



UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK

Creativity for sustainable urban development

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 renewal and development.

Today, the Network comprises 116 cities from 54 countries, working together towards common objectives: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of development plans at the local level and actively cooperating through inter-city partnerships at the international level.

Why cities? Why creativity?

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.

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

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

One Mission Statement, Multiple Common Objectives

The 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**.

- **Strengthen international cooperation** between cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor of their sustainable development
- **Develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities** for creators and professionals in the cultural sector
- **Stimulate and enhance initiatives led by member cities to make creativity an essential component of urban development**
- **Improve access to and participation in cultural life**, notably for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals
- **Strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination** of cultural activities, goods and services
- **Fully integrate culture and creativity into local development strategies and plans**

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 inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

“The UNESCO Creative Cities Network represents an immense potential to assert the role of culture as enabler of sustainable development.”

– Irina Bokova
Director-General of UNESCO

The UCCN consists of 116 cities from 54 countries worldwide

Adelaide, Al-Ahsa, Aswan, Austin, Baghdad, Bamiyan, Bandung, Barcelona, Beijing, Belém, Bergen, Berlin, Bilbao, Bitola, Bogota, Bologna, Bradford, Brazzaville, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Burgos, Busan, Chengdu, Curitiba, Dakar, Dénia, Detroit, Dublin, Dundee, Dunedin, Durán, Edinburgh, Enghien-les-Bains, Ensenada, Fabriano, Florianópolis, Galway, Gaziantep, Ghent, Glasgow, Granada, Graz, Gwangju, Hamamatsu, Hangzhou, Hanover, Heidelberg, Helsinki, Icheon, Idanha-a-Nova, Iowa City, Isfahan, Jacmel, Jaipur, Jeonju, Jingdezhen, Kanazawa, Katowice, Kaunas, Kingston, Kinshasa, Kobe, Krakow, Linz, Liverpool, Ljubljana, Lubumbashi, Lviv, Lyon, Mannheim, Medellín, Melbourne, Montevideo, Montréal, Nagoya, Nassau, Norwich, Nottingham, Óbidos, Östersund, Paducah, Parma, Pekalongan, Phuket, Popayán, Prague, Puebla, Rasht, Reykjavík, Rome, Saint-Étienne, Salvador, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Santa Fe, Santos, Sapporo, Sasayama, Seoul, Sevilla, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Shunde, Singapore, Sofia, Suzhou, Sydney, Tartu, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Tongyeong, Tsuruoka, Tucson, Torino, Ulyanovsk, Varanasi, York, Zehlén.

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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 is a key partner of UNESCO. It is a forum for brainstorming the role of creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, and a platform for action and innovation.

- ▶ **Sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices**
- ▶ **Pilot projects, partnerships and initiatives joining the public and private sectors, and civil society**
- ▶ **Professional and artistic exchange programmes and networks**
- ▶ **Studies, research and evaluations of the experiences of the Creative Cities**
- ▶ **Policies and measures for sustainable urban development**
- ▶ **Communication and awareness raising activities**

Dakar, Senegal – Montreal, Canada

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

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

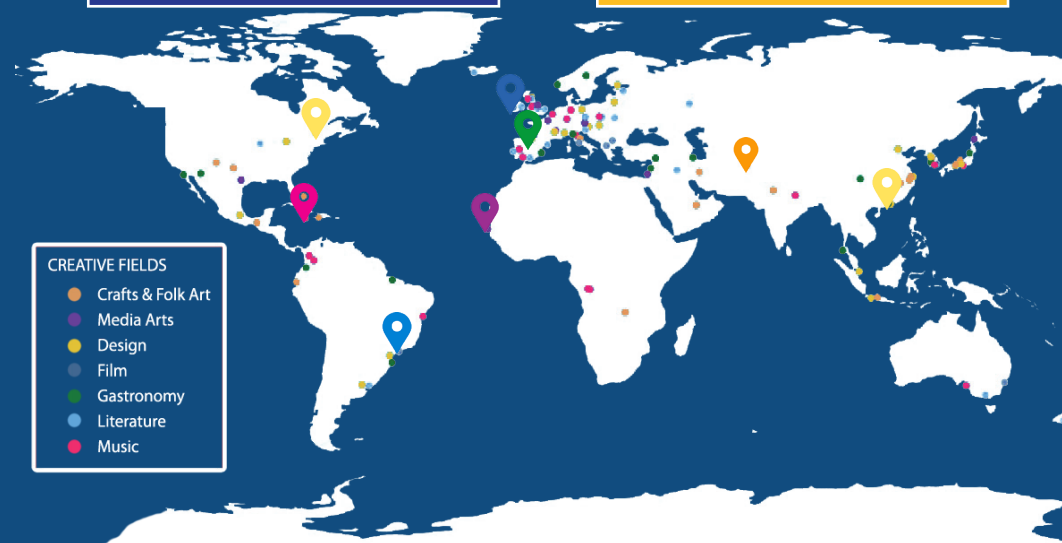
The "Community Cinema" programme fosters participation in cultural life, as well as social cohesion, by offering weekly open-air film screenings in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Reykjavík, Iceland

This multilingual writing workshop showcases the voices of migrant women in 23 languages. Their works are disseminated at the Reykjavík Read Festival, and published in various formats. This workshop serves as a professional springboard for authors.

Shenzhen, China

Designed to foster the mobility of young designers within the Network, the SZ+DAY Award highlights urban planning projects using design as a means of sustainable urban development.



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.

KEY DATES



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.

HOW THE UCCN WORKS

To remain close to local needs, the UCCN works at three levels.

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, are the Network's field actors. They monitor the progress made by the Creative Cities following their designation and identify challenges to tackle.

The Steering Group coordinates the sub-networks. It works with the Secretariat on all relevant issues of administrative, PR, lobbying, membership and financial nature.

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 for sustainable urban development.