

Opening the Alliance

Arts and cultural organisations are increasingly recognised as important actors in the sustainability transition. Across the sector, organisations are developing new practices, methodologies and organisational approaches to respond to environmental, social and governance challenges.

At the same time, these efforts often evolve independently, without shared frameworks enabling coordination, comparability and long-term alignment across the sector.

The Culture for the Planet Alliance was established to **support a more collective and structured approach**, connecting research, peer exchange and practical implementation through an international community of practice.

The Alliance is now open to new members worldwide

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

This edition highlights the opening of the Culture for the Planet Alliance to new members, alongside recent developments in research, standardisation, and international exchange.

We welcome your feedback, ideas, and questions at any time. **Feel free to reach out to our team** at info@culturefortheplanet.org.

— The Culture for the Planet Team

Highlights

- **Open Call** — Join the Alliance
- **New European Bauhaus Festival**
- Alliance Meetups: **Research Spotlight #2**
- Standardisation: **ISO working group**
- **Additional updates**



Culture for the Planet
Alliance

OPEN
CALL
OPEN
CALL

The Open Call is now open.

Join the
Culture for the Planet Alliance.

Lead by:


Open Call — Join the Alliance

The Alliance is now open to new members.

Becoming a member means engaging directly in the co-development of the sector’s future reference frameworks, while strengthening your own institutional practice.

Rather than joining a network, members engage in a **continuous process of collaboration, experimentation and shared development**, with direct implications for their own organisational practices.

How to Apply

Applications are now open to arts and cultural organisations worldwide.

All relevant information, including the Membership Brief, eligibility criteria and application process, is available here:

Culture for the Planet — Join the Alliance

Why Join?

- **Engaging in a global community of practice**
Exchange with organisations across contexts, disciplines and governance models.
- **Contributing to a coordinated international effort**
Participate in aligning approaches to sustainability at sector level, beyond isolated initiatives.
- **Accessing structured formats for exchange and learning**
Join regular working sessions, research spotlights, workshops and targeted discussions.
- **Co-developing tools and methodologies**
Test and refine methodologies grounded to the realities of arts and cultural organisations.
- **Linking research and day-to-day practice**
Engage with applied research and translate findings into operational practices.
- **Strengthening a collective sector voice**
Contribute to positioning culture within broader sustainability debates and policy frameworks.

Co-creating a Beautiful Sustainability Standard for Arts and Cultural Organisations

10 June 2026
09:00—10:30 CEST



THE FESTIVAL
NEW EUROPEAN
of the BAUHAUS

9 - 13 JUNE 2026

New European Bauhaus Festival

Join our online webinar

As part of the New European Bauhaus Festival (9–13 June 2026), the Culture for the Planet Alliance will host an official side event addressing a central question for the sector:

How can sustainability standards for arts and cultural organisations be both effective and grounded in the realities of the field?

This co-creative session builds on a key observation: existing sustainability frameworks are often developed outside the cultural sector and do not fully reflect its diversity, governance models, and public role.

REGISTRATION LINK

Session focus

- explore practical challenges related to **data collection, monitoring and reporting**
 - gain insights from organisations **already working with sustainability frameworks**
 - contribute to **identifying priorities** for a shared standard
- The session will combine **expert inputs with collaborative work, including case studies** presented by Alliance members and a **co-design workshop** aimed at formulating concrete recommendations for the next stages of development.

TIME	STEP	CONTENT
9.00 - 9.10	Welcome and framing	• Introduction to the purpose of the event and presentation of the invited guests.
9.10 - 9.40	Inputs from practitioners	• Short case studies from members of the Culture for the Planet Alliance, focusing on the use of sustainability standards, including data collection, monitoring and reporting.
09.40-10.15	Co-creative workshop	• Brainstorming session in which participants will collaboratively explore how existing sustainability standards can be adapted to cultural contexts and enriched through NEB values. Needs, gaps, and priority actions will be mapped using Miro.
10.15 - 10.25	Key recommendations	• Results will be synthesised by a keynote listener from the Culture for the Planet Advisory Board. Core elements and key messages for working group experts developing the new standard will be identified.
10.25 - 10.30	Closing	• Final remarks will be delivered, and the next steps will be outlined.

SPEAKERS

Jonathon Keys
Sustainability and Environmental Impact Officer
Australian Museum



Ingo Reinhardt
Sustainability Coordinator
Bühnen Graz



Linda Rullander Drackner
Sustainability Officer
Göteborg Opera



Fotocredit I. Reinhardt. © Marija-M. Kanizaj

Hosted by the Culture for the Planet Alliance, in cooperation with ICLEI Europe (NEB Junction partner). The standardisation project is led by the Alliance, with the support of Pro Helvetia, the University of Lausanne and FGSE UNIL.



Lina Bo Bardi & Pietro Maria Bardi Buildings © Leonardo Finotti

The next Alliance Meetup will focus on the **development of a sector-specific sustainability standard** for arts and cultural organisations, contributing to the ongoing CERTIFY work within the Alliance.

Following the session, a dedicated page will provide:

- the Research Brief #2, presenting **key findings and concrete field-based insights**
- the **recording** of the presentation
- **additional resources** related to the topic

Standardisation — ISO working group

The standard **ISO 26540 — Guidelines for application of ISO 20121:2024 in cultural organisations** is currently under development within the working group **ISO/TC 354/SC 1/WG 1 “Cultural Organisations.”**

Culture for the Planet aims to support arts and cultural organisations in embedding sustainability more strategically into their governance, operations and activities through a framework adapted to the specific realities of the sector.

The working group brings together experts from different countries and professional contexts to contribute to the development of this shared international framework. **Experts interested in contributing to the process may participate through the relevant national standardisation bodies and ISO working groups.** [Know more]

Additional Updates

- ENCATC Academy 2026**  ENCATC
- Culture for the Planet contributed to the 14th ENCATC Academy on Sustainable Cultural Management and Policy in Bilbao, presenting ongoing work. Read
- Culture for the Planet website relaunch**  Home
- The web platform has been redesigned to improve access to research outputs, resources and Alliance activities.
- Nordic Museology — Special Issue** 
- A recent publication developed by members of the CultureSustain network at Aarhus University, explores cultural sustainability across theoretical, political and institutional perspectives.

One sector, One voice.