

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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Previous issues of OCPA News at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/newsletter/index-en.html>

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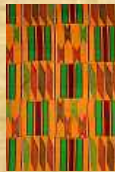
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A. News from OCP

Activities of the Executive Director and the Staff of OCPA

A.1 Talks with Mrs. Angela Martins, Head of the Culture Division of the AUC

A first contact of the New Year for the Executive Director was held with Angela Martins, Head of the Culture Division of the African Union Commission on January 6th in Maputo. On this occasion, the two interlocutors had exchanges on the strategies to be implemented for the entry into force of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance as well as on the finalization of the processes engaged in the revision of the AU Action Plan of the Development of the Cultural and Creative Industries (Algiers, 2008).

A.2 Contacts on Activities Planned by OCPA and its Partners

Lupwishi Mbuyamba had several contacts with OCPA partners and members of RICADIA Network of Cultural Institutions of Africa and the Diaspora), especially on the timing and harmonization of the various activities planned for the new year. For example, festival organizers, initiators of conferences and other significant cultural events were invited to submit their programs of activities to the RICADIA portal.

A.3 Participation in the Second Meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Cultural Fund

The OCPA Executive Director, after a visit from its headquarters on January 28 in Bamako, Mali, was to participate on the 30th in the second board of directors of the African Cultural Fund in the city of Ségou.

A.4 Preparatory Seminar for the International Conference on the Status of the Artist

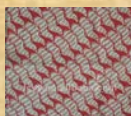
In the same city, from 31 January to 1st February, there was a regional seminar on the situation of the African artist preparatory to the international conference on the status of the artist envisaged during the year; this seminar was jointly organized by the Center for Living Arts-Africa (CERAV), UNESCO Category 2 Institute, the Niger Festival Foundation and OCPA.

A.5 Participation at the opening of the Ségou'Art Festival

The next day opened SEGOU'ART, the great annual cultural event of the city this time with a particular emphasis on visual art. Seminar participants were invited to launch the event.

A.6 Cooperation with the University of Peace in Africa (UPA)

Finally the OCPA had, in January, a proposal for cooperation with the University of Peace in Africa (UPA) for the mobilization of participants to the campus it organizes from 7 to 26 July 2019 in Pointe-Noire in the Republic of Congo.



B. News, events and projects in Africa B. Nouvelles, événements et projets en Afrique

B.1 The Kolatier 2019 - Artists Call for applications

The 9th edition of will be held in Yaoundé from 06 to 09 November 2019 on the main theme Africa, new eldorado of the music industry.

Le Kolatier is a platform for meetings and exchanges between actors in the field of music industry, with the aim of providing a good opportunity for emerging African music groups and contributing to the development of the African music industry.

Can participate African emerging artists of the continent with low international visibility, having at least an album recorded in professional conditions, for presenting original works. Selected groups have to support their international transport. The organizers do not pay fees, but can take care of the accommodations during the market period. Deadline for applications: 30 April 2019.

More information at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBPA6WK3Zgza2YJny3vugRYG0hOYGTIV5k11woPZeC-E93g/viewform>

Contact: lekolatier@yahoo.fr

B.2 UNESCO/Angola: Biennale of Luanda, a Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace

Paris, 18 December—Carolina Cerqueira, Minister of Culture of Angola, and Firmin Edouard Matoko, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relation, signed an agreement for the creation of the Biennale of Luanda – Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace, whose first edition will take place in September 2019.

The Luanda Biennale, organized through a partnership between Angola, UNESCO and the African Union, is designed to promote the prevention of violence and the resolution of conflicts by facilitating cultural exchanges in Africa, inter-generational dialogue and gender equality. The Forum is to nurture reflection and facilitate the dissemination of artistic works, ideas and knowledge pertaining to the culture of peace. It will bring together representatives of governments, civil society, the arts, sciences and international organizations.

The Biennale is part of UNESCO's operational strategy for Priority Africa which aims to provide "explicitly African responses to the changes in African economies and societies."

The first Biennale of Luanda, in 2019, will serve as a space for reflexion, or intellectual forum, on the future of Africa, as a Festival of Cultures to showcase the cultural diversity of African countries and the African diaspora enabling them to demonstrate their resilience in the face of conflict and violence. It will also feature international cultural and sport events; and encourage the mobilization of partners to support projects throughout the continent.

More at <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-angola-establish-biennale-luanda-pan-african-forum-culture-peace>

B.3 Countries of the Atlantic coast mobilize to protect underwater cultural heritage

The seabed contains an important underwater cultural heritage, an invaluable source of information on ancient civilizations and the history of maritime navigation. This rich, sunken heritage requires an urgent need for protection. As such, UNESCO in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Senegal organized the 5th Regional Meeting for Africa on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage from 22 to 24 January 2019 on the island of Gorée. This meeting brought together ten African countries from the Atlantic front to establish common protection measures based on the reinforcement of the legal devices, the national capacity building as well as the regional cooperation.

The underwater cultural heritage, often unknown and invisible by the majority of the population, is nevertheless an essential testimony concerning the past of humanity. It is an important cultural asset in terms of education and science, but also opens a considerable field for the development of sustainable tourism with the blue economy, in favor of the communities. However, he is also plagued by multiple threats such as looting and destruction.

The 5th Regional Meeting follows a series of meetings already held across the continent and intends to continue the efforts undertaken to better protect this sunken heritage in Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte D'ivoire, Gambie, Guinée Bissau, Guinée, Namibie, Nigeria, Sénégal and Togo.

Web site http://www.unesco.org/new/en/africa-department/resources/africa-department/news/countries_of_the_atlantic_coast_mobilize_to_protect_underwat/

B.4 Africa: Advocacy for a restitution of African cultural heritage

For this new year 2019 that opens, rich in promises and instructs lessons of the previous, that wish that has not already been expressed by billions of souls, like the full of health, happiness and prosperity for we want to make a strong toast with such a powerful and unanimous assent for the repatriation of all that our beloved continent Africa, cradle of our humanity, has seen evaporate as objects and works of culture, tradition to destination Continental Overseas to Europe, the Americas, Asia, all over the Earth's surface (99% of our classical works of art remain outside of Africa, which has been drained of its art during a century) and often dramatically, by subterfuges and other mercantile reasons.

Africa has the right to access this heritage. There are too few Africans who can travel to visit the museums that own these works outside the continent. In the case of the coins claimed, for example, Benin, Senegal and Democratic Congo, it is widely established that they were stolen! Require their return, it might be a good start for 2019!

Source: <https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201901030283.html>

B.5 FESPACO: 26th edition and 50th anniversary (Ouagadougou, 23 February - 2 March)

The coming edition of the Pan-African Festival of Cinema and Television of Ouagadougou is a cultural showcase of international renown and a promotional platform par excellence for African cinemas and its diaspora. Its aim is to take a look both demonstratively and prospectively on the role and evolution of the African film and audiovisual industries.

It will host many professionals from African cinema and other countries such as Canada, France, England, Belgium, Over the past few decades, Fespaco has grown into the most important film festival in Sub-Saharan Africa, drawing hundreds of thousands of participants at each edition, including filmmakers, critics, and film enthusiasts.

On the eve of its 50th anniversary in 2019, FESPACO stands at a crossroads. Changes to the organizational structure and selection process must be made to take the festival to the next level as criticism has been expressed on the opacity surrounding film selection criteria.

It was also felt that in order to reach a larger public, several initiatives need to be taken to strengthen the public's continued and meaningful engagement with the festival as well as to address ongoing issues of film distribution in African cinema for a wider public.

These are only some of the issues that point to the importance of rethinking the management of Fespaco by opening up its leadership to African media and cinema professionals.

FESPACO 2019 will mark the 50th anniversary of the festival and its longstanding tradition of celebrating African and Diasporic film. The jubilee is certainly a moment of introspection, but it should also be one of prospection- of looking ahead to (re)imagine Africa's biggest film festival with respect to its place on the World stage, its role in enabling Africans to see their own images, and its potential to showcase the artistic creativity of Africa and the Diaspora.

In addition to film screenings and discussions, FESPACO can create a space for dialogue that shapes concrete public policies on cultural politics, production and distribution of cinematic productions. The festival's 50th anniversary could be the start of these reflections on renewal, continuity, and discontinuity.

More at <https://www.cinemaescapist.com/2018/04/fespaco-needs-reform/> and <https://fespaco.bf>

Contact: info@fespaco.bf

B.6 African universities supporting the safeguarding of World Heritage

This workshop was attended by over 60 participants including academics, site managers and African World Heritage experts from 15 French- and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. This event marks an important step in the involvement of institutions of higher learning in Africa in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Following the English-speaking workshop held in April 2018 at the Great Zimbabwe University, this event is particularly important for UNESCO as it was the first major French-speaking workshop bringing together heritage professionals, experts and researchers to explore the role universities can play in the management and conservation of World Heritage in Africa. The relevance of such a workshop for specialists was apparent as soon as UNESCO launched

the open call for participants, which attracted more than 130 applications (of which 14 from women) from 27 African countries.

Thanks to the workshops in Saint-Louis and Great Zimbabwe, over 60 experts, including 16 women, were selected to constitute a platform for reflection, which is considered crucial to accompany African States Parties. These future reflections will cover numerous issues, including living heritage, cultural industries and development indicators.

Web site: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1908/>



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

C.1 Ivory Coast: Year 2019 - The Great Expectations of the World of Arts and Culture

The year 2019, the animators of the artistic and cultural landernau Ivorian wish it fruitful. For everyone, this new year will see a real revival of activities.

Especially quality activities, which will allow the world of creators to flourish, in short to live the fruit of their labor. This conviction, the artistic and cultural actors, that we interviewed, is due to the flowering of activities which enamelled the year 2018. But, to achieve this improvement, all the practitioners of of arts and culture, in Ivory Coast, are unanimous in saying that the country must meet a number of expectations.

One of these remains the construction of infrastructures. Above all, the erection of an auditorium worthy of emerging Côte d'Ivoire as the Palace of Culture, the only space that houses the public shows is outdated.

The other wish of cultural actors is to see the problem of piracy curbed. Because, it is disgusting to see, at all the major crossroads of Abidjan and the cities of the interior of the country, the works of the artists copied and sold at low prices by onlookers without being worried."

Sources: <https://www.allafrica.com/stories/201901040458.html>

C.2 Angola: Minister reiterates commitment to recovery of cultural values

Luanda - The Minister of Culture, Carolina Cerqueira, reiterated in Luanda its commitment to recover cultural values and identity, in order to highlight and exalt the angolanity.

For the leader, who made this statement at the central ceremony of National Culture Day, culture, is one of the fundamental pieces of development and strengthening of the unity, national reconciliation, democracy, peace and social justice.

"Music, painting, the performing arts, dance, especially theater, as well as sculpture and literature play a fundamental role in the internationalization of national culture, and we look forward to following the success of artists of the various performing arts, and internationally recognized exhibitions, "she said. Carolina Cerqueira also affirmed the strengthening of the partnership with the religious institutions, by an interreligious and ecumenical dialogue.

It highlighted the Law of Religion, Beliefs and Worship, which is in the final stage of adoption in the National Assembly, as well as the Law of National Languages, the Law of Traditional Authorities, the Law of Museums, among other degrees.

The event was celebrated under the slogan "For the preservation and enhancement of Angolan historical memory, extol the culture of peace for peace in culture".

During the ceremony, the Ministry of Culture distinguished cultural personalities who have given themselves over the years to the enhancement and preservation of cultural identity

Source: <https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201901090247.html>

C.3 Cameroon: Pierre Ismael Bidoung Mpkatt Appointed Minister of Arts and Culture

As part of the reshuffle of the government decided by the presidential decree of 4 January 2019, the Prime Minister, Joseph Dion Ngute installed new ministers head of several departments.

This is how he installed Pierre Ismaël Bidoung Mpkatt, who succeeds the outgoing minister, Narcisse Mouelle Kombi at the head of the Ministry of Arts and Culture.

Pierre Ismaël Bidoung Mkpatt was born on November 16, 1953 in Nanga Eboko, in the Central Region of Cameroon. Academic, educator and social animator, he serves as director of the National Institute of Youth and Sport (INJS) before being a minister. He is a member of the Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple Camerounais, the party in power. In the party, he is in charge of relations with women and young people. Minister of Youth and Sports, then Minister of Youth and Civic Education from 2011 to 2015, he was appointed Minister of Sports and Physical Education in 2015 before being named in 2019 as Minister of Arts and Culture.

Source: <https://www.allafrica.com/stories/201901080414.htm>

C.4 Senegal: Opening of the Museum of Black Civilizations to the public

After its inauguration by President Macky Sall on December 6, 2019, the Museum of Black Civilizations is now open to the public. 1300 pieces, including the baobab in the center of the museum, which comes from Haiti, a fresco of 72 pieces, the "laboratory of déberlinisation" and the work of Abdoulaye Konaté entitled "No to Jihad in Timbuktu".

Free visit until the end of January, announces the director of the museum, Hamady Bocoum, who calls the people to appropriate it.

He explains that it has been decided to inscribe this museum in a holistic and polysemic perspective showing Africa's contributions to the scientific, cultural and technical heritage of humankind, then the classical African civilizations that come from Egypt".

In the Museum of Black Civilizations, the accent is also placed on "colonization". Artistic creations retrace this "painful story in another way".

Source: <https://www.allafrica.com/stories/201901080414.html>

C.5 Senegal: Highlights in 2018 in culture

The years go by but are not alike. And as in 2017, several cultural events marked the year 2018. These include the inauguration of the Museum of Black Civilizations, the restitution of

African art objects, the 13th edition of the Biennial of Contemporary African Art. 2018, it is also the International Film Meetings of Dakar, the death of the bass player of Super Etoile, Habib Faye without forgetting the distinctions of the Senegalese director Moly Kane, during the 18th edition of the festival Clap Ivoire and slameur Faruq who won the final of the African Cup slam.

The MCN was designed by former President Léopold Sédar Senghor and initiated by former President Abdoulaye Wade, and it finally came into being under the chairmanship of Macky Sall who also presided over the inauguration ceremony. Gift of China, the CMN is dedicated to the history of black peoples, from the origin to the present day.

In 2018, Dakar also hosted the 13th edition of Dak'Art last June under the theme "The Red Hour" and with as a country of honor, Rwanda and Tunisia.

In addition to the international exhibition entitled "A New Humanity", the 2018 edition of the Biennale was marked by a major innovation, namely the opening of the Senegal Pavilion.

We will also remember the International Film Meetings in Dakar on the theme "Cinema and Development", which have not been held since 2014, and which were held from November 22 to 28 for promoting the Senegalese film industry thanks in particular to the support of the Fund for the Promotion of the Film and Audiovisual Industry.

Source: <https://www.allafrica.com/stories/201901020624.html>

C.6 Morocco: ISESCO Proclaims 2019 Year of Islamic Cultural Heritage

The The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization proclaimed 2019 year of heritage in the Islamic world in application of the resolution of the Tenth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers.

In a statement released on the occasion, ISESCO invited Member States to take the necessary measures to celebrate this great event and underscored the importance of the cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, in preserving the collective memory and identity of peoples and nations.

It also highlighted the need for ensuring the sustainability of the heritage within a comprehensive vision and on the basis of a participatory and collective will. In its statement, ISESCO recalled the long history of the Islamic world, its rich civilizational and cultural heritage, the contributions of the Islamic world to the advancement of the culture of mankind. The ISESCO statement reaffirmed the need for supporting its Islamic World Heritage Committee in its efforts for preserving and promoting this cultural heritage.

It also called for inscribing a greater number of its archeological sites and intangible aspects on the World Heritage List and on the Islamic World Heritage List, providing the conditions for its sustainability in areas of conflicts areas menaced by extremism, sectarianism and terrorism.

ISESCO also urged Muslim countries to provide more training to professionals working in the fields of tangible and intangible cultural heritage; and hone their professional, technical and scientific skills, based on ICT and mechanisms of collective and participatory management.

In addition, ISESCO called upon Member States to organize cultural weeks on the cultural heritage of Al-Quds on the occasion of celebrating Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the 2019 Capital of Islamic Culture for the Arab region and the permanent capital of Islamic culture; and activate the twinning of the 2019 capitals of Islamic culture with Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

The Organization denounced the vandalism and destruction of many historical buildings and landmarks in a number of Member States, as a result of conflicts fueled by extremist thought, sectarianism and terrorism; and the looting, smuggling, illicit trafficking of artifacts.

Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/201901030514.html>

C.7 New government in Madagascar after Andry Rajoelina's election as president

January 8, 2019 - The recently elected President of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, reappointed Mr. Christian Ntsay as Head of Government.

Within the new government the function of the Minister of Culture, Promotion of Handicrafts and the Safeguarding of the Heritage was again entrusted to Mrs. JOHASY Eléonore who had held this position since June 2018.

Ms. Johasy believes that her department's mission is to contribute to the revival of the economy by working on an entrepreneurial vision of the one who exercises or who will practice a profession in these areas, on sustainability and the rational management of resources on behalf of preservation of the national heritage and Malagasy cultural notoriety.

Source: <http://www.macp.gov.mg/en/minister-johasy-eleonore/>



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

D.1 Louise Mushikiwabo, new Secretary General of La Francophonie, takes office

Louise Mushikiwabo, took office as Secretary General of the International Organization of the Francophonie, on January 3, during a ceremony of handing over with Michaëlle Jean, outgoing Secretary General, at the headquarters of the OIF in Paris. Elected last October 12, at the XVIIth Summit of the Francophonie held in Yerevan (Armenia), she began her four-year term.

Louise Mushikiwabo is the fourth Secretary General of La Francophonie after Michaëlle Jean (2015-2018), Abdou Diouf (2003-2014) and Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1998-2002).

Source: <https://www.afrik.com/louise-mushikiwabo-new-general-secretary-of-francophony-rentre-in-function>

D.2 Registration to the Tenerife Performing Arts Market (MAPAS) - Deadline: 15 February 2019

MAPAS 2019 will be held from 10 to 14 July in Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain). It is intended to promote artists, companies, booking agencies, management and distribution, programmers and cultural managers.

At this edition, the organizers decided to innovate by allowing booking and distribution agencies to participate in the same way as artists and cultural programmers. MAPAS thus consolidates its commitment to the development of the cultural industry, the international circulation of artistic proposals and the professionalisation of the performing arts sector.

MAPAS 2019 is a market that connects the creators of performing arts (music, theater, dance, circus arts and street arts) from Africa, America and Southern Europe (Spain and Portugal) with programmers, cultural managers and other performing arts professionals from around the world. In order to sign distribution agreements, create and expand their networks of contacts and participate in this professional exchange.

Registrations will be made through the online platform www.mapasmercadocultural.com.

D.3 Earth Skills Network training for African protected areas – Call for applications

The Earth Skills Network (ESN) is a unique collaboration between Earthwatch, UNESCO, IUCN and the business community. It connects leaders from the business and conservation community through mentoring and skill-sharing opportunities.

The Earth Skills Network provides funded training in

- business planning and effective management practices and,
- personal development of leadership capabilities, with
- 12 months of mentoring from an ESN corporate business mentor with who has significant business experience.

Combined, this can help sites to take a more strategic approach to planning specific organisational issues.

In 2019, ESN training programmes are available to natural protected areas, World Heritage properties, sites on the Tentative List, protected area agencies or management authorities in Africa. ESN is looking to recruit 18 staff from 6 African sites who will value training in business management and operational effectiveness, and will be in a position to put what they have learned into practice.

Application before 3 February 2019. More information at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1921>

D.4 The second UNCTAD Creative Economy Outlook and Country Profile report (2018)

This second report demonstrates not only that there has been significant growth in the creative economy but also that the sector can make a valuable contribution to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Following UNCTAD's first Creative Economy Outlook report in 2015, the long-term review of the trade of creative goods and services offered by this report provides a valuable update and snapshot of past and present trends in the global creative economy. It also highlights some metatrends, many of which are already shaping the future of creative industries.

The size of the global market for creative goods has expanded substantially more than doubling in size from \$208 billion in 2002 to \$509 billion in 2015.

While the financial crisis affected the production and distribution of creative goods, its trade performance has been consistent, with 7 per cent average growth rate between 2002 and 2015.

However, market conditions worsened between 2014 and 2015, resulting in a 12 per cent drop-off in trade, mirroring a more general slowdown in global merchandise trade. Over the period 2002 to 2015, developing economies' participation in creative goods trade was markedly higher than in developed economies, driven mainly by the performance of China, Hong Kong (China), India, Singapore, Taiwan Province of China, Turkey, Thailand, Malaysia,

Mexico and Philippines. The domination of Asian countries in the top ten is a clear indication of their emerging role in stimulating the global creative economy.

From the developed economies group, the United States, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Poland, Belgium and Japan were the top ten creative goods exporters Together the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union regional powerhouses dominate the export of creative goods. Among developed regions, Europe (28) is the largest exporter of creative goods. In 2015, exports of creative goods from the European Union stood at \$171 billion compared to \$85 billion in 2002, a doubling in trade. Annual average growth rates for creative goods exports are at 5.5 per cent, for the European Union (for the period 2002-2015). The cultural and creative industries employ nearly 12 million people in the European Union region The Asian region outstripped all other regions with China, and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia combined, accounting for \$228 billion in 2015 of creative goods exports, almost double that of Europe.

In 2015 Chinese creative goods exports were four times that of the United States, totalling \$168.5 billion. It also had the world's highest creative trade surplus of \$154 billion due to its high number of exports. Generally, South-South trade is on the rise and looks set to be an area of vibrant future growth.

Read the full report at https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditcted2018d3_en.pdf

D.5 How to involve African youth in heritage? - ICCROM's Africa Expert Meeting for Cultural Heritage Conservation (Rome, 9 – 11 January 2019)

Fifteen professionals from Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe met to discuss how best to design an impactful programme to support youth engagement in heritage in the African region. The Meeting took inspiration from the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 "The Africa We Want," which is committed to realizing Africa's full potential in development, culture and peace.

The three-day discussions led to definition of broad directions for a future Africa programme that aims to make African heritage attractive to young people on the continent. The proposed programme planned for 2020-2030, includes actions aimed at promoting engagement of youth and women in heritage, a people-centred approach in conservation and strengthen institutions as dynamic, innovative, reliable and attractive resources for conservation.

More at <https://www.iccrom.org/news/how-can-we-involve-african-youth-heritage>



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>

E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica

Angola: Culture Minister Appeals for Creativity

Luanda — Culture minister Carolina Cerqueira last Tuesday, in Luanda, appealed to cultural agents to be more creative, so that they can place in the market products with the desired qualitative pattern. According to the minister - who spoke to the press after placing a wreath on the monument of the country's first president, Dr António Agostinho Neto, at Luanda's Independence Square, in the ambit of the National Culture Day, marked on 08 January - it is necessary that cultural agents give the public products with acceptable quality. Several socio-cultural activities were organised by the Culture Ministry to mark the National Culture Day, which is officially a public celebration date. Such activities included lectures, conferences, exhibitions, as well as theatre, dance and music shows. National Culture Day was instituted in 1986 by the Angolan authorities, in homage to the speech delivered in 1979 by the then head of State, António Agostinho Neto, at the swearing-in ceremony of the board of the Angolan Writers Association. <https://allafrica.com/stories/201901090725.html>

Eritrea: Cultural Program Organized in South Sudan

The Eritrean community in South Sudan organized cultural program in connection with Christmas celebration under the theme "Success for Sustainable Peace and Cooperation in the Horn of Africa". This celebration is being observed following the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia signed on 9 July in Asmara. Mr. Yohannes Teklemicael, Eritrean Ambassador to South Sudan, congratulated the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia as well as the peoples of the region pointing out that Eritrean nationals in South Sudan have been contributing due part in the national development endeavors and that the program is will solidify their unity and attachment with their homeland. The event was highlighted by cultural performances by Eritrean artists. <https://allafrica.com/stories/201901080111.html>

Nigeria: 2018 Calabar Cultural Carnival Kicks-off with 25 States

Organized under the theme Africanism the carnival was used to tell the African story, not about poverty, but from the Africans' own perspective. The governor of the host region said "Cross River wants to tell all young men and women that, the best place to be is Africa where there is rich human and natural resources." The Chairman of the Cross River Carnival Commission said the event was significant because it brought the African culture to the front burner, especially the concept of hospitality which African were best known for. He said that he was extremely happy with the attendance, adding that 25 states out of the 29 accredited for the event were in attendance. Some leaders of troupes from different states also commended the state government for sustaining the carnival but urged improved accommodation for the next year edition. <https://allafrica.com/stories/201812270121.html>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

F.1 News from the web site of UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector

Launching of a MOOC for the judiciary in Africa on Freedom of Expression

UNESCO launched on 7 January 2019 a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in French, entitled « Standards internationaux et africains sur la liberté d'expression » (« International and African Standards on Freedom of Expression »), intended for actors of the Judiciary in Africa. It includes five-week training programme, set up in cooperation with the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights (African Court), will allow for the reinforcement of the role of judiciary actors, particularly those of judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, but also that of civil society, on international and regional standards on freedom of expression, press freedom, and access to information. The objective of this course is to strengthen the capacities and the knowledge of judiciary actors in francophone Africa in order to reinforce the legal framework on issues of free speech in Africa. More at <https://en.unesco.org/news/launching-mooc-judiciary-africa-freedom-expression>

F.2 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA - ACORNS)

Ghana Culture Policy to be reviewed - Mrs Catherine Afeku

The Minister indicated that a committee has been set up to review the existing culture policy which was dedicated to the realisation of the vision of Ghanaians “to respect, preserve, harness and use their cultural heritage and resources to develop a united, vibrant and prosperous national community with a distinctive African identity.” The 27-member review committee, put together by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, is headed by Professor George Panyin Hagan, a former Chairman of the National Commission on Culture and former flagbearer of the Convention People's Party. The Minister charged the committee to come up with a revised policy that would enable inventions in the traditional sphere, especially by the aged, to be digitalised and marketed through Instagram, microfiche and Pinterest, among other computer-age applications. She invited the committee to give the policy more flesh to enable it to deal with the challenges that plagued the existing policy, namely lack of dedicated funding for implementing the recommendations, and effective decentralisation of the policy at all levels. <https://www.primenewsghana.com/general-news/ghana-culture-policy-to-be-reviewed-mrs-catherine-afeku.html>

Web site: www.ifacca.org

Contact: info@ifacca.org

F.3 Africultures

Africultures: Decenter, Deconstruct, Decolonize - Africultures releases a special issue.

As announced in the 375 issue of the OCPA News, at the end of January 2019 Africultures releases a special issue as an answer to the enacle of disappearance that hangs over the network's durability and the review Africultures.

The contents of this special issue include the following 5 chapters:

I - Denounce: bodies in danger, systemic violence

II - Fighting: stories of ordinary heroes

III - Thinking: Deconstructing Eurocentrism

IV - Building: Being African in 2018

V - Create: the winners of the 1st Writing Contest Africultures and Photographic White Cards

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

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

F.4 Newsletter Casa África

Africa Sustainable Development Report 2018

The Report 2018 is the second in a series of reports which provides an integrated assessment of the continent's progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The report is currently the only document that simultaneously tracks the continent's performance on both agendas using the Continental Results Framework endorsed by the African Union Heads of State and Government.

The 2018 edition is aligned with the theme "Towards a Transformed and resilient Africa". Africa is making steady progress in building the critical ingredients for sustainable and resilient societies, but the pace is slow. Access to basic infrastructure such as energy, water and sanitation services is improving but falls well below the global average. Furthermore, the aggregate performance of the continent masks wide cross-country disparities. Effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires evidence-based policymaking to ensure the realization of multiple policy objectives through catalytic investments in areas such as energy and water. The Development Framework commits the African Union and the United Nations to jointly design approaches for harmonized implementation, awareness raising and sensitization about the two agendas. In line with this thinking, the UN and the AUC have designed common platforms and tools to support implementation of both agendas.

https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/asdr-2018_en.pdf

Web site: <http://www.casaffrica.es/>

E-mail: info@casaffrica.es

F.5 Cyberkaris - the monthly electronic newsletter of the Interarts Foundation

Culture at Work Africa: 2nd Call for Proposals launched

On 15 January, Culture at Work Africa launched the 2nd Call for proposals to support innovative on-the-ground projects to be developed in the following African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Organisations interested in applying may submit their project proposals in one of the following two lots: projects aimed at enhancing public or private cultural spaces as "safe places" for intercultural dialogue by stakeholders active in the public sphere (lot 1); and transnational projects aimed at strengthening institutional and professional capacities in intercultural mediation of cultural organisations and operators for social cohesion (lot 2).

The Call is open until 15 April 2019, at 12:00 (GMT), last deadline for the submission of applications. See the call for proposals at <http://www.cultureatworkafrica.net/apply/second-call/>. More on the web site of Culture at Work Africa at <http://www.cultureatworkafrica.net/>.

Web site: www.interarts.net

Contact: info@interarts.net

F.6 IMC Music World News

The 6th IMC World Forum on Music (Paris, September 28 - October 1)

2019 is a key year for IMC as it will celebrate its 70th anniversary in the framework of the 6th IMC World Forum on Music and the commemoration of the International Music Day. The festivities will start on the 27th of September with the 38th IMC General Assembly including regional meetings which will shape the future of our organization. Since 1949, IMC members from all over the world have been promoting the value of music in the lives of all people and our advocacy work gained importance in 2001 with the proclamation by IMC of the Five Music Rights: Further information about the World Forum on Music and the General Assembly will be sent in due time.

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

Contact: <http://www.imc-cim.org/contact-us.html> or info@imc-cim.org

F.7 Jeunesses Musicales International

Highlights of Music Crossroads Activities in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique in 2018

Malawi: In 2018, 70 student's graduated at the Music Crossroads Academy. 28 students graduated with professional music certificates, 33 students graduated in music pedagogy.

Music Crossroads Malawi in partnership with Malawi National Commission for UNESCO, Rei Foundation (New Zealand) and the Malawi National Library Service is carrying out a project on collecting, documenting and publishing Malawi's folk songs.

In Mozambique Music Crossroads has been included in the annual book of Social, a Mozambican organisation focused on promoting communicating of creative solutions to social issues in Mozambique. Mozambique is preparing for its 3rd edition of the LOUD camp - Girls Music Camp – counting on women's empowerment workshops on November 2018.

In April, 15 MCA students were invited to participate in a Master class on improvisation by Camillo Lombard, a well-known producer and musician from South Africa. Camillo started his own music school, Cape Music Institute, which has grown and now prepares students for admission to the University of Capetown Music Department.

In Zimbabwe at the MC Academy a total of 61 students graduated. The Academy has started a new cultural heritage project, in partnership with the German ministry and the Global Music Academy, which is called "Documenting the drum culture of Chieweshe and the Sungura and Mbira guitar styles". The documentation aims to be an educational material for the students that will allow them to approach their traditions and preserve the cultural heritage.

More at <http://jmi.net/media/article/music-crossroads-2018-highlights>

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

Contact: mail@jmi.net

F.8 The letter from the African Heritage School (EPA, Porto Novo, Benin)

The 20th Anniversary of EPA Samuel Kidiba's Editorial

On November 11, 2018, the African Heritage School-EPA, celebrated the 20th anniversary of its creation... Twenty years of activities, achievements and expertise... at the service of African cultural heritage. Twenty years of contribution to the sustainable development of the continent.

The EPA is today more than 300 projects and activities, more than 1500 participants (professionals, decision makers, journalists...), more than 50 technical and financial partners..... Of the road traveled since November 11 of the 1998 when precious and very inspired people decided to create this institution. Thank you to the precursors and actors who worked for the realization of the dream of setting up such an institution serving the continent.

Sixth edition of the French course for the elaboration of nomination files on the UNESCO World Heritage List

In 2018, the World Heritage List includes 1092 properties inscribed, including 845 cultural properties, 209 natural properties, 38 mixed properties and 54 in danger. These properties are located in 167 countries out of 193 States Parties. Thirty-five of the 43 African States Parties to the Convention are home to 95 of these inscribed properties, including 52 cultural properties, 38 natural properties and 5 mixed properties, representing a representativeness of 8.7%. At the same time, 30% of the properties in danger are on the African continent. The international community concerned with the balance of the representativity of all the regions of the world and the least represented States on the list, launched in 1994 the global strategy. one of its variations is the establishment of a capacity building program for African expertise through the setting up of registration dossiers and the management of registered properties. With this in mind, the 6th edition of the French course for elaboration of nomination files was held in Kigali (Rwanda) from 10 to 29 September 2018. This course was attended by 16 participants from 10 countries (Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Rwanda, Chad, Togo) with nine new nomination files. The aim of this course is the registration of at least 3 new African goods by 2020.

Training on project editing and management of cultural events in Abomey

The African Heritage School-EPA in partnership with the Africa Unit of the World Heritage Center and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) organized a project training course in Abomey from 26 to 28 December 2018. and the management of cultural events and events for the members of the Association for the Protection and Promotion of the Royal Palaces of Abomey (A2PRA). This training was initiated in the framework of the protection and the valorization of the royal palaces of Abomey inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1985. This association, which aims to support the management team of the site in order to improve its management aims to ensure a better involvement of local communities.

Web site: <http://www.epa-prema.net/index.php/en/>

Contact: epa@epa-prema.net



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
