

# Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

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



## OCPA NEWS

**No 437**

*26 February 2024*

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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**ENCATC**



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**Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa**

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## **Editorial**

The month of February of this year will have been particularly marked by the concerns of education, to be understood as training of the human person capable of confronting and taking up the numerous challenges posed by the current upheavals in the field of knowledge and knowledge. Training that challenges the men and women of our time on their ability to ensure control of their destiny.

What is art, if not the capacity for creation! The month of February will have been particularly marked, for the present year, by global concerns about Culture, Art and Education”,

For its third world conference on the subject of artistic education, UNESCO considered it useful to broaden the framework of action of the cultural sector by setting the tone with the world conference in Abu Dhabi, the title of which was ”World Conference on Culture, Art and Education”. Without a doubt, this subject will fuel discussions within the House's governing bodies, since it will have to be translated into proposals for global action.

A week earlier, the third Pan-African Consultation of the African Union prepared a document on the common position of the Continent on the subject of “Artistic Education” based on seasoned and resurgent knowledge and open to new technologies, the basis of an education global youth. This document awaits validation for this month of April 2024.

Also, the repercussions of these new approaches will not fail to invite themselves into the debates of the next Regional Workshop of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa convened in Maputo in May precisely to examine and revise the Methodological Guide of the OCPA on the formulation and evaluation of national cultural policies in Africa.

Maputo, February 24, 2024

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

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## **H. Highlights**

### **H.1 UNESCO: A Global Framework to Strengthen Culture and Arts Education**

On 15 February 2024, at the World Conference on Culture and Arts Education, organized by UNESCO and United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi (13-15 February), UNESCO Member States unanimously adopted a new global Framework for Culture and Arts Education. Among the commitments made: to give greater priority to culture and arts education in teacher training, to put more emphasis on local and indigenous cultures and heritage in the classroom, and to better recognize artistic and cultural skills within the professional world. To translate this Framework into action, UNESCO and the United Arab Emirates also announced a new major initiative.

The new UNESCO Framework stresses the need for lifelong learning in culture and art within all types of educational settings, and for placing culture and the arts at the heart of education policies, strategies, curricula, and programmes. The Framework broadens the understanding of

“culture” to encompass built, natural and living heritage, cultural expressions, as well as the cultural and creative industries. It also focuses on the capacities of digital technologies in culture and arts education to help promote intercultural dialogue and linguistic diversity.

The text adopted also recognizes that learning *in, through* and *with* cultural diversity is vital for overcoming divisions and fostering mutual understanding. It underlines the need for greater emphasis on local – and especially indigenous – cultures and heritage. It also calls for strengthening relationships between educational and cultural institutions. This means creating more partnerships between schools and cultural institutions and properties, including UNESCO’s World Heritage sites, as well as the cultures, traditions, and festivals inscribed on UNESCO’s List of Intangible heritage of humanity.

The Framework reflects also the results of the UNESCO study, realized last year, which highlighted that arts education helps students develop emotional intelligence, creativity and critical thinking. It improves their well-being and academic results. Artistic education also promotes openness to others and respect for diversity within society at large.

Building on the legacy of the UNESCO Lisbon Road Map (2006), the Seoul Agenda (2010) and the MONDIACULT Mexico Declaration (2022), this Framework is the outcome of two years of multistakeholder consultations, dialogue and negotiations with Member States.

The adoption of this Framework is not an end in itself. Its recommendations must now be translated into tangible public policy. UNESCO will support this process, by enabling Member States to share experiences, launch innovative reforms and share best practices. UNESCO and the United Arab Emirates announced a first major initiative including grants and international mobility program for teachers, as well as capacity building for African Member States through experts’ visits, knowledge sharing and vocational training.

### ***Download the new global framework for Culture and Arts Education***

[https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2024/02/WCCAE\\_UNESCO%20Framework\\_EN\\_0.pdf](https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2024/02/WCCAE_UNESCO%20Framework_EN_0.pdf)

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## **H.2 Spain to host MONDIACULT 2025**

Madrid, February 2, 2024 - Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, announced to Pedro Sanchez, President of the Spanish government, her decision to entrust Spain with the organization of the next edition of MONDIACULT, the international forum for ministers of culture. The event will be held in Barcelona during the second semester of 2025.

"MONDIACULT is a major event during which the 194 member states of UNESCO work together to define the global agenda for culture. Following the the 2022 edition in Mexico City, I am delighted to announce that the 2025 edition will be held in Barcelona. During this ministerial forum, UNESCO will present the first-ever global report on the state of culture, the fruit of three years' work", said Audrey Azoulay.

It was decided to place particular emphasis on artificial intelligence, a technology that while rich in opportunities is also a source of great concern for artists. MONDIACULT 2025 will be an opportunity to develop common solutions to ensure that the use of AI is fully respectful of their rights, both in terms of intellectual property and compensation", added the Director-General.

Barcelona's candidacy was proposed by the Spanish government in October 2023. The candidacy made all the more sense as Barcelona is itself a city that champions UNESCO values. Barcelona also has solid experience in organizing international UNESCO events.

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## **A. News from OCPA**

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

### **A.1 OCPA participation in the Niger Festival 2024**

From January 29 to February 5, 2024, Dr Hamadou Mandé, Member of the Secretariat and Deputy Research Coordinator of OCPA, took part in the 20th edition of Ségou'Art Festival in Niger. This edition also marked the celebration of the 20th anniversary of this event launched in 2004 by Mamou Daffé and his collaborators.

The OCPA made its contribution to the various scientific meetings organized by the Festival. This is the first round table on “The music streaming market and the remuneration of African artists” and the second devoted to the theme “Art, water and behavioral change”.

These two round tables allowed panelists from four corners of the continent and the rest of the world to conduct in-depth reflections and outline relevant perspectives for the future.

The OCPA representative at this edition of Ségou'Art Festival in Niger, Dr Hamadou Mandé, also had important meetings with the organizers and various guests present at the 2024 edition of this important artistic and cultural event. African. The discussions focused on our respective programs with a view to identifying avenues for future cooperation.

Furthermore, Dr. Hamadou Mandé, director, led the Troupe of the Théâtre de la Fraternité du Burkina Faso to Ségou, which brilliantly participated in the Festival with a theater show entitled “Renaissance”.

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### **A.2 African Union consultations on the common African position on arts education**

On February 6 and 7, the Executive Director of OCPA participated in the 3rd session of the African Union Consultations on the common African position on arts education. This session was organized in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, in cooperation with the Open Society Foundation for Africa and OCPA.

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### **A.3 Online meetings on the AFD/COI project for the development of cultural industries**

From February 8 to 21, he had online meetings with the Executive of the IOC (Indian Ocean Commission) on the one hand and the other members of the AFD/COI project Consortium for the development of cultural and cultural industries. creative.

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### **A.4 OCPA at the seminar on heritage at the Xiluva Association and School (Maputo)**

Meanwhile, earlier this month, Maria Manjate provided technical assistance to the seminar organized on heritage at the Xiluva Association and School in Maputo, Mozambique.

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### **A.5 Conference on “Africanization of mentalities: memories, bodies and representations”**

In Maputo, Mr. Mbuyamba had an interview followed by an invitation from the Higher Institute of Art and Culture, ISArC, partner of OCPA, to participate and cooperate in the organization of the international conference convened from 15 to 19 June 2024 in Inhambane in Mozambique in cooperation with the University of Bahia in Brazil on the theme of “Africanization of mentalities: memories, bodies and representations”. OCPA accepted the invitation and is preparing to interest other partners in getting involved.

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**For previous news and OCPA activities click on**

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## **B. News, events and projects in Africa**

### **B.1 African Contribution to the UNESCO Framework on Culture and Arts Education**

More than 130 representatives from 30 African countries gathered online on 8 and 9 February 2023 to support the development of the future UNESCO Framework on Culture and Arts Education. Participants exchanged ideas and provided recommendations on priorities, perspectives, and insights linked to Africa.

**Diverse expertise from Africa was mobilized for the inclusive consultation process**, which focused on the future of culture and arts education. Government representatives, practitioners, academia, civil society, cultural and educational institutions, regional bodies such as the African Union (AU), and major regional cultural players including the African Academy of Languages, the International Research and Documentation Center on African Traditions and Languages and the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa were in attendance. Organizations of indigenous peoples, minority groups and persons with disabilities were also present.

The consultation was organized under the leadership of the Government of Kenya, in coordination with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and National Commissions for UNESCO in Africa.

**The overall aim of the meeting was to assess the impacts of culture and arts education on sustainable development, as well as to identify trends, challenges and opportunities specific to the region in this area.** During various thematic sessions, stakeholders shared good practices and highlighted gaps to be addressed.

Strengthening of the interface between culture and education, will not only enhance skills to support the value chains of the cultural heritage sector, but will also enhance knowledge and efforts towards protection and promotion of cultural expressions.

The diverse recommendations, contexts, priorities and challenges expressed by African experts will feature in a consolidated report, which, in turn, will feed the future UNESCO global Framework for Culture and Arts Education.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/30-african-countries-mobilized-towards-future-unesco-framework-culture-and-arts-education>

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### **B.2 Algeria: Meeting on investment mechanisms in the film industry**

The Ministry of Culture and Arts organized a national meeting on investment mechanisms in the field of cinema, with the participation of the Algerian Investment Promotion Agency (AAPI) with a view to make known the support that the Agency would offer to private investors.

This meeting was enhanced by the presence of the Minister of Culture and Arts, Soraya Mouloudji, who recalled: "In 2020, the sector took the initiative to welcome and support several investment project leaders in the field of the film industry", Similar meetings were organized to examine the different mechanisms for granting for the realization of investment projects in the field of cinema, in addition to the advantages and incentives granted by the Agency.

Her sector was working with the Ministry of Finance, through interministerial committees, to review the financing and support mechanisms for film production, the operation of cinemas by private operators and guarantee of tax facilitations and banking incentives for investment".

The Minister of Culture and the Arts, indicated that "a framework agreement is being prepared with the Professional Association of Banks and Financial Institutions including a series of proposals aimed at removing obstacles to holders of projects and to grant bank loans at subsidized interest rates to investors and producers in areas related to the cinematographic and cultural sector in general.

Read the article at <https://www.aps.dz/culture/166678-rencontre-nationale-sur-les-mecanismes-d-investment-dans-l-industrie-cinematographique>

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### **B.3 West Africa: Culture and sub-regional integration - Ivory Coast hosts the inaugural edition of the Ecofest festival**

Ivory Coast will host from September 28 to October 5, the first edition of a West African cultural festival called Ecofest.

This joint initiative of ECOWAS and UEMOA aims at cultural promotion in the sub-region.

As part of the preparations for this event, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Ivorians Abroad, Léon Kacou Adom, met on February 5 at his office (Plateau), with his colleague from Culture and Francophonie, Françoise Remarck. Representatives of ECOWAS and UEMOA took part in the discussions.

Minister Léon Kacou Adom assured his interlocutors of the availability of his department for the successful organization of the festival. He particularly noted the unifying and unifying aspect of this event, and said he was fully committed to the success of this important initiative. For him, the Ecofest festival is an opportunity to demonstrate that the idea of "ECOWAS and UEMOA of the populations" advocated by these two institutions, is a reality through culture.

The Minister for Culture and Francophonie, Françoise Remarck, was delighted to be in synergy with her colleague to take up the challenge of successfully organizing this important festival.

Source: <https://www.fratmat.info/article/237220/culture/culture-et-integration-sous-regionale-la-cote-divoire-accueille-ledition-inaugurale-du-festival-ecofest>

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### **B.4 Rwanda: New Festival to Position Kigali As a Global Cultural Hub**

From February 16 to 25, more than 200 artistes from 25 nations will convene in Kigali for the inaugural edition of 'Kigali Triennial Festival', a celebration of African arts and culture that aims to position the Rwandan capital as a global cultural hub.

The Kigali Triennial, which will take place every three years, is jointly organized by the Ministry of Youth and Arts with the City of Kigali and the Rwanda Arts Initiative.

According to Sandrine Umutoni, the Minister of State for Youth and Arts, the festival shows the government's commitment to supporting arts as a means of promoting youth development.

"Art can strengthen our national unity, while also act as a catalyst for job creation, economic prosperity, and contributing to the enrichment of our cultural heritage."

The festival is an opportunity for the city of Kigali to showcase how far arts can reach in terms of creating bonds between different cultures. It is not just an opportunity to highlight what arts in Rwanda have to offer, but also establish strong partnerships with different countries.



The festival will provide the audience a diverse programme featuring 60 performances, exhibitions and events across music, dance, fashion, theatre, film, gastronomy and visual arts.

Beyond the performances the Kigali Triennial Festival will offer forums, workshops and masterclasses for cultural professionals and the public alike.

**Source:** <https://allafrica.com/stories/202402130114.html>

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## **B.5 CBAAC seeks more exploration of African culture for economic growth**

Jan 13, 2024 - The Director-General, of Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation (CBAAC), Chief Oluwabunmi Amao, has called on Africans to be deliberate in the exploration of the continent's arts and cultural potential for improved economic growth.

The CBAAC's Boss made this call during the centre's annual international conference, with theme, "Arts, Culture and the Development of African Creative Economy", held on in Lagos. Amao said that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Document recognises arts, culture and creative economy as one of the major areas that can foster rapid economic development for any nation desirous of eradicating poverty.

She said that with the consciousness that Africa had large arrays of unexplored rich cultural resources which were under-utilised, the continent must make conscious efforts to further explore the potential in the sector.

Duro Oni, a Professor of Creative Arts, said that The Millennium Development Goals could be achieved with proper exploration of the economic potential in African arts and culture. More at <https://von.gov.ng/cbaac-seeks-more-exploration-of-african-culture-for-economic-growth/>

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

### **C.1 ARTfrica Consulting Group Firm**

If you are interested in the issues of the art of Cultural Management and in our workshops, join us at ARTfrica Consulting Group to dive into Strategic Planning, Resource Mobilization and Business Model Development in the exciting world of arts and culture.

In order to master Artistic Career Management, Cultural Marketing and Creative Digital, our workshops will guide you through these exciting areas.

Reserve your place now and shape your artistic journey! Together, let's redefine cultural management in the digital age.

Join us to write the creative future of arts and culture together!

Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553883161521>

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### **C.2 Senegal: Kaffrine - The Federation of Cultural Actors officially launched**

The Federation of Cultural Actors of the Kaffrine Region was officially launched on Monday, February 5, by the Minister of Culture and Historical Heritage, Aliou Sow.

"This platform aims to restore the image of culture in Ndoucoumane in order to unify all cultural actors around the essential," declared Mr. Sow.

According to the Minister of Culture, this observation was demonstrated during the National Festival of Arts and Cultures where regional cultural actors distinguished themselves by winning, in particular, the first prize dedicated to storytelling.

The Minister of Culture declared that he will ask the Directorate of Cinematography to create programs for cinematographic training. An agreement for the loan of art paintings was also signed, between the governance of Kaffrine and the Ministry of Culture and Historical Heritage.

Source: <https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202402080133.html>

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### **C.3 Congo-Kinshasa: The DRC pleads for the creation of a Rumba conservatory!**

The Democratic Republic of Congo, through its Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, has been appointed vice-president of the UNESCO world conference on cultural and artistic education which will be held in Abu-Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates from February 13 to 15, 2024.

The information was revealed by the Minister Catherine Kathungu Furaha. The Minister declared that she will also take advantage of this opportunity to initiate discussions for the creation of a Rumba conservatory providing artistic and cultural education to young Africans.

The DRC will propose to the international audience the priority areas taken from the Roadmap of the Government of the Republic and which fit with the theme concerned: artistic and cultural promotion, the evaluation of questions relating to copyright and neighboring rights which constitute, at present, a major problem which undermines the growth of the African creative, artistic, cinematographic and theatrical cultural industry, following the dynamics caused by digital technology and artificial intelligence.

Read the article at [https://laprosperiteonline.net/conference-mondiale-sur-leducation-culturelle-et-artistique-la-rdc-plaide-pour-la-creation-dun-conservatoire-de-la-rumba/#google\\_vignette](https://laprosperiteonline.net/conference-mondiale-sur-leducation-culturelle-et-artistique-la-rdc-plaide-pour-la-creation-dun-conservatoire-de-la-rumba/#google_vignette)

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### **C.4 Gabon: Minister of Culture and Arts satisfied with the preparations for the work at ENAM**

Dr. André Jacques Augand, Minister of Culture and Arts, visited the site this to see the progress of the work on the said establishment and the preparations for the entrance exam to the National School of Education. Art et de Manufacture (ENAM) scheduled for February 10, 2024.

The head of the Ministry of Culture and Arts expressed his satisfaction with the level of execution of the work. “It was my duty to take a tour here, because remember, three months ago, I had already been here, and I had given firm instructions to the company which had this mission to redo the work. Today it’s done, I can only rejoice.”

Read the article at <https://gabonews.com/fr/actus/infrastructures/article/ministre-de-la-culture-et-des-arts-satisfait-des>

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### **C.5 Senegal: A directory of 125 arts and culture professions subject to validation**

A directory of 125 arts and culture professions was submitted to professionals in the sector during a validation workshop opened in Dakar by the Minister of Culture and Historical Heritage Aliou Sow.

This work falls within the framework of the implementation decrees relating to the law on the status of the artist and cultural professionals voted by the National Assembly on December 30, 2020 and promulgated by the president of the Republic on March 13, 2021.

The implementation of this directory combined with the creation in each region of a regional federation of cultural actors will allow the arts sector to fully enter into formalization.

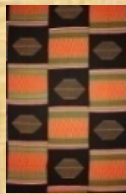
“The arts sector suffers from informality, today we cannot give with accuracy the number of filmmakers, musicians or dancers at the national level, and even less at the regional and departmental level,” laments the minister.

Underlining the importance of this directory of professions in the arts and culture sector, he believes that it will allow cultural professionals to obtain professional cards, to have reliable statistical data and for the State to benefit direct its subsidies.

“It is an open directory which is expected to welcome new professions, even after the signing of the implementing decree,” indicated Aliou Sow.

Source: <https://aps.sn/un-repertoire-de-125-metiers-des-arts-et-de-la-culture-soumis-a-la-validation>

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

### **D.1 Haute Couture Week: UNESCO Puts African Fashion Designers In The Spotlight**

On 23 January 2024, UNESCO held a conference at its headquarters to spotlight African designers on the sidelines Paris Haute Couture Week. This event built on the momentum of the UNESCO report on African fashion, published in October 2023, which showed that the continent has all it takes to become one of the next global fashion leaders.

**The conference included** a presentation of the findings of UNESCO’s Report "The Fashion Sector in Africa: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Growth" with leading African fashion designers and entrepreneurs, followed by a call for partnerships to support the African fashion sector.

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### **D.2 Oman: Opportunities for Heritage: Fostering Innovation, Conservation and Sustainability**

The UNESCO Chair for World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Management in the Arab Region at the German University of Technology in Oman GUtech, and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) in Bahrain organized, with the participation of academics, professionals and policymakers, an international Conference on **Opportunities for Heritage: Fostering Innovation, Conservation and Sustainability**, from 24 to 27 February 2024, Muscat Oman. The conference examined the relationship between heritage conservation and management, tourism and sustainable development, focusing on the pivotal role of technology and innovative solutions in bridging these domains. It also explored the immense opportunities for innovative conservation and sustainable cultural and natural heritage development.

For more information follow the link <https://o4h-2024.gutech.edu.om/>

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### **D.3 HeritageAlive – Call for Articles: Basketry, preserving basket braiding traditions**

#HeritageAlive, is a journal published every two years, with the support of ICHCAP, to promote NGOs' experiences with the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage ([#HeritageAlive – ICH NGO Forum](#)). So far, 4 editions in the Living Heritage Serie have been published successfully. In December 2023, during the 18.COM in Botswana-Kasane, the editorial board chose Traditional Basketry as the theme for the next publication. The next publication is expected to be ready by the end of 2025 to be presented at the 20.COM.

For this next publication we are seeking articles that reflect NGOs' involvement and the experiences of individuals in ongoing projects related to basketry. We seek articles promoting best practices of safeguarding the traditional knowledge and skills involving the use of a variety of materials such as plant, tree components for the braiding process, and more generally the development of by-products as part of the basketry. Rather than solely presenting basketry as an ICH element, the articles must reflect the challenges, methodologies, and experiences in safeguarding and transmitting the ICH.

Source: <https://www.ichngoforum.org/heritage-alive-news/heritagealive-call-for-articles-basketry-preserving-basket-braiding-traditions-from-the-field/>

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### **D.4 “Ukraine: Two years on ”Press briefing with UNESCO culture experts, 13 February**

On the occasion of the the second anniversary of the start of the invasion of Ukraine, UNESCO invites you to take part in a discussion with our experts to take stock of the situation for culture - with new, unpublished figures - and discuss the main challenges and projects for the year ahead.

After two years of war, Ukrainian culture and heritage continue to be threatened by the fighting. The reconstruction phase looks set to be increasingly costly, with UNESCO having confirmed that over 340 cultural sites have been damaged. Cultural professionals and artists in the culture sector are also hard hit by the overall slowdown of the country's economy.

Having implemented numerous emergency measures in the early months of the invasion, UNESCO is now focusing its action in the country on the medium and long term. Opened by the Organization in September 2022, UNESCO's office in Kyiv now has over twenty employees.

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### **D.5 The Great Cultural Awakening: Key to an Equitable, Sustainable, and Harmonious Age – January 2024 by D. Paul Schafer**

In this remarkable book, noted cultural scholar D. Paul Schafer examines the great cultural awakening that is taking place all across the world—an awakening that is opening the doors to a cultural age. Schafer begins by considering the importance of culture, as well as discussing how culture has been defined by a variety of thinkers. He then turns to an examination of the vast constellation of cultures that exist in the world before moving progressively “up the ladder,” from the cultures of individuals, children, parents, homes, families, communities, and schools to those of towns, cities, regions, countries, the entire human world, and finally the cultures of other species. This is followed by an assessment of several foundational requirements for the creation of a cultural age, such as the cultural interpretation of history and the centrality of cultural development and policy.

The author concludes by discussing various ways of opening the doors to a cultural age, strategies to harmonize crucial relationships and cultivate spirituality and compassion, the prerequisites for living in a cultural age, and, finally, an exploration of why it is so essential to make the transition from the present economic age to a future cultural age.

Schafer, an acknowledged expert in the field, offers an enlightening perspective on how to develop culture and cultures in theory and practice, drawing on a wealth of inspiring references and compelling examples.

Read more at [https://www.amazon.com/Great-Cultural-Awakening-Sustainable-Harmonious/dp/1772443166?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref\\_=fplfs&psc=1&smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER](https://www.amazon.com/Great-Cultural-Awakening-Sustainable-Harmonious/dp/1772443166?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref_=fplfs&psc=1&smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER)

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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>

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

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### **E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica**

#### **Africa: AU Ought to Adopt Amharic As Official Language!**

Africa has successfully decolonized the continent geographically; it is yet to free itself from the shackles of political, economic, and cultural imperialisms. Colonial legacies are still prevalent and visible in many aspects with calls for embracing an African identity has got louder and tenser over the years. Yet, Africanizing African institutions require work at the top. Africa is still living under linguistic colonialism with colonial languages still being the working languages of the Union. The move from Eurocentric to Afrocentric values starts with embracing African languages as the working languages of the continental bloc. Rethinking the neglected yet precious indigenous knowledge and challenging the imposed Western values is vital to utterly emancipate the continent from all forms of colonialism. In what could be said a leapfrog step towards strengthening African values, the Union has adopted Kiswahili as its working language. Including African languages in the lists of its working languages will foster integration among states and enrich African indigenous assets. This week, Ethiopia proposes Amharic to be the working language of the bloc, a timely and must-do task. It is worth noting that the OAU Charter was initially signed in four languages, including Amharic.. **Source:**

<https://www.facebook.com/leonard.yakanou/posts/pfbid02gkQSDeaeZiAFnZuyWn1iRo2tkNairMiELT986rGwuuE5BaXvWqvP2sJnP6vigcail>

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#### **Southern Africa: SADC Endorses Liberation Museum**

The Museum of African Liberation is vital for Southern Africa as it recognises and honours the founders of the region for their contribution to the establishment of the organisation and pursuit of regional integration, SADC has said. SADC, impressed by the ongoing project, is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of African Knowledge, which is spearheading the construction of the Museum. Zimbabwean President Mnangagwa's special envoy, Ambassador Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, recently met the SADC secretariat in Botswana where a draft MoU was presented. Instak chief executive Ambassador Kwame Muzawazi said they had a very successful engagement with the secretariat in Gaborone."We are now preparing to

formalise the relationship through signing a memorandum of understanding. His Excellency was briefed on Wednesday by the special envoy and the Head of State was very well pleased by the ongoing international engagement and response. "There has been a positive response from countries that have been engaged so far, that is 20 of them and we continue," he said. The Museum of African Liberation is situated on a 103-hectare site known as Liberation City located only 7 km south west of Harare which will include a hotel, a theme park, animal park, various national monuments including a heritage village among many amusement facilities. *Read the* article <https://www.herald.co.zw/sadc-endorses-liberation-museum/>

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### **Angola: Carnival 2024 - Minister Recommends Preservation of Cultural Identity**

Luanda — The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Filipe Zau, recommended to young people to preserve Angolan cultural identity without neglecting the component of modernity, taking into account globalization. According to the minister, this action can make the Carnival of Luanda attract the international community, which will be an asset to Angolan tourism. 'Every culture in itself has an attraction for tourism. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage these actions', said the government official who witnessed, this Sunday, the class B parade of the 46th edition of the Luanda carnival. In this regard, Filipe Zau guaranteed that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism will continue to associate culture with the promotion of national tourism, through policies and other actions. In the New Marginal of Luanda, the governor valued the appeals of class B carnival groups, transmitted through songs and dances, in the parades. Filipe Zau considered the themes that focus on the preservation of Angolan culture and the country's socioeconomic development to be interesting. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202402120567.html>

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### **Ethiopia: Rocks in a Hard Place - Lalibela Priests Raise Fears Amid War and Weather**

Cracks are widening along Ethiopia's ancient rock-hewn churches. Fighting has come perilously close, but rain is the bigger threat. Considered architectural marvels, these monolithic churches were commissioned by Gebre Meskel Lalibela, then king of historic Ethiopia and after whom the city was named, during his reign in the 12th and 13th centuries. He designed the site as a substitute for the holy places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Names like the Mount of Olives and Mount Tabor reflect the biblical interpretations of Lalibela's landscape. In the Biet Golgotha church are replicas of the tomb of Jesus Christ and Adam, along with the crib of the Nativity. The river flowing through the town was named the River Jordan. Tourists have long flocked here to visit this sacred site, still looked on with amazement by tourists, historians, and architects alike. Walking through the narrow corridors and labyrinth of tunnels carved between the holy rock structures feels like being transported in time. But, over the years, the priests who care for these unique churches have expressed fears for their future. Deep cracks line the inside and outside of the churches, their structures degraded by rains and temperature changes over centuries. Since the Ethiopian government declared a still ongoing state of emergency in the Amhara region, fears have worsened over the preservation of these churches. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202402070205.html>

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## **F. Info from newsletters and information services**

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

#### **World Summit on Arts and Culture: Arts Council Korea to host 10th edition in Seoul in May 2025**

IFACCA is pleased to announce that the 10th World Summit on Arts and Culture will be co-hosted with Arts Council Korea (ARKO) in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 28 May to 30 May 2025, with the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday 27 May 2025.

The Summit will bring together leading policy makers, government representatives, researchers, innovators, managers and practitioners from the arts, culture and creative industries and related sectors from around the world for three days of an in-person global programme.

More details will follow in the coming months and registration for the 10th World Summit is due to open in June 2024. Follow #ArtSummitKorea for the latest updates.

The upcoming eighteen months promise to be pivotal for international cultural policy, marked by significant conferences that will shape the global agenda for culture and the arts. The Summit of the Future in 2024, the 10th World Summit on Arts and Culture and MONDIACULT 2025 are set to address pressing issues, from multilateral cooperation to the impact of artificial intelligence on culture. Together, these events will contribute to fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development, and shape the future of arts, culture and heritage.

The Summit programme will offer three days of face-to-face engagement on critical issues for the sustainable future for arts, culture and heritage, employing a range of interactive formats. For Arts Council Korea, the Summit marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their institution and an opportunity to explore the direction of the next 50 years in arts and culture. During those days in Seoul, IFACCA will also celebrate its General Assembly.

Our Summit will set the stage for discussions that will culminate in the next edition of MONDIACULT, the international forum for ministers of culture, to be held in Barcelona in the second half of 2025.

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### **F.2 African Music Council: Annual Letter for 2024**

#### **Dear Colleague Members of the African Music Council,**

On this first day of February of the new year 2024, a year that we wanted to be a year of revitalization of the African Music Council, I would like, the day after the first month of the year, the month of annual holidays in the part southern part of our Continent, wish you a happy new year.

As we decided last November in Rabat, on the occasion of our regional meeting organized within the framework of the General Assembly of the International Music Council, the first major activity of the year which has just begun will consist of the convening and holding of the 6th General Assembly of the CAM.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our active members, CONSIM (Ivorian music council), and the technical support of INSAAC (higher national institute of artistic action of Côte d'Ivoire), this It will be held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in the wake of MASA (Abidjan performing arts market), but without connection with its particular program, on Wednesday April 17 and Thursday April 18, 2024.

As I indicated, this meeting of the decision-making and orientation body of the CAM will be called, in view of its recent history, to debate and decide on its orientations, its structures and operating methods as well as its biennial program, and proceed with the renewal of the executive functions of its management.

From now on, I ardently invite you to nominate the person who will represent your structure in Abidjan in April, knowing that the National Councils and the specialized musical organizations, Members of the CAM, each have the right and the duty to participate in the general assembly and to have one (1) vote for the elections to each of the positions, the list and technical details of which will be the subject of a subsequent communication during this month.

In order to facilitate communications and the circulation of information, a special secretariat will be set up next week with 3 branches, the first at CAM in Brazzaville, the second at CIM in Paris and the third at CONSIM in Abidjan.

I will reserve, as it should be, the function and role of general coordination of the event.

Allow me to invite you to give this letter the double benefit of priority and urgency.

Rest assured, dear Colleagues, of my devoted feelings.

Maputo, Mozambique, February 1, 2024

LupwishiMbuyamba  
President of the CAM

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## F.2 Casa África

### XIV Photography Contest «Objetivo África»

This **Contest «Objetivo África»**, which will reward the photographs that best publicise the positive aspects of the African continent in the field of **Biodiversity in Africa**, this year's theme.

The competition will reward those images that creatively reflect the biodiversity of the African continent. Focus on Africa focuses in this edition on the environment and biodiversity, to contribute to the dissemination of the African natural heritage that invites us to think and visualise the richness of this biodiversity and its necessary conservation for the continent and for the planet. The theme can also be extended to climate change and its impact from a sustainability point of view. In addition, the photographs must show an optimistic approach, with the aim of continuing to break down the stereotypes that have marked the continent.

The **deadline** for submitting applications and photographs is **2 May 2024 at 14.00 hours**.

Each applicant may participate with a maximum of five (5) photographs to be submitted online through the platform MundoArti. The photographs must be sent in JPEG format, with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi and weighing between 1 and 5 MB.

More at <https://www.casaffrica.es/en/event/xiv-photography-contest-objetivo-africa-public-spaces-africa#>

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## F.4 ACP-UE Culture Newsletter

### Shaping Futures: Arts, Culture, and Education as Drivers for Sustainable Development

This study commissioned by the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU) aims to further understanding of how synergizing the culture and education sectors can accelerate progress towards sustainable development in ACP countries and elsewhere. Today, education and culture sectors tend to operate as separate policy



realms with insufficient imbrication. However, in the post-independence period, education and culture initially sat under the same ministry in many African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, a policy pairing that serves as a reminder of the synergies between the two sectors. As culture and education increasingly became separate fields, arts education became the most frequent pathway of interaction between the two sectors. The 2010 Seoul Agenda for arts education emphasised its capacity to contribute to responses to major global challenges.

Today's policy discourse has evolved explicitly towards thinking in terms of culture and arts education, underscoring the integration of heritage – both tangible and intangible, as well as traditional knowledge – in education. The report explores these opportunities with a focus on five major global challenges of particular relevance to ACP countries – environmental sustainability, societal cohesion, youth prosperity, knowledge, identity and heritage, and the development of future skills.

Contact: [info@acp-ue-culture.eu](mailto:info@acp-ue-culture.eu)

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## **F.5 The Prince Claus Fund**

### **Call for Applications Cultural & Artistic Responses to the Environmental Crisis (CAREC)**

The climate crisis is here, affecting millions in various ways and magnitudes. However, it is the Global South that is disproportionately faced with the most extreme outcomes of our climate collapse, exposing the social and political inequalities entrenched within our societies. The CAREC is a year-long programme aimed at accelerating engaged community-based cultural practices with a focus on climate justice that acknowledge the social, political and economic dimensions of the environmental crisis. It brings together 12 mid-career artists and cultural practitioners (± 8-15 years of relevant professional experience) with four mentors, all working across a range of disciplines and environmental issues. Each artist receives an award of €10.000 to work on the concept for a body of work that they outline in their application. Deadline: 21 March 2024. **More at <https://princeclausfund.org/open-calls/how-to-apply-selection-process-mentorship-award-carec>**

Web site: <https://princeclausfund.org/>

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## **F.6 Artmailer Art Go News (South Africa)**

### **Cabinet|Clay: Ceramics Special Project at ICTAF24**

Investec Cape Town Art Fair 2024, 16 - 18 February, had a selection of Contemporary South African ceramic artists in its own curated and dedicated section, titled 'Cabinet|Clay'. Recognising the significance of ceramics as one of civilisation's most ancient practices, the 11th edition of the fair highlighted the importance of the medium today. In recent history, clay and ceramics have been overshadowed in favour of the Contemporary Art movement. With a rise in coverage within art publications, ceramic artworks have begun to feature more prominently in major exhibitions across the world as a noteworthy and appreciated medium.

More at <https://www.investeccapetownartfair.co.za/>

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## **F.7 Ettijahat.- Independent Culture Newsletter**

### **SANAD: A Legal Support Programme for Artists and Cultural Practitioners**

The SANAD Programme aims to provide legal and information-based services to artists and cultural actors in different creative fields who have been forced to leave their countries of origin and move to new work environments. The programme also aims to increase artists' knowledge

of their legal rights and to provide them with better opportunities for protection in their current places of residence. SANAD targets all artists and cultural practitioners, especially those in danger and/or at higher risk of marginalisation.

Read more at [https://ettijahat.org/uploads/ettijahat\\_10\\_year\\_evaluation\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://ettijahat.org/uploads/ettijahat_10_year_evaluation_report_en.pdf)

Web site: <https://ettijahat.org/>

Contact: [info@ettijahat.org](mailto:info@ettijahat.org)

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**Please send addresses, information, and documents for the OCPA list serve, database, documentation centre and web site!**

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**Thank you for your interest and co-operation**

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