

1. To celebrate Windhoek and its people.
2. To collaborate and innovate.
3. To boost tourism.
4. To promote understanding, awareness and appreciation of the arts.
5. To enhance cultural expression.
6. To enhance business capacity, viability and resilience of the creative industries.



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The Windhoek /Ae //Gams Festival creates opportunities for drawing on shared histories, shared cultural practices and

ideals, as well as creating settings for social interactions.

### XI'AN, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CULTURE FOR ALL POLICIES

85

Officially launched in 2021, the project consists of a series of Culture for All Policies initiated by Xi'an. It is aimed at achieving the goals of Cultural Accessibility, Cultural Dissemination and Cultural Equity through effective leadership, sustained financial input, extensive advocacy and intensive collaboration among arts practitioners.

Major efforts were made to enhance cultural accessibility by building Neighbourhood Libraries in various public spaces, building small museums at important metro stations and promoting collaboration among various theatres in planning and presenting free performances. Our specific approach is as follows:

Building 57 neighbourhood libraries, a new type of public cultural facilities, provides our citizens with warm and cozy reading and learning venues and cultural services equipped with advanced facilities through sharing resources with public libraries,

forming a high-quality reading service network within a 15-minute reach.

Promoting cooperation between the metro system and 11 museums to utilize public spaces with a high traffic flow for displaying artifacts in order to awaken cultural awareness.

Investing 20 million RMB (approximately 2.6 million euros) in 1,500 free performances per year for the populace and contributing to narrowing the cultural gap among urban citizens.

To this end, the government drew up a detailed and practicable plan which included a full budget, sound planning of public spaces, an efficient management team and a host of arts practitioners. Through the government's outreach and advocacy campaign, many public space owners and cultural organizations agreed to contribute.

### YERBA BUENA, ARGENTINA POLICY OF SOCIAL CONTAINMENT THROUGH ARTISTIC TRAINING - MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA SCHOOL

86

The Directorate of Culture has implemented a policy of social containment through artistic training, with special emphasis on the

Municipal Orchestra School. After eight years of activity, this orchestra has become an inclusive space that encourages interaction





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between people of all ages, with no restrictions beyond knowing how to read and write. Its central focus is music, with an emphasis on string instruments and percussion.

The School Orchestra operates in two venues located in different neighbourhoods of the city. Its teaching staff consists of 12 teachers, serving 150 students. In addition, the institution lends the necessary instruments under gratuitous loan so that each student can participate. This educational-formative context goes beyond music: it promotes cultural values, knowledge, community action and responsibility. Each student is in charge of the instrument assigned to him/her and assumes a role within the group.

Under the motto “play and grow, grow and play”, the School Orchestra follows the pedagogical

methodology “El Sistema” (“the System), designed by Maestro Abreu and implemented in the Venezuelan orchestra system.

Here, students not only learn to play their instruments individually, but also to work in orchestral formation, with weekly ensemble classes. Each new student becomes an active member of the orchestra, regardless of his or her previous musical knowledge.

This training goes beyond art: it teaches individuals to achieve goals, teamwork, dialogue, problem-solving, integration and interaction with others. In the orchestra, not only musicians are trained, but also artists who can emerge from anywhere. It is the pedagogical and orchestral format that allows to transcend and grow in multiple aspects.

### YOFF (DAKAR), SENEGAL

#### YOFF SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION “YOOFI ELEK” - PRESERVING, ENHANCING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR LOCAL ECOTOURISM

87

The “Yoofi Elek” project is the continuation of a series of cultural initiatives such as the five (5) editions of the Water Peoples’ Festival, the first of which took place following the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of Eco-Cities and Ecovillages in Dakar in January 1996, aimed at identifying, conserving, enhancing and promoting intangible cultural and cultic heritage in the service of local eco-tourism in the Commune of Yoff. Over a period of at least 600 years, the Lebou have developed a culture throughout the Cap-Vert peninsula, which is expressed through various facets,

the most obvious of which are: language, dress, dance, song, aesthetics, the cult of the sacred, the transmission of virtues and values through tattooing, the lël, the age group, the lineage, etc. And the ultimate objective was to eventually create an eco-museum as a showcase and framework for the promotion and dissemination of this diverse sum of values, initiated and developed over several generations. In addition, the “Seven Keys” workshop organised in conjunction with the Culture Committee of UCLG and Enda ECOPOP was an important stage in



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this process, enabling local actors in Yoff to examine current development issues and to make concrete commitments following the localisation of the SDGs through the formulation of local cultural policies and actions. The present project, submitted by the Commune of Yoff in collaboration with Enda ECOPOP, crosses all the keys formulated and aims to co-construct the Destination Yoff Durable, in line with previous experiences developed so far. The aim is to position culture as a lever for sustainable development by boosting local eco-tourism and creating a museum with a regional reach that will serve the local economy and the creative industry.

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CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



**UCLG**  
United Cities  
and Local Governments



**culture 21**  
UCLG Committee

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**Government of Mexico City – Secretariat on Culture**

