

Arts for Sustainable Development: Advancing the SDGs Through Cultural Collaboration

Date: June 26, 2025, 10:00–13:00

Location: M-CR-12, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Theme: Artistic expression and cultural collaboration as powerful tools to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and foster inclusive, sustainable development worldwide.

Background:

This event convenes a vibrant and diverse gathering of international delegates, high-level experts, artists, and cultural representatives, all driven by a collective vision to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through meaningful dialogue, strategic cooperation, and the reaffirmation of shared human values. At the intersection of policy and creativity, the program places a strong emphasis on the vital role that cultural exchange, artistic expression, and intercultural understanding play in fostering unity across borders and disciplines. By spotlighting the arts as a universal language capable of transcending linguistic and social barriers, the event highlights culture not merely as a complement to development efforts, but as a central pillar in shaping innovative and inclusive global solutions. Through performances, conversations, and collaborative initiatives, this gathering seeks to inspire action, deepen international partnerships, and reaffirm the critical importance of global solidarity in building a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Forum organization

Hosted by: United Nations Institute for Training and Research New York Office (UNITAR-NYO),
International Academy for Arts and Cultural Studies (IAA).

Organized by: Global Ballet Centre (GBC).

Supported By: Lingnan University, North America Tsinghua Alumni Association of Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua Alumni Association of Greater New York, Tsinghua Alumni Association at Greater Boston, Tsinghua Alumni Association of Greater Philadelphia, Tsinghua Alumni Association in Greater Washington D.C.

10:00 - 10:15 Opening Remarks

Zeng Jinsong

Secretary General of the Institute of Global Industry, Tsinghua University; Chairman of the Beijing Global Ballet Center

Keynote Speeches

10:15 - 10:18 Keynote Introduction

10:18 - 10:29 Prof. Claudio Rocca – “*The Beauty of Arts*”

Former Director, Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze

10:30 - 10:41 José Félix Bentz – “*Art and Culture as Architecture of Peace*”

President, Reial Cercle Artístic

10:42 - 10:53 Prof. Ann-Marie Richard – “*A History of Sustainability in the Arts*”

Director, Sotheby’s Institute of Arts

10:54 - 11:05 Prof. Lu Xiaobo – “*Co-Creating the Future of Humanity Through Cultural Diversity*”

Director, Tsinghua University Art Museum; Senior Professor of Liberal Art at Tsinghua University; Vice President of the 9th Chinese Artist Association

Panels

Panel 1: *Cross-disciplinary Dialogue: Artists and Technologists – Is AI a tool or a Creator?*

11:05 - 11:08 Panel 1 Introduction

11:08 - 11:30 Panel 1 Speakers:

EuiChul Jung

Professor & Dean, Department of Design, College of Fine Arts, Seoul National University

Lijun Ma

Assistant Professor, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Donato Nitti

Avv. Donato Nitti, PhD, Studio Legale Nitti e Associati

ChuangHwan Suh

Founder & CEO, WAIS Co., Ltd.

Boqing Zhang

Chairman, Beroni Group, Ltd.

Panel 2: *Future Landscape of Education and Arts: Innovation and Development in the Era of Globalization*

11:30 - 11:33 **Panel 2 Introduction**

11:33 - 12:00 **Panel 2 Speakers:**

Emanuele Amodei

Single Administrator/CEO, Palazzo Spinelli, Istituto per l'arte e il restauro

Xinyuan Cai

Dean, School of Design, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Leilei Chen

Professor, Grand Valley State University

Tianhua Liu

Lecturer, Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

Xuling Tang

Founder, New Century Education, Zhongtian Art Museum

Panel 3: *Youth Special Session – Artistic Expression and Future Responsibility of the New Generation*

12:00 - 12:03 **Panel 3 Introduction**

12:03 - 12:30 **Panel 3 Speakers:**

Boqi Han

Doctor of Design, Central Academy of Fine Arts

WeiJia Kong

International Council Member, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art

Keming Li

General Manager, Beijing Ruzui Cultural Development Co., Ltd.

Yi Li

Founder, ArtAlpha (Beijing U&ART Technology Development Co., Ltd.)

Rebeca Méndez

Independent Artist

Dan Shi

Director, Valen Art Vogue (Hong Kong) International Limited

Nan Zhao

Design, Beijing Xingxin Cultural Center

Art Presentation

12:30 - 12:36 **Art Exhibition Introduction**

Qihong Xie

Director of the Education Center of Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

12:36 - 12:40 **Digital Art Gallery Tour**

12:40 - 12:50 **Closing Remarks**

Zhuo Fumin

Artist, Founder of V Star Capital

Ambassador Marco A. Suazo

Ambassador, Head of the UNITAR New York Office, President of International Academy for Arts and Cultural Studies

12:50 - 13:00 **Group Picture**