



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Creative Cities
Network

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK

Creativity For Sustainable
Urban Development

180 Cities | 72 Countries

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Detroit, Design, © Desmond Love, 2015

What is the UNESCO Creative Cities Network ?

Created in 2004, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) aims to make creativity an essential driver for sustainable urban development.

Today, the Network comprises 180 cities from 72 countries, working together towards common objectives: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of development plans at the local level, and actively cooperating at the international level.

To foster partnerships and synergy, the UCCN cities are designated in one of the **seven creative fields** covered by the Network :

Crafts & Folk Art / Design / Film / Gastronomy / Literature / Music / Media Arts



Ulyanovsk Literature © Anna Pushkareva



Today, 3.7 billion people, or 54% of the world population, live in cities. By 2030, it is estimated that the number of urban inhabitants will top 5 billion.

Creativity & Cities

It is first and foremost at the local level that culture and creativity are lived and practiced on a daily basis. Urban areas are, by definition, the principal breeding grounds for the emergence and development of cultural and creative industries. By strengthening the value chain of local creative economies, the Network believes that cities can support, enrich, learn from each other and work together for the sustainable urban development of all.

Above all, the Creative Cities join forces to make creativity a driver for sustainable urban development. By increasing their cultural offerings and supporting job creation, the Network fosters vibrant cultural sectors based on social diversity and cohesion, intercultural dialogue, and citizens' well-being. As a laboratory, the Network reinforces cooperation with and among Creative Cities. It offers unparalleled opportunities for cities, through peer-learning processes and collaborative projects, to fully capitalize on their creative assets.

By working together, public authorities, the private sector and civil society support creation and creators, as well as civic and cultural participation. By working together, public spaces can always be seen with fresh eyes, and urban development can meet the practical needs of local populations. The city belongs to everyone, and sustainable development is the responsibility of all.

One Mission Statement, Multiple Common Objectives

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is made up of cities ready to pool their resources, experiences and knowledge for the common objectives set forth in the Network's **Mission Statement**.

Develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

Stimulate and enhance initiatives led by member cities to **make creativity an essential component of urban development**

Strengthen international cooperation between cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor of their sustainable development

Fully integrate culture and creativity into local development strategies and plans

Improve access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals

Strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services

The UCCN is one of UNESCO's key partners in implementing the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



FOCUS ON SDG 11 — Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

UCCN in action

Every city is unique. Beyond cultural, geographical, demographic and economic differences, creativity is a common denominator for the Creative Cities.

The Network offers a key forum for brainstorming the role of creativity as a driver and an enabler for sustainable urban development, and a platform for action and innovation towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the city level.

Sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices

Policies and measures for sustainable urban development

Studies, research and evaluations of the experiences of the Creative Cities

Creative Cities Professional and artistic exchange programmes and networks

Communication and awareness raising activities

Pilot projects, partnerships and initiatives joining the public and private sectors, and civil society

- **Dakar, Senegal –**
- **Montréal, Canada**

At the Afropixel Festival, artists from Montréal and Dakar share the workshop-residency Libremapping. On the theme “The City in Common”, they fill public spaces with works of video mapping.

- **Kingston, Jamaica**

Music Week strengthens cooperation with actors from the public and the private sectors to promote music appreciation and to support the emergence of cultural and creative industries at the local level.

- **Burgos, Spain**

Creative Cities of Gastronomy collaborate on the research project “Human Motors”, linking nutritional habits to the evolution of the human species, so as to identify sustainable consumption methods at the city level.

- **Helsinki, Finland**

Recognizing that user-centred design is a key tool in developing public services, the City stands out with the appointment of a Chief Design Officer to lead the “Helsinki Lab” programme aimed to utilize design knowledge in e.g. urban planning and city development.

- **Iowa City, USA**

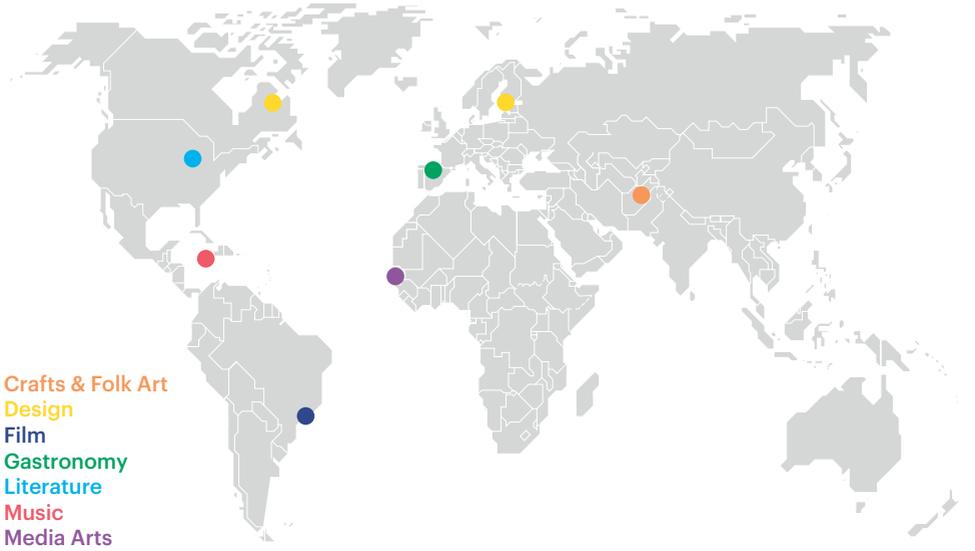
At the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio, 120 young writers from across the country come together every summer to share their creative work, practice their writing skill, and improve their literary proficiency.

- **Santos, Brazil**

The “Community Cinema” programme fosters participation in cultural life, as well as social cohesion, by offering weekly open-air film screenings in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

- **Bamiyan, Afghanistan**

The Municipal Department for the Development of Rural Areas offers weaving workshops for women and people from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups to nurture social inclusion.



How The UCCN Works

A bridge linking international development agenda and glowing local momentum, the UCCN operates through a multi-level structure:

UNESCO's Secretariat is responsible for the management and global strategy. It proposes programmatic initiatives, manages the designation process, and promotes the Network's visibility.

The 7 sub-networks, corresponding to the 7 creative fields covered by the Network, enable member cities to focus on, in particular, one field as a starting point but also an active lever to harness the transformative potential of culture and creativity.

The Steering Group facilitates the coordination between the Secretariat and the member cities through the 7 sub-networks, allowing activities and initiatives undertaken within the Network to run more effectively and efficiently.

How To Join The Network

The Network launches regular calls for applications. Cities should submit an application that demonstrates their willingness, commitment and capacity to contribute to the objectives of the Network.

Joining the Network is a longstanding commitment. It involves a participative process and a forward-looking approach. Cities must present a realistic action plan including specific projects, initiatives or policies to move along a sustainable urban development path.

Annual Meetings

The Creative Cities Network Annual Meetings offer a unique occasion to strengthen the ties between cities. The objectives are to:

- Exchange updated information on activities carried out by cities to **implement the objectives of the Network** and formulate **new inter-city partnership initiatives;**
- Determine the **Network's strategy and operations**, and agree upon important matters related to **future developments;** and
- Offer a key **platform of dialogue** between the Creative Cities and UNESCO, regarding **the Organization's priorities on culture and development.**

Membership Monitoring Reports

The Network functions as a laboratory of ideas and innovative experiences to capitalize on the full potential of culture and creativity for sustainable urban development. To this end, every four years, Creative Cities produce a **Membership Monitoring Report** that:

- Demonstrates their steadfast commitment to **the implementation of the UCCN Mission Statement**, both at the local and international levels;
- Renews their commitment to the UCCN through **the presentation of an action plan;**
- Provides insight into the

impact of the designations; and

- Encourages the **development of research** and case studies on the concepts and experiences of the Creative Cities.

Key dates

<p>2004</p> <p>Oct. 2004 Launch of the Network</p>	<p>2008</p> <p>9 Creative Cities from 9 countries</p> <p>I UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France</p> <p>II Santa Fe, United States</p>	<p>2009</p> <p>19 Creative Cities from 14 countries</p> <p>III Lyon, France</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>IV Shenzhen, China</p>
<p>2011</p> <p>27 Creative Cities from 17 countries</p> <p>V Seoul, Republic of Korea</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>VI Montréal, Canada</p>	<p>2013</p> <p>41 Creative Cities from 22 countries</p> <p>May 2013 1st UNESCO Creative Cities Beijing Summit</p> <p>VII Bologna, Italy</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>69 Creative Cities from 32 countries</p> <p>VIII Chengdu, China</p>
<p>2015</p> <p>Nov. 2015 The 38th UNESCO's General Conference approves the establishment of the International Center for Creativity and Sustainable Development in Beijing, China</p> <p>IX Kanazawa, Japan</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>1st and 2nd Membership Monitoring Reports exercises</p> <p>June 2016 2nd UNESCO Creative Cities Beijing Summit</p> <p>116 Creative Cities from 54 countries</p> <p>X Östersund, Sweden</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>XI Enghien-les-Bains, France</p> <p>Adoption of the UCCN Strategic Framework</p> <p>180 Creative Cities from 72 countries</p> <p>3rd Membership Monitoring Reports exercise</p>	<p>2018</p> <p>XII Krakow and Katowice, Poland</p>



Design



Crafts & Folk Art



Film



Literature



Gastronomy

Music



Media Arts



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