

## European Charter Of Cities and Areas Of Culture and Heritage.



### Heritage

The heritage of a city – or of a area – is much wider than the simple sum of real estate and property collected in a place over many centuries. Heritage is also the moving account through which a population, generation after generation, gives sense to what differentiates it from all others, and to what unites it to the rest of humanity. Heritage is also the mark left behind by intermingling, and by the successive contributions that have formed the unique character of each city. It is also the sum of views that people take on the irreplaceable element of their common heritage.

### Cities and Areas of Culture – A Living Heritage

The signatory cities of the present charter do not wish to become museums. They endeavour to preserve and develop diversified activities, within their historic centres as well as beyond them.

They also endeavour to pursue the work of yesterday's builders through the harmonious integration of quality new contributions.

*• Each City – or Area – of Culture defines and carries out, in the extent of its possibilities, a detailed plan for the preservation, the enrichment and the enhancement of its heritage, and will translate the set courses into reality.*

### Cities and Areas of Culture – A Heritage for Everyone Built by Everyone.

One of the priorities of a City or Area of Culture is the re-appropriation by the population of its heritage. Therefore, everyone should be able to decipher, interpret, occupy and reinvent the common property of a city's public places and facilities. Inhabitants should be, more than users, responsible and active citizens.

- Each City or Area of Culture will rely on a qualified heritage mediation team. European Charter Of Cities and Areas Of Culture and Heritage.*
- Each European City – or Area – of Culture will include all involved partners (administration, university, organizations and societies, businesses...) in a permanent local heritage enhancement symposium.*
- Each European City or Area of Culture will work in close consultation with the inhabitants to define and re-appropriate local heritage.*

### Cities and Areas of Culture – Meeting Points and Places for the Sharing of Culture.

The common point between our cities is our desire to be thriving cultural centres, and a meeting point between different cultures. We endeavour to make receiving visitors more than a simple economic activity, by turning it into a special opportunity for exchanges between fellow humans.

- Each City or Area of Culture will carry out a cultural development policy for the whole of its population, with special attention to those who have more difficulties in accessing cultural life.*
- Each City or Area of Culture will endeavour to conceive and carry out forms of welcome, which will enable visitors and inhabitants to meet in an effective way.*

### Cities and Areas of Culture – Guarantors of Long Term Development.

The common purpose of the Cities and Areas of Culture and Heritage is to turn local heritage into the driving force behind economic, cultural and social development. Heritage is to often considered a source for short term income. As for the Cities and Territories signatories of the present charter, they manage the heritage bequeathed to them with the constant concern for preserving their natural and cultural environments' quality as well as future generations' interests.

- Each City or Area of Culture defines a global policy and carries out programmes for the preservation and enhancement of the quality of its natural and cultural environment.*

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