



UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT BUENOS AIRES 3-5 APRIL 2019

CITIES OF THE WORLD AGREE THAT CULTURAL FACTORS ARE KEY TO A SUSTAINABLE AND FAIR FUTURE

The 3rd Culture Summit of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), hosted by the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires on 3-5 April 2019, has served to visualise that **cities are the sites where a sustainable development model strongly anchored in culture can become effective**. Cities from across the world, represented by their local governments and by civil society activists and organisations, have met to reaffirm their commitment to access and participation in cultural life as a universal right, and with culture as an interpretative framework of contemporary realities.

The driving force between the Summit is the UCLG Committee on Culture, which since 2004 brings together hundreds of cities and local and regional governments that advocate for the recognition of culture in sustainable development and for guaranteeing cultural rights for everyone. Tools such as Culture 21 Actions, a guide that translates this discourse into practical action, have enabled **policy innovation, peer-learning and visibility** of relevant initiatives in these areas.

The arguments put forward by these cities are based on many experiences demonstrating that cultural activities enable individuals to **build citizenship** and communities to **make meaning and place themselves in the world, empower themselves, dialogue with one another, address conflict, and build peace**. Cultural agents and practices, the arts and heritage, also generate employment and wealth, give visibility to minority groups and peripheral regions, and contribute to the recognition of traditional knowledge, which provides a key connection between culture and nature.

In a global context affected by increasing conflicts which entail hate speech and foster confrontation, the 3rd UCLG Culture Summit aims to promote the inclusion of diverse voices in policy discussions, the design of cultural policies based on full respect for human rights, and the promotion of gender equality and the fight against discrimination of all kinds as fundamental elements for peaceful societies, where creativity based on diversity can flourish. Understanding culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development also involves placing young people at the centre of decision-making, as full citizens and agents of change and social transformation. It involves the full participation of women, and the design of models for cultural governance and creativity based on collaboration between governmental bodies and all other stakeholders, finding the right balance, as exemplified in the coexistence between public, commercial and independent programmes.



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The Culture Summit has for the first time been held alongside the meeting of the UCLG Executive Bureau, thus counting on the participation of mayors from many cities, as well as representatives of local government associations and other organisations from across the world. This formula has served to confirm that **reflections on culture in cities are not isolated, but are connected to the other challenges faced by cities**. We are convinced this transversality will allow us to develop policies with better impact.

The 3rd UCLG Culture Summit calls the United Nations, its member states and other agents in the international community to **reinforce the attention paid to culture in the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, the New Urban Agenda and the Climate Change Agenda. The necessary transformation to achieve the ambitious common goals established in them will not be reached without a strong base in communities, with culture as a tool of cohesion, transformation and hope. The rich and diverse experiences that Buenos Aires is home to in areas such as gender equality and cultural rights, social transformation, youth and independent culture, as well as the many experiences presented in the Summit by participating cities and actors, are witness to the infinite possibilities that cultural policies anchored in memory, rights, diversity, equality and innovation can provide to the future generations who are at the centre of our drive towards a sustainable future.

Buenos Aires, 5 April 2019