

**A New Milestone for the Sector: The Official Signature of the Declaration of Lausanne**

With the formal presentation of the Declaration of Lausanne – a foundational text that defines a shared vision and a coordinated pathway for the sustainability transition of the arts and cultural sector – we mark a historic moment for our international Alliance. Co-created collectively by our **33 Founding Members**, the Declaration establishes a long-term, systemic, and evidence-based framework to guide the arts and cultural sector toward a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future. It is both a symbolic commitment and a strategic instrument:

**One Sector, One Voice, acting together to accelerate the transition.** [About the Declaration of Lausanne](#)

We are a **global platform** that shares insights, initiatives, and resources, harnessing the unique potential of the arts and cultural sector on its journey toward sustainability. At the heart of our work, our research co-creates an institutionalised, sector-specific framework – breaking down silos to **empower arts and cultural organisations**, funding bodies, and policymakers to **accelerate the sustainability transition**.

**Key Achievements & What's Next**

✦ **Welcome** ✦

Each edition of the newsletter shares updates on the progress of our research, news from our members, highlights from past and upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved through calls to action.

This bulletin is designed to inform, engage, inspire, and spark collaboration across the arts and cultural sector. We warmly welcome your feedback, ideas, and questions at any time. Feel free to reach out to our team: [info@culturefortheplanet.org](mailto:info@culturefortheplanet.org).

— The Culture for the Planet Team

In this bulletin, you will find information about:

- The Inaugural Culture for the Planet Summit
- The Declaration of Lausanne
- The Upcoming Steps

**Summit Highlights: A Turning Point for a Global Community of Practice**

The Inaugural Culture for the Planet Summit, held from 8 to 10 October 2025 in Lausanne (Switzerland), unfolded across four emblematic venues – the Olympic Museum, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, La Grange (University of Lausanne) and Plateforme 10 – creating a coherent cultural and academic setting for three days of exchange. Through plenaries, workshops, masterclasses and site visits, participants examined how the arts and culture sector can advance the ambition of **integrating sustainability into the everyday practice of arts and cultural organisations** by rethinking governance, tools and sector-wide collaboration.

[READ THE FULL SUMMIT REPORT](#)



**The Declaration of Lausanne: A Shared Framework for Systemic Transformation**

Signed on 9 October 2025 at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, the Declaration of Lausanne signaled the emergence of a new collective ambition for the global arts and cultural sector. Rooted in the recognition that the sector plays a central role in fostering "a good life for all within planetary boundaries" and in responding to the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, pollution, and widening inequalities, the Declaration articulates both urgency and responsibility.

It calls on organisations to embed sustainability into governance, strategy, implementation, and transparency; to reduce environmental impact across creation, production, presentation, and conservation; to act within an international community of practice that nurtures collaboration, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange; and to adopt and sector-wide guidelines and standards tailored to the needs of arts and culture.

This shared text formalises a common language and establishes the conditions for coordinated action. As highlighted during the ceremony – bringing together leading arts and cultural organisations, policymakers, and funders – the Declaration marks a shift from isolated initiatives to an aligned, systemic approach to sustainability. By endorsing this vision, each Founding Member strengthens a collective effort that has the potential to reshape sectoral governance, accelerate knowledge exchange, and drive long-term transformation across the global arts and cultural landscape.

We invite you to explore:

- [Video of the Declaration of Lausanne](#)
- [Declaration of Lausanne webpage](#)



**A Collective Gesture of Belonging: The Alliance Wooden Tile**

To accompany the public launch of the Declaration of Lausanne, our Alliance carried out a coordinated communication action that culminated on 4 December: "Wooden Tile in Place". Each Founding Member received a hand-crafted wooden tile representing its place within the collective board unveiled during the Summit – an emblem of unity, co-creation, and distributed leadership.

Members were invited to place their tile in a symbolic location within their institution and share an image of it, accompanied by a short message affirming their commitment to the community of practice and to the sustainability transition. This gesture – simple yet highly symbolic – visually expressed how individual organisations anchor the Declaration in their daily environments, transforming abstract principles into institutional reality. As described in the coordinated communication guidelines, the tile stands as "a tangible symbol of our connection to this international community of practice and of our shared commitment to act."

**SUMMIT OVERVIEW — KEY MOMENTS BY VENUE**

The Inaugural Culture for the Planet Summit (8–10 October 2025, Lausanne, Switzerland) unfolded as a series of encounters revealing how interconnected the challenges and ambitions of arts and cultural organisations have become.



**1) Olympic Museum (8 October)**

**Keywords:** Recognition, Inspiration, Global Exchange, Sectoral Challenges, Innovation

The Summit opened with a welcome address and a guided visit of the Olympic Museum, where participants explored the institution's approach to cultural stewardship and large-scale digitalisation. Conversations addressed operational challenges such as archiving, spatial constraints and global documentation, signalling the shared complexity faced by arts and cultural organisations and setting a collaborative tone for the days ahead.



**2) Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne (9 October)**

**Keywords:** Research Foundations, Governance, Evidence, Collaboration, Competencies, Collective Responsibility

Day 2 focused on the research foundations of Culture for the Planet and the operational realities of sustainability in cultural organisations. Key outcomes presented included the **Sustainability Star** (20 dimensions across governance, social and environment), the **34 modular Key Sustainability Indicators refined from an initial 456**, and a review of **70+ sustainability standards and labels**. Workshops highlighted common obstacles such as limited time, resources and fragmented frameworks, while emphasising the need for collective infrastructures, evidence-based tools and distributed leadership. Sustainability emerged as both strategic and relational, requiring organisational culture change as much as technical solutions.



**3) La Grange, University of Lausanne (10 October)**

**Keywords:** Governance, Policies, Funding Alignment, Practice, Systemic Change

At La Grange, discussions centred on governance, frameworks and policy alignment. A masterclass with funders, policymakers and networks reinforced the importance of aligning funding criteria and policy expectations with organisational practice. Breakout sessions across environmental, social and governance strands showcased concrete cases illustrating how sustainability becomes a lived organisational ethos through experimentation, measurement, care and cross-departmental collaboration. The day underscored governance as essential to translating vision into long-term institutional practice.



**4) Plateforme 10 (10 October)**

**Keywords:** Operational Implementation, Public Engagement, Institutional Cooperation, Cultural Landscape

The Summit concluded with a guided visit to Plateforme 10, where participants explored the district's cross-institutional Sustainable Development Charter and its nine operational areas, including exhibition design, mobility, conservation, energy use and audience engagement. Discussions highlighted how sustainability principles can be embedded in the everyday functioning of cultural districts through shared guidelines, measurable actions and continuous improvement.

[READ THE FULL SUMMIT REPORT](#)

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**KEY INSIGHTS**

- From individual to collective responsibility
- Ensuring a strong alignment between policy, funding, and practice
- The importance of distributed leadership
- The role of evidence as a foundation for change
- Integrate sustainability systemically into governance, programming and operations

**Next Steps for the Alliance**

**1) Research Co-Production**

The Alliance will launch a new phase of testing the modular Sustainability Indicators across diverse institutions. This work will consolidate empirical results, refine methodologies, and strengthen the sector's evidence base for transparent and comparable sustainability assessment.

**2) Developing Sustainability Management Tools**

The Sustainability Management System will continue to evolve, translating research findings into practical instruments for strategic planning and daily operations. Training and capacity-building formats will support organisations in embedding sustainability and fostering distributed leadership.

**3) Strengthening the Community of Practice**

In the coming months, Culture for the Planet will expand its membership, cultivating a global community of practice where organisations collaborate, share knowledge, and co-develop tools for sustainability management.

**Stay connected through our newsletter and social channels!**

**Exciting updates are coming soon, including the opening of our next call for new members to join this growing, international Alliance of practice!**



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