

Your Guide to

Resili Art

for Mondiacult



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Invitation

Boarded-up cinemas, silent concert halls, museums without queues – the scenes of empty streets at the height of COVID-19 are forever seared into our collective minds. It bears no repeating that the pandemic has disproportionately affected the livelihoods of artists and decimated the entire creative value chain, from creation, production, distribution to access. UNESCO's recent publication revealed that the global cultural and creative industries contracted by 750 billion USD in 2020, corresponding to upwards of 10 million job losses.

While these figures should raise alarm bells for the creative economy, what hides in plain sight is the threat against cultural diversity. Community-based arts collectives, intangible cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge and creative expressions of dissent rarely have the endowments to persevere a crisis. Physical distancing also affects the integrity of these practices, given the importance of tactile connections to transfer messages, intentions and values. These small yet powerful communities are the cradle of human ingenuity past, present and future, their losses irreversible.

As a response, UNESCO launched ResiliArt. What started out as an online debate has become a truly global movement. From urban dance to puppetry, museums to festivals, afro-descendant creators to women artists in the Gulf Region, the rich tapestry of **ResiliArt is the testament to the resilience of culture.**

While the COVID-19 restrictions ease around the world, we, the culture sector, are not out of the woods. In fact, the most universal finding of ResiliArt was the following: COVID-19 merely worsened the existing economic and social plight of cultural workers. As the Beninese singer Angelique Kidjo said during one ResiliArt debate, the pandemic merely “undressed the culture sector” to expose the vulnerability just under the surface. This is why we cannot go back to normal – because **our artists and cultural workers deserve more.**

Luckily, we are not alone. The global momentum is building to recognize, at last, culture as a universal public good that enriches societies and necessitates protection and promotion through robust policies. UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development Mondiacult 2022 is the culmination of such consensus building, where world leaders and policymakers gather to study the state of cultural policies and propel bold actions and visions.

The historic event presents an opportunity for the voices of civil society to be heard at the highest, widest level. This is why UNESCO is expanding the ResiliArt movement to gather inputs on the ever-evolving needs, gaps and opportunities on the ground, and to inform the preparatory process of this Ministerial Conference (Category II).

UNESCO invites the cultural and creative communities across the world to join the ResiliArt movement, gather leaders and thinkers, and deeply reflect on the current state of culture and vision through their own unique perspectives.

Join us!

What is ResiliArt?

ResiliArt was launched on 15 April 2020 as a global movement to capture the resilience and grievances of artists and cultural professionals in the face of COVID-19 crisis through virtual debates. At its launch, publicly-accessible online conferences were far and few between; ResiliArt hence served as a **pioneering platform of open exchange dedicated to culture with a coherent mission and framework**. A rapid global replication followed, and to date, over 270 debates have been organized involving more than 110 countries, covering multitudes of topics from creativity to heritage.

ResiliArt generated a host of universal as well as regionally specific recommendations including establishment of permanent participatory consultative mechanisms involving the civil society, expansion of investment and diversification of funding mechanisms for cultural projects, fair remuneration of creators in the digital space, and repurposing of unused buildings as publicly accessible cultural infrastructures.

Fulfilling its promise to serve as a conduit between voices on the ground and decisionmakers, UNESCO has shared the movement's results with its Member States, published Culture in Crisis: Policy Guide for a Resilient Creative Sector, and continue to reflect the grievances, hopes and opportunities expressed during ResiliArt in its advocacy, from the High-Level Event at the General Assembly to Rome Declaration of the G20 Ministers of Culture.

As the health regulations continue to evolve, so does the role of ResiliArt movement. On one hand, the reopening of cultural venues and relaunch of creative activities have curbed the relevance of COVID-specific debates, such as sectoral adaption to physical distancing measures. On the other hand, ResiliArt revealed the chronic economic and social vulnerability of culture sector which require fundamental paradigm shift and advocacy.

This revelation, combined with ResiliArt community's desired for continued multiparty dialogues and reinforced networking, gives ResiliArt a renewed, bolstered, and sustained mandate: to **serve as the permanent platform for inclusive, sector-led, solution-oriented dialogues** on key and emerging issues that affect the growth, well-being and dignity of cultural workers and their industries. UNESCO will continue to be a vehicle for civil society actors, analyzing and delivering the voices on the ground to decisionmakers.



What is Mondiacult 2022?

The first Mondiacult took place in Mexico in 1982. Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies, adopted at the end of the Conference, redefined culture to encompass values expressed in everyday life, such as language, beliefs, artefacts, dance, oral traditions, literature, works of art, archives and libraries.

It has also inspired mechanism in favor of diverse expressions of cultures and its practitioners at international, national and local level, namely the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The high-level, global reflection on culture continued, with the execution of UNESCO Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development held in Stockholm in 1998. **UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development Mondiacult 2022 builds on the legacy that started some 40 years ago.**

The social and economic context in which culture operates has dramatically changed since 1982. Climate change, rapid urbanization, social disaccords, widening wealth disparity and digital transformation present both challenges and opportunities for stakeholders in heritage and creativity. The upcoming Ministerial Conference (Category II) will be a historic occasion where global decisionmakers, cultural policymakers and key sector figures gather to openly exchange innovative practices, envisage new policy designs, and reinforce international and multilateral cooperation to face the new world realities as one, guided by the 2030 Agenda.

ResiliArt x Mondiacult

ResiliArt serves as an inclusive, accessible platform for any interested stakeholder to **contextualize the high-level deliberation leading up to Mondiacult and inform its outcomes**. The recommendations, data and results of each ResiliArt x Mondiacult debate will be gathered through an online survey, subsequently analyzed by UNESCO to develop regionally categorized overviews and trends.

Such analysis will be used during the upstream preparation of the Conference and Member State consultations, so high-level discussions in Mexico City will take into account the ever-evolving needs, gaps and opportunities on the ground.



Practical Guide



I. CONCEPTUALIZATION

Organizers are encouraged to develop a concept that reflect your niche expertise, bring in community perspectives, and elaborate on unique challenges in their region/country/field.

Some examples from the past ResiliArt debates include:

- Afro-descendant women in the film industry (Ecuador)
- Copyright and statistics for an enabling creative environment (Namibia)
- Fair trade and exchange in the culture sector (Germany)
- Innovative cultural funding mechanisms in Africa (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania)
- Living heritage experiences and best practices in the face of COVID-19 (global)
- Museums in the post-digital era (Republic of Korea)
- Music and murals in the Caribbean (Cayman, Cuba, Jamaica, USA)
- Promoting livelihood opportunities in creativity for urban youth (Yemen)
- Resilience within the puppetry community (Hungary)
- Traditional art practices in pandemic and digital contexts (Bangladesh)

2. PANELISTS

Diversity of panelists is essential to capture wide perspectives and differing experiences across the culture sector. Diversity may manifest in following ways:

- Gender (strive for 50/50 representation of women and men)
- Age (particular focus on introducing a youth-perspective)
- Positions (Artists and practitioners, cultural managers, cultural institutions, community organizers, creative start-ups, etc.)
- Less-represented populations
- Languages (consider facilitating interpretation)

3. PROCEEDINGS

UNESCO recommends a “5 panelists, 4 questions, 90 minutes” format to ensure a fast-paced, engaging discussion. The panelists shall be led by one moderator.

For a dynamic discussion, it is best to avoid presentations and speeches during the debate segment. While questions should be tailored to each panelist, the moderator shall encourage panelists to freely and spontaneously interact and build on each other’s responses.

The overall session should last roughly 110 minutes: 90 minutes for the debate and additional 20 minutes allocated for introduction, Q&A and conclusion.

4. THEMES

In order to maximize the synergies between ResiliArt debates and the Mondiacult agenda, thus effective advocacy, it is recommended that debates are centered around at least one of the following themes:

1. Regional, international and multilateral cooperation for enhanced heritage conservation
2. Fair remuneration, copyright protection and access to new technologies in the digital era
3. Freedom of Artistic Expressions today
4. Cultural infrastructures and public art for community participation and expressions
5. Professional training and interdisciplinary education for a flourishing, inclusive culture sector
6. Economic, social and collective rights of artists and cultural professionals
7. Museums as the educator, peacebuilder, and distributor of culture
8. Progress and challenges in heritage protection and fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property

A keen focus on one or few themes allows for in-depth reflections within the limited time.



5. QUESTIONS

Questions should be phrased in an approachable language, bearing in mind that general public is unfamiliar with cultural policies and governance.

Some sample questions include:

- How can gender representation in key creative positions be improved in your field?
- What types of mechanisms can enhance community's participation in cultural practices?
- What are some social and economic challenges that particularly affect your region/ artistic discipline/sector?
- How has the rise of new technologies affected your livelihoods as an artist/cultural professional?
- How can policymakers introduce a greater mechanism of multistakeholder consultations?
- What actions have you taken to bridge the gap between culture and education?
- In what ways have population growth and urban development impacted the heritage/creativity in your community? (positive and negative)

6. TIMELINE

All ResiliArt x Mondiacult debates are to be held between 5 October 2021 – 1 March 2022.

This will allow UNESCO sufficient time to analyze survey results and inform the preparation of Mondiacult through ResiliArt voices.

7. LOGISTICS

Online platforms enhance access to knowledge exchange that occur around the world. ResiliArt embodies such possibility of low-cost, high-impact stakeholder consultation facilitated by new technologies.

At the same time, organizers may wish to organize debates in person. UNESCO emphasizes that all debates held in person should follow health and safety guidelines according to their respective countries.

8. COORDINATION

UNESCO asks all organizers to share information on upcoming debates so it may to maintain an accurate and timely overview. Details including the date, title, themes and countries/region can be shared with the Organization via email at resiliart@unesco.org.

It is to be noted that ResiliArt debates are organized independently from UNESCO; therefore opinions expressed during each debate do not reflect the position of the Organization.

9. POST-DEBATE SURVEY

The importance of the post-debate survey cannot be overstated, as they serve the sole sources of information from ResiliArt x Mondiacult debates. The surveys are to be analyzed and shared ahead of Mondiacult.

The regional and global analysis and recommendations drawn from these surveys will reveal regional trends, universal challenges and the state of culture sector today. Such wealth of information will serve to inform policymakers and stakeholders well beyond Mondiacult.

The survey should be completed by 1 March 2022.

Link to survey: <http://bit.ly/resiliartconclusion>

10. MEETING PLATFORMS

Unlike physical meeting rooms, virtual platforms are susceptible to a number of digital threats. The most common threats include taking control of screens, videos or microphones and sharing unwanted videos, images and sounds. Hackers have also been known to share links in the chat that guide users to disturbing and unwanted websites. Personal data can also be put at risk when users follow unknown links.

Through safety precautions and vigilance, debate organizers can provide a productive, professional space of open exchange for both panelists and viewers. Some options include:

- Zoom
- Microsoft Teams
- Google Meet
- Facebook Live
- YouTube Live
- Skype (up to 10 people)
- Slack (up to 15 people)
- BlueJeans (paid membership only)
- Cisco WebEx (paid membership only)

11. SAFETY TIPS

Through safety precautions and vigilance, debate organizers can provide a productive, professional space of open exchange for both panelists and viewers.

Keep your application updated – Developers are constantly working to improve the way we meet virtually. Updates are regularly released to respond to the latest hacking methods.

Make your meeting a “webcast” – A webcast only allows meeting organizers to speak and share content.

Keep your meeting private – Some platforms allow you to generate a unique meeting ID, valid for one time use. By sharing the ID with trusted stakeholders only, maximum security can be achieved.

Manage screen-sharing – Make sure to review the screen-sharing setting before your meeting begins. Only the host and the panelists should have the authority to share screen.

Allow users signed into an account or have a legitimate username – A computer generated username should arouse suspicion. Only letting account holders into the meeting room can add a level of authentication.

Take advantage of the Waiting Room – Don't allow your guests to enter the meeting room until they are vetted. The organizers can review the names in the waiting room. These names can be compared against the sign-up list.

Remove unwanted users – Should a suspicious username request access to your meeting, ensure that you deny them. You can also remove a user from the meeting if they behave suspiciously.

Moderate the comment section – In an event where a participant share unwanted material in the comment section, first remove the user, then delete the comments.

Test, test, test – Conduct a test run with all panelists and a moderator on the platform to be used for the debate. Even if you are familiar with the platform, conditions are always privy to change due to software updates. Review the security settings and practice inviting, removing, muting and unmuting users.





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**For more information:
RESILIART@UNESCO.ORG**