

## UCCN in action

**Every city is unique.** Beyond cultural, geographical, demographic and economic differences, creativity is a common denominator for the Creative Cities.

**The Network offers a key forum** for brainstorming the role of creativity as a driver and an enabler for sustainable urban development, and a platform for action and innovation towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the city level.

Sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices

Studies, research and evaluations of the experiences of the Creative Cities

Communication and awareness raising activities

Policies and measures for sustainable urban development

Creative Cities Professional and artistic exchange programmes and networks

Pilot projects, partnerships and initiatives joining the public and private sectors, and civil society

● Dakar, Senegal – Montréal, Canada

At the Afropixel Festival, artists from Montréal and Dakar share the workshop-residency Libremapping. On the theme "The City in Common", they fill public spaces with works of video mapping.

● Iowa City, USA

At the Iowa Young Writers' Studio, 120 young writers from across the country come together every summer to share their creative work, practice their writing skill, and improve their literary proficiency.

● Kingston, Jamaica

Music Week strengthens cooperation with actors from the public and the private sectors to promote music appreciation and to support the emergence of cultural and creative industries at the local level.

● Santos, Brazil

The "Community Cinema" programme fosters participation in cultural life, as well as social cohesion, by offering weekly open-air film screenings in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

● Burgos, Spain

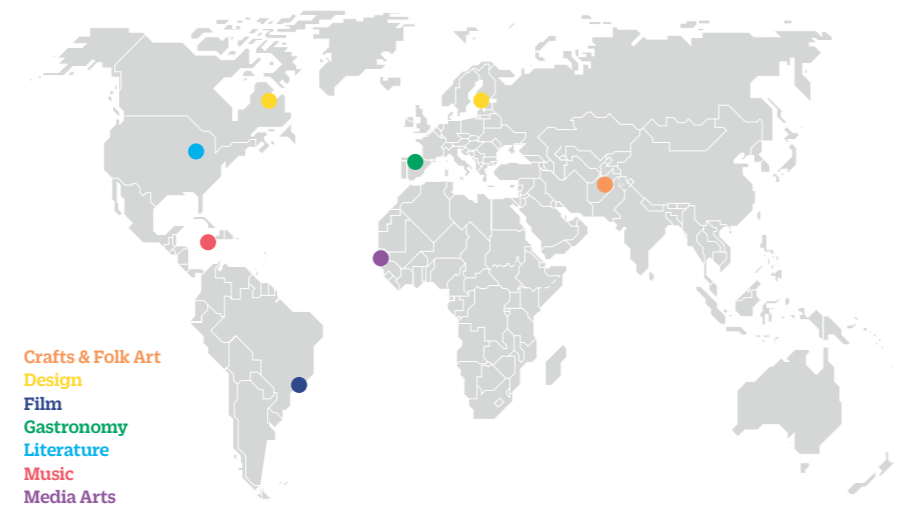
Creative Cities of Gastronomy collaborate on the research project "Human Motors", linking nutritional habits to the evolution of the human species, so as to identify sustainable consumption methods at the city level.

● Bamiyan, Afghanistan

The Municipal Department for the Development of Rural Areas offers weaving workshops for women and people from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups to nurture social inclusion.

● Helsinki, Finland

Recognizing that user-centred design is a key tool in developing public services, the City stands out with the appointment of a Chief Design Officer to lead the "Helsinki Lab" programme aimed to utilize design knowledge in e.g. urban planning and city development.



Crafts & Folk Art Design  
Film  
Gastronomy  
Literature  
Music  
Media Arts

## How The UCCN Works

A bridge linking international development agenda and glowing local momentum, the UCCN operates through a multi-level structure:

**UNESCO's Secretariat** is responsible for the management and global strategy. It proposes programmatic initiatives, manages the designation process, and promotes the Network's visibility.

**The 7 sub-networks**, corresponding to the 7 creative fields covered by the Network, enable member cities to focus on, in particular, one field as a starting point but also an active lever to harness the transformative potential of culture and creativity.

**The Steering Group** facilitates the coordination between the Secretariat and the member cities through the 7 sub-networks, allowing activities and initiatives undertaken within the Network to run more effectively and efficiently.

## How To Join The Network

**The Network launches regular calls for applications.** Cities should submit an application that demonstrates their willingness, commitment and capacity to contribute to the objectives of the Network.

**Joining the Network is a longstanding commitment.** It involves a participative process and a forward-looking approach. Cities must present a realistic action plan including specific projects, initiatives or policies to move along a sustainable urban development path.

## Annual Meetings

The Creative Cities Network Annual Meetings offer a unique occasion to strengthen the ties between cities. The objectives are to:

- Exchange updated information on activities carried out by cities to implement the objectives of the Network and formulate new inter-city partnership initiatives;
- Determine the Network's strategy and operations, and agree upon important matters related to future developments; and
- Offer a key platform of dialogue between the Creative Cities and UNESCO, regarding the Organization's priorities on culture and development.

## Membership Monitoring Reports

The Network functions as a laboratory of ideas and innovative experiences to capitalize on the full potential of culture and creativity for sustainable urban development. To this end, every four years, Creative Cities produce a Membership Monitoring Report that:

- Demonstrates their steadfast commitment to the implementation of the UCCN Mission Statement, both at the local and international levels;
- Renews their commitment to the UCCN through the presentation of an action plan;
- Provides insight into the impact of the designations; and
- Encourages the development

of research and case studies on the concepts and experiences of the Creative Cities.

## Key dates

2004	2008	2009	2010
Oct. 2004 Launch of the Network	9 Creative Cities from 9 countries  I UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France  II Santa Fe, United States	19 Creative Cities from 14 countries  III Lyon, France	IV Shenzhen, China
2011	2012	2013	2014
27 Creative Cities from 17 countries  V Seoul, Republic of Korea	VI Montréal, Canada	41 Creative Cities from 22 countries  Oct. 2013 1 <sup>st</sup> UNESCO Creative Cities Beijing Summit  VII Bologna, Italy	69 Creative Cities from 32 countries  VIII Chengdu, China
2015	2016	2017	2018
Nov. 2015 The 38 <sup>th</sup> UNESCO's General Conference approves the establishment of the International Center for Creativity and Sustainable Development in Beijing, China	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Membership Monitoring Reports exercises  June 2016 2 <sup>nd</sup> UNESCO Creative Cities Beijing Summit  116 Creative Cities from 54 countries	XI Enghien-les-Bains, France  Adoption of the UCCN Strategic Framework  180 Creative Cities from 72 countries  3 <sup>rd</sup> Membership Monitoring Reports exercise	XII Krakow and Katowice, Poland  2019  XIII Fabriano, Italy
IX Kanazawa, Japan	X Östersund, Sweden		



# CREATIVES CITIES OF UNESCO

for sustainable development

180 Cities | 72 Countries

Adelaide, Al-Ahsa, Alba, Almaty, Amarante, Aswan, Auckland, Austin, Baghdad, Baguio City, Bamiyan, Bandung, Barcelona, Barcelos, Beijing, Belém, Bergen, Berlin, Bilbao, Bitola, Bogota, Bologna, Bradford, Braga, Brasilia, Brazzaville, Bristol, Brno, Bucheon, Budapest, Buenaventura, Buenos Aires, Burgos, Busan, Cairo, Cape Town, Carrara, Changsha, Chengdu, Chennai, Chiang Mai, Chordeleg, Cochabamba, Curitiba, Daegu, Dakar, Dénia, Detroit, Dubai, Dublin, Dundee, Dunedin, Durán, Durban, Edinburgh, Enghien-les-Bains, Ensenada, Fabriano, Florianópolis, Frutillar, Gabrovo, Galway, Gaziantep, Geelong, Ghent, Glasgow, Granada, Graz, Guadaluajara, Gwangju, Hamamatsu, Hangzhou, Hanover, Hatay, Heidelberg, Helsinki, Icheon, Idanha-a-Nova, Iowa City, Isfahan, Istanbul, Jacmel, Jaipur, Jeonju, Jingdezhen, João Pessoa, Kanazawa, Kansas City, Katowice, Kaunas, Kingston, Kinshasa, Kobe, Kolding, Kortrijk, Košice, Krakow, Kütahya, Lillehammer, Limoges, Linz, Liverpool, Ljubljana, Łódź, Lubumbashi, Lviv, Lyon, Macao, Madaba, Manchester, Mannheim, Medellín, Melbourne, Mexico City, Milan, Montevideo, Montréal, Morelia, Nagoya, Nassau, Norrköping, Norwich, Nottingham, Obidos, Östersund, Ouagadougou, Paducah, Panama City, Paraty, Parma, Pekalongan, Pesaro, Phuket, Popayán, Porto-Novo, Prague, Praia, Puebla, Qingdao, Québec City, Rasht, Reykjavik, Rome, Saint-Etienne, Salvador, San Antonio, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Santa Fe, Santos, Sapporo, Sasayama, Seattle, Seoul, Seville, Shanghai, Sheki, Shenzhen, Shunde, Singapore, Sofia, Sokodé, Suzhou, Sydney, Tartu, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Terrassa, Tétouan, Tongyeong, Toronto, Tsuruoka, Tucson, Tunis, Turin, Utrecht, Ulyanovsk, Varanasi, Wuhan, Yamagata City, York, Zehlé.





Oil Silo 468 in the Kruunuvuorenranta District © Jussi Hellsten/City of Helsinki

## What is the UNESCO Creative Cities Network ?

Created in 2004, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) aims to make creativity an essential driver for sustainable urban development.

Today, the Network comprises 180 cities from 72 countries, working together towards common objectives: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of development plans at the local level, and actively cooperating at the international level.

To foster partnerships and synergy, the UCCN cities are designated in one of the seven creative fields covered by the Network :

Crafts & Folk Art / Design / Film / Gastronomy / Literature / Music / Media Arts

*“The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is first and foremost a space for collaboration and experimentation to invent the city of tomorrow.”*

Ernesto Ottone R.  
Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO



Today, 3.7 billion people, or 54% of the world population, live in cities. By 2030, it is estimated that the number of urban inhabitants will top 5 billion.

## Creativity & Cities

It is first and foremost at the local level that culture and creativity are lived and practiced on a daily basis. Urban areas are, by definition, the principal breeding grounds for the emergence and development of cultural and creative industries. By strengthening the value chain of local creative economies, the Network believes that cities can support, enrich, learn from each other and work together for the sustainable urban development of all.

Above all, the Creative Cities join forces to make creativity a driver for sustainable urban development. By increasing their cultural offerings and supporting job creation, the Network fosters vibrant cultural sectors based on social diversity and cohesion, intercultural dialogue, and citizens' well-being. As a laboratory, the Network reinforces cooperation with and among Creative Cities. It offers unparalleled opportunities for cities, through peer-learning processes and collaborative projects, to fully capitalize on their creative assets.

By working together, public authorities, the private sector and civil society support creation and creators, as well as civic and cultural participation. By working together, public spaces can always be seen with fresh eyes, and urban development can meet the practical needs of local populations. The city belongs to everyone, and sustainable development is the responsibility of all.

## One Mission Statement, Multiple Common Objectives

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is made up of cities ready to pool their resources, experiences and knowledge for the common objectives set forth in the Network's Mission Statement.

Develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

Strengthen international cooperation between cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor of their sustainable development

Improve access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals

Stimulate and enhance initiatives led by member cities to make creativity an essential component of urban development

Fully integrate culture and creativity into local development strategies and plans

Strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services

The UCCN is one of UNESCO's key partners in implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



FOCUS ON SDG 11 — Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



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