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Subject: Letter of Support

Irina BOKOVA
UNESCO Director General
Paris, FRANCE

Your Excellency,

According to the current archaeological findings, Şanlıurfa is the most important and oldest settlement place of the Neolithic period, which is regarded as the beginning of architectural history, where resident life is passed from the hunter and gatherer society. Moreover, according to findings found in excavations in Göbeklitepe and Balıklıgöl, Şanlıurfa has been found that it has a history of 9500 years. The fact that Şanlıurfa is at a very important junction on the Silk Road in history, so it is centered on a wide variety of religions, cultures and civilizations, also it has created its own music style by feeding on a wide range of these sources. Music, a universal language which has been remains a part of life everyday from born to death in Şanlıurfa. The happiness that is sung at birth is transformed into melodies in condolence homes, it has become a place of collective production and creativity in the social interaction of "Conversation Meetings" which are all part of everyday life and which bring together people from different social groups with conversations, representations and music.

We know that it will contribute economic life with the participation of Şanlıurfa in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), it is possible to transfer the accumulation of its history to other countries belonging to the UCCN and to benefit from their experiences, at the same time to cooperate with societies both in Şanlıurfa and at universal level with the synergy created by this partnership. In addition to the music sector the city has developed and strengthened in the fields of agriculture, gastronomy, art, belief tourism, pistachio and Isot (Şanlıurfa pepper) production areas, and these has created an important value in the city's economy. In line with the goals set by Şanlıurfa in the context of UNESCO 2030, music and culture will be developed and implemented with the participation of all actors in other fields, with social groups such as young people, women and immigrants. We also believe that the development of creativity and the provision of development in all segments of society will use culture and especially music as a lever in the framework of sustainable programs.

As the World Academy For Local Government And Democracy (WALD) We would like to declare that Şanlıurfa, which aims to share the culture and music of a treasure worthy of history with the whole humanity, will improve itself with the membership of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and become a model to other countries and we will be able to be a stakeholder and support in every way in this sense by specifying our belief. In this context, we propose that we support the participation of Şanlıurfa in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and we would like to share this with the members of the Turkish National Commission.

Yours sincerely


Mehmet DUMAN
WALD Chairman of the Executive Board