

Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

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



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

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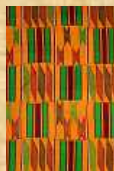
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CBAAC



Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa



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A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

The month of March 2024 will have been a very eventful period at OCPA.

A.1 Session of the CERAV Board of Directors (Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso)

Mr. Estevao Filimao, Deputy Coordinator for Research, Responsible for Training, participated, in the week of March 11 to 14, as Administrator representing OCPA on behalf of civil society, in the session of the Council of administration of CERAV in Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso.

A.2 Participation in Music crossroads Mozambique

In Maputo, Mr. Mbuyamba, Executive Director, accompanied by Mrs. Maria Manjate, Program Manager, responded to the invitation from the management of the music school, Music Crossroads Mozambique, for the opening of a festival organized at the occasion of the international day for women's rights, March 8, on the theme of the young creative girl.

A.3 Meeting with the expert from the French Embassy in Mozambique

For its part, OCPA received at its headquarters in Maputo, on March 14, an Expert from the French Embassy in Mozambique, assigned to the Ministry of Culture and responsible for monitoring various cultural cooperation projects.

For this specific case, the visitor expressed his concern to be informed of the operating status of the IOC/AFD project on the development of cultural and creative industries in the countries of the Indian Ocean and Mozambique, including OCPA is a member of the Consortium responsible for implementation.

A.4 The 3rd Networking Meeting of the ACP-EU program “Create in Central Africa”

The Executive Director of OCPA was then scheduled to travel to Yaoundé in Cameroon to participate, from March 16 to 22, in the 3rd Networking of the ACP-EU program “Create in Central Africa” to support the cultural and creative sectors. . In this context, in addition to the meeting and discussions with the Cameroonian Minister of Culture, His Excellency Bidoung Mkpatt, he delivered, at the conclusion of the work, a speech focused on the commitment of governance and the contribution of intellectual experts and cultural actors to master the assets available to them and their integration into the global Agenda for Africa.

A.5 Meetings between the OCPA secretariat and African cultural organizations

Finally, several meetings were organized between the OCPA secretariat and cultural organizations, the most significant of which were

- i. that of the COI/AFD project on the development of cultural and creative industries in the Indian Ocean States based in Mauritius;
- ii. that of the Executive Committee of the African Capitals of Culture structure based in Rabat;
- iii. that concerning the preparation of an international conference on cultural policy planned for July 2024 in Conakry in Guinea at the initiative of a university research structure or held by government authorities.

A.6 RICADIA: Meetings with members of the network of cultural institutions in Africa and the diaspora

On the occasion of the Yaoundé session indicated above, meetings took place with members of the RICADIA network, in particular with

- i. the General Delegate of CERAV, Herman Pouya, with whom the concerns of extending the Center to a country like Cameroon were discussed;
- ii. the Executive Secretary of CERDOTOLA, Professor Charles Binam, on the project of the imminent opening of the University of CERDOTOLA which will be marked by an orientation drawn throughout the conferences and seminars of the Center on industry/Tradition and new African thought.

A.7 Other meetings within the framework of the mission in Yaoundé

As part of this mission, exchanges took place with

- i. the Acting Director of the coordination of the cultural and creative industries and discoverability project, Mr. Enganja-Ngoulou, on the project in question and possible cooperation;
- ii. the Secretary General in charge of research of the National Institute of Arts of the DR Congo, Professor Kamina, on the preparation of the 4th and final networking of “Create in Central Africa” in July 2024 in Kinshasa;
- iii. the Commissioner General of the Pan-African Music Festival and Vice-President of the African Music Council (CAM), Mr. Hugues Ondaye, on the preparations for the next meetings of the Council scheduled for Abidjan during the month of April.

A.8 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 Paolo, 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 Togo: Capacity building for museum curators (documentation techniques)

The world is crossed by a movement which fights for the return of cultural property plundered to their country of origin. But critics of this position advance arguments according to which, once in Africa, these objects will not be well preserved or documented and may be subject to deterioration or even theft.

In Togo, curators in public museums have received virtually no training in the field of documentation. To enable them to do their job well, the Directorate of Cultural Heritage organized a seminar (Sokodé, 7. 9 February 2024) on the documentation of museum collections.

This training enabled those who needed help to update the inventory registers in their respective museums, thus ensuring the traceability of the collections. The Sokodé regional museum provides its framework for the practice of this training which will take place over three days.

The objective of this training was to contribute to securing museum collections. This involved equipping six curators from public museums and the Koutammakou community museum with skills in documentation techniques and updating the inventory register of the Sokodé museum.

Source: <https://tourisme.gouv.tg/seminaire-de-renforcement-des-capacites-des-conservateurs-des-musees-publics-aux-techniques-de-documentation/>

B.2 Launch of the second CLAC network in Togo

After the commissioning which took place a few days ago, Dr Kossi G. Lamadokou, Minister of Culture and Tourism, proceeded on March 4, 2024, on behalf of the Government and together with the OIF, to the inauguration of the 2nd CLAC network, in a ceremony in Amou-Oblo.

In his speech, the minister welcomed the realization of the Government's commitment to promote public reading in each of the identified localities. The wish of the Minister of Culture and Tourism is that the effectiveness of this established network opens the door to the third in order to respond without delay and effectively to new requests.

Source: <https://tourisme.gouv.tg/ceremonie-dinauguration-officielle-du-2eme-reseau-des-clac-a-amou-oblo/>

B.3 SDP Cohort #3: Access to Finance for CCI's - Egypt, Jordan, Morocco

With the support of Creact4Med, an EU-funded project, CFW will implement the CFW Skills Development Program - 3rd Cohort in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco to promote and strengthen regional cooperation in CCI's.

The program offers in-depth training sessions entirely online. Participants will look at areas critical to accessing finance in the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to navigate the financial landscape with confidence.

The culmination of the program will be a networking event, providing a unique chance for participants to connect, share ideas and broaden their horizons. with our partners (Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt). This opportunity promises learning and networking prospects.

Stay tuned as the call for applications will be launched soon! This is your chance to be part of a transformative journey. Keep an eye on our social media pages for updates. More at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScA5hzE1oHJz6kn8DclgEyAIYpCzjA2Z6Mk0osiyDZU319Reg/viewform>

B.4 Senegal: Validation of the implementing texts of the law on the status of the artist

A workshop brought together, on March 14, 2024, the Ministry responsible for Culture and several actors and professionals in the sector for the presentation and validation of the implementing texts of the law relating to the status of the artist.

A legal text relating to the creation and organization of the directory of arts and culture professions, that relating to the procedures for issuing, withdrawing and suspending the professional card for cultural professions, as well as another which concerns the license of cultural entrepreneurs constitute the ministerial decrees. All these application texts were validated yesterday through a workshop which brought together cultural actors and partners at the Grand Théâtre National Doudou Ndiaye Coumba Rose.

This legal framework will notably allow artists and cultural professionals to benefit from social security and live adequately from the benefits of their now organized activities. This progress is beneficial. This, mainly due to the intermittent nature of artistic activity, its discontinuity, multiactivity, the frequent accumulation of the qualities of salaried worker and also independent (such as being an engineer and visual artist), as well as the multiplicity of modes of remuneration in the sector (fee, copyright income, etc.).

The law establishing the status of artists and cultural professionals “rectifies an injustice”, according to the Minister of Culture, Creative Industries, Historical Heritage and Leisure. Professor Aliou Sow praised the quality and suitability of the texts which “remedy the weak structuring of a sector which has until now suffered from the absence of status and where almost everything has to be put in place”.

The Minister indicated that the texts were the subject of meticulous monitoring by state authorities, who are also stakeholders. Professor Aliou Sow informed that, after the signing of the texts, UNESCO, which supported the entire process through the Aschberg program, will support information sessions in all 14 regions of the country.

Read the article at <https://lesoleil.sn/validation-des-textes-dapplication-de-la-loi-les-artistes-gagnent-enfin-le-statut-de-professionnels/>

B.5 Africa: FESPACO 2025 - Film registrations open until September 30, 2024

The 29th edition of FESPACO will be held from February 22 to March 1, 2025. Film registrations for the official selection are open this Thursday, February 29 until September 30, 2024. The official selection includes films in competition and those out of competition.

The official competition section is reserved for films by African and diaspora directors. The categories concerned are feature-length fiction with a minimum duration of 60 minutes; the feature-length documentary with a minimum duration of 60 minutes; FESPACO Shorts (short fiction and documentary) with a duration of between 1 min and 35 min; fiction or documentary from film schools with a duration of between 3 min and 15 min; FESPACO Series (two consecutive episodes of 52 minutes each or three consecutive episodes of 26 minutes each or six consecutive episodes of 13 minutes each); animated films lasting between 1 and 35 minutes.

The second section, open to films out of competition, concern MAWRED s filmmakers from around the world through the categories Panorama, Diversity Focus, Sukabè).

Read the original at <https://www.sidwaya.info/fespaco-2025-ouverture-des-inscriptions-des-films-until-30-sept-2024>



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

C.1 Guinea: The New Minister of Culture, Tourism and Crafts

Moussa Moïse Sylla was appointed to this position on March 13, 2024, the date of the creation of the new government composed of 29 ministers including 2 general secretaries (23 men and 6 women). In accordance with this decision, he was installed in this position on March 15, 2024.

The outgoing minister, Alpha Soumah, gave a well-rounded picture of the achievements of the ministry he was in charge of for two years. These include draft laws including: the Law on legal deposit, the Law on the regulation of traditional percussion and dances in the Republic of Guinea, the Law on the financing of artistic and cultural activities, the Law on the regulation of book sector in the Republic of Guinea, the Law establishing the status of Artists and cultural professionals in the Republic of Guinea, the Law regulating live entertainment in the Republic of Guinea, as well as the development and launch of the Tourist Guide of Guinea.

The incoming minister thanked General Mamadi Doumbouya who appointed him Minister of Culture, Tourism and Crafts. “I know what he expects of me in this department where I am not a total stranger, through the national branding housed at the Presidency.

One of the battles that the newly promoted intends to wage with his new colleagues will be to allow the women and men of this sector to make a decent living from their profession.

Because, in the opinion of Moussa Moïse Sylla, the profession of Culture must now nourish its people and allow the actors to assert themselves as essential links in the vitality of this country.

Moussa Moïse Sylla is a Guinean journalist, columnist and communicator. He did his primary education in Ivory Coast. Then he returned to Guinea until he obtained his baccalaureate. He completed higher studies at the UNIC University of Lambagni in public law and journalism.

Sources: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moussa_Mo%C3%AFse_Sylla and <https://guineenews.org/moussa-moise-sylla-prend-les-renes-du-ministere-de-la-culture-du-tourism-and-crafts/>

C.2 Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Leisure of Togo

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism is made up of a ministerial cabinet and a general secretariat which ensures the link between its different technical departments; in addition, it has under its supervision several attached bodies and institutions.

The Ministry includes: the office of the minister; services attached to the ministry; central administration; external service as well as the related institutions and organizations.

The central administration of the ministry includes: the General Secretariat; Directorate of Administrative and Financial Affairs (DAAF); Department of Research Studies and Cultural Foresight (DERPC); Directorate of Cultural Heritage (DPC); Directorate for the Promotion of Arts and Culture (DPAC); Directorate of Libraries and Literary Promotion (DBPL); National Directorate of Cinematography (DNC); Directorate of Tourism Planning and Development (DPDT); Directorate of Tourism Promotion (DPT) and the Department of regulation, inspection and control of hotel establishments and bars.

The ministry has been headed, since October 2, 2020, by Dr Kossi Gbényo Lamadokou.

Born in 1975, Kossi Gbényo Lamadokou has a level of study of Doctorate in Culture and development option Art, media and society. He has held several positions in his professional career. As his last position, he was the Secretary General of the Togolese Football Federation.

In his own words, he has the ambition to “Make Togo a logistics hub of excellence and a first-class business center in the sub-region”

C.3 Nigeria’s creative economy takes centre stage with Musawa’s leadership

March 15 - The story of the Art, Culture and Creative Economy minister, Hannatu Musa Musawa, who was appointed by President Bola Tinubu in 2023, after serving as his Special Adviser on Culture and Entertainment Economy, is an inspiring one, most especially to the next generation of women in Africa who are passionate about leading change in a male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture.

The 49-year-old lawyer and activist has joined the league of performing and outstanding ministers under the Renewed Hope government of President Bola Tinubu.

Nigeria is experiencing renewed hope in the creative ecosystem given the minister’s hard work in setting in motion various initiatives to harness the economic potential of Nigeria’s creative industry. This encompasses various forms of artistic expression such as music, film, fashion, visual arts, and literature with the potential to contribute significantly to Nigeria’s economy.

The minister’s vision of creating 10% of the country’s gross domestic product by expanding the creative sector’s GDP to \$100 billion by 2030 is a big deal and should be commended by art enthusiasts, patriots and believers of a great Nigeria. Musawa, who became the pioneer of the new ministry, assumed the position on August 16, 2023. Not long after that, the minister swiftly launched a visionary plan to transform Nigeria’s creative sector, aiming to make Nigeria the culture and entertainment capital of the world. Under her leadership, there seems to be a new era of focus and commitment towards innovation and resilience.

Thanks to Nigeria’s cultural diversity with a rich tapestry of traditions and practices that have captured the admiration of people, we are currently witnessing the golden age of its cultural and

creative dominion over Africa on the basis of the country's achievements namely in literature, music and film industry.

Those who are conversant with the minister's activities would agree with me that this is exactly what the minister has been up to. She understands the transformative power of art and the role it plays in shaping society. Her moves, statements and actions reflect her commitment to preserving and showcasing Nigeria's cultural heritage through various initiatives, such as the vision of the establishment of cultural centres and museums, the preservation of traditional arts and crafts, and the promotion of cultural exchange.

Source: <https://www.thecable.ng/nigerias-creative-economy-takes-centre-stage-with-musawa-leadership>

C.4 Kenya: Gachagua Roots for Preservation of Good Cultural Practices Through Art

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has asked artistes and musicians to promote preservation of good cultural practices and traditions through art, adding that the government is committed to spur growth of creative economy.

At the same time, the Deputy President said security agencies will no longer disrupt cultural events as he called upon elders and those in charge of traditional cultural processes to develop structures to prevent distortion and misunderstanding of history and culture.

He spoke on Saturday night at Honi Resort, Kieni, Nyeri County during the fifth edition of Ngogoyo Ya Rware music extravaganza.

The event was organized by fans of the Kikuyu old music, which is known for promoting the Agikuyu culture, beliefs, tradition and values. The songs are also rich in history.

In his remarks, the Deputy President challenged the event organizers to put up similar activities in the other counties around the Mt region to promote culture of the community.

"It is important to own and nurture our culture and traditions and protect our history. They are our heritage. It is important to protect and safe guard our values and customs. We should love each other as a community no matter where we are," said the Deputy President.

Stating that Kenya is known for its ethnic and cultural diversity, the Deputy President championed for protection of the country's rich and diverse traditions and urged parents and elders to nurture good morals among children.

Read more at <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2024/02/gachagua-roots-for-preservation-of-good-cultural-practices-through-art/>

C.5 A fair rehabilitation of our ancestral values

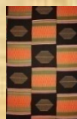
The Council of Ministers, at its meeting on March 6, adopted a decree establishing the Day of Customs and Traditions in Burkina Faso.

The objective, according to the Burkinabè Executive, is to allow traditional religion to regain its place in society and to do this, the day of May 15 has been stopped and will now be a public holiday. This government initiative is truly to be welcomed. And for good reason. First, in form, the institution of this so-called day of customs and traditions corrects an inequity.

Because the official calendar of legal holidays and public holidays grants imported religions a minimum of 3 paid days off, while traditional religions were hitherto ignored. However, as we know, the Burkinabè are 60% Muslims, 30% Christians and 100% animists. So it's only fair. Basically, the government measure is also worthy of praise. Indeed, it participates in the

reaffirmation of our cultural identity which was crumbling with all that this entailed in terms of loss of our values with the ultimate stage being the crumbling of cohesion and living together.

Read the original article at <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/vie-associative-bantu-culture-prevoit-une-table-ronde-sur-lentreprises-culturel-155731>



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

D.1 Ukraine's recovery: UNESCO mobilizes an additional \$14.6 million thanks to Japan

Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Takehiro Kano, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO, signed a \$14.6 million financial agreement in support of Ukraine. With these funds, the Organization will intensify its actions on the ground to revive culture, education and the media. This agreement confirms Japan's role as UNESCO's leading donor for Ukraine's recovery.

UNESCO projects that will be implemented in 2024 thanks to these funds include emergency heritage preservation operations in several cities, including Lviv and Kharkiv, while assisting the creation of a Recovery among other Support Unit by the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture. In Odesa, home to a World Heritage site that is regularly threatened by attacks, UNESCO will support the development of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan. The Organization will also reinforce the monitoring and assessment of damage to cultural heritage, as well as the training of Ukrainian authorities and cultural professionals in damage data collection, an essential step towards prioritizing reconstruction work.

Press contact Lucía Iglesias Kuntz, l.iglesias@unesco.org

D.2 INTOCUS Conference on “Tourism and cultural heritage: resilience, sustainability and transformation”

Harokopio Universiy, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the University of the Aegean are jointly organizing the 1st INTOCUS conference on “Tourism and cultural heritage: resilience, sustainability and transformation”, which will take place in Athens from March 8-9.

The conference takes place within the framework of a long-established collaboration between the 3 universities which jointly offer the "International Master of Sustainable Tourism "Development: heritage, environment, society".

Site web: <https://www.tourismheritage.hua.gr/>

D.3 2024 Compendium Conference in Montenegro

Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends, 26–27 September 2024, Montenegro

The International Cultural Policy Conference will be hosted in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 26-27 September by the “Mediterranean” University of Podgorica on the theme “Cultural Policies, Developments and Perspectives” and represents a triangle of interconnections. After the Conference will be held on the 26th, the 7th Assembly of the Compendium Association will serve as a meeting point for the Compendium community on 27th.

Web site: <https://www.culturalpolicies.net/2024/02/22/2024-compendium-conference-in-montenegro-save-the-date/>

D.4 WIPO Traditional Knowledge

On the occasion of the official launch of the WIPO Virtual Exhibition on Traditional Knowledge: The Yakuanoi World!, we invite you to visit the show.

Join us as we embark on an extraordinary journey into the heart of traditional knowledge from across the globe. Through captivating artwork, photographs, engaging animations, and inspiring stories, this exhibition celebrates the resilience, creativity, and ingenuity of Indigenous Peoples and the local communities.

Step into the fictional Yakuanoi World and discover the intricate intersection of traditional knowledge and intellectual property. Explore how WIPO supports Indigenous Peoples and local communities in protecting and promoting their intellectual property rights.

More at <https://traditional-knowledge.wipo.int/>

D.5 YouScribe launches its White Paper on “State of play and prospects for publishing in Africa”

Based in Paris and present in several African countries (Senegal, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia). YouScribe, the largest digital streaming library on the African continent with more than 1.3 million subscribers, announces the publication of its first White Paper on the publishing sector in Africa.

This White Paper, presented on the eve of the third edition of the Paris African Book Fair, brings together different points of view and feedback from African publishers facing a rapidly changing publishing sector. By presenting a diversity of points of view, YouScribe wanted to shed light on the issues and opportunities by giving a voice to the players in the ecosystem because, by dialoguing together, collectively, concrete actions can be implemented.

During the presentation of the white paper, Juan Pirlot de Corbion, founder and President of YouScribe, declared: “African publishing is at a crossroads, it is in the midst of a transformation. We hope to open new perspectives, spark constructive debates and contribute to the emergence of a thriving African book industry that is resolutely focused on the future.”

Source: <https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202403150063.html>

D.6 Culture Summit 2024: A Matter of Times (Abu Dhabi, 3 – 5 March 2024)

In the 2024 edition, Culture Summit will explore our changing relation to time, how this change is impacting the way culture is produced, received and consumed but also the role culture – which so often holds together past, present, future – could play to help us navigate this moment of inflection in the way we relate to the notion of time, moving from a ‘mechanical time’ characteristic of our contemporary era to a ‘new cultural time’ realigned with the rhythm of human awareness and nature.

The discussions unfolded as a beacon of cultural exchange and collaboration, addressing global cultural challenges. It delved into how time impacts culture and fosters solutions to preserve cultural values and societal communities worldwide.

The summit brought together leaders from various fields, offered an occasion for open communication and safe ground for diverse voices to be heard. Artists, poets, visionary entrepreneurs, and representatives from cultural communities and NGOs had a safe space to share their insights and.

Reflecting on the summit, H.E. Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak highlighted key takeaways that deeply resonated with me: "**Change can happen at any time; you just need to start**" and "**the time to act is now.**"

Web site: <https://www.culturesummitabudhabi.com/en>



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/>

E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica

Rwanda: Kinyarwanda - What We Lose By Not Speaking

Since relocating to the US in 2019, Rwanda's Nichola Muhire found himself for several in a dynamic working environment where proficiency in a different language is essential for effective communication. He says that his fluency in Kinyarwanda diminished because of highly engaging with other languages and spending less time using his mother tongue. Not being able to express himself in Kinyarwanda as fluently as he once did has been frustrating for Muhire. Several reports show that a mother tongue-- first language, native language, native tongue--is often deeply intertwined with one's cultural heritage and sense of belonging, thus, being proficient in one's mother tongue allows one to connect more deeply with their cultural background and community. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202403130373.html>

South Africa: Textile Artist Lizette Chirime Launches Fashion Line in Cape Town

Renowned Mozambican abstract textile artist Lizette Chirime is showing her first artistic fashion line in Cape Town, South Africa, as the first presentation by Art Africa of their Community Residency program. "I noticed that people reject their own identity and rather embrace Western styles and traditions," Chirime said, reflecting on her work titled Remember, You are Unique. Her latest range combines a wide selection of African fabrics with designs inspired by her spiritual and personal life journeys and also presents handmade jewellery with metal and wood from Mozambique. Chirime was based in Cape Town, South Africa, for 16 years, then returned to her home country of Mozambique in 2021. Her use of art has been described as a "therapeutic and spiritual tool", and "using after colored thread to inspire hope and healing". Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202403010251.html>

African Female Filmmakers Converge in Benin

This is the third time since 2019 that the Cotonou International Women's Film Festival (FIFF) is organized, Cornelia Glele. the organizer of the festival, is a journalist, filmmaker and blogger. She has succeeded in inviting female filmmakers, directors, and actors from all over Africa, organizing a competition with 18 films, and initiating debates about African productions and the role of women in cinema. What is remarkable is that women directed all the films which will be

screened during the festival. Ten young women were selected from more than 100 applications. "I didn't know them personally. So they are not friends of mine," Glele told DW to avoid any suspicion of nepotism. She also initiated and managed this project. The highlight was the seven-day shoot in Parakou in northern Benin. While making the film "Malaika," Cornelia Glele noticed how strongly traditional stereotypes are still anchored today. "The first day of training was very difficult. Someone said: I don't pay bills at home. My husband has to do that." Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202402250006.html>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

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

Education, culture and AI: recent policy developments and implications

Discussions continue worldwide in the realm of AI policy developments. Digital rights is the theme of the *latest Somos Iberoamérica special*, which underlines that *Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology that has not so much to do with what we do, but with who we are as humanity*. This issue is already being reflected in the Constitutions of Chile and Brazil and attracting interest in Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia and Spain. In Europe, the proposed AI Act aims to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for AI, regulating its development and use across sectors. Meanwhile, in Spain, the Ministry of Culture has issued a *guide of good practices* to safeguard creators' rights amidst the increasing integration of AI in cultural processes. The recent statement by Women4Ethical AI highlighted the importance of integrating a gender perspective into AI initiatives.

The intersection of time and policymaking is also under scrutiny this March, particularly at the sixth edition of Culture Summit Abu Dhabi, which took place from 3 to 5 March 2024 and the inaugural Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2024 from 24 to 26 March 2024. The unanimous adoption of the framework by 90 Ministers marks a historic commitment to advancing culture and arts education worldwide. Stemming from a participatory process involving UNESCO Member States and stakeholders, the framework integrates cultural dimensions into education systems.

The National Arts Council of South Africa and National Arts Council of Botswana signed a ground-breaking Memorandum of Understanding

The National Arts Council of South Africa (NACSA) is pleased to announce that it has signed a ground-breaking Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Arts Council of Botswana (NACB) to strengthen the creative and cultural sectors in both countries. Web site: <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-l-ahkxid-ilhisklhu-yk/>

Zimbabwe celebrates Indigenous languages: arts and digital tools in focus

Explore how Zimbabwe is embracing its linguistic diversity through arts, technology, and education, paving the way for a multilingual future that celebrates cultural identity and unity. Source: <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-l-ahkxid-ilhisklhu-ju/>

Nigeria, US sign MoU on cultural heritage preservation

A Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, on a cultural heritage preservation project in Adamawa State has been signed by the governments of Nigeria and the United States. Source: <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-l-ahkxid-ilhisklhu-ty/>

Fostering Economic Sustainability in Rural Families in South Africa through Visual Arts and Crafts

This paper investigated interventions that can restore the importance of visual arts and crafts in fostering economic sustainability for rural families and young rural community members. Source: <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail19.com/t/i-l-ahkxid-ilhisklhu-ti/>

F.2 Agenda21culture

Call to host the UCLG Culture Summit in 2025

The Culture Summit has become a Major event for UCLG. After the success of the Summits previously held (Bilbao in 2015; Jeju in 2017; Buenos Aires in 2019; Izmir in 2021; and Dublin in 2023), and considering the growing importance of culture in the framework of sustainable cities, UCLG has decided to convene a 6th Culture Summit in 2025. We invite you to check the [Terms of Reference](#) of the 6th UCLG Culture Summit as well as the webpage webpage dedicated to the Summit for more information. Candidates are invited to send a letter of interest to host the “UCLG Culture Summit in 2025” before 12 April 2024.

Web site: <https://agenda21culture.net/6th-uclg-culture-summit-2025>

F.3 Music World News

Invitation to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Action for the Promotion of the Five Music Rights

This year we are celebrating IMC's 75th year of advocacy and actions for the FiveMusicRights! Thanks to your participation, a wonderful version of the logo was chosen to be used this year. We are planning a year-long collective celebration, and more than ever, your organisation and activities will be crucial in amplifying our impact. By joining our forces, we can shed more light on the #FiveMusicRights and our community, which will make all of us stronger! You want to take part in this celebration? Here's a few simple ways to contribute to the festivities:

1. Record and send us a short video shot during one of your events! (50 sec max)!
2. Host a session about the Five Music Rights and the IMC at one of your events!
3. Use the #IMC75 logo and say a few words on it at the events organized by you.
4. Post Happy Birthday #IMC75 on your social media!

For those who want to take it further:

5. Plan and organize a special celebration of #IMC75, let's discuss it further!
6. Organize & Label a fundraising concert

Please send your materials and ideas to Sonia Ghannam, IMC Communication Officer: communication@imc-cim.org

F.4 Music in Africa

Reminder: 6th General Assembly of the African Music Council (AMC, Abidjan, April 17 to 19, 2024)

This session of the General Assembly, after the extraordinary session in Ségou in 2016, the opportunity to decide on the orientations, structures and operating methods of our organisation. There will be elections, allowing the renewal of the executive positions in AMC. The programme will also include thematic sessions and workshops.

A call for travel bursaries will be launched jointly by IMC and AMC to enable members experiencing difficulties to obtain a financial contribution to their costs of participation.

Ten bursaries are available, one person per organisation, will be able to benefit from them.

In your capacity as members of IMC and AMC, you are also invited to attend the Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO on April 15 and 16, 2024, which will focus on the theme "Sustainable Cultures" and will explore the contribution of culture to development.

Contact: Pierre Claver Mabiala, Secretary of the General Assembly (whatsapp +2420667880 16)

F.5 Mawred – Culture resource Newsletter

MAWRED – The 20th Anniversary

Culture Resource's initiated its first activities in 2004 in Cairo, serving as its regional base, before gradually relocating to Beirut between 2015 and 2017. This anniversary is an opportunity for developing a project with societal pertinence. This project is built upon a cultural vision deeply rooted in its locality, enriched by its pluralism, bold in questioning the prevailing realities and authorities, and radical in imagining a future characterized by justice and freedom. This approach calls for developing new forms of cultural solidarity in the Arab region and the world, Therefore Culture Resource is launching the open call "**Reclaiming Our Commons: A Proposal for Cultural Collaboration Across the Arab Region,**" addressed to **initiatives, cooperatives, independent cultural and artistic organizations, as well as artists and cultural actors.** Culture Resource and the project partners will provide **grants ranging from €8,000 to €30,000 to fund approximately 12 projects.** The deadline for applications: 12 April 2024 at 16h.

Read more at [https://mawred.us12.list-](https://mawred.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=65802a88d3339bd7822d90f4d&id=cf7cabe1c3&e=f0513daa04)

[manage.com/track/click?u=65802a88d3339bd7822d90f4d&id=cf7cabe1c3&e=f0513daa04](https://mawred.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=65802a88d3339bd7822d90f4d&id=cf7cabe1c3&e=f0513daa04)

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

F.6 ACP-UE Culture: Newsletter - March 2024

Sound Connects Conference: Spotlight on the ACP-UE Culture Action in Southern Africa

The "Sound Connects" conference, the meeting of the ACP-EU Culture Programme for Southern Africa, was held in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, from 31 January to 2 February 2024. The event brought together experts from the cultural and creative industries, international donors, regional players and the cultural organisations supported by the Sound Connects Fund (SCF) for information sessions, experience-sharing and networking. The event gave Sound Connects Fund beneficiaries the opportunity to share their experiences and discuss the challenges they face in managing their projects. Read the full article at <https://www.acp-ue-culture.eu/en/blog/sound-connects-conference-acp-eu-culture-programme-support-for-the-cultural-and-creative-sectors-in-southern-africa/>

F.7 Cyberkaris Interarts Foundation

Charter: Guidelines on innovative cultural heritage education and training paths

21/02/2024 - The European Cultural Heritage Skills Alliance – Charter presents one of its most recent and important reports: “Guidelines on innovative/emerging cultural heritage education and training paths“. The document analyses the distinctive features of education and training for cultural heritage (CH) professions in Europe, outlines the main reasons why CH E&T can be innovative and emerging, and outlines eight pathways of opportunities for the development of new curricula that meet the current needs of the sector. The Guidelines are intended as a flexible framework which can easily be adapted to different regional or national education systems. They have been designed to support education providers in the creating CH curricula, CH organisations/employers in developing in-house training for their staff, (potential) students of heritage E&T programmes, policy makers and scholars in their research on the CH sector.

Web site: <https://www.interarts.net/news/charter-guidelines/>



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
