



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

# **REPORT 2021**



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 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 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.

**Mission.** The mission of the Committee on Culture, approved in Mexico (2010) and extended in Rabat (2013), Bogotá (2016) and Durban (2019) is “To promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture”.

**Main activities.** The UCLG Committee on Culture leads the organisation of the [biennial International Award "UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21"](#), the database [“OBS” of good practices](#) on culture in sustainable cities, as well as the [UCLG Culture Summit](#). It offers learning and capacity-building programmes on cultural policies (15 [Leading Cities](#), 24 [Pilot Cities](#), 3 [Culture 21 Labs](#), and 6 [Seven Keys](#)) and participates in [international advocacy campaigns](#) (such as the [#culture2030goal](#) campaign), advocating with other global cultural networks for a clear place of culture in the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UCLG considers that cultural dimension plays a key role as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, due to its capacity to promote debates on the values of society and, at the same time, to place memory, heritage, creativity, indigenous peoples, diversity and knowledge at the heart of public policies.

**Leadership.** 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.

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

# 1. ACTIVITIES

## KEY:

**In bold, name of the activity**, as written in the annual programme agreed in January 2021.  
**In blue, IMPLEMENTATION of the activity.**

## Main activities of the Committee in 2021

(Organised according to UCLG's strategic priorities)

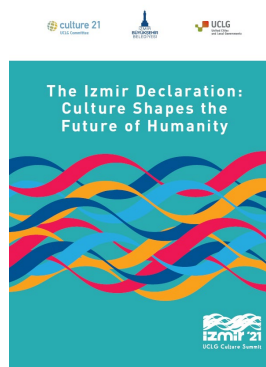
### A. Implementation

#### A.1 Izmir 2021, UCLG Culture Summit

- To organise the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir (9-11 September 2021, with an online launch on 10 June 2021), working closely with the UCLG World Secretariat and the host city.

Despite the difficulties occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic, the Summit was a great success:

- Launch of the [UCLG Culture Summit](#) in Izmir and online, on 10 June 2021.
- The [UCLG Culture Summit](#) was held in Izmir on 9-11 September 2021.
- Publication of the [Izmir Declaration](#).
- Publication of the main keynote speeches: [Tunc Soyer](#), [Uğur Ibrahim Altay](#), [Serhan Ada](#), [Farida Shaheed](#), [Karima Bennouna](#) & [Lucas Bergamo](#), and [Sana Ouchtati](#).



#### A.2. International Award UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21

- To organise the Award ceremony and events in Mexico City on 13 May 2021, including activities with wide local participation.
- To improve visibility of the Award, involving partners and networks in social media and promotion of good practices.
- To launch the fifth edition of the Award (November 2021).

The difficulties occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic led the organisers to a virtual delivery of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award, on 11 November 2021, in the frame of the UCLG World Council.

The winners of the Award 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.

The fifth edition of the Award was launched by José Alfonso Suárez del Real (Mexico City) at the same event, on 11 November 2021; with the call for projects to open early 2022.



### A.3. Database of good practices – the OBS

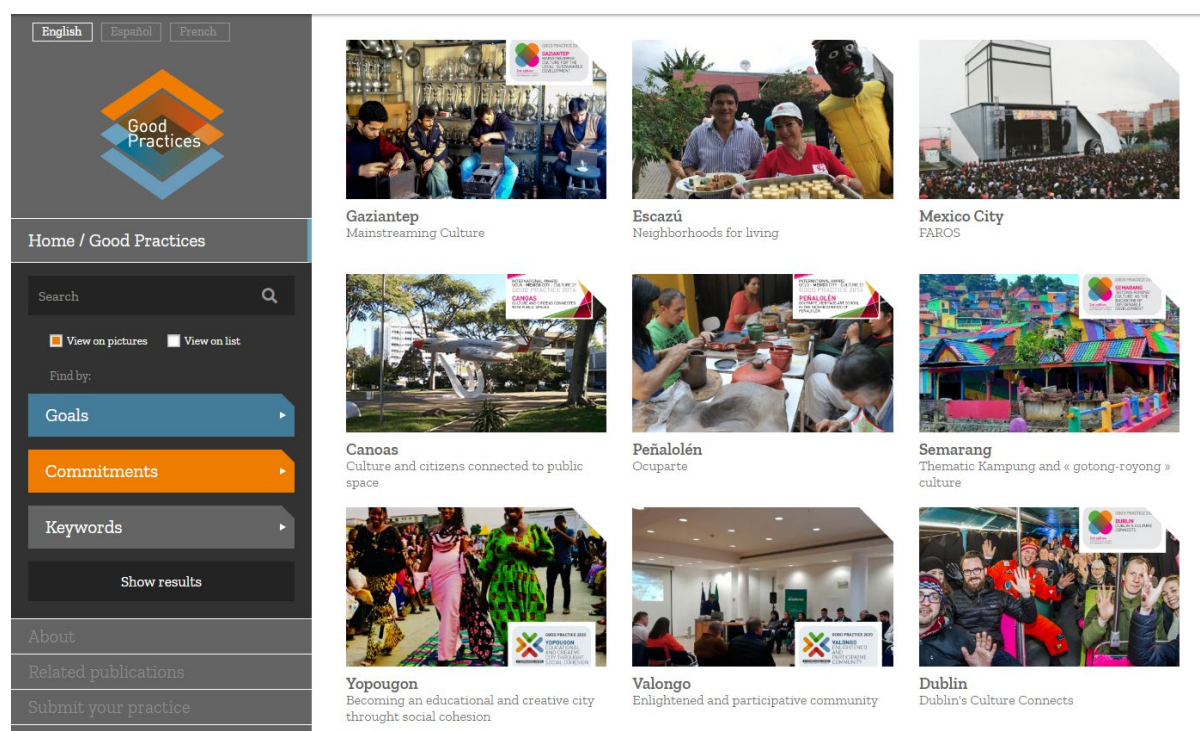
- To consolidate the dedicated website presenting our more than 230 good practices, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 75 keywords.
- To align the OBS with #Local4ActionHub
- To consolidate partnerships (example: British Council) and to analyse possible specific "sponsorship" 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 2021, the OBS hosts 283 good practices from cities and local governments from across the world, available online in English, French and Spanish. In



2021, more than 50 new good practices were added to the database and some already existing ones were updated; most of them are generated in the frame of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award.



#### A.4. The Rome Charter

- To organise activities related to the promotion and to the implementation of the 2020 Rome Charter, in close cooperation with UCLG Sections and the City of Rome.

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

- Release of the conversation between Luca Bergamo and Emilia Saiz, facilitated by Giorgio Barberio Corsetti, in the frame of the [Rome Charter](#).
- Webinar to celebrate the [first anniversary of the Rome Charter](#) (on 27 May 2021)
- Events to support the [Orchestras of Transformation](#), in the frame of the [2020 Rome Charter](#) (mainly held in June and July 2021).
- The Rome Charter was a key component of the UCLG Culture Summit of Izmir, with a plenary session fully devoted to this process.



## THE 2020 ROME CHARTER

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY  
AND FREELY IN CULTURAL LIFE  
IS VITAL TO OUR CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



## B. Advocacy

### B.1. UN 2030 Agenda, SDGs and New Urban Agenda

- To widely disseminate the document "Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action" as well as the #culture2030goal report "Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda".
- To participate in the HLPF (July 2021), in several formats.
- To be visible and active in global initiatives that relate culture and sustainable development.
- Mondiacult 2022

The OBS, alongside the [Guide on Culture and the SDGs](#) and the "Seven Keys" programme are fully aligned with the SDGs and the UN agenda 2030. Also, the activities of the #culture2030goal are fully contributing to the successful achievement of the SDGs.

The UCLG Culture Committee participated at the side-event "[Partnering through Culture, Heritage and Art for Resilient and Inclusive Recovery](#)" at the HLPF 2021.



### B.2. Global civil-society networks

- To support the #culture2030goal global campaign.
- To consolidate an operational connection with the most relevant global civil-society networks in the field of culture, such as ICOMOS, IFLA, IMC, IFCCD and Culture Action Europe.

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.

In 2021 the campaign organised several activities:

- Release of the [Vision and Strategy](#) document of the [#culture2030goal](#) campaign.
- Participation in the UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir.
- Publication of the report "[Culture in the Localization of the SDGs: An Analysis of the Voluntary Local Reviews \(VLRs\)](#)".



Also, the campaign was involved in the organisation of the UCLG online event "[Upgrading Culture in Sustainable Development: The Time is Now](#)", with UN Habitat and Metropolis, in the context of the "[Cities Are Listening](#)" series.



### B.3. Partnerships

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

In 2021, 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 preparation of Mondiacult 2022.

Also, the UCLG Culture Committee supported the [Call to Action](#) to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

In 2021, 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) capacity-building programme, (b) the Voices of Culture initiative (see [Culture and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities](#)), and (c) the European Development Days.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is in close contact with the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Ms Karima Bennouna and, in 2021, the Committee: (a) has been involved in the consultation processes for the report on “Cultural rights defenders”, and (b) has involved the Special Rapporteur in our most important events, including the UCLG Culture Summit and the launch of the #culture2030goal Vision document.

#### **B.4. City networks**

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

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:

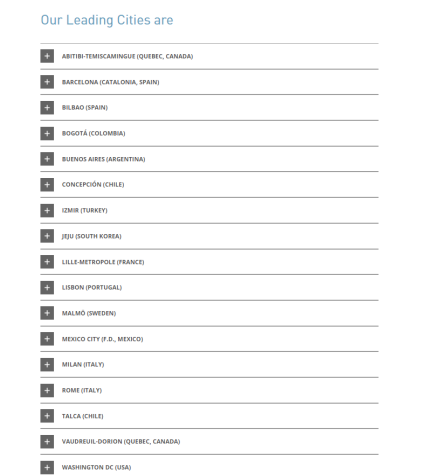
- The partnership with Culture Action Europe (CAE) successfully continues on the Pilot Cities programme and within the #culture2030goal campaign.
- The partnerships with the Cultural Development Network – CDN and Les Arts et la Ville – (LAV) were channelled with MoUs, signed in 2019; the implementation is ongoing.
- A new MoU was signed between UCLG and ICOMOS on 9 September 2021, in the frame of the UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir.
- Cooperation with World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) and Eurocities is 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.



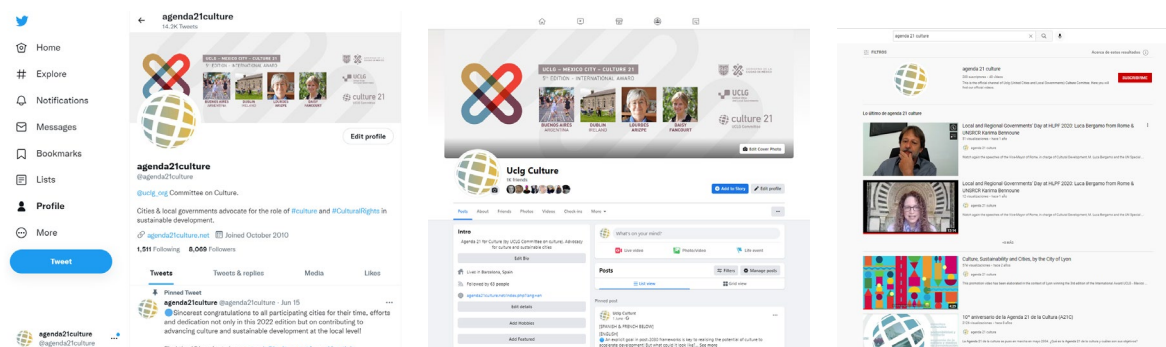


The [dedicated website of the Award](#) was improved in 2020 and it is now perfectly user-friendly.

A [newsletter](#) is sent every two weeks to our partners, friends and all people interested in our work. In 2021, 25 newsletters were sent, including a special edition on the UNSRCR

mandate. 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 [18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture](#) was held on 16 December 2021. The meeting provided an opportunity to present and discuss the state of implementation of the Committee's work programme for 2021 and discussed the programme for 2022.

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 18 December 2021, 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 18th 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 four 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.

## 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, the relation culture – climate change, the relation culture-migration or the cultural dimension of metropolitan policies.

In 2021, the key narrative of the Committee was reinforced by [the Izmir Declaration](#) (the main outcome document of the 4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit) which introduces the concept of "Circular Culture", with the harmonies with the past, the other, the nature and the change as its components.

In 2021, the Committee also promoted [the Rome Charter on the Right to Participate Fully and Freely in Cultural Life](#), which had been approved in November 2020 at the UCLG World Council held in Guangzhou and online on 9-13 November 2020.

It is expected that both documents provide guidance to the UCLG Pact for the Future, to be approved by UCLG in 2022.



Other important contributions to the progress of the key narrative of the Committee, in 2021 were the publication of these three documents:

- The report "[Cultural Actions Supporting Gender Equality in Cities and Territories](#)",

written by Farida Shaheed, is a contribution from the cultural perspective to address women's rights and gender-responsive policies for sustainable development.

- The report "[Culture in Climate Resilient Development](#)" documents the initiatives of cities and local or regional governments from all continents on cultural policies, sustainable cities and climate resilient development. It was written by Andrew Potts, and published in partnership with the [Climate Heritage Network](#).
- The article "[The right to participate in urban cultural life: from inequalities to equity](#)", written by Nicolás Barbieri, in the frame of [GOLD VI](#).



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.

## D. Learning

### D.1. The Seven Keys

- To consolidate the capacity-building programme "Seven Keys" on culture in the SDGs, in close cooperation with UCLG Sections and UCLG partners.

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 a manageable number of "Keys" (ideally, seven) 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.

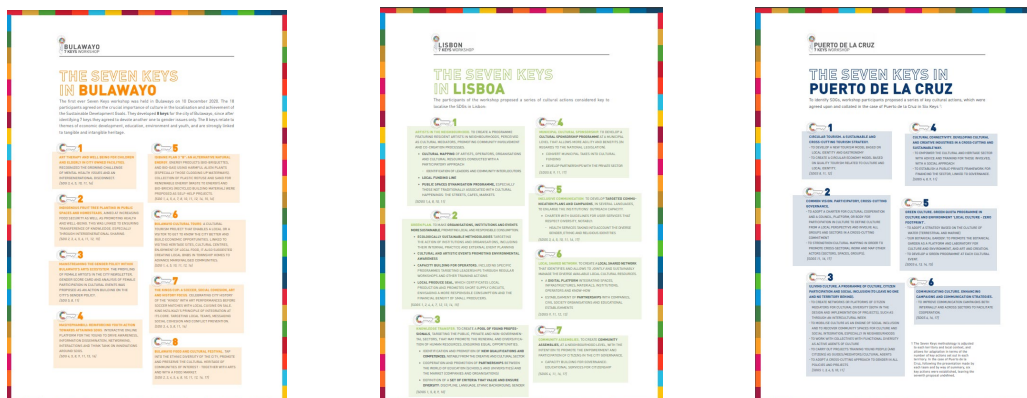
The first Seven Keys workshop took place in December 2020 in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), organised by the City Council and Nhimbe Trust, and the expertise of Zayd Minty (Creative City South). In 2021, the Seven keys workshop took place in:

- Lisbon
- El Puerto de la Cruz



- Xian

Preparatory activities took place in Concepción and Izmir for the implementation of the workshop in 2022.



## D.2. Leading Cities, Pilot Cities and Culture 21 LAB

- To consolidate the Leading Cities as a prestigious label that recognises the work of the most advanced cities in specific areas, with contents adapted to each city.
- To promote the Pilot Cities programme and the Culture 21 Lab workshop as the entrance to local cultural policies and sustainable development.

The programmes for [Leading Cities](#) and [Pilot Cities](#), as well as the [Culture 21 Lab](#) are always open for UCLG members. The contents of these programmes are adapted to each participating city. 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 in 2021 are the following:

- Support to Barcelona in the work that relates science and cultural policies.
- Support to Lisbon in its local cultural strategy (with the Seven Keys).
- Support to Bilbao in its local cultural strategy.
- Support to Mexico City in the elaboration of a report and a good practice on PILARES.
- Support to Rome in the dissemination of the Orchestras of Transformation, with the Climavore programme
- Support to Malmö in the implementation of the Culture Plan.
- Support to Izmir in the implementation of the local outcomes of the Culture Summit.
- Organization of the Final Conference, and publication of the final report and article of Esch-sur-Alzette.
- Publication of the peer-learning visit to Jinju.
- Ongoing contacts with Baie-Mahault, Elefsina, Escazú, Leeds and Terrassa.

## D.3. Peer-learning and capacity-building

- To facilitate more peer-learning exchanges among cities and local and regional governments.
- 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".

In 2021, the Secretariat of the UCLG Culture Committee has analysed all the activities undertaken under the lenses of peer-learning exchanges, in order to multiply the opportunities for online and physical discussion among members and partners.

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.

The Secretariat of the UCLG Culture Committee is in touch with UCLG-MEWA, UCLG-ASPAC, UCLG-Africa and Mercociudades for specific "Seven Keys" programmes in their sections. Also, this option is being explored with the Cultural Development Network of Australia, the SALGA and Les Arts et la Ville.

#### **D.4. Online seminars**

- To organise a wide number of online seminars, webinars, and meetings on the role of culture in people-centred sustainable development

In 2021, the UCLG Committee on Culture was involved in around 30 different online seminars, webinars and meetings.

#### **D.5. Seminars and events**

- To actively take part in initiatives organised 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 [Climate Heritage Network](#) (CHN) is 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 2021, the CHN organised several events in October and November, including a wide presence in the [COP26](#) and the release of the [Manifesto](#) "Accelerating Climate Action through the power of Arts, Culture and Heritage. A Manifesto on Keeping 1,5° Alive".



### Accelerating Climate Action through the Power of Arts, Culture and Heritage

#### A Manifesto on Keeping 1.5° Alive

#### COP26

We, the undersigned, declare that people, their cultures, and the natural and cultural heritage of the earth are profoundly at risk from human-caused climate change and the climate action that is desperately needed to avert the worst of the climate crisis. We affirm the innovative power of arts, culture, and heritage to inspire climate action and enable a just transition to low carbon, climate resilient futures.

Climate change is already impacting people and places, with long-lasting and irreversible effects. Averting the worst of these requires limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. For the world to failing to meet even the Paris Agreement's 2 degree temperature goal, with current Green House Gas (GHG) concentrations now the highest ever recorded.

The present COVID-19 pandemic, and the suffering it has caused, has made the response to climate change even more difficult while also revealing essential lessons, including the imperative of healing science, the consequences of the separation between humans and nature, the importance of seeing the roots of the most vulnerable, and the fact that rapid and far-reaching social and economic change is possible when society working together, with it.

Building back better, saving the climate and biodiversity crises, and achieving sustainable development requires ambitious, transformative action at scale, including deep GHG emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation and adaptation actions and a significant speeding of investments in these actions. Centering equity and justice should be at the heart of all actions so that widening economic and health disparities can be reversed. Culture and the arts reflect and influence consumption patterns, mediating our awareness of nature and the planet and our relationship to the environment.

Culture anchors people to places and to each other. It can create cohesion in ways that enable community-building and collective action. Artists and cultural voices

### CULTURE AT #COP26

From 1-12 November 2021, Culture actors, international partners, national, regional and local governments as well as experts, activists, academics, the private sector and all actors involved in Climate Action will gather in Glasgow for the United Nations International Climate Conference 2021, also known as COP26.

We, Committee on Culture of UCLG, together with the Climate Heritage Network, will be at COP26 advocating for the voice of cultural actors to be heard and for their role as key players in Climate Action to be recognised at all levels. We will take part in the following sessions:

- Session 'Climate Heritage Network General Annual General Assembly' 1 November 2021, 12:45-15:45 GMT
- Session 'Culture of Resilience: Launch of the Climate Heritage Network Resilience Campaign' 2 November 2021, 14:15-15:45 GMT
- Session 'Culture Driving Climate Resilient Future: An Intersectoral Dialogue' 3 November 2021, 11:00-12:15 GMT
- Session 'Culture as a Pathway to Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development' 3 November 2021, 16:00-17:30 GMT

See below for more information on the sessions and how to register.



We will be at #COP26 session 'Climate Heritage Network General Annual General Assembly' convened by the Climate Heritage Network around 1 November 2021 (12:45-15:45 GMT). Register here.

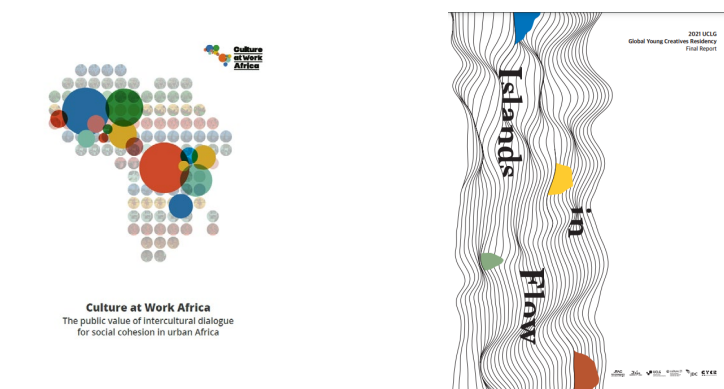
We will be at #COP26 session 'Culture Driving Climate Resilient Future: An Intersectoral Dialogue' convened by the Climate Heritage Network around 3 November 2021 (11:00-12:15 GMT). Register here.

We will be at #COP26 session 'Culture as a Pathway to Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development' convened by the Climate Heritage Network and the British Council on 3 November 2021 (16:00-17:30 GMT). Register here.

**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.

- The [final publication](#) was published in 2021.
- The final conferences of the programme took place in 2021.

The **Global Young Creatives Residencies** (new name of the former GYCF) is a programme led by the Government of Jeju to support the international cultural and artistic connectivity of the island with peers in other parts of the world. The GYCR took place in August and September 2021, with the motto "Islands in Flow". The [final report](#) summarises the work done.



## 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 2021).

Discussion of the long-term / strategic plan, written by the Secretariat of the Committee, has been postponed after the UCLG Congress of Daejeon and the approval of the Pact for the Future.

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 (online, 15-22 February 2021) the Co-presidencies of Lisbon, Mexico City and Buenos Aires, and the team of the Secretariat, presented the work of the Committee.

## **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 (see above).

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 on Culture and Tourism) and UCLG-Africa (partnerships on the African Capital of Culture programme and activities related to the Culture at Work – Africa initiative).

On 7 July 2021, the Committee participated in the side-event “[Partnering through Culture, Heritage and Art for Resilient and Inclusive Recovery](#)”, organised by IFLA and ICOMOS in the frame of the HLPF 2021.

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 and finalise in February 2021 with the publication of [this report](#).



## 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 2021, 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 2021, the Leading Cities programme includes Abitibi-Temiscamingue, 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 2021, 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 December 2021, the programme has been or is being developed in Bulawayo, Izmir, Lisbon, Mexico City, el Puerto de la Cruz, Xi'an and Concepción.

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. AGENDA in 2021 (main events)

**December.** Celebration of the [18th meeting](#) of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

Organisation of the [Seven Keys workshop](#) in Xi'an.

**November.** Publication of the report "[The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development](#)", written by Andrew Potts.

Participation in several activities in the frame of [Culture at COP26](#), in close cooperation with the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

The UCLG World Council, held in Barcelona and online, hosts the delivery of the [4th edition of the UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21 International Award](#) to Medellín, Sékou, Eusebio Leal and Vandana Shiva.

Publication of the article "[The right to participate in urban cultural life: from inequalities to equity](#)", written by Nicolás Barbieri, in the frame of [GOLD VI](#).

**October.** Publication of the report "[Cultural Actions Supporting Gender Equality in Cities and Territories](#)", written by Farida Shaheed.

The Climate Heritage Network releases the [Manifesto "Accelerating Climate Action through the power of Arts, Culture and Heritage. A Manifesto on Keeping 1,5° Alive"](#) at the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference (COP26).

**September.** Participation to UCLG activities regarding the [U20 process](#).

**August.** Organisation of the [Global Youth Creatives Residency](#) in Jeju.

**July.** Participation at the side-event "[Partnering through Culture, Heritage and Art for Resilient and Inclusive Recovery](#)" at the HLPF 2021.

**June.** Organisation of the [Seven Keys workshop](#) in Lisbon.

Final events of the [Culture at Work Africa](#) partnership, in Abidjan, Paris and Brussels.

**May.** Release of the [video "Culture is the antidote for the secondary effects of the current, and all, crises"](#), in the frame of the UCLG Executive Bureau.

Organisation the [Seven Keys workshop](#) in El Puerto de la Cruz.

**April.** Organisation of the online event "[Upgrading Culture in Sustainable Development: The Time is Now](#)", with UN Habitat and Metropolis, and in partnership with the #culture2030goal campaign, Rome City Council and Palaexpo, in the context of the "[Cities Are Listening](#)" series.

Barcelona City Council organises the roundtable "[Culture is a right. Urban policies and international context for cultural rights](#)".

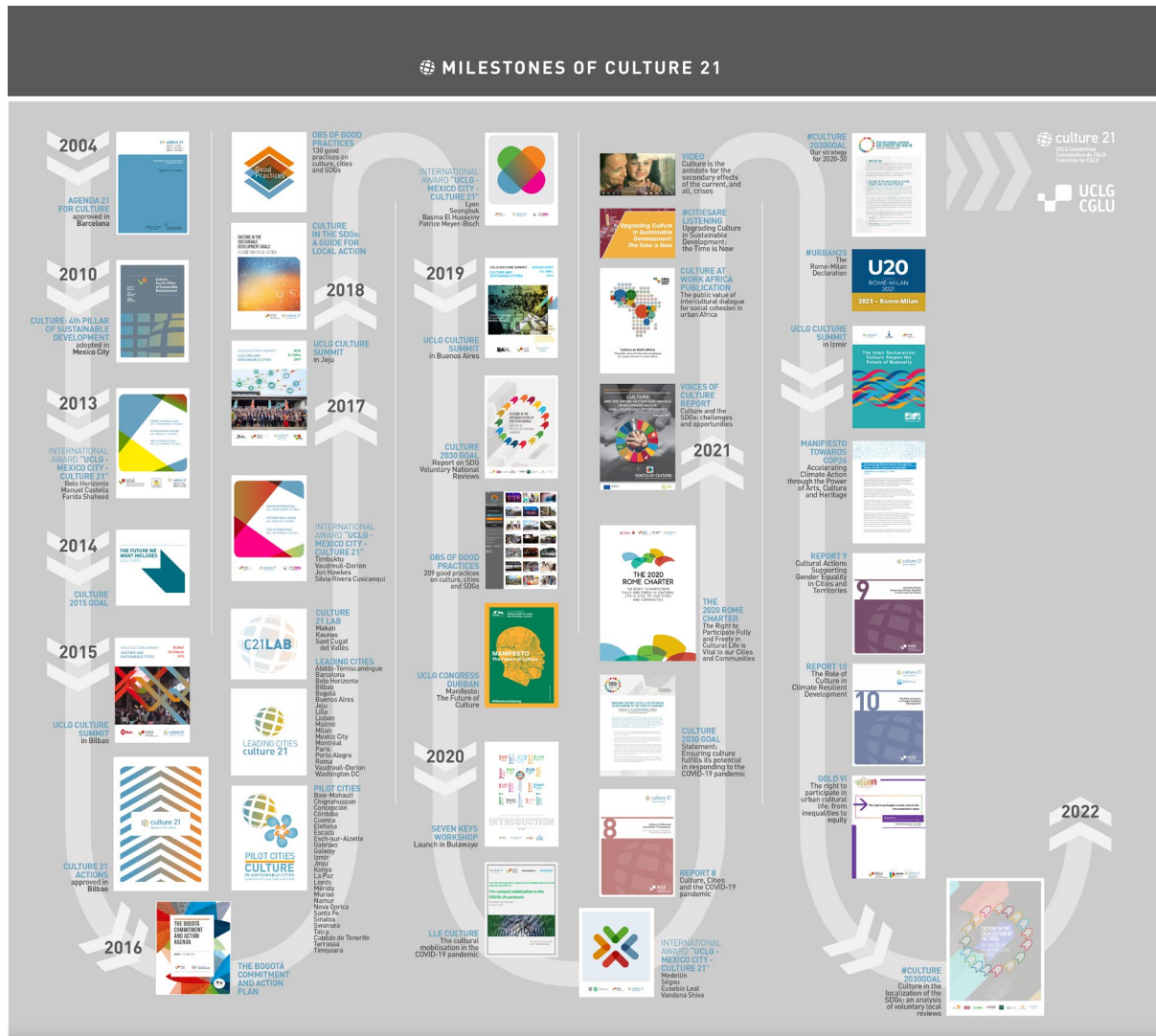
**March.** Participation in "[The Missing Pillar Talk](#)" on culture's contribution to sustainable development organised by The British Council.

**February.** Release of the final publication of [Culture at Work Africa](#).

**January.** Release of the Voices of Culture report on [Culture and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities](#).

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

# 4. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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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