

Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

The Observatory is a Pan African international NGO created in 2002 with the support of African Union, the Ford Foundation, and UNESCO. Its aim is to monitor cultural trends and national cultural policies in the region and to enhance their integration in human development strategies through advocacy, information, research, capacity building, networking, co-ordination, and co-operation at the regional and international levels.



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OCPA News aims to promote interactive information exchange within Africa and between Africa and the other regions. Please send us information for dissemination about new initiatives, meetings, research projects and publications of interest for cultural policies for development in Africa. Thank you for your co-operation.

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Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa



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Editorial

The first major global meeting of this new year is, without a doubt, the annual Davos summit which, after a "forced" interruption of two years, confirmed that globalization was on the wane and that it was going through an existential crisis

Already the positions taken by States or blocks of States in the equally existential crises that the world is going through on the natural, health, economic and political levels had revealed the return and the force of the saying "every man for himself" a few times in price of enormous and culpable sacrifices defying respect for human rights

One would be tempted to bet on the result of the programs launched by the Nations in search of "sustainable development" which would be facilitated by the adoption of the approach set out by UNESCO's 2nd World Conference on Cultural Policies, MONDIACULT, with the integration and fertilization of public policies through the infusion of cultural policies

We will not fail to wonder about even partial assessments of the campaigns launched like this year of the arts of culture and heritage which in fact covered two calendar years 2021 and 2022

And there, we cannot elude the observation of the truth of the statistical data when we note that the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, the basis of Agenda 2063, which entered into force in 2021 and is regularly celebrated annually and sometimes with brilliance on the anniversary of its signature, January 24, 2006, the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance only received official ratification and the deposit of ad hoc instruments at the African Union Commission, on the date of 15 January 2023, only in 17 States out of the 55 on the Continent!

Deign the Summits and Ministerial Conferences scheduled for the next few months to share our indignation and resolve to move from words and proclamations to deeds and achievements

Maputo, January 25, 2023

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

A.1 Participation at the Festival sur le Niger

The Festival sur le Niger, a powerful partner of the OCPA within the framework of the RICADIA network in particular, will organize in Ségou, Mali, from January 31 to February 5, 2023, as every year, an edition of 2023, the 19th, on the theme of "Heritage and creativity" and has kindly associated the OCPA with the event by an official invitation from Mr. Attaher Maïga, Secretary General of the Festival. Wanted to be grandiose this year, SEGOU'ART expects nearly 35,000 festival-goers and 250,000 visitors from 40 countries

The Executive Director will take part and make a presentation on public policies and cultural issues at a round table at the Ségou Colloquium on the subject of: Arts, culture and climate change: issues and perspectives

A.2 Cooperation agreement with the ECCAS

In the same vein, OCPA has registered an official approach to relaunch and formalize its cooperation with the Central African States Members of ECCAS on the part of Mr. David Blaise Ossene, Director of Education, Culture and Technological Development of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

A.3 OCPA Publications

In relation with its research activities OCPA has produced some **25 books and publications** such as a strategy document (2004) and a research programme (2007 and 2010) on the cultural indicators of human development in Africa, a book on “African Musics – New Stakes and New Challenges” (with UNESCO, 2005), the Observatory’s 1st and 2nd Medium Term Strategy and Plan of Action (2006 and 2011), the Compendium of basic reference texts for cultural policies in Africa (E/F/S, 2006 and 2009), the Guidelines for the Design and Evaluation of National Cultural Policies in Africa (2008 and 2009). The Proceedings of the International Symposium on Policies, Strategies and Experiences in Financing Culture in Africa was published in 2010, the Manual for Training Specialist of Cultural Policy and Management in Africa and the book on the Contribution of Culture to Poverty reduction in Africa were produced in 2013. More recently, in 2019, OCPA published with the support of UNESCO a book entitled Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue: An African Experience as well as the book prepared and published with the support of Africalia on ”Anticipating Cultural Policies in Africa by 2030”

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>

Some 25 articles published in books and reviews of the OCPA Partners (Culturelink, AFRICOM, Interarts - Barcelona, África e Mediterraneo, Wale keru, Arts Management, Itau Cultural – Sao Paulo, Brazil, University of Pécs – Hungary, University of Gerona – Spain, Catalonia, Institute for African Culture and International Understanding - IACIU, Abeokuta, Nigeria, African Institute of the United Nations for Economic Development and Planning - IDEP, Dakar, etc

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 CICIBA and ECCAS decide the celebration of the great figures of Central Africa

On 20 October 2022 the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) decided jointly in Kinshasa to initiate a regional program to celebrate the great figures of Central Africa who have enabled the region to reveal to the whole world the richness of its cultural diversity and its creative potential, its models of community and sustainable development, as well as the resilience of its cultural identity in the context of globalized societies and the standardization of cultural expressions

The very first such celebration was dedicated to the two illustrious virtuosos of Congolese Rumba, namely Joseph Kabasele Tshamala known as «Grand Kalle» and Shungu Wembadiyo,

aka Papa Wemba through the presentation of the books on these two musicians, written by the general director of «CICIBA», Prof Manda Tchebwa Antoine with Foshino Ntumba

This initiative aimed to promote culture as a tool for human construction and of a model of sustainable development. It was part of the activities of the 1st Central African Biennial on the culture of peace, organized in Kinshasa by ECCAS under the chairmanship of the Head of State Felix Antoine Tshisekedi.

Web site: <https://acpcongo.com/index.php/2022/10/19/ciciba-and-eccas-for-the-celebration-of-the-great-figures-of-central-africa>

B.2 Kenya: Diversification of the Annual Vihiga Cultural Festival

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called on the diversification of the annual Vihiga (L'logooli) cultural festival to accommodate the changing times within the society

The Secretary said it is high time that the organizers of the event reflect on the current challenges and needs in the society and adapt a module that suits the changing times when they organize for next years event. "We either adapt to the changes around us or risk running this festival to the ground. This show we are running short of ideas; ideas that are floating around us, but for which we are unable to tap into". Mudavadi says there is a need to diversify the festival to take on board young restive minds and talent

Appreciating the role that has been played by the organizers, the Prime Cabinet Secretary pointed out on the need to bring on board professionalism in the management of the event in the coming years

This years' Vihiga (L'logooli) cultural festival was themed under "Kuhamba Uvugwi" loosely translated to mean how to seek and move to live in harmony in other societies once you migrate from your ancestral land

Web site: <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2022/12/mudavadi-calls-for-diversification-of-the-annual-vihiga-cultural-festival/>

B.3 Senegal: An exhibition on the crafts of embroidery and weaving at the Théodore Monod museum

Dakar — A group exhibition by the "19M Dakar" gallery highlights the power of creative dialogue at the Théodore Monod museum, linked to the skills of the hands, the weaving and embroidery trades. This exhibition follows the 2022/2023 crafts show that the French brand Chanel organized on December 6 at the former courthouse in Dakar, a first for the said brand in Africa. This new gallery in Dakar is an extension of the one of the same name, opened in Paris last year at the same time

Entitled "On the wire, embroidery and weaving", this first exhibition "outside the walls" of the French gallery highlights monumental works for the most part, made of various materials with yarn as a base. The "19M Dakar" gallery exhibition, which ends on March 31, brings together some forty works and installations by nearly thirty contemporary artists and artisans

Source: <https://www.aps.sn/detail/2442>

B.4 Morocco: Colloquium on "the invention of writing and the state of narrative in African languages"

Rabat — The Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco is organising, from January 18 to 20 in Rabat, an international symposium entitled: "The invention of writing and the state of narrative

in African languages", within the framework of the activities of the Chair of African Literature and Arts created in May 2022

The idea of this symposium on the invention of languages is to explore the state of narrative in Africa through the old and new African languages taken as different options to translate a thought, a resistance and a community experience, indicates the Academy in a statement

It is also a question, through the various interventions which appear on the program of the conference, of replacing African linguistic inventiveness, through a few figures, known and new languages, in a continental narrative linked to the universal adventure of ideas

The meeting will see experts from several countries (United States, Senegal, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Benin and Haiti) to discuss the theme "The standardization of Amazigh, a local issue" and will close the work of the colloquium with a show

Source: <https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites//colloque-international-du-18-au-20-janvier-%C3%A0-rabat-sur-linvention-des-%C3%A9critures>

B.5 Algeria: Call to support the entire Amazigh linguistic heritage

The Secretary General of the High Commission for Amazighity, Si El-Hachemi Assad, called on Algerian society in Ghardaia to take charge of its linguistic heritage in all its diversity

Speaking on the sidelines of the awarding ceremony of the President of the Republic Prize for Tamazight Literature and Language, the Secretary General of the HCA stressed that we are all called upon to preserve the Amazight cultural heritage in all its diversity and work to enrich it

The Amazigh cultural heritage is an "essential component" of our Algerian identity, he stressed, calling for the enhancement and preservation of this heritage to perpetuate aspects of Amazigh culture and traditions for future generations

It should be recalled that the prize of the President of the Republic of Amazigh literature and language in its 3rd edition was awarded to Nadia Akeb, during a ceremony which also saw the awarding of prizes for intangible cultural heritage, Amazigh linguistics and technology

Web site: <https://www.aps.dz/culture/150064-appel-a-prendre-en-charge-l-ensemble-du-patrimoine-linguistique-amazigh-dans-toute-sa-diversite>

B.6 Senghor University: Recruitment competition for its 19th promotion to the Master in Development

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

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

Female candidates are strongly encouraged and given special consideration

The specialties offered at the start of the 2023 academic year

- Culture Department: Management of cultural heritage and Management of cultural enterprises
- Management Department: Governance and public management and Project management

- Environment Department: Management of protected areas and biodiversity and Environmental Management
- Health Department: International Nutrition and International Public Health

Provisional training schedule 9: September 2023 - April 2025

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

Contact for further information: concours@usenghor.org



C. Nouvelles concernant les politiques, institutions et ressources culturelles en Afrique

C.1 Egypt and Somalia Sign MOUs on Cultural Cooperation in Cairo

Egypt, and Somalia signed a number of MoUs in various fields of cooperation, including higher education, media, and cultural and religious cooperation. Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and his Somali counterpart, Hamza Abdi Barre, witnessed the signing of the MoUs during an official visit by Barre

Egyptian Minister of Culture Nevine Al-Kilani and her Somali counterpart, Daud Aweis Jama, signed an MoU on cultural cooperation according to which the two sides will hold exhibitions for fine arts and traditional crafts and festivals and will organise visits for artists in the fields of theater, music, and folklore, Al-Kilani said. Furthermore, Egypt and Somalia will enhance cinema cooperation by exchanging movies and visits by those who are working in the field of cinema.

Somalia will participate in book fairs held in Egypt. Al-Kilani added that the two sides agreed on holding cultural weeks and translating Somali literary works into Arabic and Arab literary works into Somali

The MoU, which will be effective until 2026, primarily aims to enhance cooperation between the ministries in the two countries in the cultural and religious spheres

Read more at <https://shabellemedia.com/egypt-somalia-sign-mous-on-higher-education-cultural-cooperation-media-in-cairo>

C.2 Morocco: The Prime Minister on the official character of Amazigh

The implementation of the official character of Amazigh is dependent on the mobilization of the financial resources necessary for its realization, affirmed the head of government, Aziz Akhannouch

Speaking at the launch of projects to strengthen the use of the Amazigh language in public administrations, Mr. Akhannouch stressed that "the political will to move forward in the activation of this project."

He recalled that the executive has allocated nearly 200 million DH for this purpose during the 2022 financial year as well as 300 million under the 2023 Finance Law, an amount which will be increased to 1 billion DH around 2025. These efforts have made it possible to start implementing the roadmap for this project, which provides for 25 measures covering areas related to administration, public services, education, justice, culture and audiovisual media

The recognition of the Amazigh language cannot be limited to cultural and linguistic rights, but must also encompass the contribution to efforts aimed at making up for the deficit in socio-economic development

Web site: <https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites/politique/m-akhannouch-la-mise-en-%C5%93uvre-du-caract%C3%A8re-officiel-de-lamazigh-requiert-the>

C.3 Angola: The role of artists in the dissemination of culture in Cuando Cubango

The vice-governor of the province of Cuando Cubango for the political, social and economic sectors, Helena Chimena, recognized the role played by artists in spreading the cultural elements of the region

Speaking at a meeting she held with the artistic class, within the framework of January 8, National Day of Culture, Helena Chimena said that everyone, in their field, represents the province. The Vice-Governor said that despite the enormous difficulties faced by artists, it has always been possible to provide moments of joy and leisure for art lovers

On the other hand, she said that the government would do everything to respond and minimize the concerns that still afflict artists, including the lack of performance halls

In this regard, she said that in addition to government actions, it is important for artists, businessmen and society in general to combine their efforts for the continuous improvement of the cultural sector, so that its use Rational contributes to the well-being of the population

Web site: <https://www.angop.ao/fr/noticias/lazer-cultura/governo-reconhece-papel-dos-artistas-na-divulgacao-da-cultura-no-cuando-cubango>

C.4 Senegal: Proceedings of the international conference of the Centenary of Amadou Mahtar Mbow launched in Dakar (January 11, 2022)

The international symposium of the Centenary of Amadou Mahtar Mbow has retraced its steps to launch the Acts which retrace the life and work of the former Director General of UNESCO

This book which pays homage to the patriarch and retraces the activities of the centenary was launched on March 20, 2021, through messages, testimonies, exhibitions, frescoes, media. A ceremony which, according to Professor Penda Mbow, vice-president of the Centenary Organizing Committee, can be likened to the end of the journey which led to the establishment of the Foundation bearing the name of the sponsor and which focuses on endogenous knowledge.

Amadou Kane, president of the Foundation believes that the proceeds from the sale of the book will serve as resources that will allow activities to begin soon

For Souleymane Bachir Diagne, president of the scientific committee of the centenary, it is a reference book, a classic which is more or less up to its subject

Web site: <https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202301120428.html>

C.5 Nigeria: A History of Ibadan As Nigeria's Art, Culture and Intellectual Hub

By 1893, the British had exerted a protectorate over the region within which Ibadan is located and the Lagos-Kano railway opened in 1901. Thus, Ibadan grew rapidly into a major trading as well as a manufacturing and services city which became the headquarters of the Western provinces in 1939

The University College Ibadan was established in 1948 as part of the University of London. Within a few years, some of the most brilliant young Nigerian minds had converged on Ibadan because of the university. They all had one thing in common, they loved and patronised the arts

The self-government in the Western Region of Nigeria (1952), preparatory to independence (1960) needed the development of a civil service and a secretariat which was located near the university. The establishment of Western Nigerian Television (1959) was yet another big boost to the art movement in Ibadan.

Ibadan became the seedbed of much of Nigeria's artistic future. This was strengthened through the development of the activities around the book enterprise. Three of Nigeria's biggest publishing houses are located on one Ibadan Street along the old Lagos - Kano rail line

More at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/01/a-history-of-ibadan-art-ibadan-as-nigerias-art-culture-and-intellectual-hub/>

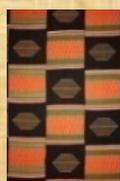
C.6 Togo: Evaluation of the 2022 performance contracts at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (30 December)

For an effective and efficient coordination of the activities of his department, the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Dr Kossi Gbényo LAMADOKOU, signed at the beginning of the year 2022, a contract of objectives with all the heads of the various structures under the said department. According to the terms of these contracts according to which the performances will be evaluated at the end of the year, the managers of the structures received at the end of the year the evaluation report of the work plans and annual budget included in the contracts

For a first experience, the most efficient evaluated structure, that is to say the Regional Directorate of Arts and Culture of the Plateaux, received a special bonus. The other structures have been strongly encouraged by the Minister of Culture and Tourism to make greater efforts to raise the results of the department. Those who were assessed as having a very poor performance were invited to provide explanations on their performance and called to order for the appropriate arrangements to be made during the next performance contract

As a reminder, the dynamic imparted by the Togolese government under the leadership of the Head of State to boost the development of the country is results-oriented work, marked by effectiveness, efficiency and innovative initiatives. It is therefore up to each ministerial sector to roll out its management and coordination strategy to carry out its mission and achieve the desired performance. This is what the Minister of Culture and Tourism tirelessly strives to mobilize all his collaborators around common objectives through these performance contracts

Site web: <https://tourisme.gouv.tg/evaluation-des-contrats-dobjectifs-2022-au-ministere-de-la-culture-et-du-tourisme>



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

D.1 The 23rd Conference of Arab Culture Ministers (Riyadh, 7 December 2023)

This Conference was organized by the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) under the

patronage of Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan, minister of culture, and chairman of the Saudian National Committee for Education, Culture and Science. It was attended by ministers and officials from 20 Arab countries, as well as representatives of the Arab League, and regional and international organizations

The conference focused on the role of culture in achieving sustainable development, while working to develop effective sectorial policies to move toward a more creative future

The Saudi minister of culture, president of the session, said: “This year’s session, whose main theme is: ‘Culture and the green future,’ aims to make the cultural sector more sustainable, as we seek to make it the starting point of international efforts involving the cultural sector with its various branches, extending to cover all elements of its value chain.” For the Kingdom ‘Culture and the green future’ theme conforms to the goals of the Kingdom Vision 2030.”

Prince Badr discussed also cooperation project with his counterparts form other countries namely with

- Nevin Al-Kilany (Egypt) on cooperation in the field of heritage, visual arts, performing arts, literature, books and publishing, Islamic decoration and participation in in festivals, cultural events and training courses held in the two countries
- Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid (Morocco) on issues relating literature, publishing and translation, heritage, architecture and design, museums, theater and performing art
- Dr. Hayat Al-Qarmazi (Tunisia) to establish the International Center for Old Calligraphy "Iqraa", the Tunisian-Saudi Fund for Cinematic Film Production, Exchange of Experiences and Training, and the Regional Center for Underwater Heritage in Mahdia

Web site: <https://arab.news/4r63k> and www.spa.gov.sa/w1822992

D.2 Declaration of the ICESCO at the 23rd Conference of Arab Culture Ministers

In Riyadh Conference on 7 December 2022 Dr. Salim M. Al Malik, Director-General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), underlined that ministers in charge of cultural affairs assume significant responsibilities to position culture at the heart of sustainable development, raise future generations of culture enthusiasts, and open up to the global environment, while preserving and celebrating its distinct identity

He highlighted the importance of culture in humanitarian work to raise hopes, promote fraternity and spread the values of charity through policies carefully drafted to foster unity. He also called for preparing a study on the reality and future of culture in the Islamic countries, and setting up a committee for promoting cooperation in cultural work and creating cultural centers

He also urged Member States’ governments to raise the share of cultural work in their general budgets, encourage young cultural initiatives and cooperate to devise the proper policies to capitalize on the information and AI applications technology in cultural work

Web site: <https://www.oic-oci.org/docdown/?docID=8672&refID=4261>

D.3 Sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 6 – 10 February 2023)

Convened by UNESCO the Committee will consider proposals

- to facilitate consultations with micro, small and medium-sized cultural and creative enterprises;

- to highlight the commitment of cultural institutions and organizations to promote access to diverse cultural expressions originating in their territory or other countries of the world;
- to streamline the quadrennial periodic reporting cycle;
- to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations for the effective implementation of the Convention.

This session will enable the Committee

- to assess requests submitted under the 13th appeal of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity
- to reaffirm the fundamental role of this Fund for the implementation of the 2005 Convention
- to examine its report proposed for adoption by the 9th session of the Conference of Parties in 2023

More at <https://www.unesco.org/creativity/en/sixteenth-session-intergovernmental-committee>

D.4 Call for Applications to the Prince Claus Seed Awards

Young talents wish to contribute to a better world through culture and they deserve a chance to experiment and gain momentum in their work. The Prince Claus Seed Awards are intended to support their journey

We offer 100 Seed Awards to emerging artists and cultural practitioners, who each receive €5.000 to develop their artistic and cultural practice

We encourage applications from emerging creatives who:

- Empower free expression, create safe spaces that cultivate creativity and challenge norms;
- Generate exchange, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing related to current global crises;
- Generate participation for minority and marginalised identities and groups, particularly those censored for political, religious, identity, cultural or economic issues

The deadline for the submission is February 23, 2023 at 23:59hrs Amsterdam Time

More at <https://princeclausfund.org/prince-claus-seed-awards>

D.5 Cultural Policy for Arts Education. African-European Practises and Perspectives (Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, Bern, 2022, 322 p.)

This publication, edited by Wolfgang Schneider, Yvette Hardie, Emily Akuno, Daniel Gad, puts in evidence that Arts Education institutions and programs create an excellent framework for personality development: learning knowledge, learning skills and learning life. Their attainment requires education to be a holistic concept of advancement that includes involvement with the arts. It challenges them to use their actions to think about the meaning of life, in as much as everyone can use artistic experiences to affirm and interrogate their self-image

The Research Program of the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development at the University of Hildesheim in Germany brought together experts from the Universities in Dar Es Salam, Kampala, Nairobi, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Casablanca and Tunis and further independent researchers to exchange concepts in Cultural Policy for Arts Education

Contact: gaddan@uni-hildesheim.de

D.6 Between cultural trade and cultural development: examining the 1st decade of UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity

Written by Christiaan De Beukelaer and Thuy Tran, this article examines the first decade (2010–2019) of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD or the Fund). It first reviews how the IFCD works to promote cultural development and international cooperation within UNESCO's 2005 Convention. It then explores how the Fund is financed and how its expected results are defined. The article argues that despite the broad visibility and normative influence of the Convention, the IFCD has not received the levels of financial support by both state Parties and the private sector as the Secretariat envisaged

Moreover, the shift to creativity has neither delivered better fundraising results for the IFCD nor fitted squarely into UNESCO's broader cultural development frameworks. This opens further questions on the conceptualisation of structural changes as a key objective of projects supported by the IFCD, and the possibility of them addressing structural inequalities that characterise the political economy of the globalised cultural industries

Read the article at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09548963.2022.2124365>

D.7 Voices of Culture: Publication of the Report on 'Youth, Mental Health and Culture'

Scientific investigations on the impact of culture and the arts on health have resulted in a huge body of knowledge, but they have not yet achieved due recognition in policies of the health and social sectors. Voices of Culture invited participants from 53 selected organisations and 23 countries from the fields of culture, health, education, and social services to brainstorm in October 2022 - in Brussels

The focus was on one of the most pressing issues of our time: Youth Mental Health. How can arts and culture address the multiple expressions of troubled young minds when facing the crises of our time? The objective was to come up with recommendations for stronger participation of the arts and culture sector. The findings lay out an extensive overview of successful projects that have been carried out by the group members or associated organisations for young people to contribute to stabilising their mental health

This document is aimed at cultural practitioners on a local level, with concrete tips and practices but also provides people in policy making. The report features a comprehensive summary section, providing an overview of the main points of each chapter

Read the report at <https://voicesofculture.eu/2023/01/07/brainstorming-report-youth-mental-health-and-culture/>

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E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

E.1 Links to portals

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

<http://www.africaonline.com/site/africa/arts.jsp>

<http://www.apanews.net/news/fr/rubrique.php?id=65>

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2003/646/culture.htm>

<http://english.alarabonline.org/display.asp?code=zculturez>

E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica

Ghana: Back to Roots - Why African-Americans Are Flocking to Ghana

African-Americans are returning to countries like Ghana more than 400 years after their ancestors left Africa as slaves. Many say they want either to reconnect to history, or resettle on the continent. At least 1,500 African-Americans have moved to Ghana since 2019, following a campaign by Ghana's government. The campaign, dubbed the "Year of Return," became a catalyst for many descendants of Africans in the diaspora to embark on a spiritual journey. In 2020, Ghana's government launched what it called the "Beyond the Return" campaign. It is a ten year project with the theme, "A decade of African Renaissance - 2020-2030." Clifford Ato Ashun from the Museums and Monuments Board of Ghana, told DW that the campaign continues to chalk up much success. There are other activities to keep the interest high among Africans in the diaspora too, including music festivals. Source:

<https://allafrica.com/view/group/main/main/id/00084551.html>

Egypt: Royal Cemetery Discovered in Western Valleys in Luxor

An Egyptian-English archaeological mission, affiliated with the University of Cambridge, has unearthed a royal cemetery while carrying out excavation work at the western valleys in Luxor's West Bank which contains one of the largest collections of archaeological treasures in the world. Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) Mostafa Waziri underlined the importance of such discovery. Director General of Antiquities in Upper Egypt and head of the Egyptian archaeological mission Fathy Yassin said that the mission will continue to carry out excavation work and archaeological documentation of the cemetery. The discovered cemetery is in bad condition due to the floods which took place during the old eras, said director of the western valleys site Mohsen Kamel. Director of the English mission Piers Litherland, for his part, said that the discovered cemetery may belong to one of the royal wives and princesses of the 18th Egyptian dynasty. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202301160121.html>

Book Famine - How Policies in Nigeria Limit Visually Impaired Persons' Access to Books

Copyright laws in Nigeria prohibit the conversion of books to readable formats for visually impaired persons. This has resulted in limited access to books for people who are visually impaired and who live with print disabilities, resulting in a situation tagged "Book Famine". Kassim Lawal is visually impaired. Against all odds, he bagged his law degree from the University of Lagos, Akoka in 2016. Afterwards, he enrolled and waded through the exerting waters of the Nigerian Law School, graduating in an enviable robe. For Mr Lawal and numerous visually impaired students and professionals in Nigeria, the silver lining in the dark cloud would be Nigeria's ratification, implementation and enforcement of Marrakesh Treaty- an international agreement that seeks to help end the global scarcity of books. The treaty was adopted in 2013 and signed in Marrakesh to facilitate access for people with print disabilities by removing barriers in national copyright laws that hinder the reproduction, distribution and sharing of books in accessible formats for use by people with print disabilities. According to this Treaty, the right to literacy is a fundamental human right for all persons and it should include reading books for education and leisure. But Mr Lawal, who is also the Secretary General of the Joint Association of Persons with Disabilities, Abuja chapter, said the current situation does not encourage visually impaired persons in Nigeria to read for leisure. More at

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202301180012.html>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

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

Re/Shaping Policies for creativity: Monitoring participatory, evidence-based policy

UNESCO, 19 December 2022 - Through the project Re/Shaping Cultural Policies for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, funded by Sweden, UNESCO supported 16 countries in reviewing regulatory frameworks and sector specific policies they have adopted in line with the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. See more at <https://www.oic-oci.org/docdown/?docID=8672&refID=4261>

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

Contact: info@ifacca.org

F.2 Africultures

Spotlight on a Togolese publishing house with a broad view: Continents Edition

Africultures continues its series devoted to publishing houses that work in connection with the African continent, either because they are directly established on its soil or because they are dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of these literatures. Annie Ferret exchanges, in this episode, with Sébastien Vondoly, director of Continents editions, created in Lomé 2011 with the ambition of contributing to the promotion of the book industry in Togo. Initially, the objective was to perpetuate the work of Editions de la Rose Bleue. Continents editions have grown and continue to grow thanks to our book promotion policy. The house participates in meetings inside and outside Togo, which are all opportunities for contact and training. To date, it is present in several countries, both in Africa and around the world. Another step was also taken with the membership in 2021 of the Association of Independent Publishers of Africa known as Afrilivres and with the launch of the official Continents website from which it is now possible to order books directly. <https://africultures.com/coup-de-projecteur-sur-une-maison-a-la-vue-large-continents/>

F.3 Artmailer Art Go News (South Africa)

International Public Art Festival (IPAF, Cape Town, 1-5 March 2023)

IPAF is back for its 7th edition, adding even more creativity and colour to the streets of Cape Town. IPAF, Africa's largest Public Art Festival showcases innovative local and international creative talent. This free-to-public festival will happen in Cape Town City Centre. For the first time, the public will experience art beyond street art and murals. This festival will include installations, sculptures, art activations, outdoor pop-up exhibitions, performances, panel talks, and much more. Working with incredible artists, the festival showcases site-specific public artworks that form part of shared outdoor community spaces, reflecting and adding to the diverse culture of Cape Town. The festival's vision is to grow a greater awareness of the powerful social and economic impact of public art to unleash the potential of the creative sector in Africa. The question of "What If" serves as the core theme of the festival. The exploration of the theme will be showcased through the selected public artworks & activations, that explore

and navigate the open-ended question in innovative and large ways. Read more about IPAF at <https://ipafest.co.za/> and <https://www.sagoodnews.co.za/africas-largest-public-art-festival-is-back>

F.4 Agenda21culture

New MOOC on Culture and Gender Equality

Hosted on the UCLG Learning platform known as #LearningWithUCLG, this Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) explores the role of Cultural Actions to Support Gender Equality in Cities and Territories, and provides a cultural perspective to addressing women's rights and gender-responsive policies for sustainable development. It is based on the report on 'Cultural Actions Supporting Gender Equality in Cities and Territories'_ coordinated by Farida Shaheed, former UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights and published in late 2021. This course aims to introduce the contents of the report to an audience of local government practitioners, women's rights advocates and people interested in this subject. The modules of this online course are intended to be a good practice guide for municipalities and governments around the world who are putting into practice how to make their cities and territories more inclusive and egalitarian. You can access the MOOC at <https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/cultural-actions-supporting-gender-equality-in-cities-and-territories>

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

Contact: info@agenda21culture.net

F.5 Cyberkaris Interarts Foundation

EUC Report on the cultural dimension of sustainable development in EU actions

10/01/2023 Although not explicitly addressed within the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, culture is fundamental to achieving them. It is in this sense that the Report From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions must be read: it highlights the cultural dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals and EU actions in the framework of the European Council's Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022. The document provides an overview of EU policies and programs, summarizes actions undertaken or planned by the Commission to promote culture as a driver and enabler of the 2030 Agenda under strategic and cross-cutting programs such as Horizon Europe and New European Bauhaus, and reiterates that objectives such as those of the European Green Deal or other pressing contemporary issues should be addressed from a cultural perspective and in a systematic way. The Commission identifies key areas where it would be important to increase cooperation with the cultural and creative industries and endorses some of the recommendations made by the OMC (Open Method of Coordination) Member States Working Group in its latest report "Stormy Times" (2022). Source: <https://www.interarts.net/news/eu-commission-report-sustainable-development/>

M.6 Sauti za Busara 2022

Reminder: Sauti za Busara, Stone Town, Zanzibar, 10 – 12 February 2023

The theme for the special 20th Sauti za Busara edition is *Tofauti Zetu, Utajiri Wetu* (Diversity is Our Wealth). Celebrating live music from across Africa and beyond, once again the spotlight shines brightly on women artists, young and emerging talents. "The festival has been a vital part of Zanzibar's culture for many years and the private sector must take responsibility to support initiatives like this. Sauti za Busara brings people together from all angles of life promoting strong, peaceful and resilient communities. This is what we stand for at Fumba Town

and at CPS and therefore we are grateful to be able to contribute our part,” said Tobias Dietzold, Chief Commercial Officer for CPS. On his part, Zanzibar’s Minister for Tourism and Heritage, Hon. Simai Mohammed Said lauded both Sauti za Busara and Fumba Town for coming together to support the growth of tourism in the isles. "The festival has, over the last 20 years, become one of the major attractions for visitors in our annual events calendar. We urge all government agencies and leaders, businesses, private and corporate donors and sponsors to follow." he noted. Ticket revenues cover only 30% of expenses. Even with office operations now mainly covered by Fumba Town, the festival needs partners to ensure its continued success. See more at <https://www.busaramusic.org/>



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
