

*With the best wishes from OCPA for 2018*

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# Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

The Observatory is a Pan African international NGO created in 2002 with the support of African Union, the Ford Foundation, and UNESCO. Its aim is to monitor cultural trends and national cultural policies in the region and to enhance their integration in human development strategies through advocacy, information, research, capacity building, networking, co-ordination, and co-operation at the regional and international levels.



## OCPA NEWS

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OCPA News aims to promote interactive information exchange within Africa and between Africa and the other regions. Please send us information for dissemination about new initiatives, meetings, research projects and publications of interest for cultural policies for development in Africa. Thank you for your co-operation.

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## **Editorial - Question marks for 2018**

Here is a new year whose arrival was celebrated as usual without anyone realizing that the world has turned in a particularly dangerous direction.

Here, there was a summit trumpeted as an important moment at which the throbbing question of migration was going to be addressed and - it was thought, resolved - a Summit that would bring together the heads of the most concerned States proclaiming loud and clear the virtues of creative diversity.

Instead, it turned out to be a mourning shared by the interlocutors in front of the unexpected "discovery" and finally very opportunely announced for some of a new form of slavery practiced on the continent of departure itself of the migrants - not to say between the candidates to immigration themselves - completely diverting the attention from the main topic of the meeting for not to talk about the place and role of the youth - which was the subject initially proposed – which was finally relegated to a debate without consequence due to the limitation of the time of speech and giving birth, on the theme of migration, to a mouse, lame in addition of all.

There, appears - for a world taken by surprise - a form of government that was believed to be of another age, recalling the sad period of racial struggles, where we spend the time to vituperate against "undesirable foreigners" in the name of their origin and their beliefs while continuing their systematic and accelerated exploitation. Denouncing the basic principle of universal cooperation and dialogue, the foundation of peace in the world, sometimes cutting humanitarian aid, sometimes threatening the use of nuclear weapons, giving the impression - naive and unbelievable at this level of global governance - to ignore that such deluge is not guaranteed of geographical limitations as to its effects and that the aggressor may see his weapon return against him!

Not far from these two universes and disseminated through the forests, savannahs and mountains, sorcerer's apprentices, ignoring all the rights and values, try their hand at the school

of scoundrels, following the example of their predecessors engaged in actions tempted before them by smarter monsters, excellent in the destruction of shrines and the violation of places of worship, churches and mosques. No doubt they find in this profanation the satisfaction of an innate and suicidal desire to dethrone the gods of their Olympus, perhaps imagining that they might be substituted for them. They would have forgotten the first of the virtues recommended yet by the respected sage of all "know yourself" and the memory of the eternal history of peoples, the sacrosanct of world culture, reminding that nudity appears better than when you are high up!

Facing such a generalized resignation, who could help humanity to recover and offer it canons of wisdom for a world in conditional liberty?

Maputo, January 18, 2018

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

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## **A. News from OCPA**

### **Activities of the Executive Director**

A.1 Audience and meeting with H.E. Dieudonné Mouyongo, Minister of Arts and Culture of the Republic of Congo on preparing the Regional Conference on Arts Education for Central Africa (Brazzaville, 4 January)

A.2 Re-Opening of the Secretariat following the Annual Leaves (15 January)

A.3 Presentation of the 2017 Project Report to the OIF Partner (15 January)

A.4 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference on Oral History (15 January)

A.5 Meeting with H.E. Silva Armando Dunduro, Minister of Culture and Tourism on the general orientations of the Conference on Oral History (15 January)

A.6 Second and Third Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference on Oral History and meeting with the Commissioner of the First Biennale of Contemporary Art (16 and 19 January)

A.7 Contribution to the direction of the Artists Residence in Ségou, Mali (20 – 21 January)

A.8 Participation in the First Official Celebration of the World Day of African Culture in Bamako, Mali and meeting with H.E. N'diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture (22-25 January)

A.9 Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Festival sur le Fleuve Niger in Ségou, Mali (from 30 January)

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### **A.10 OCPA Publications**

In relation with its research activities OCPA has produced some **25 books and publications** such as a strategy document (2004) and a research programme (2007 and 2010) on the cultural indicators of human development in Africa, a book on "African Musics – New Stakes and New Challenges" (with UNESCO, 2005), the Observatory's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Medium Term Strategy and Plan of Action (2006 and 2011), the Compendium of basic reference texts for cultural policies in Africa (E/F/S, 2006 and 2009), the Guidelines for the Design and Evaluation of National Cultural Policies in Africa (2008 and 2009). The Proceedings of the International Symposium on Policies, Strategies and Experiences in Financing Culture in Africa was published in 2010, the

Manual for Training Specialist of Cultural Policy and Management in Africa and the book on the Contribution of Culture to Poverty reduction in Africa were produced in 2013.

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Most of the Reports of some 25 meetings and training sessions organized by OCPA are published at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/meetings/index-en.html>. Some 25 articles published in books and reviews of the OCPA Partners (Culturelink, AFRICOM, Interarts - Barcelona, África e Mediterraneo, Wale keru, Arts Management, Itau Cultural – Sao Paolo, Brazil, University of Pécs – Hungary, University of Gerona – Spain, Catalonia, Institute for African Culture and International Understanding - IACIU, Abeokuta, Nigeria, African Institute of the United Nations for Economic Development and Planning - IDEP, Dakar, etc.

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**For previous news and OCPA activities click on**  
**<http://www.ocpanet.org/activities/news/index-en.html>**

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## **B. News, events and projects in Africa**

### **B.1 Côte d'Ivoire: National Chamber of Kings and Traditional Leaders (CNRCT): A Royal Instrument for Peace**

On 20 December 2017, the kings and traditional chiefs were again gathered at their headquarters in Yamoussoukro to show their support for the Head of State, SEM. Alassane Ouattara, present for the occasion, and to whom they promised to work for social cohesion and peace; which will allow, they affirmed, "the sustainable development and the continuous progress of our country". Constituted in a National Chamber (CNRCT) since 2014, following the promulgation of the law of July 2014 and the constitution of November 8, 2016, the Kings and Traditional Chiefs of Côte d'Ivoire, now enjoy an official status, a ceremonial rank at public ceremonies.

As stipulated in their charter, kings are eligible between the ages of 35 and 75, are Ivorian by birth and are responsible to draw up the repertoire of their customs, to enforce their status, to settle disputes, to ensure, in connection with other state institutions, the preservation of the cultural heritage of Côte d'Ivoire, to initiate mediation missions to crises and conflicts. They have also the obligations of neutrality, impartiality and reserve.

The Chamber of Kings and Traditional Chiefs is enshrined in the constitution where it is charged with the valuation of the habits and customs and the promotion of the ideals of peace. Previously, a colonial decree dating back to 1934 reduced them to mere guardians of tradition.

Read the article at <http://en.allafrica.com/stories/201801120183.html>

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### **B.2 AFRICOM: Repatriation of African Objects**

On 28th November 2017 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the President Emmanuel Macron pledged that all the African art objects in French and European collections should be returned to their countries, museums, collections and even individuals of origin.

He said: "I cannot accept that a large part of cultural heritage from African countries is in France. There are historical explanations for that, but there are no valid justifications that are durable. African heritage can't just be in European private collections. African heritage must be highlighted in Paris, but also in Dakar, in Lagos, in Cotonou."

In the next five years, Macron wants to create conditions for the "temporary or permanent" restitution of African heritage to Africa. "This will be one of my priorities," he said.

AFRICOM invites comments on this proposal from African culture ministries, museum directors and professionals and is ready to compile a consolidated document from the country lists. The final document on African collections will then be sent to the President of France for the implementation of the return of objects to African museums and communities.

Read more at <http://theartnewspaper.com/news/restitution-experts-react-to-president-macron-s-pledge-to-return-artefacts-housed-in-french-museums-to-africa>

Contact: AFRICOM, Rudo Sithole [rdsithole9@gmail.com](mailto:rdsithole9@gmail.com)

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### **B.3 Photography - Encounters in Bamako: "Reinvesting Imaginaries"**

The 11th edition of the Rencontres de Bamako, the unmissable event of photography on the continent, was held from 2 December 2017 to 31 January 2018 on the theme "Afrotopia".

For this event organized by the French Institute of Bamako, the Malian Ministry of Culture, in partnership with Jeune Afrique, the Malian Minister of Culture, N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, in her opening speech, declared that "The photography takes up its quarters in Bamako, "she said, before adding that "Art is a light that allows us to free ourselves from dogma in general."

Read the article at <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/498974/culture/photographie-ouverture-des-rencontres-de-bamako-reinvestir-les-imaginaires/>

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### **B.4 Cameroon: The 1st edition of the Fair of Heritage Arts and Archeology**

The first edition of the Fair of Heritage Arts and Archeology of Cameroon (SAPAR), an exhibition, meant to be institutionalized, took place in Yaoundé from 20 to 24 December 2017.

Exhibitors from 10 regions of the country have been able to enhance the cultural richness of these parts of Cameroon presenting artistic performances and a traditional fashion show.

This initiative of the Ministry of Arts and Culture had the theme: "Roots and cultural identity for a creative Cameroon" and it aimed to

- Promote the visibility and rentability of heritage productions in Cameroon and abroad,
- Provide talents with a platform for expression and with access to the art market,
- Encourage new vocations in professions threatened with extinction,
- Reconcile the public, in a process of cultural democratization, with its sources.

Source: <http://www.afrik.com/cameroon-the-rideau-of-the-1st-edition-of-the-salon-of-patrimonial-arts-and-the-archeology-of->

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### **B.5 World Day of African Culture: The 1st edition from 23 to 24 January 2018 in Mali**

The former minister, Adama Samassekou, special advisor to the President of Mali and chair of the Organizing Committee of the World Day of African and Afro-descendant Culture (JMCA), announced the holding in Bamako, from 23 to 24 January 2018, of the 1st edition of this continental meeting to promote the Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance (adopted on

January 24, 2006 and ratified by 12 countries at present) with the AU Member States and its appropriation by the people.

This event will help support and enhance the cultural promoters and entrepreneurs of Africa and its Diaspora by supporting initiatives of various talents. The theme chosen for this edition is: "Cultural and Linguistic Diversity, Basis of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance".

The celebration will be an amalgam of spaces of intellectual exchange and dynamic presentation of African culture. On display is the opening of the Pan-African village, conferences, dissemination of messages, animation of thematic panels on the charter, projection of films, visits to stands and sites, cinema, music, theater, dance, humor, etc.

More information at <https://www.maliweb.net/art-culture/world-culture-world-country-free-free-day-23-24-january-new-2732457.html>

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## **C. News about cultural policies, institutions and resources in Africa**

### **C.1 Benin: Support for the Vodoun World Festival of Arts and Cultures**

In 2016, the World Bank approved funding for the implementation of a national tourism development project in Benin. This project includes: (i) improvement of the institutional framework of tourism, (ii) development of tourist destinations and products in the identified areas and (iii) direct support to SMEs in the targeted value chains.

The National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and Tourism Development (ANPT, Benin) intends to use part of the project's resources to support the organization of the Vodoun World Festival of Arts and Cultures, notably by finalizing the mobilization of the necessary expertise.

Read the article at <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/annonce/502863/recrutement-dun-consultant-firme-en-vue-dun-accompagnement-technique-et-artistique-pour-lorganisation-du-festival-mondial-the-art-and-culture-vooodoo/>

Contact: [anptbenin@yahoo.com](mailto:anptbenin@yahoo.com)

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### **C.2 CICIBA Editions: More than a dozen new titles announced**

After a long period of crisis (2008-2014), under the leadership of its new Director General, Professor Manda Tchebwa, since May 2017, the International Center of Bantu Civilizations (CICIBA, Libreville, Gabon) has resumed its Research and publication activities along the lines of an ambitious program of scientific production have just been developed.

The new researches proposed by recognized scientists from the Bantu space around the Center's various fields of competence (history, anthropology, linguistics, philosophy, musicology, interdisciplinary research, semiology, archeology, ecology, sociology, etc.) are announced. Bantu of yesterday and today are discussed with greater rigor and remarkable erudition.

Through its objectives and programs, the purpose of CICIBA, its essential raison d'être, is the quest for the cultural identity of the Bantu peoples, that is to say, a thorough knowledge of the ancestral heritage of these people. peoples as a whole, preserving and promoting the authentic values of Bantu Africa.

More at the CICIBA website at <http://www.cicibabantu.org/publications-ciciba/>  
Contact: [info@cicibabantu.org](mailto:info@cicibabantu.org)

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### **C.3 Mauritius: The Cultural Priorities for 2018**

The most important priorities foreseen in 2018 in the cultural sector include

- The restructuring of MASA: the copyright society takes its former name (Mauritius Society of Authors) instead of Rights Management Society.
- Commemorating the 50 years of Independence in the spirit of reconciliation.
- Reopening of the Port Louis Museum, under renovation since 31 January 2017.
- The construction by the end of 2018, of the Caudan Arts Center, this 417-seat multipurpose room will be out of the ground by the end of the year.
- Creation of the Slaery Museum proposed by the Justice and Truth Commission (2011).
- The renovation of the theater of Port Louis closed for ten years.
- Adoption of a Status of Artist Bill.
- Inscription of Séga de Chagos to the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage at the next Intergovernmental Committee meeting on Intangible Heritage (Mauritius, 2018).

Read the article at <http://www.allafrica.com/stories/201801090281.html>

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### **C.4 Liberia: President Sirleaf's Legacy, Failures in Liberia's Arts and Culture**

President Ellen John Sirleaf will be leaving office soon and handing power over to President-elect George Weah. No matter the argument, President Sirleaf will leave office with some good and bad legacies in Liberia's arts and culture scene.

Below are some assessments on the president's contributions and shortfalls.

Among the achievements figure the following facts:

- Increased government subsidies to artistic unions (N.B. these funds were misappropriated as the leaders of the unions failed to implement policies supporting the entertainment industry).
- **New Intellectual Property Law and Tourism Strategy was adopted for** creating an enabling environment where creators can benefit from their works, as well as fight piracy.
- Adoption of a national strategy for the promotion of tourism in the country.
- Increased protection for wildlife or protected areas.
- Preparation of Liberia's nomination of several historical sites to the list of world heritage.
- Successful negotiation of a the tribal deed (10 acres of land) for Behsao cultural village.
- The renovation of the National Museum, damaged, during the c14-year civil crisis.

The shortfalls are:

- The lack of political will when it comes to fighting piracy.
- **Neglects of cultural sites.**
- **Government's refusal to ratify UNESCO cultural conventions.**

Read the article at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201801110511.html>

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## **C.5 Cairo Opera Chairwoman Ines Abdel-Dayem appointed Egypt's new culture minister**

14 January - Ines Abdel-Dayem was appointed the new minister of culture replacing Helmy El-Namnam, an author and journalist who has served as culture minister since September 2015.

The 58-year-old graduated from the flute department of the Cairo Conservatory in 1984. She earned a PhD from the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris in 1990. She toured extensively in the US, Italy, Japan, Germany, Spain, Greece and the Czech Republic – as well as African and Middle Eastern countries including Morocco, Tunisia, Syria and the UAE.

Abdel-Dayem became the director of the Cairo Symphony Orchestra in 2003, dean of the Cairo Conservatoire in 2005 and soon after vice-president of the Academy of Arts.

In February 2012, Abdel-Dayem replaced the late Abdel-Moneim Kamel as Cairo Opera House chairperson. However, in May, 2013 she was dismissed by the Muslim Brotherhood appointed culture minister Alaa Abdel-Aziz due to her opposition to the Islamists' policies in government.

Following the ouster of Mohamed Morsi from power in July 2013, Abdel-Dayem was reinstated as the Cairo Opera House chairperson by the new culture minister Mohamed Saber Arab.

More at <http://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail20.com/t/i-l-oukiiyk-zhyhtliir-tr/>

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## **D. News, institutions, resources and events in other regions**

### **D.1 The European Year of Cultural Heritage launched at the Culture Forum in Milan**

Commissioner Navracsics officially launched the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 at the Culture Forum in the creative neighborhood of Tortona, in Milan, on 8 December.

"This year of celebrations will be an opportunity to encourage people, especially young people, to explore Europe's rich cultural diversity and to reflect on the place that cultural heritage occupies in all our lives. It allows us to understand the past and to build our future," he said.

Visit the campaign website for the latest on the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Read more at [https://ec.europa.eu/culture/event/forum-2017\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/culture/event/forum-2017_en)

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### **D.2 The Routledge Companion to Cultural Property**

Edited by Jane Anderson, Haidy Geismar, at Routledge (Routledge, 2017, 492 pages, Series: Routledge Companions, ISBN 78-1-13-881264-2), this book contains new contributions from scholars working at the cutting edge of cultural property studies, bringing together diverse academic and professional perspectives to develop a coherent overview of this field of enquiry.

The global range of authors use international case studies to encourage the understanding of how cultural property has emerged in different parts of the world and continues to frame vital issues of national sovereignty, the free market, international law, and cultural heritage. Sections

explore how cultural property is scaled to the state and the market; cultural property as law; cultural property and cultural rights; and emerging forms of cultural property.

By bringing together disciplinary perspectives from anthropology, archaeology, law, indigenous studies, history, folklore studies, and policy, this volume facilitates fresh debate and broadens our understanding of this issue of growing importance. This statement of cultural property issues will be of great interest to cultural sector professionals and policy makers, as well as students and academic researchers engaged with cultural property in a variety of disciplines.

Read more at <http://208.254.74.112/books/details/9781138812642/>

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### **D.3 Cultural Diplomacy: Arts, Festivals and Geopolitics**

Edited by Milena Dragičević Šešić, this book that presents collection of texts has been created as a result of two separate projects: the conference BITEF (Belgrade International Theatre Festival) and Cultural Diplomacy: Theatre and Geopolitics and the Creative Europe Desk Serbia research project about the state of the art in international and regional cultural collaboration in Serbia.

Thus the book is divided in five complementary parts. part I: Cultural diplomacy: soft power or fair cooperation part II: Theatre festivals in cultural diplomacy part III: Paradiplomacy and bottom-up cultural diplomacy part IV: Serbia – challenges and perspectives of international cultural cooperation part V: Cultural cooperation data - statistical annex.

More at <http://on-the-move.org/news/article/19026/cultural-diplomacy-arts-festivals-and-geopolitics/>

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### **D.4 What are Cultural Rights?**

Did you know that the ability to access, participate in and contribute to cultural life is considered a human right? In the latest episode of the Culture Sector podcast, “Talking about Culture”, Karima Bennoune, the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, answers some of the most frequently asked questions about cultural rights, including: What are cultural rights? What is their basis in international law? Can cultural rights ever be used to justify limits on the rights of women and girls?

You can listen to this fascinating podcast here: <http://en.unesco.org/mediabank/24868/>

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### **D.5 Culture in sustainability: Towards a transdisciplinary approach, University of Jyväskylä, 2017, ISBN: 978-951-39-7267-7**

Culture has rarely been discussed in the context of sustainability in an explicit way. Culture is sometimes understood as a part of the social dimension, although it may play different roles in sustainability.

First, culture can have a supportive and self-promoting role. This definition considers culture as a 4th pillar alongside ecological, social, and economic considerations and imperatives. The second role (‘culture for sustainable development’) offers culture as a more influential force that can operate beyond itself. This moves culture into a framing, contextualising and mediating mode, one that can balance all three of the existing pillars and guide sustainable development between economic, social, and ecological needs. The third role refers to an even

more fundamental role for culture ('culture as sustainable development'). It sees culture as the essential foundation and structure for achieving the aims of sustainable development.

These reflections result from the research project on Investigating Cultural Sustainability (COST IS1007) carried out between 2011 and 2015 by a European Union (Horizon 2020) funded research network coordinated by the University of Jyväskylä in 2011-2015.

This book is a compilation of the papers presented at the Final Conference of the COST project held in Helsinki from 6 to 8 May 2015. Other work carried out by the network is being published in the book series Routledge Studies in Culture and Sustainable Development as well as in special issues of International Journal of Cultural Policy and Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift.

Web site: <https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/bitstream/handle/123456789/56075/978-951-39-7267-7.pdf?sequence=1> and <https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/56075>

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## **D.6 Africa: Crossroads of African Cultures - The New Life of Missionary Collections**

Yesterday propaganda media, now instruments of dialogue, the partially dispersed collections of Spiritans and those, in Lyon, of the Society of African Missions, will benefit from new presentations. On November 27, 2017, the African Museum of Lyon closed.

The masks, the guardian statues, the sceptres of the ancient Abomey kingdom, the Akan weight collection to weigh the gold will be returned to the box with the other 2,000 exhibits.

The collection of the Society of African Missions (SMA), rich of 8,000 objects in total and 7,000 books reported from the nineteenth century by priests sent to evangelize the black continent, will be reborn in 2018 in a new form: a Crossroads of African cultures.

The Museum will focus on temporary thematic presentations, in order to attract new audiences.

Read more at <http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201801100376.html>

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## **D.7 ITI Germany's Yearbook - Arts under Attack**

The German Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI - Germany) recently published its 2017 yearbook. Entitled 'Arts under Attack', this bilingual (German and English) work includes a series of texts focusing on the rise of nationalism and populism, phenomena that seek to thwart a sense of democratic and culturally open unity. This theme was chosen following a raft of censorship in the region, which has significantly restricted work opportunities for artists.

More at [https://issuu.com/itigermany/docs/iti\\_jahrbuch\\_2017\\_issuu\\_i](https://issuu.com/itigermany/docs/iti_jahrbuch_2017_issuu_i)

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## **D.8 Tools for participatory artistic practices**

Creative People and Places, funded by Arts Council England, aims to bring artistic experiences closer to people who have fewer opportunities to relate to art by carrying out projects in their communities. The resources available on the website include a toolkit for decision-making in collaborative and participatory practices. The kit helps artists, creators and social organisations to develop programming by involving the local community in sharing decisions to shape it. More at

[www.creativepeopleplaces.org.uk/sites/default/files/Shared\\_DecisionMaking\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.creativepeopleplaces.org.uk/sites/default/files/Shared_DecisionMaking_Toolkit.pdf)

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## **E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press**

### **E.1 Links to portals**

<http://fr.allafrica.com/arts/bydate/?n=1>

<http://www.africaonline.com/site/africa/arts.jsp>

<http://www.apanews.net/news/fr/rubrique.php?id=65>

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2003/646/culture.htm>

<http://english.alarabonline.org/display.asp?code=zculturez>\*\*\*

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### **E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica**

#### **Angola: Minister Wants Music as an Instrument of Culture of Peace**

culture Minister Carolina Cerqueira highlighted the need for Angolan artists to use music as an instrument of culture of peace, dignification of women and education of society. According to the Cabinet minister musicians must bet on the production of songs whose messages extol human dignity, love of neighbor, patriotism and appreciation of the identity traits of Angolan culture. "Music should reflect Angolanity, solidarity and patriotism, and contribute to the recovery of moral values," said the official. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201801120146.html>

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#### **Angola: Culture Plays Cohesion, Integration Role - Minister**

Dundo — Culture plays a fundamental role in the promotion of peace, cohesion of communities and the society in general, thus becoming a factor of unity, solidarity and a crucial element in the integration process, Angolan Culture minister, Carolina Cerqueira, said last Monday. Delivering a speech at the main commemoration act of the National Culture Day, marked on January 08, in Dundo City, north-eastern Lunda Norte Province, Carolina Cerqueira stressed that culture plays a key role in economic growth and in sustainable human development. "There are a series of agencies, companies, organisations and universities that Finance programmes with a cultural nature, which we need to identify immediately (...)", explained the minister. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201801100668.html>

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#### **Tanzania: Kiswahili to Be Universal Lingua Franca**

THERE are mixed feelings about whether Kiswahili language should be used as a medium of communication in schools and public forums or promoting it to an international language. Mr Ali Omar, General Secretary of CHAUMMA party, and a vocal politician, says focus should be on building a vibrant economy along side promoting three International languages: English, Spanish, and French, before thinking of Kiswahili. Omar's views about Kiswahili and those of the others were targeted at a two-day 'International Kiswahili Workshop' organized by Baraza la Kiswahili Zanzibar (BAKIZA). Main speakers at the workshop said people need to be well informed and educated about Kiswahili as it grows internationally, an opportunity they can use socially, economically, and politically as most countries in Africa have already accepted to promote the language. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201801030359.html>

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## **Liberia: Opening of a School of Arts in Liberia**

Monrovia — More than 25 young Liberian students are expected to start enrollment this month at the Van Vicker School of Arts in the country. Van Vicker, who is widely known by the stage name Rash, opened the first postwar performing arts school in the country. Rash, who is a Ghanaian-based Liberian Film Producer, Director and Actor, spoke to journalists recently: The school, located on Benson Street in Central Monrovia, comes at a time when most talented Liberian filmmakers and musicians are eager to acquire knowledge about their arts in order for them to produce works that will be easily accepted outside their local market.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201801030584.html>

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## **Ethiopia: Authority to Introduce New Heritage Inventory Management System**

Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage announced that it has finalized preparation to implement new cultural heritage inventory management system. Authority Heritage Management and Inventory Senior Expert Abera Anjulo said that the new digital inventory management system would introduce modern technology and upgrade the previous inventory system. The system would be functional in five states and two city administrations budget and is expected to ease the heritage conservation program's registration and monitoring activities. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201712290550.html>

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## **F. Info from newsletters and information services**

### **F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies**

#### **Zambia: Nomination of the new National Arts Council Board**

ZNBC, 12 January 2018, Zambia - Minister of Arts and tourism Charles Banda has unveiled the fourth National Arts Council of Zambia board. The Minister said government's aim is to strengthen partnerships to transform the informal sector and create an enabling environment for the creative industry to thrive. He said it's government's desire to see a strong linkage between arts and tourism as both contribute to the development of the country. Mr. Banda has however urged the new board to provide strategic leadership and ensure it delivers on its mandate.

<http://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail20.com/t/i-l-oukiiyk-zhyhtliir-ty/>

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#### **Can New National Art Bank Revolutionise South Africa's Art Industry?**

The department of arts and culture has launched the new National Art Bank (NAB), a new model for art funding that could completely change the way artists and museums create collections. The NAB will create a store of artworks by purchasing them from galleries and private artists. This creates a way for the NAB to ultimately become self-funded — and also allows those renting to keep their environments full of fresh artwork that might normally be beyond the means of their own acquisition budgets. The new collection will, be held at the Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein, where a display of the collection's first acquisitions is currently on display. It features 54 artworks from eight provinces by 32 different artists.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/2017/12/29/can-new-national-art-bank-revolutionise-sas-art-industry\\_a\\_23319317/](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/2017/12/29/can-new-national-art-bank-revolutionise-sas-art-industry_a_23319317/)

Web site: [www.ifacca.org](http://www.ifacca.org)

Contact: [info@ifacca.org](mailto:info@ifacca.org)

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## **F.2 Africultures**

### **Beginning of African cinemas and the Documentation Center of Father Jean Vast**

Interview of Olivier Barlet with Jean Sarr: Rare is the documentation on the work of Father Jean Vast (1921-2005), who lived in Saint-Louis from Senegal 1950 to 1999 and was the host of one of the first cinema reviews devoted to African cinemas, Unir cinéma. As the film *Lumière sur Ndar* (Mansour Kébé, from Saint-Louis, 2010) shows, his predecessor, Father Daniel Brottier, had organized a cinematography session in a café in 1908. His successors took over; the Joan of Arc room saw the creation of a film club maintained until 1966. Passionate about cinema, Father Vast gathered a great documentary and created the Catholic Office of the Cinema of Senegal in 1968, then launched the magazine *Unir Cinema*. Source: <http://www.signis.net/nouvelles/aussi-in-the-news/19-04-2006/pabi-le-pere-jean-vast>

Site web: <http://africultures.com/>

Contact: <http://africultures.com/contact/>

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## **F.3 Arterial Network Newsletter Lettre d'information du Réseau Arterial**

### **New Book Alert: "Art in Seychelles, Then & Now"**

On 7 December 2017, Arterial Network Seychelles held a media conference followed by a celebration evening for the launch of "Art in Seychelles, Then and Now", a 256 page sumptuously illustrated hardback publication, covering the development and current state of visual Art in Seychelles. The book collates for the first time, Seychelles' Art culture. It looks back into the origins of Art in Seychelles right up to modern day contemporary artists; the perfect Christmas gift for Art lovers in Seychelles and all around the world. [http://www.arterialnetwork.org/article/NEW\\_BOOK\\_ART\\_IN\\_SEYCHELLES\\_THEN\\_NOW](http://www.arterialnetwork.org/article/NEW_BOOK_ART_IN_SEYCHELLES_THEN_NOW)

Web site: <http://arterialnetwork.org/>

Contact: [info@arterialnetwork.org](mailto:info@arterialnetwork.org)

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## **F.4 Newsletter Casa África**

### **The 10th Iberian Congress of African Studies (CIEA-10)**

For this coming edition of CIEA-10, on *African Cultures and Peoples: Identities, Power, Knowledge, and Traditions in Feminine*, we focus on people's knowledge for social transformation. Thus, a day of the Congress will be dedicated to honoring the pioneers in the implementation of this international Congress for the Iberian context, such as Ferran Iniesta Vernet (Universidad de Barcelona) and Isabel Castro Henriques (Universidade de Lisboa). Being within the *African Women's Decade*, another session will deal with African feminisms. A final day shall explore global and local representations, and as it were to end up taking the congress "to the street" as a way of closing it as well. During the CIEA-10 some recent texts and documentaries are to be presented. <https://granada-en.congresoseci.com/ciea10>

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## **F.5 The Cultural Policy in the Arab Region (ARCP) Newsletter**

### **Sudan: Workshop on Cultural Laws and Legislation to Create National Fund for Creative Artists**

Sudan wants to create a national fund to support creatives. The General Secretariat of the Fund took December 2017 to identify the priorities for the next phase of building and linking the fund on a state level and providing artists with health insurance. December 2017 also saw the Sudanese Ministry of Culture lead a workshop on culture entitled “Laws, legislation, strategies and policies according to the 2005 Agreement,” held in coordination with UNESCO and the Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture. The workshop aimed to review and study current legislation and laws in Sudan within the framework of the 2005 UNESCO Convention in order to secure more cultural diversity in the country; it also examined issues of intellectual property protection and combating piracy.

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### **Maroc: Why is Culture the Solution? A Study on Cultural Policy in Four Arab Countries**

L'association Racines has released a new study seeking to diagnose the state of cultural policy in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Lebanon. The publication, entitled “Why is Culture the Solution?” delves into the history of cultural policy in these countries and examines the relationships between the cultural, social development, and economic sectors. It also includes a collection of special testimonials and case studies from artists and the members of the public. The publication, available in English and French, came as the culmination of a year’s work for the MARSAD project, spearheaded by Racines in collaboration with Notre culture d'abord (Tunisia), El Madina for Performing and Digital Arts (Egypt), and Me’zaf (Lebanon). View the study at [https://issuu.com/associationracines/docs/why\\_culture\\_is\\_the\\_solution](https://issuu.com/associationracines/docs/why_culture_is_the_solution)

Site web: <http://www.arabcp.org/site/index>

Contact: <http://www.arabcp.org/site/contact>

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## **F.6 Cyberkaris - the monthly electronic newsletter of the Interarts Foundation F.8 Cyberkaris – La lettre d’information mensuelle de la Fondation Interarts**

### **Voices of Culture: culture and social inclusion**

Voices of Culture is a European Commission initiative to create a space for debate on aspects of culture involving a range of European sector players, with a view to giving European Union policymakers a broad spectrum of qualified opinions. The next structured dialogue will involve professional organizations, cultural institutions and organizations on the theme 'Social inclusion-partnering with other sectors'. <https://asp2.inquiry.net/s.app?A=Z6WD5tvF>

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### **European Parliament Publication on arts and culture education**

The study on the current state of culture and cultural education. The study examines the challenges facing arts and culture education, as well as the potential benefits of both disciplines, both at the scientific and the socio-economic level. Key topics are the place of culture in education, the role of the EU in supporting culture education policies. <https://interarts.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c6738c6010b710a80c771b993&id=9a9ba1a7d9&e=32ef509486>

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### **SouthMed WiA: Forthcoming meetings will take place in Egypt and Morocco**

The project "SouthMed WiA - Towards Greater Gender Equality: Promoting the Role and Image of Women in the Southern Mediterranean Audiovisual Sector" is organizing two

meetings to advocate for more gender equality in the audiovisual sector of the targeted region. The first meeting will be held on 18 January 2018 in Cairo. The second one, on 26 January 2018 in Morocco, will take place at ESAV, The School of Visual Arts in Marrakech. <http://www.smedwia.eu/en/activities-2/13139-2/> Two Videos about SouthMed CV are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fe0ySFk5QbQ&feature=youtu.be> and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oecmCauIz-k&feature=youtu.be>

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### **The 9th International Seminar on Cultural Policy: call for papers**

The Casa de Rui Barbosa Foundation, a cultural organization in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is holding the ninth edition of its International Seminar on Cultural Policies from 15 to 18 May 2018. The foundation is taking proposals for work to be exhibited at the event, with the aim of promoting debate and reflection among students, researchers, teachers and other professionals in the field of cultural policies. The deadline for submissions is 18 February. Papers submitted should focus exclusively on cultural policies. More information at <https://interarts.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c6738c6010b710a80c771b993&id=3c3e583138&e=32ef509486>

Web site: <http://www.interarts.net>

Contact: [cyberk@interarts.net](mailto:cyberk@interarts.net)

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**Please send addresses, information, and documents for the OCPA list serve, database, documentation centre and web site!**

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**Thank you for your interest and co-operation**

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