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

* OCPA is an official partner of UNESCO (associate status)  

*** We express our thanks to our main partners whose support has permitted the development of our activities:

ENCATC  CBAAC

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The COVID-19 Crisis and its Meaning

The scale of the health crisis ravaging the human world, the generalization of response tests, the disarray which marks the multiple attempts to explain the origins and causes of the pandemic will have constituted in this month of April, as in February and March, month of a great explosion, a global concern for the 7 billion human beings, more than half of whom will be in "confinement" today. The surge of the effects of this crisis and its much-feared spread on the black continent, Africa, is receiving agonizing attention from all.

Now here we are, instructed by the preparation of the still massive and worrying calamity, we are already rushing into the considerations and even the preparation for the future after the crisis. But quickly we will realize, if we are not careful, the magnitude of the task: the attempts to anticipate the remedies for the diversity of crises that the coronavirus-19 will cause place the rulers of the world and the various trades in a situation of uncertainty such that we fear the contagion of the health crisis to all other areas of social life, and not only to the economic development. It is then that the slogan of true and sustainable development should return, which can only be assumed by the men and women who inhabit this earth.

Indeed, there will be no valid and lasting response to the crisis if its cultural dimension is not challenged, if the level of values, respect for world order and the central place of the human being, of all human beings in the universe, in their diversity and their rights, are not restored. It is first of all in its depths that the cultural question should be asked here, beyond the list of the classic grievances of cultural actors and artistic establishments whose answers are only emanations of political options?

We need to analyze the pandemic as to its results and not as to its origins and note that all of us, we are vulnerable at the same level and in the same way, in total ignorance of national, regional and continental borders: the North as the South, the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak, the small and the big. We need also to realize that in the face of the peril and the sinking of the human race, we are all forced to solidarity, all of us must realize the importance of protecting cultural diversity and understand the need to respect and marry cultural diversity and bio-diversity!
If man is a reasonable animal, developing excessively, in a burst of pride, his rationality with the invention of robots and manufacturing, the "creation" of artificial intelligence, he can not forget that he is an animal, a living and not manufactured being, brother in that of the other animals of the universe, that there is an order in the universe and that the harmony of the relation of culture to nature remains a essential to his human existence!

Maputo, April 25, 2020
Lupwishi Mbuyamba

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A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and the Staff of the OCPA Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) functioned, like most of the administrative and research institutions and structures in the world in this exceptional period, confined and sold out but connected to the world through networks of virtual communication.

A.1 Video conferences and virtual meetings

The Executive Director took part in

- two meetings on April 20 and 27 with ENCATC in Brussels and PAXI Collectif in Casablanca for the preparation of a response to be given to the Appeal of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity of UNESCO: a dossier followed by Lupwishi Mbuyamba;
- two meetings, April 14 and 28, also with the non-governmental organization INFORELAI S based in Austria for the preparation of a Memorandum of Cooperation and a research project on the development of creativity and cultural industries in Departments and Economic Structures of Public Action: dossier followed by Máté Kovács, Research Coordinator.

Program Officer, Maria Manjate, participated in a virtual exchange organized by the International Music Council on the impact of the health crisis caused by Covid-19 in the functioning of musical life.

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A.2 Contacts and negotiations

- Talks with the management of the African Capitals of Culture from Marrakech to Morocco for a Framework Cooperation Agreement and the registration of a cooperation project with the ACPs for the launch of the celebration of the first capital in 2020, a particularly dossier followed by Hamadou Mande, Deputy Research Coordinator;
- Consultations with the NGO "Culture et Développement" in Grenoble, France, for a partnership in a program for the development of creativity and the creative industries in Central Africa, a dossier followed by Lupwishi Mbuyamba.

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A.3 Exchanges on the state of cooperation projects carried out with OCPA partners

During the month of April, the Executive Director had discussions on the state of cooperation for the realization of the programs and projects of the Observatory in these exceptional circumstances of the world health crisis and at this stage of the end. of the first quarter of the year with major OCPA partners such as UNESCO (Paris-Addis Ababa and Maputo), the...
African Union (Addis Ababa and Niamey), OIF (Paris), UCLG (Barcelona), the International Music Council (Paris-Abidjan-Brazzaville), the Festival sur le Niger (Ségou), the Forum of African Humanities (Bamako), SILANG (Abidjan), CERAV (Bobo-Dioulasso), ENCATC (Brussels).

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A.4 OCPA Publications


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Most of the Reports of some 25 meetings and training sessions organized by OCPA are published at http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/meetings/index-en.html.


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B. News, events and projects in Africa

B.1 Strengthening Mechanisms to Combat Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property in Africa - Training Workshop, Dakar, Senegal, 27 to 30 April 2020

Organized by this Seminar and Workshop, the UNESCO Dakar Office, in partnership with the WCO, INTERPOL and Niger, planned a training workshop from April 27th to 30th 2020 in Dakar to build the capacities of museum/heritage professionals as well as law enforcement and security forces including customs and police in six countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Senegal. This training is part of a programme to strengthen mechanisms to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property in Africa, which has been under way since 2015.

This four-day training, which is part of a wide-ranging capacity-building programme, is meant to offer both separate and joint sessions in order to consolidate and improve the effectiveness
of the coordination network for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in Africa, ensure the fluidity of information exchanges, identify and better assign roles and responsibilities between law enforcement and security forces and museum professionals in order to speed up the processing of cases of illicit trafficking.

At the end of the four-day workshop, with the active support of the associated experts, the participants are expected to acquire a better knowledge of the prevention of illicit trafficking of cultural property. One of the added-values of this workshop is expected to be the identification of appropriate legal measures for the protection of cultural property in the countries concerned and the validation of communication and awareness-raising tools for the launch of a sub-regional campaign to be carried out during the year 2020 among communities and transit points (airports, ports, etc.).

Contact: g.alonso@unesco.org

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B.2 Algeria: COVID-19 and culture - An online summit of culture ministers on April 22

Culture ministers from around the world will meet next Wednesday for an online meeting on the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on culture, UNESCO announces on its website. This "summit will make it possible to exchange information and points of view on the impact of the health crisis on the cultural sector and to identify corrective political measures" according to the contexts of each country, specified UNESCO. The closure of heritage sites, museums, theaters and cinemas and other cultural institutions due to sanitary confinement "jeopardizes the funding of artists and the creative industries", notes this specialized agency of the UN.

Source: https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202004160522.html

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B.3 DRC: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity - Candidacy of the Congolese Rumba

Professor Yoka Lye, President of the National Rumba Commission, announced, on March 27, 2020 in Kinshasa, that the Congolese Rumba has been nominated on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (UNESCO). He recalled that this candidacy is made in common with the Republic of Congo-Brazzaville, for historical reasons, and for strategic facilities.

When the symposium on Congolese rumba opened on March 11, the Director General of the National Arts Institute, Professor Yoka, made it clear that this is a moment of happiness and honor for the culture of the two Congo, because since the end of February 2020, thanks to the advice of the UNESCO office in Kinshasa, a common roadmap has been established, with as key moments methodological and alternative workshops in Brazzaville and Kinshasa, with a symposium international on March 12 and 13 in Kinshasa for the drafting of the request for the candidacy of the Congolese rumba be a success.

At the opening of the conference on Congolese rumba, Augustin Bikale, on behalf of the UNESCO Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said that at a time when the world is going through a crisis, the safeguarding of expressions of intangible heritage is the center of identities and the raison d'être of human behavior. Recall that the rumba of "Cha-Cha independence" was considered the popular anthem of African independence in the 60s.

Source: https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202003310555.html
B.4 Culture Summit of Abu Dhabi to Live Stream Special Panel Session and Performances

After the first edition of 2019, the second edition of the Abu Dhabi Culture Summit was scheduled to take place in April 2020 as a forum organized by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, that convenes leaders from the fields of the arts, design, heritage, media, museums, public policy and technology, to identify ways in which culture can transform societies and communities worldwide.

The Abu Dhabi Culture Summit is meant to bring together cultural leaders, artists and performers for an extraordinary forum of knowledge exchange, debate and policy development. Culture Summit partners include UNESCO, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and Museum, the Royal Academy of Arts, UNCTAD and the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

As the 2020 was cancelled, the Department of Culture and Tourism of Abu Dhabi opted for a Culture Summit Abu Dhabi live stream experience, broadcasted on YouTube on 9 April.

Times like these remind us more than ever the value of culture and the power of its connection across communities. In a time of crisis, such a dialogue help bring us closer.


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

C.1 Malawi: Appointment of a New Cabinet and a New Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture

On 16 March President Mutharika has appointed a new 32-member cabinet which has 23 full ministers (and nine deputy ministers. The new cabinet includes

- Honourable Francis Phiso, M.P., Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture and
- Honourable Martha Chiuluuntha Ngwira, M.P., Deputy Minister.

The new minister takes up his duties in an important moment when new consultations are going on with stakeholders in the creative sector and other interested players for the drafting of the bill concerning of a National Arts and Heritage Council (NAHEC) in the absence of which the associations do not access subvention from the government.

The bill is at an advanced stage but now Musicians Union of Malawi is asking heritage and arts sectors to be separated. After the consultations, the draft bill has to be reworked to take into consideration the suggestions from stakeholders, rightsholders and artists who urge the government to fasten the adoption of the bill which is crucial for developing the creative industry and employment when a new Cultural Policy for Malawi is being launched.

The new said the government was committed to help uplift the creative industry in the country. “The door is open for discussions with stakeholders in the creative industry,” Phiso said.

Read more at https://times.mw/fresh-consultations-on-national-arts-council-bill/
C.2 Angola: Project to build a sea museum and a giant aquarium

Moçâmedes - A sea museum and a giant aquarium will be built in the Academy of Fisheries and Marine Science (ACPM) located in the province of Namibe (South Coast). The institution will collect all objects related to marine life, cannons, ships, various instruments, including animals, in order to allow students and teachers to carry out scientific work.

The project to build these two infrastructures, the funding of which is already guaranteed, is part of the third phase of Academy work, the implementation of which is scheduled for 2020. Inaugurated in 2017, the ACPM, which could be transformed into a higher Institute, by decision of the Ministry of Higher Education, will deliver its first bachelor’s degrees in 2021.

Comprising three faculties: Fishing, Fish processing and Exploitation of Aquatic Resources, this academy, dependent on the Ministry of Fisheries, has as main mission, to ensure the training of specialists and senior Angolan officials in the fishing and science sector. maritime.


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C.3 Africa: Netflix's first original African series debuts

The American online distribution platform Netflix is broadcasting from this month its first original series "made in Africa", a spy saga dubbed "Queen Sono" with the South African actress Pearl Thusi. Directed by the South African director Kagiso Lediga, the six episodes tell the tribulations of the intelligence agent, who is investigating a politico-criminal network and the murder of her mother.

"This series is exactly what we wanted: to let Africans tell stories about Africa," said Ted Sarandos, the original content manager for Netflix. "It shows that we Africans can do great things ourselves."

In a globalized cultural world crushed by American productions, the small African window open to the world by Queen Sono was greeted with great enthusiasm in Johannesburg.


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C.4 Gabon: the EU and UNESCO decide to support the cultural industries

The Gabonese Minister of Culture, Arts and Traditions, Michel Menga M’Esonne, launched, on March 3, 2020, in Libreville, the project to strengthen the cultural and creative industries of Gabon which will be accompanied by the EU / UNESCO expert bank”.

The project involves updating the national cultural policy to incorporate measures reflecting current trends in entrepreneurship, the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, job creation and the empowerment of women and girls in the creative cultural industries.

The project will take two years to complete. It is funded by the European Union. UNESCO will provide technical expertise. The EU and UNESCO offer to help Gabon update its national regulatory framework for creative cultural industries.
The project will help structure the sectors of the cultural industries in a favorable environment, taking into account digital and the gender approach. Public cultural actors and civil society will also be involved in the implementation of the project in order to guarantee its success.


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C.5 Madagascar: Integration of the culture component in national development frameworks

The main objective of this program is to promote culture as a lever for development because culture is one of the challenges enshrined in the General State Policy; it is about the “Cultural Renaissance”, by “valuing all forms of cultural identities, crafts, literature, theater, songs” as well as by “integrating the cultural dimension” in the development process with a view to ensuring social cohesion. A program focusing on "culture and heritage, expression of values and national identity" is included in the National Development Plan, an instrument for implementing General State Policy. Specific political and programmatic action deserves to be taken to integrate the field of cultural and creative industries into national development planning.

This program has been designed so that the integration of culture, in particular the “intangible heritage” dimension, is ensured within the framework of development strategies and programs.

Funding for this program is provided by the Government of Madagascar as well as the Ministry of Communication and Culture headed by Mrs. Lalatiana Andriatongarivo Rakotondrazafy appointed in January 2019 and reappointed during the government reshuffle in January 2020.

Source: https://www.linfo.re/ocean-indien/madagascar/madagascar-qui-sont-les-nouveaux-membres-du-gouvernement

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C.6 Seychelles: The place of Culture in the Structure and Policies of the Government

Last March by Mr. Danny Faure: President of the Republic of Seychelles, Ms. Macsuzy Mondon was reappointed as Minister for Local Government in charge, among others, of culture.

Trained as a teacher, Ms Mondon was first appointed as health minister in 2006 and education minister in 2010. In 2016 in the cabinet of Danny Faure she became the first woman to serve as Designated Minister (acting as head of state in absence of the president and the vice president) in addition to her new portfolio as Minister for Local Government. In the Ministry of Local Government, the Department of Culture supervises also the National Archive, the preservation of the National Heritage and the National Arts Council (http://www.artsseychelles.org.sc).

The aim of the culture policy in Seychelles is to establish culture as a driving force for economic and social development. To develop its domestic cultural market, Seychelles elaborated a Culture Department Strategic Plan 2011-2015 which included ‘The General Overview of the Creative Industry in Seychelles’. This study emphasized some of the challenges faced by Seychelles, such as lack of training, weak industrial development, low circulation of cultural goods and services, lack of information on the rights of artists.
The aim of the project was to provide assistance to the Government for the elaboration of a Creative industries policy and music sector strategy, also leading to the establishment of a dedicated government-wide agency, the Seychelles Agency for Creative Industries.

Web site: https://en.unesco.org/creativity/activities/seychelles-establishing-culture-driving-force

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C.7 Mozambique: Cultural Statistics, 2018

The National Statistics Institute (INE), presents the 5th edition of the publication of “Statistics of Culture, 2018” (Estatísticas da Cultura, 2018, 5th ed., Instituto Nacional de Estatística Direcção de Estatísticas Demográficas, Vitais e Sociais, Maputo, 2019, 57 p.) which results from the compilation of data from the sectors registered in the National Statistical System and which they produce statistics on culture, namely the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the National Book and Record Institute, the National School of Music, the Office of Public Information, Censuses and current statistics produced by INE.

The main objective of the publication is to disseminate information from the culture sector for contributing to a greater understanding of the cultural life in Mozambique. It is divided in five 5 chapters, namely on

- the country's geographical description, size, population density, languages and religion;
- information on cultural spaces, audiovisual, writing, film, book and record production;
- cultural heritage such as museums and the home of culture;
- cultural events and festival, teaching in the area of culture and cultural groups;
- libraries.

The National Institute of Statistics thanks the collaboration of the entities producing cultural information, and all those who collaborated in the production of this publication. For any observations on this publication, we reiterate our openness for recommendations with a view to producing quality statistics.


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

D.1 Cultural heritage awareness issues - Robet Philippart (Nos Cahiers 2019, Luxemburg)

During the Conference on "Reconstruction and enhancement of the feudal and fortified heritage" organized on December 5, 2018 at the 3 Echelen Museum, the director of the Service of National Sites and Monuments put forward the figure of 110000 visitors for all of the events events organized as part of the European year of cultural heritage (Luxembour 2018). The activities within the framework of this year revolved around the themes: Cultural heritage & education / awareness; Cultural heritage, Sustainable development and technology.
The objective of these pages is to become aware of the origins of the definitions of heritage, to recall the differences, as well as the conditions of access to culture. They will thus address themes relating to the social, cultural and economic objectives of heritage. The importance of knowledge in the way of understanding heritage, the questions relating to responsible and ethical management of heritage will be analyzed during this analysis, which is intended to be very succinct. A reflection awareness raising on cultural heritage will close this brief overview.

More at https://www.academia.edu/38807472/Enjeux_de_la_sensibilisation-au-patrimoine-culturel?email_work_card=thumbnail

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D.2 Modern & Contemporary African Art: Sotheby’s London On-line Auction 25 March

Owing to the instructions issued by the British Government on Monday 23 March, Sotheby's sale of Modern & Contemporary African Art took the form of an online-only auction, See more information about the on-line bidding https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/sell#how-to-bid-online or contacting the client service team at bids.london@sothebys.com.

This March, following the record-breaking results achieved in October 2019, Sotheby’s auction of Modern and Contemporary African Art returned to London for a 6th consecutive season. Since the inauguration of the series in 2017, Sotheby’s sales in the category have achieved more than seventy world records, championing the work of artists across Africa and the wider diaspora, and underscoring a rising global interest in the field. Over 100 works, by artists from 21 countries, were on view for the auction of March 25.

The sale featured four important works by famous South African artist Irma Stern, Gavin Jantjes and other acclaimed Southern African artists.

Contact: hannah.oleary@sothebys.com

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D.3 New Guidelines Will Kickstart Long-Overdue Restitution Debate in UK

The Arts Council England will release a document that addresses the ethical and practical issues around restituting cultural objects (planned for autumn 2020). It will cover ethical and legal considerations, provide best practice examples and crucially advise on dealing with claims and making decisions on the potential return of objects. The Art Newspaper understands that the guidance does not signify a change in government policy and that restitution should still be considered on a case-by-case basis. UK museums continue to be embroiled in restitution controversies. Last summer, the prominent Egyptian-born writer Ahdaf Soueif announced her resignation as a trustee member at the British Museum, saying that lack of discussion over the issue of restitution was a contributing factor.

Contact: jos.vanbeurden@inter.nl.net

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D.4 UNESCO/IFCD: Call for applications for 2020 - 2021

UNESCO has launched its 11th Call for proposals within the International Fund for Cultural Diversity.

The IFCD is a multi-donor voluntary fund set-up in the framework of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) to support initiatives aiming at developing the cultural and creative sector because of its sociocultural and economic potential to contribute to sustainable societies.

The Call is open until 27 May 2020 among others to public administrations and institutions of African countries as well as international organizations based in African countries that wish to realize projects that aim to contribute to sustainable development and structural change through:

- policies and strategies that have a direct impact on the creation, production, distribution and access to a diversity of cultural goods, services and activities;
- strengthening capacities of public institutions and civil society organizations to support viable local and regional cultural industries and markets in developing countries.

Read more about the application at [https://en.unesco.org/creativity/calls/call-applications-open-international-fund-cultural](https://en.unesco.org/creativity/calls/call-applications-open-international-fund-cultural)

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D.5 Calls for proposals to NGOs under the UNESCO Participation Programme for 2020 - 2021 – Deadline: 31 May 2020

The Participation Programme functions as a vital complement to UNESCO’s regular activities by analysing, evaluating and facilitating the implementation of national, sub-regional, inter-regional and regional projects submitted by Member States and NGOs directly related to the activities of the Organization.

The total value of the assistance provided for each request should not be in excess of:

- US$26,000 for a national project or activity
- US$28,000 for a subregional or interregional project or activity
- US$38,000 for a regional project or activity.

The projects or action plans have to be submitted (in priority order numbered from 1 to 7 for Member States and from 1 to 2 for NGOs to the Director-General through the National Commission for UNESCO. NGOs can submit their requests directly with the support letter of the National Commissions of the countries hosting their headquarter and the activity proposed.

The **deadlines set for the submission of requests 31 May 2020** for non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO.(NB. The deadline for Member States is already over.

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E. 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://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2003/646/culture.htm
http://english.alarabonline.org/display.asp?code=zculturez

E.2 Selected information from Allafrica

East African Community Opens Portal for Film Competition

The East African Community (EAC) has opened the portal for submission of the inaugural Short Film Competition for young citizens in the region. At the same time the organisers of the competition have extended the deadline for submissions to April 30 as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in some the participating countries. The maiden EAC Short Film Competition, is the latest efforts to inspire and capture views, and desires of young citizens in East Africa. It was launched in January as part of the new drive to accelerate citizens' engagement this year. Announcing the opening of the web portal, the EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Libérat Mfumukeko said the contest, the first of its kind by the regional body, is targeting over 10 million citizens using new innovative tools. He announced that the competition creates a new opportunity for the regional to hear stories directly from the citizens on what they think the region has and has and what it has achieved so far.

https://allafrica.com/stories/202004030169.html

South Africa: Arts Festival Pioneering the Art of Quarantine

South Africa's actors, dancers, musicians and visual artists are surveying the wreckage of their normal professional lives. Being largely self-employed, they have little or no security. Being largely dependent on live audiences, they have little or no work. Across the world, thousands of arts festivals have been cancelled or postponed. Many others are being reinvented online. Among those pandemic pioneers is the National Arts Festival (NAF), South Africa's biggest cultural event, scheduled for late June and early July. A simple cancellation would scarcely have been questioned - so this was a brave and laudable decision. For the NAF's artistic director, Rucera Seethal, this digital interlude is an opportunity for the festival and the South African arts sector to reflect, self-interrogate and re-emerge stronger. We must generate answers for our virtual festival. While the digital edition of the festival could be a powerful experiment, the economic limits of its reach are also clear. For most South Africans high data costs remain a barrier to streaming video.

https://allafrica.com/stories/202003310339.html

Namibia: Arts Industry Requests a Helping Hand

It's been almost three weeks since the Khomas and Erongo regions have been in lockdown, with the rest of the country abiding by state of emergency regulations. For some, this time was spent catching up on overdue chores, working out or engaging in spiritual growth rituals. For
others who are not so fortunate, the past few weeks have been a time of financial uncertainty with doubts looming about what the future holds. Artists, who rely on interacting with audiences, have been particularly harshly affected by the regulations to contain the spread of Covid-19, and have written an open letter to the government requesting assistance in these unsure times. The letter highlights issues such as the absence or lack of a ready policy framework, fixed income and social security mechanisms in place for most artists and creative communities who are on the margins of Namibian society. The letter also sheds light on the fact that the value of the artist has become evident as the art, through music, television, books and other mediums, has become central to households during this pandemic. 
https://allafrica.com/stories/202004160860.html

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Egypt: Culture Minister to Launch Stay at Home Initiative

Culture Minister Enas Abdel Dayem will launch an initiative to encourage citizens to stay at home to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. In a statement, Abdel Dayem said the initiative falls within a framework of the state's precautionary measures against the virus. Titled "Stay At Home... Culture Between Your Hands," the initiative will broadcast songs of late signer Umm Kulthum, as well as theater shows and concerts at http://www.moc.gov.eg/ar/home/ and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8McPi6RT36QSjnt4eGucNw

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F. Info from newsletters and information services

F.1 ACORNS News: International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies

In focus: The COVID-19 and Culture

In the last month arts and culture sectors worldwide have been radically transformed with the entire cultural value chain – from creation to production, distribution, access and participation – inconceivably disrupted. In this global crisis situation many initiatives are taken with a view to solve the new problems that the sector of culture is facing at the level of the international community. In recent weeks, governments worldwide have announced a range of whole-of-government economic and social support measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In some cases, these measures include dedicated **funding to support the income** of those working in the sector informed by the advice of public agencies that support arts and culture; for example in Switzerland, Pro Helvetia - Swiss Arts Council has worked with the Federal Office of Culture and other government departments to advise the Federal Council on its package of emergency measures worth CHF 280 million (€264.4 million). In other cases, where comprehensive whole-of-government measures are in place, public agencies have assessed measures to provide clarity on how they apply to the sector and how individuals and organisations can access them, for example in Canada where the Canada Council for the Arts has developed and maintains detailed **information on government support measures** and how the arts and culture sector can access resources including emergency care and support benefits, access to employment insurance and other support for personal finances. We have
also seen numerous public agencies allocate new funding, redirect funds and work with
government and non-government partners to provide income support to individuals and the
businesses that offer them employment. In Cuba, the Ministry of Culture is providing salary
support to artists unable to carry out their work due to isolation measures. In Denmark, the
Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces will administer a temporary arts support scheme
worth DKK 100 million which will support independent artists who anticipate significant
income loss. In England, Arts Council England has made available £160 million in emergency
funding. In Mexico, the Secretary of Culture has initiated a National Agreement with
secretaries and heads of culture throughout the country to allocate a total of MXN$32.0
million to support artists and local creators. In Singapore, the Ministry of Culture, Community
and Youth has allocated an additional S$55 million that it will roll out through an Arts and
Culture Resilience Package which includes a jobs support scheme and rental waivers for
tenants.

Web site: www.ifacca.org
Contact: info@ifacca.org

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F.2 Lettre d’information de Casa África

12th Casa África Essay Prizes

For the 12 consecutive year, Casa África is holding the Casa África Prizes for Essays on
African Themes, with a view to recognizing, promoting and publicising original and
unpublished essays that enhance the knowledge that people have of the African continent. Any
physical person over the age of 18, of any nationality domiciled in any country in the world,
may take part in the competition. Under no circumstances may they have any kind of working
and/or professional relations with Casa África, or with any of the institutions that form part of
it (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Spanish International Development Co-
operation Agency, Canary Island Government and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria City Council).
The theme is Climate Change In África. Climate change is one of the great challenges of the
21st century. In fact, it could probably be the most urgent and multidimensional challenge the
world faces actually. Extreme droughts cause desertification and environmental degradation, ruin
the crops, facilitate the spread of fi res and kill livestock and people of thirst. Torrential
rains and associated adverse weather also have a dramatic impact on people’s lives. Read
more details at
http://www.casafrica.es/en/casafrica/Agenda/2020/Bases-Premio-Ensayo-Casa-Africa-
2020.pdf

Site web: http://www.casafrica.es/
E-mail: info@casafrica.es

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F.3 Agenda 21 - Culture

The cultural mobilization of cities and local governments in the COVID-19 crisis
COVID-19 is hitting the cultural life of our communities very severely. Libraries, memorials,
community centres, museums and all cultural venues are closing… Performances, festivals,
parades, carnivals and intangible heritage events are cancelled. Workers in the sectors, who are
often in an already precarious situation (self-employed, freelancers) may be left for months
without any income. The active involvement of all in the cultural life of the community is very
damaged by COVID-19, and so is the welfare and the quality of our democracies. This page is
updated periodically by the UCLG Culture Committee. Cities and local governments are
struggling to guarantee the cultural rights. Cities and local governments are making tremendous efforts to maintain activities to ease people’s feeling of isolation through

- facilitating the on-line access heritage and knowledge and to participate cultural events
- providing new training programmes for sorting the cultural circles
- supporting the presence of cultural institutions in internet and social media
- exploring new ways to organise the cultural work
- advocating to protect the cultural life, the sectors and the actors with special funds.

Web site: [http://www.agenda21culture.net](http://www.agenda21culture.net)
Contact: [info@agenda21culture.net](mailto:info@agenda21culture.net)

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**F.4 IMC Music World News**

**African Musicians Share Strategies Amid Coronavirus**

Music In Africa spoke to a number of African musicians, and one artist manager, about how the coronavirus has affected their livelihood and what they plan to do to weather the storm. [https://www.musicinafrica.net/magazine/african-musicians-share-strategies-amid-coronavirus?utm_source=newsletter_302&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=music-world-news](https://www.musicinafrica.net/magazine/african-musicians-share-strategies-amid-coronavirus?utm_source=newsletter_302&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=music-world-news)

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**Musicians ask Spotify to triple payments to cover lost concert revenue**


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**F.5 Artmail**

Acuity debuts at Investec Cape Town Art Fair

Acuity Art Advisory is a new full service art advisory business based in Johannesburg, offering a variety of bespoke services for established and emerging collectors of contemporary African and international art. These comprise a full range of buying, selling and advisory services, collection management (including storage, logistics, restoration and maintenance), as well as rigorous research and publication offerings. Made up of highly experienced artworld figures Ravelle Pillay, Wendy Tyson and James Sey, Acuity makes its debut at this year’s Investec Cape Town Art Fair, and has picked out some highlights to watch for amid the hustle and bustle. What the organisers of the 2020 edition of the Fair feel they have got right is an international, and particularly a Pan-African feel, to the plethora of content and available art. 40% of the exhibitors and galleries on this year’s Fair are international, including those from the rest of Africa. This profile chimes with the opinion of local art market researcher Mary Corrigall, whose recent report into pricing patterns in the art market rates Cape Town as THE art market capital of the African continent, based on an amalgam of quantitative data.

Web site: [https://www.investeccapetownartfair.co.za/](https://www.investeccapetownartfair.co.za/)
F.6 Nhimbe Trust Fund - Nhimbe Newsletter

COVID-19 Culture and Creative Industries Portal

NhimbeTrust has launched the COVID-19 Culture and Creative Industries portal. Conceived as an observatory, it offers information resources, technical support and crisis response expertise to support the cultural and creative industries’ ecosystem to face the current critical situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through an innovative, responsive and proactive approach, the portal features culture, arts and heritage–oriented interventions that are responding to complex emergencies. Programming is targeted at countries / communities at risk of conflict, in conflict, engaged in post-conflict reconstruction, affected by natural disasters and impacted by political or socio-economic crises.

Web site: http://www.nhimbe.org/
Contact: joshnyap@nhimbe.org

F.7 Cybekaris – the Monthly Newsletter of the Interarts Foundation

OHCHR: Call for contributions on Cultural rights & climate change

To prepare her next report to the UN General Assembly in October 2020, the United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune, has recently launched a questionnaire focused on cultural rights and climate change to collect information and experiences.

Climate is changing, and will continue to change, our habits and ways of life. Consequently, we must mobilize cultural resources to improve our relationship with nature and address this challenge. Against this background, the report will address, on the one hand, the threats that climate change poses to culture, heritage and cultural rights and, on the other, the positive effects that culture, heritage and traditional knowledge, provide to contain the catastrophic effects of climate change. The questionnaire therefore invites stakeholders to answer several questions relating to the:

- Negative impacts of climate change on culture and cultural rights
- Positive potential of culture and cultural rights to enhance responses to climate change

Responses to the questionnaire should be sent to srculturalrights@ohchr.org by the 1st of May 2020 with the references “Submission: Cultural rights and climate change”. More at https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/CulturalRights/Pages/CallForInputClimateChange.asp and https://www.interarts.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/OHCHR_Special-Rapporteurs-letter-en.pdf

Web site: https://www.interarts.net/
Contact: interarts@interarts.net

F.8 ICCROM News

Heritage in Times of COVID-19

In ICCROM, we have been monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing a range of measures to ensure the safety of our staff while continuing to carry out our mission to promote the conservation of cultural heritage around the world. With lockdowns in place in the countries of both of our offices staff is working from home, planning for the postponement of some of those activities slated to take place in coming weeks, while at the same time seeking
out new ways to provide content and support for conservation professionals and institutions within the Member States. COVID-19 has placed an enormous burden on institutions and colleagues who must care for and manage cultural heritage of all types. Our team has been working to prepare a dedicated web area that will offer resources and advice in dealing with Heritage in Times of COVID, which includes assessment forms, but also stories coming from our network about culture’s role in these difficult times. We open up the space to others to help us share relevant information that can benefit conservation professionals and institutions in every area of the world. We are extremely grateful to those in our network who have shared their knowledge with us, and to all those that have reached out to us during this period. We have also a declaration and call to action for those in our field to come together to seek ways to use heritage as a tool of recovery and resilience, while protecting its vulnerabilities and those who represent our vast sector. Read more at https://www.iccrom.org/heritage-times-covid

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ICCROM’s call for action for the protection of the heritage
ICCROM, as an intergovernmental organization with a unique mandate to promote good practices for cultural heritage protection and conservation worldwide, calls upon its Member States, through national and local authorities, managers of heritage sites and institutions, cultural workers and traditional custodians, as well as the public, civil society and private sectors for the protection of the cultural heritage. Read more at https://www.iccrom.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/covid19_call_of_iccrom_for_protecting_heritage_eng.pdf

Web site: http://www.iccrom.org
Contact: iccrom@iccrom.org

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F.9 Sauti za Busara

Sauti za Busara: The Summary of the 2020 edition and the Call for Artists for 2021
The 17th season of Sauti za Busara took place from 13 to February in Stone Town, Zanzibar, showing the world a different face of Africa that often goes unheard. Up to 8,000 people attended each day, from across Africa and several continents. All were united in joy to celebrate a vibrant and eclectic programme of live music representing Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Morocco, Algeria, Reunion and Rodrigues islands. Faced by enormous challenges, we pulled off another successful festival with amazing vibes, great sound and three stages running completely on time! Sauti za Busara has proven yet again there exists a huge appreciation for more diverse musical expressions rooted in Africa. As always, our spotlight shone on young and emerging talents, from the East Africa region and beyond.

Next year the Sauti za Busara 2021 festival will take place from 11 to 14 February 2021. The relevant Call for Artists will be launched on March 31, 2020. Sauti za Busara showcases live, original musical from the African Continent and diaspora. Artists from the Arab World and Indian Ocean region are also welcome to apply.

Web site: https://www.busaramusic.org/
Contact: busara@busara.or.tz

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F.10 South African Cultural Observatory

Creative Industry - Insights from our Research
In the previous Newsletter edition, we started sharing some interesting insights from our research. For the benefit of our new readers, it is perhaps worthwhile to share with them the reason for our existence. Our key role as the SA Cultural Observatory is to measure and provide reliable statistical information on the economic value of South Africa’s cultural and creative industries (CCIs). This is done with a view to understand the sector’s economic significance and make recommendations on what the country can do to continuously grow the sector. We achieve this by conducting economic research across the various cultural domains in line with the research agenda. In the current edition, as with the previous one, we focus on a few key highlights from some of our research outputs.

The Mapping Study 2020: In the last six months our researchers have been hard at work combing through economic data and volumes of information on the sector to understand where the industry is since 2018. Unfortunately due the Coronavirus pandemic we had to postpone the publication of the results. As soon as possible, we will share the study with our readers both through our database and on our website. We are also conducting a survey to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the industry, and will also release its conclusions.

Read more at https://www.southafricanculturalobservatory.org.za/article/industry-insights-from-our-research

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Overlaps Between Digital and Creative Sectors: Innovation and Technology in the Creative Economy
This research examined the nexus between digital technologies, innovation, intellectual property, and diversity in the cultural and creative industries (CCIs). It is part of an international collaboration between the SA Cultural Observatory and researchers at the UK’s Coventry and Newcastle Universities. Despite the growing interest in the contribution of CCIs to growth and job creation in South Africa, innovation is still mostly focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) sectors, with little existing research on how digital technology has influenced innovation, particularly in the increasingly evident overlaps between the digital and creative sectors, and how such firms create, use and protect their intellectual property. The results of the study show strong evidence of a cluster of CCI firms in Cape Town that are “fused”, that is, they combine digital technology with creative inputs to produce goods and services. They are also an interdisciplinary cluster, with high levels of innovation in business processes, goods and services. More than a third of firms are start-ups, having been founded in the past 5 years.

Read more at www.southafricanculturalobservatory.org.za/download/472

Web site: https://www.southafricanculturalobservatory.org.za/article/industry-insights-from-our-research

Contact: info@southafricanculturalobservatory.org.za
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