



SUSTAINABILITY DECLARATION FOR THE CULTURAL SECTOR

+ Preamble

The Sustainability Declaration for the Cultural Sector enables art and culture institutions, cultural administrations and associations, as well as cultural practitioners from all cultural areas, to commit themselves to global climate and sustainability goals.

The Sustainability Declaration specifies the internationally shared framework of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its far-reaching understanding of sustainability, for the cultural sector. This includes both the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the Paris Climate Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees as far as possible.

By signing the Sustainability Declaration, institutions and practitioners from the cultural sector join a global movement for the future and create a binding foundation for anchoring sustainability, cultural diversity and climate protection in their organization.

+ About the declaration

This Sustainability Declaration for the Cultural Sector is part of an initiative funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection. Its objective is to implement the global climate and sustainability goals in the cultural sector. It is explicitly based on the principles and goals of the UN 2030 Agenda¹ as well as on numerous appeals, mission statements and position papers by various professionals and associations from different cultural areas, cities and initiatives.

The Sustainability Declaration bundles the ideas, capabilities and concerns of the cultural sector to make specific and relevant contributions to sustainable development. In particular, the Sustainability Declaration builds on the pilot experiences of the sustainability codex for socioculture² and the Dresden Charter for the Cultural Sector.³ Special consideration was given to the "2030 – Agenda for Sustainable Development: Shaping Sustainability at the Municipal Level"⁴ a model resolution of the German Association of Cities and Towns together with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and also to the Declaration of the Many.⁵

A total of 91 national and international declarations were included in the development of this Sustainability Declaration for the Cultural Sector. The development was accompanied by 14 pilot institutions and an advisory board consisting of 14 representatives from cultural and environmental foundations of the federal and state governments, heads of cultural associations and municipal cultural administrations as well as sustainability actors from funding institutions, universities and networks. The Sustainability Declaration for the Cultural Sector, which was developed for the German-speaking world, is also meant to stimulate cultural institutions' contributions to sustainable development throughout Europe.

Sources: 1) United Nations (2015): Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2) University of Hildesheim/Bundesverband Soziokultur (2021): Wirkungsfelder und Kriterien für einen Nachhaltigkeitskodex in der Soziokultur 3) City of Dresden (2022): Dresden Charter for Sustainability in the Cultural Sector.

4) German Association of Cities (2018): 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: shaping Sustainability at the Municipal Level 5) Die Vielen (2018): Declaration of the Many

+ Principles

I.

We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute and are crucial enablers of sustainable development.

II.

We are committed to the global sustainability agenda of the United Nations (UN 2030 Agenda) and, as a cultural institution, we will use our capabilities to bring about cultural change in line with the global sustainability goals.

III.

We are dedicated to cultural diversity and the cultural sector's contribution to sustainable development.

IV.

We ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence as well as global citizenship.

V.

We align our institution and our work with high sustainability standards and, as a learning organization, we seek to work towards achieving sustainability goals together with the cultural sector.



+ Guiding objectives

For the global sustainability agenda, culture is a fundamental cross-sectoral dimension that can contribute to all the different fields of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With this Sustainability Declaration, institutions and practitioners from the cultural sector pursue the following guiding objectives, which specify SDGs that are particularly relevant to the cultural sector (4, 11, 12, 13, 17).

Sustainable cities and communities

I.

We act as discursive, critical, creative and reflective sustainability actors who open spaces and perspectives within society. We therefore develop interactions and participatory offers which, in turn, impact society.

High quality education

II.

We provide cultural education and education for sustainable development as a key to imparting values and competencies and enabling people to think foresighted and act sustainably.

Sustainable production and consumption

III.

We are committed to environmental, social and labour standards that have been proven across sectors and adopt a holistic sustainability strategy, which includes fields of action, targets, indicators and measures.

Climate protection

IV.

We actively ensure effective climate, environmental and resource protection in our facility, our program planning and our events together with our employees.

Partnerships

V.

We coordinate our sustainability efforts with other cultural institutions as well as with other public, social, scientific and private organizations. We establish a network with regional, national as well as international partners and sustainability professionals.

+ Declaration



As signatories of the Sustainability Declaration for the Cultural Sector, we declare that we will act in accordance with these principles and guiding objectives and that our development will be validated, each year until 2030, by means of concrete activities.

Place, Date

Organization / Name of Institution

Name / Signature / Stamp

In the context of



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