

# **Cultural policies for social cohesion: CAE reference points**

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*Secretary General*

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# Who are we?

Culture Action Europe (CAE) is the **major European network** of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policymakers. CAE is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about **arts and cultural policy in the EU**.

As the **only intersectoral network**, we bring together all practices in culture, from the performing arts to literature, the visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives, to community centres and activist groups.

**Culture Action Europe  
believes in the value  
and values of culture  
and its contribution to  
the development of  
sustainable and  
inclusive societies.**

# **vision**

**We dream of a time  
when culture is  
central to inclusive,  
plural, open and  
sharing societies.**

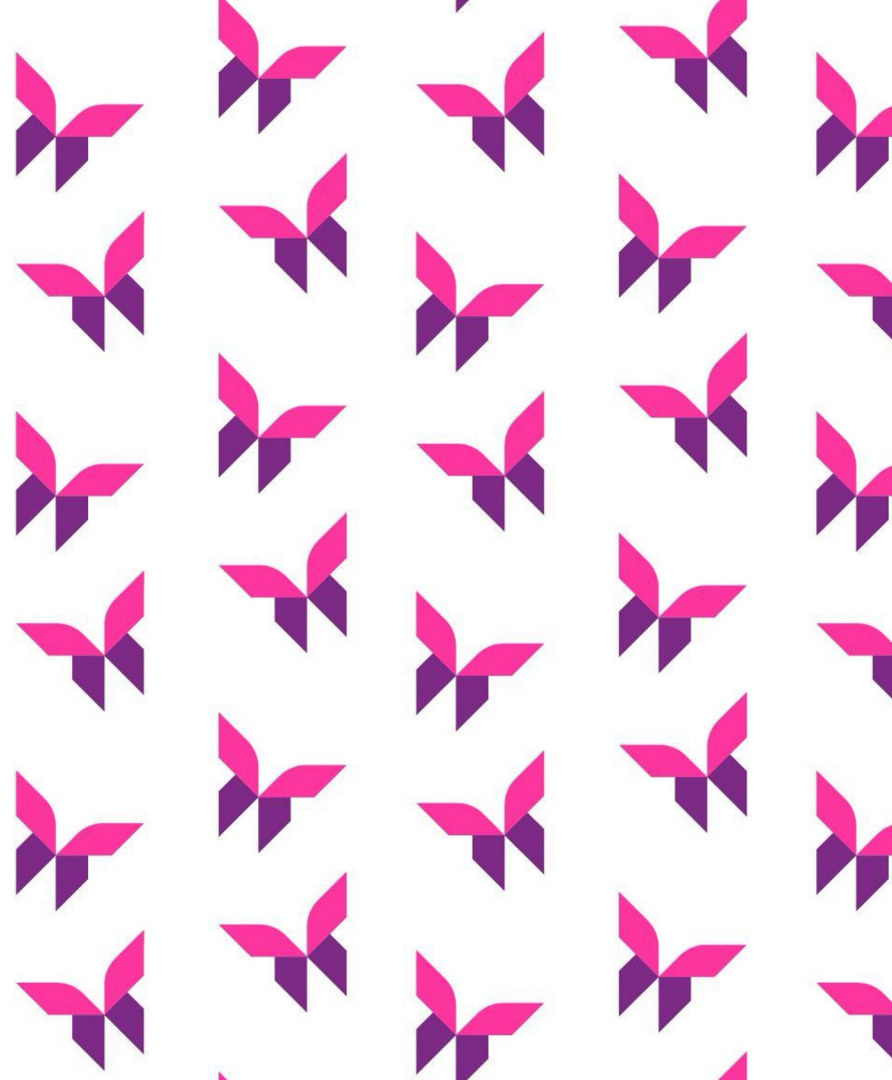
# we believe

- **We** believe that culture must be put at the heart of public debate and decision making
- **We** believe in the value and values of culture based on democracy, pluralism, inclusion and cultural rights
- **We** believe that culture contributes to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.
- **We** believe that culture is a practice rather than a resource

# Our mission

Our mission is to advocate the arts and culture as a fundamental building block of the common future of Europe and beyond.

We use different approaches to achieve our mission: **advocacy**, **networking** and **knowledge** creation and knowledge distribution.



# **Strategic focus 2021-2024**

- 1) Culture, health & well-being**
- 2) Culture, environment and sustainable development**
- 3) Working conditions in the cultural field**

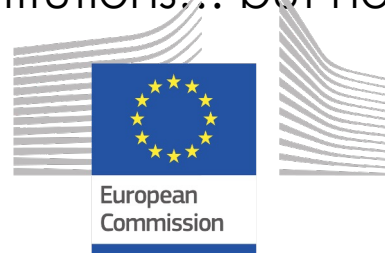
**(\* Actions upon the current European policies)**

# Our political interlocutors

EU Institutions... but not only



705 members elected every five years (next: May 2024). CULT Committee + CCFG



The EU's executive branch. DG EAC (and the EACEA executive agency) + other DGs (SANTE, EEAS, INTPA...)



The body representing the 27 EU Member States. Committee on Cultural Affairs + EYCS/Culture Council.





# How we work

**Advocacy and Decoding** | CAE is a knowledge hub, the first port of call for informed opinion on cultural policies and politics in Europe: our ambition is to bridge the gap between the institutions and the wider cultural ecosystem, through studies, advocacy, decoding...

**Open Consultations** | CAE Members shape the advocacy activities of the network through open ad-hoc consultations (for example, on the Implementation of Creative Europe - currently open - or on the New European Bauhaus, in 2022) as well as standing working groups (Working Conditions, Well-being, Sustainability).

**Support to Members** | CAE is a community of care, supporting its members in their contacts with the public decision makers.

# Ongoing Campaigns



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MONDIACULT 2022 Mexico

#CULTURE2030GOAL  
MONDIACULT 2022

**SIDE-EVENT  
A CULTURE GOAL  
IS ESSENTIAL FOR  
OUR COMMON FUTURE**

27 September 2022  
2.00-5.00PM (GMT-5)  
Anfiteatro Simón Bolívar  
Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City

Register at: [forms.gle/vARgnGzmAVnV1p2T9](https://forms.gle/vARgnGzmAVnV1p2T9)

ARTS AND CULTURE NETWORK

C9

ICOMOS

IFCCD

International Music Council

culture 21

# #CulturalDealEU

The European cultural ecosystem is calling for a new **Cultural Deal**, a transversal, overarching framework that should demonstrate the EU's political commitment to place culture at the heart of the European project.

- Full inclusion of culture in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the European Green Deal
- Mainstreaming funding for culture into relevant EU programmes and actions
- Supporting cultural workers
- Upholding democracy and rights for a values-based Europe through culture

[https://culturaldeal.eu/files/downloads/CDEU\\_Statement.pdf](https://culturaldeal.eu/files/downloads/CDEU_Statement.pdf)

# Faro Convention

**The Council of Europe’s 2005 Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society** (more commonly known as the Faro Convention) has helped to frame many of the more positive – and socially progressive – aspects of cultural heritage policies that have emerged in the last decade. Its emphasis that we choose to belong to heritage communities– rather than being born into them because of ethnicity, language, class, etc. – is applaudable. The 2018-2019 Faro Convention Action Plan further defines these heritage communities as: **“self-organised, self-managed groups of individuals who are interested in progressive social transformation of relationships between peoples, places and stories, with an inclusive approach based on an enhanced definition of heritage”** (COE 2018: 23). This pushes heritage away from being appropriated for identity politics and rather to help build more inclusive and open civil societies.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/faro-convention>

# Cultural Citizenship: The Porto Santo Charter

<https://portosantocharter.eu/the-charter/>

**The Health of Democracy and the Role of Culture**

**Democratisation of Culture and Cultural Democracy**

- Democratisation of Culture
- Cultural Democracy

**Difference and Complementarity Between the two Cultural Models:**

Towards full Cultural Citizenship

**Cultural Citizenship and Digital Territories**

**Cultural Citizenship and Education**

**Recommendations**

# Cultural Citizenship: The Porto Santo Charter

## Recommendations

To propose principles and values of cultural democracy to be reinforced into all EU Member States' cultural and educational public policy objectives and measures.

To foster the development of **cross-sectoral action plans** for education and culture, responding to the challenges and creative potential of a more diverse, inclusive and democratic Europe.

To reinforce the necessary conditions to create **long-term action plans**, for all people to be able to exercise their cultural rights and duties: valuing cultural diversity; empowering them and giving them voice and power of decision; involving them in the creation of cultural policies and in the programming of cultural organizations; promoting access and the possibility of participation in cultural production and dissemination; making them accountable for reaching our common cultural goals. Digital tools offer an opportunity to achieve these goals.

# Cultural Citizenship: The Porto Santo Charter

## Recommendations

To design a Cultural Democracy Index, as a way to monitor programs for the promotion of cultural democracy and the governance, processes and practices that institutions promote **to ensure multicultural diversity, broad social participation and cultural empowerment of all people, valuing other criteria rather than only the quantitative ones** — in line with the Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy (Council of Europe, 2016).

To strengthen public funding aiming at the **participation of underrepresented groups**.

To ensure that the allocation of such funding: i) is decided by a panel composed of diverse representatives from the targeted audience, ii) is guided by quality criteria based on accessibility, inclusion, diversity and equality parameters, iii) values long-term processes and the direct involvement of communities in their implementation.

# Cultural Citizenship: The Porto Santo Charter

## Recommendations

To map public cultural institutions, third sector entities and cultural agents — including informal collectives — that work for the promotion of a participative culture.

To create “makerspaces”, rehearsal rooms, ateliers, studios, allowing for production and creation in an autonomous and collaborative way.

To encourage the emergence of emancipatory projects based on the existence of many environments, empowering local agents.

To encourage cultural amateur activities and those promoted by informal and non-professional organizations.



# Cultural Citizenship: The Porto Santo Charter

## Recommendations

To support **the introduction**, in a transdisciplinary and integrated manner, of cultures, arts and heritage **into the compulsory education curriculum** and into higher education institutions as fundamental areas for the participatory cultural citizenship.

To **create training programmes on cultural democracy and collaborative processes** in the field of mediation, creativity, programming and safeguarding heritage, in vocational education, higher education and lifelong education.

To **promote digital skills to overcome exclusion and ensure access to digital content of culture**, heritage and arts, offering people the opportunity to participate, create and enjoy online cultural experiences, especially considering those living in remote areas.

## Handle with care: Envisioning a Culture of Care Elefsina Manifesto

[https://www.cae-bto.org/files/ugd/59983d\\_352704d2353c42af9c86923e3dad6464.pdf](https://www.cae-bto.org/files/ugd/59983d_352704d2353c42af9c86923e3dad6464.pdf)

### Communities of Care

“For decades, a relentless acceleration has pushed us towards extreme forms of individualism and competition, cornering us into a fast-paced state of loneliness.

Addressing the barriers and power imbalances that prevent both communities and individuals from feeling welcome in cultural organisations is crucial to overcome this.

Communities are at the heart of care, and culture can play a central role in fostering these inclusive and supportive networks. Cultural organisations create resilient communities that address inequalities and uplift marginalised voices through engagement, participation, intergenerational care and solidarity.”

## Culture and democracy, the evidence How citizens' participation in cultural activities enhances civic engagement, democracy and social cohesion

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/07370fba-110d-11ee-b12e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

This report analyses the **concrete link between democracy and culture**. It maps out how citizens who participate in cultural activities are much more likely to engage in civic and democratic life. Inequalities persist throughout the EU when it comes to citizens' participation in cultural activities, with a clear knock-on impact on democratic participation. And this is just another reason why **it is crucial that cultural activities are inclusive and affordable**. Even more so as we see that investing in cultural participation can also support a range of other societal objectives – for example, in fields such as health, education and social inclusion. This report, and addressing the issues identified within it, is part of the work the European Commission is doing to strengthen democracy, to promote an inclusive and engaged society and to support the sustainability of the cultural sector.



# Cáceres Declaration

“From this city that is a World Heritage Site, we pledge to work to make culture a crucial element of policies promoting peaceful, fair and egalitarian societies, because culture plays an essential role in the construction of democratic societies and in the personal development of citizens; culture is essential for achieving societies that are healthier, fairer, freer and more discerning, tolerant, inclusive and egalitarian. That is why, without pre-empting the coming post-2030 discussions, we are committed to working for culture to be recognised in and of itself as a new sustainable development goal.”

<https://spanish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/caceres-declaration/>

# A Cultural Goal for the SDG's



The poster features a central circular graphic composed of colorful arrows pointing outwards, with the text "#CULTURE2030GOAL MONDIACULT 2022" inside. To the right, the event details are listed: "SIDE-EVENT A CULTURE GOAL IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE", "27 September 2022", "2.00-5.00PM (GMT-5)", "Anfiteatro Simón Bolívar", "Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City", and a registration link "forms.gle/vARgnGzmAVnV1p2T9". Logos for UNESCO, Mondiacult 2022 Mexico, ARTERIAL NETWORK, Culture Action Europe, ICOMOS, IFCCD, International Music Council, and Culture 21 are displayed at the bottom.

unesco  Mondiacult 2022 Mexico

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[file:///Users/secretarygeneral/Downloads/EN\\_culture2030goal\\_SDG-Summit-Declaration-1.pdf](file:///Users/secretarygeneral/Downloads/EN_culture2030goal_SDG-Summit-Declaration-1.pdf)



# Questions

How can we shift the focus to soft-infrastructure and participation, rather than traditional approaches prioritizing hard infrastructure?

How can we strengthen participatory methodologies, intercultural mediation and new evaluation frameworks to measure social impact and engagement?

Ultimately: how can we change the narrative of culture as an add on, towards culture as a central part of the sustainable development of our societies?



**Lars Ebert**

**Secretary General**

*Culture Action Europe*



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**Thank u!**

(>e #cultureactioneurope