

Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

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



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

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Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa



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Editorial

World Art Day

The presence of art in human life - in other words, the effort to re-create - is so obvious that we're tempted to see it as an integral part of our very being.

Art is present at every stage of life, from birth to death, and throughout life on earth, in education, where we campaign for the generalization of art education. In business and the professions, where the focus on the cultural and creative industries is greater than ever, demonstrating their impact on the economy and the social status of creators.

Thus, the arts, their knowledge, appreciation and even sometimes their practice are always counted among the qualities of a young person considered as accomplished, as a cultivated man, as a civilized man or woman.

In instituting a World Art Day, to be celebrated on April 15 each year, UNESCO is proposing that the community of nations take this opportunity to highlight the role played by art in supporting creativity and innovation, and in raising awareness of the world's cultural diversity. The resulting sharing of knowledge, the encouragement of curiosity and the promotion of dialogue between artistic traditions bring immediate benefits to this celebration.

In 2025, we can count on our fingertips the countries in Africa, for example, that have registered significant artistic activities for the event. Perhaps in the regular periodic revision of national cultural policy documents, we'd do well to accord these artistic celebrations the same importance as we spontaneously give to sporting competitions.

Maputo, 26 avril 2025

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

H. Highlights

H.1 RICADIA webinars

Starting in May 2025, the Network of Cultural Institutions in Africa and the Diaspora (RICADIA) will be organizing a series of webinars. The first series, dedicated to presenting the initiatives of the network's member institutions, will be followed by thematic webinars on relevant topics related to the cultural challenges of the moment. The program of RICADIA Webinars will be widely circulated in order to attract significant participation from individuals and cultural institutions in Africa and the Diaspora.

H.2 UNESCO: 221st session of the Executive Board, April 2-17, 2025

The 221st session of the Executive Board from April 2-17, 2025. The first meeting of the Bureau within the framework of the 221st session of the Executive Board took place on Wednesday April 2, 2025 at 10am.

Source:

https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2025/04/221_bureau_0303_fr.pdf?hub=421

A. News from the Secretariat

A.1 Activities of the Executive Director and Deputy Research Coordinator

a) The first quarterly meeting of the executive secretariat could only be held on April 6, January having been devoted to the annual vacation and the following period marked by the bereavement which had struck the OCPA.

The major decision of this staff meeting, in addition to the allocation of program activities over the year, was the forthcoming convening of the 2nd regional conference, the supreme body of the OCPA, which could be held in the early days of 2026.

b) The appointment and inauguration of the new government of the OCPA host country, Mozambique, following the general elections in October 2024, gave rise to protocol and service contacts.

c) On the occasion of the week dedicated to the Francophonie, the Executive Director took part in a special Round Table led by the highest political and diplomatic authorities in Maputo, organized by the embassies of French-speaking countries at the Franco-Mozambican Centre in Maputo. On the sidelines of the formal meeting, he exchanged views with official partners on potential cooperation in various cultural projects and programs.

d) Later, on April 17, by invitation, he took part in a film screening at the Camoes Institute, Portuguese Cultural Center, of BRISA SOLAR, a film by Anna Pissaras and Jose Nascimento, an overview of Maputo and Beira, a land of Monuments and Architecture.

e) On April 16, Mr. Mbuyamba took part in an online interview devoted to a free assessment of successful cultural policies by African region, a task carried out at the request of the African Development Bank by Ms. Johanna Kouzmine Karavaief of the Brussels-based NGO Africa Creative Alliances, a candidate partner of OCPA.

f) With Professor Ribio Nzeza, Director of the Culture Department at Senghor University in Alexandria, an exchange took place on a proposal for the joint organization by the University, OCPA and the African Union, in Alexandria, in 2026, of an International Colloquium on the African Cultural Charter (of 1976, no longer in force) and the Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance (which succeeded it in 2006).

g) From March 26 to April 06, 2025, the OCPA Deputy Research Coordinator visited Liège in Belgium and Biella in Italy, at the invitation of the University of Liège and the Pacefuturo Association respectively. In Liège, Belgium, from March 26 to 30, 2025, he took part in the 42nd edition of the Rencontres Internationales du Théâtre Universitaires (RITU 42) festival, and in a symposium on the theme 'Hériter, raconter, transmettre', organized by the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche en Théâtre et Société (CERTES). In Italy, on April 04, 2025, at the headquarters of the Pacefuturo Association, Dr Hamadou MANDÉ led a live conference on the situation in the Sahel, broadcast via social networks. The day before the conference, he led a social art theater workshop for African, Arab and Asian immigrants welcomed by the association.

A.2 News from RICADIA'S members

a) Groupe Kôre Art et Culture's (GKAC) new cultural season

On April 12, 2025, Groupe Kôre Art et Culture (GKAC) celebrated its 2025-2026 cultural season with great pomp and ceremony at the Centre Culturel Kôre (CCK) in Ségou. A solemn ceremony under the banner of cultural renewal, attended by the representative of the Head of State, Aguibou Dembélé, the General Secretary of the Fondation Festival sur le Niger, Attaher Maïga, cultural players, and the National Director of Cultural Action, Alamouta Danioko, representing the Minister in charge of Culture.

Mr Danioko praised GKAC's dynamism and professionalism, pointing out that this new season symbolically marks the kick-off of an ambitious cultural season tailored to the expectations of the Malian public. "The 2025-2026 cultural program is the fruit of a fruitful three-way partnership between the Fondation Festival sur le Niger, the Centre Culturel Kôre and the Institut Kôre des Arts et Métiers (IKAM). A collaboration that has produced convincing results in the short and medium term", he asserted.

Attaher Maïga, Secretary General of the Festival sur le Niger Foundation, announced the 2^e edition of the Salon des Industries Culturelles et Créatives de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (SICCAO), the season's flagship event, organized in partnership with Réseau Kya.

Source : <https://bamada.net/la-rentree-culturelle-2025-2026-du-groupe-kore-art-et-culture-gkac-sest-ouverte-en-grande-pompe-le-12-avril-2025-au-centre-culturel-kore-cck-de-segou>

b) CERDOTOLA at the Paris Book Fair

The Centre International de Recherche et de Documentation sur les Traditions et les Langues Africaines (CERDOTOLA) took part in the Salon du Livre Africain in Paris from March 14 to 16, 2025. It presented its international journal of science and culture entitled "**Nouvelle Pensée Africaine**".

Source : <https://cerdotola.org/2025/03/12/le-salon-du-livre-africain-de-paris-accueille-le-cerdotola/7702>

c) CAC, Capitales africaines de la culture, has published its program of activities for 2025, including the 8th edition of SICADIA, a summit of RICADIA member cultural institutions, scheduled for the last quarter of the year in Rabat, Morocco.

d) SILANG, for its part, has already set the agenda for its 6th edition, scheduled to take place at Ouagadougou's Joseph Ki-Zerbo University from November 6 to 8, 2025, including an international scientific symposium for which the call for papers has gone out.

The theme of the conference is : LANGUAGES, IDENTITIES AND SOVEREIGNTIES.

A.3 News from other partners

a) UNESCO has just launched a call for scientific contributions to consolidate its digital archives on the occasion of the forthcoming 3rd World Conference, MONDIACULT, on cultural policies and sustainable development, whose 8 sub-themes are available on the Organization's website. OCPA will take part in this exercise.

b) The African Union, which held a session of its Executive Council in April, continued the series of appointments to the management positions at the Commission that remained vacant after the recent elections to the Union's executive and leadership positions. The next date for the STP meeting involving the Ministries of Youth, Culture and Sport, to which the OCPA has presented its biannual report since its creation, is due to be announced shortly.

c) Finally, there's always that other category of non-institutional partners, but no less real and effective, known, appreciated and influential, with unquestionable authority in their field of expertise. In the field of literature and books, it's Rosny and the 4th edition of the Festival international du livre gabonais et des arts already underway in Libreville. In the field of painting, George Camille decorated the pediment of the Seychelles pavilion at the Osaka Universal Exhibition. Last but not least, Yacouba Konate, in his temple at the Rotonde des arts contemporains, is currently opening the "Inspirations Kourouma" exhibition at the Plateau in Abidjan.

B. News, events and cultural projects in Africa

B.1 Burkina Faso: 3rd edition of Burkinabè Heritage Month: Burkinabè invited to engage fervently in the discovery and rediscovery of the national heritage

The launch ceremony for the 3rd edition of Burkinabe Heritage Month took place this Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the Place de la Mairie Centrale in Bobo-Dioulasso, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Rimtalba Jean Emmanuel OUEÐRAOGO, Prime Minister, Head of Government.

Placed under the Very High Patronage of His Excellency the President of Faso, Head of State, Captain Ibrahim TRAORÉ, the event takes place from April 18 to May 18, 2025, under the theme "Cultural Heritage and Economic Development".

Members of government, presidents of institutions, honourable members of the Transitional Legislative Assembly, regional authorities, diplomatic and consular representatives, customary and religious authorities, and many other personalities took part in the ceremony.

It was marked by performances by artists, speeches and the installation of the Ambassadors of the 3rd edition of Burkinabe Heritage Month.

During the ceremony, Prime Minister Rimtalba Jean Emmanuel OUEDRAOGO installed the ambassadors for the 3rd edition of Burkinabe Heritage Month. They are director Apolline TRAORÉ, director Dani KOUYATÉ, actor Rasmané OUEÐRAOGO di Raso, and KAYAWOTO artist Abdoul KABORÉ.

Source: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article137522>

B.2 Burkina Faso: Kundé 2025: A great show, according to the organizers

On Friday April 25, 2025, the 23rd edition of the Kundé will be held at the Salle des banquets in Ouaga 2000. A week before the event, the organizers were in front of the press in Ouagadougou, to give an update on the organization and at the same time present the articulations of this music festival. As usual, the evening will be broadcast live on RTB. A total of 15 prizes will be awarded, including 10 main prizes and 5 special prizes. In addition, there will be Kundé d'honneur and Kundé d'hommage. Guest artists include the Orange Music Talent collective, Awa Boussim, Roger Wango, Zedess from Burkina Faso and artists from other African countries: Makoma (DR Congo/Netherlands), Sitany Neil (Congo), Espoir 2000/Pat Sako (Côte d'Ivoire), etc.

Source: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article137505>

B.3 Cameroon: First Short- Yaoundé Panafrican School Film Festival 2025.

The 11th edition of the Yaoundé Pan-African School Film Festival (First Short) will take place from April 23 to 26, 2025 in Yaoundé Sita Bella. The festival's general delegate Césaire Mouté faced the media at the Mozart district cultural center, to present the 11th edition of the festival and its innovations. Created in 2014 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the First Short-Festival Panafricain de films école de Yaoundé is an international festival rooted in the cultural landscape and practices of the city of Yaoundé. The event is organized by the CINEVISION Association with the support of the Ministry of Arts and Culture and numerous international and local partners.

Source: <https://www.firstshort.org/>

B.4 Cape Verde: Atlantic Music Expo, a festival of tradition and modernity

The Atlantic Music Expo (AME), a major event in the music industry, was held in Praia, the capital of Cape Verde. The event brought together Atlantic talent for a cultural exchange between music from both shores.

In a year marked by the 50th anniversary of the country's independence, the AME was an opportunity to celebrate the Cape Verdean music scene and showcase a new generation of artists.

Among these young talents, Diego Gomes, aka Dieg, is a spokesman for modern Cape Verdean culture. Originally from the island of São Vicente, Dieg embodies the country's musical evolution. He expresses his vision of Cape Verde through music, an art that has shaped the national identity. "Our country is music," he asserts, underlining the importance of artists like Cesária Évora, a legendary figure and source of inspiration for current generations. "Music is our greatest wealth," he adds. This observation echoes the reality of the country, which, despite the absence of natural resources such as oil, makes music a vector of identity and global influence.

Source : <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/04/12/cap-vert-latlantique-music-expo-un-festival-entre-tradition-et-modernite/>

B.5 Central African Republic: "Ecrire à Bangui" 2025 workshop: six African countries eligible for the session.

This year, the number of countries taking part in the "Ecrire à Bangui" workshop has been increased from four to six. Alongside the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and Cameroon have now been added, whose young filmmakers can apply to benefit from this capacity-building program. The "Ecrire à Bangui" workshop is an initiative of Pascale Appora under the aegis of the Lê Tî Bêafrica association, with the support of partner French embassies. Since its launch, it has been helping to equip budding scriptwriters and directors with a sense of artistic creativity, knowledge and mastery of cinematic storytelling, and the ability to turn an idea into a film. The aim behind the workshop is to reinforce the dynamism of working and sharing between film players on the African continent. At the same time, this workshop is also an opportunity to coach participants on how to develop film projects, make clear choices about the subjects to be dealt with, and capture the attention of producers, turners and patrons of the arts in order to take their work to the international stage.

The call for applications for the "Ecrire à Bangui 2025" program is open until April 30. The documents to be submitted by each candidate include an autobiography, an idea for a film of no more than three pages, a note of intent, a portrait photo of the candidate, proof of nationality and a valid passport. All this information must be sent in a single file to the following address: letibeafrica@gmail.com.

Source: <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/atelier-ecrire-bangui-2025-six-pays-africains-eligibles-la-session-163821>

B.6 Ivory Coast: FEMUA 2025 concerts, road safety and Guinean culture at the heart of the event

Tuesday April 15, 2025 marked the official opening of the 17th edition of the Festival des Musiques Urbaines d'Anoumabo (FEMUA) at the INJS in Marcory. This year's edition features a rich palette of activities, in addition to the much-anticipated live concerts.

Source: <https://www.afrique-sur7.fr/femua-2025-concerts-securite-routiere-et-culture-guineenne-au-coeur-de-levenement>

B.7 Ivory Coast: Djéguélé Festival 2025: Balafon fervor celebrated in Boundiali

Djéguélé Festival, the international balafon festival in northern Côte d'Ivoire, once again lived up to its promise. From April 5 to 12, 2025, this traditional musical instrument of the Senoufo people was celebrated along with its history.

According to festival director Dodo KONE, the event went off without a hitch. Like the live concerts at the Boundiali municipal stadium, which attracted a large number of young people throughout the evening. Performances by the Ivorian group KBL Katana club and Kantigui from Orodara (Burkina Faso) were particularly well received. The highlight of the final evening was a performance by Malian Molobali Kéita, who closed the festival with his hit "Tchimidjama.

Source: <https://www.abidjanshow.com/news/actu/277771-djeguele-festival-2025-le-balafon-a-ete-celebree-dans-la-ferveur-a-boundiali>

B.8 Ivory Coast: Abidjan celebrates free and committed jazz

The Abidjan Capital of Jazz Festival returns with an exceptional lineup. On April 5, Cheick Tidiane Seck will set the Palais de la Culture ablaze, followed on April 10 by the Women in Jazz evening at Sony Music Africa in Abidjan. The Abidjan Capital of Jazz Festival, an essential event in the Ivorian music scene, is offering this year a concise yet powerful program, centered around two major events: a concert by the Malian master Cheick Tidiane Seck and an evening dedicated to the female voices of jazz.

Source: <https://mondafrique.com/international/abidjan-capitale-du-jazz-le-5-avril/>

B.9 Gabon: Celebration of World Art Day

From March 27 to 28, 2025, Gabon celebrated World Art Day under the banner of promoting Gabon's cultural and artistic heritage. These days of art and culture, themed "The Perspective of the Artist and the Cultural Actor in the Era of Transition," were marked by performances by artists and sales exhibitions.

Sources: <https://letouracovert.com/culture-journees-de-lart-et-de-la-culture/>
https://youtube.com/watch?v=MnuB_fOed2s&feature=shared

B.10 Mali: The traditional Kouroubi dance revitalized in Sikasso

The traditional Kouroubi dance in Sikasso, Mali, has been revitalized after a twenty-year hiatus by the ministry responsible for culture. It was on the occasion of the Mali 2025 culture project, the year of culture, that this activity resurfaced to the delight of the Malians, particularly in the city of Sikasso. In front of several local authorities, about fifteen girls dressed in traditional attire and accompanied by elderly women danced the Kouroubi.

The Kouroubi is a traditional royal dance from Sikasso. It is exhilarating and forges tenacity and bravery. These anecdote-filled songs are a true testament to the rich heritage associated with the legendary tales surrounding the kingdom of Kénédougou. This traditional dance is part of the strong cultural identities of the Sikasso region that the Culture Mali 2025 project aims to revitalize.

Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/minist%C3%A8re-de-la-culture-r%C3%A9publique-du-mali_2025anneedelacultureaumali-ugcPost-7311138044462419969-F06t?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAABdshUcB7kSmGyoO07zxVDmOWwW49NhOIYYpour

B.11 Nigeria: EKO International Film Festival 2025. from April 21 to 26, 2025. Lagos.

The Eko International Film Festival (EKOIFF) is an international film festival that takes place annually in the coastal megacity of Lagos, in the southwest of Nigeria. The 15th edition will take place from April 21 to 26, 2025.

It was founded and created by Hope Obioma Opara in 2009, and Hope Obioma Opara is also the CEO of Supple Communications Limited, under which the festival is held. He is also the editor of Supple magazine, a magazine dedicated to film festivals and culture in Africa that features premieres and film reviews as well as interviews on www.supplemagazine.org.

The mission of the Eko International Film Festival is to promote the appreciation of arts and culture through the arts and sciences of cinema and to develop tourism in Nigeria.

The Eko International Film Festival is owned (trademark and copyright) and organized by Supple Communications Limited.

The inaugural edition took place in the megacity of Lagos during the summer, from July 7 to 12, 2010, at Genesis Deluxe Cinemas of The Palms in Lekki, Lagos, with filmmakers from Nigeria and around the world. The subsequent editions took place at the Silverbird Cinemas in the Silverbird Galleria on Victoria Island, Lagos. Until today

Source: <https://filmmakers.festhome.com/fr/festival/eko-international-film-festival>

B.12 DRC: The Comedian Mamane in Kinshasa

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, more than 1,300 people gathered under the Grande Halle of the French Institute of Kinshasa to enjoy the mischievous and unique humor of Mamane, the Nigerien comedian better known by his title as the Founder President of Gondwana. Before this memorable show, the Nigerien comedian was received in an audience on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, by the Minister of Culture, Arts, and Heritage of the DRC, Mrs. Yolande Elebe Ma Ndembo. He was accompanied by the Congolese comedian Ronsia.

Source: <https://www.eventsrdc.com/humour-mamane-brille-avec-histoire-pas-drole-de-lafrique-a-linstitut-francais-de-kinshasa/>

B.13 Senegal: Tucheze Festival: the lagoon of Somone to the rhythm of modern Africa.

On April 5 and 6, the Somone Lagoon in Senegal will host the Tucheze Festival, a vibrant celebration of Afro-modern sounds featuring major artists like Fally Ipupa, Oumou Sangaré, and Samba Peuzzi. For two days, the Somone Lagoon will vibrate to the rhythm of contemporary Africa. On April 5th and 6th, the Tucheze Festival will bring together iconic figures of Afro-modern music on stage, in a setting of breathtaking natural beauty. Driven by a desire to blend genres, generations, and territories, this young Senegalese festival is already establishing itself as a promising event on the West African music scene. The lineup for this edition is ambitious. Starting with the presence of Fally Ipupa, a Congolese superstar whose stage charisma and warm voice have conquered Africa and beyond. Alongside him, Oumou Sangaré, the Malian diva and tireless activist, will bring her vocal power and commitment to the Tucheze stage.

Source: <https://www.seneguide.com/blog/tucheze-festival-2025>

B.14 Chad: Koura Gosso 9 Festival

The Koura Gosso 9 Festival (FKG9) was held in Moundou from April 2 to 12, 2025. It was hosted under the patronage of Ms. Ndolénodji Alixe Naïmbaye, Minister of Petroleum, Mines and Geology, and Provincial Councilor of Logone Occidental. This edition's theme was "Heritage and Modernity: Building the Future by Valorizing Our Roots." Several activities were scheduled, including concerts and popular events, street arts, professional training, meetings and conferences, and more.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1EQp8uYK6k/>

B.15 Togo: Revitalizing the Giant Puppet Tradition

In Lomé, Kafui Dogbe and his team are repurposing recycled materials into giant puppets. This activity is a passion for communicating through the arts. Thus, with his team, through the Géants Arts association, they use used objects to create giant puppets. *"Actually, I'm a lover of art in general. After my studies in communications, I was looking to make a connection between my training and art. And during my travels, I encountered giant puppets."* I thought, *"Ah, this is something that allows me to innovate in both communication and artistic performance,"* she says.

In 2023, their work was awarded a silver medal at the Francophone Games. To preserve this endangered art form, Kafui launched the Biennale of Public Space Arts, an initiative that has been bringing life to the streets of Togo for two years.

Source: <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/04/09/au-togo-kafui-dogbe-revitalise-la-tradition-des-marionnettes-geantes/>

C. News on Cultural Policies, Institutions, and Resources in Africa

C.1 Burkina Faso: Transitional Legislative Assembly: Draft Law on the Status of Artists Adopted

Under the chairmanship of the Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Ousmane Bougouma, the Transitional Legislative Assembly adopted the draft law on the status of artists on the morning of March 27, 2025.

This bill falls within the legislative scope defined by Article 101 of the Constitution, particularly with regard to "the organization of production," which naturally encompasses artistic production, and "the integration of national cultural values," considering the essential role of artists in the preservation and dissemination of Burkinabe cultural heritage.

This bill thus includes the following innovations:

- Strengthening the legal force by transitioning it from a decree to a law;
- Introducing and clarifying certain common concepts in the artistic environment;
- Defining the role of stakeholders;
- expanding the scope of the law, which now includes artistic collaborators and the modalities of artistic activity in Burkina Faso;
- taking into account the protection of the rights of child artists and artists with disabilities;
- strengthening provisions on tax and social security measures for artists and cultural professionals;
- taking into account the organization and regulation of artistic activity in Burkina Faso;
- defining prohibitions and related sanctions in the event of violation of the provisions of the law.

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1078106937678008&id=100064361365307&rdid=TbGRAnIXG0a1Qrtm#

C.2 Morocco-Burkina Faso: Morocco Offers 23 Scholarships to the Pan-African Federation of Film and Audiovisual Schools

The Pan-African Federation of Film and Audiovisual Schools held a consultation and planning meeting with the Higher Institute of Audiovisual and Cinema Professions of Morocco (ISMAC – Dakhla branch) from April 13 to 16 in Dakhla (southern Morocco). The meeting was marked by the awarding of 20 undergraduate scholarships and three master's scholarships by the Institute to member schools of the Federation, which is chaired by Burkina Faso.

"The Dakhla meeting aims to address the schools' primary concern, which is student mobility in Africa. In this regard, Morocco is offering 20 first-year undergraduate scholarships to study at ISMAC Dakhla and 3 master's scholarships for ISMAC Rabat," said Dr. Bangbi Francis Frédéric Kaboré, President of the Executive Committee of the Pan-African Federation of Film and Audiovisual Schools.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/fr-xl/afrique-de-l-ouest/burkina-faso-actualite/le-maroc-offre-23-bourses-%C3%A0-la-f%C3%A9d%C3%A9ration-panafricaine-des-%C3%A9coles-de-cin%C3%A9ma-et-de-l-audiovisuel/ar-AA1D8Igs>

C.3 Mali: The Balafon Makes History with its UNESCO Inscription

Great news for Mali! The balafon, an emblematic musical instrument of the Senufo communities, has just been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This international recognition underscores the importance of this cultural heritage for countries that use it as a traditional musical instrument. This news has delighted all the actors and artists whose music is accompanied by this now historic instrument. It is also a way to strengthen traditional music, especially African music, by giving it a prominent place.

The renowned Malian balafonist Souleymane Traoré, known as "Néba Solo," reacted to this news: "*We are very happy with this news. It will allow those who did not attach enough importance to the balafon to take care of this musical instrument and encourage others to take an interest in it.*"

Source: <https://www.studiotamani.org/178122-le-balafon-instrument-de-musique-et-tresor-culturel-reconnu-par-lunesco>

C.4 IFCD 2025: A Strategic Opportunity to Transform Cultural and Creative Industries

UNESCO announces the opening of its 16th call for applications for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), an initiative designed to support innovative projects in developing countries. Proposals are being accepted from March 19 to May 21. This fund embodies a clear ambition: to strengthen creative industries while stimulating the diversity of cultural expressions.

The IFCD offers public institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders in the cultural sector a unique opportunity to play a central role in transforming local and regional cultural industries. Its action is based on two pillars: the implementation of sustainable cultural policies and institutional capacity building, enabling the structuring of projects that promote the creation, production, distribution, and access to a wide variety of cultural goods and services. These approaches are designed to generate a measurable and lasting impact in beneficiary communities, while fostering cultural entrepreneurship and innovation.

Source: <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/fidc-2025-une-opportunite-strategique-pour-transformer-les-industries-culturelles-et>

C.5: Indian Ocean Commission

The 5th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Indian Ocean Commission will be held on April 24 in Madagascar under the theme "Food Security and Sovereignty for the Development of the Indian Ocean Market."

Source: https://www.commissionoceanindien.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/250314_Comunique-de-presse_Annonce-SOMMET-COI.pdf

C.6 Conference "Media and Cultural Production Platforms in the Middle East and North Africa" - Marrakech, Morocco, April 9-10, 2025.

In a context where digital streaming platforms are redefining the ways in which we access culture, information, and entertainment, it is essential to unpack the multiple facets of this ongoing platformization. It is equally necessary to place this platformization within the broader framework of the spaces where these cultural goods circulate.

This conference is an extension of two scientific initiatives focusing on cultural industries in the MENA region.

Source: <https://www.afeccav.org/colloque-international-plateformes-de-production-mediatique-et-culturelle-au-moyen-orient-et-en-afrique-du-nord-9-10-avril-2025-esav-marrakech/>

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

D.1 Vues d'Afrique 2025: A Festival Listening to the World and African Voices

From April 3 to 13, 2025, Montreal will host the 41st edition of the Vues d'Afrique International Film Festival, a must-see event for African and Creole cinema in North America. True to its mission since 1985, the festival once again celebrates the rich perspectives and stories from the African continent, the Caribbean, and diasporas, while encouraging intercultural and artistic exchanges.

Held at the Cinéma du Parc, the festival offers a rich and engaging selection of 86 works (70 international and 16 Canadian) representing 32 countries, with near parity between female directors (47%) and male directors (53%). Presented by Quebecor, this edition opened with Ludovic Bernard's "Ici et là-bas," a dramatic comedy starring Ahmed Sylla and Hakim Jemili, which sets the tone for a festival combining artistic excellence and accessibility. Vues d'Afrique 2025 establishes itself as an essential space for thinking differently about the world, through the perspectives of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Source: <https://souffleinedit.com/agenda-culturel/vues-dafrique-2025/>

D.2 Figas 2025: A gathering to celebrate the cultures of Africa and its diaspora

The 9th edition of the Figas International Festival, organized by Afrik'consult culture, will be held in Blois, France, from July 18 to 20, preceded by #InstantsFigas on July 16 and 17. This event provides a platform for professionals in the cultural sector to participate in gatherings focused on artistic creation, cultural development, and entrepreneurship, while highlighting African cultures and their diaspora. Applications are open until April 30.

Afrik'consult culture is leading the initiative with the objective of promoting African cultures and those of the diaspora by giving them visibility on the international stage. Founded in 2017, the festival is part of an effort to showcase creative voices from the continent and foster intercultural exchanges. Over the years, Figas has become an essential event that promotes artistic innovation and strengthens ties between Africa and the rest of the world.

Programmers, journalists, media outlets, cultural entrepreneurs, and other professionals passionate about the diversity and blending of African cultures are invited to join this edition. The key theme, "All of Africa," will be the focus of the discussions and exchanges scheduled for July 19 and 20. These sessions, led by industry experts and introduced by young African festival directors, will highlight the opportunities offered by the cultural and creative industries and their impact on economic and artistic development on a global scale.

Professionals wishing to participate must submit their applications via an online registration form, while providing supporting documents attesting to their status in the cultural field.

Since its inception, the Figas Festival has established itself as a platform fostering synergy between innovation and African cultural traditions. Its previous editions have played a key role in promoting the continent's cultural diversity, while highlighting the essential role of young talent and entrepreneurs in promoting this wealth. Figas 2025 intends to continue this mission by offering participants a space for dialogue, discovery and international opportunities.

Source: <https://www.adiac-congo.com/content/figas-2025-une-rencontre-pour-celebrer-les-cultures-dafrique-et-de-sa-diaspora-164196>

D.3 The African Society Awards 2025 on April 4 in Dublin

On April 4, Dublin will host the African Society Awards 2025, an annual ceremony celebrating the talents and initiatives of the African diaspora in Ireland. An evening of recognition, culture, and pride, driven by committed youth.

The African Society Awards 2025 will be held in the elegant setting of the Clayton Hotel Liffey Valley on April 4. For several years, this event, organized by Seventeen Entertainment, has established itself as a must-attend event for the African diaspora in Ireland, bringing together students, artists, entrepreneurs, activists, and community figures. More than an awards ceremony, it is a festive manifesto, a celebration of plurality, excellence, and African heritage in a country where immigrant communities are increasingly shaping the cultural landscape.

Source: <https://mondafrique.com/loisirs-culture/la-semaine-culturelle-africaine-4-11-avril-en-sept-moments-forts/>

D.4 USA: Tribute to Professor Anita M. Diop

The city of Detroit honored Professor Anita M. Diop, Director of African Roots in the USA and Member of RICADIA, with the Resolution of Testimonies on March 29, 2025, for her dedication to the preservation of culture and heritage.

Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-roots-and-heritage-foundation_the-city-of-detroit-honored-professor-anita-activity-7312126057266958336-2-vA?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAABdshUcB7kSmGyoO07zxVDmOWwW49NhOIYYELLE

D.5 Burna Boy at the Stade de France: Afrobeat Makes History

On April 18, 2025, Burna Boy became the first African artist to sell out the Stade de France alone. A historic moment for African music and Afrobeat, now a must-see worldwide. A historic concert for Afrobeat.

Source: <https://www.africaradio.com/actualite-109388-burna-boy-au-stade-de-france-l-afrobeat-entre-dans-l-histoire>

D.6 Italy: Ten Years of Stories and Imagination: The Program of the 10th Edition of Triestebookfest

The program of the 10th edition of the Trieste Bookfest was presented on Friday, April 18, 2025, during a press conference held at the Civic Museum of Oriental Art by Giorgio Rossi, Councilor for Cultural and Tourism Policies, and Maurizio De Blasio, Councilor for Educational and Family Policies, in the presence of Lorian Ursich, President and Artistic Director of the Triestebookfest cultural association, and Angela Del Prete, Vice President.

Source: <https://lamilano.it/fr/Trieste/dix-ans-d%27histoires-et-d%27imagination-le-programme-de-la-10e-%C3%A9dition-du-triestebookfest/>

E. Cultural Information in the African Press

E.1 Côte d'Ivoire in the Spotlight at African Cinema Days 2025 in Paris

The 4th edition of African Cinema Days, organized by Cinewax and the Cinémathèque Afrique, brought together over 600 participants in Paris. This year, the focus was on Côte d'Ivoire, with a rich program of films, youth activities, and a festive atmosphere lasting into the early hours. The festivities began at the Club de l'Étoile with a screening of *Bal Poussière* (1989), Henri Duparc's masterpiece. Restored for the occasion, this Ivorian comedy drew a moved audience, eager to rediscover a work that has marked the history of French-speaking cinema.

Source: <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/04/09/la-cote-divoire-a-lhonneur-des-african-cinema-days-2025-a-paris/>

E.2 DRC: Puppets to Raise Awareness of Global Warming

In the Kinshasa Botanical Garden, a theatrical performance featuring cardboard animal puppets raises awareness of the climate crisis. Entitled "The Herds," this production tells the story of animals forced to leave their natural habitat in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to global warming. They will be relocated to the Arctic Circle.

"Nature is very important to us. But humans tend to neglect it. So the main objective is to raise awareness among humans about a relationship, first with ourselves—we must be in harmony with each other—and also to live in harmony with nature. This is very important. We want to raise awareness about everything that's happening. You've seen the floods around the world, global warming, deforestation," said Tshoper Kabambi, producer of *The Herds* from the DRC.

A few meters away, part of the botanical garden is submerged. The massive flooding earlier this week, which rendered half the town inaccessible and killed dozens of people, brought *The Herds'* story back to life in a heartbreaking way.

Source: <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/04/11/rdc-des-marionettes-pour-sensibiliser-au-rechauffement-climatique/>

E.3 Morocco: Debate – "Culture is a right, not a luxury":

The CNDH calls for the integration of the culture of human rights into public policies in Morocco

The discussions addressed the essential question: to what extent do cultural policies in Morocco integrate a human rights-based approach? And what is needed to make culture an effective right guaranteed to all?

Source: <https://go.shr.lc/3S2oA3y>

E.4 Senegal: Senegal and Magic System: Cultural Collaboration in the Making

Senegal recently showcased its cultural potential at the 17th edition of the Anoumabo Urban Music Festival (FEMUA), held in Abidjan from April 15 to 20, 2025.

At this event, A'Salfo, spokesperson for the Magic System group, praised Senegalese cultural initiatives, including significant advances in copyright and innovative cultural policies.

Several cooperation projects were discussed during the festival, including the celebration of Magic System's 30th anniversary planned for Dakar.

Source: https://senego.com/le-senegal-et-magic-system-collaboration-culturelle-en-preparation_1828540.html

E.5 The fourth edition of the International Festival of Gabonese book and arts in Libreville

The Gabonese International Book and Arts Festival (FILIGA) will celebrate its 4th edition from May 29 to 31, 2025. It is at the crossroads of achievements concentrated over a year of work, meetings, and publications around a central theme: *"Cultural Intelligence in the Age of Digital Transformation."*

Founded in 2022, the festival offers a series of varied cultural activities this year. It stands out as a unique multidisciplinary event in Central Africa, combining richness and diversity of cultural offerings in the wonderful setting of a continent that is awakening. Among these, there are: 10 meetings and debates, 2 literary performance creations, 1 poetry and musical evening, 1 reading space, 2 open-air cinema screenings, 4

exhibitions, 1 concert, 1 tasting meeting, 2 hikes, 1 story writing workshop, 1 theater and literature workshop for children and finally 2 bookstores.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1D246sTtJc/>

F. News from other networks' bulletins and information services

F.1 ECOWAS: The organization launches its Golden Jubilee celebration on April 22, 2025, in Accra, Ghana

Founded on May 28, 1975, in Lagos, Nigeria, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will officially launch its Golden Jubilee celebration on April 22, 2025, in Accra, Ghana.

Ghana's President, John Dramani Mahama, will kick off the activities as part of this celebration.

The program for this launch ceremony will include "the presentation of the ECOWAS Golden Jubilee logo and theme, and artistic and cultural performances that will recall ECOWAS's journey since its creation in Lagos by the Founding Fathers, through its various reforms, to the successes and major achievements in the Member States." This event will mark the beginning of a series of activities that will take place in all the capitals of ECOWAS member states throughout 2025.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/RadarsBF/posts/cedeo-lorganisation-lance-lac%C3%A9l%C3%A9bration-de-son-jubil%C3%A9-dor-le-22-avril-2025-%C3%A0-1219706443492066/>

F.2 UNESCO invites Member States to contribute to the Digital Library for the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2025

UNESCO, for its side, has just launched a call for scientific contributions to consolidate its digital archives for the upcoming 3rd World Conference, MONDIACULT, on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, whose eight sub-themes are available on the Organization's website.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/mondiacult/digital-library>

F.3 New senior leadership of the African Union Commission

The African Union, which also held a session of its Executive Council in April, continued the process of appointing management positions within the Commission that remained vacant following the recent elections for the Union's leadership and management positions. It is expected to soon announce the next STP meeting, which brings together the Ministries of Youth, Culture, and Sports, the board to which OCPA presents its biannual report.

Source: <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20250313/new-senior-ledearship-african-union-commission-assumes-office>