

CONCEPCION CREATION CENTRE (C3): A SPACE FOR CREATIVE COLLABORATION



AGENDA 2030 - SDGs



CULTURE 21 ACTIONS - COMMITMENTS

2. HERITAGE, DIVERSITY, AND CREATIVITY
5. CULTURE AND ECONOMY
6. CULTURE, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
7. CULTURE, URBAN PLANNING, AND PUBLIC SPACE
9. GOVERNANCE OF CULTURE

SUPPORT, INSTITUTIONAL, HERITAGE, ARTS, DEVELOPMENT,
CULTURAL, PARTICIPATION, EMPLOYMENT, STRATEGY, CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES, CAPACITY

1. Context

Concepcion is the capital of the Biobío Region. It is home to more than 230 thousand inhabitants and it is located approximately 500 kilometres from Santiago. It is a city of great relevance in the economic, social and cultural development of the country, with a marked identity linked to the demonym “penquista”, as well as to the plastic arts, the performing arts and popular music.

2. Concepcion and culture

In 2010, the Municipality began to view culture and creative industries as essential for the city's development, the transformation of its economic framework, innovation, and job creation.

C3 was launched in 2014 as a participatory process aimed at turning culture into the 4th pillar of the city's sustainable development, responding to the need for adequate creative spaces, as one of the main priorities.

The materialisation of the C3 was achieved thanks to a virtuous conjunction of private, public and civil society actors. The Municipality remodelled a disused school and its equipment, generating from there the programme of services and activities of the C3. The project seeks to revitalise the historic centre of the city to generate a Cultural Corridor in the neighbourhood with the future “Enrique Molina Theatre” Centre and the C4. The C3 is part of the Concepcion Cultural 2030 Plan with objectives related to the 3 sections of the Agenda 21 for culture, with a direct link to the integration and enhancement of migrant cultures, human and cultural rights and diversity.

C3 WAS ORIGINATED IN 2014 AS PART OF THE CONCEPCION 2030 CULTURAL PLAN, WHICH AIMS TO TRANSFORM CULTURE INTO THE 4TH PILLAR OF THE CITY'S DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS DESIGNED BY CONVENING CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY AGENTS OF THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTOR.

C3 is part of an urban development and revitalization strategy for the neighbourhood. Its governance model defines it as a joint workspace between the Municipality and citizens, civil society, education institutions, and state agencies. It was included as a good practice of the Agenda 21 Actions document and fulfils 4 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

- SDGs 8 and 9. It contributes to the generation of new sources of income, allows innovation in the productive matrix of the territory and generates employment.
- SDG 11. It improves the quality of life of citizens through the revitalisation of the neighbourhood and the establishment of a cultural corridor.
- SDG 16. Thanks to its participatory management model that considers the residents of the neighbourhood as direct beneficiaries.



3. Project goals and implementation

3.1. Main and specific objectives

The "Concepcion Creation Centre" aims at promoting the development of Concepcion's creative economy. It aims to promote cultural and creative projects from throughout the city. This is to occur in the earlier stages of the value chain.

Specific goals:

1. Create job and entrepreneurship opportunities for artists and creative actors in the city.
2. Increase the quality and number of cultural goods and services available.
3. Host training for entrepreneurs and workers in the culture, arts, and creative industries.
4. To promote interdisciplinary collaboration between art, culture, the creative industries, and traditional productive sectors such as fishing, forestry, and the metal industry.
5. Provide appropriate infrastructure and facilities.
6. Develop a collaborative management model that makes the Centre and its projects sustainable.

C3 AIMS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AND CREATIVE PROJECTS OF PROFESSIONALS, COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS RESIDING IN THE CITY OF CONCEPCION DURING THE FIRST STAGES OF THE VALUE CHAIN.



3.2. Project development

Main actions developed

The Centre focuses its work on people and teams in the cultural, artistic, and creative industries of Concepcion. It also works for the city's inhabitants and neighbourhood residents, strengthening the local social fabric and its organisations, as well as facilitating access to goods, experiences and services. It was prioritised during the elaboration of the 2030 culture plan in a democratic way by the population with great citizen participation.

Concepcion's cultural agents are mainly cultural and creative microentrepreneurs associated in small groups to carry out specific projects of creation and circulation. There are also cultural managers working in state and non-governmental organisations that promote training, production, and circulation.

The C3 offers individual and collective work areas, workshops and spaces to create creative, cultural and artistic products. To achieve this, the project has had to address multiple challenges such as the fitting out of spaces, the improvement of its management model, the incorporation of staff and the task of dissemination. It has an allocated budget of approximately \$30,000 per year, provided by the Municipality. In addition to the space, the Municipality provides technical, logistical, and administrative services. There is also a network of public and private organisations that collaborate with the C3. These include higher education institutions and cultural centres such as the "Balmaceda Arte Joven" (Balmaceda Youth Art Centre) and "Artistas de Acero" (Steel Artists).

C3 promoted the identity of a cultural and creative city, and it has supported cultural productions, particularly those aimed at celebrating the bicentenary of Chile's Independence. Additionally, it hosted the Fair for Cultural Space Organisers in the Biobío Region, where different companies participate and where the current production is presented to those in charge of the programming of cultural spaces in the area; the Festival of Cultures, a musical, handicraft and gastronomic exhibition of the migrant communities of Concepcion (with the support of the NGO Amaranta, Chile and the National Health Fund), and an urban vegetable garden open to the whole community where horticultural techniques are taught to learn how to grow plants for self-consumption.

C3 HAS DEMONSTRATED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PARTICIPATORY APPROACH BY FACILITATING THE AMBITIONS OF KEY ACTORS: MUNICIPAL AND MINISTRY (CULTURE AND ECONOMY) LEADERS, TRADE UNIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

4. Impact

4.1. Direct impact

C3 helped demonstrate the effectiveness of a participatory approach by facilitating the ambitions of key actors, and became a way of showing how the institutionalisation of culture through public policing can work in a local context.

C3 filled the need for suitable spaces used in a wide variety of different projects. From the outset, each group had to collaborate to clean and repair the building, creating a strong sense of ownership and empowerment and generating a free, collaborative environment.

Despite being reluctant at first, other municipal bodies began to view C3 as a space for collaboration and community engagement and soon became strong partners.

Concepcion's consistent record in the design and implementation of municipal cultural policy. C3 has been specifically mentioned as an example of how the city has built spaces for culture and the arts. In addition, the demonstrative effect of building collaborative workspaces for arts and culture has been amplified. During 2019 more than 40% of the performing arts works presented in the city were produced in C3. Within the neighbourhood, it has helped to reactivate neighbourhood organisations, as well as animal and environmental protection groups.

4.2. Evaluation

Annual plans made by the Directorate of Culture outlines objectives and activities that are evaluated weekly with indicators related to the effective implementation of activities and numbers of participants.

In 2018, C3 hosted 108 projects involving about 300 people in three lines of work: creation, specialist training, and social organisations. In total these served 40,000 people. In 2019, project figures decreased to 84, with about 500 direct participants, but the impact grew to just over 60,000 people.

Since 2017, initiatives have been evaluated in three areas: relevance, quality, and impact. The resulting scores are shared publicly.

4.3. Key factors

1. Existence of a mature creative sector in the region.
2. Aligning public policies.
3. Participatory design of municipal culture policy.
4. The city's persistence in implementing cultural policy.
5. Public / private / social partnerships.

4.4. Continuity

The Municipality of Concepcion allocates an annual budget to operations to cover staff, basic costs and equipment.

The success of the C3 management plan has promoted the feasibility of developing a project for C4: Contemporary Music Centre of Concepcion. This is a new facility for creating a dynamic creative economy, local music scene, and the revitalisation of the neighbourhood.

5. Further information

Concepcion was a candidate for the fourth “UCLG Mexico City – Culture 21 International Award” (November 2019 – May 2020). The jury for the award drew up its final report in July of 2020, and requested that the Committee on Culture promote this project as one of the good practices to be implemented through Agenda 21 for culture.

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