

Cultural Transformation Lab – 2026

After nearly four years of full-scale war, Ukrainian cultural work is gradually entering a new phase. Alongside emergency response and care for people, there is a growing and distinct need for reflection, strategic vision, and responsibility for what we preserve, restore, and pass on. Cultural practitioners operate in intense and heterogeneous conditions – navigating between war and reconstruction, local experience and cooperation with Europe and the world, and the necessity of immediate action versus long-term planning. It is within this reality that a new form of cultural leadership is taking shape.

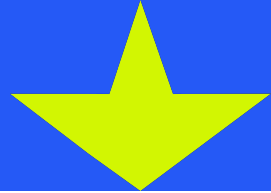
The Cultural Transformation Lab is built upon the concept of cultural managers as **Masters of Interspaces** – those who operate in the spaces between. In peaceful contexts, this often means bridging institutions, sectors, and professional communities. In times of war, these interspaces are different. They emerge between people with diverse experiences of loss and displacement, between organisations with unequal resources, between exhaustion and responsibility, and between the care for individuals and the demand for operational efficiency. Working here means being able to listen to diverse voices, remaining resilient under pressure, and sustaining collective efforts where trust must be rebuilt time and again.

The Cultural Transformation Lab aims not only to support professional development but also to foster the cohesion of Ukrainian society. Simultaneously, the program helps communicate the Ukrainian experience of democracy to international partners as a daily practice – challenging, yet vibrant. In a world increasingly dominated by fragmentation and short-sighted interests, Ukrainian culture preserves and shares the experience of solidarity, dignity, mutual responsibility, and the civic capacity to act.

The core focus of 2026 is the 6-component Cultural Transformation Lab program, spanning from February to June. Designed as a holistic educational journey, it integrates discussions (February and March), workshops (March and April), and a lab (May). Participants will engage in conversations on contemporary cultural challenges, community building, diversity, inclusion, and communication, while also addressing practical aspects of funding, strategic planning, and digital tools, including AI. Throughout the learning process, they will design or refine their own cultural projects – from defining values and goals to implementation details and international partnerships. The program also offers opportunities for individual trainer consultations. It concludes in June with an international roundtable dedicated to the results and impact of the Lab, and the contemporary role of the Masters of Interspaces in society.

The various educational events are tailored for diverse and sometimes overlapping audiences: those at the early stages of their cultural management careers, those transitioning careers to gain new competencies in this field, practitioners working both in Ukraine and abroad, and representatives of indigenous peoples, national minorities, and various communities.





Stay tuned for our announcements. Cultural Transformation Lab 2026 invites those ready to work boldly, responsibly, ethically, and creatively at the intersection of different experiences and contexts – to jointly shape the present and future of Ukrainian culture.

