

# 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

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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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**Previous issues of OCPA News at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/newsletter/index-en.html>**

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**Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa**

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### **A. News from OCPA**

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

#### **A.1 Missions to Abidjan at MASA, the Forum on Sustainable Cultures and the CAM Assembly**

The action of the OCPA secretariat revolved this month of April, around the Metropolis of Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan. Three events in particular caught his attention and most of his activities revolved around the Abidjan Performing Arts Market, the MASA, the 16th Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations in official relations with UNESCO on the theme of “Sustainable Cultures” and the 6th General Assembly of the African Music Council.

Its staff, made up of Lupwishi Mbuyamba, Hamadou Mandé and Maria Manjate, provided communications, moderation and direction.

It may be noted for history that at the end of its work, the African Music Council elected Professor Fred Zindi of Zimbabwe to succeed Mr. Lupwishi Mbuyamba, founder of the structure soon 18 years ago, as president.

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#### **A.2 Regional workshop on the revision of the OCPA Guide for the Design and Evaluation of National Cultural Policies in Africa**

Returning to Maputo, OCPA staff were busy preparing for the Regional Workshop that the Observatory is hosting on May 2 and 3 in Maputo with a view to revising the OCPA Guide for the formulation and implementation evaluation of national cultural policies in Africa.

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News from the RICADIA Network

#### **A.3 Active Cooperation between Members of the Network of African Cultural Institutions and the Diaspora**

The organization of the activities listed above made it possible to note active cooperation between members of the network of African cultural institutions, in particular here the Niger Festival Foundation, SILANG and CERDOTOLA all represented at the highest level.

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#### **A.4 Exchanges in view of the scheduled international scientific conference and the 7th edition of the RICADIA Summit**

In addition, OCPA representatives continued in Abidjan the discussions initiated with partners from established structures and professional civil society of culture of the Republic of Guinea on the preparation of the international scientific conference scheduled in Conakry in the third quarter of the current year preceded by the 7th edition of the RICADIA Summit.

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## **A.5 Contacts with other partners**

Other partners came forward during these events to demonstrate the solidarity of their respectful structures, namely UNESCO Paris, the Director of the Culture Department of Senghor University of Alexandria and SELAM with the Regional Director based in Nairobi.

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## **A.6 Activities planned for the month of May**

Scheduled on the OCPA agenda during the month of May, in addition to the Maputo regional workshop on the revision of the Guide, participation in the inauguration of the provisional secretariat of the Audiovisual and Cinema Commission of the African Union in Nairobi, a CERAV international conference on cultural diplomacy in Rabat and an OSF (Open Society Foundation) workshop on a regional project on culture and the arts in education in Kinshasa.

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## **A.7 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Medium Term Strategy and Plan of Action (2006 and 2011), the Compendium of basic reference texts for cultural policies in Africa (E/F/S, 2006 and 2009), the Guidelines for the Design and Evaluation of National Cultural Policies in Africa (2008 and 2009). The Proceedings of the International Symposium on Policies, Strategies and Experiences in Financing Culture in Africa was published in 2010, the Manual for Training Specialist of Cultural Policy and Management in Africa and the book on the Contribution of Culture to Poverty reduction in Africa were produced in 2013. More recently, in 2019, OCPA published with the support of UNESCO a book entitled Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue: An African Experience as well as the book prepared and published with the support of Africalia on ”Anticipating Cultural Policies in Africa by 2030”.

Most of the Reports of some 25 meetings and training sessions organized by OCPA are published at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/meetings/index-en.html>.

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

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

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

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

### **B.1 Burkina Faso: SIAO 2024 - 4,000 exhibitors expected**

The general management of the Ouagadougou International Crafts Fair (SIAO) initiated an information and mobilization meeting for artisans from the Center region, on Thursday April 4,

2024 in Ouagadougou, on the organization of the 17th edition of the SIAO, scheduled from October 25 to November 3.

The 17th edition of the Ouagadougou International Crafts Fair (SIAO) will be held from October 25 to November 3, 2024 on the theme: “African crafts, youth entrepreneurship and empowerment”. For a successful organization, six months before the event, the general management of the SIAO mobilizes the artisans, through information and awareness meetings.

Like previous editions, in addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, exhibitions and sales of African craft products and exhibitions of the creativity pavilion are planned. Added to this are seminars and workshops around the central theme, business meetings in the B to B space (between professionals in the trade) and the organization of competitions with a view to rewarding the best craftsmen.

The day of the guest country of honor, cultural and artistic events, gastronomy and the Night of Meritorious Artisans (NAM) to reward the winners are also on the program for the 2024 edition. Major innovations will be on offer at this 17th biennial of African crafts. This involves the operationalization of several entry and exit doors from the site, the establishment of “i points” in the pavilions to orient visitors, Ms. Traoré said.

Read the article at <https://www.sidwaya.info/siao-2024-4-000-exponents-attendus/>

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## **B.2 Round Table on the mobility of artists and cultural professionals in Africa (MASA, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire)**

The Regional Center for Performing Arts in Africa (CERAV/Africa) organized on April 17, 2024 in Abidjan, a round table on the issue of mobility of artists and cultural professionals in Africa. This meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the 13th edition of MASA, aims to explore relevant avenues of solutions to the concerns and obstacles to the mobility of artists and cultural professionals, which could inspire and nourish the actions of CERAV/ Africa.

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/hamadou.mande.2016/posts/pfbid0UgjCG75zGD2b6uzdqscGcsainAF5d8FiNfJzf6ZG32Kw9gTwtS84qM39rsZEUfQwI>

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## **B.3 Looted artefacts now back in Asante hands**

32 Gold and silver items have been sent on long-term loan to Ghana by the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Museum. They were stolen during 19th century conflicts. The objects have arrived at the king’s court and are due to go on display in May at the Manhyia Palace Museum in Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti region, as part of celebrations to mark the silver jubilee of the current Asante King Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. The loan negotiated with the king will last for three years with the option to extend for a further three years. The Victoria & Albert Museum is lending 17 pieces and 15 are from the British Museum.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-68789512>

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## **B.4 Agreement signed by the National Arts Council (South Africa) and the National Arts Council (Botswana)**

The NACSA has signed a ground-breaking Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NACB to strengthen the creative and cultural sectors in both countries (Johannesburg, 20 February 2024). The MOU is to promote and facilitate Cultural and Creative Exchange Programmes, Heritage Preservation, Arts Education Partnerships and Residencies, Institutional Exchanges, Internship and Training Programmes and Research and Development Projects.

On behalf of NACSA, Ms Julie Diphofa echoed that „this partnership marks a significant step towards fostering mutual understanding, appreciation and the development of arts and culture between our two nations.” The NACB’s Director of Creative and Cultural Sector Development, Ms. Mbaakanyi also stressed that “Our nations have major commonalities, and it is great to see the two countries come together to harness the future of the arts and culture sector.”

**Contact:** [info@nac.org.za](mailto:info@nac.org.za)

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## **B.5 Cote d’Ivoire: MASA 2024 - The 13th edition opened by the Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister, Robert Beugré Mambé, proceeded, on behalf of the President of the Republic, this Saturday, April 13, 2024 to the official opening of the 13th edition of the Performing Arts Market of Abidjan (MASA 2024) placed under the theme “Youth, innovation and entrepreneurship”, this edition promises intense festivities, from April 13 to 20, 2024.

The Ivorian Minister of Culture and Francophonie, Françoise Remarck, welcomed the presence of Rwanda, country of honor and Korea, special guest country.

MASA 2024, which is being held 30 years after the first edition, welcomes 59 countries, more than 1,000 artists, 300 shows and 109 programmers.

More information at <https://www.fr.masa.ci/tv-masa>

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

### **C.1 Morocco: Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid, Minister of Culture and Communication**

Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid, born October 26, 1984 in Rabat (Morocco), is a Moroccan politician, Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication since 2021.

Graduated in Political Science and International Relations from the Institute of Political Studies of Toulouse, as well as in Law from the University of Toulouse, he also holds a Master's degree in African Affairs from Sciences Po, and in International Relations at the Institute of International and Strategic Relations in Paris.

He began his political career in 2008 as president of the Circle of Young Moroccan Democrats, an association which is part of the project initiated by the “Movement for All Democrats” which was at the origin of the creation of the Party Authenticity and Modernity (PAM).

On October 7, 2021, Mehdi Bensaid was appointed Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication by King Mohammed VI. Upon his arrival at the Ministry of Culture, he took several measures to support theater troupes, investing in 60 plays and broadcasting them on SNRT, as well as working on the opening of 150 theaters and cinema for cultural events.

He is also interested in the protection and promotion of historical monuments in Morocco and has implemented a strategy to promote book culture among children by creating local libraries in neighborhoods and universities, thus offering opportunities to writers and editors.

Concerning youth, Bensaid has renovated youth centers to make them spaces for creation and entertainment, with gaming studios, musical recording and performance halls.

Source: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed\\_Mehdi\\_Bensaid](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Mehdi_Bensaid)

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## **C.2 Senegal: Culture is grouped in a single Ministry with youth and sport**

In the government of Mr. Ousmane Sonko appointed by President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, elected during the election on March 24, 2024, the portfolio of culture and arts was entrusted to Mrs. Khady Diène Gaye, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture. Cultural affairs will be supervised by Mr. Bacary Sarr, Secretary of State for Culture, Creative Industries and Heritage.

Before her new appointment, Ms. Gaye held the position of regional sports inspector in Kaolack. She also took on the responsibilities of director of training and cooperation within the Ministry of Sports. Source: <https://www.lesdirigeantes.com/index.php/fr/khady-diene-gaye-nouvelle-ministre-des-sports-du-senegal>

The new Secretary of State for Culture, Bacary Sarr is a professor at the Higher Institute of Arts and Culture at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. He reacted after his appointment by stating that "This appointment represents much more than just a role for me. It is a call to serve our nation by preserving and celebrating our rich cultural heritage, supporting our thriving creative industries, and ensuring that our historic treasures are valued for future generations."

He added that he will do everything to improve the culture sector. "I will work tirelessly to promote the cultural diversity of Senegal, to support our talented and creative artists, and to promote our historical heritage throughout the world," promised Bacary Sarr.

Ms. Khady Diène Gaye and Mr. Bakary Sarr in charge of culture succeed in their functions the Minister of Culture and Historical Heritage, Mr. Aliou Sow.

Source: [https://www.seneweb.com/news/Culture/promotion-de-la-diversite-culturelle-et-n\\_437599.html](https://www.seneweb.com/news/Culture/promotion-de-la-diversite-culturelle-et-n_437599.html)

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## **C.3 Botswana: Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development**

The Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC) was established through a Presidential Directive in January 2007 for creating an enabling environment for youth empowerment, sport development and preservation of culture and heritage.

It carries out its mandate through six core functions: Youth Empowerment, Sport and Recreation, Promotion of Arts and Culture, the National Service and Internship, the National Library Service as well as the National Archives and Records Services.

The Ministry's key functions are to Improve Livelihoods of Youth, Develop Sport Competitiveness and Develop and Strengthen Botswana Culture and Heritage

Its main Departments/Sections are: Arts and Culture Development Desk, Youth Empowerment Desk, Sport and Recreation Desk, Department of National Service and Internship, Botswana National Archives and Services and Botswana National Library Service.

The ministry is headed by Mr. Tumiso Macdonald Rakgare as Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development.

More at <https://www.gov.bw/ministries/ministry-youth-empowerment-sport-and-culture-development>

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## **C.4 Algeria: Reception by the Ministry of Culture and Arts in honor of the artists**

The Minister of Culture and Arts organized a reception in honor of Algerian artists on the occasion of Eid El-Fitr, which was attended by artists from different wilayas of the country.

The Minister Ms. Mouloudji indicated that "the meeting with Algerian artists calls on us to ensure the generalization of the beauty of the noble message that culture and the arts convey, not



only to enhance the taste of public, but also to affirm national belonging to everything that serves our society and contributes to the cultural and cognitive development of our country".

And to continue "while we have fulfilled, today, our duty of recognition towards all Algerian artists who contribute to strengthening cultural action, we must also express our deep and sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who has always ensured the promotion of the artistic scene and the place of artists in our country, as well as the encouragement of innovators, particularly young people.

Read the article at <https://www.aps.dz/culture/169758-le-ministere-de-la-culture-et-des-arts-organise-une-reception-en-l-honneur-des-artistes-a-alger>

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### **C.5 Uganda: Inside Uganda's Evolving Music Industry**

Uganda's music industry resonates as a vibrant and dynamic force, weaving together diverse genres, cultural influences, and stories of resilience. At the core of Uganda's music scene are its talented artists who infuse their work with authenticity, passion, and a spirit of innovation. From seasoned veterans to emerging talents, musicians across the country are pushing boundaries and exploring new sonic territories, captivating audiences with their creativity and artistry.

Traditional music forms remain deeply rooted in Ugandan culture, serving as a link to the past while evolving to reflect contemporary sensibilities. Genres like afrobeat, reggae, and hip-hop continue to gain popularity, blending international influences with local rhythms to create a uniquely Ugandan sound.

In recent years, Uganda's music industry has witnessed a surge in international recognition. However, despite its undeniable talent and potential, Uganda's music industry faces its share of challenges. Limited access to funding, piracy, and a lack of robust infrastructure pose significant obstacles for artists.

Nevertheless, Uganda's music industry remains resilient, buoyed by the passion and determination of its practitioners. Looking ahead, stakeholders in music industry are optimistic about the future, with initiatives underway to address some of the sector's key challenges.

Read the original article at <https://nilepost.co.ug/business/196327/inside-uganda-s-evolving-music-industry>

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### **C.6 ICESCO - Towards a strategy to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property**

The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) announced the launch of a series of workshops aimed at developing its strategy for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property around the world Islamic, with the participation of heritage experts from 12 countries.

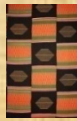
According to a press release from ICESCO, the aim of these workshops, the first of which was held at the organization's headquarters in Rabat, is to examine the practical mechanisms for implementing this strategy, to support cultural policies and legal systems in the Member States, and to introduce international conventions and national legislation in this area.

At the end of the first workshop, held via videoconference under the theme "The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property", several recommendations were issued, notes the press release, citing the creation of a committee composed of member states of the ICESCO specialized in requests for the restitution of their looted cultural property, the establishment of an observatory to monitor global auctions, the strengthening of international cooperation to recover stolen artifacts, the need for states to adhere to the international agreements on the fight

against illicit trafficking of cultural property, and the importance of ICESCO coordination between countries in this area.

Read the article at <https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites/culture/icesco-vers-une-strat%C3%A9gie-de-lutte-contre-le-traffic-illicite-des-biens-culturels>

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

### **D.1 2024 Call for Applications Mentorship Building Beyond by the Prince Claus Fund & Creative Industries**

Are you an artist, designer, or creative mid-career stage professional? Then this call is for you! Cities play a foundational role in the cultivation of identities. As urban challenges intensify worldwide, the urgency for innovative solutions is prevailing across the continent.

In the next year, 12 Awardees will participate in peer group discussions, masterclasses, and two intensive Lab Weeks (in Africa and the Netherlands), and the support of a €10,000 grant and mentorship to support the development of the project that addresses the challenges of their city's public spaces and communities.

The deadline for the submissions is 14 May 2024 at 17.00 Amsterdam time.

Web site: <https://princeclausfund.org/open-calls/call-for-applications-building-beyond-2024>

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### **D.2 The 21st edition of the African Cinema Festival of Tarifa Tangier (FCAT)**

This festival will be held again on both continental shores between May 24 and June 1, will offer films by female directors and reflections on Afrofeminism. The poster for this edition was unveiled at the Center for Cultural Initiatives of the University of Seville, headquarters of the festival with a celebration of Africa and its cultures which triggers the countdown towards a new meeting with the African cinemas.

The director of Culture and Heritage of the University of Seville, Luis Méndez, and the director of FCAT, Mane Cisneros, once again highlighted how this Strait festival contributes to "unite through culture, as well as to forge links with our Moroccan neighbors".

The presence of the FCAT is generally not limited to Tarifa and Tangier, but includes extensions closer and further from its territory. This year the festival arrives in Seville.

Source: <https://fcat.es/bases-inscripcion/>

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### **D.3 Handbook of Cultural Work**

This open access handbook explores the increasingly cross-disciplinary nature of cultural work and assesses how it engages with other fields, such as education, research and health, as well as the defining issues of our time such as the climate emergency, the quest for sustainable development, discrimination of all kinds and the need to achieve greater inclusivity.

Web site: <https://internationalfederationofartsCouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail20.com/t/i-1-akddtkd-ilhisklhu-it/>

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#### **D.4 Arts & Cultural Sector Hit All-Time High in 2022 Value Added to U.S. Economy**

National Endowment for the Arts, 25 March 2024, USA - New data released today show arts and cultural industries hit an all-time high in 2022, contributing 4.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), or \$1.1 trillion, to the U.S. economy. However, growth was not sector-wide, with performing arts organizations, non-government museums, and arts-related construction among the arts industries that have yet to reach their pre-pandemic levels of economic value.

Web site: <https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail20.com/t/i-1-akddtkd-ilhisklhu-jj/>

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#### **D.5 Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day 23 April 2024**

Books are invitations to travel and to encountering others: with each new page turned, another world appears before our eyes. On World Book and Copyright Day 2024, we wish to celebrate the power of books. Books, in all their forms, allow us to learn and to keep ourselves informed.

They also entertain us and help us to understand the world, while offering a window into otherness. For books to be able to unleash their full potential, it is essential that they reflect the linguistic diversity of our world. However, this is far from being the case today; the majority of works are published in just a handful of languages, and digital technology raises the issue of linguistic homogenization. Yet every written language brings with it a particular worldview.

That is why, as part of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), launched in 2022, UNESCO is supporting the publication of books in Indigenous and regional languages.

UNESCO also supports the book industry in Africa, particularly the sector devoted to books for young people...

More at [https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389462\\_eng](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389462_eng)

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#### **D.5 Culture and armed conflicts: International conference for the 70th anniversary of the UNESCO Hague Convention**

**UNESCO and the Kingdom of the Netherlands will hold an international conference from 13 to 15 May 2024 marking the 70th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The event will provide a global assessment of the achievements of the Convention, the first and the most comprehensive multilateral treaty dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage in times of peace as well as during armed conflicts and recovery.**

70 years after the signing of the Convention on 14 May 1954, this landmark event, organized by UNESCO and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the support of the City of The Hague, will bring together the global community of cultural heritage experts and practitioners, military personnel, civil society, and private-sector actors to examine the future orientations of the Convention.

For seven decades, the UNESCO Hague Convention has stood as an enduring symbol of international cooperation and solidarity in the realm of cultural heritage protection, serving as both a reference for preservation efforts and a catalyst for dialogue and understanding among nations. Now more than ever, the Convention reaffirms its relevance as we witness new conflicts erupting and old tensions resurfacing.

The Convention also acts in peacetime, helping to improve legislation, establish regular training programmes for armed forces, as well as build effective safeguarding measures, including the

preparation of inventories, fire protection systems, and emergency plans in case of armed conflicts.

More at <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/international-conference-cultural-heritage-and-peace-building-70-years-unesco-hague-convention>

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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**

#### **Mauritius: Pre-Budget Consultations - Finance Minister Meets Local Artists**

The Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Dr Renganaden Padayachy, met, this afternoon, various local artists and representatives of arts and culture associations in the context of the Pre-Budget Consultations 2024/25. In a statement following the meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Mauritius Telugu Maha Sabha, Mr Atmaramoodoo Pentayah, lauded the initiative of the Ministry, and underlined that it served as a platform to bring together local artists of various sectors together to share their recommendations aimed at improving the arts and culture sector. As regards the Mauritius Telugu Maha Sabha, Mr Pentayah informed that a request was made for modern means to help it reach its objectives pertaining to promoting arts and culture. Furthermore, he expressed conviction that Government will continue to offer support and assistance to his organisation for further development.

Read the article at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202404050027.html>

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#### **Africa: Made in Africa - Africa's Fashion Redefining Narratives About the Continent**

It is a new dawn as Africa's high fashion industry enters an era defined and driven by young African fashion designers. As they take to the global stage, the young creatives are showcasing the continent in all its majesty through unique weaving techniques and patterns that combine their rich African heritage with contemporary styles. The African continent has what it takes to become one of the next-generation fashion leaders. Africa is a major producer of raw materials-- 37 out of 54 countries produce cotton, an exporter of textiles to the value of USD 15.5 billion a year, and an importer of textiles, clothing, and footwear to the value of USD 23.1 billion a year, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202404010072.html>

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#### **Ethiopia: Ensuring Heritages Conservation**

Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, is a city with rich cultural heritage and fascinating history. From ancient churches to bustling marketplaces, the city is a treasure trove of historical artifacts and architectural marvels. However, as the city continues to modernize and grow, there is a pressing need to ensure the conservation of these invaluable heritages. No doubt, preserving

heritages is crucial for maintaining the city's unique cultural identity for the reason heritage sites and traditions are an essential part of the city's history; and should be safeguarded for future generations. In sum, preserving the cultural heritage of Addis Ababa is essential for maintaining the city's unique identity and historical legacy. These artifacts and structures provide a window into the past, allowing future generations to learn about the city's rich history and traditions. Without proper conservation efforts, these priceless treasures could be lost forever, depriving the city of its cultural heritage. Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202404220485.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)**

#### **Focus issues of the month**

This month, we celebrate *World Book and Copyright Day* (April 23) and World Intellectual Property Day (April 26). World Intellectual Property Day this year centres on Intellectual Property and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fostering innovation and creativity for our common future. A UNESCO's call for nominations for *World Book Capital 2026* is open until May 10, 2024.

New data from USA reveals that in 2022, the arts and cultural industries in the US reached a record high, contributing \$1.1 trillion, or 4.3 percent of GDP. However, some sectors such as performing arts organisations and non-government museums are still below pre-pandemic economic levels, according to the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account produced by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

UNCTAD explores how government support and copyright policy propelled *Korea's creative economy*. *New Zealanders' engagement in arts, culture, and heritage activities in 2023* reveal underscores audio media and visits to museums and buildings or places due to historical or cultural significance as popular choices.

A Baseline Study of the Digital Environment in the Music Sector in Zimbabwe has been published recently to gain a better understanding of the digital environment in the music industry in the country. Commissioned by UNESCO and the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe with assistance from the Government of France, the study by Sound Diplomacy offers context-based measures for the music sector in Zimbabwe.

In line with the priorities of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-32), the *UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)* meets this month and seeks to foreground Indigenous youth voices, highlighting their role in ensuring intergenerational continuity of values and capacities.

The *European Union approved regulations for artificial intelligence*, the world's first framework governing AI amid concerns the quickly developing technology could pose risks to humanity.

The *UN General Assembly adopted a significant resolution on promoting safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems*, aligning with sustainable development objectives. The resolution calls for refraining from AI systems conflicting with human rights laws and stresses equal protection online and offline. It urges collaboration to address the digital divide and emphasises responsible governance of AI technology.

Email: [info@ifacca.org](mailto:info@ifacca.org)

Web site: [www.ifacca.org](http://www.ifacca.org)

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## **F.2 Africultures**

### **Mwezi Waq: Comorian folk in critical engagement**

With their new album, *Le blues des sourds-mutes*, the music group raises the voice of its Indian Ocean archipelago through its authentic rhythms. Strong guy with many hats; journalist, artist, singer and playwright, Soeuf Elbadawi is the torchbearer of the Mwezi Waq collective. A name in the form of a portmanteau word which comes from Mwezi Wa or “Moon of” in Comorian and Q from the word “Qamar” (etymology of Comoros), “the moon” in Arabic. Straddling between Paris and Moroni and despite his multiple occupations which do not leave him enough time, the latter has always had as his main concern to question the ancestral memory of his country of origin, its heritage and its multiple trajectories. A territory mixed with peoples from Oman, Persia, Indonesia, Gujarat, Mozambique, Zanzibar, Portugal... In this small country, singing allows the people to connect to their ancestors and also to each individual to project oneself. Thus explained Soeuf Elbadawi to the microphone of our colleagues at RFI in January 2023: “Singing, for us, is the place of memory, the source of questions. A Comorian who no longer sings means that he no longer sees any hope. ”.

Website: <https://africultures.com/mwezi-waq-la-folk-comorienne-dans-un-engagement-critique/>

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## **F.3 Music World News**

### **Afrobeats: Nigerians, new kings of the music industry**

From Aya Nakamura in France to Selena Gomez in the United States, pop stars are increasing their collaborations with Nigerians, like Rema or Burna Boy. Report from Lagos, the economic capital of Africa's most populous country, to understand how Afrobeats has been exported around the world.

Web site: <https://www.lesechos.fr/weekend/spectacles-musique/afrobeats-les-nigerians-nouveaux-rois-de-lindustrie-musicale-2086814>

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### **Rachid Taha in 1985: “Charles Trenet, can we sing it?”**

Aya Nakamura is expected to perform songs by Edith Piaf at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympic Games. This rumor created controversy, with some not considering it up to par with French musical heritage. And this is not the first time that the most conservative fringes have taken offense at these covers of major French titles by popular musicians from immigrant backgrounds. In the 1980s, the rock group Carte de Séjour performed “Douce France” by Charles Trenet and denounced racism.

Web site: <https://www.ina.fr/ina-eclaire-actu/douce-france-carte-de-sejour-reprise-musique-marche-contre-le-racisme>

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## **F.4 The Prince Claus Fund**

### **2024 Call for Applications Mentorship Building Beyond by the Prince Claus Fund**

Are you an artist, designer, or creative mid-career stage professional with ±7-15 years of experience in architecture, design, spatial practice, public space, and urban communities and are committed to (re)envisioning the future of the African cities? Then this open call is for you! Cities play a foundational role in the cultivation of identities that define the human experience. As urban challenges intensify worldwide, the urgency for innovative solutions is particularly pronounced across the African continent. Over the course of a year, 12 Awardees will participate in peer group discussions, masterclasses, and two intensive Lab Weeks — in Africa

and the Netherlands, and the support of a €10,000 grant and mentorship to support the development of the proposed project that addresses the challenges and prospects of their city's public spaces and communities. The deadline for the submissions is 14 May 2024 at 17.00 Amsterdam time. Learn more at <https://princeclausfund.org/open-calls/call-for-applications-building-beyond-2024>

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## **F.5 News from Africalia**

### **International Decade of the United Nations for People of African Descent**

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly declared the International Decade for People of African Descent in its resolution A/RES/68/237. The announced goal was, in conjunction with the Durban Declaration and Program of Action and the International Day of People of African Descent observed in 2011, to provide “a solid framework enabling the United Nations, Member States, society civil society and relevant actors to join forces with those of people of African descent and to take concrete measures for the implementation of the program of activities in a spirit of recognition, justice and development”.

This Decade will end on December 31, 2024. Although few actions have been implemented in our territory during this Decade, the questions raised by the Decade are not absent in Belgium. This is why Africalia this year invited artists and project leaders to look into the contributions and contributions of people of African descent to Belgian society in the artistic, political, academic and scientific, professional, cultural and social fields, etc. Source: <https://africalia.be/appel-a-propositions-2024-programme-belgique/>

Web site: <https://africalia.be/>

Contact: <https://africalia.be/contact/>

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## **F.6 Ettijahat - Independent Culture, Ettijahat Newsletter**

### **Douroub Framework: Supported Entities in 2024 in the Field of Intangible Cultural Heritage**

In 2024, we launched a framework to support and empower financial and institutional knowledge for entities and SMEs working in the fields of the intangible cultural heritage of Syria, mainly located in Syria and Lebanon. This component aims to provide institutional support, enable program design and management expertise, documentation and archiving skills, and promote the basic principles of heritage conservation which include ensuring active engagement with local communities, social impact, sustainable and non-exploitative economic integration, etc. Learn more at <https://ettijahat.org/page/1512?lang=1#gsc.tab=0>

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### **Apply to the Sixth Edition (2024 – 2025) of AJYAL: Programme to Support Arts Education**

We continue to receive your applications to the sixth edition of AJYAL: A Programme to Support Arts Education. The programme targets young Syrian and Palestinian-Syrian art students who wish to enrol in BA or MA (or alternate equivalent certification) applied arts programmes exclusively inside Syria. Support is provided to students enrolled in undergraduate programmes at intermediate and higher-level institutions. AJYAL also provides support to students enrolled in bachelor degrees throughout the academic year through to graduation. The primary aim of AJYAL is to provide educational access to various art disciplines for young Syrian students by covering either part or the entirety of the costs of their study programmes. Application deadline 08 May 2024. Source: <https://ettijahat.org/page/1512?lang=1#gsc.tab=0>

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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