

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.



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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

We realize that the month of February is the month of the cultural return to Africa. The major continental festivals such as the festival on the Niger in Ségou, the Sautiza Busara festival in Zanzibar and the FESPACO and the SIAO in Ouagadougou are indeed firmly anchored on the agenda for this month of February.

What is more, this year have been added to the calendar of the same period new initiatives for meetings in the field of letters, languages and the arts in Bamako, Cotonou, Kinshasa and Marrakech in particular.

It happens that it is indeed in February that the ordinary annual assembly of African heads of state is held, an important moment of awareness and even sometimes of options and decisions, very popular with world leaders. whole including those coming from the most assiduous horizons of its slayers!

This is how the February 2021 Summit had been the framework for the proclamation of the year 2021 African Year of Arts, Heritage and Culture which was to extend until the end of 2022.

This concomitance therefore seems to us, on the contrary, to offer space to a framework for the implementation of one of the recommendations of MONDIACULT 2022 for a new orientation of sustainable cultural policies: to place culture at the center of life and in public policies. of the world, because it is indeed "a global public good".

Moreover, the return of the full artistic season in Africa, after the dark years of health paralysis and economic scarcity - which unfortunately still drags its procession of restrictions and hesitations - manifests the vitality and determination of creators to go beyond resilience and impose their presence on the boiling global cultural market.

Maputo, February 25, 2023

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

Several meetings were recorded during the month of February at the OCPA headquarters in Maputo and outside with:

A.1 Meetings in Maputo and at Headquarters

- with the Vice-President of ARTERIAL and director of the Xiluva children's art school in Maputo, Mrs. Melita Matsinhe, during a working session at the OCPA Secretariat on February 7 for an exchange of information and the evocation of avenues of cooperation for the year 2023.
- with Professor Isau Menezes, Deputy Director General of ISArC and OCPA expert in audience on February 21, who presented his new cultural productions to the Executive Director of OCPA and with whom an exchange took place on the pursuit of his scientific and cultural cooperation with the OCPA through his participation in a new publication and his production as an artist at one of the music festivals in preparation in Africa.
- with the participation of Maria Manjate, Program Officer at OCPA, on January 31, at the session to present the results of research on freedom of artistic expression in Mozambique, a program of the Mozambican Federation of Cultural Industries and

artistic. This program is part of the PANAF project, carried out in cooperation with SELAM.

A.2 Meetings outside

- in Ségou in Mali, with the participation of Mr. Lupwishi Mbuyamba in the 19th edition of the Festival sur le Niger where he was invited on February 1 to introduce the work of the Round Table, under the moderation of Hamadou Mandé from OCPA, devoted to the contribution of arts and culture to the prevention and solutions of the problems caused by climate change. After following the other events of the Festival program, he participated in a special evening dedicated to him in tribute to his action on the development of cultural policies in Africa and in the world;
- in Nairobi (online), Messrs. Mbuyamba, Director, and Hamadou Mandé, Assistant Research Coordinator of OCPA, took part in the UNESCO African Regional Consultation, organized on February 8 and 9 by the Government of Kenya in Nairobi, in preparation for the World Conference on Cultural and Artistic Education scheduled for December 2023. Mr. Hamadou Mandé, official delegate to this meeting, communicated OCPA's point of view to the participants before submitting a technical working document.
- in the Arab Emirates, Hamadou presented RENAISSANCE, a play of which he is the author, in a staging signed by himself and the interpretation of the troupe of the Espace Culturel Gambidi, partner of the OCPA, and which had a great success on February 21 at the 36th Congress of the International Theater Institute.
- in Osogbo, Nigeria, Mr. Mbuyamba participated (online) in the Webinar organized on February 23 by the Center of Black Culture and International Understanding, affiliated to the Institute of African Culture and International Understanding, Category 2 Institute of UNESCO and partner of the OCPA, on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the launch of the war between Russia and Ukraine. He was asked to make a special intervention on this subject during which he commented very briefly on Aspiration 2 of the African Union Agenda 2063 concerning the ideal of Pan-Africanism and the strategy of cultural Renaissance.

A.3-Contacts with RICADIA (Network of Cultural Institutions in Africa and the Diaspora)

During the month of February, the OCPA Secretariat, in its networking strategy, had contacts on various program topics with some of the Member Organizations, including the Festival sur le Niger (Ségou, Mali), Institute of African Culture and International Understanding and its regional branch CBCIU (Osogbo, Nigeria), CERAV (Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso), ARTERIAL (Abidjan, Ivory Coast), ISArC (Maputo, Mozambique), ECG (Espace Culturel Gambidi), (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), Le Mont des Arts (Kinshasa, DR Congo), YES! African (Brussels, Belgium).

A.4 Hamadou Mandé at the 36th Congress of the International Theater Institute (ITI)

From February 20 to 25, 2023, the 36th ITI Congress was held in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates around the theme “Gathering for the Performing Arts and Humanism”. This Congress, which brought together nearly 300 participants from more than 60 countries, made it possible to review the situation of the world's largest performing arts organization, created in 1948 by UNESCO to promote throughout the world, through of the arts, the ideals of peace.

This congress was also an opportunity to renew the bodies of the organization. Our colleague Dr Hamadou MANDE, Deputy Research Coordinator of OCPA took part and was re-elected for the 4th consecutive time to the Executive Council of this organization.

Links: www.iti-congress.org; <https://kulturekibare.com/2023/02/21/arts-de-la-scene-liti-tient-son-36e-congres-mondial-a-fujairah/>; <https://kulturekibare.com/2023/02/22/spectacles-douverture-du-36e-congres-mondial-de-liti-le-burkina-faso-honore-lafrique/>; <https://kulturekibare.com/2023/02/23/36e-congres-mondial-de-liti-le-burkinabe-hamadou-mande-reelu-membre-du-conseil-executif/>



B. News, events and projects in Africa

B.1 Morocco: "Visa for music" 2023 (Rabat, 22-25 November 2023) - Applications are open

For this edition, only professional artists and groups that have existed for at least one year and have stage experience are eligible. This, regardless of their musical style. The call for applications is also open to artists who had already applied for previous editions, but who had not had the chance to be selected.

As the end of registration is April 1, each candidate can submit their application online by completing the required form on the event website. Among the applications, about thirty of them from Africa and the Middle East will be selected by a jury made up of professionals from the world of culture and music.

This kind of event is an opportunity to discover other artists and musical styles, to get noticed internationally and to establish cultural contacts.

Read the original article at <http://www.adiac-congo.com/>

B.2 Kenya: A Major New Exhibition in Nairobi Reveals the History of East African Art Traditions

Mwili, Akili na Roho (Body, Mind and Spirit) - on in Nairobi, Kenya - is a major international exhibition presenting east African painters who are key players in the modernist art of the region. Modernism in the fine arts refers to a period of experimentation from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s, a break from the realism of the past and a search for new forms of expression.

The exhibition features a group of artists from different generations who vary in backgrounds, as well as in the themes and forms of their art. They represent 50 years of east African art - from 1950 to 2000. Together they form an important cross-section of figurative paintings from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Figurative art draws from the real world, especially human figures. While modernism is most commonly associated with the western world these African modernist artists often critique western stereotypes about "primitive" colonised peoples at the same time as they yearn to recover pre-colonial modes of experience.

The exhibition focuses entirely on painting as one of the most prominent mediums of expression in art, representing a sort of history of the painting of east Africa. It's an entry point for a deeper engagement with this history, and the enduring influence of creative ideas and art institutions from the region.

Web site: <https://theconversation.com/africa>

B.3 Namibia: Ancestral San Art Vandalised

Namibia is renowned for its ancient San rock art, which showcases the heritage and traditions of the indigenous people.

Unfortunately, recent incidents of vandalism and ignorance have led to the defacing of these priceless masterpieces in Twyfelfontein which is a rock art site located in Kunene region, and is considered one of the most important rock art sites in Africa and has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The site is characterised by a series of rock engravings and paintings that are estimated to be over 6 000 years old and provide a unique insight into the beliefs, custom, and way of life of Namibia's ancestral people.

About 200 kilometres further, in the Desolation Valley, a remote and "hidden" place from mainstream tourism for the sake of preserving the natural environment, rock art sites were tainted with thick black markers.

More at <https://www.namibian.com.na/119490/read/Ancestral-San--art-vandalised>

B.4 Burkina Faso: Opening of the 16th International Crafts Fair of Ouagadougou (SIAO)

In Burkina Faso, the 16th edition of the International Crafts Fair of Ouagadougou (SIAO) opened its doors on January 27, in the presence of the President of the Transition, Captain Ibrahim Traoré. "African craftsmanship, lever of development and factor of resilience of populations", this is the theme of the new edition which welcomes around twenty countries including Senegal, Benin, Iran, Pakistan, Madagascar, Mali or Morocco.

After a postponement for security reasons, thousands of visitors are expected at this 16th edition. According to Serge Poda, Burkinabè Minister of Commerce, crafts represent 5 to 30% of the gross domestic product of African countries. And the holding of this show shows that Burkina Faso is a resilient country.

Sponsor of this edition, Ousmane Bougouma, President of the Transitional Assembly, urges African craftsmen to be more creative, in order to be competitive on an international scale.

In addition to being a major provider of employment, the craft industry is a sector that demonstrates resilience and supports economies, especially in times of crisis, welcomes Ousmane Bougouma. I hope that this 16th edition of SIAO will be fruitful and that it will offer everyone excellent business opportunities”.

Source: <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20230128-burkina-faso-ouverture-du-16e-salon-international-de-l-Artisanat-de-ouagadougou-siao>

B.5 Reminder: Senghor University - Recruitment for its 19th promotion to the Master in Development

The International French-language University at the service of African development (Alexandria, Egypt), direct operator of La Francophonie, is launching the recruitment competition for its 19th promotion to the Master in Development in Alexandria, Egypt, starting in October 2023

This high-level Master includes 8 specialties taught by professors and experts from major European, Canadian and African universities as well as several international institutions

Female candidates are strongly encouraged and given special consideration

The specialties offered at the start of the 2023 academic year

- Culture Department: Management of cultural heritage and Management of cultural enterprises
- Management Department: Governance and public management and Project management
- Environment Department: Management of protected areas and biodiversity and Environmental Management
- Health Department: International Nutrition and International Public Health

Provisional training schedule 9: September 2023 - April 2025.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/bxeKeyH1HoGmbtgb8>

Contact for further information: concours@usenghor.org

B.6 FITMO 2023: Call for artistic proposals

Festival International Theater and Puppet Festival of Ouagadougou/Festival of Arts of Burkina (FITMO/FAB): 19th edition from October 26 to 31, 2023 under the theme "Arts and freedom" in Ouagadougou.

The organizing committee of the festival wishes receive artistic proposals in Theatre, Puppets, Music, Dance, Circus, Storytelling, Cinema, Humor, Slam, Visual Arts from artists or artistic groups around the world.

Applications will include:

- A performance file (with high resolution images), spec sheet, and video link (full show video) for show proposals;
- A file and a portfolio for workshop or master class proposals.

Deadline for submitting applications: March 31, 2023 at midnight

NB: The festival does not support the travel of the artists

To apply fill out the form through this link: <https://bit.ly/3xpKow0>



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

C.1 What is Mondiacult? 6 take-aways from the world's biggest cultural policy gathering

The world's most important cultural policy gathering took place in Mexico City 40 years after its first edition in the same city. The 2022 meeting gathered 2,600 participants including 135 government ministers, 83 non-governmental organisations, 32 intergovernmental organisations and nine UN agencies.

Mondiacult is important because it's a decision-making meeting that helps shape the world's cultural policies and especially the relationship between culture and development. What was clear is that there is a shift in this relationship. Culture does not only contribute to sustainable development but is one of development's components.

Culture aids sustainable development goals in areas like health, education and environment. For example, local customs and traditional knowledge are relevant in promoting health programmes.

Local and traditional products are useful for sustainable production. Indigenous knowledge helps develop environmental practices to fight climate change.

Sustainable development goals are the United Nations (UN) blueprint for a better future for all. At Mondiacult, culture was raised to the status of being its own sustainable development goal.

Now, Mondiacult 2022's ambitious final declaration affirms: We call on the UN secretary general to firmly anchor culture as a global public good and to integrate it as a specific goal in its own right in the development agenda beyond 2030. The cultural goal is to achieve "more harmony between peoples and communities". This could involve the promotion of cultural diversity, the return of cultural assets, increased budgets for creative activities and other policies.

If the UN adopts this option of culture being a sustainable development goal, the post-2030 sustainable development agenda will have new content. This will change how development agencies deal with culture and how universities teach the relationship between culture and development. The result could be more funding for culture, which is increasingly underfunded by governments.

In addition, making cultural diversity an "ethical imperative" should play a role, if possible, in discussions about the commercialisation of cultural goods and services and the digital transition.

As to the Mondiacult's conditions of implementation, this is a follow-up action plan that should mobilise stakeholders to embrace Mondiacult's outcomes ahead of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future. Summit of the Future (22-23 September 2024), preceded by a preparatory ministerial meeting (18 September 2023).

Web site: <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/implementation> and <https://theconversation.com/what-is-mondiacult-6-take-aways-from-the-worlds-biggest-cultural-policy-gathering-198247>

C.2 Algeria: The training of professionals in the field of the arts

Algeria, which is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the recovery of its sovereignty, began very early to support training projects in the plastic arts, performing arts and cinema after the founding of the Algerian National Theater in 1963 and the Algerian Cinematheque in 1965.

In 1962, Bachir Yelles took charge of the School of Fine Arts and Architecture in Algiers, which trained a large number of young talents and high-level trainers.

After separating from the School of Architecture, the School of Fine Arts, which integrates the higher education offer, will gradually give birth to sixteen schools in large cities such as Oran, Tlemcen, or Constantine for boost artistic training, reinforced by new specialties.

In the field of the performing arts and after the foundation of the Algerian National Theater, its director Mustapha Kateb will set up the National Institute of Dramatic and Choreographic Art (Inadc) which will supply Algerian theaters and the artistic scene with young people most promising talent.

This establishment will also be transformed into a Higher Institute for Performing Arts (Ismas) and benefit from the dual supervision of the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Scientific Research.

In the early 1990s, the incessant efforts and long-term work of the various music conservatories was crowned by the creation of a Higher Institute of Music (Insm).

The year 2022 will have seen the opening in Algiers of the first national arts high school "Ali-Maachi", in application of the decisions of the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, for the creation of an artistic baccalaureate. Thus, the arts stream is added to the six other streams of secondary education.

Read the article <https://www.aps.dz/culture/151269-soixantenaire-de-l-independance-un-grand-interet-pour-le-formation-dans-le-domaine-des-arts>

C.3 Africa: Kick-off of the 4th edition of the Dakar Music Expo

In Senegal, on February 9, the Dakar Music Expo, or DMX, kicks off at the French Institute in Dakar. This is the fourth edition of this international trade show dedicated to the music sector, of which RFI is a partner. The objectives of the Expo is to promote and professionalize Senegalese and African artists.

The DMX is therefore a platform for meetings and exchanges around the music market, copyrights, or even the preservation of musical heritage in West Africa. "We have to create a network," insists Moustapha Ndiaye, president of the Association of Managers of Senegal.

According to him "Talent is not enough", he says: "Artists, often, are alone. They work alone. These are things that must be corrected. When you have music, you need someone more experienced than you in composition, arrangement. It's complicated, the market is too poorly organized. We need fairs like that, artists need them."

The event is also open to the general public, with evening concerts. The Malian artist Black AD, RFI 2022 Discovery Prize will be on stage with the 2021 winner, the Congolese musician

This 4th edition is placed under the theme of "digitalization in the music sector", a major challenge for all players in the music industry, according to Doudou Sarr, founder of DMX.

Source: <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20230209-s%C3%A9gal-coup-d-envoi-de-la-4e-%C3%A9dition-du-dakar-music-expo>

C.4 Guinea Bissau: - The Minister of Culture expected in Kaffrine int he FESNAC

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, Augusto Gomes, is expected on Friday in Kaffrine as part of the 11 edition of the National Festival of Arts and Cultures (Fesnac). learned APS from the Senegalese Ministry of Culture.

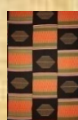
Augusto Gomes will be accompanied by two special advisers and the National Ballet of Guinea Bissau composed of 22 artists.

During his stay, he will meet with the Senegalese Minister of Culture and Historical Heritage Aliou Sow.

At the end of this meeting, a declaration is planned which will emphasize the commitment and strengthening of cultural cooperation between Dakar and Bissau.

A traditional lyrical evening hosted by the national troupe of the Daniel Sorano theater company and local artists is also planned at Keur Pathé.

Read the article at <https://www.aps.sn/detail/2850>



D. News, Institutions, Resources and Events in Other Regions

D.1 Africa, Asia and Latin America: UNESCO provides US\$ 900 000 to Creative economy projects

UNESCO will award a total of \$900,000 from its International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) to 11 projects that advance the global creative economy in 2023. The decision was approved during the 26th Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, held from 7 to 10 February at UNESCO Headquarters.

This year's IFCD projects cover a wide range of activities; from amplifying the voice of indigenous filmmakers in Argentina to revising Ghana's current national cultural policy and gathering data and statistics on Pakistan's cultural and creative industries so as to strengthen policy making.

Botswana, Egypt, Ghana and Pakistan are receiving support from the IFCD for the first time. This brings the total support from the IFCD towards the cultural and creative sector to \$10.3 million since 2010.

Thus the African beneficiary projects of the IFCD 2023 support concern Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt – Ghana, Nigeria and Tunisia.

Read more at <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd/projects>

Press contact l.iglesias@unesco.org

D.2 Senegal: The Quai Branly Museum opens an exhibition dedicated to Léopold Sédar Senghor

Dakar — The musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac (France) declares having opened since Tuesday an exhibition dedicated to the first president of Senegal, Léopold Sédar Senghor (1906-2001), on the theme "Senghor and the arts", with the aim of put "in perspective the reflections and achievements", in the cultural field, of the Senegalese intellectual and statesman.

The nine-month exhibition (February 7-November 19) will enable this French public institution to "present" and "question the cultural policy of Léopold Sédar Senghor", to "construct a sort of Senghorian thought consisting of essays, archival texts, interviews, unpublished photographs and reproductions of works of art that accompanied the life and work of Senghor". She looks back on Senegal's policy and cultural diplomacy in the first years of independence, her major achievements in the field of visual arts and living arts, says the musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac in a document received by APS.

Source: <https://www.aps.sn/detail/3261>

D.3 International and US National Music Councils to webcast landmark, joint symposium on political violence against music creators and performers

The International Music Council (IMC), in collaboration with the National Music Council of the United States (NMC), is proud to announce the premiere on March 3, 2023 at 3 pm CET / 9 am EST of a landmark Symposium addressing the recent spike in political violence against songwriters, composers and music performers throughout the world. The webcast, which will be available to viewers at musiccouncil.org, represents a key component of the global March 3rd Music Freedom Day observances. Details concerning subsequent access to materials will be available on the site.

IMC president Alfons Karabuda underlines that “we have seen in recent months and years the murder, displacement and economic sanctioning of composers, conductors, musicians and other members of our international community in various places across the globe. Our fellow music creators and artists who find themselves in these disastrous political crossfires are urgently in need of our help. Our community’s responsibilities are to ensure that such anti-democratic activities not remain hidden in the shadows, no matter where in the world they occur—including within our own borders.”

Web site: <http://www.imc-cim.org>

Contact: <http://www.imc-cim.org/contacti-us.html>

D.4 Artificial General Intelligence and Creative Economy by Konstantinos Kotis

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a way of making software think intelligently, in a similar way the intelligent humans think. AI attempts not just to understand an intelligent entity, and the way it perceives, understands, predicts, and manipulates a world far larger and more complicated than itself, but also attempts to build one. AI disciplines study the way human brain thinks, and the way humans learn, decide and work, while trying to solve a particular problem.

In the domain of Creative Economy (CE) and Cultural Heritage (CH), AGI has already several examples to demonstrate:

- CH/Museum AI chatbots that chat with humans (visitors) in their natural language,
- Context-based automated content creation,
- Highly interactive intelligent/smart things/exhibits,
- Real-time low-effort multi-interaction platforms/systems for creating reusable and optimized cultural mixed-reality experiences,
- Semantic trajectories analytics and recommender systems for optimization of visiting experiences in cultural spaces.

Konstantinos Kotis, kotis@aegean.gr

Web site: <https://doi.org/10.20935/AL260>



E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

E.1 Links to portals

<https://allafrica.com/arts/>

<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>

E.2 Selected information from Allafrica/Selected information from Allafrica/Informations provenenat de Allafrica

Sudan: (Un)doing Resistance - Three Decades of the Islamic Regime's Assault on the Arts

The book describes in great detail how the effects of the Inqaz regime's tools of political Islam and authoritarianism wielded immense oppression that constricted arts, artists and infrastructures physically and psychologically. Through 10 chapters divided into the themes Gender, Conflict and Governance, Religion and Institutions, the book explores the extent to

which the Inqaz regime went to ensure artists and cultural actors - and their supporters - lost their lives in every sense of the word. Through a careful examination of the lives of known figures, readers learn more about careers that were once flourishing but were forcefully ended, how life works were destroyed, and how art-sympathetic communities and the supporting political opposition were suppressed in tandem. Web site:

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202302090034.html>

Africa: W.E.B. Du Bois, Black History Month and the Importance of African American Studies

The opening days of Black History Month 2023 have coincided with controversy about the teaching and broader meaning of African American studies. On Feb. 11, 1951, an article by the 82-year-old Black scholar-activist W.E.B. Du Bois who told that much of his career was spent trying "to correct the distortion of history in regard to Negro enfranchisement." Du Bois wrote further, "conscious that this part of our citizenry were normal human beings who had served the nation credibly and were still being deprived of their credit by ignorant and prejudiced historians." Du Bois went on to chronicle the achievements of African Americans in science, religion, art, literature and the military, making clear that Black people had a history to be proud of. Du Bois, however, questioned what deeper meaning these achievements held to the issues facing Black people in the present. Web site: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202302080005.html>

Africa: Pop Culture Is Biggest Influencer of African Youth - Report

The latest report by 'Africa No Filter' investigated Africa's influence on the world, its influences on African youth, and how dominant narratives about Africa shape the youth's perception of the continent. The research interviewed 4500 people aged between 18 and 35 in Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa. It showed that 57 per cent of respondents said pop culture had the biggest influence, followed by the US and Europe (45%), and politicians (31%). Regionally, pop culture had the strongest sway in Kenya (87%) and Zimbabwe, while West African respondents (65%) perceived the US and Europe as more influential. Web site: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202302070051.html>

East Africa: The Incredible Story of How East African Culture Shaped the Music of a State in India

The term Siddi refers to Afro-Indians - Africans who mixed with Indians through marriage and relationships. Africans crossed the Indian Ocean and arrived in India during the 1200s, 1300s and 1400s. They were transported by Islamic invaders and Portuguese colonisers as enslaved people, palace guards, army chiefs, harem keepers, spiritual leaders, Sufi singers, dancers and treasurers. The majority of Siddis are found in the west and south-west of India, in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana states. As they settled, they preserved and practised their African ancestral sociocultural traditions - and also adopted local Indian traditions.

This interweaving of African and Indian cultural values gave birth to various creolised (mixed) food, music and spiritual practices. Web site: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202302030390.html>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA – ACORNS)

In Focus: The Artistic Freedom

This will be the main theme of the 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture on *Safeguarding Artistic Freedom* in Stockholm this May. We warmly welcome artists, cultural professionals, representatives from government, non-cultural sectors and wider civil society at the Summit. The Summit will take place from 3-5 May 2023 in Stockholm, Sweden with an opening ceremony on the evening of 2 May. On Day One we will frame the Summit theme and explore rights to artistic freedom, with a view to understanding barriers and threats. Building on Day One's discussions, on Day Two we will focus on the responsibilities in artistic freedoms and the opportunities that can grow from the exercise of artistic freedom. Day Three will entail dynamic reflection on the provocations, challenges, and inspirations experienced by participants throughout the Summit programme. The Summit is a highly participatory platform with session formats (such as the World Café, Long Table, Open Space and participatory workshops) that create space for delegate voices.

More at <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-1-qhihtiy-tdhklikkkd-c/>

How Nigeria's creative industry can contribute \$100bn to GDP

International Centre for Investigative Reporting, 11 February 2023, Nigeria's creative industry sector is yet to live up to its full potential, experts say, but has the capacity to contribute \$100 billion annually by 2030 when the government and the private sector partner to create the enabling business environment.

More at <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-1-qhihtiy-tdhklikkkd-c/>

France's Ministry of Culture is pushing forward a trio of groundbreaking laws that may have sweeping effects on restitution

Artnet, 18 January 2023, France

French politicians are planning to introduce three framework laws intended to facilitate the restitution of contentious artworks as well as human remains currently held within the country's public collections.

More at <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-1-qhihtiy-tdhklikkkd-ii/>

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

Contact: info@ifacca.org

F.2 Agenda21culture

New Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Culture and Climate Resilient Development.

Hosted on the UCLG Learning platform known as #LearningWithUCLG, our MOOC explores the fundamental role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development, and focuses on the perspective of local and regional governments, as well as cultural actors and institutions from all continents. It is based on the report on 'The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development' coordinated by Andrew Potts, coordinator of the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) and published in late 2021. The MOOC showcases a wide variety of case studies from all over the

world drawn from an open call for contributions for the elaboration of the report, a good practice from UCLG Learning peer-learning notes, and audio-visual resources within the modules, as well as complementary in-depth materials, which you will find at the end of the course. Moreover, it offers the opportunity to **test your own knowledge** in the field. The MOOC is open to anyone interested in learning on the relation between culture, local public policies and climate resilient development. It is free of charge, available in English, and it includes a completion certificate. You can access the MOOC at: <https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/culture-and-climate>

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

Contact: info@agenda21culture.net

F.3 Music World News

Stella Chiweshe: Zimbabwe's mbira queen, rebel music star and pioneer

Chiweshe was born in July 1946 in the rural area of Mhondoro in the Mashonaland province of northern Zimbabwe. She began playing the mbira, an ancient thumb piano, in the early 1960s. At the time she was reproached by both men and women because she had dared to play an instrument that was ordinarily played by men.

Web site: <http://www.imc->

[cim.org/index.php?subid=8471&option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=231498&mailid=396](http://www.imc-cim.org/index.php?subid=8471&option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=231498&mailid=396)

According to Spotify data, music from the MENA region is crossing borders fast

Around two-thirds of new artists discovered in the Middle East and North Africa region are discovered outside their countries of origin.

Web site: <http://www.imc->

[cim.org/index.php?subid=8471&option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=231498&mailid=396](http://www.imc-cim.org/index.php?subid=8471&option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=231498&mailid=396)

F.4 Cyberkaris Interarts Foundation

ENCATC Academy on sustainable cultural management and policy (Santander, Spain, 24 -27 April).

ENCATC launches the 2023 edition of this event ENCATC Academy on sustainable cultural management and policy, taking place in The ENCATC Academy is a space for the cultural management and policy community to come together and share the most recent practices and insights for carrying out effective sustainability innovations in the cultural sector. Reuniting academics, trainers, cultural practitioners and policy makers, the Academy proposes 4 days of exchange, discussion, and peer learning to foster the skills and competences needed for culture's green transition. Since 2011, ENCATC has focused its efforts on a green path by developing a Green Policy of its own, shaping its activities and events towards more sustainable goals and joining key initiatives, such as the Climate Heritage Network and its manifestos. Furthermore, and without dismissing the collective dimension of any substantial action in the field of sustainability, the Academy aims to enact the mission of involving all those who are interested in the field and recognize the challenges ahead for cultural sustainability.

More at <https://www.interarts.net/news/2023-encatc-academy/>



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

Thank you for your interest and co-operation
