



4th INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21



GOBIERNO DE LA
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO



INTERNATIONAL AWARD "UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21"

4TH EDITION (2020)

**17 NOVEMBER 2021, FROM 14.00 TO 14.40 CET
HYBRID EVENT, IN THE FRAME OF UCLG WORLD COUNCIL**

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE EVENT

14.00. Welcome (physical and online)

14.10. Welcoming words from Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General (physical)

14.12. Speech by José Alfonso Suárez del Real y Aguilera, President of the Jury of the 4th edition of the Award, and Chief of Mayor's Office, Mexico City (online)

14.17. Medellín, winner in the category "Cities and Local and Regional Governments" with the project "Network of Arts and Cultural Practices", represented by Daniel Quintero Calle, Mayor of Medellín (physical)

14.21. Segou, winner in the category "Cities and Local and Regional Governments" with the project "Segou, Creative City", of the Award with the project, represented by Nouhoun Diarra, Mayor of Segou (online)

14.25. Eusebio Leal (RIP), winner in the category "Personality", represented by Javier Leal, son of Eusebio Leal, Havana's Oficina del Historiador (online)

14.29. Vandana Shiva, winner in the category "Personality" (online)

14.33. Speech by Vannesa Bohórquez, Councillor for Culture, Mexico City (online)

14.37. Final words from Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General (physical)

14.40. End of the event

**INFORMATION ON UCLG WORLD COUNCIL, [HERE](#).
REGISTRATION TO THE EVENT, [HERE](#).**



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OBJECTIVE OF THE AWARD

The objective of the “**International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21**” is to recognize leading cities and personalities that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a dimension of sustainable development. The Award reaffirms the leadership of Mexico City in the relationship between culture and sustainable development, and the commitment of UCLG to place culture as a fundamental dimension of sustainable cities through the Agenda 21 for Culture. The Award has two categories: City, Local or Regional Government and Individual.

The **fourth edition** of the “International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” was presented to the UCLG World Council on the occasion of the World Congress of UCLG in Durban (11 November 2019). The deadline for the submission of candidatures was 18 March 2020. The Jury analysed the applications presented in the two categories in April and May 2020 and held its final meeting on 19-20 May 2020. **The results were made public on 29 May 2020**, at the UCLG Executive Bureau held in Rome and online.

In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the fourth edition of the Award has been an extremely meaningful experience, enabling UCLG members and partners to learn about **policies, programmes and projects that cities and local governments around of the whole world have developed to unchain the potential of heritage, creativity and diversity -that is, culture- as an unequivocal part of the solution to humanity’s challenges.**

THE JURY

The Jury of the 4th edition of the Award was made up of the following five members, all of whom are prestigious international experts with outstanding careers in the cultural field.

- **José Alfonso Suárez del Real y Aguilera** (President of the Jury). Secretary for Culture of Mexico City between 2019 and 2020, he has a recognized career as a journalist and cultural promoter, as well as a vast experience in cultural public policies and Human Rights.
- **Lourdes Arizpe**. Former Secretary General and member of the United Nations Commission on Culture and Development, at the same time that she was managing cultural projects in many countries of the world as UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Culture.
- **Catherine Cullen**. Special Advisor on Culture in Sustainable Cities, she was Deputy Mayor for Culture in Lille, France, and was former Chair of UCLG Culture Committee.
- **Lupwishi Mbuyamba**. Ethnomusicologist, educated in philology and philosophy, researcher and scholar, he is currently the Executive Director of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa and President of the African Music Council.
- **Ayşegül Sabuktay**. Director of the Izmir Mediterranean Academy, a unique organization founded by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality in 2011 as a think tank and a democratic cultural platform.



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THE WINNERS: CITIES / LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The Jury decided that the winners of the Award (in alphabetical order) were the candidatures: **“Network of Arts and Cultural Practices”**, submitted by the city of **Medellín** (Colombia) and **“Ségou: A Creative City”**, submitted by **Ségou** (Mali).

Medellín. The **Network of Arts and Cultural Practices** was created 24 years ago in Medellín, involving different artistic and cultural groups and organizations from throughout the city together with the local government to guarantee cultural rights for children, adolescents, and youth. This community oriented initiative supports more than 7,800 children and youth in the 16 communes and 5 townships of Medellín every year, providing them with opportunities for expression, exchange, learning, experimentation and enjoyment with a wide range of artistic, aesthetic, and cultural forms, including dance, performing arts, fine and visual arts, music and audio-visual. With this project, public access to culture in Medellín has increased by improving cultural infrastructure throughout neighbourhoods, setting up cultural training opportunities, and promoting specific programmes and offers for disadvantaged groups, in close collaboration with other municipal plans and programmes. Over the years, The Network of Arts and Cultural Practices has contributed to promoting and reinforcing Medellín as a cultural city committed to inclusive and participatory cultural policies aimed at enshrining cultural citizenship, sustainable development, and an improved quality of life and well-being for all inhabitants.

Ségou. The project **“Ségou: A Creative City”** started in 2015 as an initiative by the Festival on the Niger Foundation in partnership with the African Creative Cities Network and the Municipality of Ségou, to provide the city with a cultural policy focused on sustainable development. The implication and commitment of all cultural actors together with the local government and civil society in the implementation process of this solid initiative has helped unfold its main objectives, providing access for everyone to culture and enhancing the value of Ségou’s cultural identities -music, design and fashion, visual arts, heritage and gastronomy- and artistic and cultural creation, by putting art and culture at the centre of local development. “Ségou: A Creative City” has contributed to professionalize the cultural sector as well, improving the working conditions of cultural and creative actors and creating synergies among cultural organisations, stakeholders and citizens. Furthermore, “Ségou: A Creative City” constitutes a suitable framework for collaboration with other creative African cities, and promotes the implementation of projects based on co-creation, co-production, exchange of experiences and sharing of good practices.

The Jury also decided to make special mention of the following projects (in alphabetical order): **Chiang Mai** (Thailand), for the programme “Chiang Mai Centre Museums Network”, **Concepción** (Chile), for the project “Concepción Creation Centre (C3): A space for creative collaboration”, **Manchester** (United Kingdom), for the programme “Cultural Collaboration on Climate”, **Ramallah** (Palestine), for the programme “City of Music”, **Ulaanbaatar** (Mongolia), for the project “Ulaanbaatar Public Art Week”, and **Yopougon** (Ivory Coast), for the programme “Yopougon: Becoming an educational and creative city through social cohesion”. The Jury has also awarded the “Leona Vicario” of Mexico special mention to **San José** (Costa Rica), for the project “Computer Clubhouse, San José South: Girls Only: Comprehensive Development for Girls and Prevention Against Teen Pregnancy”.



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THE WINNERS: INDIVIDUALS

This category recognises internationally renowned personalities that have made fundamental contributions to the relationship between culture and sustainable development. The Award is given by the Jury, without an open competition process. The Jury decided that the individual award be shared ex-aequo by two people (in alphabetical order):

Eusebio Leal. [Eusebio Leal](#) (Havana, 11 September 1942 – 31 July 2020) devoted his entire life to the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Cuba and of humanity. Dr Leal's distinguished sensibility, as well as his early incursion into public administration, allowed him to understand the scope and value of the cultural heritage of cities, particularly Havana, both for its citizens and for the rest of the world. He was Honorary President of the Cuban Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and Honorary President of the Cuban Committee of ICOMOS and of the Civil Society Heritage, Community and Environment; Dean of the Faculty "Colegio Universitario San Gerónimo de La Habana", Professor Emeritus of the University of Havana, Chairman of the Network of Offices of the Historian and Conservator of the Heritage Cities of Cuba and Honorary President of the Economic Society of Friends of the Country. Throughout his professional career he promoted the embodiment of the public space as a cultural space, creating a family heritage beyond mere formalism through the restoration and conservation of the different works and projects he has been in charge of, with special emphasis on the Historical Centre of Havana, a city that is today a complete and absolute symbol of this effort. For Dr Eusebio Leal, the city has great symbolic value as the nation's capital and is highly representative of all the cultural, intellectual, political, historical and social values of the Cuban people, and it is also a great memory of the architectural development that succeeded in making Havana one of the most important post-colonial cities in Latin America.

Vandana Shiva. Vandana Shiva is one of the pioneering figures of ecofeminism most recognized worldwide. Born in Dehradun, India, in 1952, this Doctor of Physical Sciences, philosopher of science, ecologist, feminist and pacifist directs the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN) in India, which she founded in 1982. She is also the founder of [Navdanya](#), a movement focused on women and dedicated to the promotion of biological and cultural diversity. In her defence of the food cultures treasured by indigenous peoples and their cultural and natural heritage, Vandana Shiva has explicitly linked issues such as food security and climate emergency to neoliberalism, cultural relativism, and the colonization and spoliation of traditional agricultural knowledge. In this sense, she has provided keys to place culture at the core of the global debate on humanity's challenges. She has especially helped put women and girls, and biodiversity at the forefront of the fight to implement human rights policies, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other global agendas. Her approach to ecofeminism emphasizes scientific knowledge and dissemination as tools to preserve biodiversity and the autonomy of food cultures, and to guarantee people's cultural rights, including the most at-risk groups, leaving none behind, leaving no place behind.



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PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE AWARD

The **first edition** of the Award was celebrated between 2013 and 2014. The “City, Local or Regional Government” category was won by the programme “Arena da Cultura” presented by Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil), and the “Individual” category by Manuel Castells and Farida Shaheed.

The **second edition** of the Award was held in 2015-2016. The Jury granted the Award to the project “Cultural heritage and reinvigoration of socio-economic activities in Timbuktu”, from the City of Timbuktu (Mali), and to the project “I AM... / The adventure of one community in the middle of a transformation”, presented by Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada), in the “City, Local or Regional Government” category. In the “Individual” category, the Award was also given jointly to Jon Hawkes and Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui.

The **third edition** of the Award was held in 2017-2018. The cities of Lyon (France), and its cultural policy “The Sustainable City of Lyon: the Charter of Cultural Cooperation” and Seongbuk (Seoul, Republic of Korea), with the programme “Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance” were recognized by the International Jury as winners in the category “City, Local or Regional Government”. In the category “Individuals”, the Jury decided to award jointly Basma El Hussein, and Patrice Meyer-Bisch.

GOOD PRACTICES

Almost three quarters of the candidacies have been recognised by the Jury as good practices. UCLG hosts a wonderful tool, [the “OBS”](#), that currently has more than 250 good practices, whose origins are found in candidacies to the Award.

The OBS allows searches according to 3 criteria: the 17 SDG, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions, and the 75 keywords. This is a unique resource that allows UCLG members to have wide visibility and to learn from successful programmes and projects.

CONCLUSION

The “**International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21**” is consistent with the urgent need to strengthen the promotion of cultural rights informed by the inequalities and obstacles that prevent their implementation, to multiply the collaboration between cities and governments, to create new possibilities to access heritage and knowledge, to build stronger systems of protection for the cultural workers, to foster measures which connect culture to broader debates that our societies are holding and to consolidate culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.

The calendar and the rules of the 5th edition of the Award will be announced shortly.