

CULTURE NEXT CITIES NETWORK

MANIFESTO

Considering that:

Bidding for the European Capital of Culture title requires commitment, investment and cooperation among various local actors, and the candidature is an important unique development opportunity for all participating cities;

More than 80% of the bidding cities are not awarded the title and then all their efforts and emotional and financial investments are lost. All these cities develop strong cultural strategies, establish mechanisms for cultural planning and citizen participation and they manage to raise significant budgets and energy for the implementation of their programme;

There is a need to gather and offer possible answers to this delicate question: How can candidate cities – be they candidates, title holders or former candidates that did not make it through the selection – make the most of this exceptional mobilising of talents, ideas, resources and energy?;

Cities are where democracy, inclusiveness and innovation are produced, with culture being a facilitator of this entire ecosystem. More cities with cultural programmes for sustainability mean more power to address European challenges and opportunities;

There is a need to support cities to implement culture-led urban development programmes and policies, building on the experiences, participatory processes and collaborations established during the preparation for the ECoC bid and therefore contribution to the legacy of the ECoC project.

**US, THE SIGNATORIES OF THIS MANIFESTO AGREE TO COLLABORATE
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CULTURE NEXT CITIES NETWORK
IN 2023 AND 2024.**

By doing this we express our commitment to make culture work as a catalyst for sustainable development in our communities and to engage in a European ecosystem of collaboration.

We commit to make the most out of, and to respect the guiding principles of Culture Next, as stipulated in the Network's documents.

SIGNATORY MEMBER CITIES

FOR THE TERM 2023-2024

1. **Aveiro, Portugal** | Municipality of Aveiro
2. **Belfast, United Kingdom** | Urban Scale Interventions, on behalf of the City
3. **Cluj-Napoca, Romania** | Cluj Cultural Centre, on behalf of the City
4. **Eleusis, Greece** | Eleusis 2023 European Capital of Culture, on behalf of the City
5. **Oulu, Finland** | Oulu Culture Foundation (Oulu2026)
6. **Leeds, United Kingdom** | Leeds Culture Trust, on behalf of the City
7. **Leeuwarden, The Netherlands** | Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2028, on behalf of the City
8. **Trenčín, Slovakia** | Trenčín 2026
9. ...