



INTERNATIONAL AWARD
UCLG - MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21

COMMUNIQUE

3 EDITION



CDMX
CIUDAD DE MEXICO



UCLG
United Cities
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culture 21
UCLG Committee

3rd edition

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CONTEXT

The objective of the “**International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21**” is to recognize leading cities and personalities 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 has two categories: city and individual.

The **first edition** of the Award was celebrated between 2013 and 2014. The “city” category was won by the programme “Arena da Cultura” presented by Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil), and the “individual” category by Manuel Castells and Farida Shaheed.

The **second edition** of the Award was held in 2015-2016. The Jury granted the Award to the project “Cultural heritage and reinvigoration of socio-economic activities in Timbuktu”, from the City of Timbuktu (Mali), and to the project “I AM... / The adventure of one community in the middle of a transformation”, presented by Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada), in the “City / Local or Regional Government” category. In the “Individual” category, the Award was also given jointly to Jon Hawkes and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui.

The **third edition** of the “International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” was presented to the UCLG World Council in Hangzhou (5 December 2017). Since November 2017, forms for the presentation of candidatures have been available on the Agenda 21 for Culture website. Several organizations, including the UCLG World Secretariat, the UCLG Committee on Culture and the Government of Mexico City, participated in the promotion of the call for candidatures; at the same time, many international networks in the field of culture, as well as the UCLG regional and metropolitan sections, multiplied the impact of the call among their members.

The deadline for the submission of candidatures was 16 March 2018.

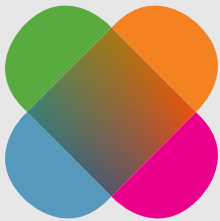


JURY

The Jury of the Award was made up of the following five members, all of whom are prestigious international experts with outstanding careers in the cultural field.

- ◆ **Farida Shaheed (President of the Jury).** A sociologist and director of the Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre (Lahore, Pakistan), a pioneering centre on sustainable development issues with a gendered lens in Pakistan. She was the first UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights (2013-2015) and the winner of the first edition of this Award.
- ◆ **Catherine Cullen.** Special Advisor on Culture and Sustainable Cities for the UCLG Committee on Culture, which she also chaired between 2012 and 2015. She was previously Deputy Mayor for Culture in Lille, France (2001-14) and is currently a member of the UNESCO Panel of Experts for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD).
- ◆ **Lucina Jiménez.** She holds a PhD in Anthropological Sciences and is the Director of ConArte, an organisation that fosters education for arts and peace in public schools and in communities. She is also one of the experts of the UCLG Committee on Culture and a member of the UNESCO Group of Experts on the Governance of Culture and Development.
- ◆ **Eduardo Nivón Bolán.** He holds a PhD in Anthropology (UNAM) and works as a lecturer-researcher in the Anthropology Department of the Metropolitan Autonomous University – Iztapalapa since 1981. He also chairs C2 Cultura y Ciudadanía, a platform for cultural policy research and design.
- ◆ **Eduardo Vázquez Martín.** A poet, artistic promoter, publisher and journalist. The founder of the journals Milenio, Viceversa and Laberinto Urbano, in 1998 he was also one of the founders of Mexico City's cultural policies. He is currently the Councillor for Culture of Mexico City and co-president of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

The Jury analysed the applications presented in the two categories between 1 April and 5 May 2018 and held its final meeting on 7-8 May 2018 in Mexico City.



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CATEGORY CITY / LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

This category recognises a city, local or regional government the cultural policy of which has contributed significantly to linking the values of culture (heritage, diversity, creativity and transmission of knowledge) with democratic governance, citizen participation and sustainable development.

The Award is given to the candidate local or regional government that wins a competitive call process, open to direct or indirect UCLG members.

The Award recognises an original policy, programme or project that explicitly includes the principles of the Agenda 21 for culture. The action awarded should count on, at least, two years of implementation and have documented evidence of the impact and the successes achieved. The winning city receives the amount of Euro 50,000, which need to be used for its international promotion (the publication of a book, participation in forums, international visibility) and to strengthen the local implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture.

The third edition of the “International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” received **99 submissions from cities and local and regional governments** from all corners of the world:

Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Quebec, Canada), **Ankara** (Turkey), **Bağcılar** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Baie-Saint-Paul** (Quebec, Canada), **Bhopal** (Madhya Pradesh, India), **Bogor** (West Java, Indonesia), **Bologna** (Emilia-Romagna, Italy), **Busan** (Republic of Korea), **Catbalogan** (Philippines), **Chefchauen** (Morocco), **Cheongju** (Republic of Korea), **Chiang Mai** (Thailand), **Cowansville** (Québec, Canada), **Cuautla** (Morelos, Mexico), **Cuenca** (Ecuador), **Donostia/San Sebastian** (Basque Country, Spain), **Douala** (Cameroon), **Dublin** (Ireland), **El Carmen de Viboral** (Antioquia, Colombia), **Esch-sur-Alzette** (Luxembourg), **Estrie** (Quebec, Canada), **Foumban** (Cameroon), **Gabrovo** (Bulgaria), **Gaziantep** (Turkey), **Granollers** (Catalonia, Spain), **Greater Dandenong** (Victoria, Australia), **Hamilton** (Ontario, Canada), **Hammana** (Lebanon), **Hola** (Kenya), **Huechuraba** (Santiago, Chile), **Iriga** (Philippines), **Izmir** (Turkey), **Kashan** (Iran), **Kaunas** (Lithuania), **Kazan** (Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation), **Kisangani** (Democratic Republic of Congo), **La Paz** (Bolivia), **Lake Megantic** (Quebec, Canada), **Larissa** (Greece), **Longueuil** (Quebec, Canada), **Louisville** (Kentucky, USA), **Loures** (Portugal), **Lutsk** (Ukraine), **Lyon** (France), **Mannheim** (Baden-Württemberg, Germany), **Mashhad** (Iran), **Medellín** (Colombia), **Metepéc** (State of Mexico, Mexico), **Moncton** (New Brunswick, Canada), **Montevideo** (Uruguay), **Montmagny** (Québec, Canada),



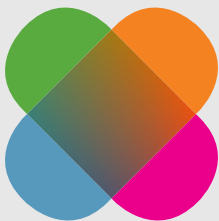
Montréal (Quebec, Canada), **Nablus** (Palestine), **Nahr Ibrahim** (Byblos, Lebanon), **Ndop** (Cameroon), **Nevşehir** (Turkey), **New Taipei**, **Ngoulemakong** (Cameroon), **Nilüfer** (Turkey), **Novosibirsk** (Russian Federation), **Panamá** (Panamá), **Pavlograd** (Ukraine), **Paysandú** (Uruguay), **Pécs** (Hungary), **Pincourt** (Quebec, Canada), **Puerto de la Cruz** (Canary Islands, Spain), **Ramallah** (Palestine), **Rennes** (France), **Roberval** (Quebec, Canada), **Rosario** (Santa Fe, Argentina), **Rostov-on-Don** (Russian Federation), **Sahagu** (Busan, Republic of Korea), **Saint-Camille** (Québec, Canada), **San José** (Costa Rica), **Sancaktepe** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Santa Fe** (Santa Fe, Argentina), **Santa Maria da Feira** (Portugal), **Santiago** (Metropolitan Region, Chile), **Santo André** (São Paulo, Brazil), **Seferihisar** (Turkey), **Segou** (Mali), Semarang (Indonesia), **Seongbuk** (Seoul, Republic of Korea), **Sfax** (Tunisia), **Solo** (Surakarta, Indonesia), **Soria** (Castille and León, Spain), **Strasbourg** (France), **Talca** (Chile), **Taipei**, **Taichung**, **Tehran** (Iran), **Tel-Aviv Yafo** (Israel), **Terrassa** (Catalonia, Spain), **Trois-Rivières** (Quebec, Canada), **Vadodara** (Gujarat, India), **Vaudreuil-Dorion / Les Arts et la Ville** (Quebec, Canada), **Villa María** (Argentina), **Zitácuaro** (Michoacán, Mexico), **Zouk Mikael** (Kesserwen, Lebanon).

The world faces enormous challenges, some of them with a clear cultural dimension. These challenges have a clear “localization” in a city scale; indeed, many local governments are addressing them through policies, programmes and projects. Despite the difficulties, often in some extremely difficult contexts, the cultural scene reacts, builds and fights for a better world.

Without doubt, culture is part of the solution to the challenges of our humanity. The applications submitted to this Award demonstrate how, throughout the world, the debates on sustainable urban development, democracy and freedoms, unequivocally involve culture, that is diversity, knowledge, memory and creativity.

The jury wants to express its gratitude to all candidate cities for their effort and dedication, and for the resources and enthusiasm they invested in presenting their candidacies.

The jury commends the commitment and willingness of the thousands of people associated to UCLG who have worked on all nominations for the third edition of the Award.



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The Jury decided that the winners of the Award (in alphabetical order) were the candidatures **“The Sustainable City of Lyon: the Charter of Cultural Cooperation”**, submitted by the city of Lyon (France) and **“Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance”**, submitted by Seongbuk (Seoul, Republic of Korea). Each candidature will receive EUR 25,000.

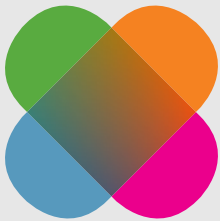
- ✦ **Lyon.** The **Charter of Cultural Cooperation** has been implemented for over 15 years in Lyon, involving 27 municipal services, cultural projects and events, including those that receive the most funding from the city, which altogether carry out over 300 projects, actions and services adapted to the challenges of policies that connect culture and sustainable development across the city. Now in its fourth edition, Lyon’s Charter of Cultural Cooperation now extends throughout the entire metropolis of Lyon, including 24 municipalities. The programme has become a powerful tool for cultural policy. The Charter promotes the convergence of cultural policies, in specific commitments, with each of the transversal local policies that contribute to ‘making’ a sustainable city: urban balance and solidarity, citizen participation, policies for equality and non-discrimination, memories and diversities, education and knowledge exchange, energy efficiency, environmental responsibility and social innovation. Furthermore, the programme involves a continuous process of shared reflection, information exchange, capacity-building, project design and evaluation with all stakeholders involved, at different territorial levels and on a range of regularly-evolving themes.
- ✦ **Seongbuk.** The programme **“Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance”** began in 2014 in Seongbuk, a district of Seoul, and has become the most important community initiative in this area, involving over 300 people working together on the basis of cultural governance. The Artist Roundtable defines itself as a network that works together for the coexistence and cooperation of the local culture. One of its objectives is the cooperative work with those responsible for the cultural policy of the city, through the Seongbuk Cultural Foundation and with the other public institutions with responsibility in the city. The Artist Roundtable operates on the values and principles of ‘autonomous activity’ (autonomy), ‘cultural democracy’ (democracy), ‘friendship and cooperation’ (solidarity) and ‘respecting cultural differences’ (diversity). Furthermore, the initiative organises local festivals, manages cultural venues and contributes to supporting the artistic and cultural community in the area.



The Jury also decided to make special mention of the following projects (in alphabetical order):

- ✦ **Dublin (Ireland)**, for the programme **“Culture Connects”**, established in 2015. This initiative is based on people’s stories, wishes and experiences. This is a very solid, innovative programme that contributes to cultural empowerment and which has shown the importance of listening, learning and sharing with local inhabitants. It also proves that, where willingness exists, cultural policies can be useful to those who most need them.
- ✦ **Hamilton (Ontario, Canada)**, for the programme **“Love Your City’: Transforming Hamilton through Culture”**, based on the consideration of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. The programme has taken the form of a Cultural Plan, with a holistic and integrative approach to planning, which involves the community using a variety of engagement techniques, resulting in a ‘shared responsibility for culture’.
- ✦ **Montevideo (Uruguay)**, for the programme **“Cultural Policies with a Perspective on Gender Equality”**, which has been shaped after in-depth discussions with the cultural actors in receipt of public funding and has led to very specific programmes and projects in the field. Its impact proves that, where political will and operational rigour exist, mainstreaming a gender perspective in cultural policy contributes to broadening freedoms for everyone.
- ✦ **Nablus (Palestine)**, for the programme **“Saving Cultural Identity under Occupation – Regeneration of Nablus Historic Centre”**, due to the commitment of local educational, civil and municipal institutions towards the regeneration of the historic centre, in order to enable local inhabitants to remain in their homes and ensure the rebuilding of hundreds of heritage buildings and houses.
- ✦ **Novosibirsk (Russian Federation)**, for the project **“Novosibirsk: Turning the City into a Museum”**, which promotes cultural and artistic activities in the city’s public spaces, the uses of information technologies and citizen involvement in specific activities.
- ✦ **Saha-gu (Busan, Republic of Korea)**, for the project **“Gamcheon Culture Village Project”**, a multiannual urban regeneration initiative through the arts and culture, which has contributed to revitalising the Gamcheon village. The project has involved close cooperation among residents, artists and the local government, in an innovative system of democratic governance.

These six projects are excellent examples of local implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture.



CATEGORY INDIVIDUAL

This category recognises an internationally-renowned person who has made a fundamental contribution to the relationship between culture and sustainable development. The award is given by the Jury, without an open competition process. The selected individuals receive EUR 25,000. The Jury has decided that the individual award be shared ex-aequo by two people (in alphabetical order):

- ✦ **Basma ElHusseiny.** Cultural manager and activist. Basma ElHusseiny is now leading the organisation **Action for Hope**, based in Beirut, that seeks to provide cultural relief and cultural development programmes to communities in crisis, with a focus on refugees and impoverished communities. She has been involved in supporting independent cultural projects and organizations in the Arab region for the past 30 years. Basma was the Arts Manager of the British Council in Egypt (1988-1998) and the Media, Arts & Culture Program Officer for the Ford Foundation in the Middle East and North Africa (1999-2003). In 2004 she founded **Cultural Resource – Al Mawred Al Thaqafy**, the Arab region's leading independent cultural organization, and was its director until September 2014. In 2006 she also co-founded the Arab Fund for Arts & Culture (AFAC), and was a founding trustee until 2009. She also co-designed the Master's Degree in Cultural Policy and Cultural Management at the Hassan II University in Morocco. Basma is a UNESCO expert in cultural governance, member of the Arab Cultural Policy Group, previous member of the Advisory Board of the **Center for Cultural Policy and Management**, at the Bilgi University in Istanbul and the Egypt representative of the **Arterial Network** (Africa's largest cultural network).
- ✦ **Patrice Meyer-Bisch.** He holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and completed a professorial thesis on Political Ethics at the University of Strasbourg, France. Until 2016, he coordinated the **Interdisciplinary Institute of Ethics and Human Rights** (IIEDH) at the University of Fribourg, and he currently chairs the **Observatory on Diversity and Cultural Rights** (an IIEDH programme established in 2004) and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Democracy, at the same university. He is well-known for his work in the field of cultural rights at an international scale, as the main promoter of the **Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights** (2007), the result of 20 years of work by an international group of experts, known as 'the Fribourg Group', which fosters cultural rights within the human rights system. Patrice Meyer-Bisch has conducted research in several European and African countries. He has significantly influenced the understanding of cultural diversity and cultural rights as ways to achieve inclusive sustainable development for everyone and in all areas, through the effective implementation of the interdependency of human rights. In the context of these activities, cultural rights are understood, alongside economic rights as well as civil, political and social rights, as the basis, the 'grammar', the space for interpretation, for the development of all individuals and societies.



CONCLUSION

The third edition of the Award has been a very enriching experience, enabling us to learn about policies, programmes and projects that cities and local governments around of the whole world have developed in areas connecting city, culture, citizenship, and sustainable development.

This Award demonstrates that, without a doubt, diversity, heritage and creativity, that is, culture, make up a fundamental dimension of sustainable cities throughout the world.

The projects submitted also serve to illustrate the close relationship that exists between local cultural policies and practices, on the one hand, and international development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda.

Awards for both categories will be presented on 18-20 October 2018 in Mexico City, in the framework of a high-level international seminar on 'Cultural Rights in the City', alongside the annual meeting of the UCLG Culture Committee. All members of the UCLG Executive Bureau are cordially invited to attend.



www.award.agenda21culture.net