

CULTURE 21 LAB SUMMARY

REVIEW OF MAKATI'S CULTURE 21: ACTIONS SELF-ASSESSMENT

APRIL 2017

Culture 21 Lab is a capacity-building programme on culture in sustainable cities, promoted by the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

The City of Makati and the Committee on Culture of UCLG, in partnership with UCLG-ASPAC, agreed to hold the first-ever Culture 21 Lab in the Asia-Pacific region on 3-5 April 2017.

The Culture 21 Lab in Makati took place over 3-days, including plenary expert-led sessions, participatory workshops and visits to relevant venues and sites. The workshops involved 81 participants representing a broad range of sectors (see Annex 1). These workshops were run as parallel sessions, each of which focused on one distinct Culture 21 commitment. Participants were given the choice to contribute to three out of nine thematic sessions. On average, each workshop involved 25 to 30 participants, which enabled detailed discussions to unfold.

The Committee on culture of UCLG acknowledges the leadership of the following persons in the process of spearheading the Makati Culture 21 Lab:

- | **Mar-Len Abigail Binay**, City Mayor
- | **Monique Lagdameo**, City Vice-Mayor
- | **Violeta Seva**, Senior Adviser
- | **Rosalinda Cervantes**, Cultural Affairs and Toursim Consultant
- | **Vissia Marie Aldon**, Project Director, Makati Poblacion Heritage Conservation Project
- | **May Santillana**, Officer in Charge, Museum and Cultural Affairs Office
- | **Dwayne Samarista**, Project Development Officer

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CULTURE 21 LAB. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS

- » To foster **local learning** on how culture plays a role in the promotion of sustainable cities.
- » To **obtain a complete analysis**, obtained through participation, on where Makati stands as regards the integration of culture in its approach to sustainable development.
- » To **formulate a framework** for a Comprehensive Cultural Development Plan for the City of Makati
- » To **identify good practices and lessons** learned in Makati that could be relevant to other cities in Asia and Pacific.



CULTURE 21 COMMITMENTS AND SELF-ASSESSMENT APPROACH

The Culture 21 Self- Assessment exercise involves a detailed scoring sheet, organized around nine themes or 'Commitments', each of which translates into an average of 10 to 12 'Actions'. The Commitments are:

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1. **Cultural rights**
 2. **Heritage, diversity, and creativity**
 3. **Culture and education**
 4. **Culture and environment**
 5. **Culture and economy**
 6. **Culture, equality, and social inclusion**
 7. **Culture, urban planning, and public space**
 8. **Culture, information, and knowledge**
 9. **Governance of culture**

Discussions were structured around the nine Culture 21 Commitments, and participants were asked to score each individual Action as 'emerging' (1 to 3 points), 'developing' (4 to 6) or 'advanced' stage (7 to 9). At the end of each session, participants were asked to identify 'good practices' and 'measures to address weaknesses'.



GROUP OF EXPERTS

The self assessment was supported by the following invited experts:

- | **DR. BEATRIZ GARCIA**, Director, Institute of Cultural Capital, University of Liverpool; plenary presenter, Self-Assessment observer and Rapporteur, in charge of producing the current Radar 1 Report.
- | **MR. JORDI PASCUAL**, Coordinator, Committee on Culture, United Cities and Local Governments; plenary presenter and Chair of thematic workshops on: 1. *'Cultural Rights'*, 4. *'Environment'*, 8. *'Information & Knowledge'*.
- | **DR. MARCEL PANDIN**, Technical Policy Advisor, Ministry of Public Works, Republic of Indonesia; plenary presenter and Chair of thematic workshops on: 3. *'Education'*; 6. *'Equality & Social Inclusion'*; 7. *'Urban Planning & Public Space'*.
- | **MR. JASON VITORILLO**, Lecturer, La Salle College of the Arts, Singapore; plenary presenter and Chair of workshops on: 2. *'Heritage, Diversity & Creativity'*; 5. *'Economy'*; 9. *'Governance'*.
- | **DR. BERNADIA IRAWATI TJANDRADEWI**, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific; plenary session presenter.



PARTICIPANTS

The 81 invited participants represented the City Government of Makati, national government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. See the full list of participants in Annex 1. Broadly speaking participants represented the following types of institutions.

- | City Government of Makati: 34 participants
- | Barangay representatives: 15 participants, from seven different city districts
- | Metropolitan Manila Development Authority: 2 participants
- | National Commission for Culture and the Arts: 2 participants
- | Cultural Center of the Philippines: 2 participants
- | Department of Education Makati: 2 participants
- | Creative Industries representatives - Passion Projects: 8 participants
- | A selection of design, performing arts, visual arts, media and other creative agencies: 7 participants
- | City Developers (Rockwell Land, Ayala Land): 3 participants
- | Heritage / historical associations: 3 participants
- | Embassy of Spain : 2 participants



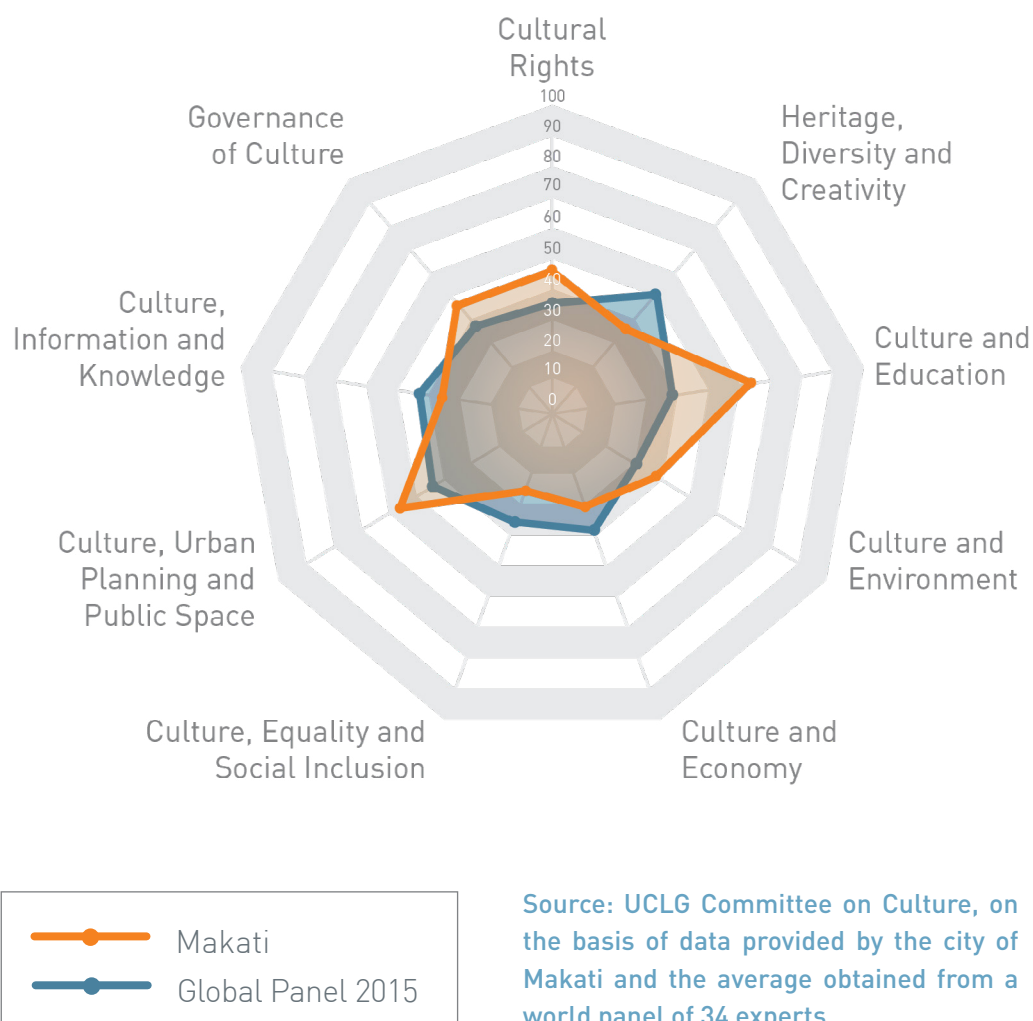
GENERAL OVERVIEW

Discussions in Makati were detailed and generated lively debate, often showing great diversity of opinion over the city's existing strengths and weaknesses.

As it is apparent in the graphic below, the grading of actions varied considerably across each of the nine Culture 21 Commitments, with 'Education' and 'Urban Planning & Public Space' receiving the highest scores, followed by 'Cultural Rights' and 'Governance'. In contrast, 'Heritage, Diversity & Creativity' received low scores, in line with 'Information and Knowledge' and 'Economy'. The lowest score of all went to 'Equality and Social Inclusion'.

Makati scores towards 'Education' and 'Heritage, Diversity & Creativity' diverge quite notably from the average global score, which represents the assessment given by experts against a representative selection of cities from around the world. This may be partly due to the way Makati participants aligned in each of the workshops but it may also be an indication of the way cultural policy achievements are judged in this city. 'Education', an area well formalised and regulated, was scored very highly. In contrast 'Heritage, Diversity and Creativity' was scored rather low, often due to what participants perceived as a lack of official frameworks to deliver actions. This suggests that the invited workshop participants (or city stakeholders) in Makati consider formal structures essential in order to address Culture 21 Actions in a sustainable way.

Regarding the composition of each individual workshop, it is worth noting that participants were invited to choose where to contribute to (as opposed to being allocated to a group by the organisers, as has been the case in other cities). The 'Heritage, Diversity and Creativity' workshop was the session attracting the largest number of participants, by far – and the session involving the most diverse range of participant backgrounds. This led to a healthy debate – and some disagreement – over how best to score the different actions, which may also partly explain the tendency towards lower scores.



Overall, in line with the experiences of other Culture 21 Pilot Cities, it is important to acknowledge that this is a self-assessment exercise, heavily reliant on the (at times, subjective) perceptions of city stakeholders. These perceptions (as opposed to objective facts) do matter, as they affect the way stakeholders make decisions, relate to each other and influence the opinions of others.

The results of these workshops in Makati show a deeply engaged stakeholder community who care about the issues at stake, have taken the Agenda 21 for Culture framework seriously and are keen to have their voices heard – as well as give their time and experience - in order to advance towards a more sustainable approach to cultural development.

The following pages offer a summary of each individual workshop discussion as articulated by workshop participants (from now on: 'Stakeholders'). The document ends with a series of recommendations, building on the collective views of the invited expert team.



CONTACTS

For additional information about this exercise, please contact:



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