

# ReCrAFTing cities

Event summary

*The contribution of arts and culture to inclusive, creative, and sustainable urban spaces*



# About CrAFt and ReCrAFting Cities

Started in 2022, **Creating Actionable Futures (CrAFt)** is an urban movement funded by the Horizon Europe programme of the European Commission within the Cities Mission work programme. Inspired by the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative, CrAFt uses the power of local collaborative methods to forge new pathways towards climate neutrality

CrAFt envisions a future where arts and culture are catalysts for a profound transformation towards climate-neutral cities.

On 6 December 2023, the CrAFt team organised the **ReCrAFting Cities** online session. This event brought together 11 speakers and 160 city representatives, cultural professionals and policymakers to exchange experiences around the contribution of arts and culture towards inclusive, creative and sustainable cities.

**[craft-cities.eu](https://craft-cities.eu)**



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# ReCrafting Cities. ARTS & CULTURE for SUSTAINABLE URBAN SPACES

CREATING ACTIONABLE FUTURES

BEAUTIFUL INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE

NOW ALL ORGANISATIONS NEED TO SHARE THIS FOCUS



CULTURE IS THE BRIDGE AND THE GLUE

LOCAL COLLABORATIVE GOVERNMENTS COLLABORATION using ARTS & CULTURE

DOCUMENT WHAT WORKS CONNECT EXISTING IDEAS MEETING SPACES LIBRARIES MUSEUMS

GREEN DIGITAL & SOCIAL TRANSITIONS

SHARED BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

COLLECTIVE EFFORT COMBINE SKILLS

GLOSSARY JOINT VISION OPPORTUNITIES

FUNDS EQUAL ACCESSIBILITY

EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION SINCE 1954 EUROPEAN SENSE OF BELONGING

LET'S BE... CONCRETE AMBITIOUS URGENT

HOW CAN CITIES AND THE CULTURAL SECTOR IMPROVE THEIR COOPERATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & CITIZEN PARTICIPATION?

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS & INSTRUCTIONS for CITIZENS

COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE FOR COMMON CHALLENGES

BEING PART OF COMMUNITY

MAKING RESULTS VISIBLE

INVOLVE STUDENTS

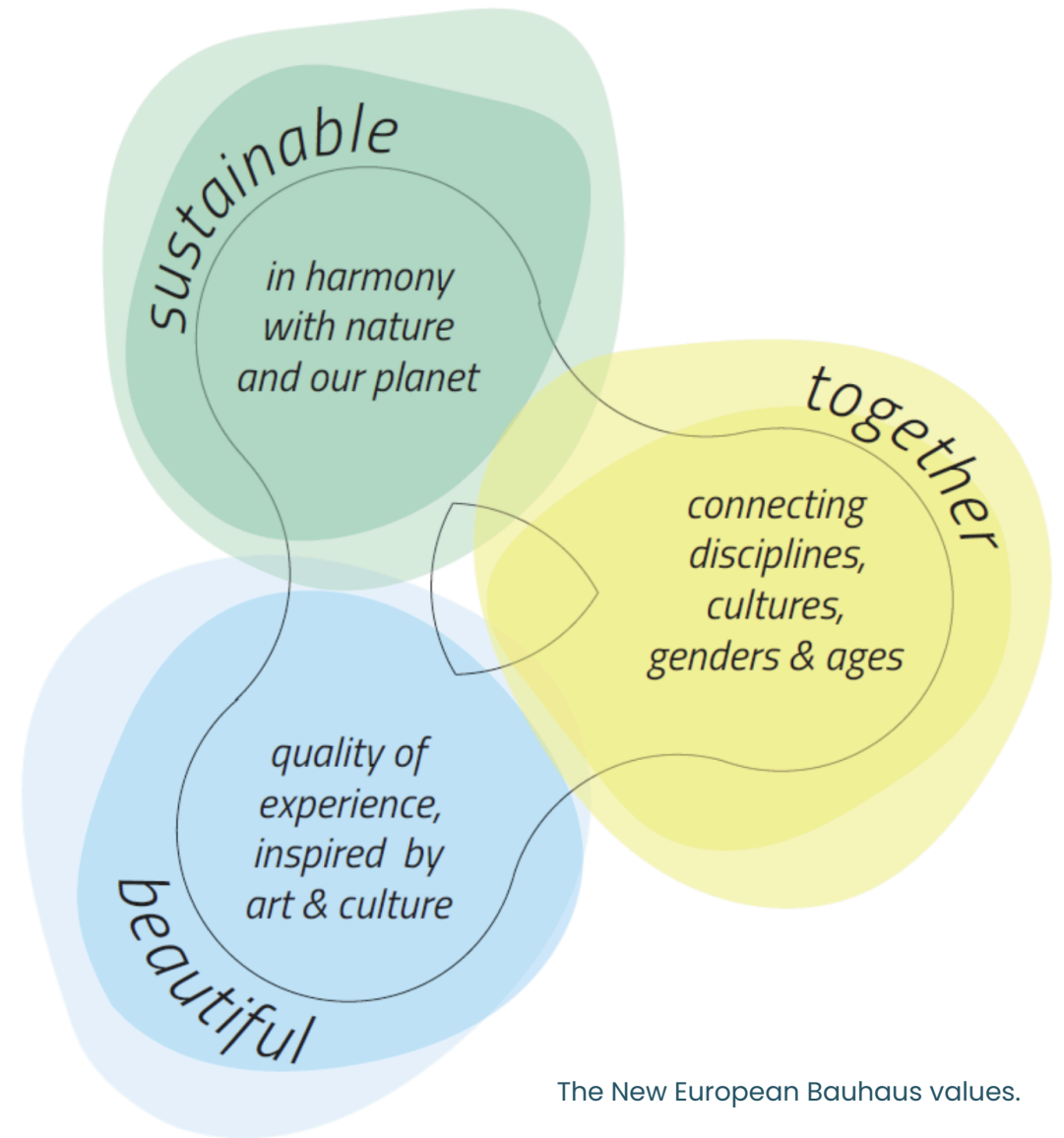
INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS IN ALL ACTIVITIES

START FROM SCHOOLS & PUBLIC PLACES

CrAft Creating Actionable Futures

# Main questions addressed by the event

- 1.** How can arts and culture contribute to making cities more inclusive, sustainable and beautiful?
- 2.** How can city representatives and cultural operators improve their cooperation for the benefit of more inclusive, sustainable and beautiful cities?
- 3.** What role do arts and culture play in the framework of the New European Bauhaus and wider EU policies addressing environmental sustainability and the urban transition?



The New European Bauhaus values.

# ReCrAfting Cities. ARTS & CULTURE for SUSTAINABLE URBAN SPACES

## PANELISTS

**LAURA HETEL**  
URBAN SYSTEMS DG RTD  
EU COMMISSION

**VERA WINTHAGEN**  
NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS  
TEAM - EU COMMISSION

**MARIA IGLESIAS**  
DG EAC - EU COMMISSION

**JULIE HERVÉ**  
EUROCITIES

**NATHALIE GIORGADZE**  
CULTURE ACTION EUROPE

## MODERATOR

**MACIEJ W. HOFMAN**  
EUROPEAN CULTURAL  
FOUNDATION

**MISSION CITIES**  
NOT JUST ANY  
CLIMATE NEUTRAL  
CITIES

LIVABLE LOVEABLE  
PLAYFUL BEAUTIFUL  
HEALTHY CHANGE

BECOME A  
PROBLEM  
SOLVER

INTERNAL: VALUES, FACILITIES, OPERATIONS, EMPLOYEES  
EXTERNAL: ALLIANCES, USERS/VISITORS, ON-SITE & ONLINE

## PANEL CULTURE, CITIES & THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

LANDSCAPES AND MINDSCAPES

CULTURAL RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS  
PARTICIPATION

DECODE EU POLICY for the CULTURAL SECTOR  
ENCODE FOR THE EU

18th SDG CULTURE

CULTURAL RIGHTS PLURALITY SUSTAINABILITY  
CULTURAL DEAL FOR EUROPE

## COLLABORATION

WE ARE JOINED BY COMMON VALUES  
REGIONAL LOCAL NATIONAL  
JOINT FUNDING €

## FUTURE CITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS



EU WORK PLAN for CULTURE '23-26

FUNDING for CCS 63%

COHESION HORIZON EUROPE  
RECOVERY & RESILIENCE MOBILITY

ARTISTIC RESIDENCES

PARTICIPATORY LOCAL & GEO-POLITICAL  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY  
9 PROGRAMMES NETWORK  
HORIZONTAL APPROACH

SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION

E.G. COMMUNITY DRIVEN CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROJECT TO RECYCLE TOYS



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# Key insights from the brainstorming session

## How can cities and the cultural sector improve their cooperation for the benefit of sustainable development and citizen participation?

- 1.** To mobilise collective intelligence and define shared goals through glossaries, joint vision, and identifying opportunities.
- 2.** To ensure access to funding for both small and structured initiatives to maintain and develop the community.
- 3.** To emphasise the importance of internal work for cultural institutions, integrating environmental efforts in daily practices and activities, and not outsourcing problems.
- 4.** To recognise the value of cultural heritage and utilising existing cultural spaces (libraries, museums) as meeting spaces for creative collaboration, daily life encounters and conversations.
- 5.** To stress the need for combining skills for collective efforts at both local and global levels, emphasising interdisciplinary collaboration.
- 6.** To reframe technical complexity into generosity, creating a proud community for a sustainable future.
- 7.** To open co-creative, interdisciplinary and collaborative processes for governance to a wide range of participants, including students and out-of-reach communities, with ambassadors in neighborhoods.
- 8.** To use creativity to accelerate results, acknowledging that visible outcomes in cities and urban development take time.
- 9.** To recognise both local and global efforts for a sustainable future, including the role of states in providing practical solutions and instructions for citizens to achieve more sustainable outcomes.

# ReCrAfting Cities. ARTS & CULTURE for SUSTAINABLE URBAN SPACES

CASE PRESENTATIONS OF CULTURAL PROJECTS

SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATING NEB PRINCIPLES

**2 Ufa Fabrik**  
FRIDO HINDE  
BERLIN

CULTURE INCLUSION  
SUSTAINABILITY IS IN OUR DNA

1979 SQUATTED AS A HOLISTIC CULTURAL CENTRE

GREEN ROOF  
PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

4 16 PRIORITIES FOR CO2 & MORE INCLUSIVE CULTURE

CHRISTOPHE TURON-TROMMENSCHLAGER  
VILLE DE LILLE

TO CONVINCE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS TO BECOME INVOLVED

ADVOCACY TEAM of 50 PEOPLE

PROUD TO DRIVE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION THROUGH CULTURE

RENEWAL SCHOOLS & CHURCHES

MUSEUM PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WELL-BEING

CREATIVE ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

**1 Fashion for inclusion**  
JARON ROWAN  
BAU - BARCELONA

TO HELP YOUNG MOTHERS  
WE LISTENED TO THEM  
HOW TO LEARN WITH THEM NOT TEACH THEM

COMMUNITY & TRUST  
IN DIVERSE CULTURAL GROUPS

ACTIVITIES TO CREATE SOCIAL INCLUSION

SKILLS COMMUNITY  
ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET

CLIMATE REFUGEES  
MIGRANT COMMUNITIES  
MANY FACING CHALLENGES & WITH LITTLE STRUCTURAL SUPPORT

SUSTAINABLE LOCAL & NON-TOXIC MATERIALS

BREATHING MOVEMENT WELL-BEING

RAIN WATER FLUSHES OUR TOILETS

**3 LIBRARY AS THERAPY**  
INGUNA DUKURE  
VALMIERA - LATVIA

500+ PUBLIC EVENTS PER YEAR

THE PLACE TO HEAL YOUR SOUL

DEMOCRATIC TRUSTED SPACE IN A TIME OF ANXIETY

ECO PANDEMIC WAR

WELL-BEING INITIATIVE

BIBLIO-THERAPY

DANCE THERAPY

ART THERAPY

MUSIC THERAPY EXCURSIONS

IN THE FUTURE

EMPOWER YOURSELF  
EMPOWER THE WORLD

SENSE OF BELONGING

MULTIFUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY SPACES

THE ENJOYMENT OF BEING TOGETHER

NETWORK OF 32 LIBRARIES

HIGH SUSTAINABILITY INDEX

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# Concrete actions

**The speakers participating in the panel discussion on culture, cities and the New European Bauhaus proposed some concrete actions:**

- 1.** To become signatories of climate city contracts and join the climate action plans.
- 2.** To contact CRAFT for valuable resources, information and advises.
- 3.** To participate in calls launched by the European Commission (Horizon Europe, Culture Moves Europe).
- 4.** To contact national contact points or visit the NEB website to get involved in the New European Bauhaus initiative.
- 5.** To join Eurocities Living Space peers learning program and stay tuned for more information.
- 6.** To join the [European Cultural Deal](#).





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