



**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE OF
UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – UCLG**

REPORT 2020



The UCLG Committee on Culture is co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome.

PRESENTATION

The [Agenda 21 for culture](#) is the first worldwide document establishing an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. Around 900 cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world were linked to the Agenda 21 for culture on 1st January 2020.

United Cities and Local Governments – [UCLG](#) adopted the Agenda 21 for culture as its reference document in October 2004 (Executive Bureau of Sao Paulo), constituted its Working Group on Culture in June 2005 (World Council of Beijing) which was succeeded by the Committee on Culture in October 2007 (World Congress of Jeju) and ratified in November 2010 (World Congress of Mexico), upgrading the consideration of culture within the World organisation. The mission of the Committee is “To promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture”.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG is a unique meeting point. There is no other structure at the global level that gathers cities, organizations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

The Committee is the global leader of “Culture in Sustainable Cities”. Our narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centered development and the co-creation of the city.

The Committee on Culture is co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome. These cities are the “Board” or governance team of the Committee.

The Committee on Culture has a Secretariat located at the premises of UCLG World Secretariat in Barcelona.

This document explains the programme of the Committee on Culture of UCLG for 2020.

1. The chapter "ACTIVITIES" details the full list of activities.
2. The chapter "LEARNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING" explains the content of these programmes.
3. The chapter "PORTFOLIOS" explains key areas of responsibility for each of the Board cities
4. The chapter "AGENDA" explains the several events important for the Committee.
5. The chapter "BACKGROUND" explains our history and main achievements.

Please, do not hesitate to ask for more information.

1. ACTIVITIES

KEY:

In bold, name of the activity, as written in the annual programme agreed in January 2020.
In blue, IMPLEMENTATION of the activity.

A. Implementation

A.1 International Award UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21

- To launch and implement the fourth edition of the Award, taking into consideration this Award is unique: no other similar initiative exists.
- To give as much visibility as possible to the Award. Involve partners and networks in the bidding process, improve use of social media and promote good practices.
- To improve the number and the quality of the activities organized in Mexico City and related to the Award, on the occasion of the meeting of the Jury and/or the Award ceremony and events.

Despite the difficulties occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic (which coincided with the deadline for the delivery of bids, that is, on 18 March 2021), the 4th edition of the Award received 81 candidacies.

The members of the Jury were José Alfonso Suárez del Real (president), Lourdes Arizpe, Catherine Cullen, Lupwishi Mbuyamba and Ayşegül Sabuktay. The Jury met on 13-14 May 2020.

The winners are:

- In the category "Cities / Local governments": Medellín and Ségou
- In the category "Individuals": Eusebio Leal and Vandana Shiva
- Special mentions of the Jury: Chiang Mai, Concepción, Manchester, Ramallah, San José de Costa Rica ("Leona Vicario of Mexico" Special Mention) Ulaanbaatar and Yopougon.

4th INTERNATIONAL AWARD
UCLG - MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21

GOBIERNO DE LA CIUDAD DE MÉXICO | UCLG CGLU | culture 21 UCLG Committee

WINNERS - GAGNANTS - GANADORES

MEDELLÍN
COLOMBIA

SÉGOU
MALI

EUSEBIO
LEAL

VANDANA
SHIVA

The results were communicated at the UCLG Executive Bureau on 29 May 2020, with [this communique](#). The [final report](#) of the Jury identifies more than three quarters of the candidacies as good practices. The Award Ceremony was postponed to 2021.

The dedicated website has been fully re-designed in 2020. It hosts all information related to the four editions of the Award (context, calendar, participants and winners), in a very friendly-user way.

A.2. UCLG Culture Summit

- To prepare the 4th edition of the Summit, working closely with the UCLG World Secretariat.
- To better capitalize the results of previous Summits, especially the Buenos Aires Summit: final report, texts of the keynote speakers and videos.

The Metropolitan Municipality of Izmir was announced on 13 November 2019, in the context of the World Congress of UCLG in Durban as the host the 4th UCLG Culture Summit in 2021. The preparation of the 4th UCLG Culture Summit has been one of the priorities of the Committee in 2020.

The dates of the Summit are the following: a digital launch on 10 June 2021, and the Summit on 9-11 September 2021. Several "Save the date" were sent in the last months of 2020.

All information (programme, keynote speeches, reports) of previous Summits is now re-arranged and available in a very friendly way in the website of the Committee: [Bilbao 2015](#), [Jeju 2017](#) and [Buenos Aires 2019](#).



A.3. Database of good practices – the OBS

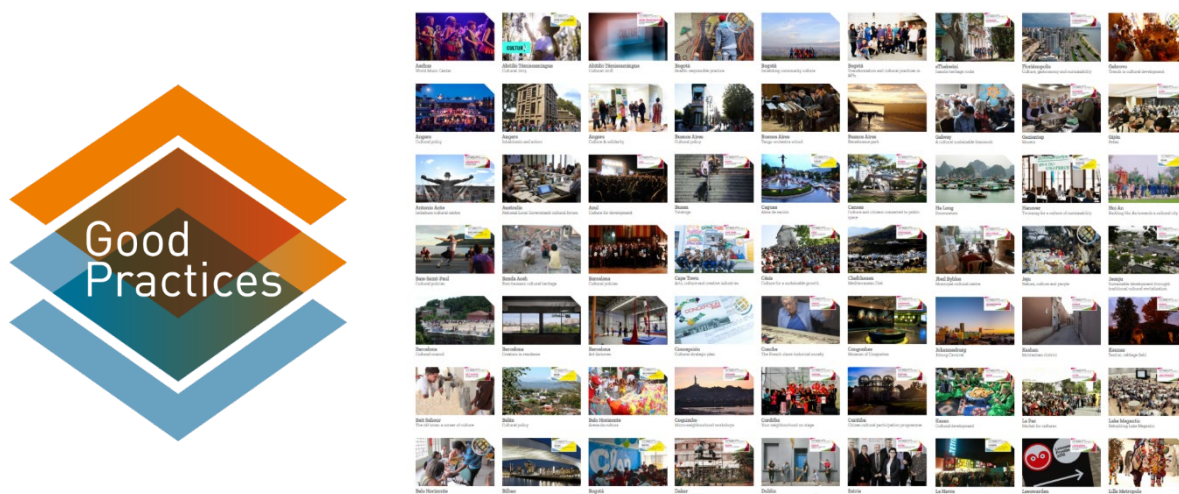
- To consolidate the dedicated website presenting our more than 200 good practices, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 75 keywords.
- To align the OBS with #Local4ActionHub
- To consolidate partnerships (example: British Council) and to analyze possible specific "sponsorship" for the database.

[The OBS](#) is a unique open database of good practices on “Culture in Sustainable Cities”. It is searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 75 keywords.

On 31 December 2020 we had 232 good practices from cities and local governments from across the world, available online in English, French and Spanish.

In 2020, new good practices were added to the database; most of them are generated in the Pilot and Leading Cities programmes.

The OBS, alongside the [Guide on Culture and the SDGs](#), has been the cornerstone of the “Seven Keys” programme designed in 2019 and launched in 2020 by the UCLG Committee on Culture.



B. Advocacy

B.1. Global civil-society networks

- To analyze feasibility of a global #culture2030goal campaign with key culture and “non-culture” stakeholders and networks.



The global campaign #culture2030goal is composed by Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe, IFCCD, IMC – International Music Council, ICOMOS, IFLA and the UCLG Committee on Culture. The campaign is the continuation of the #culture2015goal campaign, active in 2013-2015. The #culture2030goal published a report on culture in the implementation of the SDGs in September 2019.

In 2020 the campaign organised several activities:

- [Statement “Ensuring Culture Fulfils its Potential in Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic”](#), published in April 2020 and launched on 21 May 2020. The statement was [endorsed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly](#).
- [Side event “Culture: An Accelerator under-used. Realising the potential of culture for short-term recovery and long-term sustainable development”](#) which took

- place in the frame of the High-level Political Forum, on 13 July 2020.
- Preparation of a vision document and a new website (to be implemented in 2021).



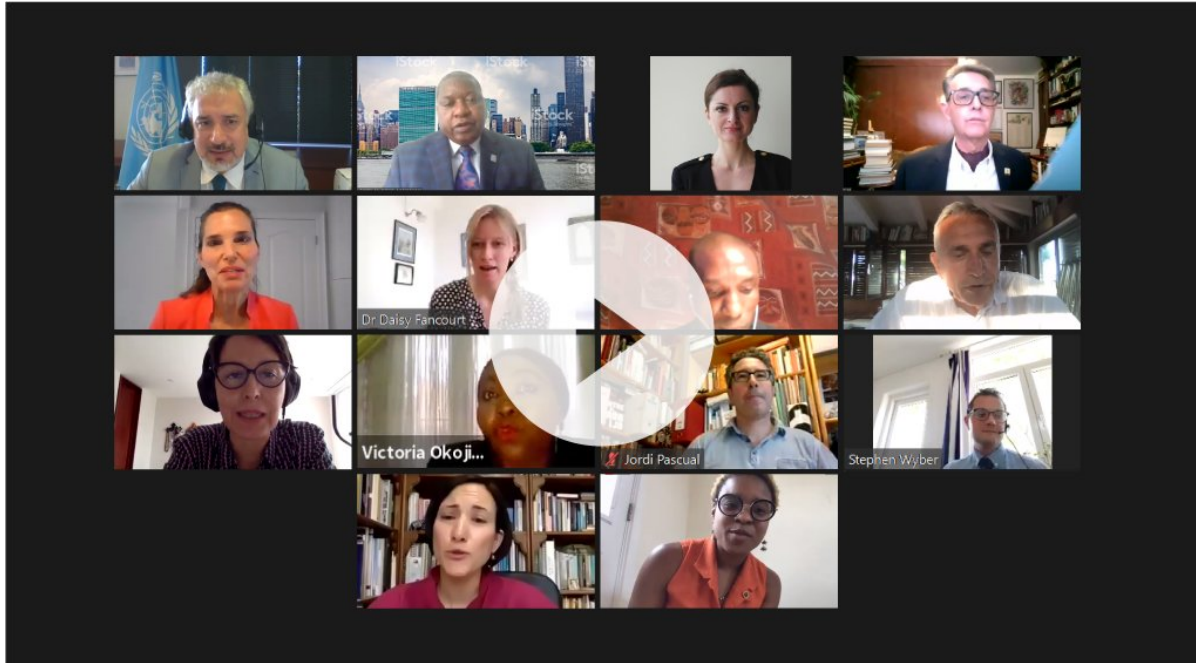
B.2. Partnerships

- To establish long-term partnerships with UNESCO and the EU

In 2020, the UCLG Committee on Culture has worked with UNESCO on the following issues: (a) the activities related to the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities; (b) the statutory meetings of the 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and (c) the work of UNESCO in the awareness raising and the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

In 2020, the UCLG Committee on culture worked with the European Union on: (a) the activities implemented by the DG Education and Culture of the European Commission, in charge of the European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) programme, (b) the initiative on Cultural Diplomacy launched by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, (c) the work of the Joint Research Centre on Indicators for Cultural and Creative Cities, and (d) in cooperation with Sylvia Amann, member of the European Capital of Culture panel, on the contents of the African Capitals of Culture programme, an initiative of UCLG-Africa.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is in close contact with the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Ms Karima Bennoune and, in 2020, the Committee: (a) has been involved in the consultation processes for the reports on "Climate change, culture and cultural rights", "Culture and education", "COVID-19, culture and cultural rights", and (b) has involved the Special Rapporteur in our most important events, such as the #BeyondTheOutbreak Experience on The Cultural Mobilization of cities and local governments in the COVID-19 crisis", the launch of the #culture2030goal Statement and the presentation of the Rome Charter.

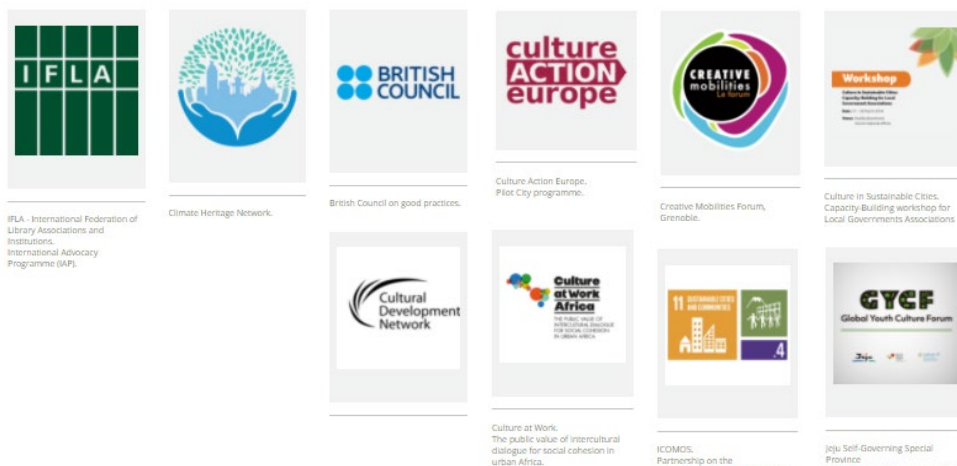


B.3. Networks

- To consolidate an operational connection with all global / regional networks concerned by “culture in sustainable cities” (including WCCF, Eurocities or ICLEI)

The Committee’s interest in placing culture in any international debate on sustainable development, especially in relation to the SDGs, involves a close cooperation with networks:

- The partnership with Culture Action Europe (CAE) successfully continues on the Pilot Cities programme and within the #culture2030goal campaign.
- The partnerships with the Cultural Development Network – CDN and Les Arts et la Ville – (LAV) were channelled with MoUs, signed in 2019; the implementation is ongoing.
- Partnerships with ICOMOS and IFLA may also result in MoUs in 2021.
- Cooperation with World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) and Eurocities is ongoing.
- Contacts with SALGA, the South African Local Governments Association, the Brazilian associations of municipalities (FNP and CNM) and the Governor’s Association of Korea (GAOK) are regular.
- Contacts with the Creative City South initiative are also ongoing.



B.4. Communication

- To align the communications programme with #Local4ActionHub
- To improve the website, as a true portal to knowledge on 'culture in sustainable cities'
- To assess existing work on social media (TW, FB, Flickr, Instagram, LinkedIn).
- To consolidate existing newsletters (*Info*, published twice a month and *Pilot Cities Newsletter*, every 2 months) and to publish the Culture 21 Review.
- To design 2-3 new tools to disseminate our work

The [website](#) continues to be the key reference for "culture in sustainable cities". It received in average 2,600 single users per month. Within the main web site, a dedicated web page is available for each one of the [Leading](#) and [Pilot](#) Cities, the cities which take part into the [Culture 21 Lab](#) and the Seven Keys programmes, and cities which are very active with the activities of the Committee.

The [dedicated website of the Award](#) was improved in 2020 and it is now perfectly user-friendly.

A [newsletter](#) is sent every two weeks to our partners, friends and all people interested in our work. In 2020, 24 newsletters were sent. The Pilot Cities newsletter was suppressed.

The interaction with some of the cities and partners is constant on [Twitter](#), [Youtube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

The UCLG Committee on Culture published the second and the third issues of [Culture 21 Review](#), a magazine launched in 2018 with the aim of gathering and promoting all key activities of the Committee every two years.



C. Monitoring and follow-up

C.1. Governance

- To ensure the full involvement of all members of the Governance Team in the leadership of the Committee.

The [17th meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture](#) was held on 11 November 2020, within the framework of the UCLG World Council. The meeting provided an opportunity to present and discuss the state of implementation of the Committee's work programme for 2020. The meeting discussed the status of the Committee's 2020 work plan, its implementation and its planned medium-term projects. The meeting approved the plan of the Committee for 2021. In addition, an important part of the discussion focused on reflection and the development of proposals in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Board members of the Committee received periodical update, approximately every 15 days, of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Committee.

In all cities that are Board members of the Committee, we try to be in close relation with both relevant municipal teams for the development of this work programme, that is, the teams of International Relations, as well as the Department for Culture.

As of 11 November 2020, the governing body of the UCLG Committee on Culture is comprised of three co-presidents and six vice presidents. Co-Presidents: Mexico City, Lisbon and Buenos Aires. Vice Presidents: Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome.



C.2. Budget

- To consolidate a balanced budget

In the 17th meeting of the Committee, the Head of Finance of UCLG, Mr Pere Ballester,

explained the balanced budget of the Committee. The Committee's learning programmes that have taken place since 2015, as well as the four editions of the Award and the three editions of the Culture Summit, are part of the activities of the UCLG World Secretariat. The contributions of the Co-presidencies are fundamental, as well as those from the Leading and Pilot Cities programmes. In terms of costs, he stressed the idea that activities were carried out with a structure of three people with the support of the World Secretariat, cities and experts.

C.3. Key narrative

- To be self-critical and analyse weak / strong points of the narrative and methodologies.
- To elaborate key briefings / new research on issues related to culture and sustainable cities, for example a gender approach to cultural policies or the cultural dimension of metropolitan policies
- To consider the elaboration of a new Global Panel on the 100 actions of Culture 21 Actions, updating the 2015 Global Panel

In 2020, [the Rome Charter on the Right to Participate Fully and Freely in Cultural Life](#) was elaborated through a consultation process, and presented in a Hybrid International Conference held in Rome and online in October. The Charter was later approved in November 2020 as an official UCLG document at the World Council, held in Guangzhou and online on 9-13 November 2020. It is expected this document provides guidance to the UCLG Pact for the Future, to be approved by UCLG in 2022.

The Rome Charter has become a central document in the UCLG narrative on development, for People, the Planet and with the Governments.



Other important contributions to the progress of the key narrative of the Committee, in 2020:

- The [publication](#) of the monograph "City, culture and education", also focusing on SDG 4 and others, was elaborated by the Committee on Culture and the International Association of Educating Cities (AICE), and presented online on 2 July 2020.
- The Committee on Culture is devoting time and resources to analyse and make explicit reflections and new approaches on the connections between culture and gender. The Secretariat of the Committee delivered a workshop on "Gender, culture and sustainable cities" on 11 March 2020, in the context of the 64th session of the Committee for the Condition of Women (CSW64) and the

#GenerationEquality week. It is likely a specific report on this issue is written and published in 2021.

- Another issue that has raised attention by members is the relation between the climate emergency and culture. The Secretariat will explore possibilities to develop this issue further in 2020.

D. Learning

D.1. Peer-learning and capacity-building

- To launch a new capacity-building programme “The Seven Keys” on culture in the SDGs.
- To consolidate the Leading Cities, the Pilot Cities and the Culture 21 Lab programmes; their contents are adapted to each participating city.
- To facilitate more peer-learning exchanges among cities.
- To consolidate a group of experts that work with the learning and capacity-building programmes
- To design and implement specific operational partnerships with UCLG Sections (with programmes adapted to Sections’ needs)
- To design and implement specific learning activities with local government associations and key regional or national civil society networks on cultural policies, in close cooperation with UCLG Sections.
- To widely promote the practical toolkit “Culture 21 Actions”.



The [Seven Keys](#) is a new programme for cities and territories, prepared during 2019 and launched in 2020. It aims at the explicit integration of the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs. The workshop relates municipal challenges with cultural assets, activities, and policies with the lenses of the [Guide for Local Action on Culture in the SDGs](#) and [the OBS](#). The participants discuss until reaching seven "keys" that they can commit to localize the SDGs through culture policymaking. The most essential and concrete objective of the programme is that the seven keys are locally identified: each city / territory will have their own seven keys.

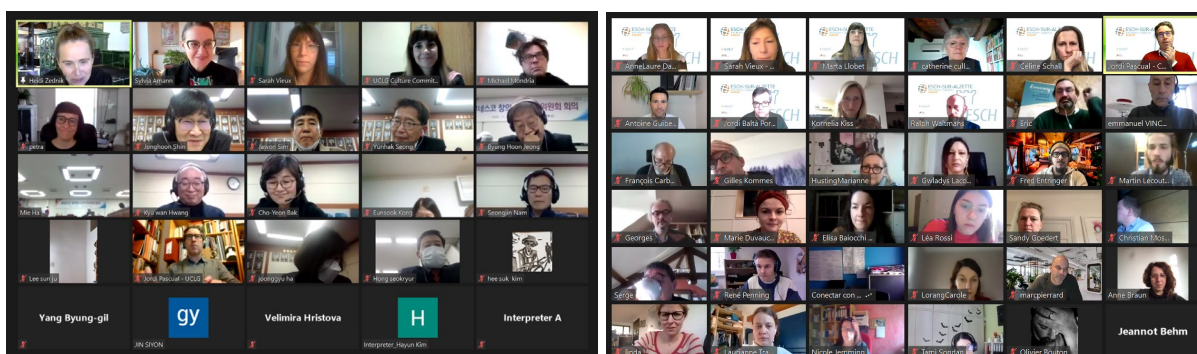
The first Seven Keys workshop took place in December 2020 in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), organised by the City Council and Nhimbe Trust, and the expertise of Zayd Minty (Creative City South). Workshops will happen in 2021 in Mexico City, el Puerto de la Cruz, Xi’an, Lisbon and Izmir; in fact, preparatory actions have already begun in all these cities. The programme will be delivered in close cooperation with UCLG Sections, looking for a multiplier effect.

The programmes for [Leading Cities](#) and [Pilot Cities](#), as well as the [Culture 21 Lab](#) are still open for UCLG members. The contents of these programmes are adapted to each participating city. More details on each programme can be found in chapter 2 of this document.

Although these programmes have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic (with lockdowns, changes in the local scenarios and difficulties to travel), some of the highlights of our work are the following:

- Publication of the self-assessment workshop in Abitibi-Témiscamingue.
 - Support to Barcelona in the work on the Local Plan on Cultural Rights.
 - Support to Bilbao in the initial stages of a local cultural strategy.
 - Support to Mexico City in the elaboration of a report and a good practice on PILARES.
 - Cooperation with Rome in the elaboration of the Rome Charter, and a good practice on local cultural policies. Connection of these activities with Local4ActionHub.
 - Support to Jeju in analysis of feasibility of the Global Youth Culture Forum (GYCF). Participation in the Jeju Forum.
 - Support to Malmö in the implementation of the Culture Plan.
 - Cooperation with Izmir on the shaping of a Leading Cities programme that complements the UCLG Culture Summit.
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- Publication of the final report and article of Gabrovo.
 - Publication of the initial self-assessment workshop of Jinju, as well as a peer-learning visit to Austria (2 virtual sessions), including with key cultural agents and projects in Vienna, Bad Ischl, Bad Goisern, Linz and Bregenzwald.
 - Peer-learning visit (2 virtual sessions) to Esch-sur-Alzette. Involvement of all the local cultural actors and presence of representatives of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Baie-Mahault, Barcelona, Elefsina, Gabrovo, Galway, Izmir, Leeds, Malmö, Swansea, Terrassa and Vaudreuil-Dorion.
 - Ongoing contacts with Baie Mahault, Elefsina, Escazú, Leeds, Nova Gorica, Swansea and Terrassa.
 - Final conference (virtual) of the programme in La Paz.

The group of experts that provides technical assistance to the programmes is composed by Serhan Ada, Francisco d’Almeida, Sylvia Amann, Jordi Baltà Portolés, Clymene Christoforou, Catherine Cullen, Ivor Davies, Beatriz García, Enrique Glockner, Antoine Guibert, Byung Hoon Jeong, Lucina Jiménez, Valeria Marcolin, Zayd Minty and Phil Wood.



D.2. Seminars

- To actively take part in initiatives organized by our members and partners, such as the Global Youth Culture Forum of Jeju, the Climate Heritage Network, the Culture at Work programme for cities and civil society in Africa, and the Creative Mobilities seminar.

The coronavirus pandemic was the reason to postpone the 2020 edition of the [Global Youth Culture Forum \(GYCF\)](#) to 2021.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a member of the Climate Heritage Network (CHN), a mutual support network of city, state/provincial, regional and tribal culture, heritage and historic preservation offices (together with related NGOs, universities and other organizations). In 2020, the CHN organised several events in October and November, including #DaringCities and #RaceToZero.

Culture at Work Africa (CAWA) is a programme for cities and civil society in Africa. It is supported by a consortium of eight African, European and international partners, including Interarts, the International Music Council - IMC, Bozar, the Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust, Culture et Développement, the Regional Centre for the Living Arts in Africa - CERAV, the Arterial Network and UCLG Committee on Culture. It has the support of the European Union.

- A seminar "Co-creating the City: Culture and the SDGs in African Cities" was held in Harare in February 2020.
- The final publication is being prepared and will be published in 2021.
- The final conferences of the programme will also take place in 2021.

In 2020, the Committee on Culture continued to support the activities of the Creative Mobilities initiative. This initiative is in close contact with the UCLG Community of Practice on Mobility (led by Strasbourg and Jakarta) as well as with UITP (International Association of Public Transport).

In 2020, the Committee on Culture continued to collaborate with the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project (MC2CM), implemented by the UCLG Migration Community of Practice, ICMPD and UN-Habitat, and funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The thematic learning report "Cultural Policies: a vector for migrants' inclusion in urban context" was commissioned to Jordi Baltà Portolés, cultural consultant and researcher at Trànsit Projectes (Barcelona) and an advisor to the UCLG Committee on Culture. This report draws on the MC2CM regional event that took place between 11–12 December 2019 in Casablanca under the same title, and benefits from the contributions of MC2CM city focal points and partners, as well as from expert Phil Wood's background document for the event, which explores the ways local governments can implement a cultural approach to migration as vector of inclusion and opportunities at the local level.



E. Strengthening the UCLG network



E.1. Within UCLG

- To elaborate and implement a UCLG Culture Strategy in order to (a) guarantee UCLG as a network can better serve the membership, (b) involve all key actors, and (c) ensure that Culture can continue to be a driver to amplify the reach of UCLG.
- To support all UCLG World Secretariat initiatives
- To actively participate in the UCLG Executive Bureau and World Council, as well as

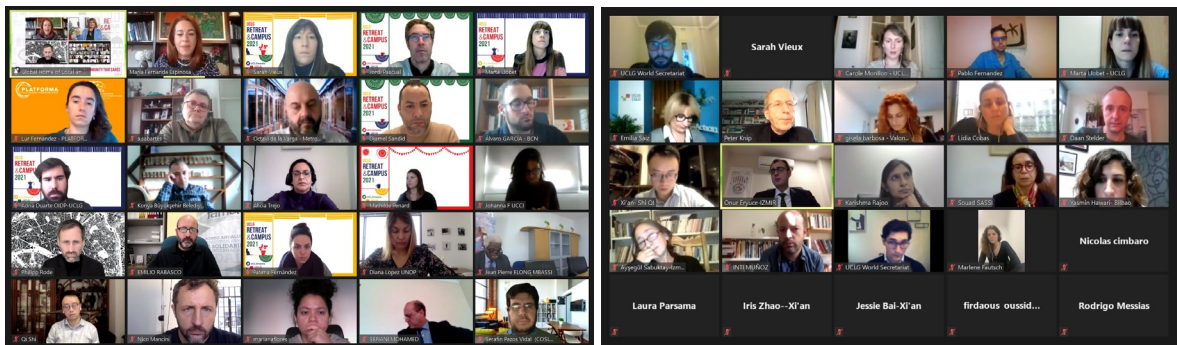
to contribute to UCLG Policy Councils

- To more actively participate in the Global Taskforce, particularly in the preparation of the report for the High-Level Political Forum - HLPF (July 2020).
- To advocate for our narrative ("culture as an operational dimension of sustainable cities") to be more explicit.

The UCLG Committee on Culture supports UCLG's activities and teams (Statutory, Policy, Research, Learning and Communication) on a permanent basis.

In the annual UCLG Retreat & Campus (Tangier, 24-27 February 2020) the Co-presidency of Mexico City and the team of the Secretariat presented the work of the Committee.

Discussion of the long-term / strategic plan, written by the Secretariat of the Committee, has been postponed to 2021.



UCLG Committee on Culture reacted immediately to the adaptation to the COVID-19 crisis, with:

- The opening of [a special page in our website](#), devoted to the evolution of the crisis with special devotion to the measures undertaken by cities and local governments.
- The organization of a Live Learning Experience devoted to culture in April 2020.
- The involvement in the #culture2030goal campaign, with the publication (April 2020) and launch (May 2020) of the Statement, and the organization of a side-event in the frame of the HLPF (July 2020).
- The writing and the publication of [the report](#) "Culture, Cities and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Part 1: Documenting the Initial Measures and Drafting Challenges Ahead".
- The presence of the Committee in more than 30 online seminars and events, organised by cities, networks and international organisations.
- The preparation of three Teachable webinars on the potential of culture in the SDGs and on the relation of culture, cities, and the COVID-19 pandemic, in close coordination with the UCLG Learning team.
- The support to [Ciudad\(es\)Cultura](#), the collaborative digital platform of Iberoamerican cities, initiated by Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Bogotá, Lisbon and Lima.

#CULTURECOVID19

SHARE

 **culture 21**
UCLG Committee

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#CULTUREcovid19


The cultural mobilization of cities and local governments in the COVID-19 crisis

The humanity is facing an enormous challenge. The COVID-19 crisis has an impact in all dimensions of our lives: the public health, the labour spaces, the social interaction, the political debate, the use of public spaces, the economy, the environment, and the cultural life.

COVID-19 is hitting the cultural life of our communities very severely. Libraries, memorials, community centres, museums and all cultural venues, have suffered several weeks of lockdown; some of them are still closed and some are getting ready to reopen with physical distancing measures. Performances, festivals, parades, carnivals and intangible heritage events have been cancelled, and there is still uncertainty on how these events will take place again. The online presence of cultural institutions and organisations has exponentially grown. Workers in the sectors, who are often in an already precarious situation (self-employed, freelancers) may be left for months without any income. The active involvement of all in the cultural life of the community is very damaged by COVID-19, and so is the welfare and the quality of our democracies.


What we have done:

- The UCLG Presidency Decalogue for the post COVID-19 era (which includes a full chapter on culture), launched on 21 April 2020
- The #Culture2030goal campaign Statement "Ensuring culture fulfills its potential in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic", launched on 20 April 2020
- The #BeyondTheOutBreak Live Learning Experience on the cultural mobilisation (Press Release and Briefing), held on 22 April 2020.
- The page you are reading (please feel free to send comments and requests to our email below), opened since 21st March 2020.

 **culture 21**
UCLG Committee

8

Culture, Cities and the COVID-19 Pandemic
Part 1: Documenting the Initial Measures and Drafting Challenges Ahead

 **UCLG**
United Cities and Local Governments

 **UCLG CULTURE 21**
Webinars

CULTURE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals

60 minutes on culture in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

 UCLG Committee on Culture **FREE**

 **UCLG CULTURE 21**
Webinars

CULTURE, CITIES AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Culture and the COVID-19 pandemic

This webinar provides keys to better understand the impact of the crisis on the cultural life of cities, an...

 UCLG Committee on Culture **FREE**

 **UCLG CULTURE 21**
Webinars

USING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF CULTURE IN THE LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs

Using the Full Potential of Culture in the Local Achievement of the SDGs

Using the Full Potential of Culture in the Local Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

 UCLG Committee on Culture **FREE**

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, in September 2020, UCLG and other members of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments released the [UN75 Visioning report](#). The report promotes the agenda of cities and local governments for the next 25 years and it recalls that the international community should recognise culture as a dimension of sustainable development, on equal basis to the economic, social and environmental pillars. Moreover, it affirms that the post-2030 Development Agenda should include "a stand-alone Goal on Culture" that includes several targets related to memory, heritage, creativity, diversity and knowledge, supported by a narrative that clearly identifies culture as a core component of local and regional identity, a strand of global solidarity, and a vector for peace and human rights.

E.2. UCLG sections

- To guarantee new areas of cooperation, with joint (advocacy and "on-the-ground") specific projects with all UCLG Sections.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is in close contact with UCLG sections on the implementation of Culture 21 Actions in Africa, MEWA, Eurasia, Asia-Pacific and Europe; ideally specific programmes in partnership with each one of these UCLG Sections could be implemented.

All sections have been involved in the identification of candidacies to the Award as well as the initial stages of the preparation of the UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir. It must be emphasised the in-depth involvement of all UCLG sections in the writing of the Rome Charter.

Moreover, specific contacts exist with UCLG-MEWA (on the activities of its Committee devoted to Culture and Tourism), with UCLG-ASPAC (on the organisation of Jeju's GYCF and on the activities of its Committee devoted to Culture) and UCLG-Africa (partnerships on the African Capital of Culture programme and activities related to the Culture at Work – Africa initiative).

E.3. UN Agenda 2030 and New Urban Agenda

- To widely disseminate the document "Culture in the SDGs. A Guide for Local Action" as well as the #culture2030goal report "Culture in the Implementation of the Agenda 2030"
- To participate in the HLPF (July 2020), in several formats.
- To participate in the WUF 2020 (whose main theme is Culture and Innovation)

The document "Culture in the SDGs: A Guide for Local Action" is still seen as the most in-depth source of information on this issue; and the report "Culture in the Implementation of the Agenda 2030" is still the reference source for those in need of a realistic analysis of the consideration of culture by UN member states in the implementation of the SDGs. These two documents illustrate the pioneer role undertaken by the UCLG Committee on Culture to provide evidences on the crucial role that culture plays in local development.

The UCLG Committee on Culture organised several events in the World Urban Forum – WUF 10 (February 2020), with Culture and Innovation as central topics. The WUF finished with the [Abu Dhabi Declared Actions](#). This document includes Commitments made at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments convened by the Global Taskforce

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
DRIVERS OF CULTURE AND
INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

8-13 February 2020 | Abu Dhabi, UAE

Tenth Session of the World Urban
Forum 2020 (WUF10) Connecting Culture
& Innovation

GLOBAL TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

WORLD
ASSEMBLY
of local and regional
governments

GLOBAL
TASKFORCE

facilitated by: UCLG
CGLU

#CitiesAreListening
#WUF10

المنتدى الحضري العالمي
WUF10
World Urban Forum

In 2020, the Committee participated in the HLPF, organised by the UN from 7-16 July, in the context of the [session](#) "Accelerating transformation from the ground-up in a post-Covid era". The session was convened by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments on the Local and Regional Governments' Day, on 10 July 2020. The Vice-Mayor of Rome in charge of Cultural Development, M. Luca Bergamo, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, Ms. Karima Bennoune, respectively presented the 2020 Rome Charter on Cultural Rights and reflected on cultural rights in the city in times of crisis and beyond.

High Level Political Forum 2020

Local and Regional Government's Day

Final session "Accelerating transformation from the ground-up in a post-Covid era"

10 July 2020 - 16:00-17:00

Join to listen to Luca Bergamo on the 2020 Rome Charter and Karima Bennoune on Cultural Rights



The UCLG Committee on Culture participated in the [Voices of Culture](#) Structured Dialogue with the European Commission on the subject "Culture and the Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities". The process comprised two brainstorming sessions held on 2-3 December 2020 online. The process will finalise in 2021 with the publication of a report.





PUBLICATION

CULTURE AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The UCLG Committee on Culture took part into the Global Festival of Action held online, on 1 April 2020, in the session "Culture as the key to unchain the SDGs in cities". The Festival was an excellent occasion to present the Seven Keys programme.



2. LEARNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Following the adoption of [Culture 21 Actions](#) in 2015, the UCLG Committee on Culture has established a set of capacity-building and peer-learning programmes. In particular, a wide range of cities in different world regions are currently participating in the following programmes:




- **Pilot Cities** is a learning programme based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions included in Culture 21 Actions. Lasting for approximately 30 months, it includes local awareness-raising, international peer-review, capacity-building, pilot local projects, public seminars and elaboration of good practices. As of December 2020, the Pilot Cities programme includes Baie Mahault, Chignahuapan, Concepción, Córdoba, Cuenca, Elefsina, Escazú, Esch-sur-Alzette, Gabrovo, Galway, Jinju, Konya, La Paz, Leeds, Mérida, Muriaé, Namur, Nova Gorica, Santa Fe, Sinaloa, Swansea, the island of Tenerife, Terrassa and Timisoara.
- The **Leading Cities** programme gives support to cities that have experience in the implementation of culture and sustainability, through measures in the areas of Cooperation and Learning (technical assistance, capacity-building, good practices), Leadership and Advocacy (participation in international events and processes) and Communication (website, social media). As of December 2020, the Leading Cities programme includes Abitibi-Temiscaminge, Barcelona, Bilbao, Belo Horizonte, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Izmir, Jeju, Lisbon, Malmö, Mexico City, Porto Alegre, Rome, Vaudreuil-Dorion and Washington DC.
- **Culture 21 Lab** is a short workshop on "Culture in Sustainable Cities". It enables cities to self-evaluate their work in this field. It provides key basic information on the place of culture in sustainable development, and it is a useful way to raise awareness of this field among local stakeholders. As of December 2020, the programme has been completed in Greater Dandenong, Kaunas, Makati and Sant Cugat del Vallès.
- **The Seven Keys** is a workshop to integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs. Participants learn the cultural relevance of the SDGs, share knowledge and agree on a concrete list of achievable actions, the local "Seven Keys", that will contribute significantly to the localization of the SDGs through culture policymaking. As of March 2021, the programme is being developed in Bulawayo, Izmir, Lisbon, Mexico City, el Puerto de la Cruz and Xi'an.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG also works with other cities, local and regional governments and the UCLG regional sections in order to tailor specific capacity-building and peer-learning programmes to their needs.

Detailed information on these programmes is available on our website and upon request.

3. PORTFOLIOS

BUENOS AIRES	 Buenos Aires Ciudad
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Partnerships with Mercociudades (b) Leadership in the implementation of "Culture 21 Actions" in IberoAmerican cities (c) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including the 2030 Agenda - SDGs and Habitat III (d) Leading city 	
LISBON	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Leadership in the implementation of "Culture 21: Actions" in Europe (b) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including the 2030 Agenda - SDGs and Habitat III (c) Partnership with WCCF (d) Leading city 	
MEXICO CITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 4th edition of the International Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21" (b) Leadership in the implementation of "Culture 21: Actions" in Mexican cities (c) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including the 2030 Agenda - SDGs and Habitat III (d) Leading city 	
BARCELONA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including the 2030 Agenda - SDGs and Habitat III (b) Specific leadership in the analysis of cultural rights (c) Support to learning programmes of the Committee (especially to European pilot cities) (d) Leading city 	
BILBAO	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including the 2030 Agenda - SDGs and Habitat III (b) Support to learning programmes of the Committee (especially to European pilot cities) (c) Leading city 	
BOGOTÁ	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including the 2030 Agenda - SDGs and Habitat III (b) Support to learning programmes of the Committee (especially to pilot cities in Latin America) (c) Leading city 	

JEJU	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda (b) Preparation of the 2020 edition of the Global Culture Youth Forum (c) Partnerships with ASPAC (d) Leading city 	
PORTO ALEGRE	
Leading city	
ROMA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including the 2030 Agenda - SDGs and Habitat III (b) Specific leadership in the analysis of the right to participate to cultural life in cities – Rome Charter (c) Support to learning programmes of the Committee (especially to European pilot cities) (d) Leading city 	
ALL BOARD MEMBERS	
(a) Representing the Committee in key meetings on culture and sustainable development, especially those organised or convened by UCLG	

4. AGENDA in 2020 (main events)

January

Meeting of the UCLG Presidential team in Barcelona.

February

[World Urban Forum](#) (WUF10) held in Abu Dhabi and devoted to culture and innovation; it concludes with the [Abu Dhabi Declared Actions](#).

[Culture at Work Africa](#) - Networking workshop in Zimbabwe.

Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, Unesco Convention on Cultural Diversity, in Paris.

UCLG Retreat & Campus, in Tangier.

March

Organisation of the workshop on "Gender, culture and sustainable cities" on 11 March 2020 at UCLG World Secretariat premises, in the in the context of the 64th session of the Committee for the Condition of Women (CSW64) and the #GenerationEquality week.

Opening of the page in our website dedicated to [the cultural mobilization of cities and local governments in the COVID-19 crisis](#).

Deadline of the Call for the fourth "INTERNATIONAL AWARD UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21".

April

The [#culture2030goal](#) campaign publishes the Statement ["Ensuring culture fulfils its potential in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic"](#).

The UCLG Presidency publishes the [Decalogue for the post COVID-19 era](#), which includes a full chapter dedicated to culture.

Organisation of the online [Live Learning Experience on the cultural mobilisation in the COVID-19 pandemic](#), in the context of the "Beyond the Outbreak" series.

Participation in the [Global SDG Festival of Action](#), held online.

May

Presentation of [the 2020 Rome Charter](#) to the UCLG Executive Bureau, held in Rome and online and connected to [the Local4Action Hubs](#).

Announcement of the winners of the ["International UCLG Award - Mexico City - Culture 21"](#), recognizing Medellín and Ségou ([winning cities](#)), as well as Chiang Mai, Concepción, Manchester, Ramallah, San José de Costa Rica, Ulaanbaatar and Yopougon ([special mentions](#)). Eusebio Leal and Vandana Shiva are the [personalities awarded](#).

June

Publication of the report ["Culture, Cities and the COVID-19 Pandemic - part 1:](#)

[Documenting the Initial Measures and Drafting Challenges Ahead](#)".

Launch of [Ciudad\(es\)Cultura](#), the collaborative digital platform of Iberoamerican cities, initiated by Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Bogotá, Lisbon and Lima.

July

The #culture2030goal statement is [endorsed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly](#).

The #culture2030goal campaign organises [the side-event "Culture – An Accelerator Under-Used? Realising the Potential of Culture for Short-term and Long-term Sustainable Development"](#) in the context of the United Nations High Level Political Forum 2020 (HLPF2020).

Participation in the Local and Regional Governments' Day convened by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments on 10 July 2020, in the context of the HLPF 2020, at the session "Accelerating transformation from the ground-up in a post-Covid era".

October

International hybrid conference on the [2020 Rome Charter](#), held in Rome and online.

Participation in the activities [CultureXClimate](#) organised by the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

November

The [2020 Rome Charter](#) is approved by the UCLG World Council, held in Guangzhou and online.

The UCLG World Council announces the [Pact for the Future](#) with the axes People, Planet and Governments; to be shaped in 2021-2022 and where the cultural component is expected to have a strong place.

Celebration of the [17th meeting](#) of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

Launch of the [UCLG knowledge hub](#), including the LLE on the cultural mobilization in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Final conference of the Pilot Cities programme in La Paz.

Peer learning visit of Jinju to Austrian cities.

Peer learning visits to Esch-sur-Alzette.

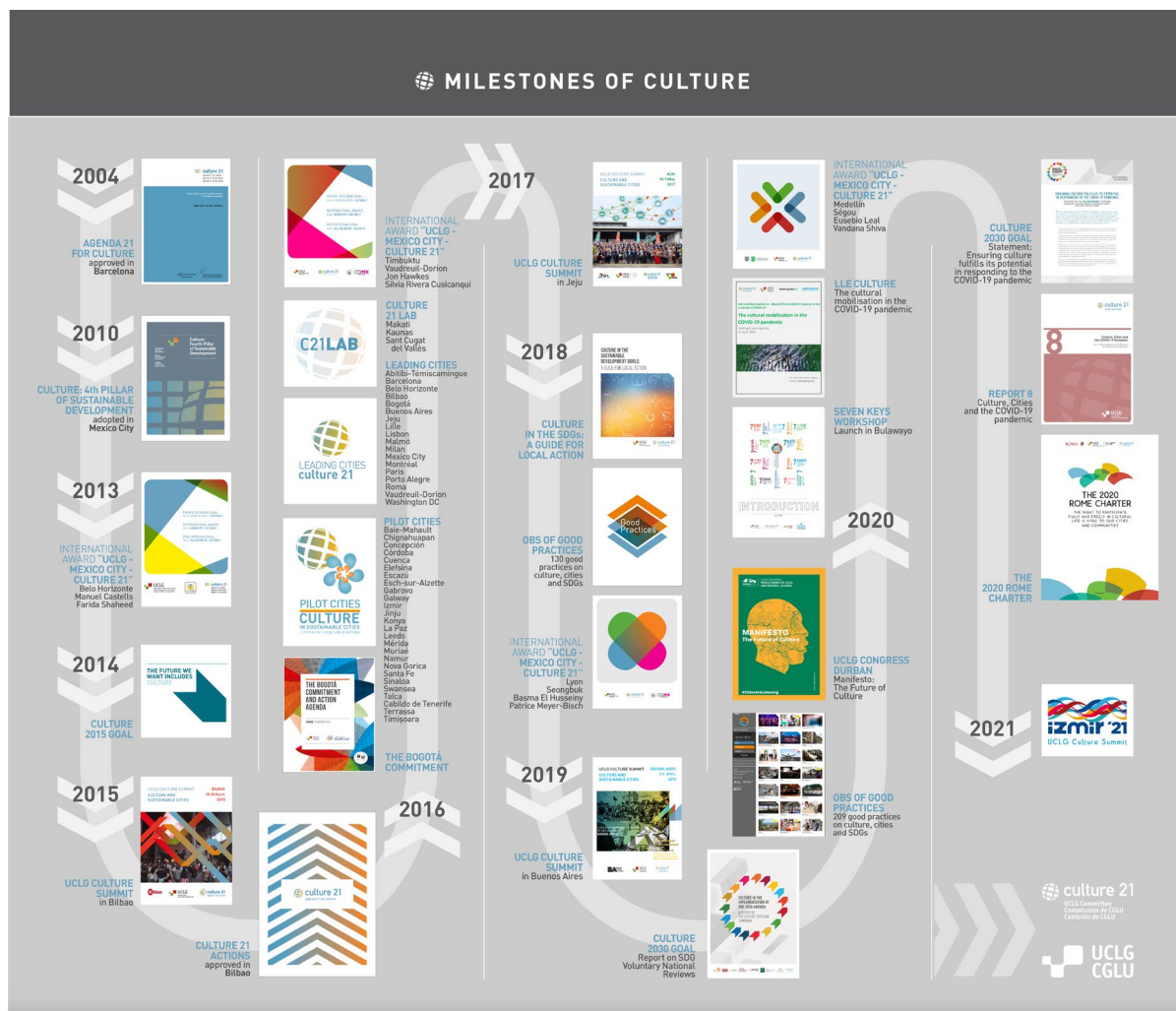
December

The ["OBS" interactive database](#) reaches 230 good practices.

Organisation of the first-ever [Seven Keys workshop](#) in Bulawayo.

A list of all events organised by the UCLG Committee on Culture since 2004 is available in [this page](#).

5. CULTURE IN UCLG: BACKGROUND



The mission of the world association of [United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG](#) is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through **cooperation between local governments**, and within the wider international community.

UCLG has played an important role since 2004 in promoting the role of culture in sustainable cities:

- > In 2004, UCLG adopted the [Agenda 21 for culture](#), a declaration with 67 articles that describes the relationship between local cultural policies and human rights, governance, sustainable development, participatory democracy and peace. In 2015, UCLG approved [Culture 21 Actions](#), a toolkit with 9 Commitments and 100 Actions: it is the most complete and practical document on the relation between culture and sustainable development in cities and allows self-evaluation, policy innovation and peer-learning.
- > In 2010, the Executive Bureau of UCLG approved the document ["Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development"](#) in its World Congress held in Mexico City. This document engages local governments to explicitly include culture in a

development model that 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

- > Since March 2013, UCLG's role as facilitator of the [Global Taskforce](#) has included Culture in local and regional governments' inputs to the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. The [Statement of the 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments](#) resulting from this work, adopted in Quito in October 2016, establishes a commitment to 'Integrate culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and take action to foster heritage, creativity, diversity and peaceful co-existence'.
- > The document "[Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals. A Guide for Local Action](#)", published by UCLG in 2018, presents information on each one of the 17 Goals, helps to understand why cultural issues are important and provides relevant examples.
- > The [OBS](#). The Committee has developed a database containing more than 200 good practices on culture and sustainable development. The tool allows searches according to 3 criteria: the SDG, the Commitments of Culture 21 Actions, and keywords.
- > The [#culture2030goal campaign](#) includes global cultural networks. It advocates for a stronger place for culture throughout the implementation of the current global development agenda (the UN 2030 Agenda), and for the adoption of culture as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 development agenda.
- > The 6th UCLG World Congress, held in Durban in November 2019, adopted the manifesto "[The Future of Culture](#)". It defends a fair cultural globalization, based on the full exercise of cultural rights by peoples, communities, and individuals. It promotes cultural policies at a local, national and global scale to be explicit and operational.
- > The [UCLG Presidency Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath](#), launched on 22 April 2020, identifies culture as one of the key priorities to guide the advocacy of UCLG in the coming years, as an "antidote for the secondary effects" of the crisis.
- > The [2020 Rome Charter](#) was adopted by the UCLG World Council in November 2020 as a contribution to the global conversation on culture and development. The Charter describes the right to participate "fully and freely" in cultural life as vital to cities and communities, and promotes the cultural capabilities: Discover, Create, Share, Enjoy and Protect.



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