

SICA Cultural Capitals of the World - Guidelines for Groups - 2015 - 2018



Chennai - Colombia - Lewes - Seattle - Portland - New York - Suriname - Puebla - Uki

These are our proud SICA International Cultural Capitals 2014 - 2018. They are the groups that successfully bid for, or were kindly bestowed with, a national banner to endow them with the distinction of being a 'Cultural Capital of the World' for the next four years.

Being a Cultural Capital connects them with the other groups, one or two of which have become 'twinning' to share creative initiatives and offers them an opportunity to create something that will mark out their Subud group and local community as having made a conspicuous contribution to cultural endeavour - whether representing and framing achievements by individuals or initiatives undertaken as part of the whole group and possibly the extended local community.

In the broader public arena, the European Capital of Culture is a city designated by the European Union for a period of one calendar year during which it organises a series of cultural events with a strong European dimension.

As part of the public European Capitals of Culture initiative, a 2004 study conducted for the European Commission demonstrated that the choice of European Capital of Culture served as a catalyst for the cultural development and the transformation of the city. Much funding was concentrated on each cultural capital providing the wherewithal for cultural projects that beneficially changed and rejuvenated the landscape and character of a city forever.

Becoming a European Capital of Culture was recognised as an opportunity for the city to generate considerable cultural, social and economic benefits and help foster urban regeneration, change the city's image and raise its visibility and profile on an international scale.

Plzeň (Czech Republic) is the European Capital of Culture for 2015 along with Mons (Belgium).

Based on this broad idea, the SICA Cultural Capitals project was established at the World Congress in Puebla Mexico 2014.

The current SICA Cultural Capitals 2014-18 are:

Subud Colombia (donated by Alicia Thom - Russia)

Lewes (UK)

Seattle (US) - Twinned with Portland

New York (US)

Chennai (India) (donated by Judy Gibb - New Zealand)

Suriname. (NE Coast of South America) (donated by Arif Matte - Brisbane)

Puebla (Mexico)

Uki (Australia)

As a result of bidding for World Congress banners, nine groups have become Cultural Capitals around the world (the banner becoming a kind of passport to the initiative which can be bid for by one's own group or donated to another group).

Each Cultural Capital group is invited to create something that will put its town or city on the map - either the Subud World Map - or something even more conspicuous to the broader public.

The Cultural Capitals are then invited to submit an outline of their project to SICA at a proposed date in the near future - and the SICA Board will then announce a winner in the run in to the next World Congress - with the awarded group becoming the overall Cultural Capital of the Subud World 2014-18.

The winning group are then invited to bring their initiative to make a special cultural contribution to World Congress 2018 - be it exhibition, concert, festival, conference, theatre performance, installation, sculpture, musical composition, written publication, cabaret, craftwork, blog, web app or other online initiative, artwork, film, photography, social project - or any human cultural initiative embracing the broad span of human cultural endeavour recognised by SICA.

SICA will be applying for grants and dedicated funding to provide an award to the winning group to support the congress presentation and to further the production, promotion and development of their cultural initiative.

Some ways by which a Cultural Capital group can participate in the initiative:

- Using the local Subud House - to develop a project that forms a creative public interface with local community - exhibition, conference, concert, festival.
- Create a performance with a title/concept or artistic purpose (eg. Adrienne Thomas' Holocaust Memorial event, Maya Sapir's Epiphany in Australia, Brisbane Gallery Gigs.)
- Undertake to do the testing sessions around Keys to Creativity - and perhaps create a space and interest in further exploration and projects
- Come together as a group to support the efforts and initiatives of an individual talented member of their community - perhaps in producing a recording or funding their work on a sculpture or artwork, or their ability to take time to write a book, or design and create a building.
- Create a piece of public art - to "locate" the town and 'consolidate' it symbolically as a "cultural capital" eg. visual art, installation or sculpture.
- Create a small festival - such as the Lewes Guitar Festival initiated by Subud members some years ago
- Make connection with those in the group working creatively and discuss how they can be assisted locally or by SICA International

- Create or celebrate something in your group or own life, connected to an existing SICA International initiative - such as Poems for Peace, or Keys to Creativity

N.B All participating groups are invited and encouraged to keep regular contact with other Cultural Capitals - and with SICA International - for exchange of news and ongoing support to respective groups by SICA International.

Groups that are not currently part of the Cultural Capital program can become a Cultural Capital by contributing \$650 USD to SICA - and will then be provided with a banner and the distinction of becoming a Cultural Capital 2014-18 - and will enable them to submit a proposal to create a project that can be selected for the World Congress in Bonn in 2018 - bestowing upon their group the honour of becoming the overall Cultural Capital of the World in 2018.

Whether your project wins or not, creating a Cultural Capitals project for 2014-18 will enable SICA to profile your group and your project to the broader Subud world - providing opportunities to influence or be influenced by others - as well as gaining support for your project from people throughout the Subud world and the broader community who may be inspired by your project idea and your creativity and sense of enterprise.