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and

International Year of the UN of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development

Read the resolution at <https://undocs.org/A/C.2/74/L.16/Rev.1>

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.

**Contact: OCPA Secretariat, Avenida Patrice Lumumba No. 850, Primeiro Andar,
Caixa Postal 1207, Maputo, Mozambique**

Tel.: + 258 21306138 / Fax: +258 21320304 / E-mail: secretariat@ocpanet.org

Executive Director: Lupwishi Mbuyamba, director@ocpanet.org

Editor of OCPA News: Máté Kovács, mate.kovacs@ocpanet.org

OCPA WEB SITE - www.ocpanet.org

OCPA FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/pages/OCPA-Observatory-of-Cultural-Policies-in-Africa/100962769953248?v=info

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In this issue

Editorial: “The Breath of the Ancestors”

A. News from the Secretariat

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the Secretariat

- A.1 Participation in the CERAV Conference-Workshop (Ouagadougou, May 28, 2021)
- A.2 Visit to the Espace Gambidi (Ouagadougou, May 28, 2021)
- A.3 2nd edition of the Biennale du Congo (Kinshasa, June 9 and 11, 2021)
- A.4 Visit of Mr. Rufus Maculuve, Director of the Mozambique Academy of Music
- A.5 Basic Documents of the Regional Cultural Policy of West Africa
- A.6 OCPA Scientific Committee of the Culture of Peace Biennial in Luanda

B. News, events and projects in Africa

- B.1 Mozambique / Burkina Faso - Training of Young Technicians for the Performing Arts
- B.2 Training on the financing of cultural enterprises (Ouagadougou, 8 and 9 June 2021)
- B.3 Burkina Faso: A strategic action plan to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property
- B.4 Congo-Brazzaville: International Fashion Festival - The 7th edition
- B.5 Burkina Faso: World Book and Copyright Day - Statement by the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism

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

- C.1 Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Bourkina Faso
- C.2 ECOWAS regional cultural action "Culture, engine of regional integration and economic development"
- C.3 ECOWAS Cultural Policy and Cultural Development Action Plan for 2020-2022
- C.4 ECOWAS Cultural Policy (PCC) - December 2019
- C.5 ECOWAS Action Plan 2019-2023 for the return of cultural property to their countries of origin
- C.6 Morocco: Cultural diversity as a lever for openness, dialogue and cohesion

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

- D.1 ACP/EU: Sustainable cultural industry in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
- D.2 The Porto Santo Charter adopted by the EU Conference (Portugal, 27 28 April 2021)
- D.3 UNESCO: Gender and Creativity
- D.4 United Kingdom: UK Building Relationship with Africa through Art

E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

- E.1 Links to portals
- E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica
 - Cameroon: Anurin Nwunembom - The 'Godfather' of Cameroon's Film Industry
 - Rwanda Pushes to Have Nyungwe Park Added to World Heritage List
 - Gambian Yaws Creations Takes on the Fashion World
 - Nigeria: NCAC Celebrates World Handicraft Day
 - Eritrea: Workshop on Cultural Heritage and National Identity

F. Info from newsletters and information services

- F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA – ACORNS)
 - The 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture (Stockholm, Sweden, 31 May - 3 June 2022)
 - Measures and initiatives in view to support the post COVID recovery of the Culture Sector
- F.2 Africultures
 - Afriques in vision of Bordeaux permits to meet the independent African cinemas
- F.3 Casa África
 - Masdanza 2021. Open call - From November 30 to December 20 in Barcelona
- F.4 Agenda 21 Culture
 - New Report on Culture and Climate Resilient Development

F.5 Music World News - News of the International Music Council (IMC)

- Music streaming takes on Africa

F.6 Nhimbe Trust Fund - Nhimbe Newsletter

- Why the Arts Matter in a Democracy at a Glance

F.7 News from Africalia

- Culture at Work Africa: Femmes et création en Afrique, Conférence en ligne (8 juin 2021)
- Ms. Dorine Rurashitse Appointed Chief Executive Officer of Africalia

F.8 Ettijahat

- A Decade of Arts: A Call for Researchers from the Arab Region
- Art Lives: Initiative to Support Arab Arts Practitioners

XXX

Editorial: “The Breath of the Ancestors”

Now that the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance has entered into force, it is important that its implementation follow. To this end, a guide had been prepared and an action plan proposed to Member States of the African Union after their adoption by the plenary of the STC Conference, which includes the Ministers in charge of cultural affairs. The Editorial of each of the next 6 issues of the Observatory's monthly newsletter will be devoted to a brief commentary on the main lines of this plan, starting with this one.

And first, the Renaissance. If the concept tended to evoke, when it was launched, the emblematic period of civilization and the splendor of art in Western Europe from the 15th to the 16th centuries, it is far from advocating here either a resurrection or a return. Rather, it is an invitation to rejuvenate, to an invention whose main source of inspiration is captured from the "breath of the ancestors". A breath emanating from a rich heritage, from a heritage which has given an identity of civilizations a label of excellence, the extent of which we are discovering day by day.

Thus the depth of the educational values contained in their epics, the performance of their technologies and their know-how in vocational training revealed by a review of their history, a code of conduct finally established which has survived the long evolution of peoples. in their life in community as in their relations with the elders and the divinity!

The 2021 Ségou Appeal invites the call for in-depth scientific research on this endogenous knowledge system.

It is under the quest for the inspiration carried by this "breath of the ancestors" and the demonstration of its recipes that the Biennale of contemporary art of the Congo of Kin Art Studio has placed its 2nd edition of September 2021 in Kinshasa and which will be the theme of its Colloquium, moreover, animated by a group of international experts around the team of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa. A reference!

Maputo, June 26, 2021

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

A. News from the Secretariat

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the Secretariat

A.1 Participation in the CERAV Conference-Workshop (Ouagadougou, May 28, 2021)

On the occasion of his participation in the CERAV Workshop-Conference in Ouagadougou, Mr. Mbuyamba had a meeting on May 28 with the staff of the FEPACI executive secretariat. This

meeting revolved around the collaborative relations that must exist between the Federation and the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission, the new Agency set up by the African Union in 2019.

A.2 Visit to the Espace Gambidi (Ouagadougou, May 28, 2021)

In addition, he met Mr. Claude Guingane, Director of the Espace Gambidi, a major theater in the cultural city of Ouagadougou as well as Dr. Hamadou Mande, Artistic Director of Espace Gambidi and FITMO, international theatre and puppet festival of Ouagadougou. Their discussions focused on the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the founder of the Espace Gambidi and the festival, Professor Jean-Pierre Guingané, scheduled for October-November.

A.3 The 2nd edition of the Biennale du Congo (Kinshasa, June 9 and 11, 2021)

The Executive Director organized working sessions at Mont des Arts on the preparation of the 2nd edition of the Biennale du Congo, a major event in the megalopolis dedicated to contemporary art, the opening of which is announced for September 17, 2021.

The interest of this meeting lay in particular in the agreement given by the OCPA to ensure the scientific direction of the Biennial Colloquium. More information will be given later.

A.4 Visit of Mr. Rufus Maculuve, Director of the Mozambique Academy of Music

In Maputo, Mr. Mbuyamba received on June 23 in his office Mr. Rufus Maculuve, Director of the Mozambique Academy of Music and President of the recently established Mozambican Federation for the Cultural and Creative Industries.

The interlocutors, after sharing information on the efforts of creators in the country, discussed the evolution of regulatory texts on this very timely subject, particularly at the level of the African Union and discussed the opportunities that arise to strengthen the cooperation with the creators of the country and between them and the creators of the region.

A.5 Basic Documents of the Regional Cultural Policy of West Africa

Mr. Hamadou Mande, in his capacity as Coordinator – Assistant for research at the OCPA, recently had contact with the Culture Officer at ECOWAS and collected for the OCPA the up-to-date basic documents of the cultural policy. West African Regional Council which will be placed on OCPA website and in the “Institutions Profiles” section of the Documentation Center.

A.6 OCPA Scientific Committee of the Culture of Peace Biennial in Luanda

June 10 - Maria Manjate, Research Officer at the Secretariat represented the Executive Director of OCPA at the first meeting of the Scientific Committee of the 2nd edition of the Culture of Peace Biennial scheduled in Luanda in October 2021 under the leadership of UNESCO and in cooperation with the AU. The report of the incident will be posted on the OCPA website.

For previous news and OCPA activities click on

<http://www.ocpanet.org/activities/news/index-en.html>



B. News, events and projects in Africa

B.1 Mozambique and Burkina Faso: Training Young Professionals in the Performing Arts

Seven young artists, 3 from Mozambique and 4 from Burkina Faso, were selected for a training of technicians in lighting, video and sound. The course will be conducted by trainers from Burkina Faso, Mozambique and France and led by technician of the Grand Théâtre de Nantes.

This professionalization program, an initiative of KINANI, seeks to strengthen the cultural and creative industry in Mozambique and on the African continent. It is implemented in partnership with the “LeGrand T” of Nantes and the “Récréâtrales” of Burkina Faso with a view to train professional theatre technicians.

Kinani and Récréâtrales have already a consolidated structure of professionals training in the area of performing arts and artistic-cultural management.

The training will be divided into 3 modules, taking place respectively in Nantes (June – July), in Ouagadougou (October) and finally in Maputo (November), during the Kinani Festival organized in collaboration and with the support of Centro Cultural Franco Moçambicano.

B.2 Training on the financing of cultural enterprises (Ouagadougou, 8 and 9 June 2021)

This session on funding opportunities was organized by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, because the funding mechanisms are not known or not sufficiently used by cultural and tourism entrepreneurs.

It is to remedy this situation that the Ministry decided to held a series of training and information sessions on financing opportunities to improve the rate of access to credit for private actors in tourism and culture and by extension to increase the volume of investments in the aforementioned sectors with significant potential for the economy and employment.

During the meeting, participants had also a training in financial management. Culture and tourism are two sectors with a strong potential for jobs and foreign exchange for the benefit of women and young people.

It should be noted that the growth dynamic of these two areas has been blocked by the advent of terrorism in the Sahel region and the health crisis linked to COVID-19.

Source: <https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202106090581.html>

B.3 Burkina Faso: A strategic action plan to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property

Burkina Faso launched this on May 27, the development of a national action plan for the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the measures to be taken to prohibit and prevent the import, export and transfer of illicit ownership of cultural property.

This roadmap serves as a barometer to measure Burkina Faso's real capacity to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property and to develop measures for implementing Burkina Faso's international commitments.

The workshop mobilized around twenty multi-stakeholder actors in order to achieve a common understanding of the challenges and issues relating to the protection of Burkina Faso cultural property and to engage all the national stakeholders concerned in this important task of consolidation of protective measures to ensure the effective implementation of the 1970 UNESCO Convention.

This meeting is the culmination of a long process launched for the development of a strategy for strengthening cooperation to fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property in the Sahel.

Since 2017, UNESCO has been pursuing a program to strengthen operational networks in Africa to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property. This program emphasizes sub-regional and inter-service cooperation through the training of actors in the fight chain, awareness-raising, but also the strengthening of legal frameworks. It is in this sense that Burkina Faso plans to initiate during the year 2021 the process of revising framework law n°024-2007 of 13 November 2007 on the protection of cultural heritage in Burkina Faso.

Source: <https://fr.unesco.org/news/lelaboration-dun-plan-daction-strategique-lutter-contre-traffic-illicite-biens-culturels-au>

B.4 Congo-Brazzaville: International Fashion Festival - The 7th edition

From June 10 to 13, Pointe-Noire brought together fashion and clothing lovers around the Carrousel festival, initiated by Pascaline Kabré, its director. Stylists, modelers, hairdressers, dressmakers, make-up artists, models exchanged and shared experiences and know-how through the various activities planned for the occasion with the participation of confirmed talents and from Cameroon, Togo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, DRC, Burkina Faso, Angola, Tunisia, France, etc.

The fashion carousel aims to launch emerging designers and new talents in professions such as styling, modeling, sewing, modeling, hairdressing, make up,

On the sidelines of the festival, a workshop for improvement in model making is also organized. A fashion night with the international parade also took place and enabled aspiring stylists but also the public to appreciate the know-how of professionals from the continent.

Web site: <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/festival-international-de-la-mode-la-7e-edition-lancee-dans-la-ville-oceane-127747>

B.5 Burkina Faso: World Book and Copyright Day (April 23) - Statement by Dr Élise Fonyama Ilboudo Thiombiano, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism

This day was chosen by the General Conference of UNESCO to pay tribute to actors in the book chain and copyright. The book has this unique ability to entertain us, to educate us, to be at the same time the instrument of an exit from oneself, of an encounter with others and to offer a time to dive deeper into oneself. It is a powerful means of realizing the dream of a world without ignorance, peace and well-being. This day also requires us to take an introspective approach to assess our actions in favor of these two sectors.

These actions bear witness to the authorities' commitment to placing books and copyright at the heart of our country's development policies. The government intends to continue the momentum, stepping up the fight against counterfeiting of literary works and strengthening copyright of artistic products.

Read the statement on the Ministry's website at <https://www.culture.gov.bf/accueil>



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

C.1 Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Bourkina Faso

Appointed Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism on January 10, 2021, Dr Élise Foniayama Iboudo Thiombiano, Member of the National Assembly since 2016, holds a doctoral thesis in History and Archeology, obtained in 2010. Dr Thiombiano is now an Archaeologist-teacher-researcher. Lecturer in Archeology at the Human Sciences Training and Research Unit at the Department of History and Archeology of the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo, she is also an associate researcher at Paris 1 Laboratory of the History of Techniques IHMC and the Laboratory of the Anthropology Department, Félix Houphouët Boigny University, Abidjan.

More information at <https://www.culture.gov.bf/ministere/ministre>

C.2 ECOWAS regional cultural action "Culture, engine of regional integration and boosting economic development" (Cf. the official website of the organization)

Culture, a sector with strong growth potential, is able to help ECOWAS, in order to move quickly from "moving from ECOWAS of States to ECOWAS of peoples".

Endowed with a framework cultural agreement adopted by the States in 1987, ECOWAS has been working for a long time on the cultural development of the community space, through programs in the cultural field.

A Culture Division has been created for the development of actions in the field of culture, under the supervision of the Commissioner, Head of the Education, Science and Culture Department.

In 2002, ECOWAS aligned its cultural action with the NEPAD Cultural Action Plan by developing priority cooperation and integration programs. The Regional Cultural Program for the period 2015-2017 covered four areas: copyright and intellectual property rights; heritage and cultural exchanges, education in the culture of peace and development of cultural industries.

The main expectations of the culture division in the ECOWAS region are:

- Develop the economy of culture and cultural industries
- Set up a regional intellectual property organization
- Preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the ECOWAS area
- Promote culture of peace, create frameworks for interreligious exchanges and synergies
- Develop cultural exchanges and major regional cultural events
- Strengthen the training of actors in the field of culture and cultural industries
- Support cultural actors through advisory services and technical and financial support.

Source: <http://www.esc.comm.ecowas.int/a-propos-de-la-cedeao/division-de-la-culture/?lang=fr>

C.3 ECOWAS Cultural Policy and Cultural Development Action Plan for 2020-2022

The recognition of responsibility for culture by ECOWAS followed a long process formally initiated thanks to the creation of the Culture Division in 1985 and the adoption of the Framework Cultural Agreement in 1987, but the evolution of the socio-political and cultural context linked the deterioration of the security climate and the rapid development of cultural and creative industries, calls for the development of new, more appropriate reference frameworks.

Aware of this, in 2019 ECOWAS adopted a cultural policy whose vision is as follows: "By 2030, the cultural sector is integrated, dynamic, competitive, and contributes efficiently and sustainably. to the socio-economic development of the populations."

With a view to achieving this vision, the cultural policy of ECOWAS has set itself a long-term objective: "to contribute to sustainable socio-economic development and regional integration by promoting cultural diversity and cultural industries. and creative."

The mechanism for implementing this cultural policy provides, among other things, for the mobilization of stakeholders, the establishment of management bodies, the development and execution of three-year rolling action plans. This study relates to the first action plan covering the period 2020-2022.

Web site: <http://www.esc.comm.ecowas.int/a-propos-de-la-cedeao/division-de-la-culture/?lang=fr>

C.4 ECOWAS Cultural Policy (PCC) - December 2019

On the scale of the African continent, the cultural sector is the object of increased attention from States and community organizations because it has continued to demonstrate its dynamism and expose its potential for the creation of wealth and jobs. and contribution to social regulation and peace in a changing environment. The numerous related meetings as well as the gradual establishment of an international normative framework thanks to UNESCO conventions have provided a framework for the structuring of public interventions in the cultural sector.

In this context, the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS adopted in 1987 the Framework Cultural Agreement as an instrument for the promotion of cultural identities and cultural cooperation also encompassing the fields of education and training, scientific and technological research, cultural tourism.

Thus, ECOWAS has started a long process of formalizing its interventions since the adoption of the framework cultural agreement in 1987 through the explicit inclusion of culture in the revised treaty of 1993, reaffirming the commitment made in the founding treaty of 1975, culminating in 1985 in the creation of a culture division, thus marking a decisive turning point in the institutional anchoring of culture. In October 2018, ECOWAS invited experts and resource persons to examine a draft regional cultural policy document which was submitted for technical validation by experts from member states in December 2018, for validation of said document by the ministers of culture in July 2019 and by its approval by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in December 2019.

At the end of the process, the resulting policy document first analyzes the international, regional and West African context of culture; establishes the diagnosis of the cultural sector at the community level and proposes the strategy for the development of culture in West Africa.

Contact: <http://www.esc.comm.ecowas.int/droit-dauteur/nous-contacter/?lang=fr>

C.5 ECOWAS Action Plan 2019-2023 for the return of cultural property to their countries of origin

West Africa is made up of 15 countries with a population of 325 million, made up of more than 600 ethnic and linguistic communities and a great diversity of cultural expressions. From an institutional point of view, the countries of the Region created in 1975 the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which mainly aims at regional integration for a better economic and social development of the populations. To this end, it declined the Vision 2020 which indicates that we must "Go from ECOWAS of states to ECOWAS of peoples".

To allow a better harmonization of the policies of the Member States in the field of culture, the Heads of State and Government adopted the framework cultural agreement in 1987. The main objectives of this Agreement are (1) improving the standard of living of the populations and

social progress through the development of creativity; (2) regional integration through community development anchored in the specific socio-cultural realities of the populations to meet their basic needs by integrating their dual economic and cultural dimension; (3) the creation of an awareness of belonging to the same cultural community based on historical, linguistic and geopolitical ties; (4) the affirmation of the presence and the 6 safeguard as well as the promotion of the specific cultural identities of the Member States and of the community reality in international exchanges, by strengthening regional and inter-regional cooperation.

It is in this momentum and in line with current events that the Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS adopted on December 22, 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria., a political declaration for the return of African cultural goods to their countries of origin. The cultural goods of West African countries, wherever they are found, constitute the basis of the regional cultural heritage, the conservation and enhancement of which should, out of memory, be better done by the African region. 'West and West Africa.

This Declaration marks the beginning of a political commitment at a regional level for the restitution of cultural property to their countries of origin and constitutes a response to the instruction of the Conference of Heads of State and Government, having asked the ECOWAS Commission to submit to it a Regional Action Plan for the return of African cultural property.

The Regional Action Plan was validated by the Cultural Heritage and Museum Experts, meeting from April 9 to 11, 2019 in Cotonou, Benin, and adopted by the Ministers of Culture on July 17, 2019 in Cotonou. It has two main parts: the first part includes an inventory and challenges in this area. The second includes guidelines with strategic objectives and actions to be taken for the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan with a roadmap.

C.6 Morocco: Cultural diversity as a lever for openness, dialogue and cohesion

After several months of waiting, the Special Commission on the Development Model (CSMD) has finally made public the fruit of its reflection. His Majesty King Mohammed VI received the president of the CSMD, Chakib Benmoussa, for the presentation of his report.

The report, a voluminous document divided into three main parts, stressed, among other things, the importance of making culture a fundamental component of overall development, particularly economic and social. The Special Commission on the Development Model (CSMD), underlined that the mobilization of cultural diversity as a lever of openness, dialogue and cohesion is a strategic choice in the new development model (NMD) of the Kingdom.

Culture is called upon to become a major global issue of emergence and sovereignty, because of the renewed and universal need for meaning and social cohesion, as well as the challenges which promote an enhancement of content and quality. The report specifies that culture offers a source of growth, investment and employment as close as possible to territories and local needs, adding that historical depth is an asset to be promoted as a lever for regional stability, cultural influence and of coexistence. Culture in the new development model responds to a double requirement, national unity and plurality, since this model involves the empowerment of the citizen, his development and the liberation of initiatives.

The Constitution proclaims the plurality of the Moroccan Nation, made up of converging historicocultural tributaries, coexisting with the antiquity, continuity and thousand-year-old national independence of the national community, noting that it is a double requirement, of unity and plurality which are complementary.

The Commission has recommended to create a Moroccan Agency for the coordination of the cultural efforts to promote the diffusion of the Moroccan culture abroad.



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

D.1 ACP/EU: Sustainable cultural industry in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

The webinar was convened by the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the EU, entitled: ‘Towards a sustainable cultural and creative industry in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries’, It took place from 9 to 10 June 2021.

The event, organized in the framework of the ACP-EU Culture programme implementation, will put into perspective its actions in support of ACP cultural and creative industries and discuss the new issues of a sector impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Under the aegis of the OACPS and the EU, this international event will bring together cultural and creative professionals, artists, political decision-makers and international cooperation actors who, in the framework of high-level panels discussed the challenges and opportunities related to the competitiveness of the ACP cultural and creative industries and audiovisual production and the prospects for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

D.2 The Porto Santo Charter adopted by the EU Conference (Portugal, 27 28 April 2021)

The Porto Santo Conference, a Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union initiative, proposes this Porto Santo Charter as a guiding map of principles and recommendations for applying and developing a working paradigm for cultural democracy.

The Charter’s content (enhancing cultural democracy) and its process (collaborative thought process) thus constitute a unity. The Health of Democracy and the Role of Culture Democracy and the threats against it are the focus on intense debate in our societies once again. The Charter underlines among others that it is essential to critically evaluate the models of democracy that we implement and to think of ways with which to intensify and broaden people’s participation in order to legitimise institutions and decision-making processes. It is essential for democracy not to be seen as a specialised dimension of the political sector; it must be a concern that cuts across the various social sectors.

In this sense, it is necessary to promote a conception of cultural citizenship based on pluralism: on the recognition of the multiplicity of voices and on the valuing of differences. Reductive and single interpretations of cultural identity in essence deny the democratic, inclusive and open vision of cultures. It is fundamental to understand, in the development of cultural policies, that hierarchizing cultural values always implies forms of power and authority—of which one must be very aware. Top-down cultural diffusion has not had the expected results. Plurality must be guaranteed in the production, and not only in the access to cultural creation. Cultural democracy thus favours pluralisation, the territorialisation of decisions and the sharing of power.

The starting point of Cultural Democracy is the verification of equality between those who hold institutional power and the citizens. If cultural democracy requires the participation of each person in favour of the culture of all people, it also underscores the freedom of expression and the creative and deliberative potential of each individual to make an intervention in the world. Cultural policies must take this creative freedom into account.

Read the the Charter at <https://portosantocharter.eu/the-charter/>

D.3 UNESCO: Gender and Creativity

UNESCO has recently published the study “Gender and Creativity: Progress on the Precipice“, a special edition of its series of reports on the 2005 UNESCO Convention.

The study, by Bridget Conor of King’s College London, delves into issues related to gender inequality in the cultural and creative sector, a structural problem affecting both women and gender-diverse people, and whose progress has been interrupted (pushed to “the precipice”) as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

Despite the progress made in recent years towards gender equality in the cultural and creative industries thanks to different initiatives, there are still many hurdles to overcome to achieve equality in this sector. Indeed, gender equality is fundamental to ensure diversity of cultural content and provide equal opportunities in the cultural sector.

The document highlights the need to monitor gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors in order to ensure informed policy change. Moreover, it is pivotal to analyse the impact of Covid-19 on the implementation of relevant measures to promote gender equality; to streamline the processes of implementation and evaluation of cultural measures for gender equality; to facilitate the access of gender-diverse people to participation in and funding for creative and cultural work; and to resolve the digital divide that puts women and gender-diverse creatives in situations where they are more vulnerable and susceptible to abuse.

This post is also available in: English Spanish Catalan

D.4 United Kingdom: UK Building Relationship with Africa through Art

The National Lottery Community Funds, Scotland, the United Kingdom, UK, is building a stronger relationship between African and Scottish communities by collaborating with JOM Charity, an affiliation of Kakofoni Group, is African art's biggest player in the UK, which, aims to create better interrelationship with the projects to give participants activities that allow them to interact with others, thereby alleviating isolation, loneliness and depression. The group's gallery houses most of Africa's finest artists' works.

Web site: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202106150690.html>



E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

E.1 Links to portals

<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

Cameroon: Anurin Nwunembom - The 'Godfather' of Cameroon's Film Industry

Anurin Nwunembom fondly called "The Godfather" of Cameroon's film industry is a sensational filmmaker, actor and mentor whose role in the birth and growth of Cameroon's film

industry essential. Anurin has dedicated close to two decades of his life in theatre and cinema. He has been fortunate to take part in high profile projects like "Ninah's Dowry" done in 2010. The movie, which according to the actor, won about 40 awards internationally, served as a real booster to the Cameroon's movie industry. Anurin is the architect of "Nightfall" and "Broken" selected by Netflix after Therapy. Therapy made history as the first Cameroonian movie on the top movie distribution platform, Netflix. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202106150683.html>

Rwanda Pushes to Have Nyungwe Park Added to World Heritage List

Several institutions headed by the Rwanda National Commission on UNESCO have embarked on a proposal to have one of Africa's oldest mountain forests: Nyungwe National Park added to the world heritage list. Other institutions that are championing this include Rwanda Development Board, Rwanda Environmental Management Authority and the Ministry of Youth and culture among others. Nyungwe national park was first designated as a tourist reserve in 1933 and the activities to conserve the area was scaled up in 1980s, but disturbed by the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. In 2000, procedures to turn the reserve into a national park started, but the law was gazetted in 2005. With a size of 1,019 Square kilometers, it is the largest mountainous rain forest in East Africa, and it is home to a large number of species that are becoming extinct in many parts of the world. It also gives rise to Nile and Congo water basins. <https://allafrica.com/stories/2021061505579>

Gambian Yaws Creations Takes On the Fashion World

Awa Conateh had the opportunity to attend fashion shows from a young age. Benefitting from the strong artistic influences of her mother, a seamstress and event organizer, Awa started embellishing her dresses with colourful accessories and eventually started creating her own designs. After receiving compliments on her unique outfits, she began producing clothes for her friends. Her label YAWS Creations was born in 2007. Starting as a small home-based business, Awa has gradually been expanding her operations. Being one of the youngest fashion designers in the Gambia at the time, her innovative approach quickly gained attention. Today, Awa employs about 10 people and produces a variety of items. Seizing an opportunity to receive training by a fashion expert, the Gambian became a member of the International Trade Centre's SheTrades initiative. Through the programme, Awa also had the opportunity to participate in study trips to learn more. Attending the SheTrades Global event in the United Kingdom and a SheTrades study trip to Ethiopia was very inspiring for Awa. Upon her return to the Gambia, Awa organized events featuring Gambian talents in fashion and started mentoring fashion students Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202106141190.html>

Contact: womenandtrade@intracen.org

Nigeria: NCAC Celebrates World Handicraft Day

Runsewe said since his assumption of office as the President of the INAC Council in the African Region, he has continued to work tirelessly towards integrating key players in the Arts and Crafts sector towards promoting the best of African's Arts and Craft products and popularizing them all over the world. Otunba Runsewe, who has brought his dynamism and strength of character to bear in making the International Arts and Crafts Expo, INAC, a global fiesta where stakeholders all over the world meet to network and exchange views and experiences on global best practices in Arts and Crafts, said: "Apart from robust and strategic engagement with foreign missions in Nigeria to create the required synergy beneficial to all, we have also led advocacy campaigns in South Africa, Ghana, Botswana, Burkina Faso and so on." The world handicrafts day is celebrated all over the world between the 10th - 17th June every year.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202106140901.html>

Eritrea: Workshop on Cultural Heritage and National Identity

Adi-Keih, 12 June 2021 - The Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Sciences in cooperation with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students organized a workshop focusing on cultural heritage and national identity. The workshop was attended by 150 staff members and students of the College. The objective of the workshop was to raise the awareness of the staff members and students of the college on the significance of preserving cultural heritage and the noble societal values and transfer them to posterity. It was stressed that the Eritrean youth and students have the responsibility of shouldering and preserving the noble cultural and societal values as well as fully understand the challenges and opportunities at hand as people and nation, called on the participants to upgrade the knowledge they have acquired and transfer them to fellow colleagues. The workshop is part of the national endeavor to raise the awareness and understanding of nationals on the significance of cultural heritage and the societal values.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202106140686.html>

Web site: <https://fr.allafrica.com/arts/>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

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

The 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture (Stockholm, Sweden, 31 May - 3 June 2022)

The Summit will address the theme of Safeguarding Artistic Freedom and will bring together leading policy makers, researchers, managers and practitioners from the arts, culture and related sectors from around the world to explore artistic freedom as a fundamental pillar of cultural policy; consider the conditions for its existence, including our rights and responsibilities; and examine how we can – and why we should – safeguard it. It is meant to explore safeguarding artistic freedom from different angles and includes a diverse range of lived experiences and perspectives. The programme is planned by the International Programme Advisory Committee chaired by Olu Alake (UK) with the support of six experts: Brook Andrew (Wiradjuri/Celtic, Australia), Alfons Karabuda (Sweden), president of the IMC, Pamela Lopez (Chile), Farai Mpfunya (Zimbabwe), Anupama Sekhar (India), Director of the Culture Department, ASEF and Farida Shaheed (Pakistan), former UN Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2009-2015). Read more at the website <https://www.artsummit.org/ipac>

Measures and initiatives in view to support the post COVID recovery of the Culture Sector

This issue contains also useful information about the measures taken in the various regions in support to the recovery of the cultural and creative sector after the pandemic, namely in the the New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland, the Korean Republic, Singapore, Wales, the USA, Abou Dhabi and Germany and the initiatives of the international instances such as the European Commission, the World Bank, UNESCO, the United Nations, the Council of Ministers of Culture of Southeast Europe.

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

Contact: info@ifacca.org

F.2 Africultures

Afriques in vision of Bordeaux permits to meet the independent African cinemas

This festival presents 6 films in the presence of 4 directors from the Comoros Islands, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Ivory Coast, with 4 academics discussing / moderating. It is organized as part of the Africa 2020 Season by the Institut des Afriques and the African Diasporas Chair which offer you a window on contemporary African cinemas. From June 22 to 26, 2021, “Afriques en vision” invites you to take an equally comprehensive and renewed look at the African film industry through dedicated spaces: individual meetings with our African partners, a masterclass, round tables to understand the challenges of the sector and debates projections in the presence of the new generation of renowned African directors!

More at <http://africultures.com/evenements/?no=49941>

F.3 Casa África

Masdanza 2021. Open call - From November 30 to December 20 in Barcelona

Founded in 1996 by the dancer and choreographer Natalia Medina, Masdanza received in January 2019, from the European Association of Festivals, the EFFE Quality Seal. One of its fundamental objectives is to publicize Contemporary Dance in the Canary Islands and continue to be a dance platform for local, national and international creators, for which it has had the collaboration of Casa Africa for years, which through Its Africa on the Move program seeks to promote the African presence in this event. The 26th edition of this festival will take place from October 20 to 31, 2021 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and the call to receive proposals for its choreographic contest opens from April 1 to June 17, 2021 and alone. The solo contest will take place on October 20, 21 and 22 and the choreographic contest on Saturday 23. The MASDANZA Extensions in the Canary Islands will take place from October 24 to 31, 2021.

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

Contact: info@casaffrica.es

F.4 Agenda 21 Culture

New Report on Culture and Climate Resilient Development

The world cannot afford divergent ‘sustainable development’ and ‘climate action’ agendas but rather these two must be fully integrated. In line with Culture 21 Actions (which includes a full Commitment devoted to “cultural factors as accelerators of environmental responsibility”), we are promoting a report on “the Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development” providing ground breaking policy evidence for the role culture and heritage can play in integrating the sustainable development and climate action agendas. The report will be informed by UCLG and UCLG Culture Committee policy documents and resources, and by contributions of UCLG members and consultation mechanisms, as well as the CHN’s Working Group 5, on the latest elements of the debate on Climate Resilient Development. A draft report will be presented at the 4th UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir, and the 2021 UN Climate Conference in Glasgow. <http://www.agenda21culture.net/news/new-report-culture-and-climate-resilient-development>

Site web: <http://www.agenda21culture.net>

Contact: info@agenda21culture.net

F.5 Music World News - News of the International Music Council (IMC)

Music streaming takes on Africa

The Swedish music streaming giant is preparing to launch into nearly 80 new markets this year, including in Africa (Niger, Kenya, Guinea-Bissau, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria). Until now, only

listeners from South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia had access to it. The launch in these new markets is a next step in the direction of our continued commitment to build an audio ecosystem without borders ”

https://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/le-streaming-musical-a-l-assaut-de-l-afrique-06-05-2021-2425338_3826.php?utm_source=newsletter_343&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=music-world-news

Site web: <http://www.imc-cim.org>

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

F.6 Nhimbe Trust Fund - Nhimbe Newsletter

Why the Arts Matter in a Democracy at a Glance

Around the world democracy has been receding. Authoritarian states have expanded their powers to limit the rights of citizens, while democracies have either seen greater nationalist populist sentiment that aims to restrict the rights of certain groups in their countries or citizens have elected leaders with authoritarian characteristics to positions of power. This has shifted the international balance of power in favor of authoritarian strong men and their supporters. Freedom of speech and expression has been the one democratic right that is under attack across nations. Whether it's through the Patriot Act in Zimbabwe, or recently Belarus diverting a plane to arrest a single journalist, or artists across the African continent being censored. The right to speech and methods of expression are under threat. Defenders of democracy need to understand that the arts are a vital tool to creating and defending a democracy. Great art can be used to educate and provide public debate which creates empathy and that empathy leads to people changing their views about social issues thus creating social change. Freedom of speech and expression are fundamental to defend the truth and democracy.

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

Contact: info@nhimbe.org

F.7 News from Africalia

Culture at Work Africa: Femmes et création en Afrique, Conférence en ligne (8 juin 2021)

Après trois ans de mise en œuvre, le projet «Culture at Work Africa: Promouvoir la valeur publique du dialogue interculturel pour la cohésion sociale en Afrique urbaine »i se clôture. Soutenu par l'Union européenne, Culture at Work Africa a contribué à promouvoir le dialogue interculturel et la diversité culturelle dans les zones urbaines et périurbaines d'Afrique comme moteurs de l'inclusion sociale et du développement humain durable, afin de répondre au défi soulevé par l'Union africaine et sa vision pour 2063. En ce sens, Culture at Work Africa s'inscrit dans la lignée des projets de coopération culturelle comme instrument de soutien au développement. Pour se clôturer, Culture at Work Africa propose un cycle complet d'activités qui sera l'occasion de présenter les résultats obtenus, d'aborder les questions centrales traitées tout au long du cycle du projet. Nos deux organisations proposent une rencontre en ligne le 8 juin prochain. Parmi les thèmes, sera abordée la question des femmes dans les secteurs culturels et créatifs, ainsi que la problématique des femmes dans les sociétés, dans une perspective de dialogue interculturel et de participation culturelle pleine et entière à la vie en communauté.

https://www.cultureatworkafrica.net/?utm_source=newsletter_345&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=imc-newsflash

Ms. Dorine Rurashitse appointed Chief Executive Officer of Africalia

Dorine Rurashitse graduated in Public Relations and Cooperation and International Relations. She has been working for ten years as a program manager within the institution, which has enabled her to develop and refine her skills in the cultural and creative industries sector. She is passionate about cinema, literature and a member of numerous associative organizations and female entrepreneurial projects. On the other hand, her numerous missions in Africa, coupled with her strong interpersonal skills and listening skills have made her an expert in the cultural cooperation sector. Since 2001, Africalia has worked with artists and cultural organizations active in different contemporary artistic disciplines: audiovisual, performing arts, literature, plastic arts. her mission is to support, structure and network these creators in order to include culture and creativity at the center of economic innovation and social transformation in Africa.

Site web: <http://www.africalia.be>

Contact: africalia@africalia.be

F.8 Ettijahat

A Decade of Arts: A Call for Researchers from the Arab Region

Apply to A Decade of Arts which is an open invitation to researchers from Syria and the Arab region to contribute with research papers and studies on art production and projects related to the Syrian context during the past decade. The contributions will be released under a special edition of the Research to Strengthen the Culture of Knowledge Programme and as part of the programming for the tenth anniversary of Ettijahat, in partnership with AFAC - The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, and Arab Council for the Social Sciences. The purpose of the invitation is to receive 20 research papers from art researchers, artists and art curators from the Arab Region interested in artistic questions related to the Syrian Context. This will hopefully enable art practitioners and creators, to reflect on the major transformations in the Syrian 'artistic project' and to learn about some issues pertaining the role of arts and their presence in public life.

Deadline for proposal submission: 15 July 2021 (at 23:59 Beirut time)

Art Lives: Initiative to Support Arab Arts Practitioners

Apply to the third edition of Art Lives 2021. In its first edition for this year, the Art Lives Initiative provided support to seven artists of five nationalities from the Arab region, following a jury meeting that was held on April 15. In 2021, the initiative will conduct 6 selection rounds and will provide direct and urgent healthcare support to 40 artists from the Arab Region, enabling them to look after their physical and psychological wellbeing in the short term. Art Lives initiative aims at providing support in covering the cost of health services for cultural practitioners and artists who live in fragile conditions across the Arab Region, including members of the LGBTQ community, single parents, and those with dependents, in order for them to continue their work and artistic practice, and overcome urgent health challenges. For more information contact https://www.ettijahat.org/page/1179?_lang=1



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
