PRESS RELEASE

2026 Culture for the Planet Summit comes to Hong Kong for its first Asia-Pacific edition

Co-hosted by M+ and the CUHK Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change, the international Summit brings together arts and culture leaders to advance the sustainability transition and examine how organisations can turn sustainability commitments into lasting change across the sector.

Hong Kong, 2 November 2026

From 4 to 7 November 2026, Culture for the Planet will convene its second Summit in Hong Kong, marking the first edition of the international gathering in Asia-Pacific following the 2025 Inaugural Summit in Lausanne, Switzerland. Co-hosted by M+ and the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK MoCC), the four-day programme will bring together leaders from arts and cultural organisations, sustainability practitioners, researchers and sector partners from around the world.

Under the vision *One Sector, One Voice*, Culture for the Planet unites organisations through its Alliance to develop, test and share sector-specific approaches to sustainability. Its work combines research with peer learning and practical tools for management, standards and professional development. **The 2026 Summit represents a key moment for this growing international community of practice,** creating a platform to exchange knowledge, address shared challenges and connect research with institutional realities. By hosting the Summit in Hong Kong, the programme places Asia-Pacific perspectives at the heart of the global conversation on culture and sustainability.

A four-day programme built around institutional practice

The Summit is designed around the real-world challenges and opportunities facing participating organisations, progressing through a series of interlinked working sessions that move from peer exchange and shared problem-solving to the practical application of tools and frameworks. It also serves as the foundation for Culture for the Planet's future professional qualification programme in sustainability for the arts and cultural sector.

The programme is structured around three pillars of Culture for the Planet's work. **QUALIFY** addresses the governance, roles and capabilities needed to lead sustainability. **MANAGE** focuses on management tools and strategic planning. **CERTIFY** examines how sustainability standards can be adapted and applied in practice.

At CUHK: governance, strategy and standards in practice. Alliance members work across QUALIFY, MANAGE and CERTIFY in a day of practical sessions. They examine the roles and capabilities needed to lead sustainability, explore approaches to sustainability management and strategy, and consider how standards can be adapted to different organisational contexts.

At M+: peer exchange around institutional challenges. The following morning, members bring current challenges from their own organisations into facilitated peer exchange. The Summit then expands the conversation to the wider arts and culture community through the Public Conversation, creating an opportunity to share insights and engage broader audiences in the role of culture in advancing sustainability.

The four-day programme concludes with cultural and sustainability visits across Hong Kong, giving participants the opportunity to experience the city's cultural landscape and connect the Summit's discussions with inspiring local initiatives and practice.

Perspectives from the co-hosts

Co-hosting the Summit with M+ and CUHK MoCC brings together two complementary perspectives that are central to Culture for the Planet's work: institutional leadership in arts and culture, and sustainability knowledge, education and action. Together, **they anchor the Summit in Hong Kong and create a strong setting for international exchange with the Asia-Pacific region.**

Veronica Castillo, Director, Collection and Exhibition, M+ says, 'As a founding member of the Culture for the Planet Alliance, M+ is committed to advancing sustainability across the global arts and culture sector. Sustainability is one of M+'s strategic priorities and is embedded throughout our exhibitions, programmes, collections care and visitor experience. Co-hosting the first Asia-Pacific edition of the Summit at M+ in Hong Kong takes this shared ambition forward, creating a platform for dialogue and collective learning. As cultural institutions consider how best to respond to shared challenges, it is increasingly important to integrate sustainability in the way we work. By bringing together perspectives from Asia and around the world, we hope the Summit will foster exchange and inspire practical approaches to long-term organisational transformation.'

Albert Chow Hing-pong, Vice-President (Administration), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), says, 'CUHK is dedicated to sustainability advancement by driving our education, research and community engagement to address pressing global challenges. Through the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change—the world's first museum of its kind—we have seen first-hand how cultural spaces can bridge scientific knowledge and public action. We are honoured to co-host the first Asia-Pacific edition of the Culture for the Planet Summit with M+ Museum this year. By uniting academic insight with museum practice, we look forward to forging cross-sector partnerships that empower cultural organizations to turn climate ambition into lasting operational impact.'

Culture Leads the Transition: Public Conversation at M+

On Friday 6 November, from 14:00 to 18:00, M+ hosts the Summit's **Public Conversation**, "Culture Leads the Transition: Transforming Arts & Cultural Organisations Towards Sustainability". **Open to the wider arts and culture community, the programme focuses on how organisations are moving from sustainability commitments to implementation**, with particular attention to leadership, coordination and collaboration.

The programme opens with an academic keynote by Prof. Dr. Leticia Labaronne, presenting Culture for the Planet research on sustainability management, indicators and sector-specific guidelines informing the development of international ISO standards. This is followed by a keynote conversation between Suhanya Raffel, Museum Director of M+, and Paula Azevedo, CEO of Instituto Inhotim, on transforming cultural institutions for sustainable futures. A first international panel examines leadership, governance and sector-wide coordination across arts and culture, while the second panel focuses on how collaboration can be put into practice and scaled for greater impact. Speakers bring perspectives from leading organisations including the Royal Ontario Museum, Sydney Opera House, Guggenheim Bilbao, Royal Ballet and Opera, TBA21 and Ópera Latinoamérica.

The event is free and open to the public. Please visit the M+ website for registration and more information.

About Culture for the Planet

Culture for the Planet is an international research-for-action initiative led in partnership by the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), with support from the Swiss BRIDGE Discovery Grant. Its international Alliance brings together more than 50 organisations spanning diverse geographies, institutional contexts and missions worldwide.

cultureforthеplanet.org

About M+

M+ is Asia's global museum of contemporary visual culture. Located in Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District (WestK), it is dedicated to collecting, exhibiting, and interpreting visual art, design, architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The landmark M+ building on Hong Kong's Victoria Harbourfront was designed by the world-renowned architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron in partnership with TFP Farrells and Arup. With a total floor area of 65,000 square metres, it includes thirty-three galleries spanning 17,000 square metres alongside a Learning Hub, Moving Image Centre, Research Centre, Roof Garden, and other event and programming spaces. The M+ Facade is one of the largest LED screens in the world, showcasing commissioned artworks on the Hong Kong skyline every evening. The museum stewards a multidisciplinary permanent collection of more than 9,000 works, primarily from Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland, and across Asia. A highlight is the M+ Sigg Collection, which is one of the world's most comprehensive collections of Chinese contemporary visual art. Today, M+ is a nexus for researching and presenting contemporary visual culture, inspiring thought and curiosity.

mplus.org.hk

About the CUHK Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change

The CUHK Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change was established in December 2013. It is the first museum of its kind in the world. It regularly organizes interactive multimedia exhibitions featuring valuable collections and providing information about climate change. These exhibitions are designed to keep visitors abreast of the latest developments in environmental conservation and sustainability and to persuade them, especially students and teachers, to rally to the cause of environmental stewardship. Since its inception, the Museum has hosted over 2 million exhibition visitors and served millions of members of the public through its off-site educational activities.

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