

Right Livelihood Award 40 years & Medellín Poetry Festival 30 years

Inspiring Change through Culture

As the Right Livelihood Award is approaching its 40th Anniversary and the Medellín International Poetry Festival its 30th, our common global challenges are becoming increasingly acute and tangible when it comes to for example the climate crisis, authoritarian governance, the continuous threat of violent conflict including the use of nuclear weapons and growing inequality between rich and poor. The Right Livelihood Foundation, in cooperation with the Medellín International Poetry Festival (Right Livelihood Laureate 2006), will organise a three-part webinar series inviting Right Livelihood Laureates, others within the Right Livelihood network and poets. We want to provide a safe space for transformative ideas and visions. The focus will be on **Culture as a tool to inspire change**, and how to communicate the urgency of system change to the wider public. How can poets, musicians, activists and policymakers invited to the Poetry Festival best come together with science and Right Livelihood Laureates to trigger an urgent worldwide mobilisation around the pressing need for system change?

Culture for the transformation of human society, September 2

The world needs to go through an extensive transformation in the forthcoming ten years, starting now. The International Poetry Festival of Medellín shows the world how free expression and culture as a universal language could help us overcome fear and violence and to make the necessary changes to our way of life. What role does culture play in communicating the urgency of transforming human society? Magdalena MaxNeef, President at the Manfred Max-Neef Foundation, (Manfred Max-Neef received the Right Livelihood Award in 1983), Freddy Nanzas, President of the Venezuelan State TV Channel and Boaventura de Sousa Santos, Professor of Sociology, will join us for this conversation led by Nayla Azzinnari, Communication Manager at the Right Livelihood Foundation.

Participants

Nayla Azzinnari

Based in Argentina, Nayla works at the Right Livelihood Foundation with communications and press work in Latin America and the Spanish speaking world. In close contact with the Laureates, she is also involved in the Foundation's protection, research and education projects in the region. Nayla holds a degree in Social Communication Sciences from Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA) and continues her studies on Social Anthropology at Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (UNC), where she focuses on social protests, politics, and women's empowerment. With an activist background, she has supported the communications for struggling communities, as well as health and environmental NGOs. As a journalist, she has authored articles on the environment, human rights, gender and other social issues.

Boaventura de Sousa Santos

Boaventura is one of the most prominent intellectual leaders in the anti-globalisation debate. Doctor in Sociology of Law, emeritus university professor at the University of Coimbra, writer and poet. Boaventura has written and published widely on the issues of globalisation, sociology of law and the state, epistemology, social movements and the World Social Forum. He has most recently founded the project ALICE. This project seeks to re-think and renovate socio-scientific knowledge. Boaventura says: "alternatives are not lacking in the world. What is indeed missing is an alternative thinking of alternatives".

Magdalena Max-Neef

Magdalena is an actress known both from television, films and theatre. She is also the President of the newly established Manfred Max-Neef Foundation. She is the daughter of Manfred Max Neef, the economist, musician and ecologist recognised worldwide for his work on establishing alternative methods for development centred on economics on a human scale. He received the Right Livelihood Award in 1983 and passed away last year. Magdalena says: "In light of the social upheaval, the pandemic, and many things that we have been experiencing in recent times, I believe that a paradigm shift must indeed be made. Today, more than ever, perhaps because it is now or never."

Freddy Nanez

Freddy is a poet, editor, puppeteer, filmmaker, rock singer, politician and journalist. In 2010 he became President of the Foundation for Culture and Arts, FUNDARTE, a non-profit organisation which aims to present, produce and promote art through music, theatre, dance, and film by celebrating Hispanic and Latin contemporary arts and culture. Freddy served as Minister of Culture between 2016-2017, after which he took up the position as President of the Venezuelan State TV Channel.

