

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



Editorial

The Music Festival

H. Headlines

H.1 OCPA:

- a) Rest in Power, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Kenyan writer
- b) Second and third sessions of the RICADIA webinar series

H.2 UNESCO:

- a) Tenth session of the Conference of the Parties
- b) UNESCO joined the African Union to commemorate Africa Day 2025

A. News from the Secretariat

A.1 News from the OCPA

A.2 Other OCPA partnerships

A.3 News from other RICADIA members

- a) Korè Art and Culture Group (GKAC)_Mali: West Africa Cultural and Creative Industries Fair
- b) African Roots and Heritage_USA: Juneteenth Celebrations: “Repairing the breach; reconnecting with our ancestral roots”

B. Cultural news, events and projects in Africa

B.1 Morocco:

- a) Mawazine, a diplomatic and musical showcase
- b) 25th Khouribga African Film Festival – FFICAK 2025

B.2 South Africa:

- a) Makhandia: The National Arts Festival, a stage for a society in motion
- b) ENCOUNTERS 2025 – South African International Documentary Festival

B.3 Burkina Faso:

- a) Popularization of the Law on the Status of the Artist
- b) Ouagadougou International Book Fair (FILO) / FILO 2025 Grand Book Prize
- c) Directory of surnames: 1,393 family names listed

B.4 Republic of the Congo: Pointe-Noire on Stage Festival 2025

B.5 Democratic Republic of the Congo: 4th edition of the Kinshasa Playwriting Meetings

B.6 Côte d’Ivoire: International Audiovisual Content Fair (SICA)

B.7 Mali: Validation workshop of the Framework Document of the national policy on culture, crafts and tourism

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

C.1 Development of cultural policies in Africa

C.2 Ethiopia: Call for applications_June 2025

C.3 Benin: Culture and development: A Strategic Development Plan 2025–2029 adopted

C.4 Burkina Faso: Call for applications for the selection of participants in the Arts and Culture Professions Forum

C.5 Tunisia: International Symposium "African Cultural Heritage and Digital Technologies"

C.6 Guinea: A call for projects to fund cultural and artistic initiatives

D. News, institutions and cultural events in other regions

D.1 France: Europe-Africa Festival 2025 in Truchtersheim

D.2 America: Two perspectives, one heritage: Chicago and Miami celebrate Afro-descendant cinema

D.3 Germany, Belgium and France: Festivals celebrating African culture

E. Cultural information in the African press

E.1 Morocco: Women honored at the Gnaoua Festival

E.2 Nigeria: Benin Bronzes: Nigeria recovers a piece of its history

E.3 Zambia: Creative Arts Summit in Lusaka

E.4 Namibia: Digital technologies in the service of African world heritage

F. News from other networks’ bulletins and information services

AfDB: Appointment of Mr. Sidi Ould Tah as President of the African Development Bank

XXX

The Music Festival

June 21 is widely known today as World Music Day, a date that marks the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and is considered the start of the holiday, leisure, and festival season. This tradition began in the 1980s, initiated by a brilliant artist, Jack Lang, a stage director and then Minister of Culture of France under the Socialist government that came into power in 1981 during François Mitterrand's presidency. From France, the festival gradually spread across the world.

However, what has been forgotten is that this celebration overshadowed October 1st, the International Music Day which still exists, but who remembers? initiated by the International Music Council, following a proposal from its Canadian committee and hosted by UNESCO.

It seems to us, however, that one should complement the other!

Indeed, while World Music Day is more about concerts and popular performances, the International Music Day, which was already celebrated more than ten years earlier in about 70 countries where the IMC has a committee, provided greater room for reflection through congresses on the artistic phenomenon, its meaning, role, and place in education and training, as well as its support and development.

On the other hand, when workshops accompany performances during World Music Day, they tend to focus more on themes such as production, distribution, and commercialization in short, on business. These are favored by organizers using terminology that clearly emphasizes the economic dimension of music and its contribution to national budgets. Just take a walk through the booths at music festival expos from AFRIMA in Lagos to VISA FOR MUSIC in Rabat, passing through FESPAM in Brazzaville and SAUTI ZA BUSARA in Zanzibar.

No doubt, the prevailing trend that strongly promotes the economic profitability of the cultural and creative industries plays a major role. But it should perhaps take into account the movement for the cultural, artistic, and musical renaissance of Africa.

In seeking to reconcile the two imperatives, perhaps we will inspire vocations among composers and creators who will produce original, long-lasting African "classical" works.

Their main characteristic will be creative freedom, and their achievement will be musical perfection. All the better if they also succeed in the market.

Maputo, June 25, 2025

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

H. Headlines

H.1 OCPA

a) Rest in Power, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o , Kenyan writer

A giant of African literature and one of the world's greatest writers has passed away in the United States after a long illness, at the age of 87. Sincere condolences to his family and loved ones around the world. Africa mourns the loss of an iconic figure in African literature, known for his works on colonialism, cultural identity, and social justice. In short, he was a fervent defender of the dignity of our peoples. His most famous novels include Weep Not, Child and Petals of Blood. Africa has lost a luminous conscience and a major literary voice.

Source: <https://ow.ly/z8gO50VMGoc>

b) Second Session of the RICADIA Webinar Series

The second webinar in the RICADIA series was held online on June 12, 2025, at 10:00 (UTC) via Zoom. This session, titled "Reparations: Acting for the African Cultural Renaissance", was introduced by Prof. Lupwishi MBUYAMBA and focused on the initiatives of RICADIA member institutions. Moderated by Dr. Hamadou MANDE, the panel featured five (5) organizations: SILANG, REPAC, CERAV/Africa, CIDC, and CNOA.

H.2 UNESCO:

a) Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties

The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from June 18 to 20, 2025.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the Convention's adoption, the Conference will bring together 157 States Parties and the European Union to assess progress in implementation and to establish a future roadmap. Parties will examine key reports on the activities of the Committee and Secretariat, as well as the quadrennial periodic reports. They will also evaluate the implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, including its third evaluation, and discuss the implementation of recommendations from the think tanks on the digital environment and preferential treatment for developing countries.

Moreover, the Conference will define strategic directions for the Intergovernmental Committee's future work in the 2026–2027 period. During this session, the Conference will also elect 12 new Committee members and decide on the revised version of its Rules of Procedure. Finally, strengthening collaboration with civil society actors engaged in the Convention's implementation will be a major topic, with the fifth edition of the Civil Society Forum scheduled for June 17, 2025, ahead of the opening of the Conference of the Parties.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/creativity/fr/statutory-meeting/tenth-session-conference-parties>

b) UNESCO joined the African Union to commemorate Africa Day 2025

On May 24, 2025, UNESCO proudly joined the African Union to celebrate Africa Day under a powerful theme: “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations,” with the sub-theme “Revisiting Our History, Shaping Our Future.”

This year's theme speaks not only of the past but also of the future, dignity, sovereignty, and the shared responsibility to rewrite Africa's historical narrative.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/fr/articles/lunesco-se-joint-lunion-africaine-pour-commemorer-la-journee-de-lafrique-2025>

A. News from the Secretariat

A.1 News from the OCPA

The month of June was marked by somewhat unique program activities for the OCPA Secretariat.

a) The key event in the network's operations was the organization, on June 12, of the 2nd RICADIA Webinar, successively led by CIDC of Mauritania, CERAV of Burkina Faso, CNOA of Benin, REPAC of Cameroon, and SILANG of Côte d'Ivoire.

A report on all three webinars will be produced by the Network Coordination, and a permanent exchange structure will be established to continue these discussions toward coordinated action.

b) Response to the invitation from the President of the Modern Arts Olympiads Movement

Following an invitation from Mr. Marc Verrière, President of the Modern Arts Olympiads Movement which recalls the ancient Greek celebrations similar to the Olympic Games and has been preparing a major launch for 30 years with UNESCO's support OCPA has agreed to contribute, during this revival phase, to the demonstration of the African arts and culture renaissance at the first global event, scheduled for 2027.

To this end, OCPA has begun mobilizing artists' associations in the five regions of the Continent and plans to hand over regional coordination, as soon as possible, to one of the RICADIA member institutions mandated for this purpose.

c) OCPA at the 50th Anniversary of Mozambique's Independence

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Mozambique's independence the host country of the OCPA Secretariat on June 25, the Secretariat decided to circulate one of its publications, A RICA NOSSA CULTURA, by Luis Bernardo Honwana, writer, former UNESCO official, and one of the country's first intellectuals, who had, as the first Secretary of State for Culture, produced a policy framework for Mozambique's nascent cultural strategy. This OCPA document was printed by the Ministry of Education in 2012.

d) Celebration of Mozambique's 50th Independence Anniversary

Ten days earlier, on June 14, Executive Director Lupwishi Mbuyamba and Deputy Coordinator for Research and Training, Esteve Filimao, participated in a dual book and music album launch. The book, *DIVERSIDADE CULTURAL E A CONSTRUÇÃO DA NAÇÃO*, and the album *AFRICA LAMUKA* were created by Dr. Isaù Menezes, former Deputy Director General of the Higher Institute of Art and Culture (ISaRC) of Mozambique, a partner of OCPA and a RICADIA member.

e) Participation of Maria Manjate, Programme Officer at the OCPA Secretariat, in a regional mobility program

From June 4 to 13, 2025, Maria Manjate, Programme Officer at the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA), took part in a regional mobility program of the exploration type. This mission, carried out in Madagascar, and involved a professional visit aimed at deepening knowledge of local cultural dynamics and exploring opportunities for collaboration in the field of cultural and creative industries. This mobility took place as part of AléVini (Cycle III), as part of a project led by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), to develop cultural and creative industries in African countries of the Indian Ocean. OCPA is a member of the consortium for this regional project.

A.2 Other OCPA Partnerships

a) With UNESCO

At the invitation of the NGO Liaison Committee in official relations with UNESCO, OCPA took part in a webinar on June 24 dedicated to internal communication issues and a consultation on program activities for the 2025–2026 biennium.

Additionally, UNESCO's Culture Sector confirmed the acceptance of the IOC/AFD project on CCIs to organize a side event during MONDIACULT, scheduled in Barcelona in September–October 2025. OCPA had been actively engaged in ensuring the success of this request.

b) With the African Union

At the request of the specialized agency for good governance, the APRM, the OCPA joined the team tasked with identifying and mobilizing tourism experts for a special mission on the island of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Furthermore, in order to contribute in a significant and meaningful way to the call of the Chairperson of the Commission, the OCPA has included in its annual activity program the organization of a Round Table on REPARATIONS, the theme chosen by the Assembly of Heads of State for the year 2025. This event will take place on October 27 and 28, 2025, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on the sidelines of the International Festival of Theatre and Puppets, FITMO.

A.3 News from RICADIA Members

a) Korè Art and Culture Group (GKAC) – Mali: West African Cultural and Creative Industries Fair

SICCAO 2025 will take place from October 23 to 25, 2025, in Ségou, Mali. SICCAO is an international platform for the exhibition and promotion of the cultural and creative industries of West Africa. It aims to create a space for exchange, sharing, and networking among creative sector professionals from West Africa in order to stimulate collaboration between stakeholders, practitioners, and cultural organizations, thus creating the opportunity to showcase best practices and innovations that could help boost the West African creative sector. It also contributes to the promotion of West African cultural content.

Source: <http://www.festivalsegou.org/siccao-31/>

b) African Roots and Heritage – USA: Juneteenth Celebrations: “Repairing the Breach; Reconnecting with Our Ancestral Roots”

Professor Anita M Diop, Executive Director of the African Roots and Heritage Foundation, invited dignitaries from Togo and Benin to discuss the theme: Repairing the Breach; Reconnecting with Our Ancestral Roots during the Juneteenth celebrations.

Honorable Mayor Gnavo Kouvou Messan of Togoville, Togo; Honorable Mayor Gunn Edoe of Agbodbaro, Togo; and Honorable Ahidedji Mandjoude Victor of Adjarra, Benin, will join us for this spectacular week of events.

Source: <https://africanrootsandheritagefoundation.org/>

B. News, Events, and Cultural Projects in Africa

B.1 Morocco:

a) Mawazine, a Diplomatic and Musical Showcase

In Rabat, from June 20 to 28, 2025, the Mawazine Festival will once again transform the Moroccan capital into a global stage. Created in 2001 through the initiative of the Maroc Cultures Foundation, the event has a dual ambition: to promote musical diversity and to strengthen the image of a modern, tolerant, and open Morocco. Supported by the royal palace, Mawazine is part of a deliberate soft power strategy.

Source: <https://newstop.africa/festivals-en-afrique-le-meilleur-de-juin-2025/>

b) 25th Khouribga International African Film Festival – FFICAK 2025

The 25th edition of the Khouribga International African Film Festival (FICAK) will be held from June 21 to 28 under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI in the city of the same name, located 120 km southeast of the economic capital Casablanca. The official jury for this edition will be chaired by Rwandan filmmaker Joël Karekezi, winner of the Golden Stallion of Yennenga at the 26th edition of FESPACO in 2019. The jury will be composed of renowned personalities in the fields of arts and cinema.

Source: <https://www.aib.media/25e-edition-du-festival-international-du-cinema-africain-de-khouribga-des-burkinabe-vont-presider-des-jurys/>

B.2 South Africa

a) Makhanda: The National Arts Festival, a Theatre of a Society in Motion

From June 26 to 30, 2025, the city of Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) will once again become the nerve center of South African artistic creation. Created in 1974 in a context of oppression, the National Arts Festival (NAF) was initially a space of cultural resistance. Today, it remains one of the most important multidisciplinary festivals on the continent. What sets the NAF apart is its critical foundation. Theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, jazz: every discipline engages with the country's tensions, often in direct relation to social and political realities.

The 2025 edition will notably feature the “ArtSeen” project, which will showcase works in public spaces across South Africa, extending the festival beyond Makhanda. Highlights include a new adaptation of *The One Who Stays* by Nadia Davids, performances from the Standard Bank Jazz Festival, and works by winners of the Young Artists Award.

Source : <https://nationalartsfestival.co.za/>

b) ENCOUNTERS 2025 – South African International Documentary Festival

The South African International Documentary Film Festival, Encounters, is accepting submissions for its 27th edition, which will be held from June 19 to 29, 2025, in Cape Town, Johannesburg, and other venues. The festival considers feature-length, mid-length, and short documentaries completed after January 2023. Since its creation in 1999, Encounters has presented a selection of international and African documentaries addressing various themes such as social justice, politics, arts and culture, technology, current affairs, personal narratives, education, history, and environmental issues. The programming includes award-winning and critically acclaimed works, as well as projects by established and emerging filmmakers.

Source: <https://africultures.com/evenements/?no=51470>

B.3 Burkina Faso:

a) A Workshop to Popularize the New Law on the Status of the Artist for Greater Effectiveness

The Minister of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism (MCCAT), Gilbert Pingdwindé Ouédraogo, opened in Ouagadougou on June 10, 2025, the workshop to popularize Law 04-2025, relating to the status of the artist in Burkina Faso, to gather the expectations of stakeholders for the drafting of the implementing texts.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/fr-xl/afrique-de-l-ouest/burkina-faso-actualite/burkinaculture-un-atelier-pour-vulgariser-la-nouvelle-loi-portant-statut-de-lartiste-pour-plus-defficacit%C3%A9/ar-AA1GssbJ>

b) Ouagadougou International Book Fair (FILO) / Grand Prize for the FILO 2025 Book

The Minister of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism of Burkina Faso informed the general public and book stakeholders in particular of the launch of the 18th edition of the Grand Prize for the Book of FILO 2025 with the various selected categories. The application conditions for each prize, as well as the internal regulations, can be consulted via the link: <https://cutt.ly/8rcHi879>. The application deadline is June 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Source: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1234896131972476&id=100063563019552&rdid=sHAPSPS1tvMhzmJ5#

c) Directory of Surnames: 1393 Family Names Listed

The Ministry of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism held a national validation workshop on June 12 and 13, 2025, in Ouagadougou, for the project to compile a directory of surnames in Burkina Faso. This important meeting is part of the effort to safeguard national cultural identity in the face of threats of dilution and loss of cultural reference points. The opening of the session was chaired by the Minister in charge of Culture.

Source: <https://www.latribunedufaso.net/?p=21219>

B.4 Republic of the Congo: Pointe-Noire en Scène Festival 2025

The Pointe-Noire en Scène Festival 2025 will take place from June 16 to 22. This 10th edition, focused on the professionalism of artists, will showcase the cream of the scene. From professional meetings, energetic and touristic activities, large-scale performances to the base battle, don't miss these moments because THIS YEAR, THE STAR IS YOU. See you from June 16 to 22, 2025. Pointe-Noire en Scène Festival – 10 years on stage, let's celebrate. It is an international festival of mixed music and the arts, held annually in Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo since 2015.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100063701452356/posts/programmation-2025-sc%C3%A8ne-urbaine-avec-pointe-noire-en-scene-festival-pour-la-10%C3%A8/1260768802723156/>

B.5 Democratic Republic of the Congo: 4th Edition of the Kinshasa Playwriting Meetings

Within the vibrant walls of the Tarmac des Auteurs, a landmark cultural space in Kinshasa, a youthful energy swept across the stage during the fourth edition of the Kinshasa Playwriting Meetings. From June 9 to 11, this artistic incubator transformed into a living laboratory for experimenting with the future of Congolese dramatic arts. About ten actors, many of them students at the National Institute of Arts or newcomers to the stage, dared to take to the boards under the watchful and supportive eye of the Kinshasa public.

Source: <https://www.congoquotidien.com/2025/06/15/jeunesse-theatre-rencontres-dramaturgiques-kinshasa-culture/>

B.6 Côte d'Ivoire: International Audiovisual Content Fair (SICA)

The 3rd edition of the International Audiovisual Content Fair (SICA) was officially launched on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at the Novotel in Abidjan Marcory. The event will take place from June 26 to 28, 2025, at the Sofitel Hôtel Ivoire, under the patronage of Mr. Amadou Coulibaly, Minister of Communication and Government Spokesperson, and Ms. Françoise Remarck, Minister of Culture and Francophonie. The theme chosen for this edition is: “Digital Sovereignty and Export of Narratives: Building a Competitive and Globalized African Audiovisual Market.”

Source: <https://culture.gouv.ci/salon-international-du-contenu-audiovisuel-sica/>

B.7 Mali: Validation Workshop for the Framework Document of the National Policy on Culture, Handicrafts, and Tourism

On June 23, 2025, in Bamako, the opening ceremony of the Validation Workshop for the Framework Document of the National Policy on Culture, Handicrafts, and Tourism was held in the Balla Moussa Kéita room at the Bamako International Conference Center (CICB). It was co-chaired by the Minister of Culture, Mr. Mamou Daffé, and his counterpart from Religious Affairs, Worship, and Customs, Mr. Mahamoudou Koné. Several cultural stakeholders participated in the ceremony, including representatives from the

National Transition Council. The workshop is part of the revitalization of the culture, handicrafts, and tourism sectors following the recommendations from the General Assembly on Culture held in January 2025.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100000085380378/posts/pfbid0HsLq31WXEhXakNGtWbNHcVyHnCkrkxhAj4p7peb2WB2yuKwNcYhjXsvPcHWNxVsGl/>

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

C.1 Development of Cultural Policies in Africa

a) In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the government signed a decree on the status of the artist and cultural professional, which will come into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette in July 2025.

b) In the same country, the DRC, at the initiative of the UNESCO country office and in cooperation with the Marcel Hicter Foundation of Belgium, a seminar on cultural governance was organized from May 26 to 30 for executives of the central services of the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Heritage.

c) In Burkina Faso, a workshop to popularize the new law on the status of artists, enacted in March 2025, was held in Ouagadougou on June 10.

d) Finally, in Mali, a national validation workshop for the Framework Document of the Cultural, Handicrafts, and Tourism Policy was held in Bamako on June 23, 2025.

C.2 Call for Applications – June 2025

The call for applications for the Équations Nomades program invites young Africans aged 18 to 25 to celebrate their cultural heritage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from June 9 to 13, 2025.

This call to African youth is to join the Équations Nomades program, an inspiring movement aiming to reinvent the appropriation of Africa's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The goal of the program is to honor and celebrate the very essence of African cultures and ancestral heritages. Through artistic expression, without constraints or limits, this program offers an open space for dialogue, where creativity becomes a powerful tool for self-discovery and intercultural exchange.

Source: <https://fr.scribd.com/document/857911566/Appel-A%C4%9A-Candidature-Juin-2025>

C.3 Benin: A Strategic Development Plan 2025–2029 Adopted

A Strategic Development Plan 2025–2029 was adopted on June 11, 2025. The Beninese government has just adopted, during the Council of Ministers on June 11, 2025, the Strategic Development Plan 2025–2029 of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. This framework document reaffirms the central role of culture in the country's development project, continuing the major reforms initiated since 2016.

Designed as an ambitious roadmap, this new plan adopted in the Council of Ministers on June 11, 2025, aims to consolidate the achievements of previous years and give new momentum to the tourism, arts, and culture sectors. It sets specific objectives in terms of tourism appeal and structuring of artistic and heritage sectors. The goal is to make these sectors not only showcases for Benin internationally but also real drivers of economic growth and youth employment.

The strategic plan notably aims to strengthen cultural and tourism infrastructure, support creative industries, develop vocational training, and increase the visibility of Beninese cultural expressions on the regional and global stage. Special attention is given to governance in the sector, with mechanisms planned to improve coordination, funding, and evaluation of public policies.

Source: https://www.noocultures.info/2025/06/12/culture-et-developpement-le-benin-confirme-son-cap-strategique/?fbclid=IwY2xjawK85oVleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETE5NU5nUIRDVndtMEFJTdJiAR6EsUXPh7IZKa7nKQkp5ak_u3Sicsx2uQQ-pAyZVlypuZxmWI_lRcnxz0JZA_aem_ANWjCRrSoIgxB2Ggl-jnwA

C.4 Burkina Faso: Call for Applications for the Selection of Participants for the Forum of Arts and Culture Professions

The Support Center for the Development of Cultural and Creative Industries (CADICC) has launched a call for applications for the selection of participants for the Forum of Arts and Culture Professions scheduled

from August 28 to 30, 2025, in Tenkodogo (Burkina Faso). Applicants must be between 18 and 37 years old, and eligible countries are Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. The application deadline is July 18, 2025, at midnight.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/zzAgtjQk9rDQT64X7>

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/61576243345512/posts/pfbid0batwVZQysWAVCAMF3hLCkzUn6NDKVdipxrPSMkEcti4Gi8dZu5FoY83ULRvPpZ7vI/?app=fbl>

C.5 Tunisia: International Symposium "African Cultural Heritage and Digital Technologies"

The international symposium "African Cultural Heritage and Digital Technologies: Uses, Innovations, and the Circulation of Knowledge and Practices" aims to bring together, over three days from June 18 to 20, 2025, the key players who drive and enrich the fields of cultural heritage and digital humanities in Africa. It plans to host panels, presentations, and poster sessions around the main thematic areas that have gathered and inspired since the founding of the PatriMundus Association in 2020 hundreds of researchers, professionals, and students in various heritage fields: museums, monuments, sites, digital practices, and audience experiences...

It seeks to be a space for constructive dialogue and critical reflection. It offers the opportunity to rethink traditional approaches to heritage management in Africa, while integrating the potential offered by new technologies.

Source: <https://paten.sciencesconf.org/>

C.6 Guinea: Call for Applications to Fund Cultural and Artistic Projects

The Arts and Culture Development Fund (FODAC) has opened its 2025 call for applications. Artists, cultural operators, and Guinean organizations, whether resident or not, are invited to submit their projects to receive financial support. The deadline is set for June 22, 2025.

Source: <https://www.noocultures.info/2025/05/30/guinee-un-appel-a-candidatures-pour-financer-les-projets-culturels-et-artistiques/>

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

D.1 France: Europe-Africa Festival 2025 in Truchtersheim

The humanitarian non-profit associations Beoneema and Sabak invite you to the 14th edition of the Europe-Africa Festival, from May 30 to June 1, 2025, at the Espace Terminus in Truchtersheim. A festive and cultural African event featuring a rich program: activities, African market, student performances, dinner, concerts, African dances, and music.

Source: <https://www.tropevent.com/event/2025-FESTIVAL-EUROPE-AFRIQUE>

D.2 America: Two Perspectives, One Heritage - Chicago and Miami Celebrate Afro-Descendant Cinema

From June 11 to 15, the ADIFF festival in Chicago and the ABFF in Miami spotlight the diverse narratives of the African and African-American diaspora. These two flagship events highlight the resistance, memory, and creativity of contemporary Black cinema.

In post-George Floyd America, where Afro-descendant narratives still strive to find their place in mainstream cultural circuits, two emblematic festivals offer a sharp and nuanced artistic response to historical erasure.

From June 13 to 15 in Chicago, the 22nd African Diaspora International Film Festival (ADIFF) returns to the FACETS Film Forum with a carefully curated selection of twelve films from all over the Black world.

At the same time, the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) brings the city of Miami to life from June 11 to 15, with an eclectic lineup ranging from Afro-Caribbean to African works, including major voices of African-American cinema. Two cities, two dynamics, but the same purpose: to affirm filmed identities that are multiple and liberated.

Source: <https://mondafrique.com/loisirs-culture/la-semaine-culturelle-africaine-13-20-juin-en-sept-evenements/>

D.3 Germany, Belgium, and France: Festivals Celebrating African Culture

In June, several festivals celebrate African culture, notably the African Culture Festival organized by Loubaba in Brussels and Paris, as well as the Mama Africa Festival in Poussan.

The "African Culture" festival at Jacques Franck in Brussels highlights Africa's cultural diversity through a major concert bringing together artists from Mauritania, Senegal, and West Africa.

In Germany, the 36th Würzburg Africa Festival, the largest and oldest African music and culture festival in Europe, takes place from May 29 to June 1.

Here are some specific events:

- "AFRICAN CULTURE" Festival at Jacques Franck, concerts and cultural events celebrating African diversity in Brussels, with artists from Mauritania, Senegal, and West Africa.

The "AFRICAN CULTURE" festival is an annual event dedicated to promoting and celebrating Africa's rich cultural diversity. Through a grand concert bringing together renowned artists from Mauritania, Senegal, and West Africa, the festival aims to create a space for cultural exchange and sharing.

Source: <https://lejacquesfranck.be/event/african-culture/2025-06-07/>

E. Cultural Information in the African Press

E.1 Morocco: Women Honored at the Gnaoua Festival

In Essaouira, the 26th Gnaoua and World Music Festival opened, as every year, with a festive parade through the alleys of the medina, the birthplace of Gnaoua culture.

Recognized by UNESCO in 2019, Gnaoua is both a spiritual music and a sub-Saharan community established in Morocco.

This art, long reserved for men, is now being reinvented by women artists, who are being honored at this edition.

Source: <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/06/23/maroc-les-femmes-mises-a-lhonneur-au-festival-gnaoua/>

E.2 Nigeria: Benin Bronzes – Nigeria Recovers a Piece of Its History

In Lagos, Nigerian authorities officially welcomed the return of 119 artworks looted at the end of the 19th century. Bronze figurines, commemorative plaques, royal ornaments, or ritual bells — all these pieces, known as the Benin Bronzes, were taken from the Kingdom of Benin in 1897 following a British military expedition.

These objects, long held in European museums, mainly in Leiden, Netherlands, have been returned at the request of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments of Nigeria. This initiative is part of a global movement to reassess heritage acquired during the colonial period.

Source: <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/06/22/bronzes-du-benin-le-nigeria-recupere-un-pan-de-son-histoire/>

E.3 Zambia: Creative Industries Business Summit in Lusaka

The Zambia Creative Industries Business Summit (CIBS) will be held in Lusaka from June 25 to 28, 2025. The event will take place at the Mulungushi Conference Center and will bring together creative professionals, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and investors to explore Africa's creative potential and promote innovation, economic growth, and sustainable development, according to the Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Arts.

Source: <https://ifacca.org/news/2025/06/25/creative-industries-business-zambia-summit/>

E.4 Namibia: Digital Technologies for the Service of World Heritage in Africa

This workshop is organized as part of the development of the World Heritage Online Map Platform, with support from the Flemish government (Belgium). It aims to strengthen regional capacities to leverage emerging technologies for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of World Heritage in Africa.

Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/evenements/1802/>

F. News from Bulletins and Information Services of Other Networks

AfDB: Appointment of Mr. Sidi Ould Tah as President of the African Development Bank (AfDB)

The appointment of Mr. Sidi Ould Tah as head of the African Development Bank represents a major step forward for Mauritania and the entire African continent. This mandate, beyond its symbolic significance, embodies a strategic opportunity to strengthen a pan-African vision of development that is inclusive, sustainable, and rooted in our realities.

In this context, it is essential that Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) be fully integrated into future development policies. Two priority recommendations can be made:

- Position CCIs as a strategic sector for economic and social development, by integrating them transversally into public policies and national and regional financing frameworks.
- Establish a continental financing mechanism dedicated to CCIs, tailored to the sector's specificities, to support creation, professionalization, youth employment, and cultural innovation.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/1516947840/posts/10236753207439506/?rdid=vKayyYyPtZbdc37R#>