

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

LIVING HERITAGE IN URBAN CONTEXTS FROM AN URBAN PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

Unit 1. Linking intangible cultural heritage and sustainable urban development



PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION

- The concepts and definitions presented here are key to the dialogue that must be established between the culture and urban planning sectors.
- Urban planners will understand the terminology and key concepts related to intangible cultural heritage or 'living heritage'.
- Living heritage experts and practitioners will understand key definitions and concepts related to urban planning.



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THIS PRESENTATION REFERS TO

Terms related to intangible cultural heritage:

- Intangible cultural heritage
- Communities, groups and individuals
- Safeguard
- Transmission
- Viability

Terms related to sustainable urban development and urban planning:

- Sustainable urban development
- Urban planning
- Urban planning structures



INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Definition and key concepts



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Intangible Heritage
Convention

DEFINITION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CONVENTION (1)

Article 2.1:

For the purposes of this Convention, the term "intangible cultural heritage" is understood to mean the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills - together with the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith - that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.



DEFINITION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CONVENTION (2)

Article 2.1 goes on to state:

This intangible cultural heritage, which is transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.



DEFINITION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CONVENTION (3)

Article 2.1 further states:

For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.



Article 2.2 of the Convention

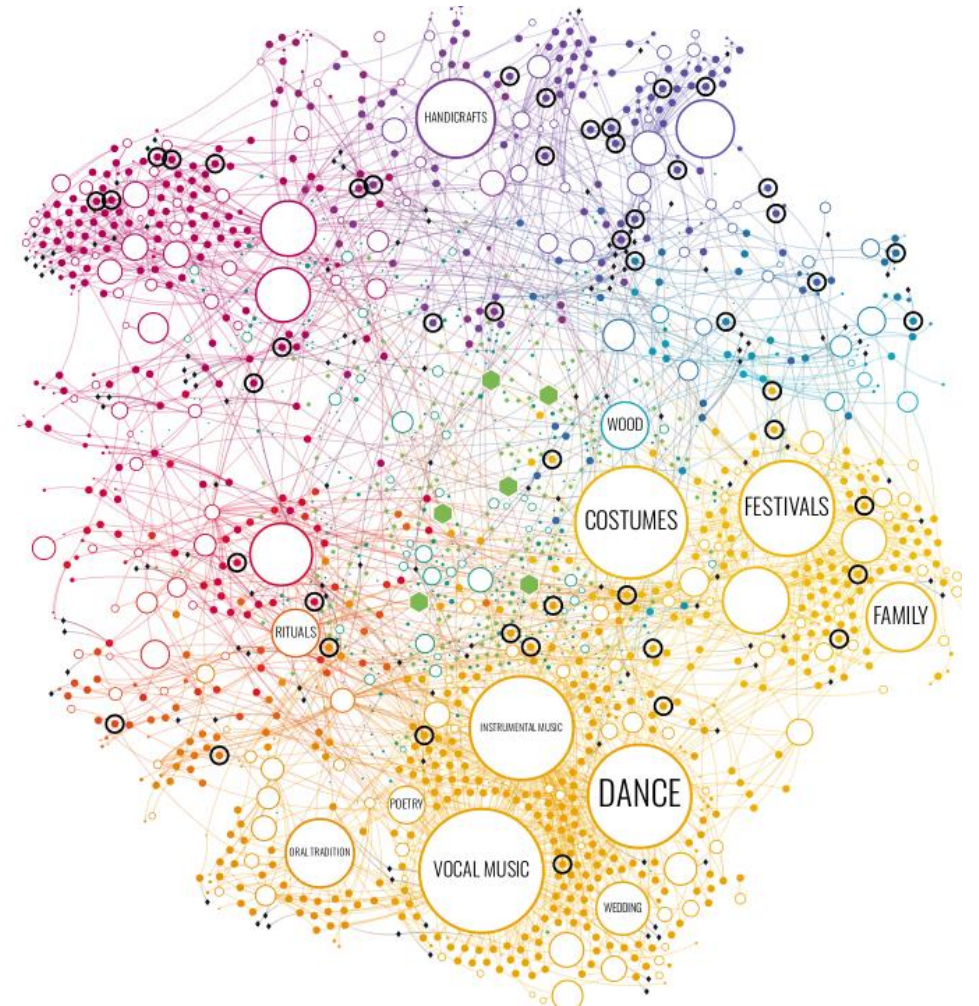
- a) Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of intangible cultural heritage;
- b) Performing arts;
- c) Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- d) Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe.
- e) Traditional craftsmanship.



DOMAINS OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Many elements of intangible cultural heritage are not limited to one domain but may include elements of several. Boundaries between domains are sometimes fluid and often vary from one community to another.

UNESCO. Intangible cultural heritage domains. Retrieved from: <https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/01857-ES.pdf>.



COMMUNITIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

Definitions and concepts



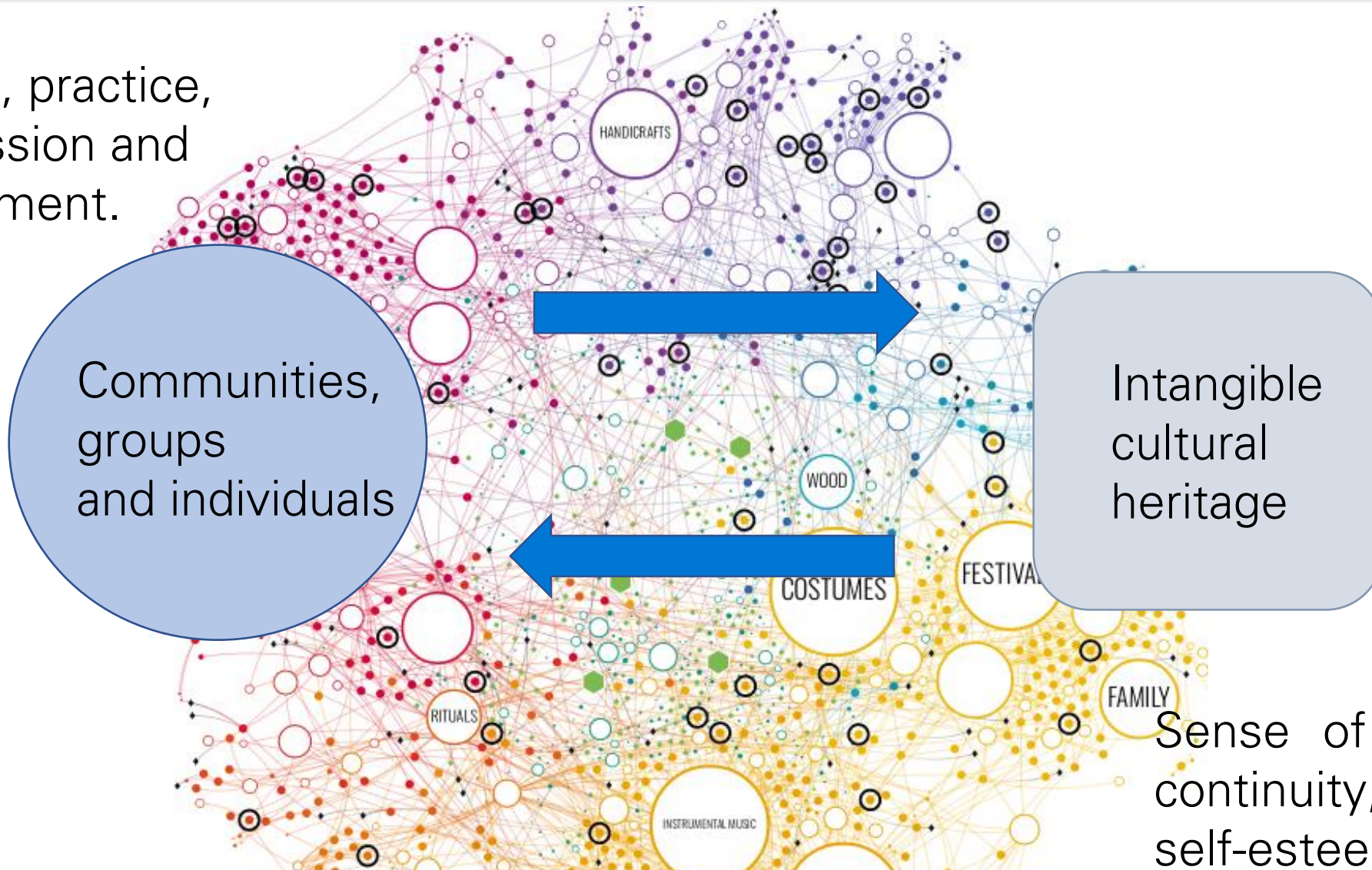
DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY

Within the framework of the Convention, the term "communities, groups and individuals concerned" is used to refer to those who create, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage, so that they recognize, express and identify with this heritage. It includes bearers, who play a specific role in relation to their intangible cultural heritage.



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COMMUNITIES

Creation, practice,
transmission and
management.



Sense of identity and
continuity, enjoyment,
self-esteem,
sustainability.

SAFEGUARDING, TRANSMISSION AND VIABILITY

Definitions and concepts



CONCEPTS RELATED TO SAFEGUARDING

- Safeguarding means ensuring the viability of intangible cultural heritage, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage. (Article 2.3).
- The safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is the central objective of the Convention and should be a central theme in urban planning processes.
- Viability: refers to intangible cultural heritage that is practiced and transmitted within the communities, groups and individuals concerned.



KEY SAFEGUARDING MEASURES

Drawing up of inventories

Present information on intangible cultural heritage elements in a systematic manner.

Awareness raising

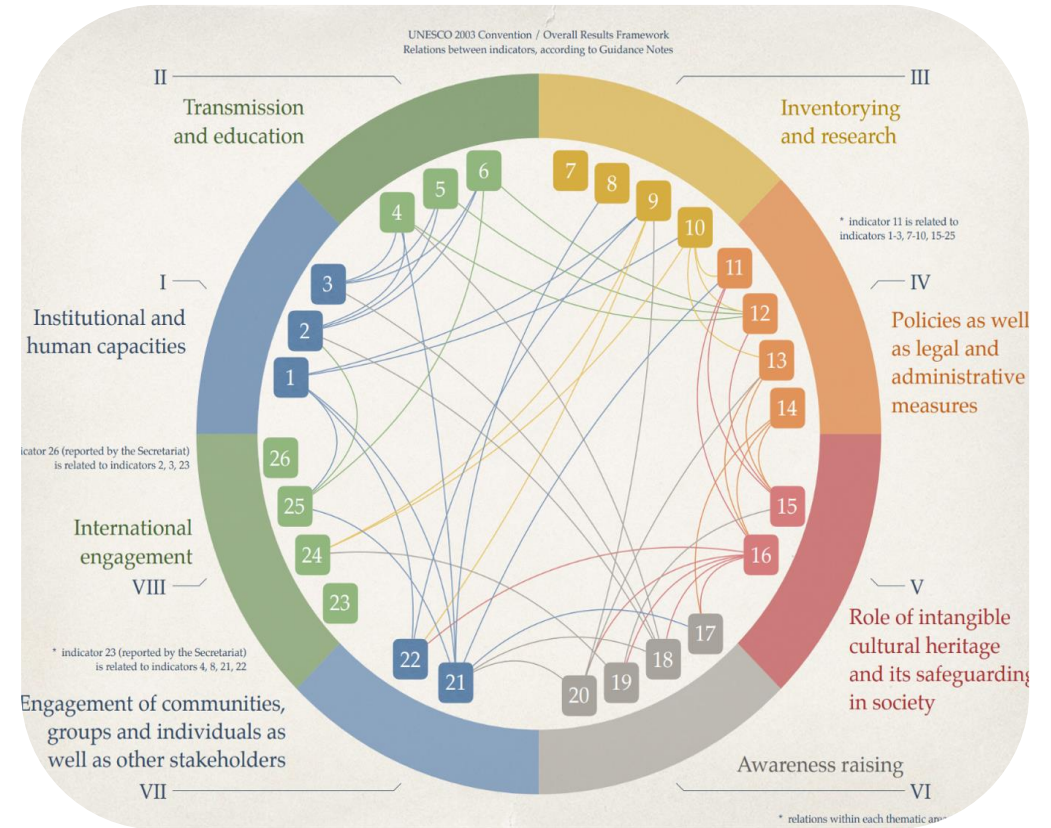
Encouraging people to understand and value intangible cultural heritage, for example through formal and non-formal education.

Revitalization

Strengthen intangible cultural heritage practices that are in danger of disappearing.

OTHER SAFEGUARDING MEASURES

- Institutional capacities
- Education
- Research and documentation
- Policies, legal and administrative measures
- The role of intangible cultural heritage in society
- Awareness raising of intangible cultural heritage
- International cooperation and engagement.



UNESCO. Overall results framework for the 2003 Convention

TRANSMISSION REFERS TO...

- The continuous transmission of knowledge, skills and practices, along with associated cultural meanings and social functions, from generation to generation.
- Transmission is a key action for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- Urban infrastructure such as streets, parks and squares, among others, are often fundamental for the transmission of intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Definition and key concepts



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Intangible Heritage
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"[It is] development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

(Brundtland Commission, 1987)

Seeks to reconcile economic development with the protection of the social and environmental balance.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CAN BE DEFINED AS

- Sustainable urban development lies at the heart of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, which focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Sustainable urban development is essential for an economically sound, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable future.
- "The spatial manifestation of urban development processes that create a built environment with rules, institutions and governance systems that enable people, households and communities to maximize their potential and optimize a wide range of services (...) so that cities are planned, built and managed to maintain environmental quality, support socioeconomic development and ensure the quality of life and livelihoods of their populations"

Extracted from:

<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sustainable-urban-development.html>

Contributions to the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda: Working Group B:

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/groupb_unhabitat_suscities.pdf

URBAN PLANNING

Definition and key concepts



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Intangible Heritage
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According to UN-Habitat (2014),

"Urban planning is an important tool for city leaders to achieve sustainable development. It helps to formulate medium- and long-term objectives that reconcile a collective vision with the rational organization of the resources to achieve it.

Planning makes the most of municipal budgets by informing infrastructure and services investments, and balancing demands for growth with the need to protect the environment. It also distributes economic development within a given area to reach social objectives, and creates a framework for collaboration between local governments, the private sector and the public at large."

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/groupb_unhabitat_suscities.pdf

URBAN PLANNING STRUCTURES

Urban planning involves a series of **interconnected layers** that can be grouped into **four structures (ecological, functional, socio-economic and built heritage)** that influence the spatial organization and social, economic and environmental functions of most urban environments.

The structures described below have been defined based on multiple urban planning components identified in frameworks and guidelines such as 'Urban Planning for City Leaders' (UN-Habitat 2014), 'International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning' (UN-Habitat 2015), 'Our Urban Plans' (UN-Habitat, 2024) and 'Historic Urban Landscape Guide' (UNESCO, 2016); in addition to the review of urban plans of multiple cities where these structures were also identified, specially in countries such as Mexico and Colombia.

URBAN PLANNING STRUCTURES



ECOLOGICAL



FUNCTIONAL



SOCIO-
ECONOMIC



BUILT
HERITAGE

ECOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

- **Ecological structure:** this relates to the biological components of cities, including flora, fauna and other life forms, as well as physical elements such as soil and water, and the dynamics resulting from the relationships between them, such as ecological or landscape connectivity, risk and vulnerability to natural disasters, rural development and environmental sustainability.



FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE

- **Functional structure:** this is composed of multiple layers of the urban structure, such as transportation and mobility systems (roads, railroads and other transportation hubs; bicycle and pedestrian paths; waterways and other spatial connectors), public spaces, utilities (water, gas, electricity, communications) and other urban facilities.



SOCIOECONOMIC STRUCTURE

- **Socioeconomic structure:** this refers to planning for greater social inclusion and economic efficiency in terms of access to development opportunities (housing, health, education, recreation), employment, productivity and livelihoods. It also relates to the attractiveness of a city as a destination for investment (e.g., industrial relocation) and other social and economic activities, and takes into account the integration of urban and rural areas.



STRUCTURE OF BUILT HERITAGE

- **Structure of built heritage:** this is an imperative element in the structuring of cities and urban plans, particularly with regard to significant structures, monuments, squares, public spaces, urban sectors or districts of public interest, which embody the cultural spaces in which the intangible cultural heritage is expressed and bring significant place-making and social and economic value to cities.

