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Culture, Sustainable Development and South African Cities

Content

- The LCGN (or UCGN)
- Culture and the SDGs
- A Guide for Local Action
- Next Steps for the LGCN?



The LCGN / UCGN

Local/Urban Cultural Governance Network (temporary name)

Why LCGN/UCGN ?

- Culture as values, norms, beliefs, knowledge, creativity
- All citizens should be able to exercise their cultural rights / participate in the culture/cultural life of their choice. This right exercised primarily at a local level
- Urban settlements are “culturally made”
- Cultural knowledge and resources can be important enablers of local development.

**South African Local Government
stuck in an outdated paradigm**

Challenges in working with culture in the South African urban context

Where culture is “located” in local government:
often low in social or community development directorates
Lack of influence, power & resources

Conflation of Art with Culture

Arts funding demands loud – but broader cultural dimensions missed
Heritage about built fabric & “environment” at local legislation level

“Unfunded mandate” not in constitution

“Used as a political football” - social cohesion events, ribbon cutting
Lack of discourse about it, seen as “soft”

Weak policy development & intergovernmental alignment

But new White Paper on AC&H incl’s section on local government
Challenges of trained professional because no provisions- so practise weak

Essentialised Urban-Rural debates

How “Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (B6-2016)” will be implemented and by whom? Narrow racialisation?

There is a role for non state actors in urban cultural governance – participation key to more sustainable, inclusive and just cities.

More so in South African cities facing significant socio-economic challenges, even before Covid 19.
Urban policy documents in SA have noted the need for “more active citizenry”

What the LCGN?

- Responds to the **lack of shared discourse** in this nascent field, links to **challenges of implementation at a city level**, and the need engage non state actors in city making and change.
- A **voluntary, mutual support network of individuals** working in a variety of disciplines and sectors of society.
- A platform for **networking, dialogue, research and advocacy**, to develop a shared agenda for working with culture in furthering inclusive, sustainable, generative and just cities and towns in South Africa.



COMMUNITIES NEED CULTURE WORK. CULTURE WORKERS NEED CCNC.

The Creative City Network of Canada (CCNC) is a network of dedicated municipal culture leaders whose work ignites communities and contributes to a vibrant, creative Canada.

CCNC OFFERS MEMBERSHIP IN THREE AREAS OF CULTURE WORK:

▼ MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities from across Canada's provinces and territories are the primary members of CCNC. Local culture, recreation, and economic development departments are funders, programmers, and promoters of arts and culture within Canada's communities. Your membership with CCNC provides you and your team with all the benefits we have to offer including direct access to colleagues, full access to local culture resources, opportunities to work on committees, and expand your team's access to a full array of ideas, solutions, and best practices for municipalities.

[Learn about Municipal benefits](#)

CANADA



Our step by step guide helps you create your Cultural Development plan.

GET STARTED...



Use our outcomes to measure the impact of your cultural development activities.

GET STARTED...



Need help? We offer a range of consultation services.

LEARN MORE...



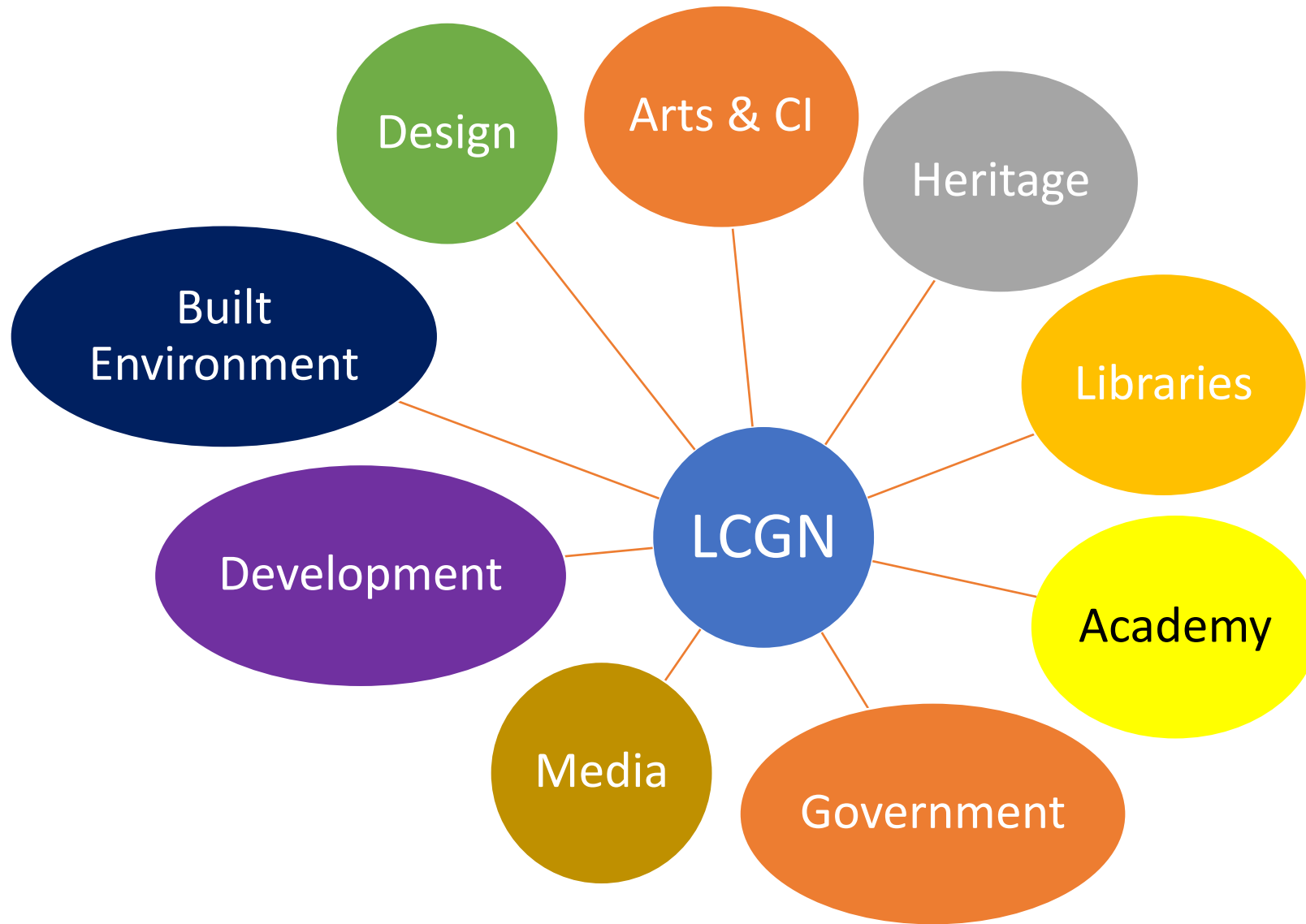
Browse our library of publications about Cultural Development.

LEARN MORE...

AUSTRALIA

How LCGN - as a non-representational network

- Many individuals in the state and outside, who are interested to explore the area **do not have others to support them or learn from** in their endeavours on the ground
- **Epistemic Communities:** Edgar Pieterse. **Learning Communities.** Integration Syndicate. Individuals can make a change.
- Individuals orientated in a range of fields – heritage, gender, built environment, natural environment, libraries, arts, participatory governance, health etc. **Both inside the state and outside (civil society, private sector, academy, development, “environment”).**



LCGN Memorandum of Understanding

1. Background and Key Rationales

- a. The **South African Local Cultural Governance Network** or **LCGN** (hereafter Network) exists with the primary aim of responding to the call by the **#culture2030goal campaign** for networks to align themselves to the vision and objectives of **#culture2030goal**. The campaign was established by a conglomerate of several international bodies who are collectively advocating for an working towards **furtiemg** culture in the UN's Sustainable Development Global Goals (hereafter **SDGs**).
- b. The campaign identifies its goal as "the achievement of a **full synergy of culture with all other dimensions of sustainable** development, for the well-being of **'People'** and the **'Planet'**, for all human beings and societies to live materially and spiritually **'Prosperous'**, **'Peaceful'** and fulfilling lives. This can only be facilitated with the exercise of **cultural rights for all**, including the right to take part in cultural life, and for a thorough engagement with culture in its different aspects, forms and elements – traditional and novel, material and immaterial, commercial and non-commercial – which involves a diverse range of **'Partnerships'**, among all kinds of actors, at all levels."
- c. **#culture2030goals** **recognises** that **culture is** "the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that **characterise** a community, society or social group. It includes not only arts and literature, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs. Culture encompasses the living or contemporary characteristics and values of a community as well as those that have survived from the past". Culture is **recognised** both as an enabler and driver of development as well as an end in itself.
- d. The **culture2030goals** campaign notes the following **key issues of consideration**
 - a. **Cultural knowledge and resources** can be important enablers of local

Two draft documents to guide the Network until such time as a formal constitution and body is set up

MOU = What and Why. TOR = How,
Based on the Climate Heritage Network approach

UCGN Terms of Reference [TOR]

1. Background

- a. The SA Urban Cultural Governance Network or UCGN (hereafter The Network) MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) reflects a commitment by individuals working in a range of fields/disciplines and sectors (collectively referred to here as "members") to support the **#culture2030goals** campaign and its localization in South African cities and towns. It aims to ensure culture is **mobilised** within and through local government to ensure more sustainable, inclusive, generative and just cities and towns in South Africa. Members are deemed as such when they sign the online document committing them to both the MOU and TOR.
- b. This Terms of Reference (TOR) lays down the interim form of the Network for the next two years until a formal constitution can be established (no later than January 2023). It deals with members, associates, the steering committee, the
- c. The Network serves as a platform for networking, dialogue, research and advocacy to further the **mobilisation** of culture in sustainable, inclusive, generative urban settlement in support of the **#culture2030goals** (as laid out in the MOU)

2. The Network, its Membership and Associates and working approach

- a. The Network is driven primarily by individuals who may be based in cultural bodies, civil society entities, government, academia, media or the private sector who have committed themselves to the key principles guiding the Network. Individuals working in areas such as sustainable development, housing, built environment, **citizens rights**, safety (amongst others) are seen as key players in cultural policy as much as arts and heritage workers may be.
- b. Individuals are never understood as representing the institutions they work for.
- c. Institutions, organizations, academic departments/units and business are encouraged

#Culture2030Goal

<http://culture2030goal.net>

Culture and the SDGs

“Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

Brundtland Report, *Our Common Future*, 1987



Unprecedented Urgent Challenges

man-made climate change & ecological destruction – increased carbon emissions; rapid active destruction of natural ecosystems and biodiversity; linked to ongoing unsustainable production of stuff and increased waste.

- a) *direct consequences*** including (amongst others): rising - temperatures (ocean and air) & sea levels, increase in storm activity
- b) *indirect consequences*** affect humans and supportive environment, including water crises, food shortage (hunger), health risks, increased spread of pests and pathogens, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, fires, economic implications of secondary damage, urgent adaptation costs questioned but scale and frequency of disasters growing.

high and growing levels of inequality - impacts of colonialism, capitalism, corruption, oppressive states, urban-rural vulnerabilities



Green Agenda

- Climate Change
- Energy
- Water
- Waste
- Biodiversity destruction

Brown Agenda

- Poverty & Unemployment
- Basic Needs – health, sanitation, housing, safety, food security, mobility
- Human Dignity

Tension Between Two Agendas

Characteristics	Green agenda	Brown agenda
<i>First order impact</i>	Ecosystem health	Human health
<i>Timing</i>	Delayed	Immediate
<i>Scale</i>	Regional and global	Local
<i>Worst affected</i>	Future generations	Lower income groups
<i>Attitude to nature</i>	Protect and work with	Manipulate to serve human needs
<i>Attitude to people</i>	Educate	Work with
<i>Attitude to environmental services</i>	Use less	Provide more
<i>Aspect emphasised in relation to natural resources (such as water)</i>	Overuse – need to protect resource	Inadequate access and poor quality of resource
<i>Typical proponent</i>	Environmentalists	Urbanists



TRANSFORMING OUR
WORLD:
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



MDGs

8 Goals and 21 targets

To-down approach: result of an intergovernmental agreement and high level consultations

Tackling poverty

Developing countries

The world's poorest and most vulnerable

Specific challenges

Governmental

SDGs

17 Goals and 169 targets

Bottom-up approach: issued from an unprecedented consultation process (2012-2015)

Sustainable development

Universal (193 Countries)

The world's population

Integrated and comprehensive Agenda: covers the 3 dimensions of SD (economic, social and environmental)

Inclusive: engagement of stakeholders (LRGs, community based organisations, CSOs, private sector, academia etc.)

SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITMENTS

2030

Localizing the SDG's and Why It Matters

- Localizing is the process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.
- All of the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, particularly to their role in delivering basic services.
- Also about recognizing that different places use different words or concepts to talk about these issues

*“Our struggle for global sustainability will
be won or lost in cities”*

Ban Ki-moon UN Secretary General (2012)

Culture explicitly mentioned in the SDGs

2 / Hunger: 2.5 indigenous seeds

10/169

4 / Education: 4.7 arts & culture education

8 / Work & Economic Growth:

8.3 cultural jobs & work, 8.9 sustainable tourism

11 / Cities: 11.4 heritage, 11.7 public space

12 / Sustainable Consumption and Production:

12.b monitoring tools for sustainable tourism - jobs, products

16 / Peace, Justice, Institutions: 16.4 stolen artefacts,

16.7 participatory governance, 16.10 info access and freedoms

#Culture2030Goal

- **International Coalition:** 7 lead networks, open to all to join
- **Mission;** To mainstream culture across the global development agenda;
- **Goals include;**
 - A **stronger place for culture** throughout the implementation of the current global development agenda (the UN 2030 Agenda),
 - The adoption of **culture as a distinct goal in the post-2030 development agenda,**
 - The adoption of a **global agenda for culture.**

<http://culture2030goal.net>

CULTURE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A GUIDE FOR LOCAL ACTION



Culture in the SDG's: A Guide for Local Action

CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES

LEARNING WITH CULTURE 21 ACTIONS



PILOT
CITIES
2015-2017



culture 21
Agenda 21 for Culture
Agenda 21 for Culture
Agenda 21 for Culture

**GLOBAL
PANEL
2015**



How is the Document Organised?

1. **The theme** addressed by each Goal summarised
2. **How is culture relevant?** Section describing why cultural aspects are significant for the achievement of the relevant role. Takes into account the explicit references to culture made in the 2030 Agenda
3. **What can cities do?** Recommendations aimed at local governments to explore the links between culture and other policies, programmes and practices related to the achievement of the relevant role presented. Draws on previous documents and policy guidelines
4. **How cities make this effective – some examples** presents evidence from cities which have proven the importance of culture to achieve the relevant Goal. Uses some examples collected via UCLG's existing policy monitoring tools and good practice database



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GOAL 06

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

This Goal aims to ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, as well as access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene to all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable

»» How is culture relevant?

Some elements in traditional knowledge can provide lessons towards fostering an appropriate, sustainable use of water-related ecosystems.

»» What can cities do?

Explicitly recognise in local cultural policies the connections between culture and environmental sustainability, including the sustainable use of resources.

Explore the potential of cultural facilities, events and activities as contexts where to raise awareness of water scarcity and sustainable uses of water-related ecosystems.

»» How cities make this effective - some examples

In Puno, a city located along the shores of Lake Titicaca, the Hamuy Cocha Festival fosters respect and compromise for the world's water resources, including the preservation of ecosystems that create rivers, lakes and lagoons.

In Val-de-Marne, the H2-OH! Festival aims to regain an area of rivers and creeks, foster respect for natural resources and common goods, and raise citizens' awareness on the impacts of their behaviour on the preservation and sustainability of the water ecosystem.

English

Español

French



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Abitibi-Témiscamingue
The regional CULTURAT movement



Angers
Cultural policy



Angers
Inhabitants and actors



Angers
Culture & solidarity



Antonio Ante
Imbabura cultural centre



Athens
Resilience through culture



Australia



Azul



Baie-Saint-Paul



In Val-de-Marne, the H2-OH! Festival aimed to regain an area of rivers and creeks, foster respect for natural resources and common goods, and raise citizens' awareness on the impacts of their behaviour on the preservation and sustainability of the water ecosystem.

[Also relevant to SDGs 4, 9, 12 and others]



The HEAL Community Approach to health in Louisville brings together artists, public services and other local stakeholders to explore causes of health challenges through the arts, and to create community development strategies with a strong cultural component.

[Also relevant to SDGs 4, 8, 9 and others]



In Concepción, an extensive consultation process including debates and individual interviews, involving over 3000 people, led to the adoption of the city's Cultural Strategic Plan, in the context of the city's aim of establishing a new, joint vision for long-term sustainable development. Participatory spaces have remained thereafter, so as to oversee and contribute to the implementation of activities.

[Also relevant to SDGs 4, 10, 12 and others]



4th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

THE CALL IS OPEN



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments



culture 21

UCLG Committee

TARGET

11.4



PROTECT THE WORLD'S
CULTURAL AND
NATURAL HERITAGE

Heritage as an Opportunity?

- Target 11.4 aims to “**strengthen efforts** to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”.
- **Indicator:** Total **per capita expenditure** on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by **source of funding** (public, private), **type of heritage** (cultural, natural) and **level of government** (national, regional, and local/municipal)

- *“Cultural heritage, **tangible and intangible**, testifies to human creativity and forms the bedrock underlying the identity of peoples...”*
(UCLG Agenda 21 for Culture, 2008, p8)
- **New Urban Agenda** (Quito Ecuador – 2016). It supports Goal 11, notes importance of **cultural diversity** in urban change as well as culture’s **role in addressing impacts of climate change, promoting equitable and affordable access and developing peaceful, inclusive and participatory cities.**
- Cultural aspects play a pivotal role for the 2030 Agenda to be successful. **Cultural rights, heritage, diversity and creativity are core components of human and sustainable development.** UCLG Guide to Local Action (2018)

Next Stages of LGCN/UGCN

Over 2021 towards 2022 (proposed)

1. A steering committee to shape the **structural elements** for launch in 2022 (2-3 meetings)
2. a working group to **understand and build a local response** to #culture2030goal. (2 online seminars – July & October)
3. a working group to engage with the issue of **cultural spaces** as social infrastructure. (a policy brief by December)
4. advocacy working group/s to address specific **urgent issue** facing a city. (x city campaigns developed)



Thank you

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