

Culture and public space: right of access to and participation in street culture

Government Measure #6

Barcelona Cultural
Rights Plan



Ajuntament
de Barcelona

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1. PRESENTATION AND CONTEXT

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

On 30 April 2021, the Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan was presented as a conceptual, political and strategic framework for recognising and expanding cultural rights in the city. The aim of this plan is to design public policies from the perspective of cultural rights and to open the way to the recognition of these rights for the whole of Barcelona's citizens.

Under the title '*Fem cultura*' (Let's Make Culture), and based on nine measures, this plan sets out a strategy to position cultural rights as fundamental rights of the first order, to reinforce democratic life in the city and to involve the cultural sector and all municipal areas in designing and rolling out local cultural policies. With the aim of providing a new perspective on cultural rights and public action, the plan incorporates new links between cultural action and strategic areas such as education, sustainability, science, feminism, innovation and technology.

"Culture and Public Space: right of access to and participation in street culture". This is a set of projects and action lines that seek to recognise and highlight cultural expressions that take place in public spaces and generate suitable conditions for them to go ahead.

This measure includes all the actions that Barcelona City Council will carry out based on the close relationship between the right to participate in the city's cultural life and its public spaces.

2. DIAGNOSIS

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

The lines of action included in this measure are the result of a long process of analysis and active listening with the cultural sectors and the public. Most of them therefore respond to existing demands and needs expressed by cultural players.

The **Barcelona Cultural Needs and Participation Survey**, published in 2020, discarded the evaluation and uses of public space for reasons of feasibility and also because of the complexity of this subject. However, all practices linked to “non-legitimised culture” were taken into account.

Within the framework of the Survey, non-legitimised culture refers to informal, popular, community and other activities and practices that are part of everyday life and help to develop the cultural rights of people and communities (UNESCO-UIS 2006, Barbieri and Salazar , 2019) but which are not usually regarded as cultural in cultural participation surveys or reports on cultural participation reports.

Accordingly, the Survey, included in this category the following list of activities: storytelling; taking part in arts and crafts, woodwork, gardening or traditional cooking activities; doing sport or playing group games; taking part in folk events and other community activities or festivals; going to places of worship, religious centres or taking part in some collective spiritual practice; going to restaurants, bars, discos, clubs or dance halls; going to fairs and markets; walking in nature or round the city.

In this list, walking in nature or round the city, going to fairs and markets or taking part in traditional or popular collective acts or other community activities all occur in public spaces. Taking all that into account, the Survey’s results help us to highlight the fact that only 3% of the population in middle-income neighbourhoods do not take part in any of the cultural activities listed in the above table, whereas that figure rises to 15% in the case of low-income neighbourhoods.

Planning the use of public space

Barcelona City Council has a long track record of urban planning in the city. In recent years, however, the commitment to place people at the centre of planning has marked all plans, interventions and regulations, with the primary objective being to reduce emissions in order to improve people’s health and lives, but also to promote a more inclusive, democratic and diverse use of public space, thus recovering a city on a human scale.

City urban planning is governed by the **General Metropolitan Urban Development Plan** (PGM-75). The purpose of the PGM is to plan urban development in the area that used to be the Barcelona Metropolitan Municipal Entity, and which comprised a total of 27 municipalities. Urban planning in Barcelona is therefore based on the PGM and a series of amendments relating to specific areas where the passing of time has required new planning adapted to the needs of contemporary society. On urban land, the general urban plan is implemented through urban improvement plans and special urban development plans.

By focusing on urban management of public space, in recent years Barcelona has made a great leap forward, not only by modifying land use with an eye to people, but also by strategically planning an urban transformation that responds to current global needs and challenges.

The **Superblock Barcelona** programme is undoubtedly the flagship of this transformation process. After years of concentrating urban planning interventions and transformations on specific street developments in the city, the programme has taken a step forward and a leap in scale to become the transformation model for Barcelona's streets. The goal is to achieve a healthy, greener, fairer and safer public space that promotes social relations and the local economy.

Other plans and measures adopted in recent years also help to understand the city's commitment to making Barcelona a more liveable city for people. The [Plan for Play in Barcelona's Public Spaces](#) is looking to carry out a whole series of actions to move from a city with play areas to a playable city. The Play Plan sets out 10 key projects to promote a change of attitude towards play:

- > Removing "no ball games" signs.
- > "[Obrim carrers](#)" (We are opening up streets). Closing various city streets to traffic over the weekend.
- > "Let's play in the squares": recreational suggestions to encourage the habit of getting together.
- > Prioritising play on streets and in squares on Saturday afternoons for youth clubs.
- > Drawing up a Co-educational, Green and Community Playgrounds Plan for the city's infant and primary schools.
- > "[Let's protect the schools](#)", a square at the entrance to every school.
- > More water and sand games.
- > Creating unique leisure spaces and [new urban sports parks](#) .
- > Opening café-bars in recreational spaces with toilets and games to loan out.
- > Supporting play for children with functional diversity.

Likewise, and also on the City Council's initiative, various government measures have been approved to supplement the kind of public policies which are to be pursued from a public space and urban management perspective. For example, the measure on [Urban Planning with a Gender Perspective](#) presented in 2017 included a package of measures for integrating a gender perspective into all urban planning policies to achieve a fairer, more equal, safer city without any barriers. As a result of this initial work, in order to guarantee optimal daily life without discrimination, the application of gender mainstreaming criteria has been encouraged in major transformation projects such as traffic calming on Av. Meridiana, the new bus network, the superblocks and the Neighbourhood Plan, and the "[Everyday Life Urban Planning Manual: urbanism with a gender perspective](#)" has been drawn up to provide planning criteria and diagnostic tools from a gender perspective for the technical staff who draw up urban plans and those who develop public space and facility projects.

All these urban planning policies, programmes and interventions have a direct impact on the city's cultural life. The intention of this government measure is to further develop the relationship between public space use, planning and management and the possibilities people have of expressing themselves and participating in culture.

3. Mission

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

To promote public spaces as one of the main areas of the city's cultural life, ensuring the right to the city and cultural participation in a sustainable way.

4. GOALS

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

The city, and especially its public spaces, have an implicit cultural dimension that is shown in the general public's practices and customs, as well as an explicit cultural dimension, which is reflected in the city's heritage, architecture, urban planning, spatial organisation, design, public art, landscape and relationship with the natural environment.

This measure aims to address both dimensions, generating the necessary conditions for improving the right of citizens to express, live and participate in culture in public spaces.

Accordingly, the objectives it pursues are to:

- > Give a cultural perspective to urban planning in the city, in order to ensure the conservation of heritage, expression of memory and exercise of creativity.
- > Ensure the cultural use of public spaces and the expression of all practices present in the city.
- > Explore new forms of cultural use of public space.
- > Develop cultural action that includes reflection on, and the creation and execution of, an environmental perspective.
- > Reduce the existing imbalances between cultural uses of public space in various areas and neighbourhoods of the city.

All that, however, while bearing in mind that managing shared, public spaces involves a complexity and a series of balances that must not be lost sight of. It is necessary to plan cultural expressions in the street, taking into account the impact and affects they may have and encourage the coexistence of uses in public spaces while ensuring community harmony throughout the city.

5. Lines of action

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

5.1. The right to cultural public spaces

The lines of action included in this section respond to projects and programmes designed to become mechanisms for promoting and fostering culture in the city's streets and public spaces.

5.1.1. Barcelona Urban Art Programme

The Barcelona Institute of Culture, together with the Municipal Institute of Urban Landscape (IMPU) and the Department of Social Intervention in Public Space, is working on designing and implementing a citywide programme that will enable the development of a new system for the functioning of artistic intervention spaces using the language of urban art in public spaces.

Urban art encompasses some of the artistic trends and manifestations whose specific context and support is the public space, based on the language of the plastic and visual arts and, increasingly, even performance art. In fact, there is room for different trends and styles in the term urban art, be it graffiti, mural art, illustration, collage or light art, all of which have in common the fact they are conceived and take on meaning by being located in squares, parks, streets or on the façades of any urban fabric and with a defined and ephemeral temporality.

This urban art programme must serve to establish a system that will facilitate planning and managing the artistic interventions of those disciplines that take place in the city. In that regard we can differentiate between two broad areas of intervention. On the one hand, those interventions which take place on **walls and accessible spaces in public space**. These are small- and medium-scale interventions, which are usually easier.

On the other hand we have **large-scale interventions**, mainly on party walls [1]

In the first case, we could differentiate between two main types of lines of work. Each of them would have certain characteristics and a specific system of operation:

- > **Open walls:** those walls where anyone is allowed to develop free artistic expression using any visual discipline in specifically located and sign-posted spaces. The only requirement would be to follow a basic code of operation and coexistence in the use of the spaces.
The programme will work to make open walls available to the citizens of Barcelona in all of the city's districts and will set up a municipal information system on the location and characteristics of these spaces through a website.
- > **Regulated walls:** are walls on which interventions are carried out through any visual discipline but linked to a specific project of community revitalisation or artistic promotion. On this kind of wall, priority will be given to projects that seek involvement with the area and that are linked to the local community. These spaces are either managed by local social and cultural facilities (youth centres, civic centres, etc.) or are part of a specific social or cultural awareness or dissemination programme being developed in that neighbourhood or district.

In the case of the second area of large-scale interventions, work will be carried out to define a protocol that establishes the characteristics and conditions that

1 →

Party walls are anonymous walls that divide properties, and although they play no role in the building's exterior appearance, they can end up exposed to public view, following urban-planning changes, in a permanently provisional state.

the site or surface on which the proposal is to be developed must have (in terms of location, conservation and state of conservation), as well as the criteria for developing the proposal itself.

Finally, this Urban Art Programme will also include the planning and design of the project to set up the **Centre for Urban Art and Creativity “EL CILINDRE D’HORTA”**, located at Carrer de Beatriu, 30, in the Horta-Guinardó district. El Cilindre will have to be a reference point in the field of urban art, providing artists and the public with information, support, resources, training and dissemination of urban art. It will also become a centre for research and reflection on these expressions, from a cultural, experimental, innovative, anthropological and contemporary perspective, in constant dialogue with other cultural spaces in the city and providing support for urban art projects arising in other areas.

The functions and services to be included in this new benchmark of urban art in the city are as follows:

- > Information and advice point on urban art.
- > Reference point for municipal programmes and actions related to urban art and experimental artistic practices in public spaces.
- > Both informative and awareness training and also specialised training.
- > Promoter of artistic projects and programmes linked to the local area.
- > Exhibition and outreach space both indoors and outdoors.
- > A space for meeting and reflection on promoting urban art and its different artistic manifestations.
- > A space for the support and inclusion of urban art creation projects.
- > A space with an international perspective and connections with other facilities and projects of similar characteristics.

The centre will also act as the central node of a proposal for an urban gallery in the public space, and will have the Espai Boca Nord youth centre on the one side and the Plaça de Botticelli square on the other.

This project is the result of the joint efforts of the Horta-Guinardó district, the Barcelona Institute of Culture and the Municipal Institute of Urban Landscape (IMPU).

Finally, it will be necessary to maintain and expand the resources and support for the urban art entities and projects that are being developed in the city in order to enable the development of a diverse and representative ecosystem of players, as is the case in other cultural sectors in the city.

With regard to the planning and development of public spaces, artistic intervention features must be incorporated into the use plans to enable the most suitable spaces where interventions can be carried out, both in terms of accessible walls and large-scale interventions, to be designed in advance.

5.1.2. Cultural superblocks

The superblocks project has taken a step forward in recent years and become a benchmark for urban-planning intervention on an international scale. Furthermore, thanks to the tactical urban planning carried out since the start of the pandemic, it has been possible to provide a rapid response to the needs of the general public and economic sectors. All of these new spaces are already eminently cultural, insofar as they accommodate various expressions and ways of life of city residents.

It is therefore necessary to go a step further and institutionalise the cultural use of the superblocks.

The cultural superblocks programme will be integrated into the design of the new squares and green hubs that are being created in various city districts and neighbourhoods. It is a matter of adding people's cultural needs to the new spaces by means of different mechanisms:

- > Inviting and promoting the participation of local cultural players from the area (cultural facilities, organisations, companies and professionals) in the diagnosis and proposal processes that are developed in each of the project spaces within the Barcelona Superblocks.
- > Incorporating specific features in the urban design that facilitate the cultural use of the streets and green hubs such as, for example, strategically located lighting and energy points to facilitate the holding of shows or concerts, or fixed and mobile structures that can act as stages.
- > Promoting the activation of cultural use of the superblocks by cultural facilities and players in the city.

5.1.3. Rambla Cultural Line

The global transformation project for La Rambla contains a specific cultural strategy that includes a whole range of actions aimed at constructing a new everyday La Rambla experience, through the cultural and community practices of local residents. This strategy is coordinated by the Barcelona Institute of Culture, the Ciutat Vella district and the municipal company Foment de Ciutat.

The "Rambla Cultural Line" is being rolled out in three broad lines of work:

- > Promoting local cultural and community activity on the public highway through the "Àgores Rambles", as well as the participation of the wide range of cultural facilities located on the avenue itself.
- > Linking the avenue with cultural events in the city that did not have a presence there or which, if so, did not share a joint promotion context or strategy.
- > Creating a collective image of La Rambla as a space for receiving and producing local culture and benchmark activities that promote it.

The **Àgores Rambles** are an opportunity for creating new spaces for culture on the public highway. They are not closed spaces for cultural programming but can coordinate different cultural proposals in different parts of La Rambla. There are currently three kinds of functioning agoras:

- > **Àgora Radiofònica**: a radio space set up in a florist's kiosk in disuse that aims to give a voice to La Rambla local residents, organisations, institutions, events and communities, with a view to recovering this emblematic avenue for the people of Barcelona. Ràdio Rambles broadcasts programmes from the Cultural Line of the project for the transformation of La Rambla, but also programmes from organisations, groups and institutions that applied for the first public call.
<https://xrcb.cat/ca/radio/radio-rambles/>

- > **Àgora Infantil:** work is being done with the Andreu Nin Library to offer children's entertainment on a fortnightly basis at Pla del teatre during the spring, summer and autumn months. This agora draws children and families to the heart of La Rambla.
<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/lesrambles/es/el-agora-infantil>
- > **Àgora Musical:** a musical stage space created in Plaça Reial with different cultural players such as the district's music schools, concert halls and cultural facilities in the Rambla area to offer concerts with the aim of bringing local audiences to this emblematic space.
<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/lesrambles/es/el-agora-musical>

As far as **city and neighbourhood cultural events** are concerned, the actions carried out to date have focused on ensuring that certain festivals and cultural events in the city take place along the whole or in a part on La Rambla. For example, BCNegra was set to be held on La Rambla (in the end it was online due to health restrictions) and the inauguration of the Raval(s) community festival was held on the Rambla de Canaletes. It has also given support to other initiatives promoted by local groups and entities directly involved in promoting La Rambla.

Finally, **creating a collective image of La Rambla** represents the determination to transmit, with and through work shared with the social and cultural players involved, the possibility of recovering for the people of Barcelona, above all the people of La Rambla, both its facilities and its public thoroughfare as an emblematic space for receiving and producing culture.

5.1.4. Overflow of cultural facilities

This line of action responds to Barcelona City Council's desire to place people at the centre of the planning and organisation of public space, taking space away from vehicles and creating new spaces for social and cultural encounters, relations and expression. It carries on from the "Cultural Superblocks Line" (5.1.2) of this measure, which notes the desire to promote the active participation of cultural facilities and players in the cultural dynamisation of superblocks and green hubs. However, we need to go a step further and define new programmes and guidelines that change the way the city's cultural facilities operate.

With this line, a series of short and medium-term actions are aimed at ensuring that cultural facilities outgrow their physical space and open up to the public space.

One of the key factors for rolling out this line is designing the cultural projects of the city's cultural facilities as phenomena that transcend their walls. In other words, regarding cultural projects as proposals that are rolled out in, and have an impact on the surrounding area, **an approach that must include considering nearby public spaces as places for scheduling and carrying out a facility's regular cultural programme, as well as its strategy for community animation and action.**

Implementing this line includes analysing the possibilities and needs of each facility, taking into account their location and surrounding area. Some of the measures that will gradually be implemented on various levels include:

- > Incorporating into all public tenders for running and managing these facilities the obligation to analyse the adjacent public space in order to make a proposal for regular dynamisation and activity programmes.
- > Defining, agreeing and putting into practice the resources and tools necessary for both the ICUB itself and the districts to promote the use of the adjacent public space as a space for cultural programming and activity involving the facilities that depend on each other.

All these actions will be designed in collaboration with the city districts, to ensure the specific features and needs of each neighbourhood and facility are taken into account.

5.1.5. Consolidation of the link between culture and sustainability

Barcelona City Council has a long history of raising awareness and disseminating information about the climate emergency and all the related issues. A large number of programmes, spaces for reflection, activities and exhibitions are generated over the course of the year through the Environmental Facilities Network (Fàbrica del Sol, manufacturing workshops, the Beach Centre, environmental classrooms, etc.) and also thanks to citizen programmes and networks (More Sustainable Barcelona, Citizen Sustainability Council, etc.). However, all this work is carried out in parallel with that of the cultural facilities, sectors and players, many of whom are also working along the same lines. While we understand that the climate emergency is a global challenge, it is more important than ever to join forces from a local perspective.

Following this line, therefore, a **framework will be created to consolidate all the activities and programmes** that are already being developed from the cultural sector and that aim to raise awareness and encourage reflection on climate challenges and sustainability.

In the process of developing this new framework, we can already point out some actions to study and evaluate:

- > Broadening the focus on sustainability in culture within the Grants and Subsidies Programme.
- > Incorporating a line of work on sustainability, culture and the climate emergency in the Citizen Culture Office (OCCU). The OCCU will become the municipal reference space for reflection and critical debate on the city's cultural policies, with the aim of ensuring these debates reach and interest not only cultural professionals but also the general public. In that regard, the debate on the relationship between culture and sustainability, defining sustainable cultural development and the synergies between environmental, social and cultural policies are some of the issues to be addressed.
- > Taking advantage of the use of public space and green spaces in the city that host cultural programmes, festivals and celebrations in order to publicise and highlight these spaces.
- > Taking the line of work of the Barcelona Film Commission and the Catalunya Film Commission as a reference, provide resources and guidelines for action to ensure sustainability in audiovisual productions.

5.2. Right to artistic and cultural expression on the streets

The lines of action set out in this section respond to actions to protect and facilitate the cultural players in particular, and the public in general, so they can make cultural use of Barcelona's public space.

5.2.1. Regulations governing street music

Following intensive research and joint reflection by the ICUB (through the Cultura Viva programme) artists' collectives, the heads of the city's districts and the Area of Ecology, Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Mobility, 2019 [2] saw the launch of the programme "Barcelona Music on the Streets". A new regulatory framework was defined at the same time to regulate this activity throughout the city.

← 2

The project originated in the Ciutat Vella District in 2001 and the ICUB took over running it in 2019.

Throughout history, playing music on the street has been a cultural exchange that has allowed access to live music, experiencing and getting to know new styles and a variety of instruments. However, this activity has not always been seen as a form of cultural enrichment and it has often been managed from a public order perspective. The aim of transforming this activity into a cultural project is to give it a new meaning, reassigning the cultural and relational value it confers on public space, while respecting its coexistence with other uses of the city.

The project proposes a huge leap in scale. Until now it was limited to the exceptional nature of the Ciutat Vella district but, following the change in how licences are managed, it will be possible to extend it to all city districts. Over the course of 2022, the number of music spots in the city will increase to around 50, [3] which will lead to an increase in the number of musicians authorised to play music on the streets by means of a much more flexible and transparent access mechanism to the project.

← 3

Joint work is being carried out with the technical and management teams of all the districts to identify the best places to locate a street music spot, taking into account the needs of the participating musicians, the social and commercial dynamism of the neighbourhood and respect for rest and other civic activities

One of the first missions of the project is to dignify the activity of street music and all the artists who want or need to do it. That is why, among other things, it establishes and promotes mediation with all the players involved and seeks processes and activities that allow a greater harmony between artistic activity and other uses of public space.

Moreover, this project also encourages the community of participating musicians to share responsibility and participate in designing and managing the project, establishing mechanisms for proposing improvements and new ways of organising themselves.

5.2.2. Working group on the use of public space for popular culture shared with the districts: "Events in public space"

This is an initiative that will also be reflected in the sixth government measure rolled out under the Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan: "Popular Cultures: the right to popular and traditional cultural practices as spaces for participation and social cohesion".

For the purposes of facilitating the use of streets as ideal spaces for demonstrations and meetings of groups taking part in popular and traditional culture, while establishing a clear and fair framework that respects all their uses, an 'Events in public space' working group has been created, putting special emphasis on **popular street culture** activities. It is a technical working space led by the body

in charge of territorial coordination at City Council level, with representatives from the districts and also the municipal areas of culture, urban planning, and prevention and safety.

Streets need to become suitable spaces for manifestations of popular culture, so they can be enjoyed and to facilitate their integrating and cohesive side, while ensuring that such manifestations are held in total safety both for the players and participants or watching public, and are compatible with other uses and the lives of local residents. Such safety must include the risks that arise from the activity itself, as well as maximum respect for the rules of civil behaviour and community life.

The committee will be specifically tasked with the following work:

- > Harmonising the administrative processes and user criteria of public spaces while facilitating fair access for the various cultural groups and making their use compatible with safety and civic coexistence.
- > Setting out improvements for processing permits for holding activities.
- > Promoting the design of public spaces as sociability spaces with specific approaches to cultural diversity and to the cultural activities of young children and young people.
- > Preparing an annual calendar of activities in the field of popular cultures with a specific approach to neighbourhood events, ensuring a measured distribution over time and some coordination.
- > Having well-informed mapping on public spaces and their features for hosting activities, as well as an annual calendar of their occupation and volume of activities.
- > Facilitating the comprehensive management of events by their associations and of their demands in each district, not just in connection with the need for infrastructure but also other services relating to the activity, as well as its monitoring and assessment.

5.2.3. Decentralisation of the cultural offering

For some years now, Barcelona City Council has been setting up multidisciplinary exhibition circuits: the Barcelona Cultural District, the “Temporals” programme, “Pantalla Barcelona”, the “Quinzena Metropolitana de Dansa” and “Sala Barcelona” are the main benchmarks for this commitment to exhibitions. They all seek to decentralise the cultural offering by taking it to the neighbourhoods while improving work opportunities for the creative sectors. Likewise, the city’s major events and festivals, such as the Open City Biennial of Thought, the City and Science Biennial, the Mercè and Grec festivals, have also been the focus of programming and cultural dynamism spread throughout the city’s various neighbourhoods and districts.

Consolidating and expanding the activities and schedules in public spaces of all ICUB programmes and large-scale events, as a major asset for promoting the general public’s access and participation. Likewise, this line seeks to set clear guidelines that promote support for those initiatives arising from the neighbourhoods and districts that are intended to have an impact on the city. In other words,

festivals, programmes or other singular projects arising from the initiative of district institutions or entities must be made visible and reinforced to show the polycentric nature of the city with regard to generating cultural projects and content. [4]

5.2.4. Working group on the Sant Joan bonfires

The tradition of lighting bonfires on the night of Sant Joan (St John's Eve) goes back a long way and in Barcelona, despite the fact it has declined a lot in recent decades, there are still groups, associations and local residents that keep it alive.

The relationship between the summer solstice and fire has been maintained since the time of the earliest Mediterranean civilisations, who even then celebrated the shortest night of the year by lighting fires. Throughout history, this ritual has survived in different circumstances, but the bonfire tradition has been maintained thanks to its social, collective and ceremonial nature.

Given the drop in the number of bonfires in the city, in 2019 the #CrememBarcelona platform was created, made up of people and organisations linked to Barcelona's bonfires, as well as individual followers of Barcelona's festive scene. The aim of this platform is to protect the Sant Joan bonfire tradition and, in order to guarantee that protection, it is calling for Sant Joan night in Barcelona to be declared a cultural asset of local interest (BCIL), as regards its intangible side.

In line with Barcelona City Council's commitment to the use and expression of culture in public spaces and to promoting, respecting and protecting expressions of popular culture, a **working group will be set up comprising people linked to the platform and the different areas of the City Council** concerned (Directorate of Memory, History and Heritage and the ICUB's Department of Cultural Heritage, the Area of Environment and Urban Services attached to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Ecology, Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Mobility, the Area of Prevention and Safety, and the Heritage Planning and Coordination Services Directorate), to analyse and evaluate the possibilities of recognising the Sant Joan bonfires as a cultural asset of local interest (BCIL).

5.2.5. Night Committee

Night management is an area with many variables that requires a clear strategy that can respond to as many related needs and challenges as possible. Combining local residents' right to rest with economic activities, the use of public space, leisure and cultural activity is a complex task that needs to be addressed.

In recent times, the restrictions resulting from the health situation caused by Covid-19, the banning of night-time leisure activities and opening-time restrictions have caused serious problems with crowds of people gathering in public spaces at night. Understanding these mass gatherings as irresponsible acts simplifies dynamics and behaviour that very often respond to the real needs of broad groups in the city. However, disputes over night-time activities go back a long way. In the cultural sphere, the night is associated with certain types of cultural practices, expressions and programmes. Club culture is a clear example of this, and Barcelona is a benchmark city in Europe for this type of musical activity and programming.

Based on Barcelona City Council's commitment to protecting cultural expressions and sectors that generate wealth in all senses (cultural, economic and social), but without ignoring the problems and conflicts that are generated in the city, night management must be approached from a cross-sectoral perspective.

← 4

Other actions linked to decentralising programmes can be found in the first Government Measure of the Cultural Rights Plan "Culture in the neighbourhoods and community action: right to cultural practices and new centralities". Available online at: <https://www.barcelona.cat/aqui-es-fa-cultural/sites/default/files/2021-11/Mesura%231.pdf>

Accordingly, we will **study the setting up of a Night Committee as a municipal analysis and decision-making body** made up of representatives of all the areas and councillor' offices concerned (Office of the Deputy Mayor for Ecology, Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Mobility, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Prevention and Safety, Councillor's Office for Climate Emergency and Ecological Transition, Barcelona Institute of Culture, Territorial Coordination and the districts). The aim of this committee will be to devise a shared strategy for action that will enable the necessary balances to be found in order to define actions.

5.3. Right to urban planning with a cultural perspective

The lines included in this section respond to the desire to move towards integrating the cultural perspective into the design, planning, interventions and city planning regulations, in the same way that in recent years the feminist perspective has played a key role in transforming the urban model.

However, this new perspective must be based on the paradigm of cultural rights, guaranteeing diverse cultural use and participation in public spaces by citizens, and recognising the role of the city's cultural fabric in promoting cultural practices and access to them.

5.3.1. Protecting music in urban planning regulations

The number of music halls and live concerts in Barcelona has gradually been falling in recent years. There are various reasons for this fall but one of the most common problems in music halls stems from disputes with local residents who complain about the noise, either as a direct result of the programme or due to the crowds of people at the entrances and exits.

Good soundproofing and respect for the rest of local people are priorities for the City Council (municipal investment in improving private venues and regulatory changes made to the Live Culture Venues are examples). However, it is also necessary to find formulas that guarantee the survival of the city's musical richness, protect consolidated cultural players and promote the birth of new projects.

For years now the United Kingdom has been working on a model based on the **agent-of-change principle**. It starts from the idea that when a person, company or authority (agent) introduces a new use of land it is responsible for managing the impact of that change. The clearest example is when a new housing development is built next to a concert hall or music club already in operation. The change of regulations based on the agent-of-change principle establishes that, in actions to ensure that the new development (the new residential building, for example) can be effectively integrated with existing businesses and community facilities (such as a concert hall), the new agent is responsible for all the adaptations required to mitigate any nuisance caused by the pre-existing facilities.

Taking the agent-of-change principle as a reference, **an analysis will be carried out to review the urban planning regulations** that apply to new housing developments, shops or new public or private facilities in the city so that they take into account the pre-existing cultural establishments, respect their uses and take charge of the adaptations that each project requires for it to be integrated into the area's fabric and cultural activity.

5.3.2. New uses for the city's green spaces

Decree 112/2010, of 31 August, [5] which approves the Regulation on Public

Entertainment and Recreational Activities, determines the requirements, limitations and characteristics of these activities. The Decree contains a catalogue of the activities that are regulated by this regulation: public performances (representations, performances, exhibitions, projections, competitions or other types of entertainment or leisure activities, performed in front of an audience, and carried out by artists, performers or actors) and recreational activities (music bars and restaurants, discos, dance halls, function rooms, concert halls or café theatres).

The regulations also distinguish between ordinary public entertainment or recreational activities (which take place on a regular basis in fixed or temporary establishments) and those of an extraordinary nature (which take place in establishments that have a licence for an activity different from the one intended, or in a space open to the public or in other establishments that are not considered to be places open to the public). In accordance with current regulations, a maximum of 12 extraordinary events or recreational activities may be held each year.

Cultural activity and programming is diverse and can include different types of activities. Cultural facilities and players, and the use they can make of public space, can be very diverse and have different needs at different times. A specific problem arises when cultural players want to make use of a public space (square, park or street) that has the urban planning category of a road or park to carry out cultural activities that arise from their regular activity.

According to current regulations, roads and parks do not have a recreational or entertainment use and, therefore, any cultural use of them is limited to a maximum of 12 shows or recreational activities per year. This line of action proposes to study **modifying the use of those areas that come up against this limitation in order to guarantee the cultural use of public space. Work will be carried out to create a specific use within urban planning code 6 (urban green)** that will allow entertainment and recreational activities in such a way that they will become ordinary activities and not be limited in number. However, it will be necessary to impose limits and conditions in the environmental project for each area to ensure that the activities that take place there are not a nuisance to the public and that they are safe for users and spectators or audiences.

However, this amendment to the use of urban planning code 6 (green space) must only apply to those spaces associated with municipal cultural facilities in which cultural activity needs have been detected that exceed the limit of 12 per year.

The changes that will be studied on the basis of the needs detected are as follows:

- > Change in the use of the Fabra i Coats site.
- > Change in the use of the Montjuïc Castle second enclosure and moat. According to the latest Plan for the Use of Montjuïc Mountain, the Castle's first site is classified as 7 (facility), so activities there would not be limited to 12 a year. However, the second site and the former moat are classified as 6 (urban green).
- > Change in the use of the Àgora Berta Càceres at Parc de les Glòries. The whole of the new square, which includes a cultural agora, is classified as 6 (urban green).

The changes to the specific green spaces will be studied and agreed with the districts they are located in, to ensure an overall perspective of the impacts these changes could have in each area.

5.3.3. Housing for artists in the new cultural facilities

The government measure "Grassroots Culture and Cultural Sectors: the right to creation, experimentation, research and cultural production" included as one of the pillars of the new municipal system of creative residencies an increase in the supply of housing for artists and creators. Besides creating the new housing already programmed at Vil·la Joana (Collserola Park) and the Muñoz-Ramonet spaces (Carrer de Muntaner), in addition to the five existing ones, this line goes one step further by specifying the municipal commitment to include flats for artists and creators in the plans for new cultural facilities in the city.

The amendment to the General Metropolitan Plan (MPGM) will regulate the system of public housing for specific use [6] in the city, incorporating as a complementary use housing for artists in new municipal cultural facilities that include artistic or cultural creation and/or production among their planned activities. A maximum of 30% of the surface area of the facility and up to a maximum of 350 m² of built space above ground level, located in the same facility, may be used for this complementary use.

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Public housing for specific use refers to land destined for housing use, but specifically to meet the temporary needs of certain groups of people. Source: Consolidated Text and Regulation of the Urban Planning Act (TRLU)

6. Calendar and budget

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

This budget foresees an implementation plan from before the publication of the measure until 2023.

Action	Calendar
Barcelona Urban Art Programme	2022
Cultural superblocks	2023
Rambla Cultural Line	2022
Overflow of cultural facilities	2022
Consolidation of the link between culture and sustainability	2023
Regulations governing street music	2022
Working group on the use of public space for popular culture shared with the districts: "Events in public space"	2023
Decentralisation of the cultural offering	2022
Working group on the St John bonfires	2022
Night Committee	2023
Protecting music in urban planning regulations	2023
New uses for the city's green spaces	2023
Housing for artists in the new cultural facilities	2022
Budget	
Current expenditure	€260,000
Investment	€20,000
TOTAL MEASURE 5	€280,000

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

Follow-up

The most appropriate follow-up indicators will be defined as the action lines of this measure are developed. However, some of the sources of information that will be available and those that will need to be created to monitor implementation and evaluate the results are listed below.

> **Barcelona Urban Art Programme**

This programme will have a twin monitoring system. On the one hand, a system of indicators will be created based on the objectives defined for the project for the functioning and management of the system of walls available in the city for artistic expression through urban art. On the other hand, the Barcelona Art and Urban Creativity Centre “EL CILINDRE D’HORTA” will have its own follow-up and evaluation system defined on the basis of the Plan of Uses and Functional Programme of the Centre.

> **Cultural superblocks**

This line will be integrated into the Barcelona Superblock city programme through collaboration between the ICUB and the Area of Ecology, Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Mobility. Follow-up and evaluation will be defined jointly, based on the definition of the specific actions, both in terms of intervention and dynamisation, that are given in each case.

> **Rambla Cultural Line**

The specifications for contracting the service to roll out the Cultural Line of the Rambla transformation project are currently being defined. But it is already envisaged that the tendering entity which takes on this service will design a monitoring framework with the indicators that Foment de Ciutat, the ICUB and the Ciutat Vella district indicate so they can carry out the corresponding evaluation.

> **Overflow of cultural facilities**

Monitoring of the city’s cultural activity currently carried out by the Cultural Data Observatory will be maintained, while progressively incorporating variables on the spaces where cultural facilities carry out their activities.

> **Culture and Sustainability Programme**

Once the specific actions to be developed within the framework of this line of action have been defined, a monitoring system will be set up to evaluate the impact on the general public and the participation of cultural players in this line of work.

> **Regulations governing street music**

The “Barcelona Music on the Streets” programme already incorporates a system of indicators that allows the results to be monitored and evaluated. The trend in the number of musicians taking part, the spaces and their distribution around the city, and the number and type of queries received by the personalised service at the Sant Agustí Convent are some of the indicators available.

> **Working group on the use of public space for popular culture shared with the districts: “Events in public space”**

A system of indicators for popular culture activities will be created. Under

the impetus of the Cultural Data Observatory, work will be carried out on the criteria and methodology for gathering new information to enable much greater monitoring of these practices.

> **Decentralisation of the cultural offering**

Quantitative monitoring of the activity of all the festivals, circuits and events organised by the ICUB will be maintained, progressively incorporating variables on the spaces and neighbourhoods where the activities take place.

> **Working group on the St John bonfires**

In order to set up the working group, objectives will be defined that will allow the results obtained to be evaluated.

> **Night Committee**

Before setting up the Committee, it will be necessary to define the players and representatives who will be on it (the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Ecology, Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Mobility, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Prevention and Safety and the Barcelona Institute of Culture), its objectives and the capacity to influence of the Committee's results.

> **Protecting music in urban planning regulations**

The analysis work to revise the urban planning regulations, using the agent-of-change principle as a reference, will enable the possible actions to be carried out to be identified. Once they are defined, a system of specific indicators will have to be designed to enable monitoring to be carried out.

> **New uses for the city's green spaces**

Modification of the use of green zones that come up against limitations on recreational activities and entertainment must be accompanied by an exhaustive study of the impact on each of the areas where the new use is intended to be applied.

> **Housing for artists in the new cultural facilities**

Once the new facilities incorporating the artists' accommodation are up and running, quantitative data will be collected on their use by the people who live there and by the new facilities and the ICUB.

8. Coordinating agents

Barcelona Cultural Rights Plan

The actions in the area of culture, public spaces and the right to the city are promoted by the ICUB, through the Educating City and Culture in Neighbourhoods Directorate, the Councillor's Office for Ecology, Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Mobility, the Councillor's Office for Climate Emergency and Ecological Transition, the District of Ciutat Vella, the District of Horta-Guinardó and the Municipal Institute of Urban Landscape (IMPU).

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