



Arts & Culture Working Group

www.artsandcultureworkinggroup.org

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Chapeau: Elevating Humanity through the Arts

In the pursuit of a sustainable and inclusive future, the Arts & Culture Working Group envisions a world where creativity, expression, and diversity are at the forefront of sustainable development. The transformative power of arts and culture can bridge divides, foster understanding, and inspire collective action. As creative practitioners and advocates for the integral role of arts and culture in shaping societies, we present concrete and action-oriented recommendations within the framework of the Pact for the Future.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Recognizing the expansive potential of the arts to stimulate economic growth, the ACWG calls for a paradigm shift in perceiving artists and creatives not merely as entertainers or expressions of identity and creativity but as engines driving multi-sector investment and participation. By advocating for the integration of arts and culture into mainstream economic discourse, in partnership with the private sector and multilateral donors, we envision a future where creative industries attract investments that not only bolster the cultural sector but also contribute significantly to overarching sustainable development goals.

When artists are provided with funding, support and leadership positions to develop arts-based fundraising campaigns, events, and initiatives, they become potent catalysts for financing climate change and sustainability needs. The creative realm offers a unique avenue for conveying the urgency and significance of environmental issues, translating complex scientific data into emotionally resonant narratives that capture public attention. Through innovative and impactful campaigns, artists can leverage their influence to attract diverse audiences, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for climate action and sustainable development. Whether through compelling visual art, immersive performances, or interactive installations, artists possess the ability to evoke empathy and inspire change. Moreover, events curated by artists can serve as powerful platforms to

engage communities, raising awareness and mobilizing resources for sustainable causes. By providing artists with the necessary resources and encouragement, their creativity can be harnessed to address global challenges, making a substantial contribution to financing and championing sustainability needs.

Chapter II. International peace and security

At a time when peace and conflict tensions are gripping the world, the ACWG accentuates the pivotal role of artists in fostering international peace and security. Artists emerge as indispensable architects, uniquely equipped to transcend cultural, linguistic, and geopolitical divides, positioning us as catalysts for understanding and unity. Notably, the arts offer a transformative power to shift narratives, particularly regarding young people, changing the perception from potential instigators of violence to agents for peace. By leveraging our creative platforms, artists can challenge stereotypes and provide alternatives for youth who may otherwise gravitate towards crime or violence, steering them towards constructive, peaceful pursuits.

Throughout history, artists have stood at the forefront of movements to end war, participating in anti-war demonstrations, and advocating for lasting peace. Our capacity to inspire empathy and dialogue positions us as mediators and advocates for positive change. By championing meaningful artist participation and shaping narratives that prioritize peace, inclusion, and collaboration, artists contribute significantly to conflict resolution and reconciliation efforts. In essence, the ACWG envisions a future where the arts actively reshape perceptions of young and low-income individuals, empowering them as agents for peace and providing creative alternatives that contribute substantially to global efforts for international peace and security.

Additionally, recognizing the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, artists become champions of these rights through their creative endeavors. By integrating the values enshrined in the Declaration, artists contribute significantly to conflict resolution, reconciliation efforts, and the promotion of human rights globally. In essence, this chapter envisions a future where the arts actively reshape perceptions of young individuals, empowering them as agents for peace and champions of human rights, thereby contributing substantially to global efforts for international peace and security.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

In navigating the landscape of science, technology, innovation, and digital cooperation, the Arts & Culture Working Group (ACWG) underscores the pivotal role of artists and indigenous knowledge keepers as crucial contributors to shaping ethical technological frameworks. These creative visionaries are recognized as transcultural advocates, adept at molding inclusive and transformative narratives through the application of emerging technologies. In this visionary approach, artists and indigenous knowledge keepers are called upon to act as bridge-builders, seamlessly connecting traditional wisdom with contemporary technological advancements.

Through intentional collaborations with policy-makers, these advocates wield their creative influence to ensure that emerging technologies adhere to principles of inclusivity and cultural respect. The ACWG envisions a future where these transcultural advocates not only contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage but also play a vital role in developing sustainable policies that effectively address global challenges. Of particular note is the harnessing of the potential of generative AI in a secure manner, where artists and knowledge keepers become instrumental in steering the narrative towards a world where technology, tradition, and innovation converge for the betterment of humanity and the planet.

Recognizing the urgent need for ethical considerations in the technological realm, the ACWG places a strong emphasis on engaging artists in these endeavors. By bringing their unique perspectives, artists become key drivers in shaping narratives that respect diverse perspectives, ensuring that technological advancements align with human values and contribute to the greater good. This chapter envisions a collaborative future where artists, policy-makers, and technological innovators work hand in hand to forge ethical frameworks that prioritize inclusivity, cultural preservation, and sustainable development.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

The Arts & Culture Working Group (ACWG) places a spotlight on the indispensable role of youth and future generations in the realm of sustainable development, with a keen recognition of the transformative power of the arts in shaping their development and engagement with global challenges. As advocates for the importance of inclusive artistic and creative intergenerational policy engagement efforts, the ACWG underscores the necessity of fostering collaborations that actively involve children and youth.

Youth, acknowledged as the greatest stakeholders of our future, are envisioned as not only recipients of information but active participants in the design and implementation of initiatives that will intricately shape the trajectory of their futures. In this paradigm, the ACWG positions the empowerment of youth within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as foundational for leadership development and the eventual realization of these crucial goals. Harnessing the creative potential of the arts, the ACWG envisions a space where young people, through mediums such as music, film, dance, and more, not only seek to understand the world around them but actively contribute to sustainable development endeavors.

Moreover, the chapter accentuates the importance of intergenerational coalition building, emphasizing the dignity of aging persons and the invaluable nature of their experiences. By unifying action across generations, the ACWG seeks to create an environment where the wisdom of elders harmoniously intersects with the energy and innovation of youth. This collaborative approach ensures a holistic engagement with global challenges, facilitating an intergenerational transfer of knowledge that fosters a sense of continuity and shared responsibility. The arts, serving as a conduit for expression and understanding, emerge as a powerful means to engage young people in sustainable

development, providing them with creative avenues to navigate and contribute meaningfully to the challenges of our interconnected world.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Art, as a dynamic tool for social and political engagement, emerges as a catalyst for public participation and a powerful force to hold governments accountable. By inviting transectoral dialogue between artists and policymakers, the arts become instrumental in challenging the status quo and envisioning a world where justice and equality prevail, laying the foundation for good governance.

Artists, propelled by the imperative of social responsibility, are encouraged to utilize their craft to encourage public participation in decision-making processes. By engaging in critical discourse through thought-provoking works, art becomes a mechanism for citizens to voice concerns, criticize corruption, and actively participate in the governance of their societies. This dynamic interaction not only enriches the fabric of democracy but also demands a governance structure that respects and values the voices of its constituents.

Moreover, the chapter underscores the importance of art in promoting human rights and dignity. By supporting initiatives that advocate for social justice and equal dignity for all individuals, the arts contribute to a collective narrative that emphasizes the intrinsic value of every life. Through multifaceted roles, artists and creatives emerge as essential allies in the transformative process of shaping a governance paradigm that is responsive, just, and reflective of the diverse voices that constitute our global community.

Summary

The Arts & Culture Working Group (ACWG) envisions a transformative future through the Pact for the Future, spanning five integral chapters. In Chapter I, the ACWG advocates for a paradigm shift, recognizing the arts as drivers of economic growth and calling for increased funding and meaningful representation for artists at all levels of policymaking. Chapter II positions artists as architects of international peace and security, with a focus on changing narratives surrounding young people and engaging them as agents for peace. Chapter III underscores the essential role of artists and indigenous knowledge keepers in shaping ethical technological frameworks, ensuring the alignment of emerging technologies with inclusivity and cultural respect. In Chapter IV, the ACWG emphasizes the pivotal role of youth in sustainable development, positioning the arts as a transformative force engaging young people through creative pursuits like music, film, and dance. Introducing Chapter V, the group underscores art as a potent tool for social and political engagement in global governance, urging collaboration between artists and policymakers to foster inclusivity, hold governments accountable, and champion human rights. This collective vision champions the transformative potential of the arts to actively contribute to addressing global challenges, fostering inclusivity, ethical technological frameworks, and an interconnected world for the betterment of humanity and the planet.

Signatories:

Members of the Arts & Culture Working Group

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Limnesh Augustine, 3D Street Artist, Bahrain

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