**World Cities Culture Forum Releases First Global Survey Linking Urban Culture and Climate Change Agendas**

Latest WCCF handbook explores how the creative industries can help drive urban climate mitigation efforts globally

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**London, November 15th, 2017.** Today the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) – a network of the cultural affairs departments and cultural leaders from 35+ cities around the world – released its newest report *Culture and Climate Change,* providing a global survey of how world cities are integrating their creativity and climate agendas. *Culture and Climate Change*, produced in partnership with the C40 Climate Leadership Group and cultural sustainability consultancy Julie’s Bicycle,provides actionable solutions for mayors and city leaders to address the question of how culture can help cities achieve their goals to create a more environmentally sustainable future and how cities can incorporate cultural approaches to combat climate change.

“Mayors and their administrations have in culture and the creative industries a brilliant rallying point to focus their climate change agenda – to get their message to new audiences, increase public engagement, and drive behaviour change,’ says Paul Owens, Director of the World Cities Culture Forum. ‘The cultural sector is ready and willing to join the cause and with *Culture and Climate Change*, we are providing them with a framework to get there.’

This latest publication from the World Cities Culture Forum's Policy and Practice Series, *Culture and Climate Change* features a series of case studies that illustrate the diversity of actions being taken by cultural organizations, local authorities, and citizens across the world, including:

* The City of **Edinburgh**’s Green Venue Guide, a partnership between Creative Carbon Scotland and Festivals Edinburgh to reduce the environmental impact of the city’s festival and events economy
* Ecoprod, an initiative in **Paris** to help the capital’s TV and film sector calculate and reduce its carbon dioxide emissions
* **Amsterdam**’s Cultural Venue Sustainability Action Plan, offering arts spaces across the city complimentary energy audits to monitor current use and advise on sustainability measures in an effort to achieve a 20% reduction in energy use by 2020
* CURRENT:LA Water, part of **LA**’s inaugural Public Art Biennial, bringing 15 site-specification installations throughout the city to increase residents’ understanding of and engagement with the city’s water issues
* *Refuge,* a new initiative as part of the City of **Melbourne**’s resilience strategy to explore the role of cultural centres and artists in preparing for the impacts of climate related disasters

The report explores these case studies through three main lenses: greening the cultural sector, citizen engagement and public awareness, and regeneration and cultural involvement in infrastructure development.   
  
"The cultural community is a powerful determinant of values and identities. Now we must choose, through policy, investment, innovation and collaborative partnerships to support the movement towards a sustainable world however we can,” says Julie’s Bicycle Founder Alison Tickell. “The WCCF Handbook demonstrates that, as policy makers, we can shape our specific cultural contexts so that they reinforce and inspire a global transformation in positive climate action."

Over 35 cities gathered in Seoul between November 1st-3rd to engage with these ideas as part of the annual World Cities Culture Summit, building on the case studies presented in the handbook to workshop current approaches to aligning environment and culture as well as identifying gaps and opportunities for future action in their cities. The action taken by these cities within the next four years will determine the possibility of global compliance with the Paris Agreement and ensuring a climate safe future, according to C40. Their Deadline 2020 Report estimates that action within urban areas could deliver around 40% of the savings needed to achieve the ambition of limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees. The time to act is now, and culture can be a vital tool to meet this challenge.  

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The World Cities Culture Forum believes that culture is an essential ingredient in the cities of the 21st century and that no global city can be successful without it. Our members have a shared commitment to weaving culture through all aspects of urban policy, like a golden thread, contributing to city reputation, economic prosperity and quality of life.

This Policy and Practice Series is the latest strand in the work of WCCF: a series of in-depth investigations focusing on shared challenges and showcasing effective responses and case studies from our city members.

World Cities Culture Forum worked with two partner organisations who contributed valuable insight and research on climate, cities, and culture to deliver this compendium of creatively-driven climate initiatives. Julie’s Bicycle is a leading organisation that supports the cultural community to act on climate change and environmental sustainability by developing research, data, resources and strategy. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group works with over 80 cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.