

ACTIVITY REPORT CULTURAL CITIES COMMISSION (CCC) 2021 11 - 2023 10

1. General description

Chair from April 2022 Nomedė Domeikienė, Kaunas (LT)

Members of the Commission: 35 representatives from 10 countries.

The Cultural Cities Commission wants to be the voice for culture on the local level in order to have the cultural issues on the local level heard and taken into account in all policies for developing the local level on regional, national and international context.

The commission, building on the expertise of its members and partnerships with other networks, is continuing its work in the following areas, developed during the years 2021-2023:

- Regional identity;
- Professionalization of the cultural and creative field;
- Urban transformation through culture;
- Culture accessibility;
- Audience development.

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

- 2022 05 18 open UBC CCC meeting intended to discuss the current affairs of the field of culture
- 2022 05 19-20 taking part in The European Capital of Culture Forum in Kaunas
- 2022 12 02 conference "Biržiška Readings'22: Knowing is Freedom" organization and participation
- 2023 03 05 open UBC CCC meeting intended to share your experiences in overcoming the challenges that arise
- 2023 03 06-7 conference "New Experience of Libraries in the Context of Environmental Changes" organization and participation

3. Projects

1) Project "Baltic Sea Region Cultural Pearls for more resilient Cities and Regions"

UBC CCC objective: Social resilience through Culture and Creativity - Building strong and attractive communities.

Years active: 2023-2027. Lead partner: Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat.

BSR Cultural Pearls is an Interreg BSR co-founded Initiative to highlight community-building efforts through culture through an annual Cultural Pearls title award and a Programme to build capacity in local authorities making better use of local assets, culture and young people for revitalization and regeneration of their communities, leading to increased social resilience in the BSR.

2) Project: “UrbCulturalPlanning”:

UBC CCC objective: Urban transformation through culture.

Years active: 2019-2021. Lead partner: Danish Cultural Institute in Riga.

Cooperation: attending the UrbCulturalPlanning conference in Kiel, Germany, facilitating the project activities in the UBC CCC partner cities, inviting the culture professionals to attend the workshops. Cultural, education, municipal organizations from 9 BSR cities were brought together by the Danish Cultural Institute to develop sustainable cultural planning practices in the region within the Interreg BSR project UrbCulturalPlanning. Among them are UBC members Pori, Riga, Gdansk, Kiel and Guldborgsund. By activating local cultural resources, the project co-creates and launches cultural initiatives in the neighbourhoods in cooperation with the residents and stakeholders.

3) “Culture 4 Climate (C4C)” (seed money project development):

UBC CCC objective: Professionalization of the cultural and creative field.

Years active: 2020-2021. Partners: lead partner - ARS BALTICA. Other partners: Nordkolleg (DE), Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) (SE), Ecologic Institute (DE), The Action University (DK), UBC CCC (LT/PL), Kaunas Artists’ House (LT).

Predicted outcome: the main project will integrate all BSR countries to co-design and implement long-lasting certification-methods that allow the chosen sectors to not only measure their impact, but also reduce their footprint and at the same time create a large outreach. For this a Pre-Phase is imperative, to (1) map the countries’ individual needs by cultural sector, (2) create Piloting Tools (3) find a well balanced partner consortium to stem a BSR-wide large-scale project and last but not least (4) prepare a solid funding-framework.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

The cooperation mainly took part on project basis, the UBC CCC actively cooperated with more than 10 organisations from the BSR. In March 2023 m. the cooperation took part on project “Baltic Sea Region Cultural Pearls for more resilient Cities and Regions” kick off meeting in Stockholm with 12 organisations from seven BSR states. Also there were two international conferences organized, where Lithuanian and foreign cultural, educational and scientific institutions took part.

5. Communications

The UBC CCC is following the UBC Communication and Marketing Strategy and provides various articles about our work and activities. UBC CCC had an edition of the Baltic Cities Bulletin dedicated to Culture’s Role in Times of Crises, called “Safe city for everyone” Autumn 2022. Prepared 4 reports for the UBC website and newsletter about commission meetings and implemented events. International conferences where broadcasted online <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlymjEGcmBk&t=147s> (conference “Biržiška Readings’22), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1INztMfhW1o> (conference “New Experience of Libraries in the Context of Environmental Changes”)

Nomeda Domeikienė, Chair of the UBC CC