

Embedding Sustainability as Standard Practice

As the year progresses, Culture for the Planet moves firmly into its implementation phase, with a clear objective: consolidating sustainability as standard practice in arts and cultural organisations.

This phase focuses on four core priorities: validating modular sustainability indicators across environmental, social and governance dimensions; testing and refining a Sustainability Management System tailored to sector realities; advancing a global, sector-specific sustainability standard; and strengthening the Culture for the Planet Alliance as a structured space for collective learning and peer exchange.

Through these coordinated actions, the project translates shared ambition into operational frameworks that support credible, comparable and scalable practice across the sector.

Culture for the Planet is a **global platform** that shares insights, initiatives and resources, harnessing the unique potential of the arts and cultural sector in advancing sustainability. At the core of its work, a research-driven process 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**.

Progress & Next Steps

Welcome,

Each edition shares updates on the progress of our research, news from our members, highlights from past and upcoming events, and opportunities to engage through open calls and collaborative initiatives.

This bulletin is designed to inform, connect, and inspire action across the arts and cultural sector. We welcome your feedback, ideas, and questions at any time – feel free to reach out to our team at info@culturefortheplanet.org

In this bulletin, you will find information about

- 2026 Culture for the Planet Summit
- Open Call for New Alliance Members
- Introducing the Culture for the Planet Alliance Meetups
- Advancing the ISO Standardisation Process
- New European Bauhaus Festival 2026

– The Culture for the Planet Team



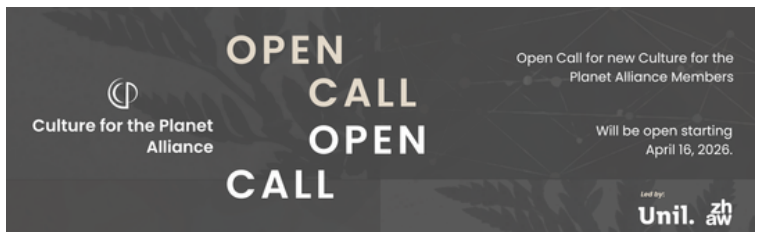
We are pleased to announce that the next Culture for the Planet Summit will take place from 4 to 7 November 2026 in Hong Kong.

Consolidating Sustainability in Practice: 2026 Culture for the Planet Summit

Building on the foundations established at the Inaugural Summit in Lausanne, which formally launched the Alliance and affirmed a collective commitment to embedding sustainability in governance, operations and artistic practice, the 2026 Summit will advance the next phase of implementation. Organised in collaboration with **M+** and the **CUHK Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change**, whose

partnership meaningfully strengthens this edition, the four-day Summit will convene arts and cultural organisations, researchers, funders and policymakers for structured exchange and research-informed peer learning, supporting the further development of practical frameworks tailored to the sector. Further information on the programme will follow shortly!

The Open Call for new Culture for the Planet Alliance Members will launch on 16 April 2026.



Open Call for New Alliance Members

Building on the momentum of the Alliance’s implementation phase, we are pleased to announce the launch of an Open Call for new members. Starting on 16 April 2026, arts and cultural organisations and sector associations will be invited to apply

through our website to join the Culture for the Planet Alliance and contribute to advancing sustainability as standard practice across the sector. **Further details regarding eligibility criteria and the application process will be shared shortly!**

Introducing the Culture for the Planet Alliance Meetups
A Space for Collective Learning and Exchange

The Culture for the Planet Alliance launches a new series of regular online encounters designed to strengthen structured exchange among its members.

The Alliance Meetups provide a dedicated forum to engage with ongoing research, examine practical organisational challenges and contribute to the development of shared sector-specific tools. Organised in recurring formats – including *Research Spotlights*,

Drop-in Sessions and *Sustainability in Practice* exchanges – the series establishes a continuous learning cycle connecting research production, institutional realities and collective reflection across the sector. **Selected outputs, including presentation recordings and Research Briefs, will be made publicly available to support wider sector learning and consultation.**



Alliance Meetup #1 – Research Spotlight

On 26 February 2026, the Alliance held its first Meetup under this new format. The session focused on **assessing and monitoring sustainability** in arts and cultural organisations.

The presentation introduced a **modular framework of 34 Key Sustainability Indicators (KSIs), structured across governance, social and environmental dimensions**. Designed as a phased system with mandatory and optional indicators, the framework enables organisations to progressively embed sustainability into everyday governance and long-term strategy. It also addresses



key sectoral dilemmas – including integration into existing structures, responsibility boundaries and limits of organisational control.

The recording of the presentation will be made **publicly available on 10 March 2026** via our website, together with the official publication of Research Brief #1, which outlines the methodological foundations, indicator structure and next steps for sector-wide testing.

Advancing the ISO Standardisation Process

The **international standardisation process for ISO/NWIP 26540**, which aims to adapt sustainability management systems to the specific needs of arts and cultural organisations, continues to advance. Building on ISO 20121:2024, the initiative seeks to provide a globally relevant framework for structured sustainability practice across the sector.

At the end of February, Culture for the Planet presented the project in Paris during the ISO/TC 354/SC1 meeting of the International Organization for Standardization. Drawing on research conducted with the Culture for the Planet Alliance, the presentation

emphasised how robust and trusted sustainability standards can strengthen peer learning, validate progress achieved, identify remaining implementation gaps, and support organisations in embedding sustainability into their management systems.

The initiative is supported by Pro Helvetia and the University of Lausanne.

Experts wishing to contribute to the development of the standard are invited to register their interest with their national standards organisation by 3 April 2026: <https://www.iso.org/about/members>
Further updates will follow.



Culture for the Planet at the New European Bauhaus Festival 2026
Satellite Webinar on a Sustainability Standard

Culture for the Planet has been selected to participate in the New European Bauhaus Festival 2026 (09–13 June 2026). The Festival brings together creativity and innovation to showcase initiatives contributing to beautiful, inclusive and sustainable solutions for the future.

As part of the programme, Culture for the Planet will host a satellite webinar entitled *“Co-creating a Beautiful Sustainability Standard for Arts and Cultural Organisations.”* The session will focus on the collective design of a global standard, accompanied by a sustainability management system and qualification programme,



enabling arts and cultural organisations to assess their current stage of sustainability transformation, identify pathways for continuous improvement and recognise progress already achieved.

Further details will be shared shortly.