

DECLARATION OF LAUSANNE

PREAMBLE

The role of arts and cultural organisations in fostering a good life for all within planetary boundaries is central to accelerating the global transition towards sustainability. Now is the time for action and commitment. To achieve greater equity, justice, and wellbeing for all, the arts and cultural sector is committed to responding substantively to the global climate crisis, the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and growing inequalities around the world. It is imperative to take immediate, institutional, and systematic action – guided by long-term strategies and tailored initiatives that address the specific needs and potential of the sector.

The arts and cultural sector enjoys widespread visibility, trust, and respect at local and international levels. These organisations offer vital spaces for critical reflection, social cohesion, and community resilience. They encourage open dialogue, helping shape cultural narratives and agreed-upon objectives for sustainable practices and shared visions for the future.

Despite the universal recognition of the role of the arts and cultural sector in sustainability efforts, action remains isolated and fragmented. Many organisations struggle to translate ambition into practice. Common frameworks, benchmarks, and sector-specific guidelines need to reflect diversity at the local and global scales. A coordinated, collective approach is urgently needed – one that not only embeds sustainability within the strategies of arts and cultural organisations, but that also institutionalises it in the sector.

DECLARATION

We, the signatories, declare our commitment to advancing the sustainability transition of our organisations and to champion efforts within the arts and cultural sector. We recognise that this transformation cannot be achieved in isolation and must be approached institutionally, systematically, and collectively.

We call for individual arts and cultural organisations, and for the sector as a whole, to:

- Recognise their responsibility in the sustainability transition and their potential to influence broader societal change.
- Develop and implement good governance for sustainability, integrating it into strategy, implementation, and transparency.
- Act within a community of practice that fosters collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building.
- Adopt and support sector-wide guidelines and standards for sustainable management.

- Reduce climate and overall environmental impact across the creation, production, presentation, and conservation of the arts and culture.
- Empower communities by embracing inclusivity, social responsibility, and regenerative practices.
- Act with transparency in tracking, monitoring, and communicating progress in all dimensions of sustainability.
- Understand sustainability in a holistic way, addressing both environmental concerns and broader systemic challenges of sustainable development.

This Declaration stands alongside global efforts calling for culture to become a fundamental pillar of the sustainability transition.

There are many constraints in turning intentions into actionable steps. Through this Declaration, we align our sector in a collective effort to overcome these barriers and shape a coordinated global response. One sector, one voice – working together towards the sustainability transition, while recognising our different cultural, political, and geographical contexts.

CALL TO ACTION

We call upon arts and cultural organisations, networks, policymakers, funders, and stakeholders to take collective responsibility in establishing sustainability as a core value within our sector. We call on cultural actors worldwide to contribute to a future where artistic and creative freedom align with ecological responsibility, equity, and resilience.

By signing this Declaration, arts and cultural organisations affirm their commitment to embedding a holistic view of sustainability within their strategies, governance, and practices.

DECLARATION OF LAUSANNE**SIGNATURE**

Place, Date

Name of Organisation

Name / Signature / Stamp