

Welcoming New Perspectives into the Alliance

The Culture for the Planet Alliance welcomes a new cohort of members, **bringing additional expertise, institutional experience and regional perspectives** to our international community of practice.

This edition also highlights the next steps of our collective work: the testing of our **Sustainability Management System (SMS)**, preparations for the 2026 Culture for the Planet Summit, and a new opportunity to **contribute to the development of a sector-specific sustainability standard**.

Together, these developments reflect the Alliance's commitment to connecting research and practice and advancing collective action for the sustainability transition in the arts and cultural 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**.

In this issue

WELCOME

Each edition shares updates on our **research, news from our Alliance Members, upcoming activities** and opportunities to engage through open calls and collaborative initiatives.

- Welcoming our **New Alliance Members**
- Testing our **Sustainability Management System (SMS)**
- 2026 Culture for the Planet **Summit**
- Open Call: **Share Your ISO 20121 Experience**
- Culture for the Planet at **CU:SU 2026**

Spotlight on the New Faces of the Culture for the Planet Alliance

The Culture for the Planet Alliance is pleased to welcome a new cohort of members **whose expertise, experience and perspectives further strengthen its international community of practice**.

Representing museums, theatres, opera houses, professional associations and networks from different regions of the world, they share a common commitment to accelerate the sustainability transition in the arts and cultural sector through **collaboration, research and collective action**.

The Alliance connects organisations through a global community of practice while involving its members in the co-development of practical, research-driven solutions for the sector. Current work focuses on three complementary areas:

- **building a common approach to sustainability management;**
- **co-creating the foundations of a shared sustainability standard;**
- **developing new expertise and preparing the sustainability leaders of tomorrow.**

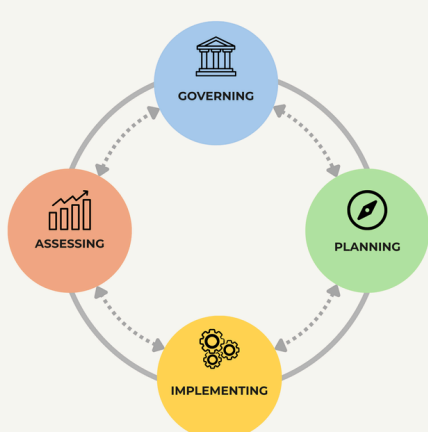
These solutions are developed collaboratively to reflect the **diversity** of arts and cultural organisations and the realities of different institutional and geographical contexts.

[**Discover all Members of the Culture for the Planet Alliance here**]



Testing our Sustainability Management System (SMS) for arts and cultural organisations worldwide

The Sustainability Management System (SMS): Four Interconnected Stages



The testing phase is not only about applying the system. It is also a key part of its development. Participating organisations **will document what works in practice, where challenges arise and which elements need to be adapted to different institutional and geographical contexts**. Their feedback will directly inform the refinement of the SMS before its wider implementation.

At its core, the SMS aims to make sustainability part of organisational practice rather than an additional layer of work — **connecting governance, strategy, day-to-day implementation and assessment in one coherent process**.

The Culture for the Planet Sustainability Management System (SMS) **has now entered its first full implementation phase**.

Each participating organisation has received a Ten-Step Implementation Guide, designed to support the progressive integration of sustainability across four interconnected stages: **Governing, Planning, Implementation and Assessing**. The process moves from mapping responsibilities and defining priorities to developing action plans, monitoring progress, reporting results and integrating continuous learning.

Since July 2026, six arts and cultural organisations across four continents have been testing the system over a 12-month period, applying it directly to their own organisational realities:



6 organisations, 4 continents:

July 2026 – July 2027

2026 Culture for the Planet Summit

Transforming Arts & Cultural Organisations Towards Sustainability 04–07 November 2026 · Hong Kong

This November, the Culture for the Planet Alliance will meet in Hong Kong to explore **how sustainability can be embedded across the governance, leadership and day-to-day operations** of arts and cultural organisations. The Summit will focus on **capacity building, peer learning and the practical application of new tools**.

A **Public Conversation** will open part of this dialogue to the wider arts and cultural community, exploring how institutions can move from sustainability commitments to organisational transformation.

A recording of the Public Conversation will be made available after the Summit, followed by practical insights, recommendations and resources emerging from the discussions.

Photo: Kitmin Lee © M+, Hong Kong



The Summit is co-hosted by M+ and the CUHK Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change, with Swissnex as supporting partner.

Share your ISO 20121 experience and contribute to the development of an international standard for arts and cultural organisations.

OPEN
CALL

OPEN
CALL



OPEN CALL: ISO 20121 Experience

As part of the development of ISO/AWI 26540 – Event sustainability management systems: Guidelines for application of ISO 20121:2024 in cultural organizations, Culture for the Planet is **inviting cultural organisations worldwide to share their practical experience of implementing ISO 20121 — with or without formal certification**.

Examples are welcome from visual and performing arts, festivals, museums, cultural centres and other cultural organisations, whether ISO 20121 has been applied to a specific event, a programme of events, or across the organisation as a whole.

At this stage, only a short expression of interest is required.

Deadline: **21 September 2026**

Submit an expression of interest

Culture for the Planet also encourages readers to share this call with arts and cultural organisations in their networks that have relevant ISO 20121 experience.

CU:SU 2026 | Alliance and Action

Culture for the Planet will contribute to the Hong Kong Culture and Sustainability Conference 2026, taking place on 12–13 October at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and online.

On 12 October, researcher Greta Ortalli will join the opening panel, “Alliance and Action”, exploring how international collaboration can help the cultural sector translate sustainability ambitions into concrete action.

Programme and online registration



香港文化與可持續發展會議
Hong Kong Culture and Sustainability Conference

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ALLIANCE FOR ACTION

2026.10.12–13

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