

International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads 2

21-27 May 2018

I. Introduction

The *International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads 2* is being organized in follow-up to and building on the success of the International Youth Forum: Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads (IYF) which was held in Changsha and Quanzhou, 17-22 April 2017. During this first IYF, 84 international youth delegates between the ages of 18-30 from 65 countries along the Silk Roads were exposed to a range of creative and cultural heritage experiences, presentations, and engaged in discussions on how youth can become more engaged in the cultural and creative industries and in protecting and promoting our common cultural heritage. The second edition IYF2 will be held in Changsha, 21-23 May 2018, focusing on the theme of “Advancing Creativity for Development”. Participants will then move onto Nanjing, 24-27 May 2018, to participate in the “Creativity and Literature Forum”. Approximately 80 delegates are expected to participate in IYF2; 40 from Silk Roads countries in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe, and 40 delegates from China.

II. Background

The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 acknowledges the key role of culture, emphasizing the function of heritage and creativity, to solve sustainable development challenges. This recognition resonates with the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

“Young people are the tomorrow of the motherland and the hope of the nation, who should dare to become pioneers and make the best of youth through innovation and entrepreneurship” said the Chinese President Xi Jinping. Today, more than ever, young women and men have got the creativity, the potential and the capacity to advance meaningful solutions – for themselves, for their societies, and for the rest of the world. All over the world, youth are driving social innovation, claiming respect for their cultural identity and heritage, and seeking new opportunities to learn and work together for a better future.

On one hand, young people are the most dynamic group with full imagination, innovation and creativity. More and more young women and men are participating, contributing, or leading the innovation and creativity at a local, regional or a global level. On the other hand, the future of our remaining heritage will depend largely on the decisions and actions of the

present generation of young people who will soon become the leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. They are eager to find new ways to build commitment and strengthen action in favor of preserving tangible cultural and natural heritage – including World Heritage, and safeguarding intangible heritage. Their efforts will benefit not only the present generation but also the generations of the future.

Simultaneously, youth are not only beneficiaries but also essential actors in finding solutions. Their energy and leadership has been demonstrated across the world, and they must be fully engaged and supported in these fields.

III. Normative Instruments/ documents to which this Forum contributes:

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, with a target of strengthened efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage (Target 11.4).

UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth – Axis III seeks to engage young women and men engage as active citizens towards democratic consolidation, sustainable communities and peace.

IV. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The objectives of the International Youth Forum are to give young people a chance to voice their interests and concerns on advancing creativity, heritage and literature for development, as well as to mobilize their increased involvement in the cultural and creative industries and in the protection and promotion of our common heritage.

The expected outcomes of the Forum include:

- A cadre of youth from countries along the Silk Roads equipped with skills to advance their works and ideas in the cultural and creative industries and in heritage protection and safeguarding;
- Launching of the *“Experience Changsha Media Arts Program”*

V. Participants

A total of 80 young women and men aged 18-30 from more than 60 countries along the terrestrial and maritime Silk Roads are expected to participate in the International Youth Forum. 30 delegates who are already skilled in the creative arts from Silk Roads countries in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe, will be invited to IYF2. A further 10 international participants selected to participate in the “*Experience Changsha Media Arts Program*”, as well as 40 delegates from China will join the IYF2.

Prospective participants will be invited to apply for selection to attend the IYF via a number of different networks and channels, including those of UNESCO. Successful candidates will be selected based on objective criteria such as years of experience implementing projects in the cultural and creative industries or in heritage protection or safeguarding. In order to ensure equal representation, gender considerations will also factor into the selection process.

Senior Officials from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and other leading figures will also be invited to deliver short and dynamic presentations on the themes of *Advancing Creativity for Development* and *Creativity and Literature*. Members of the China National Commission for UNESCO will participate in the IYF2 as well as staff of UNESCO based at the Beijing Office and Headquarters in Paris.

VI. Detailed Arrangements for the IYF Week

Dates and venues:

21 - 23 May 2018: Changsha, Hunan Province, China.

24 - 27 May 2018: Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China

Themes:

The themes of the Forum will focus on two main areas:

- a. Advancing Creativity for Development;
- b. Creativity and Literature

Modalities:

The Forum is envisioned as a dynamic and participatory event utilizing a combination of panel discussions, parallel sessions and field visits.

Languages:

Simultaneous interpretation Chinese/English will be provided during plenary meetings and training workshops.

VII. Agenda

Monday, 21 May 2018

14:30 – 18:00 “Golden Finger Award” Demonstration & Networking

20:00 – 21:30 Opening Ceremony: Unveiling Changsha City of Media Arts logo

Tuesday, 22 May 2018

9:00 – 10:30 Advancing Creativity for Development: Expert Panel discussion

11:00 – 12:00 Experience Changsha Media Arts Program: Achievement of the Changsha Declaration

13:30 – 17:30 Field Trip P8 Sustainable Innovative Community

18:30 – 21:00 “Changsha Media Arts Night” Show and Dinner

Wednesday, 23 May 2018

9:00 – 10:00 Advancing Creativity and Promoting Heritage for Development: Youth Panel discussion

10:15 – 11:30 Parallel Sessions: Advancing Creativity for Development/Promoting Heritage for Development

11:30 – 12:30 Recommendations/ Way forward

13:30 – 14:30 Closing Ceremony: 3rd Golden Finger Award

15:00 Depart for Nanjing

Thursday, 24 May 2018

9:00 – 12:00 “Read Nanjing” Forum: Special Event, Liberal Arts College of Nanjing University

13:30 – 17:30 Field Trip: L’Avant Garde Bookstore, Sutra Woodblock Printing Centre, Nanjing Library

18:00 – 21:00 Intangible Cultural Heritage evening

Friday, 25 May 2018

9:00 – 12:00 Creative Youth Meeting and Forum Nanjing University

13:30 – 17:30 Field Trip: Nanjing Imperial Examination Museum, Suiyuan Book Design Workshop,

18:00 – 20:00 Special Event: Visit to Nanjing Massacre Museum

Saturday, 26 May 2018

9:00 – 12:00 Participation in the Opening Ceremony of the 8th World Historical & Cultural Cities Expo

13:30 – 17:30 Youth Forum Literature Session: Belt and Road International Literature Forum

Sunday, 27 May 2018

All day Departures

Monday, 28 May – Friday, 15 June, 2018

“Experience Changsha Media Arts Program”