

CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE
CITIES:
GLOBAL PANEL 2015:
A BENCHMARK FOR
CITIES



culture 21

Agenda 21 for culture

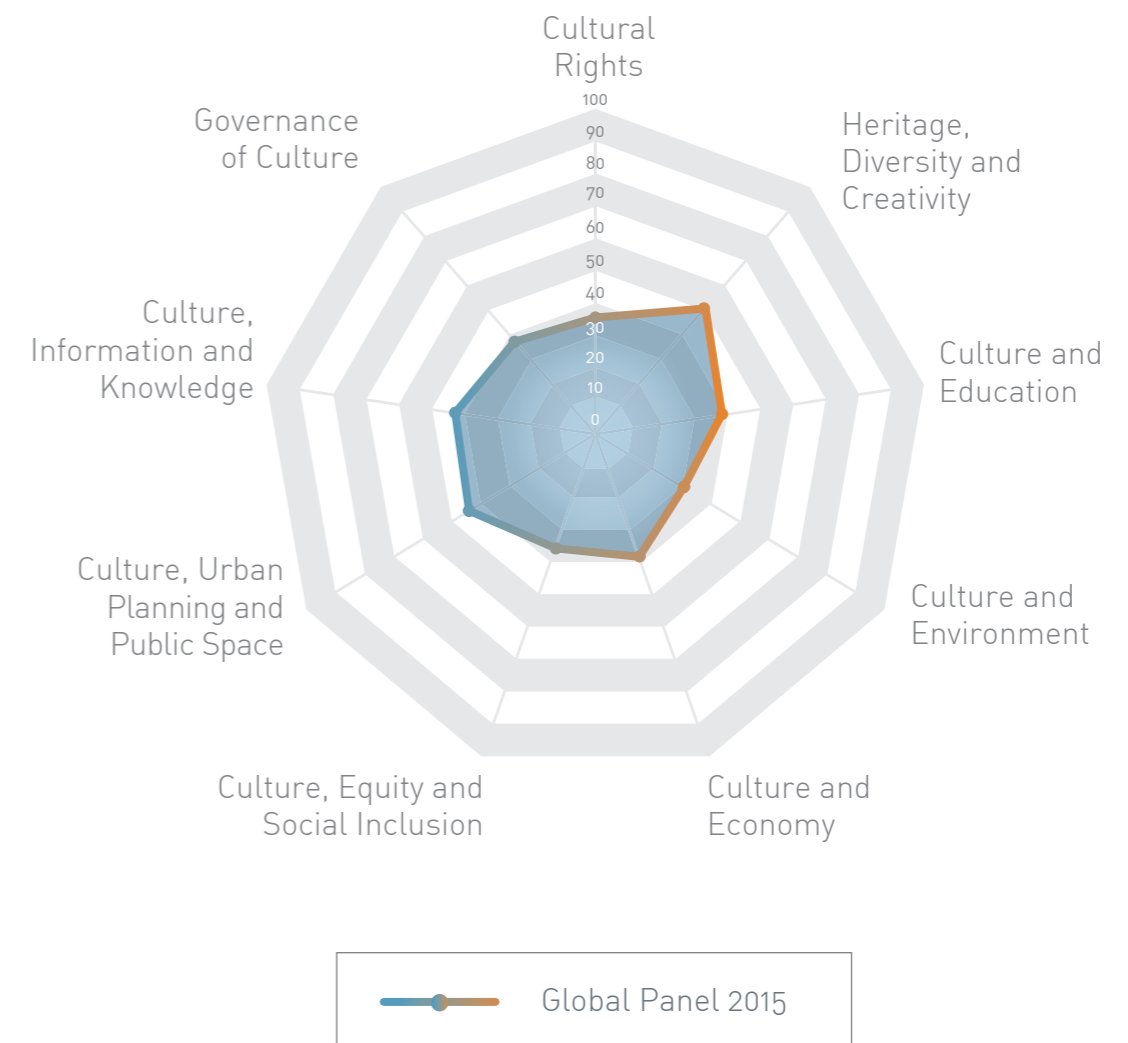
A Global Panel of 34 experts has produced a snapshot of the way in which cities around the world are advancing an integrated vision of culture in sustainable development. Results depict a very interesting landscape, with regional differences as well as varying degrees of development in each of the 9 thematic areas or 'commitments' considered in Culture 21 Actions.

The Global Panel was launched in July 2015 by the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) following the adoption in March 2015 of Culture 21 Actions, a toolkit for self-evaluation, policy design and peer-learning on culture and sustainable development. Culture 21 Actions builds on the Agenda 21 for culture, a charter providing policy guidance, adopted by UCLG in 2004.

Culture 21 Actions is an initiative of the Committee on Culture of UCLG. It contributes to the global conversation on culture in sustainable cities that was initiated in Rio+20 (in 2012), included the elaboration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during 2013-2015 and continues with the New Urban Agenda that UN-Habitat is preparing (to be approved in 2016). We believe that Culture 21 Actions contributes to a better understanding of the integral relationship between culture, citizenship, and sustainable development.

GLOBAL PANEL 2015

RESULTS OF THE GLOBAL PANEL 2015



WHERE DO CITIES FARE BETTER?

The highest assessment scores can be found in the following areas:

- » Heritage, Diversity and Creativity (50/100), which includes measures typically adopted by local governments in the realm of cultural policy;
- » Culture, Urban Planning and Public Space (44/100), which refers to the consideration of cultural aspects in urban planning, transport and regeneration, among others;
- » Culture, Information and Knowledge (43/100), which comprises measures concerned with the integration of culture, technologies, knowledge and related areas.

WHERE IS PROGRESS MOST NEEDED?

The lowest assessment scores are found in the following areas:

- » Culture and the Environment (30/100), including the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices related to the sustainable use of natural resources;
- » Cultural Rights (35/100), including how these rights can provide a basis for citizenship and cultural development;
- » Culture, Equality and Social Inclusion (35/100), namely how access to and participation in culture can be part of the conversation on the fight against discrimination and for social inclusion.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

The [online questionnaire](#) used by the Global Panel is freely available to local governments, researchers and activists committed to culture in sustainable cities. The Global Panel's assessment provides a benchmark to compare each one's results to. The Committee on Culture of UCLG will not produce any city ranking because the logic of Culture 21 Actions is not about competition but about peer-learning, cooperation and local capacity-building.

HOW CAN A CITY OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT FURTHER WORK WITH CULTURE 21 ACTIONS?

Culture 21 Actions is available to any local government that wishes to use it. The online questionnaire allows cities and local governments to self-evaluate the place of culture in sustainable development.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG is assisting local governments in implementing this toolkit through the programmes of 'Pilot Cities' and 'Leading Cities'. These programmes are focused on technical assistance for self-assessment, peer learning exchanges, explanations of good practices, and the identification of cities that are leaders in a specific area.

Culture 21 Actions has created an international "community of practice" on Culture in Sustainable Cities.

THE GLOBAL PANEL

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WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE UNDERWAY?

Every two years (on even years), UCLG and the City of Mexico organise the "International Award UCLG – MEXICO City – Culture 21" to recognise leading cities and people that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a pillar of sustainable development. The second edition of the Award will take place in 2016.

Every two years (on odd years), the UCLG Committee on Culture organises a Culture Summit to bring people together, foster exchange, update the agenda, and publicly report on the progress made through online collaboration. The next UCLG Culture Summit will be held in the first half of 2017.

Finally, the Committee on Culture of UCLG promotes thematic and regional seminars on issues related to the role of culture in sustainable cities.

The **Committee on culture of UCLG** is chaired by Lille Metropole, co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Montreal and México and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona and Milano.



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