culture 21

Agenda 21 for culture

Why must culture be at
the heart of sustainable
urban development?

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*Cultural matters
are integral parts
of the lives we lead.
If development
can be seen as
enhancement of
our living standards,
then efforts geared
to development can
hardly ignore the
world of culture."*

— AMARTYA SEN

PART I.
BACKGROUND

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INTRODUCTION

Four decades on from the first Habitat Conference on housing and human settlements, the economic, political, and social dimensions of development have all been acknowledged and, to a greater or lesser extent, understood by the international community. In contrast, the cultural dimension of development is still too often misunderstood or undervalued, or seen as an optional extra to be added when the hard work of 'real' development is done. This policy paper provides an overview of the evolving recognition of culture in sustainable development and attempts to bust the myths surrounding what culture is and what it can do. Finally, it gives recommendations on how to operationalize culture at the local level as a contribution to the positioning of local and regional governments at Habitat III through the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century.

As the Habitat III issue paper by UNESCO, "Urban culture and heritage"[1] notes, the contemporary urban crisis calls for a new model of urban development. In addition to decreasing vulnerability and environmental footprints, this new model must "rehumanize" urban environments, both in terms of scale and in enhancing a sense of belonging. Further, it must increase social cohesion, counter segregation (social and spatial) and uneven distribution of wealth, and aim for more equitable distribution and access to urban resources and more integration and connection among residents.

With these goals in mind, the Habitat III issue paper calls for more systematic and comprehensive "culturally sensitive urban development models."[2] This recognizes that culture has historically been a driving force of urban development, that a variety of innovative practices to integrate cultural assets into urban development strategies are now observed throughout the world, and that "culture is now firmly recognized by the international community as a key component of strategic urban planning and a key innovation for the definition of a New Urban Agenda."[3]

As many reports have documented, cities and towns are hubs of innovation in the economic, cultural, and social realms. The goal of re-humanizing the city through culture-sensitive urban strategies is underpinned by principles and inclusive processes of access, representation, and participation. In the context of defining a new people-centred and planet-sensitive sustainable development agenda, cities are transformative platforms. However, the transformative potential of cities has not yet been fully harnessed by international agencies, national governments, or local authorities.

To create a new culturally sensitive urban development model, the role of cultural practices and values in sustainable development must be explicitly recognized, supported, and integrated into planning and policy in a systematic and comprehensive way. In the context of Habitat III and the implementation of the Global Sustainable Development Goals, this policy paper proposes ways to integrate and operationalize culture in the sustainable development of cities, and aims to identify pathways to include culture in integrated sustainability planning and implementation processes.[4]

1   UNESCO for United Nations Task Team on Habitat III, 2015
2   p. 2
3   pp. 3-4
4   In this report, the term cities is used to include cities, towns, and settlements of all sizes. Smaller and medium-sized settlements are increasingly the source of new jobs, promoters of well-being and "balanced" lifestyles, and innovators of new approaches to community change and transition.

THE ROAD TRAVELLED

Global narratives relating culture and development have evolved significantly in recent decades. Not too long ago, culture was often understood as a barrier to development and something to overcome[5] but, gradually, positive connections between culture and sustainable development have become a part of global discourses.[6]

Cities, culture, and sustainable development

In 1996, Habitat II, the "City Summit," brought culture into global debates on urbanization. Culture was recognized as an integral part of people's well-being, and local development and equity were linked with acknowledging diversity in cultural heritages and values. Through the Habitat II Agenda goal of "Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World," national heads of state and governments committed themselves to developing societies that make efficient use of resources within the carrying capacity of ecosystems. At they same time they also committed to provide all people, in particular those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, equal opportunities for a healthy, safe, and productive life in harmony with nature and their cultural heritage, and their spiritual and cultural values; and a life that ensures economic and social development and environmental protection, thereby contributing to the achievement of national sustainable development.[7]

As a result of a large array of efforts internationally, especially since 2000 – from local to international-scale, and involving scholars, practitioners, planners, and policy-makers at various government levels – culture is gradually becoming recognized in principle as a cross-cutting issue in local/urban sustainable development.[8] The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (facilitated by UCLG) acknowledges the need to explicitly include culture in the paradigm of sustainable cities:

> *Culture will be key in the success of sustainable development policies, as driver and enabler of development and people-centered societies. A holistic and integrated approach to development needs to take creativity, heritage, knowledge and diversity into account. Poverty is not just a question of material conditions and income, but also of lack of capabilities and opportunities, including in cultural terms.*[9]

The Taskforce contends that, without culture, there is no future for cities: "*cities need vitality, meaning, identity and innovation, and citizens need to widen their freedoms.*"[10]

However, operationalizing roles for culture within the context of sustainable urban development policy and planning remains challenging. The relationship between culture and sustainable development is not thoroughly understood, and the integration of culture within broader holistic urban planning and development continues to be an issue due to both conceptual and operational issues. Conceptually, there are multiple ways of viewing culture's relationship with sustainability (see Figure 1), and myths about culture continue to circulate that present obstacles to fully integrating culture into urban development planning and strategies – these are addressed later in Part I.

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5   Hooper, 2005; Clammer, 2014
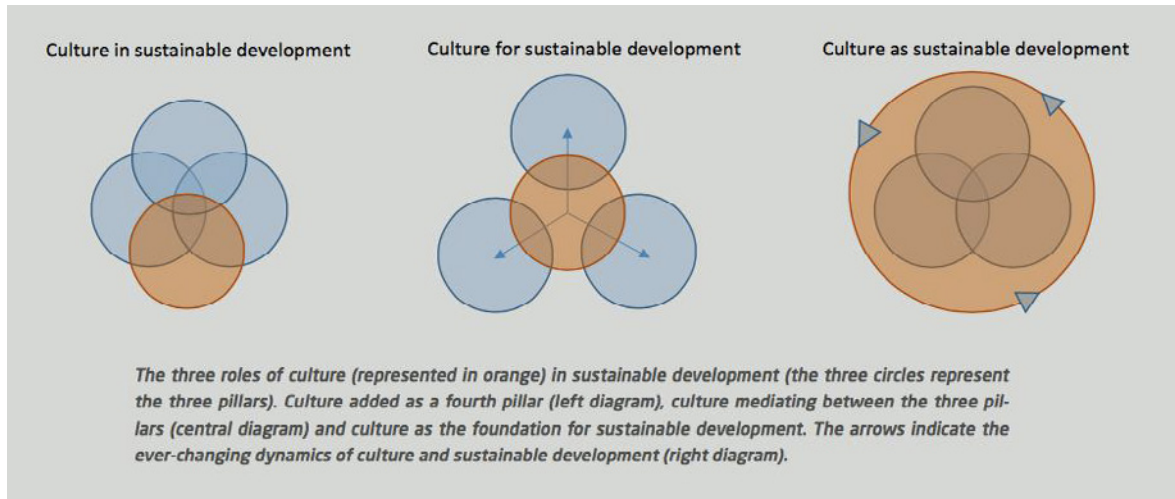6   Soini and Birkeland, 2014; Dessein et al., 2015; UNESCO, 2015
7   parag. 42, Habitat II Agenda
8   Pascual, 2009; Duxbury, Cullen, and Pascual, 2012; Duxbury and Jeannotte, 2012; Hosagrahar, 2012b, 2013; Hristova, Dragićević Šešić, and Duxbury, 2015; UNESCO, 2015; Hosagrahar et al., 2016
9   Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, 2014, p. 3
10 Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, 2014, p. 3

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Figure 1: **Culture and sustainable development: three models**

Culture in sustainable development   **Culture for sustainable development**   **Culture as sustainable development**

The three roles of culture (represented in orange) in sustainable development (the three circles represent the three pillars). Culture added as a fourth pillar (left diagram), culture mediating between the three pillars (central diagram) and culture as the foundation for sustainable development. The arrows indicate the ever-changing dynamics of culture and sustainable development (right diagram).

Source: Dessein et al., 2015

Global initiatives linking culture and sustainable development

The world has changed a lot since 1996, with rapid urbanization and hyper-globalization bringing with them numerous tensions and contradictions in urban areas. Some of these tensions are economic, such as the bitter effects of the recent global financial crisis; tensions due to inadequate mechanisms for governance at the local, global, and regional levels; social tensions exacerbated by persistence of poverty and discrimination worldwide; the pressures of migration, both regional and transnational; and environmental tensions due to ecosystems threatened by uncontrolled flows of energy and waste. Globalization also involves many cultural tensions, and since 1996 there have been greater attempts to include culture in the international policy frameworks of development (see Annex 1), but they have not yet been fully integrated.

Recent approaches have been aimed at the explicit integration of culture in the definition of the post-2015 Development Agenda. For example, the #culture2015goal campaign of leading regional and international NGOs published several documents, including "Declaration on the Inclusion of Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals" (1 May 2014).[11] This document called on governments and policymakers defining the post-2015 UN Development Agenda to ensure that culture is included as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, with specific goals, targets, and indicators. UNESCO's International Conference on "Culture for Sustainable Cities" and the resulting Hangzhou Outcomes (December 2015) aimed at identifying the key role of culture and cultural heritage in contributing to the New Urban Agenda for making cities safe, sustainable, livable, and resilient. The ICOMOS Concept note on Culture and Sustainable Development[12] is also aimed at highlighting the role of and entry points for culture and cultural heritage in the UN SDGs (particularly Goal 11) and the New Urban Agenda.

The final Sustainable Development Goals (and Targets), approved by the UN's General Assembly at the Special Summit on Sustainable Development held in New York on 25-27 September 2015, mentions

11 International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA), United Cites and Local Governments – Committee on Culture, International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, and Cultural Action Europe. 2013
12 Hosagrahar et al., 2016

culture in four areas (education, economic growth, consumption and production patterns, and sustainable cities) but fails to identify culture as a stand-alone goal. Heritage, both natural and cultural, is included as a Target within Goal 11, which is also known as the Urban Goal.

When the Goals and Targets were initially published in the *Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals*[13], the #culture2015goal campaign observed it "takes an instrumental view of culture and does not fully embrace its full potential, despite the many UN debates and resolutions, the evidence provided by the diversity of projects made possible by the MDG Achievement Fund and the existence of a global constituency representing millions that strives to fulfill culture's role as driver and enabler of development."

As the campaign pointed out, policymakers must recall that "national strategies need to be adapted to their cultural context to be effective … [and] that a broad understanding of skills and capacities should prevail, including the ability of key stakeholders to be sensitive to cultural aspects, recognize cultural diversity and heritage and embrace creativity." In this vein, the Sustainable Development Goals should be "underpinned by strategies integrating knowledge in a broad sense, beyond a narrow understanding of data and indicators."

Leading thinking and policy approaches in this area have been increasingly aimed at cross-thematic integration (or mainstreaming) of culture across all policy domains. We believe that the key actions for local sustainable development in the next decades will be located in the interconnections among civic domains, interlinking concerns such as heritage, housing, physical planning, inclusion, mobility, culture, nature, resilience, and governance. Positive transformations will be generated through the interrelation and integration of these domains. In these approaches, the incorporation of cultural considerations will be key to ensuring that the paradigm of sustainability is meaningful to people, incorporating local histories and knowledges, resonating with local identities, and truly building from the aspirations of local communities.

At the same time, culture must not be "made invisible" through integrative approaches. The distinctive features and benefits of cultural expressions, activities, and a diversity of approaches must be appreciated and nurtured, and culture and cultural heritage conserved and safeguarded through informed, intelligent, and sensitive cultural policies.

HOW LOCAL CULTURES CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES

Culture is integral to human development. Culture is the fabric for the dynamic construction of individual and collective identities. The active participation of people in local cultural activities (such as poetry, dance, sculpture, theatre, music, etc.) improves their quality of life and well-being and enhances life opportunities and options. Local cultures encompass the traditional, long-standing, and evolving cultures of a territory as well as the cultures of new arrivals to the area – and the evolutionary and hybrid transformations that evolve from living and creating within culturally diverse contexts. Local cultural vitality and its dynamic transmission and growth are desirable ends in themselves.

Local cultures are also resources to address challenges and find appropriate solutions to issues that concern citizens, and can be a means of encouraging social integration and peace. Within a sustainable develop-

13 United Nations, 2014

ment context, local cultural policies put community development at the core: culture is both a key tool and a core aspect of the social fabric, promoting cohesion, conviviality, and citizenship.

Culturally informed urban development can inspire more participatory processes: cultures provide knowledge about our existence as inhabitants of our cities and as citizens of the world. We all need to learn about the past of our city, so that we can "own" it and propel this identity and local knowledge into the future. Local cultures allow citizens to gain ownership of the city, and to meet and learn from one another – in short, culture is a means through which citizens feel they belong to their city. In particular, a culturally sensitive and gendered approach can empower marginalized individuals and communities to participate in cultural and political life. New imaginations of the urban can transform citizens' sense of place and sense of self.

Furthermore, as the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network has pointed out, "effective participation in economic and political life requires a broader, more holistic framework of learning … [that] encompasses literacy and numeracy as well as physical well-being, social and cognitive skills, problem solving and learning abilities, *culture and the arts*, critical thinking, and science and technology."[14]

Cities use local cultural resources and creativity to inspire, catalyze, and drive social and economic change, enhancing local resiliency and development potential. Cultural actions and expressions can also catalyze environmental reclamation processes and inspire actions to improve environmental health and enhance social connections with the ecosystems of local places. Cultural activities and means for expression contribute to building capacities needed to achieve greater understanding and to generate transformative change in both urban and rural environments.

Cultural resources and institutions within a region vary with the scale of urban areas. Large, major cultural institutions are usually located in major cities with smaller ones located in smaller towns. Cities also have a concentration of culture industries, as well as of producers and consumers of cultural goods and services. Cultural services and market linkages, as well as the degree of diversity, are also different for large metropolitan centers in comparison with small towns. In a globalizing world, the importance of a distinctive urban identity and development is heightened as a way to counter rapid homogenization.[15] Culture is used as a lever and catalyst for economic development and urban regeneration, to articulate shared identity and as a source of new ideas, and is widely recognized as a key aspect of quality of life and well-being of citizens. UNESCO is currently preparing a Global Report looking at the challenges and potentials of integrating urban heritage in sustainable development in different regions across the world (forthcoming in 2016), to contribute to the UN Habitat III in Quito in 2016. Many communities with traditional identities value their collective right to express that identity derived through history, place, and tradition.

In valuing culture and cultural diversity, rights-based approaches are crucial. Indigenous knowledges, cultures, and traditional practices, as recognized by the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (2007), contribute greatly to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which collectively constitute the common heritage of humankind. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for development, and local governments are essential bodies to guarantee this process. The rights of women, children, and other marginalized groups are equally significant to consider as cultural policies cannot reinforce or justify any form of exclusion or oppression as being cultural.[16]

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14 UN-SDSN, 2014, p. 12, emphasis added
15 Pascual, 2006
16 Hosagrahar, 2012a

CURRENT ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

Although we have travelled a long road – and the number of travellers has grown and diversified during this journey – there is still much work to do. As a network of European scholars examining this issue point out, "incorporating culture in the sustainability debates seems to be a great scientific and political challenge."[17]

Integrating culture into local and regional sustainable development contexts adds additional complexities of place and socio-cultural resonance to the planning and policy frameworks needed for culturally sensitive urban development models. In order to incorporate culture in the sustainability debates, the challenges must be explicitly addressed: the prevailing myths about culture that continue to seep into policy discussions and block progress to integrating culture into urban development in more systematic and comprehensive ways must be "dissipated." In this final section of Part I, we focus on conceptual and operational challenges. In Part II, the paper puts forward a series of policy proposals and recommendations, based on leading city practices internationally and illustrated through a series of examples.

Conceptual challenges: myths that still circulate

This section aims to identify the main misconceptions around culture and their underlying assumptions about the place of culture in the sustainable development of cities. It articulates the myths and aims to counter and "dissipate" them, providing constructive and positive counter-narratives and recommendations.

17 Dessein et al., 2015, p. 14

MYTH 1 The culture of a place is fixed and timeless. Culture does not belong to people. There are essential features in the identity of the city and in the behaviour of people at a local level that cannot be questioned. Local identities are inherited and changeless. We cannot modify identities; we just need to transmit this identity to future generations.

COUNTER-NARRATIVE History clearly shows that identities of local communities change over time. Cultural policies, based on human rights, can be understood as an opportunity to jointly analyze the past, acknowledge all the components that have shaped it, and involve all citizens living in a place to build new meanings together. Culture belongs to all people that live in a place. Identities are always being built. Identity has ceased to be a predetermining factor in a community, but its construction has become a key factor in communal projects. Identity is not a starting point; identity has become a negotiable destiny. It is important that this process is pluralistic and democratic.

MYTH 2 Everything about cultural traditions and practices is good and must be conserved and safeguarded. Local or national sustainable development must respect cultural beliefs, practices, and traditions and cannot change any aspect of them. It is legitimate to use culture to justify behaviours and practices that infringe upon human rights. Local traditions must be prioritized over human rights. Local circumstances and traditions of groups are more important than individuals.

COUNTER-NARRATIVE The UN Declaration of Human Rights is universal. Culture is an integral part of human rights (article 27), and no one may invoke culture to infringe upon the human rights of individuals, guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope. The human rights framework best allows alternative ideas to emerge and flourish. The right to participate in cultural life (according to the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, Ms. Farida Shaheed[17]) has three essential and interdependent dimensions: creativity, access to cultural heritage, and diversity. All human rights are interconnected and its integrality must be respected. Those cultural practices that infringe upon the human rights of individuals must be modified to conform to the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Cultural relativism of human rights is not acceptable.

MYTH 3 Culture is an obstruction to real development. If you emphasize historic heritage, or traditions, or inclusion of disadvantaged people, economic development cannot be as fast as it should be. Economic development is the absolute priority. All frameworks, resources, and efforts should be devoted to that. Culture is secondary to more important purposes.

COUNTER-NARRATIVE Culture can either facilitate or obstruct development agendas. The role of culture for sustainable development is hence crucial and depends on ensuring cultural rights and access for all: making sure that every woman, man, and child can access, take part in, and contribute to cultural life and all this implies. Development only understood in economic terms (i.e., fast growth without redistribution, leaving people aside, without pluralism) is neither effective nor sustainable. Culture is an important component of development. It is the sphere where ideas, behaviours, and practices can be discussed in a pluralistic and democratic society. Cultural heritage, creativity, and diversity are the foundations for the humane, inclusive, holistic, and long-term development of cities.

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17 Shaheed, 2015, p. 2

MYTH 4 Culture is a luxury we cannot afford. At a local level, there are other priorities: fresh water, decent jobs, adequate housing, education, etc. Culture can only to be considered once other more important social needs are addressed.

COUNTER-NARRATIVE Unless culture is taken into account explicitly as a key enabler, sustainable development will not take place. Development interventions may succeed or fail depending on how compatible they are with local culture.[18] Human beings live in communities. We share and discuss ideas on how to improve our lives. As Patrice Meyer-Bisch says, culture is the right to experience knowledge, beauty, and reciprocity, which cannot be regarded as something additional once every individual's fundamental needs have been fulfilled.[19] Culture includes the circulation of knowledge, and therefore of meaning. It is located at the very base of the ecosystemic links among ecology, economics, politics, and social fabric.

MYTH 5 Culture is something that should be left to the market. Cultural goods and services are just commodities, as any other, that are naturally included in the individual and household expenditure as a matter of taste. Cities should only invest in cultural infrastructure and events if there is an economic return (e.g., tourism, city branding).

COUNTER-NARRATIVE Culture must be recognized as a core element in local urban policies. The cities that solely see culture as a commodity or a "resource to attract investments and improve branding" are recognizing only a limited number of cultural manifestations. Cultural vitality is an absolute necessity to city life because it permeates all spheres of living and lies at the foundation of freedoms, the public exchange of ideas, and societal well-being. These dimensions infuse meaningful sustainable development, which is experienced at a local level and requires local spaces for public debate and decision-making. It is vital for local governments to provide environments that actively encourage public, democratic debate and decision-making. Indeed, they must create spaces where the citizens can exercise their rights, expand their abilities, lead the present, and decide on the future.

Challenges to operationalizing culture in local development

Operational challenges derive both from underlying conceptual uncertainties and from the challenges and resistance faced in implementing local cultural policies and plans more generally.

There is a duality to the policy approaches that need to be developed for culture. On one hand, the importance of working in harmony with local culture and values is widely acknowledged, leading to an array of local "transversal" experimentation to include culture in integrated planning and policy approaches for social inclusion or economic growth. A diverse range of approaches recognize, incorporate, and build upon local tangible and intangible cultural heritages and other cultural assets and resources. On the other hand, culture must also be addressed as a domain in its own right. Cultural assets deserve expert attention. Protecting cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), promoting creativity, or acknowledging cultural diversity require suitable policies, based on expertise (in content and in methodology). "Mainstreaming" culture does not mean that culture is considered only as a transversal dimension and hence less visible and less present for development projects and in people's minds. Rather, mainstreaming is a way of including cultural considerations in all activities.

18 Hosagrahar, 2012b
19 Meyer-Bisch, 2013

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Operational challenges are embedded in perspectives and approaches of professional practices as well as organizational cultures, bureaucratic processes, and historic norms. In addition to the conceptual challenges and myths outlined in the previous section, which often find their way to become formally or implicitly embedded in organizational policies and professional worldviews, operationalization issues can be characterized into four general categories:

1. LIMITATIONS DUE TO LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS, TARGETED POLICIES, BUREAUCRATIC SILOS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE RELUCTANCE

2. THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CULTURAL SECTOR AND THE CULTURAL FEATURES OF THE COMMUNITY

3. INADEQUACY OF INDICATORS, MEASUREMENT, AND EVALUATION OF PROGRESS AND IMPACTS

4. UNDERLYING ISSUES OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, ATTENTION TO GENDER, AND OVERCOMING SEGMENTATION

In each of these areas, practitioners are addressing intertwined issues and concerns to advance professional practices, develop more effective tools and techniques, and improve performance and outcomes of urban planning and development. Categories 1 and 4 extend beyond issues of culture and encompass challenges related to the development and implementation of integrated planning and cross-sectoral governance and planning approaches, as well as inclusive citizen engagement. Categories 2 and 3 relate more closely to challenges in understanding and nurturing the multifaceted dimensions of cultural practices and expressions and the diverse ways they are enacted, have influenced, and impact society's changes and development.

For example, some of the questions and issues that arise are:

1. LIMITATIONS DUE TO LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS, TARGETED POLICIES, BUREAUCRATIC SILOS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE RELUCTANCE

Legislative frameworks, cultural policies, and support programmes have traditionally been tailored to the needs of particular sectors. How can sector-specific approaches be reconciled with broad-based, intersectoral, people-centered policies?

Policy and programmes for "urban sustainability" are primarily about environmental issues and creating a "greener" city. How can urbanisation and physical planning embrace heritage and culture and integrate them into urban sustainability policy frameworks and programmes?

Difficulties encountered with implementing a cross-sector approach, especially integrating culture in urban planning and economic policies.

Reluctance on the part of sustainable development actors, guardians of the three-pillar system, to explicitly incorporate cultural dimensions and actors.

2. THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CULTURAL SECTOR AND THE CULTURAL FEATURES OF THE COMMUNITY

Misunderstandings of the word culture and its different meanings or ambiguities: e.g., culture as way of life and culture as art.

The complexity of the artistic world, with its great diversity of approaches and practices, from the individual to the collective, may produce a silo effect that is often hostile to people-centered cultural policies.

Cultural diversity can be a source of social tension when it is used by actors not fully committed to inclusive democracy.

How do local media inform and relate to residents in the city? Issues regarding the "invisibility" of local diversity in media are widely felt, relating to concerns about access to media and the creation of new media outlets.

3. INADEQUACY OF INDICATORS, MEASUREMENT, AND EVALUATION OF PROGRESS AND IMPACTS

Culture cannot be measured and monitored like other areas of sustainability since it has important non-quantifiable and invisible dimensions. UNESCO has done some important work in the area of indicators for culture in development.[20] How can we know that culture is contributing to strengthening and enriching local sustainability, resilience, and holistic development?

Some measurement or assessment criteria are essential because cultural policies are, like other public policies, subject to a democratic imperative of transparency and effectiveness. The value and effectiveness of cultural policies cannot be left to the domain of the subjective. It is possible, however, to focus on stages of improvement (qualitative criteria) rather than on quantitative criteria.

4. UNDERLYING ISSUES OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, GENDER EQUALITY, AND OVERCOMING SEGMENTATION

How can we encourage and stimulate the democratic participation of citizens in the formulation, exercise, and evaluation of public policies on culture?

How can greater citizen participation in governance be balanced with professional "expertise" to best assess cultural proposals and organizations?

Are cultural policies and programmes sensitive to and promote gender equality? What strategies should be considered to place the issue of gender at the centre of cultural policies? How can cultural policies be used to advance the empowerment of women?

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20 UNESCO, 2014

PART II.
POLICY PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND CHALLENGES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local governments occupy a strategically important space between global developments and forces and geographically broader-scope governments, and citizen-driven movements, innovations, and energies. Local governments form a vital bridge between citizens and communities, on the one side, and national governments and the international frameworks, on the other side. In the area of culture, some roles include creating and activating spaces for dialogue and action; setting priorities and planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring policies and programmes; developing infrastructure; and enabling environments and structures relating to a variety of transformative functions within the territory.

In cities, cultures are dynamic (not static), intrinsically diverse, and multifaceted, incorporating a range of expressions and values embodied in built and intangible heritage, contemporary arts, collective and individual activities, and particular features that characterize distinct "ways of life." This diversity of cultures, heritages, and knowledges "is a vital part of cities, integral to their identity and dynamism as hubs of social and human development. Culture provides identity, agency, and tools for communities to fight poverty."[21]

In the context of people-centred sustainable development, and growing inequalities, there is a rising focus on building collective citizen capacities. New means of developing and implementing policy and programmes, often through untraditional partnerships and involving distributed knowledges and resources, are emerging in many areas to address the complexities of specific local issues.

The following section outlines different policies and practices that local governments can use to support culture as a driver and an enabler of sustainable development in cities. Proposals and recommendations are based on the problems we have identified and a review of good examples of local policy practices, in all continents, illustrated through a series of examples of ways to successfully operationalize culture in urban sustainable development.

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21 High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2013.

POLICY PROPOSALS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Culture for peace and social cohesion as a basis for sustainable development

Culture enables citizen participation, community empowerment, and social cohesion as it promotes grassroots processes that build recognition and connections within communities.

Cultural programmes can accelerate the rootedness of newcomers including new migrants.

Local cultural activities and expressions can provide knowledge, heighten awareness, and foster processes that also relate inhabitants to the past, the present, and the future of a city.

Local cultures and cultural approaches can offer new ways of tackling complex social issues and addressing neighbourhood "problems," and promote understanding and exchange among different groups.

Cultural policies can foster intercultural dialogue and conflict resolution, which sometimes originate from misunderstandings and a lack of careful explanations of the contexts that make up the identity of individuals and communities.

Memorialization processes, to preserve memories of people or events, involving cultural actors, are essential steps to secure peace.

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JEJU PROVINCE, SOUTH KOREA – LINKING TRADITION/NEWCOMERS, CULTURE/NATURE, AND ACCESS

Cultural policies of Jeju relate nature to culture, and connect traditions with creativity.

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MILAN, ITALY – FORUM DELLA CITTÀ MONDO

The City of Milano has an active platform that connects migrant groups.

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TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO – NETWORK OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CULTURE GROUPS

The work of Tamaulipas with community culture groups has contributed to social cohesion.

© Dig Your Neighbourhood

KELOWNA, CANADA – DIG YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

A bundle of creative projects, given to newcomers, provide locally generated visions of the cultural, historical, and ecological dimensions of their new neighbourhood.

© Agenda 21 culture

LIMA, PERU – LIVING COMMUNITY CULTURE

The involvement of the community in active cultural activities is at the centre of the programme.

2. Culture and economic development

Culture contributes to economic progress in a multitude of ways. Local culture forms the basis of cultural and creative industries, activities that crosscut the social, the cultural, and the economic.

The production of goods and services incorporates a very strong cultural component. On one hand, traditional crafts are highly valued internationally and, on the other hand, more and more 'mass consumption' products (from cars to clothing) include cultural designs. The value of consumer items is closely linked to their design and symbolic significance: companies look to cultural expressions and processes to develop unique products, communicate more effectively, and look for new ways to stand out.

Local cultures provide content for cinema, online products, games, and other communication conduits: digital technologies provide new forms of social and economic exchanges and contribute significantly to new types of creative economies.

Local cultural activities and expressions can be harnessed as drivers for inclusive economic and social development. Heritage, cultural industries, arts and crafts, sustainable cultural tourism, and cultural infrastructure can be strategic tools for revenue and employment generation. Cultural diversity can be connected to economic progress and become economically "productive."

Recognize that cultural activities can foster entrepreneurship capacity and skills: participation in local cultural activities generates skills such as being able to speak in public, being able to continuously learn and appreciate new perspectives, and being able to generate a suitable climate of partnership – all fundamental to human development.

Although culture has been one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, generating income, employment, and new businesses, it still suffers from high levels of precarious work. Policies and programmes should be sensitive to this situation, address it when possible, and take care not to intensify this instability.

PEKALONGAN CITY, INDONESIA – BATIK-BASED CREATIVE ECONOMY

The economic actors and the cultural actors of Pekalongan have worked together to support batik industries.

MYANMAR – WOMEN'S EDUCATION FOR ADVANCEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT (WEAVE)

Among its programs, WEAVE provides safe employment opportunities for women based on traditional craft-making skills.

ROSARIO, ARGENTINA – THE WORKSHOP

In Rosario, the "Workshop" has become an active player in promoting innovation and the social economy.

LINZ, AUSTRIA – OPEN COMMONS REGION

The Open Commons aims at providing a digital platform for all inhabitants of Linz.

BILBAO, BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN – BCREATIVE PROGRAMME

Through the BCreative programme, the City recognizes and promotes the strategic role of the cultural industries in local socioeconomic development.

LA PLATA, ARGENTINA – THEATER TRAINING FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

A vocational school for the performing arts in La Plata in Argentina, set up with the support of Fundacion Teatro Agentino de La Plata aims to bring the performing arts to a broader audience and trains unemployed youth in theater arts including set design.

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO – REEMDÓOGO MUSIC GARDEN

Reemdoogo focuses on the artistic and professional education of city youth, linking multiple dimensions of culture: from its intrinsic values, to processes of employment creation, to social cohesion and urban construction of the city.

3. Culture in local policy-making

Local governments should focus cultural policies on citizens and their priorities rather than serve the interests of the professional elites of the cultural sector.

Citizen-based policies can be a powerful tool to drive sustainable development. This approach goes beyond encouraging greater participation rates in the cultural events that are offered, to diversifying the cultural offer and opportunities available, and to integrating the direct participation of citizens in the development of urban policies.

Traditional roles for local governments, civic society, and private enterprises are increasingly blurred, with each having distinct as well as shared interests. Collaborative goverance approaches build intersectoral bridges and comprise a leading trend for local governments.

A cultural lens and assessment guide for all policies and development decisions can help identify, document, and enhance cultural dimensions in local planning and development actions and may mitigate possible negative impacts.

A variety of guidance documents on heritage management and local development would also be important.

Local governments that are nimble and can respond quickly to the needs of their population(s) can flexibly adapt their policies and actions to sustainable development pathways.

MALMÖ, SWEDEN – CULTURAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

In Malmö, the cultural policies explicitly connect culture to people-centered sustainability.

MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA – CULTURAL POLICY(IES) AND PLAN

The long-term cultural policies have greatly contributed to the development of Medellin.

AUSTRALIA – NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT CULTURAL FORUM

The Forum enables local governments to develop and articulate a national perspective on local cultural development and strengthens their capacity in community arts and cultural development.

CANADA – INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

These local, long-term community sustainability plans in Canada have considered culture as the fourth pillar of sustainability.

CONCEPCIÓN, CHILE – CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN

Concepción has elaborated a long-term cultural strategy with actors and citizens.

NEW ZEALAND – CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

This framework documents Māori cultural values, interests, and associations with an area or a resource, and the potential impacts of a proposed activity on them.

PUNJAB, INDIA - PUNJAB STATE CULTURAL HERITAGE POLICY AND HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

The Government of Punjab has developed a Vision, a Strategic Framework, and an action plan to implement the policy. The cultural policy also addresses development goals such as fostering the local economy through the protection of cultural heritage in Pujab as well as improving livelihood and security for cultural practitioners.

4. Citizenship, participation and democracy

Promote cultural diversity and cultural activities with a renewed concept of citizenship at the local level, based on residency rather than nationally defined criteria. This shift is particularly relevant for migrants, young people, and women.

Cultural diversity is an asset for sustainable development and a catalyst for new ideas. In divided and post-conflict places where violence has been experienced, culture can play a positive role in building a more peaceful society.

Access to cultural services and active participation in cultural processes are important to enable people who are marginalized, impoverished, or in otherwise in disadvantaged situations to overcome their difficulties and actively participate in their own inclusion in society.

Respect for the value of diversity requires the integration of both multicultural strategies that recognize people with different cultural backgrounds who live together, and intercultural strategies that create bonds between them.

Make cultural policies and programmes inclusive and promote gender equality. Consider strategies to place the issue of gender equality at the centre of cultural policies. There is a need to value, promote, and increase the visibility and status of cultural activities that are carried out predominantly by women.

© Agenda 21 culture

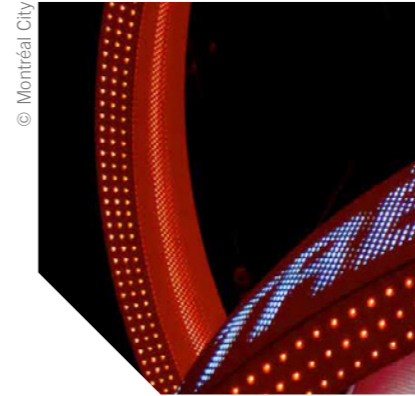## PORTO ALEGRE, RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL – DECENTRALIZATION OF CULTURE

The involvement of inhabitants is a key element of Porto Alegre's cultural policy.

© Cultural action department, City of Angers

ANGERS, FRANCE – CULTURE AND SOLIDARITY CHARTER

The Charter places the inhabitants of Angers at the centre of local cultural policies.

© Montréal City

MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA – SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL DISTRICTS

A multi-pronged strategy to instill a deep-rooted sense of culture throughout the city's territory.

© Agenda 21 culture

HOI AN, VIETNAM – CULTURAL POLICY

An integrated approach that includes culture is implemented by the urban policies of Hoi An.

© City of Yopougon

YOPOUGON, IVORY COAST – CULTURAL POLICY

The city is committed to a long-term vision of making culture one of the cornerstones of the Commune's development.

© Agenda 21 culture

RAMALLAH, PALESTINE – DECENTRALIZATION OF CULTURAL POLICY

The cultural policies of Ramallah are people-centered and have become a model for Palestinian municipalities.

© HRIDAY India

INDIA – HRIDAY PROGRAMME FOR 12 HISTORIC CITIES

The Government of India launched the national Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) in January 2015. It supports development of core heritage infrastructure projects which shall include revitalization of urban infrastructure for areas around heritage assets identified.

5. Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage has multiple forms and is a resource for the construction of the identities of people and communities. Intangible heritage and the meanings and practices around built heritage are alive and constantly evolving. They should be integrated into life and society in dynamic ways. Cities can enable processes to enhance a sense of belonging with local heritage through people-centered stories (vs. "official" heritage).

Culture explains and gives meaning to the identity of people and societies, often related to the founding land, to place, to landscapes, and to mountains, seas, and rivers. Leading thinking about landscapes recognizes that all territories (even degraded ones) hold environmental, cultural, and other values that are worthy of preserving and re-valuing.

Urban development plans and policies need to be integrated with heritage conservation and creative practices.

Urban planning that does not explicitly consider cultural issues has negative impacts on the preservation of heritage. It also prevents the exercise of memory, creativity, and coexistence, promotes homogenization, and limits opportunities to access and participate in cultural life.

Detailed inventories and mappings of cultural heritage need to be undertaken beyond those selected buildings already listed.

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BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA – EMILIO BALCARCE TANGO ORCHESTRA SCHOOL

In Buenos Aires, music, heritage, education, and neighbourhood revitalization go together.

© Agenda 21 culture

BANDA ACEH, INDONESIA POST-TSUMANI CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT

The whole community is involved in planning and implementing this cultural heritage project.

© Ockpoptok

DELHI, INDIA – HUMAYUN'S TOMB, SUNDAR NURSERY, AND HAZRAT NIZAMMUDIN BASTI

Restoring tangible heritage and reviving and safeguarding intangible cultural elements while promoting local livelihoods.

© Ockpoptok

LOAS – OCK POP TOK

This NGO is a social enterprise working in the field of textiles, handicrafts and design to bring traditional craft to contemporary markets.

©Erik Levilly – City of Le Havre

LE HAVRE, FRANCE – MILITARY SITE REDEVELOPMENT TO MULTICULTURAL PUBLIC SITE

The fortress of Le Havre was turned into a cultural site after a participatory process.

© Kanazawa City

KANAZAWA, JAPAN – CREATIVE CITY STEERING PROGRAM

A creative city and economic development model based in the spirit of "craftism," an insistence on quality and originality with deep roots in local heritage.

6. Territorial planning, cultural infrastructure, and public space

Public space is a place of social interaction as well as key for the identity and landscape of the city. As a common good, it belongs to all inhabitants and it has a systemic relation with other common goods such as culture or education.

Urban design and infrastructure must have cultural relevance and resonance both in design (i.e., we must be able to "see ourselves" in the city's public space) and in use (i.e., the city's public space and infrastructure must support diverse residents to engage in cultural practices and expression in the public space of the city).

Structures and urban spaces that are of local historical significance need to be conserved and maintained as vital spaces even if their forms are deemed to be architecturally unremarkable.

City and regional development plans and policies, as well as building and zonal regulations, must be integrated with culture and cultural heritage. This inclusion cannot be just rhetoric, but be based on the involvement of cultural actors in all steps of the planning process and lead to the identification of several actions with clear culture content.

Heritage impact assessment and cultural impact assessments should be carried out before any major development activity or intervention in a city is undertaken.

Cultural infrastructure can develop participatory spaces for public dialogue, iterative steering, and local management. These participatory approaches can take place at all scales, that is, not only in cultural infrastructure serving a neighbourhood or a community, but also in national "prestigious" facilities.

Historic urban spaces are important to conserve as the memory and identity of the city.

There is an international trend towards "new centralities," which responds to the need to redistribute cultural services in the city (e.g., centralization/decentralization), and a growing will to recognize the organic character of cultural processes, that is, supporting the cultural initiatives where they are born – in neighbourhoods, in suburban "edge" zones, or in rural areas.

The natural heritage of cities, including hills, water bodies, and parks, is also culturally significant for cities. These elements need careful conservation, management, and integration with the city development plans.

ZARAGOZA, ARAGON, SPAIN – EL GANCHO NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION/RENEWAL

The inhabitants of the neighbourhood are the key actors of a major cultural event that has been a catalyst for local revitalization.

BELO HORIZONTE, MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL – REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRES

The cultural centres of Belo Horizonte guarantee access to culture for all inhabitants.

MUMBAI, INDIA – KALA GHODA ART DISTRICT

A historic precinct has been brought alive by the Kala Ghoda Association to conserve and safeguard the heritage and creative practices of the art district by creating a cultural hub of activities and grand annual event of the Kala Ghoda Art Festival.

RIO DE JANEIRO, RJ, BRAZIL – CINECARIOCA

The cinema became a key element for the empowerment of people living in the neighborhood.

SAN FRANCISO, USA – PROXY

A vibrant, collaboratively planned neighbourhood gathering space purposefully designed for temporary uses.

AMSTERDAM NORTH, NETHERLANDS DE CEUVEL

A heavily polluted former industrial plot is now a planned workplace for creative and social enterprises, while turning the site into a regenerative urban oasis.

LUANG PRABHANG, LAOS – COMMUNITY ADVISORY SERVICE

As part of an integrated approach to conservation and socio-economic development, established a community advisory service supported by various partners (under the aegis of UNESCO) to offer free technical assistance to citizens to draw up plans for renovation of houses.

7. Culture and local communities

Participation in cultural activities fosters young people to be more imaginative and innovative: the processes of creation and cultural participation provide knowledge and techniques to imagine and expand horizons, integrate diverse elements, and create something new. Cultural experiences can be important platforms for the development of capacities that expand self-knowledge, self-expression, self-determination, and life satisfaction and well-being.

There is a need to broaden thinking about "arts in education" to "arts and youth," as well as to encompass "arts in life-long learning."

Educational systems at all levels should include the acquisition of cultural skills and knowledge pertaining to intercultural dialogue; the recognition and valuing of diversity, creativity, tangible and intangible heritage; and the development of skills using digital tools for cultural transmission, innovative expression, and bridging of cultures.

Encourage local media and employ new technologies to embrace and propel local cultures into the public sphere of a city and to reach and engage with a wide variety of citizens.

Explicitly include a cultural dimension in neighbourhood regeneration strategies, combining basic cultural public services for all, new infrastructure, and respect for civil society initiatives. Cultural initiatives are essential in all local urbanization processes (e.g., in slum upgrading, in regeneration of city-centres and urban peripheries, and in the creation of new districts and neighbourhoods) because they address key values around sustainability and local citizenship like memories and heritage, creativity, diversity, shared knowledge, and participation.

© Agenda 21 culture

VAUDREUIL-DORION, QUÉBEC, CANADA – JE SUIS…

The city has found inspirational ways to involve inhabitants in active cultural activities:
>> Je suis…
>> Mosaic Parade

© Agenda 21 culture

BELO HORIZONTE, MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL – OPEN SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS – ARENA DA CULTURA

Its multiple dimensions led this project to be the winner of the first edition of the UCLG-Mexico Culture 21 Award.

© Hoysala Heritage Region

BELUR-HALEBIDU, INDIA – URBAN CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Offers an inclusive participatory model for social innovation through a comprehensive set of design and planning strategies integrating conservation of built heritage, safeguarding of intangible heritage, and nurturing creativity with sustainable development in line with the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape approach.

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MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA – CULTURAL ACCESS NETWORK AND "CULTURAL MEDIATION" PROJECTS

The projects guarantee that all inhabitants have access to cultural activities.
>> Access Network
>> Cultural Mediation

© Agenda 21 culture

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO – FACTORIES OF ARTS AND JOBS

The four Faros of Mexico City include training, education, public spaces, and empowerment of the community.

© Dronah

UDAIPUR, INDIA – CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN FOR CITY PALACE COMPLEX

The Master Plan includes a conservation plan with use, interpretation, tourism, environmental, and risk management plans that emphasizes a value based and process oriented approach to conservation.

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BARCELONA, CATALONIA, SPAIN – CREATORS IN RESIDENCE (IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS)

Students are actively involved in artistic "residency" projects in high schools.

© Instituto Transformance

AMAZON, BRAZIL – TRANSFORMANCE INSTITUTE

This NGO uses the arts to contribute to the development of young people, democratic communities, and transformative pedagogy in Brazilian Amazon communities.

8. Resilience and climate change

Traditional local knowledge and building technologies are often best suited for local environmental conditions.

Culture provides the local knowledge for contextualized resilience by emphasizing locality and historical continuities, which are key elements in the fight against climate change and natural hazards like earthquakes and floods.

Culture raises awareness of the impacts of our ecological footprints, the need to transform production and consumption patterns (e.g., slow food, 0 km products, etc.), and our collective responsibility to reconnect our values towards a more harmonious balance with the environment.

Artistic activities can initiate public dialogue, encourage connections to the local environment, catalyze collective action, and invent more sustainable living practices.

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LILLE, FRANCE – BAL À FIVES

The project has strongly related the environmental and the cultural dimensions of sustainability.

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HANNOVER, LOWER SAXONY, GERMANY – TWINNING FOR A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

These projects have related the local artistic communities with international cultural cooperation.

© 606 Project

CHICAGO, USA – ENVIRONMENTAL SENTINAL

Within a major redevelopment of an abandoned rail line, a climate-monitoring artwork of 453 temperature-sensitive, native, flowering trees form a seasonal spectacle to engage citizens and scientists in understanding local microclimates and the effects of climate change.

>> The 606 Project.
>> Environmental Sentinal.

© Ground Up Initiative

SINGAPORE – GROUND UP INITIATIVE

This NGO organizes a diverse array of voluntary activities to help people "reconnect with nature" and their community.

© Espace pour la Vie Montréal

MONTREAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA – SPACE FOR LIFE

Space for Life brings the city's Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden, and Planetarium together, transforming them into a major integrative and participatory space dedicated to the relations between humankind and nature.

© Fluid City / Water in the sustainablecity

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND – FLUID CITY PROJECT

This arts-science-education collaboration aims to foster awareness and understanding of water issues in Auckland.

© Still Moon Arts Society

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA – STILL CREEK MOON FESTIVAL

A community-based participative festival inspired neighbourhood stewardship that revitalized the health of a local ravine and river.

© PomeGranate Center

SAN DIEGO, USA POMEGRANATE CENTRE – MANZANITA GATHERING PLACE

This project demonstrates a community-build training and mentoring strategy as a sustainable community development resource.

© DehArt

PALMDALE, AZ, USA – DESERT ENGAGEMENT

An eco-art program combines prevention, awareness, and outreach through artistic engagement and environmental education to address the issue of illegal dumping in nearby desert areas.

© City of Vancouver

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA – RE-WILDING VANCOUVER ACTION PLAN

The Vancouver Park Board's environmental education and action plan recognizes community-engaged artistic projects in its parks as important elements in fostering residents' interactions with nature, leading to greater awareness, shifts in thinking, and stewardship actions.

PART III.
CONCLUSIONS

2016 will be a very important year for urban policies. Cities will be the focus of the global conversation on sustainable development. A "New Urban Agenda" will be approved at "Habitat III," the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to take place in Quito, Ecuador (17 – 20 October 2016), and the association of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) will approve a "Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century" at its World Congress to take place in Bogotá (12 – 15 October 2016).

One thing is clear: the struggle for global sustainability is played out in cities. As a consequence, local governments occupy a strategically important space between global forces and citizen-driven movements, innovations, and energies.

We have prepared this policy paper in order to help place culture at the centre of the debates on the sustainable development of cities. While we notice progress in the global conversation on "culture in sustainability," we are also aware that some negative narratives still circulate. In this paper, we have identified narratives, myths, and challenges, and we have provided constructive and positive counter-narratives and recommendations. But we want this policy paper to go beyond debates on ideas and narratives – we want to be operational. Local governments are, intrinsically, very operational entities at the service of the needs and the rights of people. Thus, this policy paper puts forward a series of policy proposals, based in leading city practices internationally and illustrated through an array of case examples.

A new people-centred and planet-sensitive sustainable development agenda requires cities to launch inclusive processes of access, representation, and participation in culture. We need to bring together all urban actors to work towards operationalizing a new model of sustainable urban development that explicitly integrates culture, cultural heritage, and creativity within it.

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ANNEX 1.
CULTURE IN THE POLICY FRAMEWORKS OF DEVELOPMENT: SELECTED LANDMARKS

YEAR	AGENCY (GLOBAL)	AGENCY (REGIONAL)	EVENT/PUBLICATION
2003	UNESCO		Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage - ratified by +150 countries
2004	Unites Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)		Agenda 21 for Culture - adopted
2004		10th Conference of Heads of State and Government of French-Speaking Countries	Declaration of Ouagadougou - adopted
2005	UNESCO		Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions - adopted, ratified by +130 countries
2006		African Union	Charter for African Cultural Renaissance
2006		Organization of Ibero-american States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)	Iberoamerican Cultural Charter
2007	UN		UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2007	Fribourg Group		Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights
2007		European Commission	European Agenda for Culture
2008		African Union	Plan of Action on the Cultural and Creative Industries in Africa
2009	UN Human Rights Council		Established a post of Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights for a 3-year period (extended)
2010	UN General Assembly		Resolution re: connection between culture and development - adopted
2010	United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)		Policy statement on Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development - adopted
2011	UN General Assembly		Adoption of Resolution 2 (connection between culture and development)
2011	UNESCO		Adoption of new UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

YEAR	AGENCY (GLOBAL)	AGENCY (REGIONAL)	EVENT/PUBLICATION
2011		ASEAN - Ministers responsible for Arts and Culture	Declaration on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community - signed
2012		Meeting of South American Ministers and High Authorities on Culture and Sustainability	Declaration of São Paulo on Culture and Sustainability - adopted
2012		18th annual meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Arab region	Manama declaration – issued
2012	UN Conference on Sustainable Development, later endorsed by UN General Assembly / High-level meeting		Outcome Document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development
2013		Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF)	« La Francophonie et les Objectifs de Développement Durable », Argumentaire d'aide à la formulation d'Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) relatifs à la Culture
2013		France - Directorate-General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships	"Post-2015 agenda on development, French position paper prepared with civil society"
2013		UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission, and African Development Bank	"Outcome Document of the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals," Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2013	UNESCO International Congress "Culture: Key to Sustainable Development"	UNESCO	Final declaration – "Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies," the Hangzhou Declaration
2013	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNESCO		Creative Economy Report 3: Special Edition – Widening Local Development Pathways
2013	International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), Agenda 21 for Culture, and Culture Action Europe		Culture as a Goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda – published The #culture2015goal campaign launched

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2013	UN General Assembly		Resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development A/RES/68/223 - adopted "requests the President of the General Assembly to hold a one-day special thematic debate at the highest political level possible, by the end of 2014, to give due consideration to the role of culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and to present a chair's summary of the debate"
2014	UN General Assembly		Thematic Debate on "Culture and Sustainable Development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda" (NYC) including Panel Discussion "The power of culture for poverty eradication and sustainable development"
2014	3rd UNESCO World Forum on Culture and the Cultural Industries		"Culture, Creativity and Sustainable Development" – concluded with the adoption of the "Florence Declaration," proposing recommendations on maximizing the role of culture to achieve sustainable development and effective ways of integrating culture in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
2015	United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)		Culture 21: Actions – Outlines nine areas of Commitments on the role of culture in sustainable cities" (approved at the first UCLG Culture Summit, Bilbao, Spain)
2015	UNESCO		Hangzhou Outcomes on Culture for Sustainable Cities
2016 (in preparation)	UNESCO		Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development: Report for UN Habitat III

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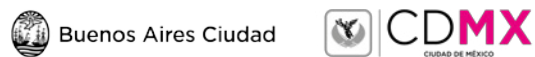duxbury@ces.uc.pt

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The Committee on Culture of UCLG is co-chaired by Buenos Aires and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Milan, Paris and Porto Alegre.

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