



UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

4th EDITION - INTERNATIONAL AWARD

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE JURY



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO





4th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

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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, Local or Regional Government” 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” category. In the “Individual” category, the Award was also given jointly to Jon Hawkes and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui.

The **third edition** of the Award was held in 2017-2018. The cities of Lyon (France), and its cultural policy “The Sustainable City of Lyon: the Charter of Cultural Cooperation” and Seongbuk (Seoul, Republic of Korea), with the programme “Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance” were recognized by the International Jury as winners in the category “Cities”. In the category “Individuals”, the Jury decided to award jointly Basma El Husseiny, and Patrice Meyer-Bisch.

The **fourth edition** of the “International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” was presented to the UCLG World Council on the occasion of the World Congress of UCLG in Durban (15 November 2019). The deadline for the submission of bids was 18 March 2020. Between these dates, application and nomination forms have been available on the website dedicated to the Award. Several teams, 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.

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.

- ◆ **José Alfonso Suárez del Real y Aguilera** (President of the Jury). Current Secretary for Culture of Mexico City, he has a recognized career as a journalist and cultural promoter, as well as a vast experience in cultural public policies and Human Rights.
- ◆ **Lourdes Arizpe**. Former Secretary General and member of the United Nations Commission on Culture and Development. She has managed cultural projects in many countries of the world as UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Culture.
- ◆ **Catherine Cullen**. Special Advisor on Culture in Sustainable Cities, she is the former Deputy Mayor for Culture for the City of Lille, France, and the former Chair of the Culture Committee of UCLG.
- ◆ **Lupwishi Mbuyamba**. Ethnomusicologist, educated in philology and philosophy, researcher and scholar, he is currently the Executive Director of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa and President of the African Music Council.
- ◆ **Aysegül Sabuktay**. Director of the Izmir Mediterranean Academy, a unique organization founded by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality in 2011 as a think tank and a democratic cultural platform; Izmir will host the UCLG Culture Summit in 2021.

The Jury analysed the applications presented in the two categories between 29 March and 14 May 2020 and held its final meeting on 19-20 May 2020.



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GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



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, Culture 21 Actions and other global agendas with a cultural perspective (such as the UN 2030 Agenda or the New Urban Agenda, among others).

The fourth edition of the “International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” received 81 submissions from cities and local and regional governments from all corners of the world:

Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Quebec, Canada), **Acadia** (New Brunswick, Canada), **Adelaide** (Australia), **Azuay** (Ecuador), **Bagcilar** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Baie-Mahault** (Guadeloupe, France), **Balıkesir** (Turkey), **Bandung** (West Java, Indonesia), **Belo Horizonte** (Minas Gerais, Brazil), **Beylikdüzü** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Bologna** (Italy), **Brasilia** (Brazil), **Brazzaville** (Republic of the Congo), **Bulawayo** (Zimbabwe), **Cairo** (Egypt), **Carchi** (Ecuador), **Catalca** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Ceará** (Brazil), **Chiang Mai** (Thailand), **Ciudad Juárez** (Chihuahua, Mexico), **Concepción** (Chile), **Donostia/San Sebastian** (Basque Country, Spain), **Dublin** (Ireland), **Eindhoven** (the Netherlands), **El Cañar** (Congo, Ecuador), **El Carmen de Viboral** (Colombia), **Hamedan** (Iran), **Havana** (Cuba), **Huechuraba** (Chile), **Jatiwangi** (Majalengka, West Java, Indonesia), **Jinju** (Republic of Korea), **Jongno-gu** (Seoul, Republic of Korea), **Kashan** (Iran), **Kazan** (Russian Federation), **Kirtipur** (Kathmandu, Nepal), **Konya** (Turkey), **Krabi** (Thailand), **La Paz** (Bolivia), **Magas** (Ingushetia, Russian Federation), **Manchester** (England, United Kingdom), **Mar del Plata** (General Pueyrredon, Argentina), **Medellín** (Colombia), **Mérida** (Mexico), **Nilüfer** (Turkey), **Niterói** (RJ, Brazil), **Nizny Novgorod** (Russian Federation), **Novosibirsk** (Russian Federation), **Oradea** (Romania), **Osmangazi** (Turkey), **Pachuca de Soto** (Hidalgo, Mexico), **Papantla de Olarte** (Veracruz, Mexico), **Peñalolén** (Santiago, Chile), **Pincourt** (Quebec, Canada),

Puebla (Mexico), **Qingdao** (China), **Ramallah** (Palestine), **San Antonio** (Texas, United States of America), **San José** (Costa Rica), **San José de Cúcuta** (Colombia), **San Luis de Potosí** (Municipal Government, Mexico), **San Luis de Potosí** (State, Mexico), **Sancaktepe** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Santiago de los Caballeros** (Dominican Republic), **São Paulo** (Brazil), **Ségou** (Mali), **Stavropol** (Russian Federation), **Surakarta** (Indonesia), **Taichung**, **Tequila** (Jalisco, Mexico), **Terrassa** (Catalonia, Spain), **Torreón** (Coahuila, Mexico), **Trois Rivières** (Quebec, Canada), **Ulaanbaatar** (Mongolia), **Valongo** (Portugal), **Volgograd** (Russian Federation), **Wrocław** (Poland), **Xi'An** (China), **Yakutsk** (Republic of Sakha, Russian Federation), **Yalova** (Turkey), **Yeongdo-gu** (Busan, Republic of Korea), **Yopougon** (Abidjan, Ivory Coast).

The fourth edition of the “International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” coincides in time with the Covid-19 pandemic, an enormous challenge for humanity with a clear cultural dimension. The pandemic is extraordinarily impacting the cultural life in cities, threatening the sustainability of cultural organisations, networks and actors and, at the same, proving the prominent role of culture in ensuring well-being and fighting for a better world. During the crisis, cities and local governments are supporting cultural initiatives and infrastructure, encouraging collective reflection upon the relationship between cultural rights, democracy, freedoms, public space and well-being and promoting international cooperation and solidarity.

The Jury expresses the most sincere gratitude to all those that are working in the frontlines of the pandemic: the hospitals, the teams of public health and the providers of essential services. Alongside them, artists, creators and culture professionals, and the organisations in the culture sector, are having a fundamental role to guarantee access to information, encourage awareness and tolerance, promote well-being and resilience in individuals and communities and build the capacities to imagine the societies of the future.

The Jury notes that the Covid-19 crisis is making evident that culture is a pillar of people's lives. The Jury emphasises that culture must be central in the recovery, in the long-term development programmes at a local, national and international levels, and more than ever especially in the context of the Decade of Action for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Jury highlights that the applications demonstrate how, throughout the world, issues like heritage, memories, diversity, knowledge and creativity are strongly connected to welfare, freedoms and development, and that culture is essential to design a better future for all. Thus, 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, especially in these difficult times. The Jury also commends the involvement of the thousands of people associated to UCLG and Mexico City who have worked on the candidacies and the nominations.



4th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



The Jury decided that the winners of the Award (in alphabetical order) were the candidatures “**Network of Arts and Cultural Practices in Medellín**”, submitted by the city of Medellín (Colombia) and “**Ségou: A Creative City**”, submitted by Ségou (Mali). Each candidature will receive EUR 25,000.

- ◆ **Medellín.** The **Network of Arts and Cultural Practices** was created 24 years ago in Medellín, involving different artistic and cultural groups and organizations. The aim of the programme is to guarantee cultural rights for children, adolescents and youth. This community-oriented initiative supports more than 7,800 children and youth in the 16 communes and 5 townships of Medellín every year, providing them with opportunities for expression, exchange, learning, experimentation and enjoyment with a wide range of artistic, aesthetic, and cultural forms, including dance, performing arts, fine and visual arts, music and audio-visual. With this project, public access to culture in Medellín has increased by improving cultural infrastructure throughout neighbourhoods, setting up cultural training opportunities, and promoting specific programmes and offers for disadvantaged groups, in close collaboration with other municipal plans and programmes. Over the years, the Network of Arts and Cultural Practices has contributed to promoting and reinforcing Medellín as a cultural city committed to inclusive and participatory cultural policies aimed at enshrining cultural citizenship, sustainable development, and an improved quality of life and well-being for all inhabitants.
- ◆ **Ségou.** The project “**Ségou: A Creative City**” started in 2015 as an initiative by the Festival on the Niger Foundation. In partnership with the municipality of Ségou, the initiative has provided the city with a sound cultural policy focused on sustainable development. The implication and commitment of all cultural actors together with the local government and civil society in the implementation process of this solid initiative has helped unfold its main objectives, providing access for everyone to culture and enhancing the value of Ségou’s cultural identities -music, design and fashion, visual arts, heritage and gastronomy- and artistic and cultural creation, by putting art and culture at the centre of local development. “Ségou: A Creative City” has contributed to professionalize the cultural sector as well, improving the working conditions of cultural and creative actors and creating synergies among cultural organisations, stakeholders and citizens. Furthermore, “Ségou: A Creative City” constitutes a suitable framework for collaboration with other African cities, and promotes the implementation of projects based on co-creation, co-production, exchange of experiences and sharing of good practices.

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

- ◆ **Chiang Mai** (Thailand), for the programme “**Chiang Mai Centre Museums Network**”, established in 2002. This initiative fosters local culture and citizen participation with a collaborative approach, using its organizational capacity and central location as “working tools” that promote access to municipal resources and thus mobilize the city’s cultural capital, including indigenous heritage, as a movement for change to build a better sustainable future.
- ◆ **Concepción** (Chile), for the project “**Concepción Creation Centre (C3): a space for creative collaboration**”, based on sustainable development”. This collaborative workspace is a boost to local creative sectors such as design, architecture, technology, music and performing arts, and an illustrative example of infrastructure conceived as a priority for the city to promote culture as a pillar of sustainable development.
- ◆ **Manchester** (England, United Kingdom), for the programme “**Cultural Collaboration on Climate**”. This initiative, which brings together 35 cultural organisations and festivals and is completely aligned with the ambitions of the city’s first climate change strategy, is helping to build strong leadership on environmental awareness, and has made Manchester a powerful example and benchmark for cultural collaboration and engagement on climate action.
- ◆ **Ramallah** (Palestine), for the programme “**City of Music**”, an initiative that has contributed to the city’s natural turn to music as a factor of social transformation and development. “City of Music” shows how systematic work can create good conditions for the implementation of sustainable creative projects for the local communities, despite difficult and unstable political situations.
- ◆ **Ulaanbaatar** (Mongolia), for the project “**Ulaanbaatar Public Art Week**”, an initiative devoted to art and its relationship with the major themes of contemporary life, such as migration, the rural world and nomadism, ethnic minorities, democracy and climate change. The project is organised by Land Art Mongolia, an organisation which brings the specific context of the city and the region of Mongolia to the international debate on sustainable development.

- ◆ **Yopougon** (Ivory Coast), for the project **“Yopougon: Becoming an educational and creative city through social cohesion”**. This is a sound and complete initiative that demonstrates the willingness of the local government to place culture as a pillar of local sustainability policies. The initiative has a clear inclusive and participatory component, with specific lines on the integration of youth into the cultural and creative sector, which has resulted in the improvement of the well-being of citizens.

The Jury has also awarded the “Leona Vicario of Mexico” special mention:

- ◆ **San José** (Costa Rica), for the project **“Computer Clubhouse, San José South: Girls Only: Comprehensive Development for Girls and Prevention Against Teen Pregnancy”**. The Computer Clubhouse is a safe learning space focused on digital technologies that fosters cultural rights for adolescents in a context of inequality and exclusion. With the creation of the “Girls Only” programme in 2010, this small yet powerful initiative has proved that culture is key in developing the potential of youth to build democratic and peaceful societies.

Winners and special mentions are excellent examples of local implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture.



4th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21



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CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



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, based on confidential nominations. The winner receives EUR 25,000.

The Jury has decided that the individual award be shared ex-aequo by two people (in alphabetical order):

- **Eusebio Leal.** He has devoted his entire life to the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Cuba and of humanity. Dr Leal's distinguished sensibility, as well as his early incursion into public administration, allowed him to understand the scope and value of the cultural heritage of cities, particularly Havana, both for its citizens and for the rest of the world. He is Honorary President of the Cuban Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and Honorary President of the Cuban Committee of ICOMOS and of the Civil Society Heritage, Community and Environment; Professor Emeritus of the University of Havana and Doctor Honoris Causa in various prestigious universities worldwide. He chairs the Network of Offices of the Historian and Conservator of the Heritage Cities of Cuba. Throughout his professional career he has promoted the embodiment of the public space as a cultural space, preserving heritage as a common good through the restoration and conservation of the different works and projects he has been in charge of, with special emphasis on the Historical Centre of the city of Havana. Havana is today a complete and absolute symbol of this effort. For Dr Eusebio Leal, the city is highly representative of all the cultural, intellectual, political, historical and social values of the Cuban people, and it is also a great memory of the architectural development that succeeded in making Havana one of the most important post-colonial cities in Latin America.
- **Vandana Shiva.** Vandana Shiva is one of the pioneering figures of ecofeminism most recognized worldwide. Born in Dehradun, India, Ms Shiva is doctor of Physical Sciences, philosopher of science, ecologist, feminist and pacifist. She directs the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN) in India, which she founded in 1982. She is also the founder of Navdanya, a movement focused on women and dedicated to the promotion of biological and cultural diversity. In her defence of the food cultures treasured by indigenous peoples and their cultural and natural heritage, Vandana Shiva has explicitly linked issues such as food security and climate emergency to neoliberalism, cultural relativism, and the colonization and

spoliation of traditional agricultural knowledge. In this sense, she has provided keys to place culture at the core of the global debate on humanity's challenges. She has especially helped put women and girls, and biodiversity at the forefront of the fight to implement human rights policies, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other global agendas. Her approach to ecofeminism emphasizes scientific knowledge and dissemination as tools to preserve biodiversity and the autonomy of food cultures, and to guarantee people's cultural rights, including the most at-risk groups, without leaving anyone or any place behind.



4th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



CONCLUSION

The fourth edition of the Award has been an extremely meaningful experience, enabling us to learn about policies, programmes and projects that cities and local governments have developed to unchain the potential of heritage, creativity and diversity -that is, culture- as an unequivocal part of the solution to humanity's challenges.

These projects become especially relevant in a context such as the one we are experiencing, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The crisis has significantly affected the cultural ecosystems of cities, and cooperation and solidarity among cities, networks and cultural actors has proved crucial to overcome the impact of the crisis on cultural initiatives and organizations.

The crisis has emphasised the urgent need to create new possibilities to access heritage and knowledge, to build stronger systems of protection for the cultural workers, to strengthen the promotion of cultural rights considering broader frameworks of inequality, to multiply the collaboration between cities and governments, to foster measures which connect culture to broader debates that our societies are holding and to consolidate culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.

Awards for both categories will be presented on 13 May 2021 in Mexico City, in the framework of the commemoration of the 700th anniversary of the “lunar foundation of Mexhico” in 1321, an event that recalls the role of women in shaping the community and cultural identity of the future Tenochtitlan as indicated by the traditional Mexica sources. All members of UCLG are cordially invited to attend.



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