GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANT PROPOSALS

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Artistic and cultural expressions create space for us to reflect on ourselves and our societies; to connect with different perspectives; to understand and learn from each other; to test and contest ideas; and ultimately, to inspire us to imagine new paths to individual, collective and social development. Artistic freedom ensures that these expressions represent the full diversity and dynamism of our cultural ecosystems and societies, through both creation and participation. Such possibility demands that we safeguard the existence of artistic freedom. However, we can only do this if we first recognise the rights and responsibilities it entails; understand the political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and cultural conditions that enable it; and identify and address threats to its practice and fulfilment. The 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture will bring together leading policy makers, researchers, managers and practitioners from the arts, culture and related sectors from around the world to explore artistic freedom as a fundamental pillar of cultural policy and examine how we can – and why we should – safeguard artistic freedom.

Artistic freedom entails human rights recognised and protected under international law, including the rights to create without censorship or intimidation; to have artistic work supported, distributed and remunerated; to freedom of movement; to freedom of association; and to the protection of social and economic rights. It is the freedom to imagine, create and distribute diverse cultural expressions free of governmental censorship, political interference or the pressure of non-state actors. It includes the right of all citizens to have access to these works and [it] is essential for the well-being of societies (UNESCO 2019). This freedom relies on a cultural value chain that fosters conditions in which artists can create, present, distribute and share their work; and in which citizens can participate in cultural life, which is a cultural right shared by all. The creation and safeguarding of these conditions are shared responsibilities for the international community. This lies at the heart of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which includes in its four goals that ‘respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of expression, information and communication is guaranteed as a pre-requisite for the creation and distribution of diverse cultural expressions.’ It also informs the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, which calls on Member States ‘to improve the professional, social and economic status of artists through the implementation of policies and measures related to training, social security, employment, income and tax conditions, mobility and freedom of expression.’

Worldwide, policy makers and advocates have driven the improvement of these conditions and the protection of free artistic expression. However, while progress has been made, the road ahead is complex; and made more so by the COVID-19 pandemic and its multi-fold effects, which have accentuated existing challenges for artists to create and for citizens to participate. Our ability to maintain and further improve the conditions for artistic development and innovation – and to safeguard equitable access to arts and culture – requires policy makers, funding bodies, and civil society representatives across the cultural ecosystem to share in the duty to balance and create enabling environments that empower artists to express themselves freely; that guarantee the right of all to participate in arts and culture; and that allow all citizens to see themselves reflected.

During the Summit, we will explore a range of political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and cultural influences that affect – and shape our conceptions of – artistic freedom, and how we might safeguard it. From shifting social contracts, the status of the artist, and labour rights and protections for creative and cultural workers; to support models for the creative and cultural sectors, digitalisation, and international mobility; and influence, inclusion, and decolonisation. We will also ask: Whose freedoms are safeguarded, by who and for whom? Are there dominant narratives and what role do they play in decision making? What effect has the COVID-19 pandemic had on artistic freedom? When does safety evolve into freedom? What – and who – defines the role of the artist as creator and/or activist? And what regulatory frameworks exist to enable and safeguard freedom of expression; how do they operate; and what more could be done?
The Summit programme will explore key issues across three days, each with a specific focus:

**DAY ONE**

**RIGHTS TO ARTISTIC FREEDOM: BARRIERS AND THREATS**

On Day One, we will frame the Summit theme and identify its relevance to society, as well as the cultural and creative sectors. We will explore different ways in which the definition of artistic freedom can be understood and applied, including perspectives on key concepts, and identify the challenges and opportunities made manifest by these differences; we will review existing tools on which we rely to safeguard freedoms of artistic expression and participation in cultural life and assess their (in)adequacy; and we will place the issue of safeguarding artistic freedom in the context of the political, economic, social, technological, environment and cultural developments that characterise our age.

Sessions will consider recent challenges to artistic freedom, participation in cultural life, human rights, international law, the diversity of cultural expressions, legislative and regulatory frameworks, the social and economic conditions of artists and cultural workers, and the sustainability of the cultural and creative sectors. Key questions include: Can we develop and share a common understanding of artistic freedom? Whose freedoms of artistic expression and participation in cultural life are threatened, when, how, by and for whom? And how can we balance rights and responsibilities for free artistic expression?

**DAY TWO**

**RIGHTS TO ARTISTIC FREEDOM: LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES**

Building on Day One discussions, we will focus on the opportunities that grow from the exercise of artistic freedoms. We will learn about recent success stories that have emerged, including through innovative use of technology; dynamic challenges to the status quo, in response to COVID-19 as well as socio-political movements, such as the renewed quest for racial justice; and new channels for producing and distributing art.

Sessions will consider national and global fault lines and inequities exacerbated by the pandemic; how we might do things differently; innovative practices, including from other sectors; the leadership role of the cultural and creative (and other) sectors; models of governance for public investment and policy; technology; and digitalisation. Key questions include: How can we work together to address fault lines and their impact on artistic freedom, cultural participation, and the status of the artist? How can we leverage lessons learned and opportunities that emerge from turbulent times? How can we bolster the labour market experience of workers in the cultural and creative sectors and shape the future of work? And whose freedoms of artistic expression and participation in cultural life will be safeguarded, how, by and for whom?

**DAY THREE**

**SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS: ESSENTIAL TOOLS TO DEVELOP AND DEPLOY**

Day Three will entail dynamic reflection on the provocations, challenges, and inspirations experienced by participants throughout the Summit programme. We will invite participants to collectively find solutions that can be used in local contexts; explore future possibilities; and navigate how our thinking and perspectives may – or may not – transfer across different geopolitical realities. We will consider next steps, what tools we have in our toolkit and how they can be organised, used and monitored to maximum effect.

Sessions will consider the long-term relevance of the cultural and creative sectors, and the public agencies that work to advance them; different approaches to investment, policy and implementation; equity-centred approaches; engaging with change; and collaborating with different cultural actors. Key questions include: What tools, structures and thinking do we need for the cultural and creative sectors to safeguard artistic freedom? How do we ensure that these tools are useful, relevant and used effectively? And how can we work together to secure cultural rights and forge a future in which creativity and artistic freedoms abound?
Sessions and participant roles

The Summit will incorporate session formats that allow for the greatest interaction between delegates. This will include a World Café style session that will engage all delegates in common conversations on key issues, interactive Long Table sessions that present and respond to provocations, case study presentations, and workshops. There are six main participant roles during Summit sessions:

**PANELLIST**
Panellists will be experts from the arts and culture sector, or other sectors related to the themes being discussed. They will present thought-provoking perspectives on key issues and engage in debate with their fellow panellists. Panel sessions will run for two hours and will be attended by all delegates. Panel sessions will have up to four panellists, each of whom will deliver a 15-minute presentation, engage in open conversation with fellow panellists, and participate in Q&A with delegates.

**PRESENTER**
Presenters will present and explore with delegates innovative models that relate to key issues. Case studies may be drawn from the arts and culture sector, other sectors that are pioneering in relevant areas, or collaborations between sectors. Presentation sessions will run for 1.5 hours in parallel with other sessions, and will be attended by up to 100 delegates. Presentation sessions will have three presenters, each of whom will deliver a 15-minute presentation, followed by conversation and Q&A with delegates.

**PROVOCATEUR**
Each Long Table session will include three provocateurs, who will open the session by sharing their perspective on the key issues and play an ongoing active role in discussions. Long Table sessions will run for 1.5 hours in parallel with other sessions, and will be attended by up to 100 delegates. At any given time, there may be up to 12 people seated at the table and actively engaging in conversation. In the first fifteen minutes of the session, provocateurs will each share their perspective, before the facilitator opens conversation to the room; they will stay at the table throughout the session.

**FACILITATOR**
Panels and Long Table sessions will be guided by a facilitator. Facilitators will have a strong understanding of the issues being addressed within the session and will encourage conversations between panellists / delegates throughout. Long Table sessions will run for 1.5 hours in parallel with other sessions, and will be attended by up to 100 delegates. At any given time, there may be up to 12 people seated at the table and actively engaging in conversation. At the beginning of the session, the facilitator will open proceedings, explain the format and provide context for the issues to be discussed; they will then guide conversation between provocateurs, open the conversation to the room, guide proceedings throughout, and offer a brief summary at the close of the session.

**TABLE HOST**
The World Café style session will include table hosts who encourage and facilitate conversation between small groups of up to 10 delegates. The session will run for 1.5 hours and will be divided into three 20-minute sections during which table hosts will guide conversation around a specific question (which will be provided). These will be followed by a round up, during which delegates will share key findings and perspectives. The session will be overseen by an MC, so only selected table hosts will be required to present.

**WORKSHOP LEADER**
A series of participatory workshops will provide delegates with space to collaborate, explore ideas practices, and co-create responses. Workshops may be ideas-based or grounded in creative practice. Each will be fully facilitated by an expert and/or creative practitioner, who will use a proven participatory methodology, have strong understanding of the issues to be addressed and able to fully lead the session.

*Panellists, presenters and provocateurs are invited to approach these roles creatively and we welcome proposals that incorporate artistic or creative content (please see page 5 of the application form).
Selection process

Proposals will be reviewed by the International Programme Advisory Committee (IPAC) for the 9th World Summit after the closing date (Sunday 22 August 2021). The IPAC will assess how proposals may contribute to the overall needs of the programme, and respondents will be considered for all roles that relate to their areas of expertise and experience. The IPAC will ensure diverse representation and appropriate translation services will be provided to ensure all selected participants can engage in sessions.

International Programme Advisory Committee

The International Programme Advisory Committee (IPAC) comprises leaders from across the international arts and culture sector, along with representatives from the Swedish Arts Council and the Secretariat of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), as the co-hosts of the Summit.

The independent members of the International Programme Advisory Committee are:

- Olu Alake (United Kingdom / Nigeria), Chair
- Brook Andrew (Australia)
- Alfons Karabuda (Sweden)
- Pamela Lopez (Chile)
- Farai Mpfunya (Zimbabwe)
- Anupama Sekhar (India)
- Farida Shaheed (Pakistan)

The Swedish Arts Council is represented by Ann Traber, Senior Advisor International Affairs; and IFACCA is represented by Magdalena Moreno Mujica, Executive Director.

Submit a proposal

The deadline for proposals is Sunday 22 August 2021. If you have any questions about submitting your proposal please contact info@ifacca.org. Submit your proposal using the online form in English, Spanish or French.
Application Form (example only)

This section is intended to help you prepare your response. Applications must be submitted via online form in English, Spanish or French.

Applications may be submitted in English, Spanish or French. The official language of the Summit is English and translation will be provided for Spanish and French speakers throughout. If you have other language or access requirements, please contact info@ifacca.org.

Title:
Given Name:
Family Name:
Email address:
Job title:
Organisation / institution:
Country:
Brief biography (up to 150 words):

1. What best describes your area of work:

   - Policy maker / policy expert
   - Government or public agency representative
   - Non-government support for arts and culture
   - Academic / researcher
   - Cultural consultant
   - Cultural or community leader
   - Creative and cultural industries professional
   - Arts and culture practitioner
   - Non-arts/culture sector representative
   - Other (please specify)

2. Listed below are some of the key topics that will be explored in relation to overarching themes during the Summit. Please identify up to five that align with your relevant expertise and experience that you would like to share at the Summit; please add any relevant topics that are not listed:

   - Artistic expression
   - Climate crisis
   - Collective memory
   - Creative and/or cultural practice
   - Cultural narratives
   - Cultural participation
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- Cultural rights
- Displacement of peoples (environmental or social)
- Equity
- Gender equality
- Governance
- Human rights
- Indigenous arts and culture
- Legislative and regulatory frameworks
- Mobility of artists and cultural goods and services
- Public investment and policy
- Public space
- Public value of arts and culture
- Racial justice
- Social policy
- Status of the artist
- Technology and/or digitalisation
- The future of work
- Threats to artistic freedom
- Transnational cooperation and collaboration
- Wellbeing
- Women’s rights
- Working conditions of CCS workers
- Other related topics (please specify)

3. Please provide a brief outline of the key issues you would address and the perspective you would provide, in the context of the Summit theme and topics (500 words max):
   If your expertise and experience lend themselves to more than one possible approach or session format (see page 4 of the guidelines) that you would like us to consider, please submit a separate application.

4. If you have a case study that demonstrates innovative approaches in relation to the themes and topics outlined, please provide a brief overview of your proposed presentation (up to 500 words):

5. If you wish to incorporate artistic or creative content in your proposed panel presentation or provocation, please provide a brief description below (up to 500 words):

6. Briefly outline your experience leading workshops, moderating and/or facilitating group discussion (up to 150 words):