

CULTURE AS A DIMENSION TO RETHINK METROPOLITAN SPACES**28th September 2020 – 15 :00 CET****Context and objectives of the session**

A transnational group of over 20 cities and 50 contributors has started an initiative to support the right to participate in cultural life as a condition for a better society. The main outcomes of the work carried out so far is the so-called “2020 Rome Charter”.

This charter is led by the city of Rome and the UCLG Committee on Culture. It aims at promoting the right to participate in cultural life as a condition for a better society. The initiative began in 2019 and it has involved more than 20 cities and 50 contributors.

The charter is the result of a process of reflection on people’s participation in cultural life at local level, in the belief that commodification and economic priorities threatened equity, justice and human dignity.

Our planet has been advancing towards a metropolitan era characterised by major conurbations of unprecedented complexity and diversity. The outcome of the convergence of global and metropolitan challenges is a significant part of the current global agendas linked to sustainable development focus on large conurbations and have a decisive impact on the policies that are implemented. Consequently, metropolitan areas are the setting in which some of the planet’s most pressing problems can be solved. However, the current pandemic is confronting city leaders and the global community to some of the pre-existing critical contradictions of large urban areas and urges local governments and the global community to stand up and act. That’s why Metropolis also recently launched “A Call to Rethink Metropolitan Spaces”.

In this context, Metropolis organises an on-line debate to provide participants with:

- Inputs and key drivers regarding culture and its impact in people’s life in a metropolitan context.
- A perspective on the challenges and opportunities to ensure the quality of life in metropolitan spaces.
- Contribute to the conference that will take place between the 1st and 3rd October 2020.

Speakers will be requested to share their views around the following questions:

- Culture makes people develop their human potential and contribute to the communities of which all are part. In the complex metropolitan reality, which are the key areas of citizens’ life being affected by culture and its accessibility?
- Major cities tend to present high social disparities, how can ensure that all citizens have access to and benefit from culture?
- Which has been the impact of COVID-19 on citizens’ access to culture?
- Which is the relation between culture and public space? Is it being affected by the current pandemic? And how is it visible at the metropolitan scale compared to the city scale?

- Which are the values that can be promoted via culture when rethinking our Metropolitan spaces?
- Are cities and metropolitan areas seeing and imagining themselves as the spaces in which transformation is taking place?

Agenda:

Opening (5'): Octavi de la Varga, Metropolis Secretary General

Setting the scene (10'): Luca Bergamo, Deputy Mayor, Rome

Debate (55'):

- Representative of Buenos Aires
 - Ms. Wang Chenjia, Dean, Intercultural Research Institute at Northwestern University, Xi'an
 - Representative of Montreal
 - Representative of Barcelona City
- Moderated by: Jordi Pascual, Coordinator Culture UCLG

Open discussion with the audience (15')

Wrap up (10'): Speaker TBC

With the Support of:

*** **