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Global Culture Summit to Be Held in Abu Dhabi

April event to bring together creative leaders from over 80 countries

March 15, 2017 – Abu Dhabi, UAE – *CultureSummit 2017 Abu Dhabi*, the world's first truly global cultural leadership forum, will kick off in just one month, and will bring together an extraordinary group of the world's top creative minds to discuss culture and the significant role they play in addressing the universal challenges faced in our present time.

Over the course of five days, from April 9 – 13, 2017, at Manarat Al Saadiyat on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, nearly 300 participants from over 80 countries around the world, including key players involved in the fields of government, arts, philanthropy, heritage preservation, education, media, science and technology, will explore in a multidisciplinary approach a wide range of topics all focused on answering how cultural tools can be used to help address significant international challenges and seize emerging opportunities.

In tune with Abu Dhabi's growing cultural presence in the region and the world, *CultureSummit 2017 Abu Dhabi* will be shaped by the global nature of its audience and participants, its action-driven program, and the live performances it will feature by some of the world's leading artists. The international initiative seeks to indicate the foundation for a new cultural platform that would encourage new collaborations, bridge cultural gaps between communities, and become an advocate for the arts and artists across the world. The summit will also celebrate and honor the achievements of distinguished leaders for their crucial contributions to cultural diplomacy, and the vital influence their accomplishments have had on the world.

The *CultureSummit* will be structured into plenary sessions in the morning and interdisciplinary workshops in the afternoon. Giving first-hand accounts from international cultural experts, its program will inquire three main directions: *Universality and Uniqueness*; *Change Agents, Healers and Advocates: The Why of the Arts and Media in the New Global Cultural Reality*; and *A Day of Vision*.

"The UAE may be a relatively young nation," HE Noura Mohamed Al Kaabi, UAE Minister of State for the Federal National Council, and Chairwoman of the Media Zone Authority and TwoFour54, commented: "but we have been steadily growing and emerging as a foremost regional and world-class hub for culture, technology, and media. The country has blossomed into a melting pot for people from more than 200 different nationalities and backgrounds, all the while preserving our own

long history and rich heritage. Moreover, the UAE is now home to A-list international cultural organizations including the Louvre, the Guggenheim, and New York University, among others. The inaugural *Global Cultural Leadership Summit*, set to be hosted in Abu Dhabi, further cements the UAE's status as a prestigious international cultural destination. This, in turn, provides ample support for our efforts to start building the future we want right now, as directed by our wise and forward-thinking leaders."

HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of TCA Abu Dhabi said: "It is our mandate and responsibility to promote Abu Dhabi's rich cultural heritage and sustain its growing art scene, side by side with the diverse vibrancy of cultures it embraces, and from within its distinctive location in the world. It is through international events like the *CultureSummit 2017 Abu Dhabi*, that Abu Dhabi's unique and tireless efforts towards the preservation of culture and advancement for arts are naturally revealed. The program of this summit was carefully and thoroughly curated to ensure a balanced and diverse audience, likely to result in real collaborations and making a long-term difference on shaping cultural outcomes worldwide."

The global event, presented by Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi), in conjunction with The FP Group, publishers of *Foreign Policy* magazine, and TCP Ventures, LLC, a global arts advisory firm, will revolve around defining new ways to promote creativity, and support social development for future generations, all through a constructive and timely engagement of culture. For further information about *CultureSummit 2017 Abu Dhabi*, please go to www.culturesummitabudhabi.com.

A small, illustrative sample of those who will be attending and participating in the invite-only event include:

- *Madeleine Albright*, Former U.S. Secretary of State
- *Richard Armstrong*, Director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation
- *Irina Bokova*, Director-General, UNESCO
- *Panmela Castro*, Graffiti Artist
- *Julian Crouch*, Award-Winning Director & Designer
- *Tan Dun*, Academy Award-Winning Composer
- *Idris Khan*, Internationally Acclaimed Visual Artist
- *Aaron Koblin*, Digital Media Artist & Entrepreneur
- *Liz Lerman*, MacArthur Award-Winning Choreographer
- *Taylor Mac*, Performance Artist
- *Simon Majumdar*, Chef & TV Personality
- *Emeline Michel*, Haitian songstress & Red Cross Ambassador
- *Mutabaruka*, Jamaican Rastafari Dub Poet, Musician, Actor, Educator & Talk-Show Host
- *Young Paris*, Rapper & EDM Performer
- *Deborah Rutter*, President, Kennedy Center
- *Darren Walker*, President, Ford Foundation
- *Sherrie Westin*, Executive Vice President, Global Impact & Philanthropy, Sesame Workshop
- *Dustin Yellin*, Acclaimed American Artist

Among the other organizations already committed to sending senior executives or artistic representatives to the event are: Arab Fund for Arts and Culture | Ashoka Europe | Barefeet Theater (Zambia) | Berklee Institute for Creative Entrepreneurship | Bulgaria Women's Choir | Berkeley | Carnegie Hall | Design Museum of Finland | Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir | Festival Au Desert (Mali) | Found Sound Nation and One Beat | George Mason University | Gwenga (Zimbabwe) | Invisible Borders | Kenya National Theater | Kolkata Saved (India) | Latin American Association of Linguistics | Market Theatre (South Africa) | National Dance Theater (Jamaica) | National Sawdust (USA) | National Symphony Orchestra (Belarus) | National Youth Orchestra Foundation (South Africa) | Noor Educational and Capacity Development (Afghanistan) | Northwestern University (Qatar) | NYU Abu Dhabi | Office of Cultural Development (Egypt) | Orchestre des Pays de la Loire (France) | Rhodes University | Royal British Columbia Museum (Canada) | Royal Drummers of Burundi | Slovenian National Opera | Teatro La Fenice (Italy) | UCLA Center for the Art of Performance | UNESCO Liberia Commission | WITS Theater (South Africa) | Zimbabwe Author Association.

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ABOUT ABU DHABI TOURISM & CULTURE AUTHORITY (TCA ABU DHABI)

Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction, which enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The authority manages the emirate's tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programs relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. TCA Abu Dhabi supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural

and suggestions from abroad. TCAD Abu Dhabi supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honor the emirate's heritage. A key authority role is to create synergy in the destination's development through close coordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base.

www.tcaabudhabi.ae/en

ABOUT THE FP GROUP

The FP Group is the publisher of *Foreign Policy* magazine and ForeignPolicy.com and the producer of FP Events. *Foreign Policy* is the leading international source for global news, providing an evolving network of world-leading insights and analysis coupled with rapidly expanding original reporting. With more than 30 journalists and regular contributors, *Foreign Policy* publishes thousands of originally-reported articles per year, focusing on leading global issues in national security, technology, markets, and energy and resources. Leaders are set apart by vision, the ability to see over the horizon and anticipate change. For them, the secret to doing so is being able to depend on trusted advisors like The FP Group — a world leader in the provision of insight and analysis on global affairs.

www.foreignpolicy.com

ABOUT TCP VENTURES, LLC

TCP Ventures, LLC (TCPV) is an arts organization specializing in development and management of arts projects and in international arts advisory work. The company draws on its team's extensive experience as artists, presenters and managers working at the very highest levels in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

www.tcpventuresllc.com/

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CultureSummit 2017 will convene the leaders of the world's art, media and cultural policy communities for the first time ever to address their shared opportunities and challenges. The event comes at a watershed moment in human history. For the first time ever, we are just a few years away from every individual on the planet being connected in a single man-made system. That system, the Internet, thanks to the advent and rapid dissemination of smart phone and computing technology, will enable the creation of a single global cultural ecosystem. Whereas in the past, geography has determined the divides between cultures and thus led to both richness of different perspectives and creative visions and idioms and at the same time has produced tensions that torment us to this day.

www.culturesummitabudhabi.com

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