

# Summit Report



**7th WORLD SUMMIT  
ON ARTS & CULTURE**  
VALLETTA MALTA 2016

## At a glance

2 keynote  
addresses

4 panel  
sessions

13 parallel  
sessions

2 open  
sessions



Find full information about speakers and sessions, view presentations, and read detailed rapporteur reports from the Summit at [artsummit.org](http://artsummit.org).

Attendance	Delegates: 421 from 90 countries	Speakers: 65 from 44 countries
from <b>Africa</b>	36 from 19 countries	7 from 6 countries
from the <b>Americas</b>	39 from 11 countries	14 from 8 countries
from <b>Asia</b>	52 from 15 countries	9 from 6 countries
from <b>Europe</b>	265 from 32 countries	27 from 17 countries
from the <b>Middle East</b>	8 from 7 countries	5 from 4 countries
from the <b>Pacific</b>	21 from 6 countries	3 from 3 countries

## What next? Leading for the future

According to delegates attending the final session:

### Leadership is about:

- a shared concept and the collective capacity to act
- a two-way process
- going out and talking to other sectors (including the business sector)
- taking more action and more risk
- involving others (even the voiceless or less visible)
- connecting through art and the arts being an incubator
- collaboration not competition
- exploiting cracks in the system
- holding on to values such as generosity, transparency, courage, humility, empathy, humour
- understanding the complexity of your own context and the complexity of others
- using emotion to inspire change
- being an agent for change
- bringing more people into the debate
- being the first to show the way and open dialogue
- knowing how to prioritise and to move step by step in achieving change.

### Leadership is not:

- about the person at the top
- simply creating and communicating a vision
- possible if you are disconnected or living in a bubble
- about ego
- about being defined by the old systems
- about only talking to ourselves
- about being authoritarian

# From the organisers

In October 2016 we welcomed over 400 delegates from 90 countries to the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture in Valletta, Malta. The Opening Ceremony took place at historic Fort St Elmo, where delegates were formally welcomed and enjoyed a vibrant showcase of Maltese arts and culture with spectacular performances from Moveo Dance Company and NAFRA Folk Ensemble, as well as an array of culinary treats. During the opening ceremony, Dr Owen Bonnici, Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government, also had the pleasure of announcing that Summit Programme Director, Nina Obuljen Koržinek, had been appointed as Minister of Culture for Croatia.

Over the three days that followed, speakers and delegates explored the theme *At the Crossroads? Cultural Leadership in the 21st Century* and addressed a number of critical issues: from the impact of multilateral trade negotiations on cultural policies and how we can advocate for freedom of expression and cultural rights, to changing the way arts and culture are supported and identifying how we can lead for the future. Conversations were enriched by contributions from a diversity of participants, including representatives from cultural organisations, national arts councils, ministries of culture, local and regional stakeholders, independent professionals, international networks, as well as young leaders taking part in the Global Cultural Leadership Programme. Throughout, delegates fruitfully questioned the future direction of the sector and deepened a shared understanding of our responsibilities and the contexts in which we work.

Beyond exploring key themes, feedback from delegates has shown that the Summit remains an important flagship networking event for IFACCA, its members and the wider international arts and culture community. A majority of participants cited as the primary benefits of attending: forming and strengthening international connections; increasing knowledge about issues affecting the international sector; and finding prospective new partners and collaborators. Overall, the Summit was highly regarded for its theme, content, organisation and venue, with 92 percent of participants rating their experience as 'excellent' or 'good'.

For those that were unable to attend, our official media partner – TVM – streamed sessions from the main stage, allowing hundreds to participate further afield. In addition, a dedicated team of rapporteurs captured the essence of Summit conversations; the Arts Leaders podcast recorded extended interviews with a number of speakers; and in the coming months we will publish an updated version of the Discussion Paper to reflect the findings of the Summit. These resources can all be found online at [artsummit.org](http://artsummit.org).

The Summit was made possible by the support and engagement of a great many, including speakers, moderators, rapporteurs, delegates, partners and sponsors. We sincerely thank everyone involved for making the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture such a success and extend our special thanks to Dr Obuljen for creating such an engaging programme. We hope that the Summit has inspired the international arts and culture community, and that its legacy will contribute positively to cultural leadership in the 21st century.

Our relation to the crossroads may be a matter of perspective, but we remain optimistic that collectively we can forge a path towards a world in which arts and culture thrive and are recognised for their contribution to society.

**Stephen Wainwright**  
Chair IFACCA and CEO, Creative New Zealand

**Albert Marshall**  
Executive Chair, Arts Council Malta

**Sarah Gardner**  
Executive Director, IFACCA

**Annabelle Stivala**  
Chair, Local Committee of the  
7th World Summit on Arts & Culture

# The Programme



**‘The world needs arts leadership. Our future depends on it.’**

SIMON BRAULT,  
DIRECTOR OF CANADA COUNCIL  
FOR THE ARTS

**T**he Summit explored the theme **At the Crossroads: Cultural Leadership in the 21st Century** through presentations, informal meetings, and discussions amongst 421 delegates from 90 different countries. For the 12 months leading up to the Summit, the Programme Director, **Nina Obuljen Koržinek**, worked with the co-hosts to develop a programme involving 65 diverse speakers from 44 different countries (54 percent of whom were female). The formats included keynote presentations, panels, parallel sessions, long tables and open sessions, as well as a pop-up arts space and a cultural programme.

To the delight of delegates, it was announced during the Summit that Dr Obuljen had been appointed Minister of Culture of Croatia. After attending the formation of the new government she was able to return to Malta in her new capacity, to speak in the closing sessions.

On the first two days, keynote speakers addressed leadership and the arts from very different perspectives, yet concluded with similar statements on the importance of art and culture in social processes.

**Doris Pack**, Former Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education, addressed the main issues and trends in cultural policy making in the European Union, as well as numerous programmes in the cultural field. **Arn Chorn-Pond**, founder of Cambodian Living Arts, silenced the auditorium as he recounted how music saved his life during the atrocities of the Cambodian genocide, and how he overcame trauma by reaching others in disadvantaged situations through music and the arts. His message was clear and inspired delegates to a standing ovation: instead of a gun, every child should have access to a musical instrument, and we all need to work together for a better and more inclusive, peaceful world.



**Above:** Karsten Xuereb (left) and Elimane Kane (right) (*Agents of change* session). Credit: Therese Debono

**Left (top):** Robert Palmer leading the final panel session, *What next? Leading for the future*. Credit: Ian Abdilla

**Left (bottom):** Delegates at the World Summit. Credit: Therese Debono





Four panel sessions approached the theme of leadership following a dramatic arc, from reflecting on what has brought us to the crossroads and what provokes and inspires change, to what approaches and directions lie ahead. **Oussama Rifahi, Jo Verrent and Arundhati Ghosh** reflected on current conflicts, inclusion and voices from the margins, and the representation of individuals that are discriminated against. Their compelling statements highlighted the relevance of arts and culture in the context of displacement, intolerance and resentment, and stressed the need for art – and artists – to be active and political in the fight against helplessness, frustration, paralysis and hate.

**Simon Brault** called for continuous change and spoke of the important role of artists in managing and encouraging such change; **Shahidul Alam** urged the sector to work with the political establishment to push for real change, even if the nature of national governments may be to suppress freedom and democracy while maintaining a rhetoric of human rights; and **Rana Yazaji** spoke about uncertainty in conflict situations, and to what extent civil society can make an impact in volatile international environments.

**Annick Schramme** and **Carlos Villaseñor** explored leadership development from regional perspectives, while **Jane Chu** and **Alejandro Denes** explored the theme from organisational perspectives; **Octavio Kulesz** maintained that culture and digital technology are not separate entities; and **Danielle Cliche** spoke about the formation and progress of international law in relation to the 2005 UNESCO Convention.

Thirteen parallel sessions saw delegates tackle the concept of leadership from multiple angles: from human rights and multilateral trade, to networking and arts support. Three of these sessions followed a long table format, with participants invited to join the conversations physically and discuss issues including: new spaces for creation and creativity and how they can be supported, how innovative cultural actors are transforming the sector, and how the sector can support advocacy for freedom of expression and cultural rights. Similar to previous Summits, two open sessions were held for shorter and more personalised presentations on projects.

The final session of the Summit was facilitated by **Robert Palmer** and included provocations from four speakers, followed by a dynamic conversation amongst all delegates around questions of what comes next and how arts and culture can lead for the future.

**Milena Dragičević Šešić** urged delegates to move from a culture of fear into a culture of hope; **Rosemary Mangope** proposed that leadership is the ability to articulate one's gift and share it with the world by making the abstract relevant; **Ralph Regenvanu** illustrated that active participation in social debates and making an impact from the inside of political structures is one path for change; and **Iván Petrella** confronted three major challenges that the cultural sector must address to affect real change: climate change, violent extremism and displacement. Following these opening statements, delegates engaged in lengthy and diverse debate about the expectations and mechanisms of future leaderships.

The discussions that took place in the various sessions demonstrated that vision is a key component of leadership, and that leadership can be a structure rather than a quality that inheres in an individual. **Marie le Sourd** suggested that, for networks, leadership is a shared and collective form of governance. Several speakers also emphasised that leadership requires risk-taking and the possession of a deep understanding of social and cultural environments.

The Summit was also a focus for parallel events such as the 15th Assembly of the Compendium of Cultural Policies in Europe and the first edition of a new Global Cultural Leadership Programme, a component of the European Commission's Cultural Diplomacy Platform.

**Above left:** Delegates presenting at the Open Session. Credit: Therese Debono  
**Above right:** Pop-up Creative Hub, coordinated by Open<sup>9</sup> and the Valletta Design Cluster, supported by the British Council. Credit: Joni Mercieca

# Key Themes



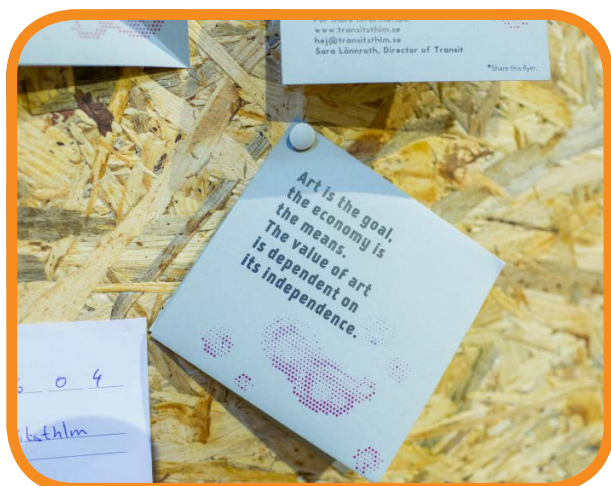
**‘Art is a way of building critical citizens and we need to talk to one another – not to obey, to question, to ask, to create.’**

ARUNDHATI GHOSH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
INDIA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

The role of art in reconciliation, inclusion and waging democracy was a central theme of the Summit. **Oussama Rifahi** and **Rana Yazaji** called for the international arts community to take action where the choices of others are limited or non-existent. **Elena di Federico** declared that a crisis can be an opportunity or a catastrophe, depending on how we define it, and emphasised that many problems not highlighted in the media go unnoticed if artists do not take an active stand, and that a crisis of values is simultaneously a societal conflict. **Abid Hussain** maintained that diversity means equity, and everyone should have equal access to arts funding.

Many Summit topics touched upon the crucial role of artists in societal survival and transformation, and examples of artists pressing for social change were embodied by **François Bouda**, **Chandraguptha Thenuwara**, **Marina Barham**, **Goretti Kyomuhendo**, **Ines Sanguinetti** and **Kelli McCluskey**.

Even when leadership was not explicitly mentioned, the notion of leadership changing from a top-down structure to collective action was ever-present. One parallel session on networking included discussion about how networks effectively provide non-hierarchical models of leadership that allow opportunities for individual empowerment and leadership within collective experience. Another session on the role of culture in foreign diplomacy – organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation – concluded that leadership needs to be present at all levels. During the long table session on cultural rights, delegates agreed that cultural leadership entails both the active role of artists in societal and political changes, as well as society providing artists with the opportunity to engage with political issues.



**Above:** Arundhati Ghosh, Executive Director, India Foundation for the Arts (New approaches, new directions panel). Credit: Therese Debono

**Left (top):** Artists working in the Pop-up Creative Hub. Credit: Therese Debono

**Left (bottom):** Pop-up Creative Hub exhibit. Credit: Therese Debono





Another central theme emerged around the needs and challenges of future leaders, and there were widespread calls for the involvement of young people in sector conversations. A number of speakers presented examples of successful practices of capacity-building and training in leadership around the world, including **Sue Hoyle, Susanna Seidl-Fox, Barbara Negrón, Carla Delfos, Nirit Roessler, Sana Tamzini, Gantuya Badamagarav, Robert Lynch** and **Helena Carvalho**.

During the Summit many voices from the Global South sounded out on the concept of privilege and responsibility, and speakers were questioned about the Global North and its social responsibilities of investment and recognition. In their presentations **Erwin Maas** and **Jepchumba** talked about mechanisms to increase the global visibility of Africa. **Vahni Capildeo** talked about the plurality of narratives, and how whitewashed parent histories can be replaced by potential cultural and digital spaces where no one is a stranger. As an *Ullawa* Chief, **Dennis Marita** opened his presentation with traditional Song from the Solomon Islands, reminding delegates of the inherent value in traditional culture and knowledge.

Other cross-cutting themes included the role of culture in sustainable development and the idea of alternative development. **Jordi Baltà** talked about culture as the forth pillar of development, how it interacts with sustainable development and strengthens local communities. Participatory governance as a mechanism for successful civil society engagement and the involvement of communities were also identified as essential to progress.

In a perceived environment of increasing censorship and restraint on freedom of expression and artist mobility, speakers and delegates alike demanded openness and transparency. Evidence was provided to bolster the notion that lack of economic resources should never be an impediment to creativity and action, and examples were given on how creative action has flourished in situations of conflict, economic hardship and diaspora.



Creative industries, international commerce of cultural goods and services, and technological evolution were discussed in the context of multilateral trade negotiations and foreign policy: **Christine M Merkel** spoke about free trade in the cultural sector; **Lidia Varbanova** showcased the relationship between leadership and entrepreneurship; and **Honor Harger** explored the intersections between science and art.

Reflecting a mood that recurred throughout the Summit, **Romina Bianchini** spoke of leadership and togetherness as vital principles and urged the sector to achieve desired goals together, and to evolve from *networking* to *netliving* and *being* rather than *doing* together.

At the conclusion of the Summit, the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies announced that the National Department for Culture and Arts (JKKN) of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Malaysia will host the 8th World Summit on Arts and Culture, and its Director General, Tan Sri Norliza Rofli, invited delegates to Kuala Lumpur in March 2019.

**Above left:** Summit delegates. Credit: Therese Debono

**Above right:** *Crossroads* installation by Antoine Farrugia (and delegates). Credit: Therese Debono

### With special thanks to

All the speakers, moderators and rapporteurs for their dedication and valuable contributions.

The Local Committee: Annabelle Stivala (Chairperson), Clint Bajada, Charlon Gouder, Albert Marshall and Adrian Sciberras.

All staff members of Festivals Malta and Arts Council Malta.

International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and staff:

Sarah Gardner, Magdalena Moreno Mujica, Annamari Laaksonen, Meredith Okeil, Amy Griffiths, Diane Dodd and Ayeta Anne Wangusa.

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### CO-HOSTS



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### PARTNERS



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### MEDIA PARTNER



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### SUPPORTERS

