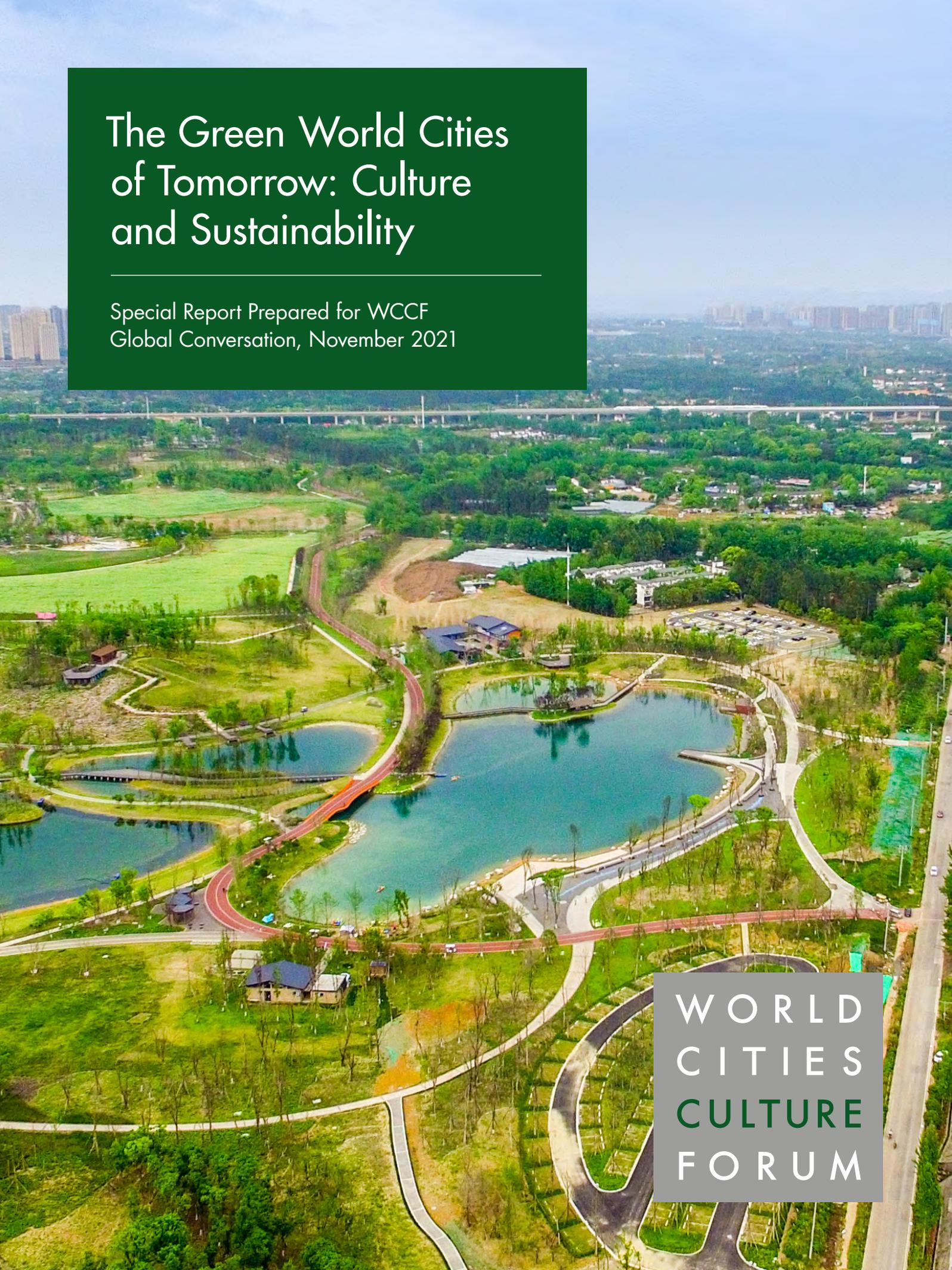


The Green World Cities of Tomorrow: Culture and Sustainability

Special Report Prepared for WCCF
Global Conversation, November 2021

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Foreword

The World Cities Culture Forum is a network of almost forty major cities, whose members share a belief in the vital role of culture in the prosperity and wellbeing of our citizens.

Collectively, our cities represent a total population of 172 million people, contain 56 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and attract well in excess of 200 million international visitors a year. But as cultural and economic powerhouses, we are all too aware of the responsibilities of stewardship that go with this. It has been estimated that cities on the planet make up just 2% of its surface but are responsible for 78% of global energy production and 60% of greenhouse emissions. World cities will be centre stage in the climate emergency, and cultural leaders must step up to the greatest challenge of our age.

The Forum has already produced publications on culture and climate change, working with Julie's Bicycle to help its members understand environmental issues, and also better embed sustainability within cultural policy making. However, we make no apology for revisiting this subject at what is a crucial time.

In November this year, national and city leaders from across the world are gathering in Glasgow to debate and negotiate a global agreement to restrict carbon emissions. At the same time, the recently published sixth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has laid out, in its most urgent terms yet, the extent to which climate change is taking place, the impacts it is already having and the need to take immediate action to prevent a catastrophic increase in global warming.

For the last eighteen months, many of us have been struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating impact it has had on culture and the creative life of our cities. But as we recover, it is vital that the issues covered in this report are at the heart of this. It will not be enough to get back to where we were two years ago – it is a time for action and ambition - to ensure our cities are not only thriving places to live and work now, but which continue to be so for the decades to come.

This report will support the discussion at the Forum's Global Conversation on 4 November 2021 and also coincides with COP 26 which brings together leaders from across the globe to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. We would like to thank all our Member Cities for contributing to this report. Special thanks go to Chengdu Municipal Government for supporting this publication.

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Five Imperatives for Cultural Policy in a Climate Emergency

1

Climate Change is everyone's job

The survey of Member Cities has shown that there is often a difference in the level of priority given to climate change by city administrations as a whole, compared with their culture departments. Too often, teams leading on culture see environmental issues as someone else's responsibility, but the seriousness of the crisis means that all arms of government must take action. Institutional barriers need to be overcome, and cultural leaders need to find new ways of working across administrations so that sustainability is embedded in their policies and investment programmes.

2

Hardwire climate impacts into every decision

There are now sophisticated tools and methods for measuring the energy efficiency, carbon emissions and long-term environmental impacts of culture, whether it is a museum or performing arts festival. These need to be fully applied to all policies, so that there is a good understanding of a city's 'carbon budget' and the environmental footprint of every major cultural decision and investment is clear.

3

Big cities need big ambition

World cities are centres of agglomeration, a substantial concentration of people, economic activity and culture. Initiatives and programmes need to be on a commensurate scale and widely applied. City governments are ideally placed to identify innovations and best practice taking place at the local or neighbourhood level and scale it up across the city region to have a substantial impact.

4

Tell the right stories

The success of programmes and policies will depend on how well citizens and businesses support them and are prepared to make behavioural changes. This means that city governments need to tell strong and optimistic stories, to maximise participation and ensure that the cultural sector is fully engaged and enthused with delivery.

5

Green infrastructure is cultural infrastructure

Urban culture is not distinct from the natural environment, it is part of it. Overseeing cultural planning and infrastructure must reflect the values of good stewardship and appreciation for the natural world, and be based around long-term considerations for a city's future.

1 The Scale of the Challenge

In the summer of 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its sixth summary of the climate science evidence, drawing on the work of hundreds of experts and research studies from across the world. Ahead of the COP 26 Summit it is a stark assessment of the extent to which human activity is unequivocally causing rapid changes to the climate. Over the next two decades global temperatures are expected to rise by more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Climate change is a crisis that threatens the entire planet, and that includes its major cities. Many of the world's most populous urban settlements are built along coasts and estuaries, and will be increasingly under threat from rising sea levels. Approximately 40% of the population of Europe and the US live in coastal areas, while in China, the Yangtze River Delta region accounts for 220 million people and approximately a quarter of the country's GDP. In addition, the last six months have shown that as extreme weather events have become more common, even the most established and prosperous of cities are suffering the effects. From rain storms and flooding in New York through to droughts and wildfires in Greece, the world's greatest urban civilisations are facing unprecedented threats.

World cities have always been centres for culture and commerce, for creative production and also, of course, consumption. But if humans continue to consume more of the world's natural resources than we conserve and restore, the combination of biodiversity loss, resource depletion and climate change risks our very existence. These challenges will not be solved by individual citizens alone; they are systemic issues which require systemic solutions – a radical shift in our behaviour and a collective determination to decarbonise the economy, transport systems, buildings and infrastructure.

City governments have long been centres for innovating and co-ordinating solutions to complex problems. In the face of the climate emergency, cities around the world are responding to the crisis, particularly in their planning, transport, regeneration and housing policies. They are also increasingly recognising that culture can help to support these policy agendas, and is a powerful tool for engagement.

It is the cultural life of a city that projects its values and concerns, connecting citizens and providing a space for understanding and action. The cultural and creative industries, which are such a significant part of urban economies, can not only work to decarbonise their production processes and reduce their own environmental footprint, they can also provide the inspiration for behaviour change among their audiences and consumers that is urgently needed.

The importance of city governments in tackling climate change through culture is increasingly being recognised, as shown by "The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development", the recent report produced by United Cities and Local Government (UCLG). Published to coincide with COP 26, the report explores in detail the way that numerous cities are using culture and heritage to "pursue the dual goal of transformative climate action while strengthening sustainable development."

This report in many ways complements the UCLG report, providing an update on how world cities within the Forum are recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the emphasis they are giving to culture and the environment as part of this. A survey of members' responses to these issues is analysed below, followed by a set of insights from a number of interviews undertaken with global experts. These individuals were all selected on their expertise and the perspective they could bring from outside of the cultural sector. In the course of this study, many examples of innovation and best practice originating in world cities were highlighted, and a small number of these are described in more detail. Finally, we have highlighted five key principles, or imperatives for action.

2 Survey Results – How World Cities are Taking Action

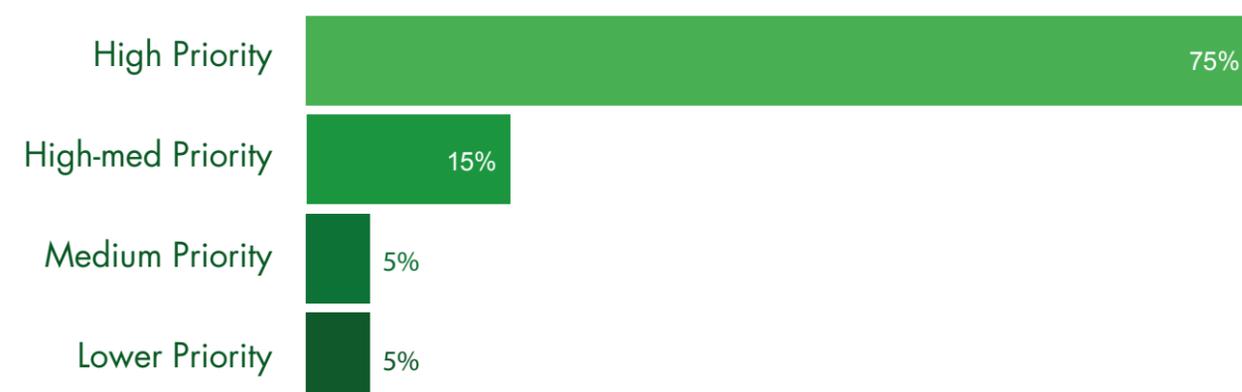
Together the cities in the World Cities Culture Forum represent more than 170 million citizens and a vast creative economy. A survey was undertaken earlier this year in which cities were asked questions around their priorities and policies in terms of culture and the environment. It is intended to provide a snapshot of how cities are responding to the climate emergency through cultural leadership, policies and investment. More than 60% of the cities responded to the survey and this was supplemented by follow-up research.

A clear result from the survey is the extent to which city governments regard environmental issues as a major priority for their administration. On a scale of 1-5, not a single city gave the lowest score, and almost three quarters regarded it as having the highest priority. More than half (58%) of the Forum’s city governments have declared a climate emergency – the majority of these within the last two years, showing how rapidly the issue has climbed up the political agenda.

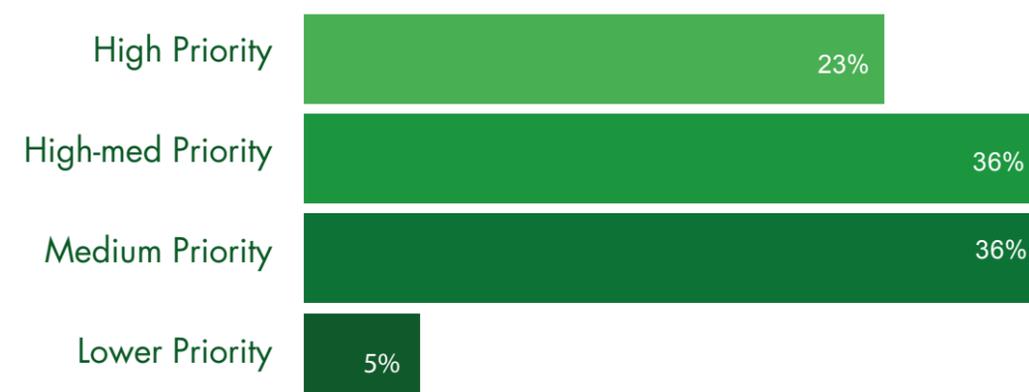
However, although the environmental crisis is a high priority for world cities, this is not always reflected in a City’s cultural priorities. As the chart opposite shows, the proportion of culture departments who give the issue the same level of highest priority drops off markedly, from 75% of cities to just 23%. There would seem to be a stark disconnect therefore, between the level of urgency at the city-wide administrative level, and that of the level of culture department.

Furthermore, and perhaps not surprisingly, the city governments tend to regard their respective cultural sector as giving environmental issues a broadly similar sense of priority as their culture departments. Just 16% of respondents feel that it is a top priority for their sector, although at the same time none of the cities judge it to be a low priority (i.e. scoring 1-2 on the scale), which suggests that there is at least good awareness of the issues within many sectors.

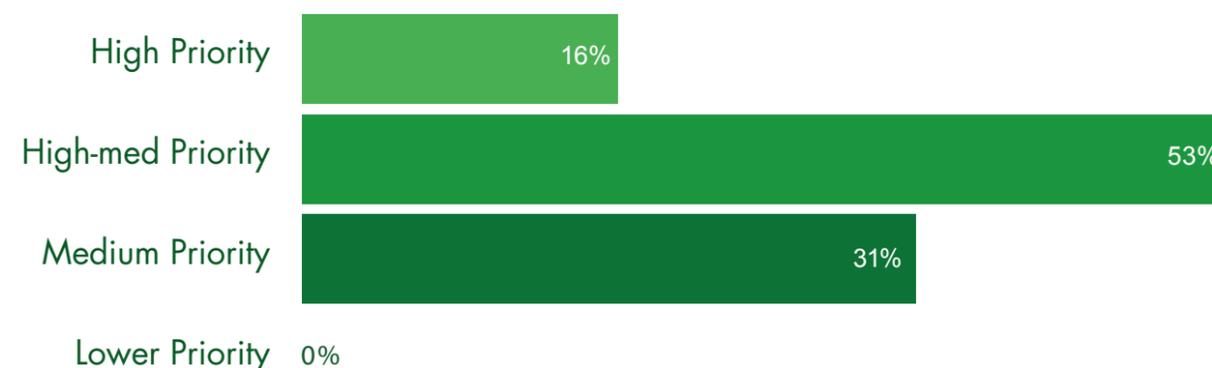
Environmental Issues as a Priority for City Government



Environmental Issues as a Priority for Culture Department



Environmental Issues as a Priority for Cultural Sector



Some 57% of cities' cultural policies make direct reference to climate change and environmental challenges. Encouragingly, almost without exception, these policies include specific actions in the form of programmes and initiatives. A more detailed breakdown of the kinds of activities being undertaken is provided opposite.

As the diagram opposite shows, there is much here that is encouraging. In particular, a majority of culture departments are demonstrating their commitment and seeking to engage with citizens by commissioning works that are themed around environmental sustainability. Many are also delivering projects to strengthen the cultural sector's knowledge and skills in these issues. It is especially positive that such initiatives are often cross-departmental nature, with culture and environment teams working together.

However, at the same time it is clear that much more needs to happen. In particular, it would seem that relatively few cities have progressed from project delivery through to more strategic and long-term planning. While collaborative working is taking place, budgets are still very much ring fenced, and although energy and carbon emissions are being considered by 50% of cities in their capital investments, very few include environmental impacts as part of their monitoring and reporting requirements. But if city governments are to achieve the kind of change that is needed then carbon emissions and environmental impacts will need to be more thoroughly embedded not just in high-level cultural policies but also in management practice, financial decision making and evaluation processes.

WCCF Cities Cultural and Climate Policies



3 The Expert Perspective: What More Needs to Happen

As the previous section shows, culture is becoming an important element of how cities are facing up to the environmental challenge, with ambitious and innovative policies being developed around the world. However, much more needs to happen and while sharing best practice and mutual learning between city administrations is hugely valuable, it is crucial to bring in broader perspectives from outside the cultural sector. To help outline the nature of the challenges and frame the opportunities for culture in cities, the views and insights of environmental scientists, technologists, investors and global policy makers are needed.

Over the course of 2021, leading experts from across sectors and around the globe were interviewed to build up a picture of the environmental challenges that all cities must face, and the diverse ways in which culture has a role to play in addressing them. The insights are reported here under thematic headings. The intention is not to provide a detailed survey of expert opinion, but rather to generate ideas, provoke discussion and promote further thinking on the subject.

Interviewees: **Azeem Azhar**, Founder of Exponential View; **Luís M. A. Bettencourt**, Pritzker Director of the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation at the University of Chicago; **Sarah Ichioka**, Director, Desire Lines; **Michael Jensen**, Chief Executive of CityZenith; **Lucy Latham**, Senior Manager, Cities, States and Regions, Carbon Disclosure Project; **Ricky Sandhu**, Founder and CEO Six Miles Across London, Founder and Executive Chairman of Urban-Air Port; **Peter Sängner**, Chief Executive of Green City Solutions; **Sophie Thomas**, Founding Director of Thomas Matthews; **Dennis West**, Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation; **Tom Whitehouse**, Chief Executive, Leif Capital, an investment bank dedicated to climate-tech and sustainability.

How are world cities a part of the climate crisis?

“Most people live and work in cities, and because we consume in cities, that is the theatre in which climate change will play out. They are front and centre of the problem, and also the solution.” Tom Whitehouse, Chief Executive, Leif Capital

“City governments have the connection to the vast majority of the human population and can shape its behaviour or be a democratic channel to people’s concerns. So there’s a huge, huge opportunity: in a way, if you solve climate change for cities you’d solve it everywhere else.”
Azeem Azhar, Founder of Exponential View

“Cities are far closer to citizens than national governments. They have a critical role in translating policy ambitions into localised action that is culturally and geographically relevant.” Lucy Latham, Senior Manager, Cities, States and Regions, Carbon Disclosure Project

“The key issue is to have far more devolved governance, so that city governments can have competency over transport, energy systems and housing. Instead of being locked in negotiation with national government, as happens in the UK, cities need discretion and funding in order to be able to experiment and make a real impact.”
Dennis West, Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation

What is the role of culture in understanding the issues we face?

“Climate Change is a big cultural issue. A lot of societies know what healthy living means intuitively but have forgotten. Culture has a role in making the climate change challenge about how we live. It is not all about building management systems and loading everything with sensors or automating things. The role that leadership will play is in making sure that cultural shifts take place.” Michael Jensen, Chief Executive of CityZenith

“Too much of our cultural attitudes exclude industry, or are even in opposition to it. There is an expectation that we can live in a post-industrial world and I find this naïve. In London one admires Portland Place and how wonderful the city’s culture and heritage is. But the exploitation of hydrocarbon has been the foundation for our civilisation, and we need to understand this, and also the threat it poses.” Tom Whitehouse, Chief Executive, Leif Capital

“There is a transformation taking place between human beings, their role on Earth and their relationship to nature and each other. The question is what is that going to look like? The doom and gloom people aren’t going to help here. In fact, it may become a self-fulfilling prophecy if we only operate in that mode. So how do we live in a world with nine billion people? It could be amazing, full of creativity and rich forms of culture, both traditional and dynamic. Imagining that space is a crucial role for the cultural sector.” Luís M. A. Bettencourt, Pritzker Director of the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation at the University of Chicago

“Creating a sense of what alternative futures might look like would be interesting. There’s a bunch of things that can be done here. But I would want it to move away from the sort of narrow disaster Cli-Fi. We need storytelling of a kind that amplifies community responses, and more stories that actually create a story about the future.” Azeem Azhar, Founder of Exponential View

What kinds of cultural policies and actions do city governments need to put in place?

“City governments have been taking the lead in terms of creating sustainability plans, to chart the next 30, 40 sometimes 50 years. People are using their imagination to see how the city will be transformed. What does economic growth in a world of climate change look like? It is the integration of these issues that makes it interesting.” Luís M. A. Bettencourt, Pritzker Director of the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation at the University of Chicago

“Cities can have the most impact through joined up thinking across departments and in collaboration with civil society. Cities’ responses must be integrated: incorporating both mitigation and adaptation, and supporting the interplay between both hard and soft infrastructures” Sarah Ichioka, Director, Desire Line

“City governments need to embed circular economy principles in how they manage their cities to radically reduce waste and carbon emissions. There is a huge opportunity to work with designers and innovators to help achieve this.” Sophie Thomas, Founding Director of Thomas Matthews

“We’ve reached a point in the development cycle where most US cities’ infrastructure was built roughly within 20 years of the Second World War. We have to be thinking, now, about the next generation of roads, road technology, the next generation of shipping, technology and logistics of electric power generation of distribution. And we’re just not doing that enough.” Michael Jensen, Chief Executive of CityZenith

“City governments have a responsibility to change and to be open to new things. They need to be open minded about the transformation in economies and technologies that needs to happen to address climate change.” Peter Sängner, Chief Executive of Green City Solutions

“Roads are the worse offending part of the city – and have been engrained in the UK. How can we recalibrate the space roads occupy to fairly create more pavement, more green space and economic value and amenities? There is huge cultural potential for what to do with the roads if they didn’t need to be entirely used for transport systems, i.e. if we had more efficient transport technology.” Ricky Sandhu Founder & CEO Six Miles Across London, Founder & Executive Chairman of Urban-Air Port

What are the barriers to more action and progress?

“Right now, we have a clash of cultures around the issue, often showing up in opposition. Somehow we think if we eliminate consumption the problem is solved. But that’s not an option. There is another story about how the world is improving on consumption and energy use, it’s partly due to urbanisation. So, there’s a clash of ideas, the city seen as the problem when it is also the solution.” Luís M. A. Bettencourt, Pritzker Director of the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation at the University of Chicago

“The obstacles to progress are not so much technical – there is great R&D work being done. The problem is more one of inspiration and imagination: city leaders need to confront challenges such as waste management from a new perspective, and design thinking is critical in this.”
Sophie Thomas, Founding Director of Thomas Matthews

“Culture risks being an obstacle to climate action. Hostility towards the perceived alteration of landscapes and planning restrictions for buildings are a part of the problem. I’d like to see wind turbines on London’s Hampstead Heath. Constable’s painting of the Heath from the 1830s included a windmill, which was there to do a job – milling corn or water. There’s a big job to be done in London today by small wind turbines to fix the climate emergency. But too many Londoners would riot if wind turbines were erected on the Heath!” Tom Whitehouse, Chief Executive, Leif Capital

“City authorities are in a great position to lead on carbon emissions. But we need to get to where we need to be much quicker. If you can reduce dependence on carbon hungry archaic transport systems you can alleviate congestion and air pollution, but you need to provide an alternative means. The infrastructure to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, such as for electric cars, is sporadic and not readily available.” Ricky Sandhu Founder & CEO Six Miles Across London, Founder & Executive Chairman of Urban-Air Port

“Caution can often shut down the creative ability to experiment. Cities need to recognise that the benefits of trying something new – such as reclaiming car-dominated spaces for cycling infrastructure – often outweighs the risks. But they often lack the tools required to articulate where the greatest common benefits lie.” Sarah Ichioka, Director, Desire Line

How can culture drive the change that needs to happen?

“Once upon a time in the 60s we built planetariums while our ambitions looked up at the stars, to help educate and inspire us about space. Maybe today we need to have Climatoriums! Or arts and culture venues to help us imagine the future in relation to the challenge of climate change.” Michael Jensen, Chief Executive of CityZenith

“There’s an urgency in telling the story. There’s an urgency in being able to articulate what’s going on and to do so in a way that captures the nuance, the scary parts and the parts we can get optimistic about. If you think about the paintings of Turner and Constable and the works of Dickens, and the role they played in describing and responding to the industrial revolution, it is writers and artists who should play a role in talking about the reality of the climate threat.” Azeem Azhar, Founder of Exponential View

“Arts and culture are unique in how they can shift narratives and make issues that can be polarising relevant to a broad variety of people. They can make challenges understandable and actions inspirational.” Lucy Latham, Senior Manager, Cities, States and Regions, Carbon Disclosure Project

“We somehow need to make this not only about building awareness, but also about a sense of duty, and the idea that for people there are things more important than you. We need to talk more about healthy living and net zero living, about the social benefits of change, and how we can break down economic barriers to achieve energy transition. Culture has a role in telling that story.” Michael Jensen, Chief Executive of CityZenith

“We are most powerful when we believe we can drive this to change the future. Yes, there are challenges, and it is not easy to find simple answers to complex problems – but we must have an optimistic baseline to achieve our ambitions!” Peter Sanger, Chief Executive of Green City Solutions

“We need systemic change. It is important that we try to be conscious of our individual consumer choices, but this alone won’t bring us over the line. Systems thinking has the potential to drive change in behaviour when decisions around consuming less can be reframed so that this doesn’t feel like less. Culture can help us ask the right questions here, to understand what is important, find alternative choices, and reposition our behaviour.” Dennis West, Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation

4 Case Studies

These four case studies provide qualitative evidence and inspiration, showing how political leadership can make a real difference. And, crucially, the impact of ambitious and integrated policies that bring together cultural and environmental agendas in order to bring about lasting change. Overcoming traditional policy and organisational barriers.

Buenos Aires – A Community-led Approach

In its Climate Action Plan, the Buenos Aires government has set bold targets to address climate change, with a commitment to more than halve its carbon emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2050. The scale of the changes required are well recognised by the Mayor Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, who declared: “We are at a crossroads in climate history where cities’ commitments to climate action and building resilience will be critical to our post-pandemic recovery.” Among other measures, the city is planning to have 80% of all residential buildings retrofitted according to strict energy efficiency standards by 2050, and 70% of all new buildings to use solar thermal energy.

A distinctive element of the Plan is the strong emphasis it places on citizen engagement and collective action to face the challenge of climate change. The Plan itself is the outcome of a co-creation process in which both scientific experts and cultural and civic organisations took part, as well as more than 600 residents of the City. The result is a strategy that all of the City owns and must take responsibility for helping to deliver.

Given the ambitious and far-reaching nature of the Plan, the City’s cultural sector is expected to play its role in meeting the targets, while also continuing to animate the City and contribute to the well-being of citizens. This is particularly the case with the proposed introduction of more traffic restrictions and ‘calles de encuentro’ or ‘streets to meet’ – a pedestrianized street in every one of the City’s neighbourhoods, which will be designated for community meetings and cultural events. Through performances and public artworks, citizens will be able to experience and participate in culture at a more local level, building up community cohesion and reducing the need to travel.



Image © City of Buenos Aires

Chengdu – Park City

Over the last few years, Chengdu has been implementing an ambitious plan to transform its city into a 'Park City'. Reimagining a city with a population of 20 million inhabitants into a parkland environment by 2025, and the scale of the project is huge. Key to this vision is the Tianfu Greenway: already the longest urban greenway in China. This will eventually run through the city in three concentric rings as the main skeleton, covering 1,900 kilometres of regional green roads, and more than 10,000 kilometres of community greenway with cycle lanes, walkways and woodland paths.

According to Wang Bo, Director of the Tianfu Park Urban Research Institute, "To build a park city is not to embellish parks in the city, but to build the entire city into a large park. This has never been implemented before." This is echoed by Yang Xiaoguang, Director of the Chengdu Park Administration Bureau, who says: "As a new model of urban construction, the park city has ground breaking significance in the history of city planning."

A vital element of the Park City concept is the setting it provides for cultural activities. The Greenway connects many of Chengdu's major cultural and historic attractions such as Qingyang Palace, Qintai Road, Kuanzhai Alley, Huanhua Creek, and Du Fu Thatched Cottage. All of these can now be connected and reached by citizens walking or on bicycle. At the same time, it is becoming a stage for live entertainment and cultural participation, with a proliferation of music concerts, public art and new festivals. The long-term vision is for the citizens of Chengdu to embed cultural enjoyment within their wider experience and appreciation of the natural environment.

The Tianfu Greenway connects ecological areas and wetlands, cultural amenities, green spaces and community gardens to form a single complex. The main axis of the greenway runs alongside the Jingjang River, and encompasses several rivers, two large lakes, ponds and extensive wetlands. After suffering from industrial pollution, the rivers and lakes have been brought back to health, and as well as attracting wildlife, they are becoming popular for fishing, sailing, kayaking and other leisure and cultural activities.



Image © City of Chengdu

Lisbon – The Role of Design

In 2020, the City of Lisbon, in partnership with a number of research institutes, established Bauhaus do Mar, or the Bauhaus of the Seas – a collaborative design movement with the purpose of renewing humankind’s relationship with the sea. In the same way that the Bauhaus school of art helped to define European design in the 20th century by bringing together art and industrial practice, so the new Bauhaus is intended to implement the European Green Deal, combining design with the values of sustainability and social inclusion.

The principles of Bauhaus do Mar are multi-dimensional, and recognise the diverse ways in which humans interact with, and depend upon the oceans. As such, it aims to “recognize the range of know-how present in coastal and marine communities promoting, through design and creativity, its renewal with a new generation of public policies.” The elements of the programme will include bringing innovative approaches to resource management, data mapping, community engagement, cultural heritage and stewardship.

This initiative recognises the essential role that the oceans play in the planet’s ecology and human civilisation, and the profound dangers that society faces if it cannot exist in harmony with the natural marine environment. The sea has always been an essential source of nutrition, but more generally it underpins trade, internationalism and the coming together of cultures. This relationship is particularly relevant to world cities, many of which were first established as ports or harbours, and for whom the waterfront remains a defining element of their economic purpose, heritage and identity. Many of the oldest buildings in cities are to be found on the waterfront, but rising sea levels, over-development and pollution now pose an existential threat.

Given the nature of the challenges, Bauhaus do Mar will be a highly interdisciplinary programme and aims to bring together designers, architects, engineers, artists, scientists and entrepreneurs. It is also fitting that such an initiative should be established in Lisbon, as one of the great maritime capitals. However, although founded in Lisbon, Bauhaus do Mar is very much intended to extend to all of Europe’s coastal regions and cities, recognising that it is only through transnational co-operation and innovation that sustainable solutions will be developed.



Image © City of Lisbon

Oslo – Strategic Leadership

Oslo has one of the most ambitious climate strategies in the world, with a target to reduce emissions by 95% by 2030. This is a policy that has strong political consensus, with broad support from citizens and industries, including the cultural sector.

Oslo's achievements are such that it was named European Green Capital in 2019, recognising the City's pioneering work to establish a climate budget. This is a tool to cut emissions that the City itself is responsible for, showing the how, where and who of CO₂-emission cuts. It describes where the City stands in terms of emissions, what progress has been made, and what further action needs to be taken. The climate budget is an integral part of running and developing the City, and has been embedded into the regular budget process. Whether it is investment in the city's commuter boats or a new library, emissions impacts have to be considered alongside the financial costs.

A key point is to create ownership and accountability by making climate action a responsibility both across and within all sectors and agencies of the City. The climate budget translates overall climate goals into concrete, on-the-ground measures. This means that, along with all other departments, the City Council's Department of Culture and Sport is responsible for considering emissions and securing fossil-free management for its projects.

Oslo's climate goals are not just central to the City's strategy and decision making, they have also become important to the City's identity, brand and cultural life. As European Green Capital, Oslo hosted hundreds of artistic events that celebrated sustainability and explored environmental issues, from major events that made use of Oslo's harbour, national museums and skyline through to educational workshops and local crafts markets. As a result of this, some of Oslo's live events and festivals are now forming part of the European-wide Green Capital Programme, helping to embed sustainable values across the continent.



Credits & Thanks

World Cities Culture Forum would like to extend their thanks for the time, expertise and contributions from:

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