

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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Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa



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In memoriam – Biserka Cvjetičanin, PhD (10 June 1939 – 30 June 2023)

OCPA shares the grief of Culturelink and the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO, Zagreb, Croatia) which is grieving the loss of our esteemed colleague, specialized in African studies, cultural policies and co-operation, Biserka Cvjetičanin, an Emeritus Research Adviser, and long-term Head of the Department for Culture and Communication (1985-2000) at IRMO. In addition to being an outstanding scholar and expert in the field of cultural policy, she held the position of Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia (2000-2004). During her mandate at the Ministry, the Croatian cultural policy was profoundly developed and advanced, introducing democratic standards in decision-making, as well as opening and positioning the Croatian cultural sector on the international scale.

Biserka Cvjetičanin was member of the Scientific Council of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (2013-2016) and member of the UNESCO Administrative Council of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (2004-2008) as well as member of the Advisory Committee for UNESCO World Report on Cultural Diversity (2006-2009). She was the founding director and long-term executive coordinator of Culturelink – the Network of Networks for Research and Cooperation in Cultural Development, established in 1989 by UNESCO and the Council of Europe with its focal point at IRMO.

Her relentless dedication to international cooperation in cultural policy studies and research promoted and affirmed numerous cultural policy scholars from all corners of the globe through networking activities, events and projects.

OCPA is losing in the person of Biserka a great friend, a reliable partner and a dedicated supporter for the success of its efforts made for the preservation and the promotion of cultural policies and cooperation in Africa.

May she rest in peace.

Read the In Memoriam note issued by IRMO at <https://irmo.hr/novosti/in-memoriam-biserka-cvjeticanin-phd-10-june-1939-30-june-2023/>

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

The month of July 2023 was marked by activities at OCPA Headquarters in Maputo and in the Central Africa Region.

A.1 Secretariat team meeting (Maputo)

The 3rd quarterly plenary meeting of Secretariat staff took place on 5 July during which two particular points - in addition to meetings and external missions - dominated the work, namely the organization chart and the situation of the various administrative positions such as defined by the Board of Directors and occasional professional internships for young graduates.

A.2 Round Table on the contribution of language and literature to cooperation in a multicultural and globalized world (Central Africa)

In Maputo, the Executive Director was invited by the Mayor of the City to take part in a round table organized on July 28 at the Town Hall as part of a book exhibition on the theme: the contribution of language and literature in cooperation in an environment of multiculturalism and globalization.

With the OCPA, the Round Table had as speakers, the Vice-Rector of the University Joachim Chissano, the representative of the African Development Bank and the Director General of the Higher Institute of Arts and Culture.

A.3 Participation in FESPAM (Central Africa)

Mr. Mbuyamba returned from Congo where he had participated from July 15 to 22 in the 11th edition of the Pan-African Music Festival and in the International Symposium devoted in this context to Congolese Rumba shortly after its inclusion by UNESCO on the world list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. In this context, he presented a communication entitled “the Praise of the Rumba. For an agenda of consolidation and conquest”.

A.4 Mission to Kinshasa for the OIF

Shortly after his return, it was the turn of Mr. Hamadou Mande, Deputy Research Coordinator, to embark for Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo or, at the invitation of the OIF (International Organization of La Francophonie) to take part in the 4th edition of the "Jeux de la Francophonie" with a view to observing and consulting the cultural component of the event, which takes place from July 26 to August 6.

A.5 Exchanges and meetings with OCPA partners

At these various meetings, OCPA delegates had the opportunity to discuss with the Organization's partners and discussed with them issues of common interest. This was the case for participants from UNESCO, OIF, CERDOTOLA, the International Music Council (CIM), the African Diaspora in Europe and America as well as teacher-researchers from several African universities.

In Brazzaville, the Executive Director of OCPA had the honor of greeting the Ministers in charge of Culture of Congo and Mali, and discussed with them issues relating to the barometer of culture in Africa.

A.6 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 Segou' Art - Festival sur le Niger 2024 (Segou, Mali, 30 January to 4 February 2024)

The call for applications is launched to select artists and music groups.

Applications are currently open for musician artists who want to play at the 20th edition of Ségou' Art - Festival sur le Niger.

The musical program of this 20th edition will highlight national and international artists, on the banks of the Niger River at the Festival sur le Niger Foundation, but also through the Biton stage on the banks of the Niger River on the site of the Foire de Ségou (Quai des Arts).

Applications should be sent to the following addresses no later than August 19, 2023:

Since its first edition in 2005, the Festival sur le Niger has quickly become a major cultural event, on an unprecedented scale in Mali, a real annual cultural event that takes place every early February in Ségou. A multidisciplinary event, the Festival sur le Niger offers a program of music, dance, theater but also art exhibitions, a discussion forum, conferences...

Web site: <https://www.musicinafrica.net/fr/magazine/appel-candidatures-segou-art-festival-sur-le-niger-2024>

Contacts: info@fondationfestivalsurleniger.org

B.2 Algeria: Inauguration of the headquarters of the Grand Museum of Africa

The temporary headquarters of the GMA had been inaugurated at the villa Boulkine in the district of Hussein-Dey (Algiers) and is intended as a pioneering continental project included in the AU's agenda 2063, with a view to promoting the historical roots of the African continent, its culture and its diversified and secular heritage.

Its aim is to create a modern, contemporary, dynamic and interactive space dedicated to the collection, preservation and scientific study of Africa's history, culture and heritage.

The museum was designed with a vision of outreach, emphasizing the exploitation and promotion of the continent's history and culture. In addition to fostering a sense of unity among member states, the museum aims to raise awareness of Africa's rich cultural heritage.

In its philosophy, Le Grand musée d'Afrique opposes the practice inherited from the colonial era which reduces African cultural goods to simple "exotic" objects devoid of their socio-cultural symbolism. On the contrary, it highlights the ingenious spirit of Africans and seeks to bring the collections closer to the realities experienced by the populations.

The idea of the "Great Museum of Africa" was born during the Conference of Ministers of Culture of the African Union, which was held in Algiers in 2008.

Source: <https://www.beurfm.net/l-algerie-inaugure-le-siege-temporaire-du-grand-musee-d-afrique>

B.3 Denis Sassou N'Gusso launched the 11th edition of FESPAM - (Brazzaville, July 15 – 20, 2023)

With this edition, launched by the President of the Republic, Denis Sassou N'Gusso, the Pan-African Music Festival (FESPAM), is finally back after 8 years of eclipse.

"Today, in Brazzaville, Africa is present to demonstrate its cultural diversity, but also and above all its unity, its ability to unite. This festival is an opportunity to rethink the conservation of our musical heritage in scientific research, but also to lay the foundations that will make it possible to structure the cultural and creative industries. I wish everyone a good festival. Long live culture!" said Lydie Pongault, Minister of Culture, Art, Tourism and Recreation.

This edition of FESPAM is held the day after the inclusion of Congolese rumba on the representative list of the intangible heritage of humanity. Its theme is "The Congolese rumba: flight from the identity base to the vertices of the heritage of humanity". This theme offers the opportunity to revisit the history of Congolese rumba as a treasure of world heritage and a factor of development.

On the menu are shows, symposiums and an African music market.

Read the article at <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/fespam-denis-sassou-nguesso-donne-le-coup-denvoi-de-la-11e-edition-149940>

B.4 Morocco: Visa for Music 2023 hosts the 40th GA of the International Music Council

The CIM will hold its 40th general assembly during the Visa for Music Festival 2023 which will take place from November 22 to 25 in Rabat. This exceptional general assembly, also the first face-to-face since 2019, will welcome around a hundred participants from four continents for three days of conferences and meetings, which will determine the future of the IMC.

The IMC will develop other additional actions during this festival such as the awarding of the Music Rights Awards during the opening ceremony of VFM 2023, the co-production of an artistic showcase and the organization of conferences-debates jointly with IMC speakers. Delegates of IMC members will participate in speed meetings, networking activities and the expostand with a collective IMC stand where the public of VFM can learn about the activities of IMC and its members, the statement continued.

IMC is the largest global network of music organizations and institutions founded by UNESCO in 1949 as an advisory body and dedicated to advancing essential music rights for all. It raises awareness and encourages its members and other cultural actors through advocacy actions in

favor of the Five Music Rights in society and with decision-makers in the fields of arts education, politics and industry.

Read the article at https://www.libe.ma/Visa-for-Music-2023-accueil-la-40eme-AG-du-Conseil-international-de-la-musique_a139482.html

B.5 Contemporary African art: The Grand-Bassam museum will open in 12 months

Funded by the Société Générale Côte d'Ivoire Foundation, the construction of the future museum of contemporary art in Grand-Bassam effectively began on June 16. The design was entrusted to the architectural firm Koffi et Diabaté.

In 12 months, the historical and cultural city of Grand-Bassam will go from one to two museums. Already called the Maison de l'art, this museum is offered to the city as a UNESCO World Heritage Site by the Société Générale Côte d'Ivoire Foundation, which finances the project. The works were launched in situ on June 16, 2023 in the presence of all the project stakeholders, including the mayor of Grand-Bassam, the UNESCO country representative and the Minister of Culture and Francophonie, Françoise Remarck.

Built on an area of 2000 m², the future museum of contemporary art of Grand-Bassam will be located in the France district about fifty meters from the beach. In fact, it is the city's former Hôtel des Postes et Douane, a 129-year-old building (built since 1894) that will be transformed into a museum.

The Sgci Foundation does not intend to limit itself to the creation of the museum. Two other actions are part of its strategy to promote contemporary art: the constitution of a private collection of works of art with the contribution of major national galleries, and the support and supervision of young talents.

Source: <http://abidjantv.net/art-et-culture/art-contemporain-africain-le-musee-de-grand-bassam-ouvert-dans-12-mois/>

B.6 Senegal: The British Council relies on the training of cultural actors (July 21, 2023)

The British Council intends to emphasize the development and strengthening of the training of cultural actors, indicated Maimouna Thiaw, the project director of the British institution's Art department. The aim is to enable the beneficiaries of this training to be able to develop their capacities and gain access to markets and investors.

According to Maimouna Thiaw, more than 250 young entrepreneurs working in the cultural and creative sector were trained at the British Council between 2018 and 2021. They were able to reach more than 30,000 people on social networks, she added.

British Council collaborates in its activities with more than a dozen partners in the fashion, music or visual arts sectors. Since 2022 the British Council has been focusing on the program entitled “the creative economy” which aims, according to her, to strengthen the capacities of actors in the cultural and creative sector but also to support cultural policies and research.

Source: <https://aps.sn/le-british-council-mise-sur-la-formation-des-acteurs-culturels-chef/>



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

C.1 Nigeria Outlines Plans to Boost Nigeria's Culture and Entertainment Economy

Nigeria's newly appointed Special Adviser on Culture and Entertainment Economy, Hannatu Musawa, outlined a plan to boost growth in Nigeria's creative economy in a statement.

The goal is to deliver a national strategy that supports President Bola Tinubu's plan to double the national economy to \$1 trillion within eight years. The current administration has demonstrated bold decisions through the president, who has a transformative agenda for Nigerians.

The special adviser said, "Nigeria sits at an inflexion point where our global cultural impact is at an all-time high, combined with a new progressive administration. The time is now to support the talent and institutions that power the cultural, entertainment and creative economy. Commending the growth in the Nigerian entertainment industry, she particularly said Afrobeats and Nollywood have grown globally. The developments planned will usher in a new era where the government supports creative talents nationwide.

Ms Musawa explained that the plan, dubbed Destination 2030, aims to unify all sectors in a single vision. She said the initiative will cover different aspects of culture and entertainment, which include literature, music, film, design, visual arts, and heritage. A robust creative and cultural economy can be a significant catalyst for growth and presents an opportunity for Nigeria to leapfrog its current development trajectory.

In conclusion, she said, "When this history is juxtaposed with the events that are happening today, what we see is a continuous cultural journey that has evolved and adapted".

Web site: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/610960-fg-outlines-plans-to-boost-nigerias-culture-entertainment-economy.html>

C.2 South Africa: Minister Zizi Kodwa on Sign Language becoming an Official Language

On 19 July 2023, the Minister announced that President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law the Sign Language Bill. This means that South African Sign Language (SASL) is now recognised as an official language in South Africa. This is a significant milestone for democratic South Africa.

As the custodian of South Africa's National Language Policy, the Minister declared that this day brings the country closer to the vision of President Nelson Mandela, of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.

I therefore call on all sectors under the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to lead by example and promote these values of social inclusion and participation by embracing and incorporating South African Sign Language.

Read the original article <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zizi-kodwa-south-african-sign-language-being-recognised-official-south-africa>

Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies from the University of the Western Cape, Zizi Kodwa was appointed as Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture of the Republic of South Africa on the 6th of March of 2023. He is a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC), and served as Deputy Minister for States Security and Spokesperson of the ANC from 2014 to 2017. He replaced in this position Mr Nkosinathi Emmanuel "Nathi" Mthethwa who was Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture from 28 May 2019.

Source: <https://www.gov.za/about-government/contact-directory/state-security-deputy-ministry/zizi-kodwa-mr>

C.3 Botswana 2023 Ensemble Gives Sterling Performance (18 July 2023)

The National Arts Festival celebrations are not an exercise in futility, but a dedication to the nation's spirit of culture, identity, diversity, harmony, togetherness and creativity. It is for this reason that so much time and other resources are dedicated to the festival. Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture Tumiso Rakgare said this at the 2023 National Arts Festival

The Creative Economy: Botswana' Economic Future Redefined saw the NAF awarding 60 awards at GICC on Monday. Various categories in the different categories traditional song and dance, art, film, craft and beadwork, poem as well as music among others were honoured for their innovation. The Ensemble closed off the event with a party like medley turning the event into a celebration of the creative in the room.

Earlier Minister Tumiso Rakgare said they had set aside P40 million for this year's NAF activities and noted that next year they will do more. He said the NAF was a critical addition to the national calendar as it brought to focus the spectacle being the diversity of arts and creativity of Botswana. Creative sector is growing in leaps and bounds globally in part due to digitalization of goods, products and services.

He also indicated another challenge faced by the creative, as knowing how to use the global digital platforms and receive fair and shared value as creators of works. Rakgare called on industry stakeholders such as arts associations, business community, the media as well as the academia and artistes to play a role in a quest to redefine the economic outlook of this nation.

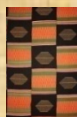
Read the article <https://dailynews.gov.bw/news-detail/74095>

C.4 Burkina Faso: National Museum Leisure Park to be Launched in 18 months

In eighteen months, an integrated tourist infrastructure will emerge from the courtyard of the National Museum, comprising, among other things, a modern indoor amusement park, a restaurant, a swimming pool and a water park, all built on an area of approximately 4,500 m². The project is from Fallon Group, a Burkinabè company under private law. The official launch of the works took place on Thursday July 20, 2023, in Ouagadougou. The project will cost five billion CFA francs to the promoter and its partners engaged in the realization of this cultural jewel. For the promoter of the park, Mathieu Ouédraogo, beyond the financial profitability, the project presents a significant socio-economic impact which will be perceptible through not only the creation of jobs, but also the increase in the internal and external tourist offer.

The Minister of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism, Jean Emmanuel Ouédraogo, welcomed the initiative of the promoter who, according to him, whole sections of the economy are only waiting for the courage and ingenuity of men and women entrepreneurs, to promote themselves. Minister Jean Emmanuel Ouédraogo also noted that the National Museum's leisure park is in line with the policy of developing internal tourism and promoting leisure areas and attraction sites, advocated by the government.

Web site: https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202307210559.html#google_vignette



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

D.1 Africa Week 2023 at UNESCO (Paris, 5 – June 2023)

After the international launch of the Pan-African Music Festival at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, Africa was again in the spotlight for the African Week of this UN institution.

During the launch of this 2023 edition placed on the theme "Education, culture and science in the development of intra-African exchanges", Firmin Edouard Matoko, deputy director of the Sector for Africa priority and the external relations of UNESCO had praised the "multiple and diverse Africans of the continent and the diaspora", "of an Africa that we want" and permanent delegate of the Congo with UNESCO and several other guests.

Throughout the week, the UNESCO headquarters experienced a program around various African cultural and scientific events, including an art exhibition, craft shops, a conference and a cocktail reception of various African culinary specialties, a fashion show, a conference-debate, tales and legends for children and a hub of young African entrepreneurs and innovators in cutting-edge green technologies and in the digital creative economy.

This edition ended on June 9 with a unique artistic gala of expressions of cultural diversity, with performances of folk dances and music from a dozen African countries.

Read the article at <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/unesco-la-semaine-africaine-2023-close-paris-149039>

D.2 The United States becomes the 194th Member State of UNESCO

The United States officially accepted, on July 10, 2023, the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). They now become a Member State of UNESCO, which now has 194 Member States.

It is a historic moment. UNESCO is once again moving towards universality. Because this is excellent news for multilateralism as a whole, if we want to meet the challenges of the century.

Among the reasons for this return, the American authorities highlighted the launch of new initiatives in line with contemporary challenges (global ethical framework for artificial intelligence, programs to protect the oceans), the implementation of management reforms that have made the Organization more efficient, and the conduct of mediations that have eased internal political tensions, particularly in the Middle East.

It is a report it is also a future that is mapped out. This return from the United States, and the additional resources that accompany it, will help the Organization to support everyone around the world: pupils and students, researchers, academics, artists, educators, journalists – all those towards whom our daily action is turned. UNESCO will also have more means to devote itself to its two strategic priorities, which are Africa and gender equality.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/the-united-states-become-the-194th-member-state-of-unesco>

D.3 World Kiswahili Language Day (7 July), Message by Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO DG

Kiswahili is a language that speaks to both past and present. With over 200 million speakers, it is one of the most widely used African languages, encompassing more than a dozen main dialects. This Bantu language has emerged as a common form of communication in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

As a lingua franca, Kiswahili has also incorporated words from other tongues, notably Arabic, while enriching these languages in return. For example, the English word “safari” comes from the Kiswahili word for “journey”, which originated as the Arabic verb for “travel”, safara.

This linguistic exchange highlights the important role Kiswahili plays at the crossroads of world languages. Kiswahili not only tells a story of dialogue between languages, but also of dialogue among peoples. As Kiswahili shares words and concepts with other African languages, it has an impressive unifying power.

This is why the African Union, East African Community and Southern African Development Community have all chosen Kiswahili an official languages. Thus, Kiswahili helps in ensuring the African continent achieves its full potential – a goal that UNESCO also works towards, through its Global Priority Africa.

In addition to being a language of trade, diplomacy and unity, Kiswahili is a rich source of cultural expression. For it includes concepts such as “amani”, or peace, a common utterance in daily interactions. “Amani” is not only understood as the absence of conflict, but also as a state of serenity or tranquility. As such, it is something to continuously work towards – a vision that resonates with UNESCO’s own conception of peace as an ideal for which to strive.

This power to foster peace must be preserved – especially in the face of the digital revolution.

Source: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385820>

D.4 USA: A museum retraces the journey of African Americans

The International African American Museum will soon open in Charleston, South Carolina. It is home to nine galleries that contain nearly a dozen interactive exhibits of more than 150 historical objects and 30 works of art that explain how the work and resistance of African Americans have shaped the United States and the world.

The museum is located in a historical place: one of the most important slave trade ports in the country. It overlooks the sacred site of Gadsden's Wharf, where an estimated 45% of enslaved Africans entered America. It also includes a genealogical research center to help families trace their ancestors since their arrival on American soil. Museum officials believe that its existence is an invitation to dialogue and discovery.

The museum, whose construction cost 120 million dollars and lasted more than 23 years, was to open its doors in 2020, but its opening was delayed by health crisis linked to Covid-19, as well as by problems with its construction. Source:

Source: <http://abidjantv.net/art-et-culture/usa-un-musee-retrace-le-parcours-des-afro-americains/>

D.5 Belgium's Africa Museum Slowly Confronts Dark Colonial Past

Several Western European museums, including the Humboldt Forum in Berlin and the Musée du quai Branly in Paris, continue to display racist artefacts and narratives depicting Africans in a derogatory manner.

Scholars have criticised these museums since the 1970s for their handling of looted objects from the colonial period and their racist representations. The AfricaMuseum (Tervuren), is one of these. It was founded in 1897 as a colonial human zoo and served to legitimise the brutal colonial rule in the Congo Basin...

The AfricaMuseum holds over 125,000 ethnographic objects. It has 300,000 geological specimens, 8,000 musical instruments and nearly 10 million biological exhibits. It also holds

sound and film recordings. A few human remains are among the museum's collections. The exact circumstances of the acquisition of these objects remain largely unexplained. It can be assumed that most of the collection was illegally looted.

In recent years, Belgium has also taken steps towards restitution, transferring ownership rights of looted objects to the DR Congo, proposing a bilateral restitution treaty. However, there is still a long way to go in achieving post-colonial reparation and promoting transparent dialogue.

Source: <https://allafrica.com/view/group/main/main/id/00086247.html>



E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

E.1 Links to portals

E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica

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>

<http://abidjantv.net/category/art-et-culture/>

E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica/Selected information from AllAfrica/Informations provenant de AllAfrica

Kenya: National Library Unveils First Virtual Library with over 200,000 Books

Nairobi — The Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) this week launched the country's first virtual library, containing over 200,000 digitised books, periodicals, research papers, and government publications. The online library, which is accessible from any internet-enabled device globally, will also host downloadable e-books for offline reading. KNLS also unveiled a Tier 2 data center where state agencies and other public institutions can lease cloud storage services and a digitization hub where Kenyans can seek to upload their books, records, newspapers, and photographs. Sports cabinet secretary Ababu Namwamba, who presided over the launch at Maktaba Kuu, underscored the importance of technology and innovation in knowledge growth in enhancing Kenya's global competitiveness, economic growth, and job creation. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202307210069.html>

Nigeria: Returned Benin Artefacts Deserve our Protection, Tinubu Tells Oba Ewuare II

15 July 2023 — President Bola Tinubu, pledged to protect Benin artefacts which were returned to the country from different parts of the world as a way of archiving the history of the people. Speaking when he received the Oba of Benin, Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo Ewuare II, and other traditional leaders from Edo State, the President assured them that his administration would support the Benin Royal Council in its bid to establish a museum that will house the artefacts. The President congratulated the Benin monarch for the retrieval of the stolen artefacts, commending his effort in ensuring that a befitting museum is built to archive the rich history and traditions of the Benin Kingdom. President Tinubu in a statement by Dele Alake, his Special

Adviser on Special Duties, communications and Strategy, was quoted as saying, "It deserves our protection. We are glad to have them back, and we are glad you are happy. They are in protective custody. It is a matter of history, over a hundred years. We will work on the museum." President Tinubu said the Federal Government is currently undertaking an audit of its infrastructure projects, promising to ensure that roads in Edo State are considered in line with a request made by the traditional ruler. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202307150071.html>

Africa: A World in Common - Tate Modern Celebrates Contemporary African Photography

The last large survey exhibition of African photography by a major western gallery was *In/Sight* at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 1996. Twenty-seven years later, Tate Modern is introducing a British audience to the next generation of African photographers. With such a long gap, there are high expectations for *A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography*. This exhibition serves as an enlightening journey that challenges their perspective. It confronts and dismantles enduring colonial stereotypes associated with Africa. Simultaneously, it stands as a long-awaited affirmation of new generation of African photographers, validating their unique use of the medium. *A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography* is on at the Tate Modern until January 4 2024. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202307190090.html>

Seychelles Creole Academy Publishes First Monolingual Creole Dictionary (9 July 2023)

The dictionary is the culmination of 14 years of work and is described as both a historic and symbolic effort. Seychellois Creole is the French-based Creole language spoken by the people of Seychelles. Creole, English and French are the three official national languages of the island nation in the western Indian Ocean. Before the launch of the monolingual Creole dictionary, in 2017, the "Diksyonner Trileng - Kreol Seselwa, Français, English" [The Trilingual Dictionary - Seychellois Creole, French, English] was published by Collette Gillieaux, after 19 years of research. Prior to that a Creole-French dictionary, written by the late Danielle de St Jorre and the late Guy Lionnet, was used. The monolingual dictionary is the end product of a 15-member committee, passionate about the Creole language. The realisation and publication of the dictionary were done through a project funded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at a cost of \$31,000.

Source: https://allafrica.com/stories/202307090031.html#google_vignette

Tanzania: Cultural Fund to Issue Loans to Artists through CRDB Bank

The Fund under the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports signed an agreement with CRDB Bank in Dar es Salaam over the weekend to provide the loans at 9.0 per cent interest rate. The fund has so far dished out 1.077bn/- loans to artists since it opened the loan window last December. The loans were for 45 projects--29 owned by males and 12 by women while one is under a group scheme. The Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Pindi Chana, said the agreement came after loan demands from artists increased and they thought they would better tap CRDB Bank's expertise to provide the loans using its vast network across the country. "CRDB has branches all over the country, which will enable the fund to cut down the loan costs. We want these loans to reach artists where they are to develop their talents," Dr Chana said during a ceremony to ink the agreement. The Fund was established in 2020 but started to give loans last December. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202307100124.html>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

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

Report on the 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture

The report (available in English and Spanish in full at <https://www.artsummit.org/summit-report>) captures the discussion and debate that took place during our Summit in Stockholm in May 2023 rather than a chronological order of the days and topics. It shares ideas and conclusions on risks and actions required.’ The collective conversation at the Summit with speakers and delegates established that artistic freedom is a complex notion, at once both universal and contextual. This calls for a comprehensive approach that considers and addresses all rights included as integral parts of artistic freedom (that is, the right to create and express oneself freely; the right to have one’s work remunerated, supported, and distributed; the rights to freedom of movement and freedom of association; social and economic rights; and the right to participate in cultural life). In addition, it acknowledges that the decision on when to advance the agenda for artistic freedom may vary from one context to another.

The Summit concluded that in these hyper-digital and uncertain times, threats to artistic freedom were increasing, including in countries and contexts that have traditionally excelled in safeguarding these rights and freedoms. It was noted that more subtle and elusive covert threats (such as denial of access to infrastructure or unsustainable working conditions for cultural workers) were growing alongside the more overt, easily observed ones (such as censorship and restrictive legislation).

In this context, the Summit called for strengthening the social value of art and artists towards assuring true agency for the sector to demand accountability from all powers that be. At the same time, the Summit also recognised that the exercise of artistic freedom, by artists and other cultural workers, remains a delicate balance between their rights and responsibilities. The urgent need to redistribute power and resources (including funds, capital, information, and opportunities) was also firmly underlined, both within the cultural and creative sectors worldwide as well as in transnational exchanges. Decolonising the language and approaches we employ within the sector was also highlighted as integral to creating a more inclusive and dynamic environment for all.

Read and download the Report at <https://www.artsummit.org/>

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

Contact: info@ifacca.org

F.2 Africultures

News and events

In view of the news, we are publishing again the column of Annie Ferret who was interested in the Racial Contract by Charles W. Mills. It is a reference book for the theory of race criticism and it is now available in French. Translated from English The Racial Contract highlights white supremacy as a political system of domination.

Fighting against the invisibilization of certain stories when it comes to gender, race or social background, this is where the book *The Anthology of Black Thought*, published by Hors d'Atteinte, comes in. This literary collaboration formed by Cécile Roudeau, Marie-Jeanne Rossignol, Marlène L. Daut and Michaël Roy, offers a look at American history and that of Afro-descendant populations in the United States and Haiti.

FESPACO 2023 /10 debates-forums: Thierno Souleymane Diallo talks about “*In the cemetery of film*”: a search for the very first film directed by a filmmaker from French-speaking Africa, Mamadou Touré. The Guinean director, Thierno Souleymane Diallo, wanted to tell this epic of the history of cinema in his documentary film *Au Cimetière de la pellicule*.

F.3 Agenda21culture

UCLG Global Cultural Summit Dublin 2023

The City of Dublin (Republic of Ireland) will host the fifth UCLG Culture Summit from 28 November to 1 December 2023, under the auspice of the Dublin City Council and the Dublin City Council Culture Company. Entitled “Culture. Future. Goal. We Act to Bring Local Visions to Global Tables”, the UCLG Culture Summit is the main meeting point at global level of cities, local governments and organisations that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability.

Source: <https://www.uclg-culturesummit2023.org/>

F.4 Music World News

The 40th General Assembly of the International Music Council (Rabat, November 21-23)

The International Music Council (IMC) will hold its 40th General Assembly in Rabat, Morocco, hosted by Visa For Music, on November 21-23, 2023.

IMC was founded in 1949 and as it approaches its 75th anniversary in 2024, this 40th General Assembly will be a key moment for the life of the international organisation.

Some 120 members from all continents, representing a large range of facets of the music ecosystem, will come together in Rabat to shape IMC’s future actions and strengthen the network around its core values embedded in the Five Music Rights.

After having held a successful General Assembly in Rabat already in 2015, IMC will come back for Visa For Music’s 10th Anniversary edition (November 22-25).

Source: <http://www.imc-cim.org/news-imc/imc-news/9113-the-international-music-council-will-hold-its-40th-general-assembly-in-the-framework-of-visa-for-music.html>

The Missing Link: Still time to correct the failure of the SDG Summit Declaration to mention culture

The [#Culture2030Goal](#) campaign advocates to national governments and on the international stage for the formal inclusion of culture in sustainable development frameworks. IMC joins fellow members of the campaign in calling on the UN to recognise culture as a driver of sustainable development during the SDG Summit in September 2023.

2030 is only a few years away and the [Zero Draft](#) of the SDG Summit Declaration aims to set out an agenda for boosting work to implement the 2030 Agenda. However, in its drive to identify key accelerators of sustainable development, there is one glaring omission: culture.

Therefore, IMC and other members of the Culture2030Goal campaign have issued [a call](#) to amend the Zero Draft for the SDG Summit and recognise the work done at Mondiacult 2022

where the final declaration explicitly affirmed culture as a “global public good” and where the campaign presented a zero draft of a potential development goal focused on culture.

We need everyone's support for building a future where culture is on top of any development agenda. **We call upon our members worldwide to get in touch and invite culture ministries, UNESCO National Commissions, and Permanent Missions to the United Nations to share this message and urge them not to miss this opportunity.** Together, we can all contribute to the integration of culture and pave the way for a more sustainable and culturally inclusive future!

The absence of the cultural dimension of development increases the chances of repeating the mistakes of 2015, when culture was not adequately recognised, leading to a situation where, as the UN Secretary General has indicated, ‘culture and respect for cultural diversity, however, remain undervalued and underutilised in the push for SDG progress’.

If culture remains absent from sustainable development agendas, IMC’s vision for “a world where everyone can enjoy access to music, where they can learn, experience, create, perform, and express themselves through music, and in which artists of every kind are recognized and fairly remunerated”, will be less likely to become a reality.

F.5 Mawred – Culture resource Newsletter

Grantees of the Second Round of Wijhat 2023

Culture Resource is pleased to announce the grantees of the second round of Wijhat 2023, a program that supports artists and cultural actors through travel grants that enable them to participate in artistic and cultural activities in the Arab region and abroad.

The Wijhat team received 93 applications for this round from Morocco, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq and Bahrain. Of these, 75 were for international travel, 15 for regional travel and 3 for both international and regional travels. The jury selected 10 grantees, They are as follows:

- Bahgaga, female musical/singing band (Egypt) to the Maarad Music Festival in Lebanon.
- Cairo Art Book Fair, art book exhibition to the Miss Read Art Book Fair (Germany).
- Center of Dramatic and Scenic Arts, theater company (Tunis) to Shubbak Festival, UK
- Dust Collective, a Syrian performance arts laboratory, from Netherlands to Jordan.
- Hala Asslan, expert in preservation of architectural heritage (Syria) to the ICOMOS GA.
- Ibrahim El Sayed, Fayoum University to the Literary Translation Summer School (UK).
- Ismail Erahali, interdisciplinary artist (Morocco) to France to the Samovar Summer.
- Maqam Gaza (Palestine), Arabic music ensemble to the Jerash Festival (Jordan).
- Petra Serhal, “When I slept for 18 days,” Lebanon to the Perfume Institute, France.
- Tarek Elazhary, composer, from Egypt to a performance tour with a British musician.

Web site: <https://mawred.org/mawred-news/culture-resource-action-for-hope-launch-the-stand-for-sudanese-artists-initiative/?lang=en>

F.6 Cyberkaris Interarts Foundation

New publication: “Culture for Life: a critical and plural study on culture”

The Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation has recently launched the book in the framework of the “Citizen Art” programme, with the aim of promoting the role of culture in the shaping of

more resilient and sustainable communities and supporting cultural projects that address social, environmental and economic challenges.

The publication, structured in four sections: “*Cultural Rights*“, “*Economies of Culture*“, “*New Cultural Institutionalism*” and “*Transformative Culture*“, highlights, on the one hand, how culture can indeed play a crucial role in promoting **social cohesion**, **sustainable development** and improving the **quality of life** of individuals and communities; and, on the other hand, spotlights the main actors of cultural policy, public administrations, and professionals in the field.

Gemma Carbó, director of the Museum of Rural Life of the Carulla Foundation and president of the Interarts Foundation, shares her thoughts in the section “*Cultural rights*“: “Participation is the axis on which the concept and contemporary cultural public policy pivots. A participation that implies an effective contribution of citizens, not only in terms of consumption and enjoyment, but also in terms of a real and effective contribution to artistic and cultural management and production”.

Web site: <https://www.interarts.net/resources/cyberkaris/culture-for-life/>

Pour plus d'informations <https://www.interarts.net/.../cac-call-for-external.../>

F.7 The Prince Claus Fund

Mentorship Award Moving Narratives, Pilot programme by the Prince Claus Fund & the British Council

Moving Narratives amplifies artistic and creative practices that move our understanding of the past and drive our visions of the future in new directions through the affective and transformative power of culture.

Dominant historical and social narratives tend to exclude the experiences and stories of marginalised communities, silence critical voices, and erase, overlook, or at times over-emphasise differences. These narratives often reflect systems of power and contribute to social inequalities.

Are you an artist or cultural practitioner who believes that culture can play a vital role in questioning dominant narratives and their role in our lives? We invite you to apply to the **Mentorship Award**.

The **Award** will bring together 12 experienced, socially and politically engaged artists and cultural practitioners (\pm 7-15 years of relevant professional experience) working across diverse mediums, approaches, and interpretations of the mentorship’s overarching theme.

Supported by four mentors, participants will be encouraged to collectively experiment, exchange, and develop artistic strategies that address dominant narratives and the inequalities they perpetuate, whether they are based on gender, race, class, or other intersectional issues.

With this open call we invite applications from individual, experienced artists and cultural practitioners who live and work in our eligible countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe; are artists, cultural practitioners, or creatives whose practice highlights marginalised histories that challenge dominant worldviews; are able to communicate in English.

The deadline for the submissions is **10 August 2023 at 23:59 CEST**.

More at <https://princeclausfund.org/open-calls/open-call-mentorship-awards-with-the-british-council-2023>



**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
