

Press release

The organising committee of the African Capitals of Culture met on 4 February 2020 at the CGLU Africa Headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, with as main agenda item the examination of the conditions for organizing the celebration of the African Capitals of Culture in Morocco following the withdrawal of the City of Marrakech and the candidacy of the City of Rabat.

The committee deliberated on the merits of Rabat's candidacy and on the conditions that the city must meet to be the mirror of African culture for the period 2020/2021.

After examining the city's strengths in terms of the specifications for the celebration of African Capitals of Culture, the committee welcomed Rabat's candidacy and decided to designate Rabat, the African Capitals of Culture 2020/2021.

The Committee recalls that the African Capitals of Culture program includes three types of activities:

Events labelled in line with the philosophy of the African Capitals of Culture, in particular for their contribution to the honoring of African creativity, their openness to the whole continent, their impact on local populations, their contribution to the international promotion of Africa's cultural and artistic resources;

Multi-year programs that help to structure, organize, professionalize and network artists and cultural professionals on the African Continent to help make arts and culture the fourth pillar of sustainable development in cities and territories, and a key driver of the reconstruction of Africa's culture self-esteem and international reach;

Events and activities created specifically for the host city of the celebration of African Capitals of Culture in close collaboration with the authorities of the city and the host country, following the principle that the host city and country celebrate Africa at home, and that simultaneously the host city and country of the celebration are celebrated in five cities selected from those that have expressed interest in becoming African Capital of Culture.

A team has been set up, including members of the management of the African Capitals of Culture, to work on the general programming of the various events and activities. The results of this team work and consultations will be communicated to the public at a press conference to be held in Rabat in March 2020.

**For the organising committee,
The President
Jean Pierre ELONG MBASSI
Secretary General of UCLG Africa**