



CCL Benelux 2023



Creative Climate Leadership (CCL) is a transformative experience for artists and cultural activists to explore climate justice and ethical leadership, and take impactful action with care and reciprocity. The five-day intensive programme enables participants to explore collaborative and distributive leadership through creativity in the context of a rapidly changing world.

Creative Climate Leadership Benelux 2023 took place from 27 - 31 March 2023 at the Koningsteen Centre in Belgium. The Koningsteen hosts eco-friendly and environmentally responsible retreats, residential and workshops. The programme brought together 25 participants living and/or working in Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and the UK with rich knowledge and lived experiences in areas as varied as music, performing arts, activism, communications, governance, theatre, museums, heritage, storytelling, photography, filmmaking, extended reality, cultural policy, education, design and entrepreneurship. Together, they join a powerful global network of change-makers bringing creativity, courage and imagination, sowing seeds for transformation across art and culture.



Jackie Malcolm
Independent, Cultivator,
Coach, Connector,
Sanquhar

Elena Marchevska
London South Bank University,
Practitioner-researcher and
Activist, London

Mathias Arrignon
Independent artist,
Sound designer,
Artist, London

Lisa Klompe
Fries Museum & Prinseshof
National Museum of Ceramics,
Museums & Heritage, Leeuwarden

Syed Jazib Ali
Independent
Filmmaker,
Documentary, Brighton

Carmen Garcia
Independent Consultant,
Management and Funding,
Amsterdam

Ashley Thompson
European Cultural
Foundation, Comms,
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Leanne Hoogwaerts
Kunsten'92, Policy
Advisor, Amsterdam

Lizzie Reid
Independent artist,
Art direction,
Amsterdam

Nicolas Cotman
Independent
producer, Music,
Brussels

Sarah Van Looy
Independent artist,
Photography and
videography, Antwerp

Firat Sezgin
Institute of Time,
Interdisciplinary film
and XR, Utrecht

Ruben Arnaerts
Pulse - Cultural
Network for Transition,
Project officer, Brussels

Francesco Spina
ENCATC (European Network on
Cultural Management and Policy),
Project Manager, Brussels

Ezgi Cemre Er
Jan van Eyck
Academie, Artist and
Activist, Maastricht

Katrien Reist-van Gelder
Independent Curator,
Researcher, Producer and
Policy Advisor, Brussels

Rosanna Lewis
British Council,
Arts, Culture and
Heritage, Brussels

Ekaterina Kaplunova
Bozar Center for Fine Arts,
Artist, Cultural Project
manager, Brussels

Rie Alkemade
Cultural Relations
Platform, Project
Officer, Brussels

Laure Winants
Independent Artist,
Visual Arts, Sart-
lez-Spa

Michelle Sun
Good EUNIC (EU National
Institutes for Culture),
Network Manager, Brussels

Sarah Suib
Hint Studio,
Designer,
Brussels

Lorena Jauregui
Independent
artist and teacher,
Luxembourg

David Labi
Good Point SRL,
Performing Arts,
Brussels

Fraser Sharp
Ramboll Management
Consulting, Musician,
Brussels



Reset

Transforming practice for the well-being of people and nature.

“

It was a full-fledged inspiring week, full of wanted and needed learning as much as surprising ones. In times of full agendas, lined-up (Zoom) meetings and stuffed workload, it was a gift to dedicate and receive so much quality time together with such a creative, passionate and knowledgeable crowd in such a stimulating setting. Cannot imagine anything better at this stage in my (career) life.

Carmen Garcia, Independent Consultant, Management and Funding

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Finding a caring community in what feels like a sea of climate indifference or climate dread was real balm for the soul.

Lorena Jauregui, Independent artist and teacher

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A programme that you can't afford to miss out on for rekindling, recalibrating or recharging your relationship to leadership for regenerative futures. Immense gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity, for the way the team put their heart and soul and brains into the preparation and the week and shared their lived experience - for the collective intelligence they magicked up.

Jackie Malcolm, Independent, Cultivator, Coach and Connector



Collaboration

Working together to strengthen knowledge and deepen perspectives.

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This week was very powerful and inspiring; the strong sense of community was amazing. I am deeply grateful to the team of Julie's Bicycle and all fellow participants from whom I learned so much! The course has helped me understand and acknowledge the role and responsibility I hold within the wider dynamics in addressing the climate crisis through culture, and I feel empowered to use it in order to take more initiative in guiding the changes needed. Both as an individual and an organisation, it is great to realise that you are not alone in this fight.

Michelle Sun, EUNIC - EU National Institutes for Culture

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The experience through CCL will be helpful in looking at any future action in a more global justice-focused approach, and I hope that through the connections made at CCL we will be able to tap into a wider network.

Rie Alkemade, Cultural Relations Platform

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Connecting with others at the creative climate leadership program felt inspiring and empowering. It created a sense of community with like-minded people who share a common goal of addressing climate change.

Van Looy, Independent artist, Photography and videography



Action

Harnessing collective power through creative action.

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When you come to CCL training with an open spirit, curiosity and in need for climate action, great things can happen. It felt inspiring and empowering to be among peers and share different perspectives.

Ekaterina Kaplunova, Bozar Center for Fine Arts

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I really appreciated the insights I got on climate justice, the holistic approach of the course and the diversity in the participant selection. It really broadened my perspective. I am now making a sustainability plan for my organisation and creating a pilot project for a sustainable exhibition design.

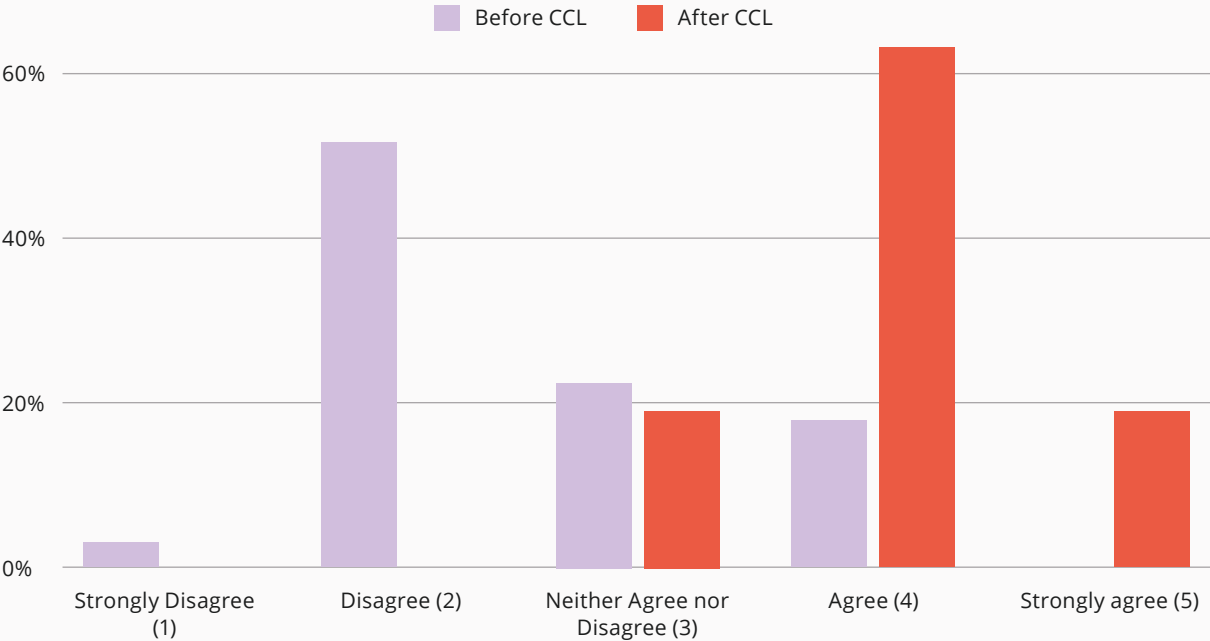
Lisa Klompe, Fries Museum & Prinsessehof National Museum of Ceramics

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The CCL was a very valuable moment on my path to discovering the dimension of the emergencies we're facing. To be able to share your concerns, questions and vulnerability with such an amazing and diverse group of people felt like a warm bath.

Katrien Reist, Independent Curator, Researcher, Producer and Policy Advisor

Pre-course and post-course self-assessment questionnaires showcased that the Creative Climate Leadership programme has helped participants develop greater confidence in taking creative climate action.



'I have a clear sense of the creative climate action I want to take'



What is the Creative Climate Leadership Programme?

CCL is an international training and transformation programme to empower artists and cultural professionals to take action on the climate and ecological crisis with impact, creativity, and resilience.

The programme strengthens the extraordinary climate leadership found across the creative and cultural ecosystem, and champions positive change using an approach orientated towards justice and inclusion. Each iteration of the course is infused with the entrepreneurial ideas of CCL alumni.

250 people, working in over 30 countries, have taken part in CCL programmes so far. Our alumni join an evolving international network of creatives taking action and mobilising others in their field, through events, workshops, artistic works, and projects.

About the Creative Climate Leadership Benelux Programme:

CCL Benelux was funded by Porticus and was held at the Koningsteen Centre from 27 - 31 March 2023. The Koningsteen, in the Flemish Region of Belgium, hosts eco-friendly and environmentally responsible retreats, residential and workshops. The appetite to participate in the CCL Programme has grown continually since it first launched, with over 100 high calibre applications submitted for the latest iterations of the programme.

About the Partners:

Julie's Bicycle (JB) is a pioneering not-for-profit, mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate and ecological crisis. Founded by the music industry in 2007 and now working across the arts and culture, JB has partnered with over 2000 organisations in the UK and internationally. Combining cultural and environmental expertise, Julie's Bicycle focuses on high-impact programmes and policy change to meet the climate crisis head-on.

Porticus is a Philanthropic Funder headquartered in the Netherlands. Porticus was established in 1995 to professionally coordinate and develop philanthropic activities of Brenninkmeijer family business owners, the founders of global retailer C&A. Porticus aims to create a just and sustainable future where human dignity flourishes and predominantly focuses on the areas of education, society, faith and climate.

The state of Koningsteen (King's Stone) in Flanders was owned by painter Alexandre Thomas in the 19th century, and it is said to have inspired Flemish poet and mystic Hadewijch in the early Middle Ages. In 1996, the land became the home base for Koningsteen, a centre hosting and facilitating a wide variety of workshops, training, retreats and educational programs geared towards personal development, healing and well-being.