



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Canadian
Commission
for UNESCO



CULTURE *for* SDGs

TOOLKIT

A practical guide to the United Nations
Sustainable Development Goals for cultural
and heritage organizations in Canada

www.CultureForSDGs.ca

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Culture for SDGs Toolkit: A practical guide to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for cultural and heritage organizations in Canada

Canadian Commission for UNESCO, October 2022

This toolkit was prepared for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO by Paolo Granata as the result of a collaborative effort involving the Working Group on Culture and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, working together over a two year period from 2020-2022. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is grateful to all working group members who were involved in developing the Toolkit:

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Introduction to this Toolkit

In October 2019, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the Canada Council for the Arts convened a roundtable to explore the role of culture in the 2030 Agenda in Canada. National leaders and players who support UNESCO's culture sector in Canada gathered to tackle questions about how the sector can contribute to a sustainable future.

Culture's role in sustainable development cuts across many of the 2030 Agenda's Goals and Targets. Although no single Goal is devoted to culture, culture is both a means and an end to sustainable development.

With fewer than 10 years left to implement the 2030 Agenda, monitoring, measuring and implementing culture as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an urgent priority. We believe the culture sector can play a critical role in supporting the achievement of the SDGs. In fact, the Goals are an incredible opportunity for cultural professionals to work with one another, with their communities and stakeholders, and with other sectors to mobilize the transformative power of cultural heritage and creativity.

Many cultural and heritage organizations across Canada are already engaged in meaningful action to help achieve the SDGs. We want to ensure that Canada's culture sector is on the frontlines and plays a full role in helping the world to realize the 2030 Agenda.

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Use this Toolkit to embrace the SDGs, support your communities, and participate in the work to improve quality of life for current and future generations in our rapidly shifting world.

Who Is This Toolkit For?

Are you thinking about aligning your work in the culture sector with the SDGs?

We developed this #CultureForSDGs Toolkit specifically to encourage cultural and heritage organizations in Canada to advance the SDGs. It offers information and tips for how to implement the SDGs into your organization and align your work with the SDGs framework.

The Toolkit has three purposes:

- It provides practical examples, ideas and tips that cultural organizations can use to align their work with the SDGs, including a road map to help them deepen their impact.
- It encourages cultural organizations to continuously assess their own awareness of the SDGs and to stimulate creative and innovative ways to integrate and meet them.
- It supports the sharing of best practices. The SDG awareness self-assessment is integral to #CultureForSDGs Community In Action, an online repository that aims to identify and collect emerging practices in cultural and heritage organizations across Canada and share practices that integrate the SDGs.

We must come together to unleash the power of culture and take the bold, innovative, transformative steps that are urgently needed to shift our world on to a more peaceful, inclusive and resilient path.

CULTURE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 Agenda includes 17 Global Goals and 169 Targets. Culture is explicitly referenced in:

- Target 4.7** to ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including [...] "appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development".
- Target 8.3** to promote development-oriented policies that support creativity and innovation.
- Targets 8.9 and 12.b** to devise and implement policies to promote (and tools to monitor) sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
- Target 11.4** to strengthen efforts to safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) also mentions cultural policies and programs, and there are important cultural initiatives in **SDG 4** (quality education), **SDG 8** (decent work and economic growth), **SDG 10** (reduced inequalities), **SDG 12** (sustainable production and consumption), **SDG 13** (climate action), and **SDG 16** (peace, justice and strong institutions).

sdgs.un.org
www.globalgoals.org



Culture: A Vector for Sustainable Development

The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, which was adopted on November 16, 1972 by the General Conference of UNESCO. Since then, UNESCO has been actively engaged in unleashing the power of culture for sustainable development, promoting it as both an enabler and driver of sustainable impact.

When it adopted the Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies in 1982, UNESCO took normative action highlighting culture as an engine of creativity and a vector of identity, value systems, tradition and cohesion. The declaration expanded the concept of culture and cultural heritage, recognizing that culture is a fundamental dimension of the development process.

More recently, UNESCO's advocacy for the role of culture in sustainable development over the last decade has given rise to several UN General Assembly resolutions acknowledging culture as a transformative dimension that ensures sustainability in the development process.

Today, UNESCO continues to align its work in culture to better address sustainable development challenges and to advocate for the prioritization of culture in both the SDGs and in the documents emerging from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

No development can be sustainable without taking culture into account.

Yet, compared to the international community's initial ambition, the potential to engage culture for sustainable development remains largely untapped in national strategies to implement the SDGs.

Now, to succeed in a time of global concern, the SDGs need the involvement of the communities, leaders and cultural network members who are most engaged in culture and who best understand its potential impacts. This means we need to harness the power of cultural institutions and organizations to shape new ways to envision a more inclusive, just and equitable world.

Culture as a Human Right

A large part of this commitment involves respecting, protecting and promoting the cultural rights of all persons and aspiring to greater solidarity based on the recognition of cultural diversity.

We encourage cultural and heritage organizations to incorporate the principles set out in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) into their practices, objectives and policies—particularly those concerning the obligation to guarantee cultural rights, access to cultural goods and services, free participation in cultural life, and freedom of artistic expression to forge inclusive and equitable societies.

This could look like paying attention to the diversity of creative work, creating opportunities for artists to share their work in the language of their choice, and promoting equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge.

As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. UNESCO has long asserted that the achievement and implementation of the SDGs need to be people-centred so that cultural rights and diversity can be key drivers of people's participation, ownership and creativity.

Cultural and heritage organizations across Canada have a vital role to play in addressing the planet's greatest challenges and creating a sustainable future.

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda and the Global Goals

The vision set out in Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is bold. A set of 17 Global Goals and 169 Targets lies at the core of this ambitious agenda, designed to focus and coordinate national policies to support a common vision for humanity.

In September 2015, Canada and 192 other United Nations Member States agreed to set the world on a path toward sustainable development by adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a 15-year global framework centred on 17 interconnected SDGs. With 169 Targets and 232 individual indicators, the Goals establish quantitative objectives across the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development—all to be achieved by 2030.

The SDGs are based on five pillars for sustainable development: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. They acknowledge that sustainable development needs to happen everywhere and that inequality exists in all communities. As such, they are to be implemented in all nations, with a focus on community-level actions, and their indicators are meant to ensure that no one is left behind. To accomplish this, participation has to be universal, including all segments of society.

The Decade of Action

The 2030 deadline is looming, and although some progress has been made, it has not happened at the speed and scale needed to achieve the Goals. The current decade has been named the Decade of Action to accelerate progress. The Decade involves global action in leadership and resources, local action to implement the Goals in communities, and people action to push for transformation.

Core principles of the SDGs

All of the core principles of the SDGs can be applied using the lens of local-level action. Cultural and heritage organizations have an important role to play at this level, especially as conveners and partners.

Localized

Implementing the SDGs at the local level depends on a bottom-up approach. In other words, changes must empower local communities to make decisions and take action.

Universal

A shared vision for sustainable development is critical. All countries are responsible for implementing the SDGs, although they may do so in different ways.

Inclusive

The SDGs focus on leaving no one behind and give power and voice to traditionally marginalized stakeholders. In Canada, these values speak to the importance of considering the needs of all communities and including and sharing power with diverse groups and Indigenous Peoples.

Holistic

The SDGs are interconnected in numerous ways. They connect across scales and boundaries and are interdependent. For example, it is impossible to achieve prosperity without a healthy planet, or to achieve peace without the conditions for prosperity.

Partnership-based

Partnerships are one of five pillars for sustainable development and are crucial to achieving the SDGs.

Aspirational

The SDGs are challenging and ambitious in scope because there is a need to move beyond the status quo and conventional approaches to achieve true transformation.

The Global Goals are a call to action, and every one of us has a role to play to build a more sustainable future.



Canada and the SDGs

The Government of Canada has pledged to meet Canada's SDG commitments both at home and abroad. In 2018, the federal government began to mobilize its efforts with the launch of an SDG Data Hub and the presentation of Canada's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum. The VNR is a voluntary report to the global community. It provides an opportunity for Canada to review its national progress toward the SDGs and to share its experiences, successes and lessons learned with audiences worldwide.

In 2019, the government released an interim report, *Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy*. The report identified five national priorities:

1. Leadership, governance and policy coherence
2. Awareness, engagement and partnership
3. Accountability, transparency and reporting
4. Reconciliation and the 2030 Agenda
5. Investing in the SDGs

Reconciliation in Canada and Global Goals

As Canada's first review, the VNR shone a spotlight on the fact that for Indigenous Peoples, Canada is not (and has never been) equitable or fair. With its promise to uphold the commitments set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Canada's VNR underlines the bold steps that must be taken to advance an equitable, sustainable and just society.

On June 16, 2021, after decades of advocacy by First Nations, the Parliament of Canada passed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The declaration presents Canada's obligation to uphold the human rights (including Treaty and inherent rights) of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed by UNDRIP. It is important to note that the Act requires the Government of Canada to work with Indigenous Peoples to review and reform the country's laws. It also calls for both parties to collaborate on a National Action Plan. This marks an important path forward.

The creativity and participation needed to ensure that Canada reaches its targets hinges on diversity in the SDG implementation process at all levels, beyond just consultations.

Advancing the SDGs: A Culture Road Map

We offer the following ideas as a plan for cultural and heritage organizations looking to spark meaningful change and play their fullest part in achieving the SDGs.

Exploring the road map will help your organization assess its alignment with the SDGs, inspire new ways of thinking and new paths to action, and create forums with internal and external stakeholders to share stories and make a greater impact.

We know that each cultural institution and organization is at a different place in its journey to incorporate the SDGs, so this Toolkit is designed to meet you where you're at. We hope you will discover your own path forward using innovative methods, mechanisms and partnerships that leverage your cultural expertise.

TALK

Start a conversation internally about the role your organization should play in advancing the SDGs and what each member should focus on.

- How much do people know about the SDGs in your organization?
- Which functions are currently working in alignment with the SDGs?
- Is there a specific division that can take the lead on this?

LOOK

Check for obvious intersections with the SDGs to identify how your organization may already be working toward one or more of them.

- Is there a specific SDG that resonates for your organization?
- What work is currently happening in your community to advance the SDGs?

CONNECT

Connect with your community partners and external stakeholders to explore possibilities and involve them in the process.

- How can you work together to achieve the SDGs?
- What kind of partnerships does your organization need?
- Is there a partner who might be a great ally?

ORGANIZE

To align your organization's planning and culture with the SDGs, consider accounting for them SDGs in all aspects of its work.

CHECK YOUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES:

Do they align with the SDGs? Develop explicit objectives and outcomes related to the Goals in your next review.

REVISIT YOUR STRATEGIC PLAN:

Does it contain objectives related to the SDGs? This can support internal annual benchmarking of how far your organization has come in terms of alignment.

CONSIDER YOUR OPERATIONAL PLANNING:

Are there specific objectives and targets related to the Goals in your plans? To build accountability, showcase how the SDGs are relevant to the departments and divisions in your organization.

REVIEW YOUR GOVERNANCE:

Create a committee dedicated to tackling questions about how to embed alignment with the Goals in all of your organization's activities.

FEED THE MOMENTUM:

Keep the conversation going. Work with your board, committees and staff to continually identify if and when there is the potential for alignment with the Goals in your operations.

TEAM-UP

Your progress toward the SDGs can be an opportunity to engage your partners and extended network. Let them know that your organization is aligning its work with the SDGs and that you are interested in forming partnerships for the Goals.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: Share the work your organization is doing to advance the SDGs in your community. Start a conversation to spark action.

ENGAGE NEW AND DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING YOUTH: This is an opportunity for cultural institutions and organizations to challenge themselves to shift power.

USE INNOVATIVE WAYS OF COLLABORATING: Which key partners need to be brought in? Remember to use an SDG lens in your scan.

IDENTIFY PEERS: Other local cultural and heritage organizations may already be doing work that can be linked to the Goals. Which ones are best positioned to align?

INVOLVE MARGINALIZED GROUPS: Consider how you are making space for marginalized groups to contribute to the conversation, and whenever possible, provide financial and capacity support. Make sure these voices are heard and supported.

CONSULT THE PRIVATE SECTOR: There may be opportunities to identify local partners and leverage work done at the national level to start conversations about local-level partnerships.

ATTRACT NEW DONORS: When you explain your organization's alignment with the SDGs, donors can see how its work connects to a global agenda.

REVIEW YOUR GRANTING PROGRAM: You can integrate the SDGs into the program as criteria and/or create an SDG-specific granting stream.

BOOST

Cultural and heritage organizations can champion the SDGs, raise awareness of them, and influence stakeholders.

EXPLORE STRATEGIES: Embed the SDGs into your external communications and outreach activities. The 17 Global Goals can seem overwhelming, but seeing them in a variety of contexts builds familiarity.

USE KEY MESSAGES: Get inspired to develop SDG-focused content as part of your organization's communications and engagement work. Mention the SDGs at every meeting, event and initiative.

HARNESS THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA:

Share the Goals on your organization's platforms. Add SDG wording to your website. Use the shared language of the Goals to discuss local issues and initiatives and when participating in public forums and discussions.

REPORT RESPONSIBLY: Align your annual reports with the SDGs. Develop an overall media strategy or a targeted SDG media campaign.

ADVOCATE: Support and amplify the voices of activists advocating for changes to meet the Goals. Identify systemic issues, key priorities and opportunities for advocacy. Connect with civic representatives about community concerns, the 2030 Agenda, and local policy changes that could drive progress and achieve the Goals.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN: #CultureForSDGs

Aligning Your Organization With the SDGs

The following section is based on a review of some of the 17 SDGs. Each selected Goal is presented to help you understand why culture is relevant and how you can make effective connections to the Goals at the local level.

There are many points of intersection with the SDGs in cultural sector work, and many options for cultural and heritage organizations that are keen to deepen their engagement with the Goals.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Culture for Quality Education

Goal #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

How is culture relevant?

Educational programs at all levels need to integrate content related to cultural diversity, arts education, languages and the role of cultural aspects in sustainable development.

What can the culture sector do?

Link educational policy with cultural policy. Work with local institutions to ensure that primary and secondary curricula include cultural skills and knowledge, intercultural dialogue, diversity, tangible and intangible heritage, and cultural rights.

Which SDG Targets have implications for the culture sector?

Target 4.7: Ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including [...] appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

TAKE ACTION

- Enable partnerships between educational institutions and communities to increase access to the knowledge embodied in tangible and intangible heritage, intercultural dialogue, diversity, cultural rights, and participation in cultural life.
- Foster the involvement of artists and cultural professionals in education, training and other learning contexts to stimulate the development of personal, social and emotional skills, such as multi-perspectivity, self-knowledge and resilience. This will equip learners of all ages with a powerful capacity to reimagine the future.
- Connect cultural practices and Indigenous and/or traditional knowledges to community education institutions to improve classroom performance and support holistic human development.
- Encourage and create the cultural spaces and technological infrastructure needed to share cultural content through digital platforms and other media so learning opportunities are inclusive and accessible for all.
- Create spaces for intergenerational and peer learning. Promote a commons-based approach to education that enables people of all ages and backgrounds to actively co-design their learning processes and use the outcomes to achieve their full potential. Prioritizing this social dimension emphasizes learning to care for each other, communities and the planet.

Resources

- Education for Sustainable Development: Learning Objectives (UNESCO, 2017).
- Education for Sustainable Development: a Roadmap (UNESCO, 2020).
- Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines (UNFCCC, 2017).
- Sustainable Development Goals - Resources for educators <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education/sdgs/material>



Culture for Sustainable Economic Growth

Goal #8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

How is culture relevant?

The cultural and creative sectors can be areas for inclusive, sustainable and fair employment. Cultural initiatives support the development of sustainable tourism, which can stimulate a wide range of benefits to the culture sector, local and international communities, and the environment.

What can the culture sector do?

Develop a model of sustainable, balanced tourism that integrates local communities and interacts with cultural ecosystems. Support the international mobility of artists and culture professionals to ensure fair employment opportunities for them. Regularly analyze how the public, private and civil sectors contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and how young people, women and disadvantaged groups are represented in workforces.

Which SDG Targets have implications for the culture sector?

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation [...].

Target 8.9: Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

See also:

Targets 8.2, 8.5, 8.6.

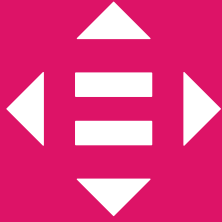
TAKE ACTION

- Create various funding streams for professional and emerging artists, volunteers, and organizations.. Offer them decent working conditions with social benefits, artistic freedom, and equitable remuneration. This will promote an environment where innovative ideas and creativity can flourish.
- Offer education or training opportunities to youth. Offer paid positions to interns.
- Promote sustainable tourism to support job creation and local culture, boost sustainable economic growth, and support the mobility of artists and cultural professionals, especially those from developing countries. For example, offer advice on obtaining visas, artistic residences and financial assistance.
- Encourage the use of environmentally friendly transportation methods. Provide discounts for using public transport. Support local businesses.
- Strive to facilitate access to bigger markets for local cultural goods and services. Leverage your local or international connections to sell products from fair trade suppliers or artisans in local shops and museums and at festivals and other events.
- Train artists and other cultural professionals in the use of new technologies and participate in promoting and protecting their cultural expressions in the digital environment.
- Look at your most recent granting cycle. How well aligned were the grants with the SDGs?

Resources

- Culture and Local Development: Maximising the Impact, guide for local government, communities and museums (OECD and ICOM, 2018).

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Culture for Equity and Social Inclusion

Goal #10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural participation can catalyze empowerment and promote the inclusion of all people, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

What can the culture sector do?

Cultural and heritage organizations should include disadvantaged groups and be accessible to all, including those with disabilities. The culture sector should support policy-makers to assess the obstacles that prevent citizens from accessing and participating in cultural life.

Which SDG Targets have implications for the culture sector?

Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome [...].

Target 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

TAKE ACTION

- Ensure diversity and gender and intergenerational balance among board members, staff and committees at all levels to establish more inclusive and equitable heritage governance processes.
- Sustainable organizations can offer more secure jobs with fair wages. Permanent, long-term contracts promote decent work and diversity.
- Engage with and empower local communities, groups and individuals. Acquire free, prior and informed consent from , and respect the rights of, Indigenous people, minorities and disadvantaged groups at large.
- Promote initiatives that foster a sense of pride and dignity in all communities, groups and individuals, acknowledging different narratives and facilitating intercultural dialogue.
- Establish cultural cooperation programs. Emphasize the protection and promotion of cultural diversity, equity and social inclusion.
- Strengthen mechanisms to preserve and provide access to digital heritage (both digitized and born-digital material) for the long-term and in a variety of formats, and allow everyone to contribute to the diversity of cultural expression in the digital environment. As part of this, consider joining partnerships to carry out initiatives for increasing connectivity while acknowledging the importance of in-person community-building.

Resources

- Mobilizing youth for the SDGs: Tools for creating a Sustainable Development Goals (ReImagine17, 2021)
- Social Development for Sustainable Development <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2030agenda-sdgs.html>
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples in Canada (National Collaborating Centre for Health, 2018).



Culture for Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal #11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural aspects are fundamental to fostering sustainable development in cities and communities. Many relevant sites and elements of tangible and intangible cultural heritage are found in cities and play a role in this.

What can the culture sector do?

Promote culture's role in sustainable local development through capacity-building, policy design, implementation and evaluation. Adopt measures to promote the role of culture in the renovation of historic centres and in neighbourhood, district and regional development plans. Incorporate the cultural dimension in all urban regeneration processes.

Which SDG Targets have implications for the culture sector?

Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Target 11.7: Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces [...].

Target 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, pre-urban and rural areas [...].

TAKE ACTION

- Encourage access to quality public and green spaces and continue to improve them. They can become key sites for public dialogue, cultural interaction and participation.
- Promote the use of a reference guide to “cultural impact assessment” in urban planning policies.
- Ensure that sustainable urban planning, mobility and related capacity-building programs include a cultural dimension.
- Identify new forms of heritage, and link these to other areas of sustainable urban development.
- Support community initiatives that aim to make the city a place where culture is part of daily life and contributes to prosperity.
- Advocate for your municipality to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Join Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and London as a Canadian city that places creativity and cultural industries at the heart of development plans and cooperates with likeminded cities internationally.

Resources

- Heritage and Sustainable Development Goals (ICOMOS, 2021)
- New Urban Agenda (UNESCO, 2016)
- Culture: Urban Future (UNESCO, 2016)
- UNESCO Creative Cities Network
<https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities>



Culture for Sustainable Consumption

Goal #12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

How is culture relevant?

Culture can foster awareness of sustainable production and consumption patterns, the sustainable and efficient management and use of natural resources, the reduction of waste, and sustainable behaviours and practices.

What can the culture sector do?

Facilitate citizen initiatives to promote the sustainable use of public spaces, especially those linked to socio-ecological innovation and circular economy policies. Include history and culture in guidelines and initiatives that encourage the production and consumption of local products.

Which SDG Targets have implications for the culture sector?

Target 12.8: Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

Target 12.b: Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

TAKE ACTION

- Reconsider your organization's consumption and production practices to ensure they are not harming anyone or anything.
- Improve energy efficiency.
- Encourage tourists to visit local communities and heritage sites.
- Confirm that cultural events funded by your institution or organization comply with eco-management standards to minimize their environmental impacts.
- Adapt historical buildings for reuse. Promote the preservation of climate-responsive historic buildings (i.e., those that minimize extreme energy use and have a reduced impact on the natural environment) and their history.
- Encourage people to view themselves as part of nature and to explore what it means to be human. For example, we can think about our relationship with the natural world and construct environmental identities by donating, giving green talks at the community level, or engaging in pro-environmental protests.

Resources

- The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action (ICOMOS, 2019).
- Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals: Journey to 2030 (UN World Tourism Organization, 2017).



Culture for Climate Action

Goal #13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

How is culture relevant?

Links exist between cultural activities, traditional knowledge, and environmentally-sustainable practices, which should be explored and fostered. Creative professionals can be involved in awareness-raising activities on climate change.

What can the culture sector do?

Explicitly recognize in cultural policies the connections between culture and environmental sustainability, including concerns about climate change, resilience and the sustainable use of resources.

Which SDG Targets have implications for the culture sector?

Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

TAKE ACTION

- Establish a working group or task force to link the work of local government departments to culture and the environment.
- Involve artists and cultural professionals in strategies and programmes to foster climate change adaptation.
- Support stakeholders who are interested in reducing emissions and fostering adaptation to climate change in the culture sector.
- Support the study and understanding of the role culture plays in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Promote knowledge to achieve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, acknowledging the diverse ways in which heritage can be used in regional development to support climate action responses.
- Encourage resource efficiency in cultural industries, such as film, music and theatre, by awarding grants and subsidies to creative professionals to help them meet environmental requirements. As well, lobby for science- and evidence-based certification programs for national film and audiovisual productions, with established emission targets and standards.

Relevant Resources

- The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action (ICOMOS, 2019).
- Culture and Sustainability Lab
<https://cultureandsustainabilitylab.org>

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Culture for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

Goal #16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural assets should be returned to the communities from which they have been stolen. Citizens should be encouraged to participate in designing and implementing cultural policies and programs. Strategies aimed at alleviating violence and promoting peace should include a cultural component.

What can the culture sector do?

Place cultural rights at the centre of local policies so they inform the design, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes, facilities and more. Commit to protecting and promoting freedom of artistic expression at both the local and international levels, such as by providing shelter to culture professionals and artists under financial stress.

Which SDG Targets have implications for the culture sector?

Target 16.4: Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

TAKE ACTION

- Ask civic institutions to create cultural policy divisions and include cultural impact assessment processes in their local programs and policies.
- Foster a horizontal, participatory governance model that encourages strong engagement by citizens and associations and recognizes culture as essential to quality of life.
- Involve youth. Train them to work as volunteers and contribute to their communities.
- Encourage a creative approach to peace-building and reconciliation through art and cultural expressions by building dialogue between diverse groups. Facilitate activities like commemorative ceremonies, memorialization initiatives, and broader performing arts productions as an avenue for building bridges, reimagining communities and as a means of challenging assumptions.
- Raise awareness of the importance of freedom of expression. Defend democratic values and promote international solidarity.
- Create opportunities for scholars, artists and policy-makers to collaborate. Cultivate multidisciplinary teams in social work and in the development and transitional justice sectors, which are helping societies respond to the legacies of serious human rights violations. Join other cultural and heritage organizations in your region that are doing the same.
- Promote the participation of local associations and cultural stakeholders in local and national strategies that support the 2030 Agenda.

Resources

- Culture for Sustainable and Inclusive Peace www.cuspnetwork.org



Community In Action

Get involved! Become part of the network of cultural and heritage organizations that are charting the way forward, and encourage others in the culture sector to do the same.

We are collecting practical examples of initiatives, practices, programmes and projects that have been implemented in response to the #CultureForSDGs campaign and Toolkit. Whether you've made structural changes in your organization to better align with multiple SDGs and Targets, or have created, planned and executed a local event to advance a specific Target, we want to hear about what you did and how you did it.

Although the integration of the SDGs into the strategies, policies and practices of the culture sector as a whole is underway, we are actively engaged in supporting cultural and heritage organizations across Canada that seek to better align their strategies, policies and practices with the Goals. By developing a living document and repository of good practices, we aim to create and stimulate a Community In Action.

Participating in this self-assessment also places you in a network of like-minded cultural operators who have affirmed the importance of the SDGs and continue to champion their alignment with them through a wide range of practices.

#CultureForSDGs Community In Action gives you a way to exchange information, keep in touch, work in partnership and get involved in a community-building exercise to advance the SDGs.

Share your practice and inspire others!

SELF-ASSESSMENT

We encourage you to be specific, and to engage deeply with our prompts to reflect on what went well, what challenges you faced, the lessons you learned, and the impact you created in the process of integrating the SDGs.

SUBMISSION

Submissions should contain concrete examples of good practices—such as programmes, projects or strategies—that are directly related to one or more Targets and that bridge the culture sector and Global Goals.

REVIEW AND SHOWCASE

Our team will review each submission before it is approved and showcased in the #CultureForSDGs Community In Action repository or at events promoted by CCUNESCO.

Download the submission form at
www.CultureForSDGs.ca

Resources

Culture for 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, 2018

Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

<https://sdgs.un.org>

Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy

www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/national-strategy.html

The Global Goals

www.globalgoals.org

Culture 21

<https://agenda21culture.net>

#culture2030goal

<http://culture2030goal.net>

2022 Global Report – Re|Shaping Policies for Creativity

<https://en.unesco.org/creativity/publications/2022-global-report-reshaping-policies-creativity>

Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Guide for Local Action

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG, 2018)

Activating the 2030 Agenda

<https://sdg.iisd.org>

Curating Tomorrow: Climate Change and SDGs

www.curatingtomorrow.co.uk

The Missing Pillar – Culture's Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/our-stories/the-missing-pillar-sdgs>

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples in Canada

National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2018

Culture in the Localization of the SDGs

<https://cultureactioneurope.org>

Culture for Sustainable and Inclusive Peace

www.cuspnetwork.org

Culture and Sustainability Lab

<https://cultureandsustainabilitylab.org>

SDG Guidebook and Toolkit for Community Foundations

Community Foundations of Canada, 2020

Alliance 2030

<https://alliance2030.ca>



We are grateful to the diverse Indigenous Nations, communities and Peoples who have protected and cared for Turtle Island (also known as North America) and its inhabitants since time immemorial.

These lands, many of which are Treaty territories, remain home to Indigenous Nations and Peoples. We acknowledge that the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples has been purposefully and systematically threatened, destroyed, suppressed and wrongfully taken by settler nations through various means, including assimilative policies and practices.

As stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, First Peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. They also have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect and access in privacy their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

As we reflect on the history of these lands, we recognize that we all have roles and responsibilities in the process of truth and reconciliation. We all have responsibilities to one other, to the land, to our values and to future generations. This acknowledgement is a reminder of those responsibilities. We must commit to education, meaningful dialogue and action to enact real change, and we must contribute to a future where Indigenous cultural heritages, including languages, are not only respected, but recognized for the incredible knowledge and cultural wealth they contain.