

# 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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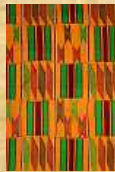


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## **In this issue**

### **A. News from OCPA**

Activities in February 2018

- A.1 Preparation for the participation of OCPA in the 2018 edition of the MASA
- A.2 Preparation for participation in the Round Table on the Performing Arts
- A.3 Preparation of the 1st International Conference on Oral History of Mozambique
- A.4 Workshop on the Implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance

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

- B.1 The First Pan-African Writers Conference of the African Union (Accra, 7–9 March 2018)
- B.2 Tunisia: 4th Arab Publishers' Conference (Tunis, 9 and 10 January 2018)
- B.3 Festival on the Niger 2018
- B.4 Swaziland: The Bushfire Festival ranked among world's top fests
- B.5 Amani Fest 2018 Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, 9-11 February 2018)
- B.6 CICIBA and ACALAN Sign Cooperation Agreement in Addis Ababa

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

- C.1 Lenn Eugene Nagbe, Liberia's Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism
- C.2 Zambian Ministry of Tourism and Art
- C.3 Burkina Faso: Abdoul Karim Sango, installed Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism
- C.4 Death of Idrissa Ouedraogo - Farewell by the Burkinabé Minister of Culture
- C.5 Chad - Djibert Younous succeeds Mahamat Saleh Haroun as Minister of Culture

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

- D.1 20th International Conference on Cultural Economics (Melbourne, 26 - 29 June 2018)
- D.2 Negotiating Cultural Rights: Issues At Stake, Challenges and Recommendations
- D.3 International Mother Language Day 21 February
- D.4 Capitals of Culture: an Introductory Survey of a Worldwide Activity, October 2017
- D.5 Conference of European Ministers of Culture (Davos 2018, Switzerland)
- D.6 World Theatre Day 2018 – Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the ITI

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

- E.1 Links to portals
- E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica
  - Liberia: Arts and Culture Advocates Implore President Weah to Remember the Sector
  - East Africa Arts Biennale Goes Regional
  - Nigeria: Las Vegas Hots Up for African Arts Festival
  - Eritrea: Workshop on Documentation of Cultural Heritage (Asmara, 19 – 28 February 2018)
  - Lesotho: Fashion Designer Celebrates Cultural Diversity

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

- F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies
  - Zimbabwe: Take arts Seriously to Boost Tourism
  - Kenyan Creatives Petition Government for a Ministry of Culture
- F.2 Africultures
  - Africultures, at risk of disappearing, calls for support
- F.3 Arterial Network Newsletter
  - African Fund for Culture (ACF)
- F.4 The Cultural Policy in the Arab Region (ARCP) Newsletter
  - Jordan: Protests following a new sales tax in publishing sector
  - United Arab Emirates: The Sharjah Art Foundation (SAH) aims to support cinema

- Tunisia: A Humiliating Budget and the Stagnation of Creativity - By Habib Bel Hedi

#### F.5 Nhimbe Trust Fund

- Nhimbe Trust Launches U40 Cultural Leadership Programme

#### F.6 C-NEWS - Culturelink Newsletter

- The 2018 Forum on European Culture (Amsterdam, 31 May to 3 June 2018)
- Promoting Cultural and Creative Industries

#### F.7 Agenda 21 Culture Circular

- **Culture discussed at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum** (Kuala Lumpur, 7-13 February 2018)

#### F.8 La Lettre de l'Institut français

- Workshops of the New French-German AyadaLab Program

#### F.9 South African Art Times

- Sotheby's Cotributes to the Development of the Sale of Modern African Art
- The 2018 Investec Cape Town Art Fair

#### F.10 Cyberkaris – La lettre d'information mensuelle de la Fondation Interarts

- Interarts at the meeting on culture in EU external relations
- Indigenous peoples film and communications festival: Submission deadline: 15 May 2018
- Cultural participation and wellbeing' – the 4<sup>th</sup> Dossier 'of the Social Observatory of "la Caixa"
- Art and political space in Europe (Brussels, Belgium, 28 February 2018)

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### A. News from OCPA

The month of February will have been used by the secretariat for a technical preparation of the events forseen during the year 2018.

#### A.1 Preparation for the participation of OCPA in the 2018 edition of the MASA

The OCPA is preparing for a substantial participation in the 2018 edition of the MASA (Marché des Arts du Spectacle Africain/Market for African Performing Arts) in Abidjan from March 10 to 18 and will play a special role in the animation of the professional meetings. In a special way, the OCPA will give special support to the meeting of the Executive Board of the International Music Council, which will hold its session in this context on March 16 and 17, preceded the day before, on the 15th, by a meeting with different structures. cultural and artistic African.

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#### A.2 Preparation for participation in the Round Table on the Performing Arts

In the framework of MASA, the CERAV (Regional Center for the Living Arts, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso) and the International Institute of Theater ITI, Paris) will organize a round table devoted to the performing arts. The Executive Director of OCPA will participate in the opening of this meeting with a keynote address on the African performing arts and the global market.

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#### A.3 Preparation of the 1st International Conference on Oral History of Mozambique

In preparation for the first international conference on oral history in Mozambique scheduled for November 14-16, 2018, organized by OCPA by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the OCPA proceeded during the month of February, at the appointment of the members of the Scientific Council of the Conference. This includes, in addition to high-level experts from Mozambican universities (including Eduardo Mondlane University, Zambezi University, Lurio University) representatives of specialized centers in Africa, including CODESRIA,

CERDOTOLA and CELHTO, as well as specialists from guest area of the Universities of Brazil and Portugal. More details on the conference will be given in future editions.

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#### **A.4 Workshop on the Implementation of the African Cultural Renaissance Charter**

Successful exchanges took place between the African Union Commission and the OCPA which resulted in the decision of the very forthcoming organization of an African Union Workshop in Maputo in May 2018, on the strategy and program for the effective implementation of the African Cultural Renaissance Charter. Here again more details will be given in the next issue of OCPANEWS.

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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 The First Pan-African Writers Conference of the African Union (Accra, 7 – 9 March)**

Organized in Accra, Ghana from 7 to 9 March 2018 in collaboration with the Pan-African Association of Writers and the Thabo Mbeki Federation, this meeting of writers from the African continent is envisaged as "a forum for debate on the major opportunities and challenges of African literary works in contributing to the socio-cultural development of the continent".

The theme proposed for this occasion is "Promoting African Literature and Reading: the Role of African Literary Authors in Strengthening African Identity: Shared Values and Integration".

It is about: transcending all forms of primitive ethnicism to promote the representation and promotion of the Bantu identity in its most eminent light, while combining meaning and content, material production, intellectual and spiritual.

This reflection will allow us to put into perspective, through such a meeting, the values that are supposed to found the unity and integration of Africa.

Source: <http://www.cicibabantu.org/1ere-conference-panafricaine-des-ecrivains-de-lunion-africaine/>

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### **B.2 Tunisia: 4th Arab Publishers' Conference (Tunis, 9 and 10 January 2018)**

This conference was held by the Arab Publishers' Union under the title "Books and publishing in the Arab world: Reality and Prospects". A number of academics and publishers from 14 different Arab and European countries attended the conference, which was followed by a seminar on the role of books and publishing in the development of Arab culture, presented to ministers of cultural affairs in the Arab world.

During the conference, participants identified current problems in the field, including rising illiteracy rates, the reluctance of intellectuals to read, the proliferation of fraud and intellectual property infringement, a lack of development in public libraries, and propensity for Arab countries to designate meagre budgets to their literature and publishing sectors.

Web site: [http://www.arab-pa.org/En/shared/GP\\_Details.aspx?GP\\_ID=1128](http://www.arab-pa.org/En/shared/GP_Details.aspx?GP_ID=1128)

Contact: [nsharif@arab-pa.org](mailto:nsharif@arab-pa.org)

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### **B.3 Festival on the Niger 2018**

Given the current situation of our country and in accordance with its vision 2017-2019 with the festival format called "Culture & Citizenship Edition", the activities of this 14<sup>th</sup> edition will be organized themes like peace, education, reconciliation and citizenship. The central theme of the Festival on Niger for this 14<sup>th</sup> edition and for its symposium is: "Segou, city of architecture".

The programme includes international and national visual art exhibitions and thematic workshops and Masters Classes. The festival innovates with a new storytelling scene. The Kôre Cultural Center will welcome the expressions of theater and dance on topical themes.

Web site: <http://www.festivalsegou.org/>

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### **B.4 Swaziland: The Bushfire Festival ranked among world's top fests**

US-based festival aggregator Everfest has listed MTN Bushfire Festival as one of the top festivals in the world. The event, which is in its 12th edition and will be held from 25 to 27 May, is the only African festival among 29 other festivals from across the globe.

In 2017 the event won the African Best Responsible Event Award and CNN listed it as one of the "seven African music festivals you really have to see". In addition, BBC rated Bushfire as the "top African festival". Everfest is widely seen as the world's festival authority that connects the festival community online.

Web site <https://www.musicinafrica.net/magazine/swaziland-bushfire-ranked-among-world%E2%80%99s-top-fests>

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### **B.5 Amani Fest 2018 Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, 9-11 February 2018)**

During the festival, Goma vibrates to the rhythm of the festival Amani which is in its 5th edition with a very diversified and international programming. Following the throes of recurring armed conflicts, this festival brings together and allows the peoples of the Great Lakes region to live in harmony. Through this festival, Goma and the east of the country show their true face: the east is far from being a land of wars, rapes and looting, it is full of talents, young engaged and able to to change this reality by the creation of companies likely to restore a smile to the population.

The 2018 edition will be devoted to the valorization of Congolese rumba as a result of the fight led by the National Institute of Arts for its inscription in the World Heritage of Humanity.

Web site: <https://amanifestival.com/en/festival/amani-festival-2018>

Contact: [culture.walbru@gmail.com](mailto:culture.walbru@gmail.com)

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### **B.6 CICIBA and ACALAN Sign Cooperation Agreement in Addis Ababa**

Meeting at the headquarters of the African Union, from 5 to 6 February 2018, within the framework of its Scientific and Technical Committee, ACALAN capitalized the presence of CICIBA to concretize the formal signing of a Cooperation Agreement with CICIBA on / February 2018, after the close of its meeting.

By this agreement, "CICIBA and ACALAN agree to include the activities covered by this framework agreement in the preferential areas of harmonization of Bantu language writing systems, creation of terminologies, dictionaries, corpora, capacity-building for members of language committees, and training of teachers in African languages.

Source: <http://www.cicibabantu.org/le-ciciba-and-lacalan-sign-a-cooperation-agreement-in-the-african-union-in-addis-abeba/>

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

### **C.1 Lenn Eugene Nagbe, Liberia's Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism**

In the new government of Liberia designated on 26 January 2018 there are some politicians who have already been in the last Government of the former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. One among them is the Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT), Lenn Eugene Nagbe who, in the field of culture, is expected to solve the following main tasks:

- replacement of the Kendeja Cultural Village, built in 1960, damaged during the civil war.
- implementation of reforms that will stop the downplaying of the country's culture and its replacement with the propagation of foreign cultures.
- renovation of the National Museum.
- construction of the Behsao National Culture Center, Liberia's second cultural village.
- launching of an annual cultural festival for promoting the national cultural heritage.
- protection of the authors' rights of the Liberian artists and musicians.
- development of the tourism industry.

Source: <http://gnnliberia.com/2016/06/22/man-lenn-eugene-nagbe-long-awaited-liberias-minister-information/>

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### **C.2 The Zambian Ministry of Tourism and Art**

Created in 2011 when the sector of culture was separated from the Traditional Affairs in order to improve the coordination between tourism and culture, the Ministry is mandated to coordinate the development of the following fields: Arts and Culture Policies and Centers, Culture industries, Museums, National Heritage and Arts Research. The Ministry is also responsible for cultural statutory bodies like the National Heritage Conservation Commission, the National Museum Board and the National Arts Council.

**The vision of the Ministry is** "To be a destination of choice with unique features thriving on well conserved natural resources, cultural heritage and creative industries that significantly contribute to employment creation, sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction by 2030". The Ministry is also expected "To facilitate and promote sustainable tourism and arts development and, culture preservation for socio-economic development".

**The tasks of the Ministry** headed by Hon. Charles Banda, Minister of Tourism and Arts are to

- provide policy frameworks and efficient administrative services for the preservation and development of the arts and culture;
- co-ordinate the rehabilitation and construction of arts and culture infrastructure;
- promote research, investments, marketing and product development in arts and culture in order to contribute to employment and wealth creation;
- effectively develop human resources through professional training and improve organizational performance for the effective sustainable development of the sector;
- promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation in arts and culture;
- monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 2014 sectoral cultural policy.

Access the policy at <http://www.mota.gov.zm/index.php/downloads/policies-and-guidelines/9-national-cultural-policy-1>

Web site of the Ministry: <http://www.mota.gov.zm/index.php/features>

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### **C.3 Burkina Faso: Abdoul Karim Sango, installed Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism**

The Secretary General of the government Stéphane Sanou proceeded to the official installation of the new Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism on February 5, 2018. The award ceremony between Minister Issouf Sawadogo and incoming Minister Abdoul Karim Sango.

Officially installed, Abdoul Karim Sango is now the new Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism. During the installation ceremony, the SG of the government Stéphane Sanou confided that this appointment was the proof of a great confidence that the head of the State placed to the incoming minister. The newly installed minister said that it is too early to decline his vision for the ministry adding that "I come modestly bring my stone to the construction of the building."

Web site: <http://burkinademain.com/2018/02/06/abdoul-karim-sango-installe-minister-de-la-culture-des-arts-and-tourism/>

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### **C.4 Burkina Faso: Death of Idrissa Ouedraogo - Farewell by the Minister of Culture**

"The words are not enough to translate what I feel for this great man of culture. At this evening tribute, we wanted to be present as Minister of Culture, to be with the companions of road who knew Idrissa Ouedraogo.- said Abdoul Karim Sango, Minister of Culture Arts and Tourism.

It is also our way of marking our solidarity with our nuclear family, our solidarity with the world of cinema. But above all our solidarity with the Burkinabè nation, the African people. Because Idriissa, we finally understood, was a man who transcended Burkina Faso and Africa. We'll say he was a man of the world.

He left without leaving. We simply want his immense legacy to inspire younger generations. It is in this that his fight will have been useful. The inheritance defends itself. And if there are any particular initiatives to take, it will be necessary to find a way to disseminate his production more widely in order to allow the younger generations to know this true source of inspiration.

Read the article at <http://www.allafrica.com/stories/201802210316.html>

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## **C.5 Chad - Djibert Younous Replaces Mahamat Saleh Haroun as new Minister of Culture**

The Chadian filmmaker, notably awarded at Cannes in 2010, was dismissed via a decree read on national radio. For his part, he claims to have submitted his resignation. He was replaced by Djibert Younous, former Minister of Culture, to become "Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Tourism Development".

For his part, he said "I have not been dismissed or sacked. I resigned for personal reasons. I submitted my resignation to the Prime Minister on February 6.

His stated goal as Chadian Minister of Culture was to create a "high level" film school.

Source: <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/529045/politique/tchad-mahamat-saleh-haroun-dem>

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

### **D.1 20th International Conference on Cultural Economics (Melbourne, 26 - 29 June 2018)**

Organized by the Association for Cultural Economics International (ACEI) and RMIT University, this Conference aims to provide a forum for discussion on a range of issues impacting the arts and culture such as creative industries, creative cities, art markets and artistic labour. It brings together a range of academics from a number of disciplines that share an interest in empirically motivated research on topics related to the arts and culture such as creative industries, creative cities, art markets and artistic labour to name a few. The conference also welcomes the insights and contributions from professionals, arts practitioners, policy makers and arts administrators in developing a dialogue that connects theory with practice.

Web site <https://sites.rmit.edu.au/acei2018/>

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### **D.2 Negotiating Cultural Rights: Issues at Stake, Challenges and Recommendations**

This book is edited by Lucky Belder, UNESCO Chair in Cultural Rights, University of Copenhagen. The various reports on cultural rights by UN Special Rapporteur Faridah Shaheed provide a new universal standard on cultural rights with topics ranging from cultural diversity, cultural heritage, and the right to artistic freedom to the effects of today's intellectual property regimes. The international contributors to this book reflect upon the many aspects of cultural rights in the reports and present a discussion of how cultural rights support cultural diversity, foster intercultural dialogue, and contribute to socio-economic and political development.

To obtain the book, visit: <http://www.e-elgar.com/shop/negotiating-cultural-rights>

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### **D.3 International Mother Language Day 21 February**

In 2018 the International Mother Language Day is dedicated to the theme: Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development.

Languages, with their implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for the peoples. Yet, due to globalization processes, they are increasingly under threat, or disappearing.

More than 50 per cent of the approximately 7,000 languages spoken in the world are likely to die out within a few generations, and 96 per cent of these languages are spoken by a mere 4 per cent of the world's population. Only a few hundred languages have been given pride of place in education systems and the public domain, and less than a hundred are used in the digital world.

International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education.

Web site: <http://www.un.org/en/events/motherlanguageday/>

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#### **D.4 Capitals of Culture: An Introductory Survey of a Worldwide Activity, October 2017**

Whilst the European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) programme has generated a substantial library of evaluations, theses, reports, articles commentaries etc., very little has been written about the other programmes. This paper, written by Steve Green, a former chair of the selection panel for the European Capitals of Culture (including for Rijeka 2020), gives an introduction to the Capitals and Cities of Culture programmes around the world.

This paper is an introductory survey of 31 titles. Some have closed, but in 2017 there are 23 cities around the world with a Capital of Culture title. They join over 300 cities which have held titles since 1985 and over 50 cities are already designated to hold titles to 2025.

According to Steve Green, this paper just outlines the programmes and shows that more information and research is needed on the Capitals of Culture programmes around the world. Thus, the author welcomes more information on titles and will keep the paper up to date.

The paper is available at <http://prasino.eu/2017/10/29/capitals-of-culture-a-worldwide-activity/>

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#### **D.5 Davos 2018 Conference of European Ministers of Culture (Davos, Switzerland)**

Held just before the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, from 20 to 22 January 2018, the Conference discussed the theme “Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe” with Baukultur defined as, “embracing every human activity that changes the built environment.”

It adopted the Davos Declaration, which elaborates the definition of Baukultur as follows: “The whole built environment, including every designed and built asset that is embedded in and relates to the natural environment, is to be understood as a single entity. Baukultur encompasses existing buildings, including monuments and other elements of the cultural heritage, as well as the construction of contemporary building, infrastructure, public spaces and landscapes.”

The Davos Declaration emphasises the central role of culture in the quality of our living environment. It reminds us that building is culture and creates space for culture. Taking a holistic approach, the joint responsibility of politics and society for the built environment is stressed and a European policy of achieving high-quality Baukultur is called for.

More at <https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-69559.html>

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## **D.6 World Theatre Day 2018 – Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the ITI**

The General Secretariat is now working on the World Theatre Day Celebration that will take place on Tuesday 27 March at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the International Theatre Institute and to underline the cross-cultural and international aspect of theatre and of ITI, the Executive Council has selected five message authors to write a message – one from each of the five UNESCO Regions: Africa, the Americas, Arab Countries, Asia Pacific and Europe.

The authors of the Messages of World Theatre Day 2018 are:

- **Asia Pacific:** Ram Gopal Bajaj, India
- **Arab countries:** Maya Zbib, Lebanon
- **Europe:** Simon MC Burney, UK
- **The Americas:** Sabina Berman, Mexico
- **Africa:** Wèrê Wèrê Liking, Ivory Coast

Read more at [www.world-theatre-day.org](http://www.world-theatre-day.org)

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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**

#### **Liberia: Arts and Culture Advocates Implore President Weah to Remember the Sector**

Arts and culture advocates in a joint statement, former Assistant Culture Minister and the President of Liberia National Culture Union, have implored President George Weah to remember the development and promotion of both sectors. The statement said the promotion of culture and arts (the creative industries) will 'harness diversity, harness national talent, monetize creativity, and accelerate innovation.' For this reason, we are pleading with President Weah not to follow the footsteps of his predecessors, who did not do much for the development of culture and the creative industries. Culture and the creative industries have been boosting economies and generating jobs, but Liberian governments have tended to downplay the two sectors. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201802150578.html>

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#### **East Africa Arts Biennale Goes Regional (EASTAFAB)**

The arts world is doing its part to integrate the region through the EASTAFAB. Now in its 8th edition, the event is taking place for the first time in each of the five East African countries

under the title "Moving Arts Across East African Borders". The 2017-2018 exhibition opened Dar es Salaam last November for three weeks, before moving to Arusha and then to Nairobi in January. It takes place every two years in Dar es Salaam, with participation by visual and performing artists from across East Africa. 62 local and international artists are taking part in EASTAFAB established in 2003 in Tanzania. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201802130767.html>

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### **Nigeria: Las Vegas Hots Up for African Arts Festival**

Ahead of this year's African Arts and Culture Festival, AFRIKFEST Las Vegas INC, organiser of the event, has announced that the show will hold between April 13 and 14, 2018. The festival will feature exhibition of African culture, dances by different African cultural groups, African wears, herbal products and others. It is a platform to honor African leaders, who have distinguished themselves in the promotion of African culture. "There will be diverse cultural exhibitions from Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda and other parts of Africa. The festival is an event with activities like folk music, cultural dances, folktales etc. AFRIKFEST working for the cohesion of cultural heritage among African communities around the world. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201802100118.html>

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### **Eritrea: Workshop on Documentation of Cultural Heritage**

The Commission of Culture and Sports in collaboration with UNESCO organized, in Asmara from 19 to 28 February 2018, a workshop on the modality of documentation of non-tangible cultural heritage. Explaining on the importance of the document Eritrea signed in 2010 to preserve intangible heritage, Ambassador Zemedede Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, said that Eritrea is among countries that are making strong efforts for the preservation their rich intangible heritage. The cultural heritage of the nine ethnic groups of the country will be documented. At the workshop extensive discussion will be conducted on traditional proverbs, anecdotes, stories, music and dance, marriage rituals, death and birth, cultural medicines, poems and handicrafts among others.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201802200441.html>

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### **Lesotho: Fashion Designer Celebrates Cultural Diversity**

Rising local fashion designer and entrepreneur, Palesa Mercedes Recalde says her brand Third Culture Kid (TCK) strives to celebrate cultural diversity and ethnicity. Having recently launched her collection LETSEMA, which means collaboration, Palesa who is currently based in Los Angeles, USA, told the Weekender that she drew her inspiration from various cultures, places and countries. "Culture for me is an expression of ourselves as a people; and our dressing defines who we are." <http://allafrica.com/stories/201802160620.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**

#### **Zimbabwe: Take arts seriously to boost tourism**

News Day, 12 February 2018 - Elvas Mari, Director of the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ) has called on the Tourism and Hospitality Industry Ministry to strike healthy collaborations with artistes, as a way of pushing for growth of the local tourism sector. Mari addressed a National Consultative Stakeholder Tourism Strategy Workshop. He said tourism had its basis in the creative industries and many foreign visitors come to have a taste of local life largely depicted by art products. "We need to have very good synergies between tourism and culture." <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/02/take-arts-seriously-boost-tourism/>

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#### **Kenyan creatives petition government for ministry**

Music in Africa, 8 February 2018, Kenya - Representatives of the creative arts sector have petitioned the Kenyan president to create a ministry for the creative arts. The latest cabinet appointments put the entire arts and creative sector under the sports and heritage ministry, a classification that the stakeholders believe is too general. "With all due respect Your Excellency," reads the petition, "our sector cannot be reduced to Heritage. " It continues: "Heritage is based on a historical value, something that is handed down from the past, as a tradition (a national heritage of honor, pride, and courage) and is a component of culture. Based on this fact, we cannot have culture as a department within the Ministry of Sports & Heritage.

<https://www.musicinafrica.net/magazine/kenyan-creatives-petition-government-ministry>

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

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

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### **F.2 Africultures**

#### **Africultures, at risk of disappearing, calls for support**

"Africultures is in danger! Africultures may disappear! Facing this situation, Africultures launches the following call for your support: "In a context where historical subsidies are drying up, where subsidized jobs are being cut, where our media does not enjoy the support granted to the press, in a context where support from the European Union, for a project in preparation since more than a year, is slow in coming: Africultures may disappear. For 20 years, Africultures has been documenting and informing about African cultures and their diasporas. A pioneer in the web since the 1990s, Africultures has, over time, developed a unique participatory database, making it possible to disseminate and promote African creation in all its forms throughout the world. On February 21, the court will decide Africultures' ability to recover. We must therefore alert and sensitize our policies on the need to support Africultures, a necessary project in the media and cultural landscape. We also need you. Do you want to support a historical media of African and diasporic cultures? Participate in the "pledges of donations" prize pool and / or sign this call for the safeguarding of a unique heritage. If you wish, you can sign the call at <http://africultures.com/support/>

Web site: <http://africultures.com/>

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

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### **F.3 Arterial Network Newsletter**

#### **African Fund for Culture (ACF)**

The African Fund for Culture (ACF) is a transnational and continental fund set up by Arterial Network to support and support the cultural and creative industries sector in Africa. The vision of the Fund is to ensure the prosperity of the creative sector through the professionalization of artists and cultural actors. It is bold, inclusive and easy to access for all Africans. The specific objectives of the Fund are: (i) to promote and support cultural creativity, (ii) to support cultural entrepreneurship and artistic production, (iii) to promote the circulation and distribution of African cultural goods and services, (iv) improve working conditions and incomes and protect the rights of artists and creative practitioners on the African continent. The African Fund for Culture is aimed at the following target groups: individuals with artistic vocations, promoters, professional artists, companies, experts, arts training devices, organizations of cultural actors.

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

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

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### **F.4 The Cultural Policy in the Arab Region (ARCP) Newsletter**

#### **Jordan: Protests following a new sales tax in publishing sector**

The Jordanian Publishers' Union took a stand in front of the Union Headquarters in Amman on 23rd January in protest against the government's decision to impose a 10% sales tax on books. The protestors demanded the cancellation of the new sales tax. The protestors believed that the new tax will force many publishing houses out of business. According to statistics presented by Fathi Al-Biss, President of the Publishers' Union, 371 of 750 publishing houses licensed by the Media Commission have closed already, with 379 remaining active.

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#### **United Arab Emirates: The Sharjah Art Foundation (SAH) aims to support cinema**

The SAH has launched a new annual initiative of production grants for 2 feature films and 3 short films, prizes, local film screenings, and a programme of workshops and round-table discussions. The aim is to support the art scene in the region by providing a platform for well-established and promising filmmakers, producers, critics, and students. The production grants for a film will be around \$30,000. Read more at <http://www.sharjahart.org/ar/sharjah-art-foundation/news/sharjah-film-platform-open-call>

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#### **Tunisia: A Humiliating Budget and the Stagnation of Creativity - By Habib Bel Hedi**

In his article the Cultural Policy Group Coordinator for Tunisia presents his Comparative Conclusions on the Development of the Budget of the Ministry of Culture: It hasn't been long since Zine El Abidine Ben Ali promised in 2009 - shortly before his presidential bid on 14th January 2011 - to allocate 1% of the government's budget to culture. He kept his promise, adjusting the cultural budget for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 and secured 1% for culture. In the wake of the revolution, the budget allocated to culture was around 1% of the final 2011 budget. However, the Troika then started chose other priorities, thereby reducing the budget allocation of culture to 0.63%. In so doing, it demonstrated how seriously it believed in the role of culture in general and in the democratic transition process, and showed how faithful it was to its own campaign promises. Read more at [www.arabcp.org/page/937](http://www.arabcp.org/page/937)

Web site: <http://www.arabcp.org/site/index>

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

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## **F.5 Nhimbe Trust Fund**

### **Nhimbe Trust Launches U40 Cultural Leadership Programme**

Nhimbe Trust launched this Programme in January 2018 to help develop the skills of potential leaders in the cultural sector. It was created in response to the difficulties many cultural organisations in Zimbabwe face in recruiting innovative local university graduates, with capacity to meet the industry's future needs.

The U40 Cultural Leadership Programme is a 3-year programme to promote excellence in leadership in the local creative/cultural industries and the cultural sector generally. A call for applications is issued annually for the programme, and successful applicants are drawn primarily, but not exclusively, from local university graduates or the cultural sector. They will be considered as exceptional individuals (or have demonstrated considerable potential). Fellows must be between 20-40 years. Although focused on Zimbabwean professionals, the Programme is open to others living in Africa provided they are able to secure sponsorship for their participation and be resident in Zimbabwe for a minimum period of six months.

In 2018, the programme selected Charmaine Mudau (24), who recently attained a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Language and Communication Studies with Lupane State University. She did her one-year industrial attachment period at the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe where she gained exceptional arts administration and events coordination skills. She is actively involved in the creative industry as an actress.

Mudau has been strongly involved with Nhimbe in the past, with the Schools Playwright Actors Academy (now Children in Theatre & Television CiTT) from which she later graduated to the Centre for Talent Development (CTD) until now. She was also part of the Unified Women Project which saw rich cultural exchange between Nhimbe Trust and Young Vic UK, held in Bulawayo in 2017. She has a wide understanding of creative industries, not only by her acquired academic knowledge, but her own strong interest and a serious passion for the arts. She has displayed extraordinary leadership potential which needs to be nurtured, and made her a prime candidate to become the inaugural Fellow for the Programme.

Charmaine says: This is a great learning opportunity and I feel honoured to become the first Fellow of the programme. I hope to gain new skills in cultural leadership, from both local and international perspectives, through a broad range of networks and partners of Nhimbe in the field of culture and development.

Web site: <http://www.nhimbe.org/>

Contact: [joshnyap@nhimbe.org](mailto:joshnyap@nhimbe.org)

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## **F.6 C-NEWS - Culturelink Newsletter**

### **The 2018 Forum on European Culture (Amsterdam, 31 May to 3 June 2018)**

The Forum on the strength, impact and value of art and culture for Europe is organized under the title of Act for Democracy!. This four-day programme combining theater, performances, film, debate, music and expositions will gather leading international artists and thinkers to exchange ideas about Europe and imagine a shared European future. <https://cultureforum.eu/>

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### **Promoting Cultural and Creative Industries**

Promoting Cultural and Creative Industries: Maximising their Economic and Social Contribution in the European Union will be the theme of the symposium organized by Public Policy Exchange, UK, taking place in Bruxelles, Belgium, on 27 March 2017, aiming to

evaluate recent initiatives and policy developments in the field of cultural and creative industries and present good practices and emerging challenges to the sector.

<http://www.culturelink.org/conf/diary/2018.html#cci>

Web site: <http://www.culturelink.org/>

Contact: [Culturelink@irmo.hr](mailto:Culturelink@irmo.hr)

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## **F.7 Agenda 21 Culture Circular**

### **Culture discussed at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (Kuala Lumpur, 7-13 February 2018)**

This session of the WUF, on 'Cities 2030, Cities for all: Implementing the New Urban Agenda', will be the first session to focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted in Habitat III. UCLG Committee on Culture will also be organising an event entitled 'Culture, the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda: A Guide for Local Action'. The event involves a presentation the publication *Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action*. Other activities related to the place of culture in the context of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda will also take place on themes like

- 'Revitalising Cities through Conservation' (Aga Khan Trust for Culture);
- 'Leveraging Diversity and Culture, Shaping the Cities for All' (UN-Habitat);
- 'Culture, Recovery/Reconstruction: Sustainable Development' (UNESCO, World Bank),
- 'Creativity and Transformation of Cities' (British Council and Think City),
- 'Culture, Nature, Heritage, Cities: Case Studies on Localizing the SDGs' (ICOMOS).

Web site <http://www.agenda21culture.net/>

Contact: [info@agenda21culture.net](mailto:info@agenda21culture.net)

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## **F.8 La Lettre de l'Institut français**

### **Workshops of the New French-German AyadaLab Program**

The first workshops of the new Franco-German AyadaLab program, aimed at young entrepreneurs in West Africa, will take place from 25 to 28 February 2018. This is AyadaLab is a program of skills building and training. incubation for young entrepreneurs in West Africa, conducted jointly by the Goethe Institut and the Institut français, it will support in its first year the growth of fifteen cultural, digital and social entrepreneurship projects in five countries: Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. AyadaLab includes:

- Local start-up workshops taking place in the five countries from 25 to 28 February;
- Mentorship (12 months) with West African cultural and social entrepreneurship experts;
- A regional networking session in the spring;
- Travel to Paris and Berlin to form partnerships with German and French entrepreneurs.

Learn more about [www.ayadalab.com](http://www.ayadalab.com)

Website: <http://www.institutfrancais.com/>

Contact: [info@institutfrancais.com](mailto:info@institutfrancais.com)

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## **F.9 South African Art Times**

### **Sotheby's Cotributes to the Development of the Sale of Modern African Art**

The entry of Sotheby's to the Modern and Contemporary African Art market last year was a game-changer that brought the region to the attention of the art world at large, and saw the world-renowned auction house emerge as the new leader in this field. The world's oldest and



largest internationally recognised firm of fine art auctioneers has a global network of 80 offices and the company's annual worldwide sales turnover is currently in excess of US\$4 billion (R50 billion). Sotheby's first sale of Modern and Contemporary African Art in May last year proved to be international in scope, boasting works by 63 artists from 14 different countries and attracting bidders from 29 different countries on 6 continents. <http://arttimes.co.za/sothebys-sale-modern-contemporary-african-art-including-property-jerome-ellen-stern-collection/>

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### **The 2018 Investec Cape Town Art Fair**

In anticipation of the annual Investec Cape Town Art Fair (ICTAF), produced by Fiera Milano Exhibitions Africa, the 2018 Investec Cape Town Art Fair will take place in the heart of Cape Town's city centre at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) from 16 to the 18 of February. By showcasing a combination of African works as well as art from many international countries, this Art Fair prides itself in offering visitors diversity. The event combines various types of programmes such as

- A Cultural Platforms section on non-profit local and African art institutions;
- Live talks from featured artists and galleries as part of the Talks Programme;
- A section on Past/Modern art and how it is relevant to art today in general;
- An Editions section on works in multiples (prints, etchings, silkscreens, etc.);
- A section „Tomorrows/Today” on ideas about African modernity.

Read more at [www.investeccapetownartfair.co.za](http://www.investeccapetownartfair.co.za)

Web site: <http://arttimes.co.za/>

Contact: [info@arttimes.co.za](mailto:info@arttimes.co.za)

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## **F.10 Cyberkaris – La lettre d'information mensuelle de la Fondation Interarts**

### **Interarts at the meeting on culture in EU external relations**

What unites the countries of the European Union and what can they contribute to Europe's relations with other states? These questions were the starting point for the 'Meeting on the role of culture in the EU's external relations', hosted by the Fundación Alternativas in Madrid on 31 January. Miralles presented Interarts' work in very different cultural regions including Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Mediterranean and Europe, highlighting initiatives such as the Campus, Euro-American and Euro-African editions of Cultural Cooperation. More information about the meeting at <http://www.fundacionalternativas.org/noticias/cultura-y-comunicacion/expertos-afirman-que-la-cultura-europea-debe-ser-un-pilar-economico-y-de-lucha-contra-el-racismo#prettyPhoto>

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### **Indigenous peoples film and communications festival: Submission deadline: 15 May 2018**

Audiovisual pieces featuring indigenous and native peoples from anywhere in the world as the main characters is the main requisite to enter the 13th International Festival of Cinema and Communication of Indigenous/Native Peoples - FICMAYAB' 2018, organized by the Latin American Coordinator of Film and Communications of Indigenous Peoples (CLCCPI, Guatemala, 2 to 17 October 2018). There are no restrictions on the length or the genre.

<https://www.realizadorestzikin.org/ficmayab/index.php/es-es/>

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### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Dossier of the “Caixa’s” Social Observatory: Cultural participation and wellbeing**

This dossier is on culture, its role to consolidate the foundations of social cohesion, and individual and collective wellbeing. Entitled 'Cultural participation and wellbeing, the dossier

highlights the social importance of inclusive culture and gives indicators on the determining factors of cultural participation, which has a huge impact on wellbeing.  
<https://interarts.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c6738c6010b710a80c771b993&id=6547d5bdac&e=32ef509486>

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### **Art and political space in Europe (Brussels, Belgium, 28 February 2018)**

Organized by the Flanders Arts Institute, this conference focuses on art in central and southeastern Europe, and the political and social environment in which artists and organisations in this region work. Given the rise of movements such as nationalism and populism, the conference seeks to create a space for collaboration and an alliance between art and civil society. The keynote speaker is Milena Dragicevic Sestic, from the UNESCO Chair of Cultural Policy and Management at the University of Arts, Belgrade, Serbia, alongside other experts from Kosovo, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania and Turkey.

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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