Making culture a key dimension of sustainable development
United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG is the global network which represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage.

Headquartered in Barcelona, the mission of 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.

Since its creation in May 2004 as an inheritor of the century-old International Municipal Movement, more than 240,000 towns, cities, regions and metropolises, and more than 175 local and regional government associations have joined this global network.

The UCLG structure comprises

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>1</th>
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<td>world secretariat</td>
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**United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG** is the global network which represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage.
UCLG Committee on Culture: Advocating for culture in sustainable cities

**UCLG Committee on Culture** is a unique global platform of more than 830 cities, organisations and networks to cooperate and promote the role of “Culture in Sustainable Cities.”

Its **mission** is “to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development” through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture, to foster and make more explicit the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. The network learns through exchanges, discussions and debates. This narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centred development and the co-creation of the city.

UCLG Committee on Culture meets officially at least every year, leads a biennial Culture Summit and a biennial International Award. Since 2004, it has released more than 50 public documents, including reports, briefings, articles and policy statements. Its activities also include global campaigns and advocacy.

Approved in 2004, the Agenda 21 of Culture is the founding document of UCLG Committee on Culture. It is also the first worldwide document that promotes policies and actions by cities and local governments for cultural development. Therefore, some people usually refer to the Committee on Culture as the “Agenda 21 for culture” network.

The toolkit Culture 21: Actions updates and supplements the Agenda 21 for Culture and transforms it into concrete commitments and actions which promote self-assessment and innovation on the role of culture in sustainable cities.
### Table of contents

**01 High lights**

- **CULTURE 21 ACTIONS**
  - Culture in Sustainable Cities.
  - Operationalising culture at the local level.
- **CULTURE 21 LAB**
- **PILOT CITIES**
- **LEADING CITIES**

**GOOD PRACTICES**

- **INTERNATIONAL AWARD UCLG - MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21**
  - Timbuktu, Vaudreuil-Dorion, Jon Hawkes and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, winners of the second edition of the UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 Award.

**THE SUMMIT**

- Jeju: Commitments and Actions for Culture in Sustainable Cities.
  - The 2nd UCLG Culture Summit.

**CULTURE IN THE GLOBAL DEBATES**

- The place of culture in the global agendas.

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**02 the interview**

- **ENRIQUE AVOGADRO**, Minister of Culture,
  - Autonomous City of Buenos Aires

---

**03 Publications**

**ARTICLES AND REPORTS**

**RECOMMENDED READING**

**FEATURED EVENTS**

---

**04 tweeting**

- **Tweeting 21 times**
  - NEWSLETTER
  - COLLABORATORS
  - PRESIDENCY
  - CREDITS

---

**Presentation**

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – UCLG

**Editorial**

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – UCLG

**Timelines**

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – UCLG
The work carried out in 2016-2017 by the UCLG Culture Committee is the continuation of over a decade of engagement in raising awareness on the importance of culture in sustainable development. Innovation, pragmatism, adaptability and a strong belief that culture is intrinsic to fundamental human values are key words of that period, enabling the role of culture in sustainable development to be ever more active locally and better recognized internationally.

In 2016-2017, the UCLG Culture Committee was co-chaired by Buenos Aires and Mexico City, and vice chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Paris and Porto Alegre. Accompanied by the work of its highly motivated coordination team and the unfailing support of UCLG World Secretariat, it was able in that time to increase the number of cities and local governments committed to implementing sustainable cultural practices and policies, and to successfully undertake several cultural advocacy campaigns and online publications in partnership with international cultural organisations, NGOs, researchers and civil society networks.

After the approval in 2015 of the UN SDGs and the Agenda 2030 implementation programme, the Culture Committee immediately set itself the task of identifying and detailing the real place of culture in the 17 SDGs, as in the eyes of the cultural sector the 2030 Agenda has largely underestimated the cultural components of sustainable development.

The adoption of the UN New Urban Agenda in Quito on the 20 October 2016 was preceded by the UCLG Fifth World Congress in Bogota. The Culture Committee attended and participated in many of the preparatory sessions and sent out strong messages on the importance of fully recognizing the place of culture in sustainable development. The campaign launched by the network of cultural networks advocating for a cultural SDG continued to be meaningful in the following years in the context of post-Habitat III and the localization of the SDGs: ‘The Future We Want Includes Culture’.

Initiated in November 2015, the call for the second edition of the UCLG International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 2 had attracted 83 candidates by March 2016. The prize, aimed at rewarding a city and a personality for outstanding work in the area of culture and sustainable development, was awarded in Mexico City in October 2016 to two cities, Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada) and Timbuktu (Mali), and two personalities, Jon Hawkes and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui. Impressed by the quality of many of the examples proposed, the Jury requested that almost three quarters of the candidacies be considered good practices and included in the UCLG Committee on Culture’s website.

The practical toolkit Culture 21 Actions, launched in 2014, and its implementation in different cities and regions of the world in 2016-2017 continued to be developed in different formats such as the introductory Culture 21 Lab, the in-depth Pilot Cities programme and the high-level Leading Cities module. In May 2017, during the second UCLG Culture Summit held on the island of Jeju, Republic of Korea, the members of the Committee were further enriched by the exchange of experiences of many cities and local governments that had been putting them into practice.

Throughout these two years, the Culture Committee, its coordinating team and its experts participated in numerous conferences and meetings worldwide to make the voice of Culture heard and taken into account, while engaging with networks of cultural federations, researchers and civil society groups to continue thinking and acting on the essential role of culture in the world today and why it should be given more importance. In parallel with the work of the 2nd UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Karima Bennoune, the UCLG Culture Committee played a leading role in the developing awareness of the importance of cultural rights in local contexts, insisting they must be integrated in a pragmatic way in the cultural policies and practices of local governments.

The activities undertaken by the Committee in 2016-2017 have undeniably consolidated the status and visibility of culture’s role in sustainable development, both locally and globally. The Culture Committee will use this experience to continue to disseminate Culture 21 Actions, with its capacity-building programmes and to advocate for the recognition of Culture as the 4th pillar of Sustainable Development as the essential component of a human-centred, sustainable society.

Catherine Cullen
Special Adviser of UCLG on Culture in Sustainable Cities and Chair of the UCLG Culture Committee, 2012-2015.
Timeline

2016

JANUARY

Annual UCLG Retreat & Campus
(Barcelona)

FEBRUARY

Deadline of the call for submissions, 2nd edition of the International Award ‘UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21’ (Mexico City)

MARCH

European Culture Forum organised by the European Commission (Brussels, Belgium)

APRIL

World Forum on Arts and Cultural Education (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil)

MAY

UCLG Executive Bureau (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation)

Habitat III Local Government Hearings (New York)

JUNE

European Development Days - EDD 2016 (Brussels, Belgium)

JULY

UCCI General Meeting (Lisbon, Portugal)

AUGUST

Climate Chance – Side event: ‘Culture and climat’ (Nantes, France)

SEPTEMBER

UCLG World Congress, Bogotá (Bogotá, Colombia)

IFACCA, 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture (Valetta, Malta)

IETM Plenary Meeting (Valencia, Spain)

OCTOBER

Seminars “Culture et Développement: quels mécanismes et quelles formations?” (Gammarth, Tunisia)

Award Ceremony of the 2nd edition of the International Award ‘UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21’ (Mexico City)

NOVEMBER

International Conference “Participatory Governance in Culture: Exploring Practices, Theories and Policies. Do it Together!” (Rijeka, Croatia)

DECEMBER

Opening call for the 3rd edition of the International Award ‘UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21’ (Mexico City)

2017

JANUARY

Meeting of the “UNESCO Urban network” on post-Habitat 3 and the New Urban Agenda, UNESCO (Paris)

FEBRUARY

Annual UCLG Retreat & Campus (Barcelona)

MARCH

EESC hearings EU strategy for international cultural relations (Brussels, Belgium)

APRIL

1st Culture 21 Lab in Makati (Philippines)

Habitat III: Prep Com II (Nairobi, Kenya)

MAY

2nd UCLG Culture Summit in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Republic of Korea)

JUNE

European Development Days - EDD 2017 (Brussels, Belgium)

JULY

UCI General Meeting (Lisbon, Portugal)

AUGUST

Creative Mobilities seminar and congress (Grenoble, France)

SEPTEMBER

Climate Chance – Side event: ‘Culture et Climat’ (Nantes, France)

OCTOBER

Meeting of the “UNESCO Urban network” on indicators, UNESCO (Paris)

NOVEMBER

Culture Action Europe annual conference ‘Beyond the Obvious’ (Budapest, Hungary)

Annual meeting of the UCLG Committees and Working Groups (Barcelona)

DECEMBER

Publication of the 1st draft of Culture in the SDGs: A Guide for Local Action. What kind of cooperation for culture? (organized by LIKE network) (Lisbon, Portugal)

World Culture Policy – Cultural Policy and Globalization (Berlin, Germany)

Meeting of the “UNESCO Urban network” on indicators, UNESCO (Paris)

Culture Action Europe annual conference ‘Beyond the Obvious’ (Roma, Italy)

Asia Culture Forum, Gwangju (Republic of Korea)

ICOMOS General Assembly (Delhi, India)

UCLG World Council (Hangzhou, China)
Since the formal adoption of the Agenda 21 for Culture in 2004, UCLG has been placing cultural policies at the centre of its political agenda and work programme, becoming a world leader on culture and sustainable development of cities and local and regional governments.

Building on this, "Culture 21: Actions", a practical toolkit which complements the Agenda 21 for Culture, was adopted during the first UCLG Culture Summit in March 2015 in Bilbao. The toolkit provides adaptable guidelines to enable cities to assess and improve their work in 100 areas, grouped in 9 commitments. The toolkit is also a very suitable frame to exchange experiences and good practices among participating cities.

Building on all the contributions from cities and local governments interested in fostering the relationship between cultural aspects and local sustainable development, the Committee on Culture of UCLG actively worked from 2015 to 2017 in order to develop practical working programmes based on "Culture 21 Actions". Three different programmes were launched: Culture 21 Lab, the Pilot Cities programme, and the Leading Cities programme:

- 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 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.
- The Pilot Cities programme is a learning programme based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions included in Culture 21 Actions. The programme lasts for 2 or 3 years and includes an initial self-evaluation, local awareness-raising, international peer-review, capacity-building, pilot local projects, public seminars and the drawing-up of good practices.
- 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).

These three capacity-building and peer-learning programmes also lead to the elaboration of good practices by participant cities and local and regional governments which are perfect examples of the implementation of culture for sustainable development, and which are the object of a full article in this publication.

All these programmes are run with the support of UCLG and its Committee on Culture, as well as local or regional relevant organizations. These programmes also involve the experience of experts on issues related to culture, cultural policies, public policies, sustainability, cities and development.
Culture 21 Lab is a capacity-building programme on culture in sustainable cities which takes the form of a 1.5-day workshop, involving local stakeholders including local government professionals and technicians, representatives of civil society organizations and private sector bodies, and academics.

**THE WORKSHOP SERVES TO:**

- Get a first-hand account of the current world debates on culture in sustainable cities
- Learn the vocabulary of culture in sustainable development and disentangle misunderstandings and misconceptions
- Acquire competences in “local cultural cooperation”
- Self-evaluate where the city stands in each of the nine thematic areas of Culture 21 Actions
- Identify local strengths and weaknesses
- Identify good practices that exist in the city and elsewhere

Culture 21 Lab has been implemented for the first time in the City of Makati (Philippines) in the course of April 2017, in partnership with UCLG Asia-Pacific (the regional section of UCLG). In this context, the city organized a 3-day meeting at the beginning of April 2017, gathering 81 participants representing a broad range of sectors and a group of experts selected by Makati on the recommendations of UCLG Committee on Culture, and including plenary expert-led sessions, participatory workshops and visits to relevant venues and sites.

Makati led the self-assessment during this event, and published a complete report on the activity later the same month.

Available documents:
More information on:
http://agenda21culture.net/our-cities/makati
The Pilot Cities programme has a longer name: ‘Culture in Sustainable Cities. Learning with Culture 21 Actions’. It is a learning and capacity-building programme based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions included in the practical guide Culture 21 Actions.

Culture 21 Actions emerges from the acknowledgement that, in all world regions, there is an increasing wealth of experiences and knowledge on the importance of cultural policies for local sustainable development, including the intrinsic cultural aspects which are essential for wellbeing and the exercise of human rights, as well as the contribution that cultural participation and resources can make to social, economic and environmental sustainability. Indeed, sustainable cities require an integral approach, based on the combination of different perspectives and objectives as well as cooperation between public, private and civil society actors.

In 2014, in order to operationalize this practical guide, the Committee on Culture of UCLG decided to experiment its concrete application, on the ground, with the help of 8 pioneer cities who accepted to inform, and report on, the evaluation and implementation of cultural policies for sustainable development in their territories with an approach based on Culture 21 Actions, providing for the further development of what was going to become the Pilot City programme. The 8 cities willing to take part into the premises of this experience were: Belo Horizonte, Bogotá, Concepción, Gabrovo, Jeju, Mexico City, Talca and Vaudreuil-Dorion. Their reports are available on the main website of Agenda 21 for Culture.

The Pilot Cities programme is a learning and capacity-building programme based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions included in the practical guide Culture 21 Actions.
The programme

The Committee on Culture of UCLG officially launched the Pilot Cities programme in 2015. The programme includes an initial self-evaluation, local awareness-raising, international peer-review, capacity-building, pilot local projects, public seminars and the drawing-up of good practices.

The Pilot Cities programme has many objectives:

• To foster increased local and international understanding of the connection between culture and local sustainable development in the participating cities, on the basis of the issues raised by the Agenda 21 for culture and Culture 21 Actions, as well as other issues relevant to the global and local agendas.
• To enable the design, implementation and evaluation of innovative pilot measures in areas relevant to culture and sustainable cities, through collaboration between public, private and civil society actors.
• To facilitate exchanges, evaluation and capacity-building among cities concerned with culture and sustainable development, on the basis of the thematic areas identified in Culture 21 Actions.
• To provide wide visibility to the participating cities and their policies and programmes in global discussions on the role of culture in sustainable development.
• To contribute to the advocacy for the explicit consideration of cultural factors in the paradigm of sustainable cities internationally.

The programme has been developed following two strands: one for European cities, in a partnership with Culture Action Europe and in cooperation with the CEMR, the European regional section of UCLG, and a “global” or “general” strand for cities and local governments in other continents.

In both cases, the programme runs between 26 and 28 months, depending on the city or local government’s availability and needs, follows a common methodology, and expects the same outcomes for cities and local governments. For each participating city, engagement in the programme involves the following work plan:

In May 2015, a first call for cities and local governments was launched and 15 first cities joined the programme: Chignahuapan (Puebla, Mexico), Concepción (Chile), Cuenca (Azuay, Ecuador), Escazú (Costa Rica), Gabrovo (Bulgaria), Galway (Ireland), Izmir (Turkey), Lisbon (Portugal), Mérida (Yucatán, Mexico), Mursie (Minas Gerais, Brazil), Namur (Wallonia, Belgium), Sinaloa (Mexico), Swansea (Wales, United Kingdom), Terrassa (Catalonia, Spain), and Timisoara (Romania).

In September 2016, a second call was launched, and it gave access to the programme to 9 more cities: Baie-Mahault (Guadeloupe, France), Córdoba (Argentina), Elefsina (Greece), Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), La Paz (Bolivia), Leeds (England, United Kingdom), Nova Gorica (Slovenia), Santa Fe (Argentina) and Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain).

By the end of 2017, the programme had involved a total of 24 participating cities. A brief summary with the first results of 17 of them is presented in the following pages.
In 2014, the City of Concepción (Chile) was one of the cities involved in the process of drafting Culture 21 Actions, and simultaneously, the Municipal Government of Concepción launched “Concepción 2030”, a participatory strategic plan that became a good practice of Agenda 21 for Culture. Within the scope of its participation in the Pilot Cities Global programme, Concepción carried out a self-assessment workshop in May 2016 and elaborated a work programme focused on interculturalism, participative governance, creative economy, neighbourhoods, environment and urban planning. A video was released for the presentation of Concepción as a Pilot City of Agenda 21 for Culture and the presentation of the cultural strategic plan. The city had the support of expert Antoine Guibert and UCLG Committee on Culture.

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/concepcion

The City of Chignahuapán (Puebla, Mexico) carried out a self-assessment exercise jointly with the municipalities of Tetela de Ocampo and Zacatlán, in August 2016. As a preparation for this regional self-assessment, the “Discussion on Constructing a Common Future” was held on 21st May that year with the presence of relevant cultural stakeholders. Enrique Glockner was the expert appointed by UCLG Committee on Culture to guide the work of the city throughout the process.

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/chignahuapan
The City of Cuenca (Ecuador) joined the Pilot Cities Global Programme in 2015. A first self-assessment exercise was held in February 2016. This was followed by the design and implementation of a work programme with various pilot measures which led to the participatory process to elaborate the “Strategic Plan for Culture in the Canton of Cuenca for 2030”. As part of the learning and exchange activities with other cities, in May 2016 the city of Concepción (Chile) visited Cuenca, being the first peer-learning visit of the programme over held. The expert Antoine Guibert and UCLG Committee on Culture supported Cuenca throughout the process.

The City of Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg) joined the European Pilot City programme in 2017, in the context of the elaboration of its candidacy to be the European Capital of Culture in 2022. The Candidacy was successful and Esch-sur-Alzette will be an EOCC in 2022. With the support of the expert Catherine Cullen, UCLG Committee on Culture and Culture Action Europe, Esch-sur-Alzette elaborated its city profile, realized the self-assessment exercise and developed a work programme that focus on the four following areas: governance of culture, culture and economy, culture and social inclusion, culture and education. Esch-sur-Alzette also published in 2017 the Cultural Strategy of the City for the period 2017-2027, under the title “Convivencia”.

The City of Gabrovo (Bulgaria) was one of the first Pilot Cities of the Agenda 21 for Culture, yet the city participated to the first phases of the development of the programme in 2014, together with 7 other cities coming from around the world. The City contributed to shape Culture 21 Actions as well as the Pilot City programme. Therefore, from the official launch of the programme in 2015, the city has been part of it, completing phases progressively with the support of the expert Catherine Cullen, UCLG Committee on Culture and Culture Action Europe. The initial self-assessment permitted to the city to formulate pilot measure related to governance of culture, culture and education, as well as culture and economy that are now being implemented.

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/cuenca

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/cuenca

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/gabrovo
The City of Galway (Ireland) started to work as a European Pilot City in the course of 2016 with the support of the experts Catherine Cullen and Beatriz García. Galway established its city profile and completed the first exercise of self-assessment which was presented during a public seminar open to citizens, cultural actors as well as non-cultural sector. In the context of its participation to the programme, Galway introduced a good practice called “A cultural sustainability framework for Galway”.

**Galway’s Self-Assessment and Data from the Global Panel 2015**

The City of Izmir (Turkey) took part into the European Pilot City programme in 2016 and has been working very actively towards its development with the support of the experts Jordi Baltà, Catherine Cullen, Serhan Ada and Beatriz García. The city had completed much of the programme by the end of 2017 with the realization of the self-assessment, the elaboration of the work programme including pilot measures related to culture and education; culture and economy and culture and social inclusion; the organisation of various visits of cultural venues and public seminars and the participation to a peer-learning visit to Lisbon with other cities.

**Izmir’s Self-Assessment and Data from the Global Panel 2015**

The City of Leeds (England, United Kingdom) is part of the European Pilot City programme since 2017 and benefits from the support of the expert Clymene Christoforou. After competing for European Capital of Culture 2023 from 2015-2017 and finally having to pledge and respect the European Union decision to cancel all UK candidacies for ECoC as the United Kingdom had decided to step out of the European Union (Brexit), Leeds took the decision to pass over this sudden cancelation and to pursue the development of its cultural activity programme under the name Leeds 2023, supported by the Leeds Culture Trust newly set up by Leeds City Council’s Executive Board. In this context, the city realised the initial self-assessment and organised a public conference in order to present it.

**Leeds’s Self-Assessment and Data from the Global Panel 2015**

The City of Lisbon (Portugal) was one of the first cities to join the European Pilot City programme in 2015, and realised with the support of the expert Catherine Cullen, the city profile as well as the initial self-assessment that was presented during a public seminar in March 2016. Lisbon was the 2017 Iberoamerican Capital of Culture. In the course of the same year, the city presented its new strategy for culture, and in October, it visited Buenos Aires and elaborated a report which is available online. The city presented two cultural programmes that were recognised as good practices.

**Lisbon’s Self-Assessment and Data from the Global Panel 2015**
The City of Mérida (Yucatán, Mexico) became Pilot City in 2016. On 29-30 August 2016 the self-assessment workshop “Mérida - Pilot City for Agenda 21 for culture: 2016-2018 Development and Perspectives” was held at Olimpo Cultural Centre, followed by the elaboration of a work plan published in June 2017 and based on cultural rights, social inclusion and culture and economy. Luciña Jiménez, expert in the implementation of Agenda 21 for culture, supported the process in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

Available documents:
More information on: http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/mérida

The City of Namur (Wallonia, Belgium) responded to the second call launched in September 2016 and started the activities two months later with the city profile, the initial workshop and the first self-assessment, with the help of the expert Catherine Cullen. On the basis of this exercise, the city elaborated a work programme which includes pilot measures on cultural rights, governance of culture, and culture and education, as well as two good practices identified during prior visits by experts at different cultural institutions and venues. Namur also realized a peer-learning activity by visiting the city of Lyon (France). The report of this visit is available online. Finally, Namur worked to propose two good practices of the Agenda 21 for culture: the NA! initiative, and Confluent Culture.

Available documents:
More information on: http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/namur

Sinaloa was the first state in the Republic of Mexico to commit to Agenda 21 for Culture, celebrating a seminar on Cultural Policies and Sustainability in November 2015 and launching officially the initiative in August 2016. On 20-21 September 2016 Sinaloa organised a self-assessment workshop based on Culture 21 Actions. Additionally, three awareness-raising meetings were held, and a public presentation of the workshop in November as well. The expert Luciña Jiménez supported Sinaloa throughout the process.

Available documents:
More information on: http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/sinaloa

The City of Swansea (Wales, United Kingdom) responded to the second call for European Pilot Cities in September 2016 and started the activities in late 2016 with the elaboration of the city profile, with assistance of the expert Beatriz García. The report of the initial workshop and self-assessment on Culture 21 Actions was published in early-2017, providing a frame for the elaboration of a work programme and pilot measures to be published in 2018, with the help of Phil Wood, expert on Culture and Sustainable Cities. The City of Swansea also published two videos which cover a set of activities related with cultural access and participation implemented in Swansea, including activities from the Pilot City work programme.

Available documents:
More information on: http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/swansea
The government (Cabildo) of the island of Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain) joined the European Pilot Cities Europe in 2017. By the end of that year the island carried out a self-assessment workshop on its cultural and sustainable development policies, and the profile was published as well. Tenerife counted on the support of the expert Antoine Guibert.

A dedicated website was launched to follow-up the activities of Tenerife as Pilot Island: http://tenerifecultura21.eu/

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/tenerife

In 2016 the City of Terrassa (Catalonia, Spain) joined the European Pilot Cities programme. In April 2016 a public presentation of the programme was held in the context of a preliminary visit, followed by a self-assessment workshop, carried out one month later, and the elaboration of the city profile. The city participated in a peer-learning seminar on Culture in Sustainable Cities in Malmö, in November 2016, and a peer-learning visit to Lisbon on 5-9 September 2017 with the cities of Cuenca, Izmir, Gabrovo, Mêrida, Rijeka and Swansea. These activities led to the design of a work programme in late 2017, focused on cultural rights, education, economy, public space and governance of culture. Also, in the context of the programme two good practices were delivered: “White Paper on Culture” and “City of Film”. The expert Jordi Baltà supported the city during this process.

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/terrassa

The City of Timişoara (Romania) joined the European Pilot City programme in late-2016, and has from the outset been understood to complement and extend the two other major cultural strategic commitments of the City, namely its Cultural Strategy (2014-2024) and its adoption as European Capital of Culture 2021 (TM2021). In this particular context, Timişoara started the activities with the organization of the initial workshop which gathered cultural and local actors and stakeholders in order to carry out the initial self-assessment on cultural policies for sustainable local development. The report of this first activity was published in July 2017 and was elaborated with the assistance of Ivor Davies.

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/timisoara

Available documents:
More information on:
http://www.agenda21culture.net/our-cities/timisoara
In the context of peer-learning, capacity-building and networking activities that UCLG Committee on Culture run annually, the Leading Cities programme is intended for cities with experience in the implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture and possessing solid conceptual and practical experience as regards the place of culture in sustainable cities. As a result, such cities become leaders in the implementation of Culture 21 Actions and the promotion and advocacy activities of the Committee on Culture of UCLG.

Leading Cities receive support from the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture, annually in the following domains: “Leadership and Advocacy” (Leading Cities are spokespersons for the Committee on culture of UCLG in international meetings and events), “Communication” (website, social networks), and “Cooperation and Learning” (technical assistance, capacity-building, good practices). The specific forms of assistance and support to be provided to each city are designed through consultation between them and the Secretariat of the Committee, since the aim of the Leading Cities programme is to tailor services to local needs and demands.

By participating to this programme, Leading Cities also demonstrate their commitment with the existence of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, with the development of its activities, and with the importance of all culture and cultural policies-related matters within UCLG. Leading Cities often play the role of spokespersons for the Committee on Culture of UCLG in international meetings, conferences and events, as well as in global debates on the place of culture regarding local people-centred policies for sustainable development.

By the end of 2017, the Leading Cities of the Agenda 21 for Culture were Angers (France), Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain), Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil), Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain), Bogotá (Colombia), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Jeju (Republic of Korea), Lille-Metropole (France), Malmö (Sweden), Mexico City (Mexico), Montréal (Quebec, Canada), Talca (Chile), and Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada).

Following are presented the main activities and developments during the period 2016-2017.
In the period 2017-2018, a specific project on the relationship between culture and tourism in the city of Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain), was initiated by the Institute of Culture of the City of Barcelona (ICUB) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture of UCLG. In this context, a primary report was prepared, with the aim of studying the impact of tourism on the cultural system of the city and its different agents, and the purpose of identifying the components of the current debate in this field, analysing the challenges to be faced and determining the lines of action and proposals to be followed. This report is available online in English, Catalan and Spanish.

The structure of the report is based on the commitments and actions of “Culture 21: Actions” which have a clear relationship between culture and tourism (section 1), the presentation of data and an institutional context on the role of culture in the city’s tourism policies (section 2), the analysis of the key challenges identified (section 3) and the formulation of possible lines of work and proposals for policy action in this area (section 4). The contents are based on the analysis of “Culture 21: Actions” and other bibliographical sources related to the cultural dimension of tourism, mainly in the context of Barcelona.

The City of Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil) has been very active in the Committee on Culture of UCLG. As a pioneer Pilot City in 2014, Belo Horizonte contributed to inform the elaboration of the Culture 21 Actions practical document, as well as the design of what was going to become the current Pilot City programme, “Culture in Sustainable Cities. Learning with Culture 21 Actions.”

Belo Horizonte was also the first city to ever win the International Award ‘UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21’ in 2014, which gave the city even more momentum for further collaboration with the Committee on Culture of UCLG. Following this, the City of Belo Horizonte organized an International Conference on ‘Education and Culture’ in April 2016.

In the framework of its participation to the Leading City programme of the Agenda 21 for Culture, the City of Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain) elaborated a good practice called “The Performing city – Performing arts policies in Bilbao,” which describes and summarizes thirty years of building a strategy for the city and performing arts.

Prior to this activity, and as a Leading City, Bilbao had also hosted the first UCLG Culture Summit in March 2015, which gathered during 3 days more than 300 participants from all continents, cities and local or regional governments, experts in the field of culture and cultural rights, civil society, academics and other interested key actors to discuss the place of culture and local cultural policies in sustainable development, at the local level, but also in the global agendas, being also the occasion for the network to adopt the essential and practical toolkit Culture 21 Actions.

The City of Buenos Aires (Argentina) has always been very actively committed to the Agenda 21 for Culture, being one of its main authors, and assuming from 2005 to 2015 the role of vice-president.

Since 2015, the city is the co-president of UCLG Committee on Culture. During the years 2016 and 2017, it was very actively involved in the activities of the Committee, as well as in the design of the work plans for the same period, co-chairing annual meetings of the Committee and representing its interests in various international events, conferences and seminars. It was for example the case for the Informal Hearings of Habitat III in New York in 2016, where Luciana Blasco, then subsecretary for culture of Buenos Aires, gave a speech both in the name of her City and of the Committee.

Proving the high commitment, interest and leadership of the City of Buenos in the global reflexion on the place of culture in sustainable development, the Organization of three International conferences on “Cities, Culture and Future,” respectively in 2013, 2014 and 2015, which provided time and space to discuss the development of the Toolkit Culture 21 Actions’ before its official adoption in Bilbao (March 2015). Moreover, Buenos Aires was chosen as the host city of the 3rd UCLG Culture Summit, to take place in 2019.

In the course of 2017, the city of Bogotá (Colombia) shared with the Committee on Culture of UCLG the materials, knowledge and contents which permitted to elaborate a new good practice entitled “Inhabiting community culture.” The good practice, which complete three other good practice documents in the case of Bogotá, describes the city strategy to design and implement a management model for mobile structures able to guarantee a permanent schedule for cultural events that are connected to the community actions of each specific territory.

Prior to this activity, the City of Bogotá had hosted in November 2016 the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, and 5th World Congress of UCLG, entitled “Local voices for a better World”. In this context, the Committee on Culture had organized sessions addressing cultural aspects and dimensions of development, among which, one counted with the participation of the Secretary for Culture of the City, Ms. María Claudia López.
Because of its strong commitment to UCLG activities, being the president of UCLG section for Asia-Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC), and given its demonstrated solid background in cultural policies for people-centred sustainable development, the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Republic of Korea) became a Leading City of the Agenda 21 for Culture in 2016. Before, Jeju had been committed in the development of the Culture 21 Actions guide as one of the 8 pioneer cities and local governments which helped the making of the fundamental document.

As a Leading Province, Jeju carried out in 2016 a self-assessment on local cultural policies within its territory, and elaborated, together with the expert Catherine Cullen a report which included the results of the evaluation based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions of Culture 21 Actions, which they had helped framing a few years before. The full report, as well as the ‘Radar’ of Jeju are available online.

As a Leading Province of the Agenda 21 for Culture, Jeju also hosted and coorganized the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit in May 2017 together with UCLG, UCLG Committee on Culture and UCLG-ASPAC, which gathered almost 800 people and became the most relevant international event on culture, cultural policies and sustainable development for cities and local governments. The event was recognized by the World Urban Campaign as an Urban Thinker Campus.

For the past five years, Mexico City (Mexico) has been relentlessly demonstrating its leadership on culture in sustainable cities. The city has been part of the Presidency of the Committee on Culture of UCLG since 2013; it was part of the vice-presidency from 2013 to 2016, and it became one of the two co-presidents in January 2016. Since the launch of the first edition in 2013-2014, Mexico City has been coorganising together with UCLG and its Committee on Culture the International Award – UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21’ (3rd edition launched in 2017), which is a unique Award that recognises leading cities and individuals that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a key dimension in sustainable cities.

In late-2016, Ms Lucina Jiménez, expert of Agenda 21 for Culture, elaborated a report entitled ‘Governance of Culture and Sustainable Development’ for Mexico City not only in the framework of its status of Leading City but above all in the framework of the drafting of a new Constitution for Mexico City. This report is available online.

The city of Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada), adopted the Pilot City programme in 2014, and since 2015 has been part of the Leading City programme for the implementation of Agenda 21 for culture. Within the framework of the programme, the city of Vaudreuil-Dorion received support from Antoine Guibert, expert on the UCLG Committee on Culture, with the aim of working on the issue of governance of culture in Culture 21: Actions. From this collaboration came out a report entitled ‘Reinventing a new System for Governance of Culture’, available online.

Vaudreuil-Dorion also won the 2nd edition of the International Award ‘UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21’ in 2015-2016, ex-aquo with Timbuktu, and enjoyed the occasion to develop even more its commitment to the Committee on Culture of UCLG. The city has been participating, and representing the voice of the Committee in some international events.
Since 2013, the Committee on Culture of UCLG selects good practices that constitute examples of the placing of culture in sustainable cities. The good practices all have to go through an evaluation based on 6 criteria (innovation, participation, sustainability, efficiency, transversality and reproducibility), and are indexed by a set of 8-10 keywords chosen among a thesaurus of 75, elaborated by UCLG Committee on Culture. There are all available in English, French and Spanish. Between 2016 and 2017, 65 new good practices, coming either from applications to the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21, from Pilot Cities, or from spontaneous collaborations and case studies from cities of the network, and were identified added to the 63 first ones, raising the total number of cases up to 128.

In 2017, the UCLG Culture Committee worked behind the scenes to provide a more friendly-user database. The aim was:

• to improve the search engine
• to index all good practices according to the 17 SDG, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and the 75 keywords of the thesaurus
• to offer a nice design

The result of this process will be launched in 2018.

With more than 120 good practices on culture, sustainability and people-centered local policies, Agenda 21 for Culture’s website hosts a very useful database that can inform and influence global development agendas.
The Committee on Culture of UCLG works with a group of experts from all continents. They are fundamental in the organisation and facilitation of peer-learning and capacity-building seminars and activities for cities and local governments in the context of the Pilot Cities and Leading Cities programmes, and Culture 21 Lab. We wish to express our gratitude for the great work they do!
Presentation

The objective of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 is to recognise leading cities and individuals that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a dimension of sustainable development. The Award reaffirms the leadership of Mexico City in the relationship between culture and sustainable development and the commitment of UCLG to place culture as a fundamental dimension of sustainable cities through the Agenda 21 for culture.

The Award was born from the joint initiative of UCLG, its Committee on Culture, and Mexico City in 2013, with a successful first edition in 2013-2014, which gathered 56 applications from cities and local governments from all over the world, and awarded the City of Belo Horizonte, as well as Manuel Castells and Farida Shaheed.

The second edition of the Award took place between 2015 and 2016. The call for projects was launched in November 2015 and closed in March 2016, allowing some 83 cities, local and regional governments from all continents to send an application.
The Jury of the Award was composed by five prestigious international experts with impeccable trajectories in the cultural field. The members of the Jury evaluated each city or local government project according to its capacity to link cultural values (heritage, diversity, creativity and knowledge) with democratic governance, citizen participation and sustainable development of cities, basing the assessment process on a list of criteria available online.

The International Jury of the second edition of the Award examined all the bids and was impressed by the very high quality of them. At the end of the selection process, a brief announcement and a long report were issued. Almost three quarters of the candidacies were considered very good examples, turned into good practices and promoted as such on demand of the Jury.

The winners of the Award were Timbuktu and Vaudreuil-Dorion (as Cities), and Jon Hawkes and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui (as Personalities). This second Award’s edition of the Award reaffirmed the UCLG’s commitment of UCLG to place culture as a fundamental dimension of sustainable cities, and gave continuity to the leadership of Mexico City in the field of people-centred cultural policies. The Award was a success in terms of the identification and promotion of good practices.

With this second edition, the ‘International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21’ became, henceforth, the place for sharing and exploring the connections between local cultural policies and practices, ensuring their visibility in the international agenda in the field of sustainable development. In a nutshell: with the Award, organisers are contributing to the creation of a global community of cities and people that prove culture is one of the unavoidable dimensions of development, when development is centred in people.

83 candidates cities, local and regional governments
The programme “Cultural heritage and reinvigoration of socio-economic activities in Timbuktu” focuses on the rehabilitation of the cultural sector and the revitalisation of crafts, following the recent occupation by armed groups of the regions of northern Mali. This caused significant damage to cultural heritage, practices, and expressions: population displacement; destruction of innumerable historical monuments, memorial sites and ancient manuscripts; intense pillaging of archaeological sites and museums; and prohibition and weakening of cultural practices and traditions. The project associates the rehabilitation of cultural heritage with the rehabilitation of socio-economic activity, in particular of crafts. It has worked on ways of reinvigorating intangible heritage and arts and crafts, and also suggests ways of strengthening the city council’s capacities and improving local governance.

The Jury decided that the candidatures “Cultural heritage and reinvigoration of socio-economic activities in Timbuktu”, presented by the city of Timbuktu (Mali) and “I AM... / The adventure of one community in the middle of a transformation”, presented by Vaudreuil-Dorion ( Quebec, Canada) won the Award for the category “City, Local or Regional Government”.

The programme “I am... / The adventure of one community in the middle of a transformation” has been underway in Vaudreuil-Dorion since 2010 and works to promote the emergence of a united community that experiences differences as richness. Each year, 20,000 citizens take part in some 600 workshops based around 50 main activities. The goal has been to create encounters that allow an understanding of others and encourage respect for differences. Active citizen participation through cultural mediation and creative acts is at the centre of community reinvention. Here, citizens rub shoulders, interact, and learn to understand one another. Besides working directly on social cohesion, these cultural activities contribute to solid progress in terms of environment, physical and mental health, economy and urban planning.

The Jury also decided to make special mention of Busan ( Republic of Korea), Dakar ( Senegal), Kaunas ( Lithuania), Lake Megantic ( Quebec, Canada) Montevideo ( Uruguay) for their outstanding candidacies.
Author of the book “The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: culture’s essential role in public planning”. With this book, Hawkes significantly contributed to transforming the basic structure of public policy making. The core concept that informs his work has become central to many policy development strategies at the local level throughout the world. By proposing culture as a fourth perspective from which to view sustainability (and indeed, all of the key concerns of public policy), Hawkes not only raised culture to the same level as the three traditional dimensions of policy development – economic, social and ecological – he also helped to focus the “sustainability” discourse on culture. For Hawkes, culture “has always been a process rather than a product” and its value “lies in its making far more than in what is made.” Consequently, locally-generated cultural action becomes the key to sustainable development and takes place within and between communities. Without a vital and inclusive public culture, imagining a future (what else is planning?) can never be effective or wholesome. Always committed to practical local action, Jon currently works with Melbourne-based organisations, Ilbijerri Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co-operative, The Substation Multi Arts Centre and J-Studios, an artist-run studio collective.

Hawkes’ Library, Jon Hawkes’ Biography
To Survive Humanity Must Change its Behaviour: the 21 Attributes of Cultural Vitality (the article that he wrote for the Award)

“To survive humanity must change its behaviour.”
Sociologist and activist, she is a member of the free independent collective Colectivo Ch’ixi in Bolivia. She was professor of Sociology at the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés in La Paz (UMSA) for over two decades, where she is now Emeritus Professor. She was also a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Columbia (New York, USA), Austin (Texas, USA), La Rábida (Huelva, Spain), Jujuy (Jujuy, Argentina), and lastly at the University Andina Simon Bolivar (Quito, Ecuador). Along with other intellectuals, in 1983 she founded the Andean Oral History Workshop (THOA), a self-managed group that focuses on orality, identity and the indigenous and popular social movements, particularly in the Aymara region. In the last few years she has been involved in the setting-up of El Tambo Colectivo, a cultural centre in La Paz which aims to combine academic knowledge, manual work and environmental practices. She is the author of several books and throughout her life she has also directed fiction and documentary videos and films. Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui’s work deals with continuity in the logic of domination of indigenous identities and cultures, including in those contexts where diversity and the value of indigenous cultures have been officially recognized.

Biography of Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui

"Shutting down the Past to Open up the Future: Retracing La Paz’s Footsteps" (the article that she wrote for the Award)

"We are in a world that prefers to erect monuments to the past and not to stop the destruction of the present."
In May 2017, the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Jeju-do, Republic of Korea), hosted the 2nd Culture Summit of UCLG, which gathered over 800 participants from across the world. Held in the city of Jeju, participants had the opportunity to engage in three days of international knowledge-sharing, peer-learning and networking, as well as to discover several cultural practices and activities and the beautiful landscape of the island of Jeju.

This second edition built on some of the results of the 1st Culture Summit, which had taken place in Bilbao in March 2015. On that occasion, the Culture 21 Actions toolkit on culture in sustainable cities had been adopted. Therefore, the 2nd Culture Summit was enriched by the experiences of many cities and practitioners that had put Culture 21 Actions into practice, including the cities participating in the UCLG learning programmes Pilot Cities and Leading Cities. The title of the Jeju Summit, ‘Commitments and Actions for Culture in Sustainable Cities’, referred to the aim of illustrating how Culture 21 Actions’ 9 thematic commitments and its 100 specific actions were being brought to life in cities, strengthening the specific ways in which culture embodies sustainable development.

Further to these practical tools and experiences, the 2nd Culture Summit addressed broader aspects of the relation between culture and sustainable development, including in the global agendas. Indeed, the previous years had seen the adoption of...
the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including the SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, as well as the Statement of the 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments. To a varying degree, these documents included some references to culture – it was now time to see how their implementation could be strengthened and how further awareness and knowledge on the place of culture could be fostered.

In what could be seen as the world’s largest gathering of cities for culture, local governments, international organisations, national governments, non-governmental organisations, artists, academics and other stakeholders discussed the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability. More specifically, the following themes were addressed:

- **Policy innovation and peer-learning on culture and local sustainable development**, with one plenary session presenting experiences from several cities that had implemented Culture 21 Actions, as well as a range of parallel sessions addressing cultural rights, culture and urban planning, cultural industries and sustainability, and gender in cultural policies, among others.

- **Excellent experiences and contributions to culture in sustainable cities**, as illustrated in the involvement of several of the cities that had been recognised in the previous editions of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.

- **Advocacy and alliances on the place of culture in global agendas**, with one plenary session and two parallel sessions discussing how culture could be further recognised both in the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda and in future global agendas on sustainable development. To this end, the Summit involved several international organisations and civil society networks, from both culture and other sectors. More specific thematic sessions were devoted to the development of a multi-stakeholder platform on SDG11.4, which addresses cultural and natural heritage in cities, and to the strengthening of collaboration on culture and climate change.

- **Enhanced international and regional networking**, through the involvement of an extensive number of Asian local governments, organisations, and civil society activists, who became familiar with UCLG’s work in the field of culture, a meeting of the UCLG-ASPAC Committee on Culture, and the organisation of sessions on city networks and on cities holding Capital of Culture titles.

- **New ideas and narratives on culture in sustainable cities**, thanks to the involvement of over 90 speakers, the presentation of challenging ideas and the reflection on stronger approaches and narratives on the place of culture in local sustainable development coming from all world regions.

Among the main speakers at the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit were UCLG President Mpho Parks Tau, the Governor of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, WON Hee-ryong, the Coordinator of Cultural Cooperation and Capacity-building at the Ministry of Culture of the City of Buenos Aires, María Victoria Alcaraz, poet KO Un, and the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Karima Bennoune.
Welcoming participants of the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit to Jeju, Governor Won Hee-ryong stressed how culture is the medium that gathers people and brings meaningful change and explained that his own experience as President of UCLG-ASPAC had allowed him to see the importance of culture in sustainable development. In this respect, the values of coexistence (between past and future, between culture and nature, etc.), diversity and culture (including networking among cultural actors) were key to achieve a positive sustainable development in 2030.

**Won Hee-ryong**

"With the old and the new, the past and the present, and the coexistence of past and future generations, people are using culture as the medium to gather together."

**Ko Un**

Renowned Korean poet Ko Un, an honorary citizen of Jeju, reflected on language as being the core of culture, and on the importance of local cultures and rootedness. Culture is created spontaneously, rather than as a government product made on directions from the centre – therefore, decentralisation of cultural aspects should be recognised. The cultural foundation is the key to all development – event economics says openly that there is no economy without culture. Ko Un closed his speech with a poem, translated into English as 'A Certain Joy': ‘... How joyful it is / that I am composed of so many others...’

"Culture is autonomy, not control. Culture is not passive but active. Culture is both the centre of the circle and its circumference. It is the heart of the body."
Representing the Co-Presidents of the UCLG Committee on Culture, María Victoria Alcaraz presented the conclusions of the 2nd Summit. They included the reaffirmation of cities and culture as fundamental aspects in approaches to sustainable development and the importance of long-term cooperation, such as that which had led to the Agenda 21 for culture over a decade earlier, and which was increasingly drawing more stakeholders around the table. She stressed the need to continue fostering peer-learning among cities as well as the Committee on Culture’s willingness to raise awareness about the cultural dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

The UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights (instead of The UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights), Karima Bennoune gave a keynote speech on cultural rights. She affirmed the Agenda 21 for culture was ‘an important document for our times’, which provides ‘an important vision from a cultural rights perspective’ and highlights the role of local governments as human rights actors. She argued that cultural rights are a critical counterweight to fundamentalism and extremism, and that the Agenda 21 for culture is a good tool to counter monolithic and polarising ideologies. She identified some fundamental aspects for the implementation of cultural rights today, including public space, funding, and the full inclusion of women across all aspects of culture and cultural rights.

Karima Bennoune

“The Agenda 21 for culture seeks to ensure that cultures and cultural heritages build bridges, not walls. It recognises that the default setting of the human spirit is open, not closed, and that, therefore, we must keep the doors open.”

María Victoria Alcaraz

“Creativity, social innovation, the recognition of collective memories, diversity and cultural rights make up a fundamental part of any people-centred approach to sustainable development.”
The President of UCLG, Mpho Parks Tau, closed the Summit, thanking all partners and participants. He argued that, as the experiences of towns, cities and regions show, no single area of work can contribute to a resilient sustainable society. In the case of culture, it is not enough to merely state that it lies at the core of sustainable development – it is necessary to design more enabling, accessible cities, where culture plays a key role. He stressed the importance of localising global agendas and recalled that putting culture at the heart of sustainable development is no easy task, but that no other process could be more motivating and inspirational, nor closer to the spirit of local diversity and self-government that moves the UCLG network.

“"We must recognise that thriving cities are those that embrace diversity and foster cohesion. We must strive for people-centred cities that allow residents to co-create the city they want.”

Mpho Parks Tau

The 2nd UCLG Culture Summit in Jeju was organised by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, UCLG, the UCLG Committee on Culture, and UCLG-Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC); in collaboration with the Governors Association of Korea, the Jeju Free International City Development Center, the Jeju Foundation for Arts & Culture, and Jeju Province Development Co.; and in partnership with the International Council on Monuments and Sites – ICOMOS, the Asia-Europe Foundation – ASEF, and the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies – IFACCA. It was recognised as one of the Urban Thinkers Campuses promoted by the World Urban Campaign of UN-Habitat.

A full report of the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit, as well as other materials of the event are available on the website of the UCLG Committee on Culture. The 3rd UCLG Culture Summit will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in April 2019.
Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda

Habitat is the global conference on cities and human settlements organized every 20 years by the United Nations (UN). Habitat III, the 3rd conference took place in Quito (Ecuador) in October 2016, with the topic ‘sustainable urbanization’. We, as the Committee on Culture of UCLG, participated in this major international meeting.

Previously, three meetings of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III (PREP COM) took place in New York (September 2014), in Nairobi (April 2015) and in Surabaya (July 2016). Our former President, Catherine Cullen, participated in these meetings. In September 2014, Recommendations made by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III in this context include “Culture as a driver and enabler of sustainable development” as a key policy area.

In the framework of preparations for Habitat III, the UN Task Team had published 22 issue papers, as summary documents on a range of areas related to housing and sustainable development. Among these is an issue paper on “Urban Culture and Heritage”. Following the publication of these issue papers, a series of online “Urban Dialogues” was launched in July 2015. In this context, the UCLG Committee on Culture formulated a set of comments to guarantee that the new Urban Agenda provided complete details of a culture-based approach to local sustainable development.

Finally, in January-March 2016, the Secretariat of Habitat III convened several Policy Units, composed by 20 experts each, bringing together individual experts from a variety of fields, including academia, government, civil society and other regional and international bodies. The coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Culture, Jordi Pascual, was a member of the Policy Unit 2. The final policy paper entitled “Sociocultural urban frameworks”, prepared by the members of this Policy Unit, was distributed in the PrepCom III (July 2016).

The New Urban Agenda was approved in Quito on 20 October 2016. From a culture-based approach to local sustainable development, it is a very significant document because:

• In the “declaration” or foreword, it contains several interesting mentions of cultural development (par 4), cultural diversity (par 10), and cultural expressions (par 13).
• There are several positive phrases in the implementation plan. Firstly, some sentences related to cultural services, for inclusion and mutual understanding (par 26, 34, and 37). Also, there is recognition of the contribution by heritage and cultural industries to economic development (par 45 and 60). Some interesting sentences are devoted to the role of natural and cultural heritage as key elements in integrated urban policies (par 38). In what is surely the most concrete mention, it calls for the due consideration of heritage and culture in urban planning and design (par 97, 124, and 125).

However, the New Urban Agenda remains a weak document in the following aspects:

• Culture is not recognised as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.
• There is no specific chapter dedicated to cultural issues.
• There is no mention of creativity, the arts or critical knowledge, nor the relationship between culture, access and the internet. Today, all of these issues are fundamental parts of urban life.
• Some transversal elements of urban policies, such as the relationship between culture and education, or between culture and tourism, are also missing.

Two side notes, also important:

• UNESCO presented its global report Culture: Urban Future; it analyses the situation, trends, threats and existing opportunities in different regional contexts.
• the Alternative Habitat 3 programme of debates took place simultaneously to the official Summit, and was full of very interesting content, but cultural themes are not very present.
The Bogota Commitment and Action Plan

UCLG organises its major World Congress every three years. After Paris (2004), Jeju (2007), Mexico City (2010) and Rabat (2013), Bogota was the host of the UCLG World Congress in 2016.

The most important outcome document of the Congress was the Bogota Commitment and Action Plan. This document includes very clear wording on the place of culture in local development.

The introduction of the document says: “At precisely the moment in which the majority of the world’s global population are urban citizens living in an array of settlements, we have come to realize that the current production model has reached its own limits and that the global community is confronted with both the persistent challenges of increasing social inequalities and the task of the ecological restoration of planetary systems while protecting cultural diversity.”

Moreover, the Action Plan includes a full chapter devoted to “Promote local heritage, creativity and diversity through people-centred cultural policies”. The chapter affirms that “culture is a vital element of citizenship, integration and co-existence” and that “it should be seen as the fourth pillar of sustainable development”. The chapter affirms that “all citizens have the right to culture” and promotes a number of specific policies to achieve this will.

PROMOTE LOCAL HERITAGE, CREATIVITY AND DIVERSITY THROUGH PEOPLE-CENTRED CULTURAL POLICIES

Culture is a vital element of citizenship, integration and co-existence. Culture should be seen as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. All citizens have the right to culture. Cities and territories should promote active cultural policies, in particular:

- Draw up and implement cultural policies and activities and guarantee good governance of cultural policies;
- Build on the cultural and heritage potential of cities and territories to promote a sense of place, identity and belonging;
- Recognize cultural diversity as a prerequisite for innovation, co-responsibility and peaceful resolution of conflicts;
- Acknowledge and promote creativity as an aspect of human experience and a source of progress;
- Integrate heritage and culture in urban planning, including through appropriate cultural impact assessment methods;
- Integrate the cultural economy in local economic development strategies;
- Reconnect culture and education to support the acquisition of cultural skills and knowledge;
- Adopt and promote the Agenda 21 for Culture.

#HabitatIII
#NewUrbanAgenda
#Agenda2030
#SustainableDevelopmentGoals
The World Assembly

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments is the joint voice of local and regional leaders. The Assembly is convened by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, which is convened by United Cities and Local Governments.

The Assembly builds on the legacy of the First World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLA), held just before the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul in 1996. More than 500 mayors participated in WACLA, highlighting the vital role of local government in urban development and calling for a permanent structure to coordinate their partnership with the UN.

The Second World Assembly met in Quito on 16 October 2016, in the frame of Habitat III. The Assembly was the mechanism through which the local and regional government constituency brought its political voice to the Habitat III processes, providing inputs from local and regional leaders on the New Urban Agenda.

The Second World Assembly agreed on a Statement with 12 considerations, 12 commitments and 4 Calls to Action. The wording of this Statement on culture is very clear: “We commit to integrate culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and take action to foster heritage, creativity, diversity and peaceful co-existence.”

Preparing the Guide

The UCLG Committee on Culture includes advocacy on culture in sustainable development as one of the priorities in its annual programmes. In 2017 the Committee drafted a document to guide its members in the understanding of the cultural dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft document was discussed at the UCLG Culture Summit of Jeju. The Committee plans to publish the document in 2018.
What is the role that cultural policies play in Buenos Aires?

We believe that the role that cultural policies play must be closely related to the ecosystem in which we are immersed, and must also be in dialogue with the transformation process that, in our case, Mayor Horacio Rodríguez Larreta is leading. Our intention is to guarantee that the Ministry of Culture is explicitly involved in the great conversations of public policy in the city of Buenos Aires. We face the challenge of how culture can have a leading role in the articulation of these debates. This fact led us to develop a cultural strategy for Buenos Aires. This strategy currently exists as a government plan, and it is reflected in the “control panel” of our government, with specific objectives, metrics and indicators. This was a challenge, of course. We were including a very innovative system. We are widening the reach of cultural management. This involved, in many cases, building the baseline and then building indicators, designing suitable objectives... We were convinced this step was very important. So, in the case of our city, we have a plan that is conceptually based on the local conversation of culture as a key factor in local development. And then, “double clicking” on this, the discussion on access to culture is a very relevant issue that cannot be missed. In Buenos Aires, as in any other city, there is an unequal access to culture. In our view, culture is a key tool in the construction of individual and collective identity. It is a very clear indicator of development. Evidences exist, study after study: they show that active participation in culture makes citizens more robust and empowered. Therefore, access to culture is not a minor issue. The difficult step here is how to intervene so that there is an actual change in this matter. In general, in our country, there are not many successful programmes to have a real impact.

Can you tell us a little more about these 4 axes?

Our first axis is to think and to promote a city on a human scale. A city where, regardless of where you live, you have the same opportunities. This goal, from a cultural point of view, means thinking of culture no longer in a centre-periphery scheme: a centre where everything happens and a periphery where little or nothing happens or at least it is invisible. We need to convey and convince there is culture no longer in a centre-periphery scheme: a centre where everything happens and a periphery where little or nothing happens or at least it is invisible. We need to convey and convince there is culture in all the city of Buenos Aires, and that our job has to do with illuminating and promoting what already exists in terms of identity, cultural creation throughout the city (...) rather than bringing culture to the neighborhoods. To do this, we launched a...
programme called “Creative neighborhoods”. This project is fresh. It is presented in a competitive format that is actually an excuse to energize and revitalize the entire local cultural scene. We promoted, as an excuse, let me insist, a contest among 30 neighborhoods. We identified 30 mentors -referents of the independent culture of each neighborhood- and asked them to facilitate working tables that met every week in each one of the 30 neighborhoods, and in different spaces. They jointly developed awesome cultural programmes. I am calling the contest an “excuse” because the interaction that interests us between the different actors at the territorial level is already taking place and the reflection of that working table, which is absolutely independent of government, relies on the cultural and artistic identity of each one of the neighborhoods. Then, we have a winning neighborhood, 3 mentions, and, in 2019, all the power of communication in addition to the resources. It is very important for us to show that diversity. The motto of the programme is “There is much more Buenos Aires than we all imagine”. Then, an unmet neighborhood of the city will appear for a whole year with quality programming created by the neighborhood’s own cultural actors with our support. The legacy that really interests us the most is the new network of cultural and gastronomic spaces, the appropriation of public space by culture... With these actions, we are not proposing what is spectacular, but rather what strengthens the local network and activates the community.

The second axis has to do with independent culture. Buenos Aires is recognized for its independent culture throughout the world. There are more than 500 spaces including theatres, music venues, cultural centres, art galleries ... And we understand it as a source of pride for us. In Buenos Aires, unlike many other cities, we are fortunate to already have a large number of independent cultural spaces. We also have a vast community-driven culture, that is, grassroots initiatives generated in neighborhoods, youth spaces, sports clubs, retirement centres, often in vulnerable districts. Actually, our cultural density is very high. Then, our challenge is much more to celebrate this grassroots culture, and to support their management and communication capacities. And this is what we are doing. On the one hand, we are committed to have a new law to promote independent cultural spaces, basically to make regulations simpler and to encourage anyone who has the vocation to develop a cultural space to do so with public support, with clear and efficient regulations, and accessible from the internet as well. Furthermore, the idea is to integrate all these initiatives into the general communication channels of the city. Of course, they need to maintain their independent character, but allowing anyone to know all the offer available in a neighborhood, both public and private. Along these lines, we are working on creating neighborhood clubs so that they offer residents cheaper entry fees. Together with the Ministry of Education, we are promoting the “Extended Day” programme, where students of public schools are offered out-of-school activities. Until now it was only done in sports clubs and this year we are going to see 100 independent cultural spaces added to that programme. This will allow children who live in a neighborhood and go to school 2 blocks from their house, to spend the afternoon in a theatre near their house with pedagogical activities, and, in this way, the cultural space becomes a space with a strong relationship with the community, that is, the theatre will also become a sounding board of what happens in the community.

We also have a management training programme, an academy for independent cultural spaces that seeks to help them understand their business. In the cultural field, there is much room for improvement since those are spaces that may not work every day of the week and only from 7 pm onwards. Why not celebrate children birthdays in a theatre? Why not get together to watch the World Cup in that theatre? This management implies an ongoing dialogue with the sector, which is what we are promoting.

A third axis has to do with the funding for culture. Buenos Aires is by far the country’s district with the most direct funding for culture, because we have mechanisms to stimulate theatre, music, milongas, and even dance, as well as a fund that finances all disciplines, the metropolitan fund. In addition to the public financing system, that also deserves a reflection (and in fact we are seeing which is the most powerful mechanism for these resources to come directly to creation), we are also reforming the sponsorship law of the city of Buenos Aires, precisely to encourage an increase in private funding for culture. Though still waiting to have accurate data, intuition tells us that Buenos Aires is one of the cities with the least private investment in culture. We want the private sector to have greater visibility in the projects; otherwise there is no real incentive. On the other hand, we are going to create an award for business leadership in culture. We will soon have a Commission of companies that are already investing in culture, and we will ask for their help to convince other companies to do the same. We hope that this Commission will significantly increase private investment. Of course, by no means this is aiming at replacing public investment. We believe in the concept of cultural social responsibility and we want to generate enough incentives.

Finally, the fourth and last axis has to do with the idea of inclusion. Today, Buenos Aires is undergoing a remarkable process of transformation, with a very clear political decision so that people living in vulnerable situations, in the villas (comparable to the concept of “favela”), have decent living conditions. As a government, we have decided to move clearly in that direction in a process that will take several years, that is already happening. This is a process of social integration that involves different areas of our government. For us in the Ministry of Culture, this challenge is very relevant: we see culture and education as the software of this
process whereas our colleagues in the area of urban planning are in charge of the hardware. We have two main programmes. The first programme is “Art in Neighborhoods”: a programme with a massive presence in the twenty vulnerable neighborhoods of the city. It has three very clear components: outings, workshops and events. We have created a very strong calendar of cultural outings, targeting young people but also open to the whole community, and where every day there is an activity—more than 1000 per year—, with a pedagogical nature and a training component. We have also put together an offer of workshops in the territory with artists and teachers who, in some cases, are already evolving towards small schools because they are already codifying their contents. And we are supporting events: we seek to guarantee access to culture in a very clear way (an example: the last BAFICI, our independent film festival had 36 venues, many of them in vulnerable neighborhoods). The second programme, which we are going to launch in August, is the “Cultural neighborhoods). The second programme, which we are going to launch in August, is the “Cultural

What else would you highlight about the cultural policies of Buenos Aires?

Unlike other cities that have mixed governance systems, in Buenos Aires everything is very centralized in the city government. I am not saying that this is good, and we should reflect on the future in terms of models, good international practices that allow us to see alternatives ... But, in this sense, we have the Teatro Colón, the Theatre Complex with the Teatro San Martín, the Usina del Arte, the Recoleta Culture Centre, the 25 de Mayo Culture Centre, we have 30 public libraries, 10 museums, 7 cultural centres in the neighborhoods, 36 cultural centres that work in the afternoon in schools, the San Martín Culture Centre, National Schools as well as our Ministry’s Schools that depend on the MAD—which is the School of Performing Arts-, the Falia and the Piazzola -both are music schools-, the Vocational Institute of Art... The city really has a lot directly at its disposal. Furthermore, we believe that culture must be part of the public space. That culture has to be present in parks, on public transport... It is quite a challenge and we have to work with our colleagues in other areas to understand their constraints, their limitations, to see how to reconcile them ... but we are determined to move in that direction. On the other hand, the Ministry of Culture will be the first liaison for anyone with culture and the city. I also believe another main service that we can provide and it seems to me that it is a very specific stimulus and that it is something that differentiates us from other networks. I also want to highlight the work of international advocacy: it is essential we insist to the United Nations on the relationship between culture and the city. I also believe another challenge is to become even more relevant, by bringing people outside the cultural circles to think about cultural problems.

The connection between the local and international level is the main challenge of UCLG, and clearly this is shared by the Culture Committee. What could you tell us about the mandate that the UCLG Culture Committee has as a space for dialogue, as a space that has promoted debates and tools on culture and development?

I have known UCLG and its Culture committee for a long time. Moreover, as a person who works and is dedicated to these issues, I always pay much attention to what the Committee does. Now, it is incidentally my turn to be in an official role and I would like to highlight very much the work that we do in the Committee in the identification and dissemination of good practices. I think this is the main service that we can provide and it seems to me that it is a very specific stimulus and that it is something that differentiates us from other networks. I also want to highlight the work of international advocacy: it is essential we insist to the United Nations on the relationship between culture and the city. I also believe another challenge is to become even more relevant, by bringing people outside the cultural circles to think about cultural problems.

Does the next UCLG Culture Summit that will take place in April 2019 in Buenos Aires go along those lines? Yes, the Summit clearly points in that direction. I hope it will be a very practical Summit. We want the Summit to be a great meeting where we can exchange good practices, where the processes themselves are put into crisis and allow us to end with concrete and measurable results. On the other hand, we hope to be able to show the enormous cultural offer that we have in Buenos Aires and share it so that it is an experience that eventually other cities can take as an example, because we are also taking advantage of experiences from other cities. Finally, we would like it to be a source of pride for the citizens, for the neighbours, that somehow will act as a communicating glass between people and what we debate within the Summit.

Very well, we are going to work for this success. Thank you, Enrique. Thank you, Jordi.

“The Ministry has organized a plan according to 4 axes that are in dialogue with the 4 main priorities in the city administration: promoting the city on a human scale; independent culture; funding for culture; and inclusion.”
The following are some of the main documents produced by the UCLG Committee on Culture in 2016-2017, as well as other recommended publications related to the Committee's work.

*Why must culture be at the heart of sustainable urban development? (2016)*, by Nancy Duxbury, Jyoti Hosagarahar and Jordi Pascual.


This study was published in the framework of the preparations for the approval of the “New Urban Agenda” at Habitat III (the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development) in Quito, Ecuador (17 – 20 October 2016), and the “Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century” of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) at its World Congress in Bogotá (12 – 15 October 2016).

“Why must culture be at the heart of sustainable urban development?” aims at placing culture at the centre of the debates on the sustainable development of cities, providing constructive and positive narratives, policy proposals and recommendations to counteract myths and challenges identified, with the ultimate intention to go beyond debates on ideas and operationalize a new model of sustainable urban development that explicitly integrates culture, cultural heritage, and creativity within it.

*Culture, Cities and Identity in Europe* (2016), by UCLG Committee on Culture & Culture Action Europe (CAE), and commissioned by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).


“Culture, Cities and Identity in Europe” was carried out in 2016 by UCLG Committee on Culture and Culture Action Europe following a call for tenders launched by the European Economic and Social Committee. The study was presented at the high-level conference on “Culture, cities and new narratives in Europe” on 20-21 June 2016, organized in partnership with the Culture and Education Committee of the European Parliament, BOZAR and the Council of Europe.

Following the framework proposed by the EESC, “Culture, Cities and Identity in Europe” provides an overview of studies and European good-practice examples, as well as reflections, new narratives, conclusions and practical recommendations which address 4 key areas related to the contribution of culture:

1. Culture as a vehicle for economic growth
2. Culture as an instrument for reconverting cities
3. Culture as a tool for integration and inclusiveness
4. Culture as a pillar of European identity within Europe and beyond.


In the context of increasing conflicts in Europe and other world regions which generate vast numbers of internally-displaced people, asylum-seekers and refugees, Cities, Refugees and Culture aims at emphasizing the role that public authorities, civil society organisations and individual citizens can play in fostering a culture of recognition; cultural activities can be an effective means of promoting community cohesion, creating better understanding and mutual acceptance between host communities and newcomers.

This briefing highlights the need for cultural policies and actors to engage in addressing the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers, rising international awareness and contributing to the discussion by bringing together a set of relevant approaches, examples and resources on cultural activities, policies and programmes concerned with the condition of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and migrants, implemented by many cities around the world.

*Culture, Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Briefing* (2016). UCLG Committee on Culture.


In the past years, climate change has entered global, regional and local agendas, not as a sectoral concern but as an issue which requires a transversal strategy within the environmental, economic, social and cultural spheres. The UCLG Committee on Culture, as several authors and research projects have stated recently, believes that climate change requires an approach that encompasses human beliefs, values and behaviour, rather than only technical and technological measures.

Within this general context, this briefing highlights a set of principles that describe the Committee’s approach to climate change and sustainable development:

1. Whilst climate change and sustainable development are global challenges, many of the measures required to address them should be implemented at local level.
2. Traditional knowledge, including that held by indigenous peoples and other communities and groups, can form the basis of a balanced, sustainable interaction between culture and natural ecosystems.
3. Creative projects can provide relevant, innovative responses to the challenges raised by climate change.
4. In addition, many individuals and groups around the world are carrying out informal practices in social and cultural innovation, which seek to foster a new balance between environmental preservation, citizen participation, social inclusion and contemporary creativity.
5. Traditional knowledge, artistic work on climate change and citizens’ informal creativity point to the unique, intrinsic features of culture, those which connect cultural aspects and sustainable development.
6. Efforts towards effective policy transversality should lie at the basis of local governments’ strategies to address climate change and foster sustainable development.
7. The notion of transversality and partnership should also extend to collaboration with cultural actors and civil society.
In 2017, Culture Action Europe invited several local activists, civil society organisations, local governments, city networks and international organisations to reflect on the current state of local cultural policies, and challenges ahead. Particular attention was paid to the connections with broader political agendas at local, national and global level. One of the articles, addressing the process of Habitat III, was written by Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

Towards cultural democracy: Promoting cultural capabilities for everyone

In 2016, in the context of increasing global awareness on migration and asylum, international performing arts network IETM published a study analysing how artistic projects, particularly in Europe and the Mediterranean, were addressing these issues and how they could further contribute to inclusion, cohesion and diversity. The report, written by Yasmin Fedda, Daniel Gorman and Tory Davidson, included an annex listing 161 projects, as well as a set of reflections and recommendations by Culture Action Europe and the UCLG Committee on Culture. An updated report was published in 2019.

Based on a 15-month research project in the UK, this interesting report written by Nick Wilson, Jonathan Gros and Anna Buli at King’s College London proposed a new approach to public support for culture, enabling everyone to co-create culture. The report drew among others on Martha Nussbaum and Amartya Sen’s ‘capabilities approach’, focusing on the freedom to create and the strengthening of cultural capabilities for all.

In 2019, Culture Action Europe and the UCLG Committee on Culture published a report entitled ‘Culture and Human Rights: The Wroclaw Commentarist’ which provides a broad perspective, and many detailed articles, on the connections between culture and human rights. In addition to the published book, a website gave access to some of the individual articles collected.

Published in the context of Wroclaw – European Capital of Culture 2016, in partnership with ARCult Media, this collective, cross-disciplinary work presented a broad perspective, and many detailed articles, on the connections between culture and human rights. In addition to the published book, a website gave access to some of the individual articles collected.

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In this thematic report published in 2017, the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Karima Bennoune, addressed the rise of fundamentalism and extremism and their great impact on the enjoyment of cultural rights. In order to face this, she argued that arts, education, science and culture are critical to creating alternatives, making space for peaceful contestation, promoting inclusion and protecting youth from radicalisation.

Culture, Urban Future: Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000265999

The Art of Civil Action

Political Space and Cultural Dissent

https://www.culture'actioneurope.org/understanding-the-art-of-civil-action

https://www.culture'actioneurope.org/library/the-act-of-civil-action

The impact of fundamentalism and extremism on the enjoyment of cultural rights


Edited by Philipp Dietachmair (European Cultural Foundation) and Pascal Gielen (University of Antwerp), this collection of essays and case studies addressed the emergence of transnational, connected forms of civil society mobilisation addressing global issues. It paid attention in particular to the role of culture and the arts in these frameworks.

Creation and Displacement: Developing new narratives around migration

https://www.arts.ie/et/publications/creation-and-displacement-developing-new-narratives-around-migration

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https://www.kcl.ac.uk/Cultural-Projects/Towards-cultural-democracy.aspx

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In 2016 and 2017 the Committee on Culture of UCLG was involved in many activities related to culture and sustainable development. The following are some of these events held in different cities that work close to the Committee across the world.

**Beyond the Obvious**

The Annual Conference Beyond the Obvious 2016, was organised by Culture Action Europe in Budapest on 26-27 January 2017 with the title “Quo Vadis, Europe?”. A specific meeting for the European members of the Pilot Cities programme included presentations from the cities of Galway, Lisbon, Mantova, Nova Gorica, Swansea, Tenerife and Timișoara.

In November 2017 several European Pilot Cities and some of the members and experts of the Committee on Culture of UCLG were invited to attend the Beyond the Obvious 2017 conference organised by Culture Action Europe in Rome, with the title “Belonging & Becoming: Culture, Heritage and our Future”. The session devoted to the Pilot Cities programme welcomed the experiences and the expectations of Debrecen, Elafonisa, Esch-sur-Alzette, Leeds, Nova Gorica, Rijeka, Swansea, Tenerife and Timișoara.

**Creative Mobilities 2017**

On 29 September 2017 the Committee on Culture of UCLG participated in the Creative Mobilities Seminar and Congress held in Grenoble, France.

The Creative Mobilities International Forum was co-organized by Territoires Associés, SMTC and Terra21. The Creative Mobilities is an initiative of Valeria Marcolin and focuses on the human dimension of urban mobility, including the potential synergies between mobility, creativity, cultural, and sustainable development in cities and human settlements. The objectives of the Forum were “Promoting sustainable mobility forms through culture, education and creativity” and “Promoting the territories’ identity and their cultural richness through mobilities”. Mexico City, the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, and the cities of Quito and Medellín represented the UCLG Culture Committee in this important event.

**European Development Days (EDD)**

On 15-16 June 2016, the UCLG Culture Committee participated in the forum of the European Development Days entitled “Sustainable Development Goals in Action: Our World, Our Dignity, our Future”, alongside several other global and European cultural networks and organisations. The forum’s debates and discussions focused on the ambitious 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The event, which included the participation of Young Leaders, offered a rich cultural agenda, including activities on art, music, photography and dance, and 64 Global Village stands.

On 7-8 June 2017, the UCLG Culture Committee participated in the Special Event “Investing in Creativity: The Future is Now”, co-organised with Culture et Développement for the European Development Days. The Special Event focused on the intrinsic links between culture and development: cultural programmes and projects, as well as the so-called ‘creative industries’ have a significant impact on countries’ economic growth, environment, equality, security, education and governance.

**Rijeka: Participatory Governance in Culture**

As part of the preparations of Rijeka to host the “European Capital of Culture” title in 2021, the International Conference “Participatory Governance in Culture: Exploring Practices, Theories and Policies. Do It Together” was held in Rijeka on 22-24 November 2017. The cities of Lisbon and Timișoara, as well as the Secretariat of the UCLG Culture Committee, participated in the event.
04 tweeting

British Council Creative Economy
@UK_CE
Culture and the #SDGs - have your say and feed into @ucig_org Guide for Local Action http://bit.ly/2yeA8MU
11:38 a.m. · 8 Nov. 2017

Beatriz Garcia
@beatriz_garcia
#MinjaYang discusses heritage & development referring to @agenda21culture as a significant referent for urban sustainability #liverpoolwhs
7:14 p.m. · 1 Nov. 2017

Monserrath Tello A.
@monsetelloas
Avanzamos con nuestro plan #CiudadesPiloto y cumplimos con agenda de #AñoDeLaCultura @agenda21culture @jordipascual21 @jordibalta @El_Glock
4:29 p.m. · 11 Oct. 2017

agenda21culture
@agenda21culture
@UNSRCulture says it’s the moment of working for #culture globally and across local regions. The #CultureSummit gave us great opportunities
12:30 p.m. · 31 May 2017

agenda21culture
@agenda21culture
@LucinaJimenez destaca que el #CultureSummit permita relacionar experiencias de las #ciudades de todo el mundo que están aplicando la #a21c
3:16 p.m. · 6 Sept. 2017

United Cities
@ucig_org
À Jeju les villes se sont engagées à défendre la place de la culture dans les agendas mondiaux #CultureSummit
9:45 a.m. · 13 May 2017

SecretaríaCulturaBta
@CulturaenBta
Esfuerzos para lograr desarrollo sostenible tendrán éxito si se consideran aspectos culturales de la vida en las comunidades. #CulturaSummit
4:58 a.m. · 12 May 2017

United Cities
@ucig_org
M'XACARAZ "hemos descubierto ventajas de compartir entre iguales para poner a cultura en el centro de del diálogo sostenible" #CultureSummit
7:15 a.m. · 12 May 2017

Culture 21 [re]view
El premio #UCLG_CDMX_C21 para “personalidad” fue dado a Jon Hawkes y Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui.

Hoy entregamos el Premio #UCLG_CDMX_C21, galardón que motiva a las ciudades mundiales a adoptar los principios de la @agenda21culture

Hoy se entregó el Premio #UCLG_CDMX_C21 a líderes destacados por su aporte a la cultura como pilar del desarrollo sostenible.

Una apuesta por políticas culturales potentes puede renovar la ciudad @El_Glock #UCLGCongress #BogotaEsLaCumbre

Human rights are ultimately a local task, require engagement on th ground #Listen2Cities #H3PrepCom3 #Habitat3 #NewUrbanAgenda

La cultura es un pilar esencial del desarrollo sostenible de las ciudades contemporáneas #Habitat3 @agenda21culture @ViveElHatillo

Culture is a key dimension of urban transformation #Habitat3 #Listen2Cities. Read the statement: http://bit.ly/2a8l2bK @uclg_org

We need more cultural rights for sustainable urban development #Habitat3 #Listen2Cities. Read the statement: http://bit.ly/2a8l2bK @uclg_org

United Cities @bucg_org

Zayd Minty on how the creativity can be found as a local resource without the need to go somewhere else #CultureSummit

Koji Kajiyama: “We have to create our Culture. Culture should be created by people, and centred on their experienced needs” #CultureSummit

RelacionesInt Bogotá @Bogotainter_nal

María Claudia López de BICulturaenBtia destaca la importancia de valorar la diversidad y la interculturalidad #CultureSummit @bucg_org
Wish to know more about us and to be kept updated and actualized with all our latest news?

Subscribe to our bi-monthly newsletter! HERE!
In 2016 and 2017, the Committee on Culture of UCLG was co-chaired by Buenos Aires and Mexico City, and vice chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Paris and Porto Alegre.