

INDONESIA

Yogyakarta

Cultural Cities Profile
East Asia

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Tom Fering / creative consultancy



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Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy is the leading international consultancy for culture and the creative economy. We offer research, strategy and policy leadership across the creative, cultural and arts sectors. We offer technical expertise, strategic thinking and the tools to position creativity to the heart of society. With offices in London and Porto and associates in 12 countries, we are an international agency operating in every region. <http://tfconsultancy.co.uk/>

Indonesia Creative Cities Network (ICCN) is a hub organisation for cross-communities forum, connecting 200+ cities/regencies from all over Indonesia that are committed to implement the 10 Principles of Indonesia Creative Cities that was declared in 2015. ICCN published the White Book of Indonesia Creative Cities (2017) that adapts the 10 Principles to the Indonesian government's KPI, and is developing a dashboard of Creative Cities Index as a tool for local governments to make policies/ regulations based on the real time creative economy data of their respective regions. <https://iccn.or.id/>

Centre for Innovation Policy and Governance (CIPG) is a research-based advisory group which aspires to excel in the area of innovation, policy and governance. Considered to be among the first research-based advisory groups, CIPG grows to be an open-minded and multicultural think tank with keen interest in building Indonesian research capacities across many sectors. <https://cipg.or.id/en/>

Tanahindie was established in 1999, composed of personnel from various backgrounds (researchers, authors, advocates, craftspeople, lecturers, students, social workers, and housewives). Exploring urban social development from the perspective of arts and culture, the organisation's activities include research, seminars, exhibitions, reviews, and publication. <https://tanahindie.org/>

Prambanan Temple

Photo © Lonely Planet



Introducing Yogyakarta

The city of Yogyakarta (often shortened to Yogya or Jogja) is known for its historic and cultural richness as well as a dynamic contemporary city with an incredible portfolio of festivals. The city is also the jumping off point for one of Southeast Asia's most spectacular sites: the temples of Prambanan – the best surviving examples of Java's extended period of Hindu culture. With nearby Borobudur, they are one of the most compelling sites in Indonesia.

As the capital of the special region of Yogyakarta in Java, and the only Indonesian royal city still ruled by a monarchical system, Yogyakarta is regarded as an important centre for classical Javanese fine arts and culture. Its *Keraton* (Palace) complex remains a central aspect of Yogyakarta's contemporary and historical cultural life, as well as being a contributor to the city's attractiveness for tourism. It sits to the heart of the city in a well-preserved district inspired in the 18th Century by the philosophy of the first sultan, Hamengkubuwana I, bringing together Java's diverse cultures.

As a result of its royal status, Yogyakarta is the national centre for a range of traditional Javanese courtly cultural arts, including ballet, batik textiles, drama, literature, music, poetry, silversmithing, visual arts, and wayang puppetry. Alongside the city's architectural and culinary heritage, centres for the preservation of these traditions can be found throughout the city. Traditional and contemporary arts performances are held in different locations almost every day, and neighbourhoods such as Kotagede are known for silversmithing, Ngasem Village and Beringharjo Market for *batik*, Malioboro for traditional *blangkon* and *surjan* dress, Manding for leather goods, and Kasongan for earthenware.



If Jakarta is Java's financial and industrial powerhouse, Yogyakarta is its soul. Central to the island's artistic and intellectual heritage, Yogyakarta (pronounced 'Jogjakarta' and called Yogya, 'Jogja', for short) is where the Javanese language is at its purest, the arts at their brightest and its traditions at their most visible.

Lonely Planet¹

As a centre for fine art and culture, Yogyakarta is known as home to several Indonesian cultural icons, including Bagong Kussudiardja (1928–2004), an artist, contemporary dance choreographer and painter; Affandi Koesoema (1907-1990), an expressive abstract painter; and Y.B. "Romo Mangun" Mangunwijaya (1929-1999), an architect, writer, and Catholic religious leader whose novels gained international acclaim. Their younger successors include such globally-recognised figures as performer Butet Kartaredjasa (b. 1961), film director Garin Nugroho (b. 1961), and contemporary artist Eko Nugroho (b. 1977).

¹ <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/indonesia/java/yogyakarta>

With dozens of schools and universities, the city is also popular among international scholars of Javanese traditional culture, including language and literature, dance, batik-making and other courtly crafts work, to *gamelan* musical instrumentation, and many more. Renowned as a centre of Indonesian education, Yogyakarta hosts a large student population, who make up about 20% of the overall city population.

Culture and the creative economy

In purely economic terms the three leading creative sectors in the city are the culinary sector, (which is included in the creative economy definition in Indonesia) at 35% of the creative economy, followed by crafts at 18% and fashion at 13%. Architectural services, interior design, visual communication, photography, and music make up 16% between them, while the remaining 15% is generated by fine arts, animation, videos, digital games, and others.

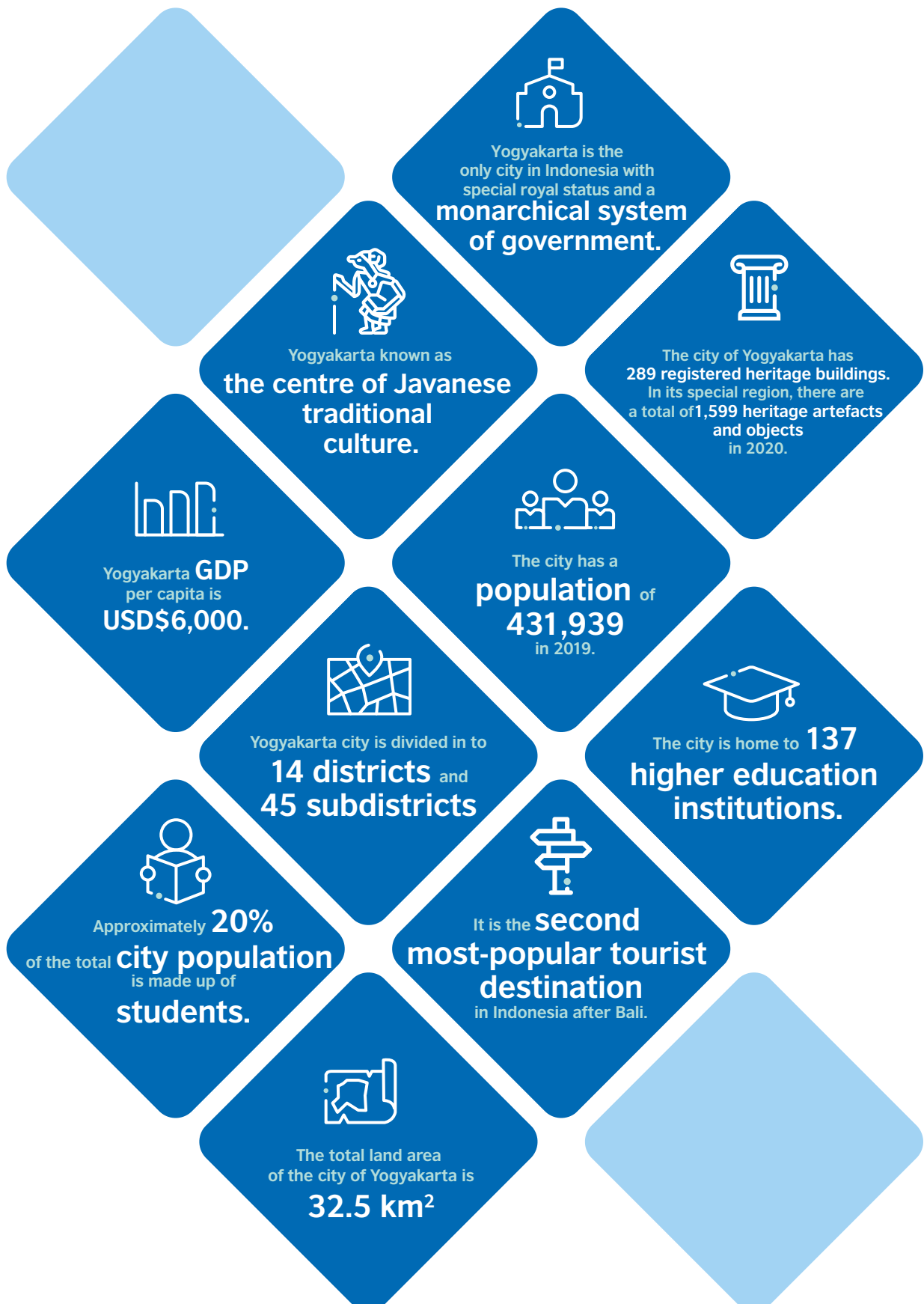


From modest to monumental, craft to contemporary, humorous to heavyweight conceptual work, the art emerging from Yogyakarta is refreshingly diverse and experimental.

South China Morning Post²

² <https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/article/1229225/welcome-yogyakarta-hive-alternative-art-spaces>

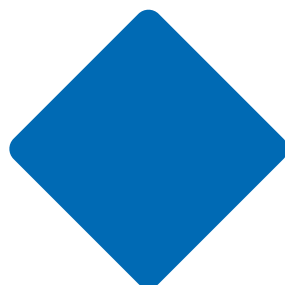
Yogyakarta in numbers





Yogyakarta city scene and the driver of three-wheeled cart *Becak*

Photo © Indonesia Travel



1. Context

Yogyakarta City is the capital of the Special Province of Yogyakarta, unique in Indonesia as the only city and province that operates as a monarchy, characterised by the automatic appointment of the Sultan of Yogyakarta as the governor.

The city of Yogyakarta is led by the municipal authorities under the mayor, and is organised into 14 districts and 45 subdistricts. The city has a population of 431,939 in 2019 and occupies a total area of 32.5 square kilometres.

The city Yogyakarta is located at the geographic centre of the Special Province of Yogyakarta, which itself is situated on the central southern coast of the island of Java, facing towards the Indian Ocean in the south and with the volcanic Mount Merapi to the north. To its east and west, the city is flanked by six rivers – three to the east (Code River, Kali Gadjahwong River, and Opak River) and three to the west (Kali Winongo River, Kali Bedog River, and Progo River).

Ethnic Diversity

More than 90% of Yogyakarta's population is ethnic Javanese. The remaining 10% is made up of Sundanese, Malay, Chinese, Batak, Madura, Minangkabau and other ethnicities.

Although strongly rooted within traditional Javanese culture, due to its student population Yogyakarta ensures a dynamic interaction between diverse cultures, religions, and ethnicities. Indonesian is the official language, and Javanese is the main language for daily conversation. English is commonly used for interaction with international travelers and tourists.

City vision

Yogyakarta's stated vision is:



to strengthen the city as a livable city and a strong, competitive centre of services for community empowerment, based on its special values.

City Vision

In 2015, the Special Province of Yogyakarta introduced “Jogja Istimewa” (“Special Jogja”) as its branding. Using this tagline, the government seeks to highlight the special status of Yogyakarta as the centre of Javanese traditional culture.

This tagline also represents the goal for the social development of the city, covering education, tourism, technology, economy, energy, food, health, community protection, and urban and environmental planning.



The royal palace keraton.

Photo © Indonesia Travel



Local heritage as contemporary culture

Yogyakarta's cultural heritage is well-integrated into daily life.

The 2018 Culture Development Index (IPK) placed Yogyakarta in first place in a national heritage index.

The 2018 national survey on Social Cultural and Education showed that 12% citizens aged 5 years and above still actively play traditional games; 84% are familiar with folk tales; 75% prefer traditional products.

Yogyakarta's history and heritage status

Yogyakarta city was formally constituted in October 1755, as a result of a treaty between the Dutch East India Company and the Mataram Sultanate. During the War of Independence between 1946 and 1950, Yogyakarta served as the capital city for the Republic of Indonesia.

While the city itself is run by the mayoral offices and other municipal authorities, the reigning Sultan of Yogyakarta always fulfils the office of provincial Governor.

A number of historical palaces ("keraton") still serve functional roles as part of the Mataram Sultanate. The city layout retains visible divisions between the palace complex of squares, inner and outer gates, and fortress, and the wider public areas outside the palace grounds.

The palace complex is surrounded by museums and other spaces that store or display royal artefacts, a few of which are occasionally used in rituals and ceremonies.

This central area of the city also hosts workshops and studios for the production of artefacts for courtly arts and crafts, or of objects to fulfil the functions of the needs of the palace, such as wayang kulit (leather shadow puppets), batik, and traditional dress.

These areas have also become destinations for tourists: the outer parts of the palace complex and their museums are open to visitors, who commonly also visit the royal studios and workshops to view or purchase arts and crafts.

Based on this presence of a living tradition, the city of Yogyakarta has been named by the national government as an Indonesian City of Heritage. Given this status, the city is also part of the Heritage Cities Preservation and Arrangement Programme facilitated by the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing in collaboration with the local government.

The city authorities have identified five areas of the city as heritage sites, in order to preserve their cultural and historical heritage: Keraton, Pakualam, Kotagede, Kotabaru, and Malioboro. These districts have planning regulations which require the use of traditional materials and architectural styles.



Exhibition installation of Fluxcup – Spectaculum Frustra at Ruang MES 56

Photo © Ruang MES 56



2. Culture, arts and civic policy

Supported by a variety of national, provincial and city laws, Yogyakarta's administration is working to document their cultural assets as 'fundamentals of regional culture'. The municipal authority's focus on cultural preservation is demonstrated in its multiple regulations on cultural affairs, particularly concerning heritage management, architectural style, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

As one of the few provinces in Indonesia that is granted with special status, Yogyakarta is able to access and utilise a privilege fund. This fund can be used to support programmes which cover cultural, institutional or agrarian affairs, etc. In 2018, the city authorities decided to use the allocated budget to develop a self-sufficient cultural village programme, which was directly related to the development of cultural preservation and creative economy development in villages.

Yogyakarta municipality puts culture and arts as a priority within the city's development. The importance of culture and arts can be seen through the city's Strategic Plan 2017-2022, which has an objective to increase social knowledge and awareness of the importance of cultural preservation.

The strategy for achieving this is through the optimisation of initiatives for the preservation and development of cultural heritage and values, language, history, and the arts. Specific activities include the improvement of various cultural assets and infrastructure, such as for archaeological artefacts and museums, the presentation of film and arts, and the establishment of cultural villages.

Culture and the environment

The city authorities have a particular commitment to maintaining and improving the city's green spaces. Between 2014 and 2019, the city's green open spaces increased from 35 to 47 locations, covering 19% of the city's total area. The eventual target is for 30% of the city's total area to be occupied by green space.

This approach is also accompanied by parallel initiatives for mobilising public engagement and participation in using and maintaining these spaces. One example is the Jogja International Heritage Walk³, an international city walking event held to support participation in the city's green environment through education, tourism and economic activities, including tree-planting and walking activities.

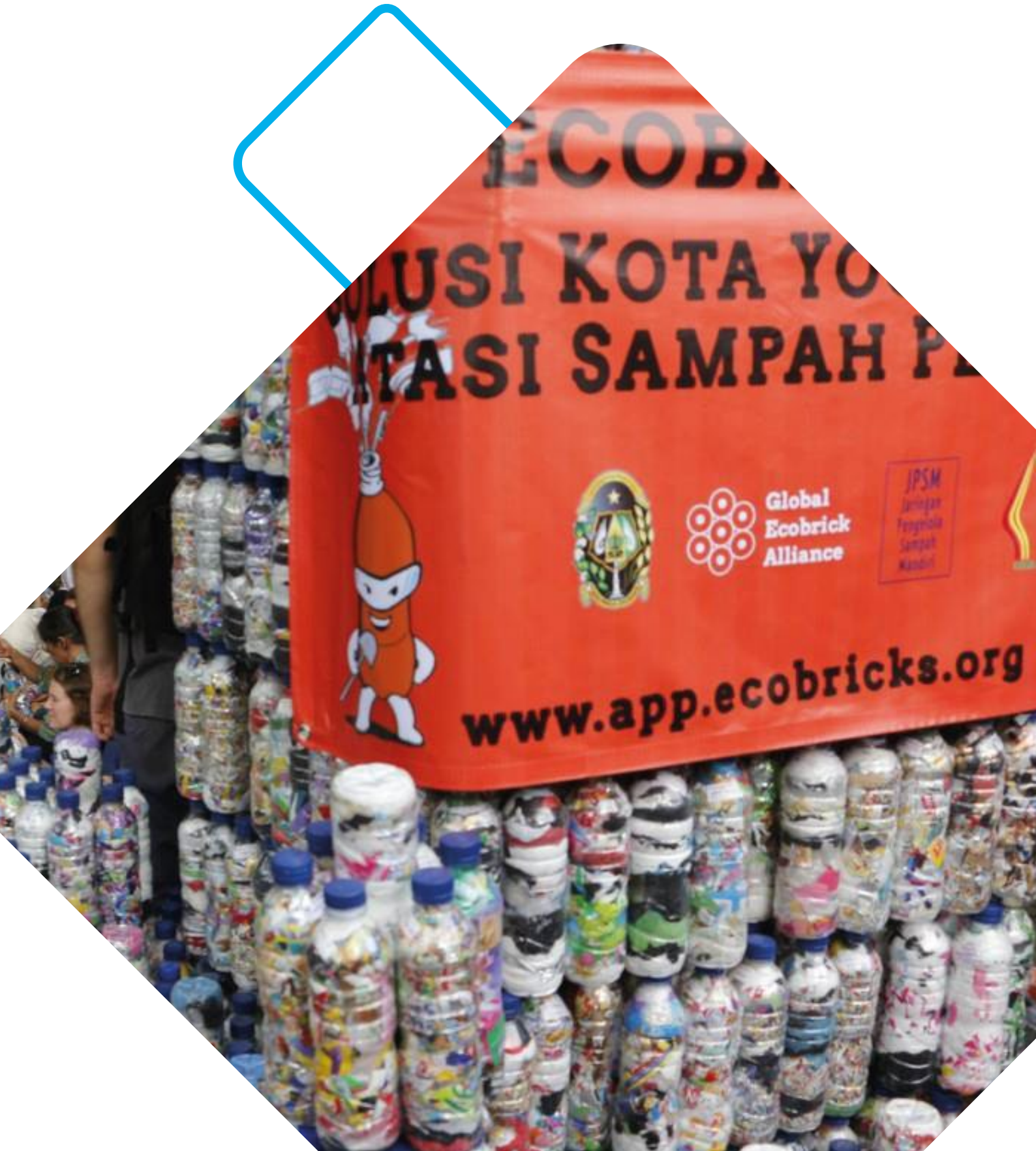
In another initiative, in 2016 the Yogyakarta Environment Agency introduced the community-based Ecobricks initiative as a solution to address issues of plastic waste pollution. Ecobricks can be used as a material to create products such as decorations and furniture.

As a result of this overall model, in 2017 Yogyakarta was nominated as one of the world's top six green cities by Treepedia.

³ <https://www.jogjaheritagewalk.com/>

Ecobricks as community initiatives to reduce plastic waste pollution

Photo © Ecobricks



Culture and inclusion

To support disability and gender inclusion in the city development process, in 2021 the authorities initiated the Inclusion District Forum, established in each of the city's 14 districts as a channel for public input and feedback. Since 2019, all buildings in the city of Yogyakarta, including cultural heritage buildings, are required to make sure they provide decent access for the disabled.

A number of other initiatives illustrate the role that cultural events and activities play in supporting and educating the public on issues of inclusion.

Difabel Cultural Week⁴

More than 50 people with disabilities and non-disabilities collaborate to present arts and cultural performances during the Difabel Cultural Week event. A number of events ranging from inclusion operas, daily performances, to workshops can be enjoyed by visitors.

Glothehan Bocah (Kids Games) Festival

A civic festival designed for children to learn about sustainable development and gender equality. The focus on educational games provided in the festival attracted children to join and participate in the series of events.

Disability Empowerment Centre

Disability Empowerment Centre (DEC) was established INCREASE, an inclusive creative social enterprise and incubator, impact accelerator and business advisory for social enterprises. Based in Gunung Kidul, Yogyakarta, it has 14 regional groups and 300 members, focusing on increasing business capacity of disabled entrepreneurs.

Culture and digital resources

In 2018 Yogyakarta received Smart City Award from Ministry of Communication and Informatics for their innovative digital applications, such as the Jogja Smart Service for public access to city services and communication, and the Jogja Smart Bike app, developed to facilitate both locals and visitors who want to travel around the city on bicycles. To support the implementation of the Smart City initiative, the city is providing free wifi services in 356 hotspots, including in the city's district and subdistricts.

In seeking to address issues of public engagement with the Smart City concept, the city also works with community groups in organising the Jagongan Media Rakyat (JMR)⁵, a biennial event that has since 2010 been regularly held by the Combine Resource Institution (CRI). JMR itself is designed as a forum to bring together community groups who are fighting for the interests of the community, as well as those struggling in the field of information governance, including community media.



People in Yogyakarta have become champions in creative economy during the pandemic, since they managed to thrive by using technology, e-commerce, digital, and gaming, in developing e-sport, animation, and other creative industries sub-sectors that grow in Yogyakarta.

Sandiaga Uno,
Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy

⁴ <https://www.instagram.com/pekanbudayadifabel.yk>

⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/events/1471896279586470/>



Developing a culture-based tourist economy

As the second most-popular tourist destination in Indonesia after Bali, Yogyakarta Special Region's Tourism Development Vision 2012-2025 seeks to make Yogyakarta:



a world class tourist destination, with culture-based, sustainable tourism, contributing to regional development and empowering communities.

Yogyakarta Special Region's Tourism Development Vision 2012-2025

Cultural and historical sites across Yogyakarta have become points of interest: 33 cultural destinations are registered as tourist points alongside cultural performance, dances, traditional food, fashion, and historical building.

132 local community-based tourism villages are also registered; where accommodation, local cuisine and produce are available for visitors.

Due to tourism, unemployment in the city is at 1-3%, far below the national average of 5%.

Culture and education

With 137 registered higher education institutions, Yogyakarta is home to a large student population and dozens of schools and universities, including Gadjah Mada University, the country's largest institute of higher education and one of its most prestigious.

The entrepreneurship and social awareness classes at UGM, combined with their Community Outreach Programme, helps students develop social programming plans for community development, education, and economics, balanced with gaining direct business experience.

Partially as a result, UGM is home to a number of institutional creative hubs, and students regularly organise activities and events around social enterprise and innovation, including the ASEAN Youth Socialpreneurship Programme (AYSPP) and the Competition and Expo of Youth Sociopreneur (Soprema).

Central to the city's cultural life is the state-run Institut Seni Indonesia (Indonesian Art Institute), whose broad range of courses cover fine art, sculpture, fashion, dance, theatre, puppetry and performing arts. Through its blend of traditional and contemporary arts and ethnographic studies, the Institute has attracted many emerging and leading Indonesian artists to study in the city. Many have subsequently remained in the city, establishing their own studios and workshops. The city's investment in cultural preservation also supports a range of public programmes and events associated with education.



Yogyakarta is probably one of the most vibrant art cities in Indonesia nowadays. Its dynamism and creative energy can be felt anywhere you look, from classic Javanese culture to contemporary art disciplines. Thanks to both young art school graduates and internationally recognised artists who have continuously contributed to the cultural developments of Yogyakarta as a close-knit community.

Citra Pratiwi,
Program Director,
Langgeng Art Foundation⁶

Education Focus Programme (EFP)⁷

Initiated by the House of Natural Fibre (HONF) creative hub, EFP is a community-based education curriculum created to respond to the intersection between global and local challenges. EFP concentrates on interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and collaboration in critical analysis of local and global issues, with the goal of creating innovative solutions. EFP's main objective is to bridge art, science and technology to generate beneficial outcomes for society.

Kotagede Cultural Festival⁸

An annual arts and cultural activity or event held in the Kotagede area. This event is held as a means of enhancing and developing all the potential of arts and culture in the Kotagede area.

Vredeburg Fair⁹

The 2019 Vredeburg Fair aims to promote and socialize museums to the people of Yogyakarta, especially children of the millennial generation. It is held in the Vredeburg Museum.

⁶ <https://culture360.asef.org/magazine/people-cities-yogyakarta-indonesia-city-profile/>

⁷ www.honf.org

⁸ <https://budaya.jogjapro.go.id/agenda/detail/924-festival-budaya-kotagede-2019-kejayaan-mataram/>

⁹ <https://vredenburg.id/id/post/vredenburg-fair-2019-gandeng-milenial-cintai-museum>



**Workshop at Langgeng
Art Foundation**

Photo © Langgeng Art Foundation

Cultural funding

While in 2019, the provincial government allocated only 0.45% of the local government budget for cultural affairs, substantial national public funding for cultural affairs in Yogyakarta is available as a result of the city's special status. City authorities have the right to access and utilise a proportion of national funds totaling 1.3 trillion rupiah, which can be used to fund cultural affairs such as city festivals and the self-sustaining Cultural Village programme. The city authorities also frequently collaborate with private sector sponsorship, particularly in supporting music and fashion events.



Apart from good cultural infrastructure, one of the biggest challenges Yogyakarta is facing nowadays is the fact that the local art community lacks an association that can accommodate all the different perspectives and represent the interests of all the independent art collectives, especially when dealing with official interlocutors. Most of the collectives in the city are self-funded, so most of the cultural activity in the city happens in a very organic and self-organized way, unlike Jakarta where they usually enjoy more public funding, foreign cultural institutions and even sponsorships from private companies. Therefore, we need to keep working towards strengthening the local network, maximizing collaborative opportunities, exchanging resources and, eventually, distributing the arts and cultural knowledge among the public.

Woto Wibowo,
Program Director,
Ruang Mes 56 & YES NO WAVE¹⁰

Many other artistic and cultural activities within Yogyakarta are financially supported by income generated by the city's tourist industry. This applies particularly to traditional and contemporary performing arts, and also traditional and contemporary crafts. The city's fine arts benefit significantly from the range of internationally-represented artists and sculptors whose studios are based in the city, attracting galleries and collectors from across the region.



Artists from all over Indonesia and beyond have for years flocked to Yogyakarta to plug into and contribute to the vibrant artistic community, making it a city that pulsates with creative energy wherever you look. Unlike a number of other art centers in the world, the vibe in Yogyakarta is casual, down-to-earth, open and welcoming to anyone who has a genuine interest in learning about the scene.

the Artling¹¹

¹⁰ <https://culture360.asef.org/magazine/people-cities-yogyakarta-indonesia-city-profile/>

¹¹ <https://theartling.com/en/artzine/city-art-guides/yogyakarta/>



Night life at Malioboro Street.

Photo © Indonesia Travel



Yogyakarta's intangible cultural heritage

Javanese Gamelan

Javanese Gamelan is a set of several musical instruments grouped into ensembles or orchestras; they include tuned percussion such as kendhang, rebab, celempung, gambang, and gong, plus bamboo flute or seruling.

Javanese Batik

Yogyakarta is known as a centre of Javanese classical batik. The patterns and motifs of Yogyakarta batik are generally derived from several major motifs including such as Parang Rusak, Ceplok, Sidomukti, Truntum, and Kawung. Each motif and design has their own symbolic meaning.

Keris

The Keris is a type of dagger-like weapon which has a place of respect and authority in Javanese society. Originally a weapon, it also functions as a formal item of clothing, a status symbol, a giver of authority, and as equipment in traditional ceremonies.

Wayang

A traditional form of puppet theatre originating from Java Island, Wayang or shadow puppet performances are usually held in certain rituals, ceremonies and events, often accompanied by gamelan. Originally a courtly art, Wayang shadow theatre is a popular and well-known tourist attraction.

3. Cultural ecosystem and infrastructure

Much of Yogyakarta city's cultural infrastructure is defined by the visible and active role played by the Keraton palace complex, historical buildings and other infrastructure within this urban setting.

Specifically, Yogyakarta has a unique urban design based on Javanese cosmology and philosophy, which is manifested in the city's location and urban plan. The historic city is situated between the Code River to the east and the Winongo River to the west, with the palace or Keraton of the Sultanate of Yogyakarta as the centre.

- The north and south borders are marked by the Tugu Pal Putih monument about 2km north from the Keraton and the Panggung Krapyak building about 1.5km to the south.
- These three main components of the city are linked by a single street that runs north-south, aligned along an imaginary axis with the Indian Ocean to the south and Mount Merapi to the north.

This street links all of the main components of Yogyakarta city, representing a philosophical axis symbolising the entire human life cycle (sangkan paraning dumadi), while also demonstrating a harmonious relationship to God, other living creatures, and nature (manunggaling kawula Gusti) and illustrating the duty of all human beings is to make the world beautiful and peaceful (hamemayu hayuning bawono).

This historic layout for the urban environment continues to inform civic planning and infrastructure. The most recent City of Yogyakarta Spatial Plan remains based on this layout, and divides the city into specifically designated areas for cultural heritage, green open space, protected areas, commercial areas and so on.

- Since 2017, the historic city centre has been listed as a tentative World Heritage Site.

Many of the city's cultural institutions are located within this overall urban layout, particularly in proximity to the Keraton palace complex and surrounding streets.

The range of workshops, studios and crafting spaces associated with the royal and courtly traditions are also to be found in the surrounding neighbourhoods and streets of the historical centre of town.

In terms of the infrastructure for contemporary arts and culture, the range of artist-run studios and galleries – usually associated with particular individuals – act as key hubs and centres of activity in fine arts, sculpture and dance, attracting both practitioners and audience through their range of activities and events. A number of such spaces operate outside of Yogyakarta city, itself basing themselves, for example, in nearby Bantul, 5km from the city centre. The city is also a major 'city of festivals', with Jogja Festivals a pioneering umbrella organisation for multiple festivals and events.



Artists [in Yogyakarta] want to share with visitors what is going on and what they are making – whether they are young graduates from the art school or internationally lauded, giving the city and its people an amazingly grounded and authentic feeling. Everyone joining in and sharing their time and resources is an approach that is often called the village, or the Kampung, but really it just means a commitment to acting as a community.

the Artling¹²

¹² <https://theartling.com/en/artzine/city-art-guides/yogyakarta/>

The visibility of Yogyakarta increased dramatically in 2016 when several contemporary landmarks were used as shooting locations for a much-anticipated Indonesian film, the sequel to “Ada Apa Dengan Cinta” (“What’s with Cinta”). AADC fans from all over the country traveled to visit Sellie Coffee, Papermoon Puppet Theatre, Klinik Kopi, and Greenhost Boutique Hotel, placing them on the most-visited city locations.

Cultural institutions Yogyakarta is home to numerous important historical sites and items of cultural heritage. The city of Yogyakarta has a total of 289 buildings registered as cultural heritage sites. Many historic buildings in Yogyakarta display a blend of Javanese and Dutch colonial architectural styles.

This mixture can be seen in Keraton Yogyakarta, one of the most important and iconic buildings in Yogyakarta, central to the Keraton complex and still currently used as the official royal residence of the sultan and his family.

Cultural institutions

Keraton Yogyakarta¹³

Keraton Yogyakarta is the seat of the reigning Sultan of Yogyakarta and his family. The palace complex is a symbolic and literal centre of Javanese culture. In addition to hosting a museum displaying royal artefacts, the complex includes a range of cultural and religious spaces used for theatrical and musical performance plus ritual and ceremonial events key to Javanese culture.

Yogyakarta Cultural Park¹⁴

Yogyakarta Cultural Park was inaugurated in March 1977 as a place to foster, maintain, research, and develop culture in Yogyakarta. In 2002, Yogyakarta Cultural Park was rebuilt around the Vredeborg Fort area, and established as a national art laboratory. With two main buildings, the Taman Budaya Concert Hall usually functions as a place for literary discussions, exhibitions, and education or training events. Meanwhile, the Societet Militair building is specifically used for theatre, dance, music and other performing arts.

Sono Budoyo Museum¹⁵

Established in 2002, the Sono Budoyo museum has an extensive collection of historical artefacts, a library and research centre, and is a key institution for the preservation and promotion of Javanese culture and heritage. In addition to storing cultural and historical collections associated with Javanese culture, it also houses a collection of ceramics from the Neolithic era and bronze statues, several forms of shadow puppets, various ancient weapons, Javanese masks and others. The total collection at the Sonobudoyo Museum is estimated to have reached 42,700 historical objects and works of art.

Rumah Budaya Tembi¹⁶

Rumah Budaya Tembi is a private museum founded in 2000 by historian Polycarpus Swantoro. Involving the local community in preserving Javanese culture, Rumah Budaya Tembi is a place where visitors can experience Javanese culture through a museum, discussion forums, performances, and regular classes. Activities such as gamelan (traditional music) classes, dance classes and plowing rice fields have been designed to educate visitors, are limited to 30 at a time, and always have a waiting list.

Malioboro Road

Malioboro Road is situated in the busy downtown area of Yogyakarta. The street extends for 1 km from North to South with historical Dutchcolonial-era architecture mixed with Chinese and contemporary architecture. The commercial activities operate 24 hours a day, and the street also hosts Beringharjo Traditional Market, selling a variety of goods, including batik, clothing, souvenirs, fast food, basic ingredients, household items, traditional herbal medicine, and antiques.

Vredeborg Fortress Museum¹⁷

Formerly a Dutch-built colonial fortress located in the city of Yogyakarta, in 1992 this military complex was converted into a museum, education and research centre focusing on the Indonesian independence struggle.

¹³ <https://www.kratonjogja.id/>

¹⁴ <https://indonesiakaya.com/pustaka-indonesia/taman-budaya-yogyakarta-laboratorium-seni-di-yogyakarta/>

¹⁵ <http://sonobudoyo.com/id/.html>

¹⁶ https://www.instagram.com/tembi_rumah_budaya/?hl=en

¹⁷ <https://vredeborg.id/>

Affandi Museum¹⁸

Born in Yogyakarta, Affandi Koesoema (1907-1990) was an expressive abstract painter and a key cultural figure in pre- and post-colonial Indonesia. The Affandi Museum is dedicated to his work and life. The Museum is home to all his major works, accompanied by the works of other painters who worked alongside or under him. It also hosts workshop spaces and studios, and runs fine art programmes for adults and children.

Gedhe Kauman Mosque

Gedhe Kauman Mosque, which was built by Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono I in 1773, is a symbol of cultural harmonisation within the Kingdom of Yogyakarta. Apart from being a place of worship for the royal family and Yogyakarta's population, the mosque was also built as a complement to the Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat Islamic Kingdom.

Kotagede Mataram Great Mosque

Kotagede Mataram Great Mosque is the oldest mosque in Yogyakarta, and has a unique architectural style. Hindu and Buddhist characteristics clearly influenced the building of this mosque, reflected in the shape of the gate. Local residents still use it as a place to carry out religious activities.

Taman Sari Water Castle

Taman Sari Water Castle is the site of a former royal garden of the Sultanate of Yogyakarta. Built in the mid-18th century and located within the grounds of the Kraton, Taman Sari consists of four distinct areas: a large artificial lake with islands and pavilions located in the west, a bathing complex in the centre, a complex of pavilions and pools in the south, and a smaller lake in the east. Today only the central bathing complex is well preserved, while the other areas have been largely occupied by the Kampung Taman settlement.

Third Body: On Embracing The In-Between by Teater Garasi

Photo © Teater Garasi



¹⁸ <https://www.affandi.org/>

Creative hubs, enterprises and marketplaces

Yogyakarta's creative hubs and marketplaces occupy a broad range of functions and operate on many different bases. They include, for example, commercial or semi-commercial enterprises; co-working hubs associated with creative entrepreneurship; artistic foundations with primarily charitable or socially-facing objectives; and private studios and workspaces with capacity to host and support emerging artists.



[A sense of] openness starts with the artists themselves, most of whom are affiliated with studios made up of a number of artists from different generations. These studios or collectives, create organic incubators where artists exchange ideas, techniques and provide support, mentorship and shared professional networks.

the Artling¹⁹

Silamo Creative Hub²⁰

Silamo Creative Hub is a self-service cafe with a range of facilities including a laundry. The café is designed to host collective and cooperative activities through co-working spaces.

C-Hub Fisipol UGM²¹

Hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences at UGM, C-Hub is a creative and collaborative space designed to work across various creative and scientific disciplines to stimulate social entrepreneurship. The centre offers a programme of events and a series of training programmes based around a curriculum oriented towards knowledge, skills, networking, and social development.

Innovative Academy Hub²²

An institution established by Universitas Gadjah Mada and Lintasarta, with a particular focus on science, technology and digital start-ups. A programme of training and events aims to foster business and private sector development with an interest in community and social issues.

Jogja Digital Valley²³

Established in 2013, Jogja Digital Valley is a state-sponsored co-working space initiated by the Telkom Group together with the Ministry of Communication and Information in order to optimise the potential of the digital creative industries. The centre hosts facilities and events, and supports start-ups for developers of games, edutainment, music, animation and software services.

House of Natural Fibre (HONF)²⁴

HONF started in 1999 as the community-run Yogyakarta New Media Art Laboratory. They implement a methodology called Open Community, which is mostly concerned with the needs of cross-collaborative actions responding to artistic and technological development and its practical uses in daily life. HONF have also initiated the Cellsbutton Yogyakarta International Media Art Festival and YIVF (Yogyakarta International Videowork Festival), inviting local and international communities to collaborate in creative innovations and solutions to issues of society and technology.

¹⁹ <https://theartling.com/en/artzine/city-art-guides/yogyakarta/>

²⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/silamo.hub>

²¹ <https://chub.fisipol.ugm.ac.id>

²² <https://ia.ugm.ac.id>

²³ <https://jogjadigitalvalley.com/>

²⁴ www.honf.org

Lifepatch²⁵

Lifepatch is an arts and technology collective made up of 11 members plus a diverse range of associate members. Founded in 2012, the collective has been involved in various exhibitions and events both nationally and abroad, holding residency programmes, workshops and other educational events. Lifepatch frequently collaborates with the collective Art Music Today and Rekam Bergerak at a monthly music discussion event called “Sesi Dengar”. Lifepatch prioritises a DIY and DIWO (Do It With Others) culture by inviting participants to research, explore, and develop the cultural functions of technology in community settings.

Studio Batu²⁶

Studio Batu is a collective that focuses on creating theatre, fine art, animation and movies. Consisting of 16 artists with backgrounds in film, literature, sociology, architecture, anthropology, and information systems, the group is particularly interested in the creation of modern myths emerging from history, culture and politics. Studio Batu has several programmes, including visual theatre, film and a laboratory programme for individual work.

Barasub

Barasub²⁷ is an independent publisher of zine art, magazines and other contemporary art-related publications – from drawings, posters, photography to comics, graphic novels. Founded by an artist collective, the publishing arm also works on special projects across creative disciplines.

Yayasan Kampung Halaman²⁸

Yayasan Kampung Halaman is a community-based organisation seeking to strengthen the role of youth through the use of participatory and community-based media. It operates through a series of programmes for facilitation, education, training, film-making and information-sharing to support the role of young people in the community.

Yayasan Kampung Halaman was awarded the “International Spotlight Award” by the White House’s National Arts and Humanities Youth Programme in 2011.

Ace House Collective²⁹

AHC is an art initiative that seeks to encourage and develop contemporary art practices by creating a forum for cross-disciplinary production, dialogue and collaboration. As a collective, Ace House often raises issues of youth lifestyle, pop culture and consumerism. Through its ongoing series of projects that imitate daily community interaction and consumption, Ace House involves the public in considering the role of art in society.

Bakudapan Food Study Group³⁰

Bakudapan Food Study Group is a collective researching food and its relation to political, social, gender, economic, philosophical and cultural issues. As a study group, Bakudapan undertakes performative artworks, exhibitions and other activities. Bakudapan has been involved in various art exhibitions and projects both locally and internationally and have published the journal “Fast and Foodrious” which discusses the culture of fast food in Yogyakarta.

Gerakan Surah Buku³¹

Gerakan Surah Buku is a student-led community focusing on literature, literary appreciation and critical dialogue. Based in Yogyakarta and founded in 2007, Gerakan Surah Buku is open to the public and has spread to campuses in Java and Aceh. Activities include book discussions, invited speakers and cross-departmental exchange.

Indonesian Visual Art Archive (IVAA)³²

IVVA is a non-profit organisation that focuses on archiving and research on visual art operating outside of government and academic initiatives. As a library and online art archive, IVAA also produces highlighted journals and organizes archival workshops to support public learning and appreciation of art and art history.

²⁵ www.lifepatch.org

²⁶ <https://studiobatu.com>

²⁷ <http://instagram.com/barasub>

²⁸ <http://kampunghalaman.org>

²⁹ www.acehousecollective.com

³⁰ <http://bakudapan.com/en/>

³¹ www.surahbuku.com

³² <http://ivaa-online.org>

Kedai Kebun Forum (KKF)³³

Kedai Kebun Forum (KKF) is an art space founded in 1997 that seeks to explore social issues through the medium of art. KKF holds solo and joint exhibitions linked with social and historical issues, and also hosts film screenings and musical performances.

SURVIVE! Garage³⁴

Founded by artist Bayu Widodo and based in Bantul, SURVIVE! Garage is an art workshop and exhibition space which supports independent young artists through activities, discussions and networking forums. The community is expanding into a community-based arts space which facilitates cross-disciplinary as well as cross-generation forms expression and communication, especially on social issues.

Pendhapa Art Space³⁵

Pendhapa Art Space is an alternative art space in which provides a facility for the implementation of cultural and arts activities for the artists and public. Originally established by the artist Dunadi in 2006 as an extension of his Satiaji Sculpture & Artwork Studio, the centre was registered as an independent business in 2016. The centre includes workshops, studios, gallery space and accommodation, and the activities include cultural arts programmes in the form of exhibitions, dance and theatre performances, art discussions, art workshops, and so on. These are often undertaken in collaboration with communities or cultural arts institutions from across Indonesia and internationally.

Yogya Art Lab / Gajah Gallery³⁶

The Yogya Art Lab (YAL) is an initiative set up by Singapore-based Gajah Gallery. Described as 'a major arts hub in Indonesia', YAL is an experimental platform for prominent and emerging artists to come together to produce works across various mediums such as paper, sculpture, performance and digital visual production.

Padepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiardja³⁷

Padepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiardja (PSBK) is a large studio complex in Bantul, 5km from Joygga, established in memory of the artist and writer Bagong Kussudiardja. Seeking to contribute to the cultural enrichment of Indonesian society by shaping arts practice as an important learning resource, PSBK serves as a creative laboratory, gathering place, performance and exhibition space for artists from different disciplines. PSBK presents works of emerging artists, facilitates artistic investigation and professional development, and devises programmes that increase community engagement and networking with the arts.

Langgeng Art Foundation³⁸

Langgeng Art Foundation (LAF) is a contemporary art institution established and founded in 2010 through the initiatives of Deddy Irianto, founder and manager of Langgeng Gallery in Magelang. Through a range of activities, it seeks to support and develop Indonesian artists and the fine art community at large, with a particular focus on global representation and collaboration. Activities include comparative and group exhibitions, artist exchange and residency programmes, public lecture series from critics, academics and artists, and digital archive services.

Bentara Budaya³⁹

Bentara Budaya Yogyakarta is the city branch of the Bentara Budaya cultural institution first established in Jakarta by Kompas Gramedia Group. Founded in 1982, the Yogyakarta branch sought to provide an exhibition space for the city's hundreds of underrepresented artists. The centre also presents popular cultural forms and populist non-formal art forms.

³³ <http://kedaikebun.com>

³⁴ <http://survivegarage.wordpress.com>

³⁵ <http://www.pendhapaartspace.com/>

³⁶ <https://www.gajahgallery.com/gallery.php>

³⁷ <https://psbk.or.id/en/>

³⁸ <https://www.instagram.com/langgengartfoundation>

³⁹ <https://www.bentara budaya.com/profil/bentara-budaya-yogyakarta>

Cemeti⁴⁰

Cemeti (The Institute for Art and Society) is Indonesia's oldest platform for contemporary art. Founded in Yogyakarta in 1988 by artists Mella Jaarsma and Nindityo Adipurnomo, the institute offers a platform for artists and cultural practitioners to develop, practice and present their work in close collaboration with others. Hosting residencies, events, workshops, seminars and exhibitions, Cemeti has a central role in Yogya's contemporary and cross-disciplinary creative scene.

Ruang MES 56⁴¹

Ruang MES 56 is a collective community engaged in contemporary art, with a particular focus on film and photography. Currently, MES 56 is considered as a forum for artists from various backgrounds, but also operates as a gallery and exhibition space.

Papermoon Puppet Theatre⁴²

Papermoon Puppet Theatre was founded by Maria Tri Sulistyani (Ria) in 2006 as a theatre and art studio for children. It has since developed into a theatre company with an international reputation for contemporary puppetry. Their activities include creating original puppet performances on contemporary themes, visual art installations and exhibitions. They also undertake international collaborative and interdisciplinary projects, and run residencies, workshops and seminars on puppetry. The theatre also curates the Pesta Boneka international puppet biennale, hosted in Yogyakarta.

Teater Garasi⁴³

Teater Garasi and Garasi Performance Institute is a collective of interdisciplinary artists for performing arts in Indonesia and Asia. In addition to performances and productions, the Bantul-based collective organises international knowledge-sharing and dissemination programmes, production and performance laboratories, as well as artist-in-residence programmes to establish new contacts and interactions with traditions, cultures and artists and young people in cities outside Java.

Natya Laksita⁴⁴

Natya Laksita is one of the most prominent dance studios in Yogyakarta. The studio is founded by Didi Nini Thowok, an Indonesian dancer and choreographer with an international profile.⁴⁵

Dagadu / Yogyatorium⁴⁶

Dagadu is an influential streetwear and clothing brand from Yogyakarta. One of the contemporary icons in Jogja, the brand promotes local culture and values, and has influenced the development of local and international fashion tastes. Formed in 1994 by a group of architecture students from Gadjah Mada University, the group of students used their own resources to invest in the business and rent a space at the Malioboro Mall. Their office includes not only production space and a showroom, but also hosts the Yogyatorium, a creative working space and a museum for art and creative design. The centre also has a track record in finding affordable live-work spaces for young graphic designers in Yogyakarta, and an education programme for local schools. The hub also attempts to offer solutions for creative people who are at risk of being priced out of the city.

⁴⁰ <https://www.cemeti.org/>

⁴¹ <http://mes56.com/>

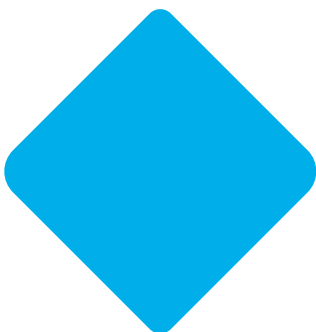
⁴² <https://www.papermoonpuppet.com/>

⁴³ <http://teatergarasi.org/?lang=en>

⁴⁴ <https://didiknithowok.id/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.instagram.com/didiknithowok/>

⁴⁶ <https://dagadu.co.id/>



Exhibition at the Indonesia Visual Art Archive.

Photo © IVAA



Festivals

Yogyakarta hosts an increasingly large number of festivals with a global audience and popularity, with events coordinated by over 70 initiators and organisers.

In 2019, Jogja Festivals (an umbrella organisation for the city's festivals and events) sought to initiate the Jogja Festivals Forum & Expo (JFFE), an initiative to bring together all festivals and promoters. JFFE is the only strategic platform for festivals in Indonesia. It is currently made up of representatives for 15 festivals in Yogyakarta, each of which have operated for more than five years in a row, covering the fields of arts and culture, science, and technology.

These 15 festivals are: Artjog; Asia Tri Festival; Bedog Arts Festival (BAF); Biennale Jogja, Cellsbutton Yogyakarta New Media Art Fest; The Documentary Film Festival; Tembi Music Festival; Jogja Blues Explosion; National Kite Festival Jogja; Jogja NETPAC Asian Film Festival; Kustomfest; Ngayogjazz; Pesta Boneka (Puppet Festival), Yogyakarta Contemporary Music Fest; and Yogyakarta Gamelan Festival.



Jogja Festivals Forum & Expo (JFFE) encouraged the drafting of a regional bill concerning festivals, in order to guarantee the participation of festival organisers and to improve the overall management of each event.

Dinda Intan Pramesti Putri,
Executive Director of
Jogja Festivals 2020

Festivals – case studies

Yogyakarta Art Festivals⁴⁷

The Yogyakarta Arts Festival (FKY) is an annual city-sponsored arts and culture event presenting a broad range of contemporary art and public performance in galleries, museums and venues across the city. While the focus is on fine arts, the festival has a public-facing role in also providing family entertainment and cultural attractions.

ARTJOG Art Festival⁴⁸

ARTJOG Art Festival started as a contemporary art fair and was rebranded into an all-encompassing festival in 2019. It features a rich portfolio of auxiliary programmes, such as Meet The Artist, Curatorial Tour and performative artist talks.



ARTJOG always makes an attempt to create common spaces for public, as much as possible, though art activities. ARTJOG 2019, themed Arts in Common, strengthens this notion. ARTJOG no longer merely discusses art fair, since it has always been wrapped in a frivolous and festive ambience. Therefore, ARTJOG is considered as an art festival, rather than an art fair.

Heri Pamad,
ARTJOG Director

⁴⁷ <https://www.fkymulanira.com/>

⁴⁸ <https://artjog.id/>

Jogja Cross Culture⁴⁹

Jogja Cross Culture is a multi-disciplinary pilot project undertaken by the city's cultural communities and young artists, and facilitated by the city government, designed as a response to the inauguration of Yogya as an ASEAN City of Culture. Delivered in a digital and online format during 2020, the event deliberately sought to use technology as a means of engaging younger audiences and participants

Biennale Jogja⁵⁰

An international biennale, focusing on fine arts, which has been held in Yogyakarta every two years since 1988. The Biennale's programmes have linked artists from across Asia, and hosted events and exhibitions leading to the emergence of works, artist figures and discourses that have colored the development of contemporary art in Indonesia and beyond.

Jogja Fashion Week⁵¹

Jogja Fashion Week is an annual event, designed both as a public spectacle and promotional event, and also an industry event. Featuring emerging and established designers and clothing lines from across Indonesia, activities include fashion shows, product exhibitions, seminars, business meetings, fashion design competitions, plus modelling and photography events and a city fashion carnival held along Malioboro Street.

Jogja International Street Performance⁵²

Jogja International Street Performance (JISP) is an annual art performance festival, hosted by the Tourism Office since 2010. A two-day event associated with the international Dancing Cities Network based in Barcelona, JISP includes both contemporary and traditional performing arts, including those local to Indonesia and from around the world.

Jogja Net-PAC Asian Film Festival⁵³

JAFF is a premier film festival focusing on the development of Asian cinema. Since its inception, JAFF has worked closely with NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema), a pan-Asian film and cultural organisation of 30 member countries headquartered in Colombo Sri Lanka. The 15th JAFF 2020 was held online, and featured 51 feature films and 71 shorts submitted by 29 participant countries.

Pesta Boneka international puppet biennale⁵⁴

Pesta Boneka is an international biennial puppet festival initiated by the Papermoon Puppet Theatre in 2008. The event brings together international puppeteers, audiences, as well as creative communities to experience various stories and cultures intimately and creatively. Bringing in representatives from 25 countries, the festival's activities and outputs include traditional and contemporary performance, community events, workshops, presentations, art installations and film screenings.

Tembi Music Festival⁵⁵

Tembi Music Festival (FMT) is an annual event held in venues across Yogyakarta. Featuring Javanese ensembles and performers, the festival includes traditional, folk, pop and rock. As part of the Jogja Festivals consortium, it has civic support supplemented by private sponsorship from local and international creative businesses.

Kustomfest

Kustomfest is a custom car festival, involving builders and producers from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Germany, US, and Brunei Darussalam. Kustomfest involves automotive shows and art & cultural performances. Kustomfest consists of custom bike, hot rod and custom car shows, paint battle, custom art, body art tattoo show, and live music.

⁴⁹ <https://jogjacrossculture.com>

⁵⁰ <https://www.biennalejogja.org/>

⁵¹ <https://www.instagram.com/jogjafashionweek.official/?hl=en>

⁵² <https://idetrips.com/jogja-international-street-performance/>

⁵³ <https://jaff-filmfest.org/jaff/>

⁵⁴ <https://www.papermoonpuppet.com/pesta-boneka/>

⁵⁵ <https://fombi.org>

“

Kustomfest is very close to the tourism sector. We target at least 1,500 visitors come from abroad; added to the domestic visitors, it's predicted that about 10,000 will crowd the biggest custom automotive exhibition in South East Asia.

Aan Fikriyan,
Chairman of Kustomfest,
October 2015

Installation at ARTJOG 2019

Photo © ARTJOG



Movers and shakers (selected)

Yogyakarta is home to a significant number of artists, writers and performers whose prominence in Javanese culture has brought them international recognition. They are accompanied by younger emerging individuals and groups who have been provided with a platform for development by the city's supportive cultural environment, and who are now also establishing themselves at a regional and international level.

Cultural influencers

Butet Kertaradjasa⁵⁶

An actor, comedian and film and television producer, Butet is also active as the chairman of Yayasan Bagong Kussudiardja, the arts and cultural foundation and arts centre in Bantul, established with the mission to support the preservation of Indonesian culture. As a cultural activist, he has been involved in various boards including the Yogyakarta Biennale Foundation, Umar Kayam Foundation, and Omah Munir Foundation.

Didik Nini Thowok⁵⁷

Didik Hadiprayitno, known as Didik Nini Thowok, is the director of Natya Lakshita Dance School. A graduate of Yogyakarta Institute of Art, he is known for his unique style, combining classical, folk, modern and comedic dance forms. He is one of the few artists who continue the long dance tradition of cross-gender performance, as well as various dance traditions including Topeng (mask dance), Sundanese, Cirebon, Balinese, and Central Javanese. As a choreographer, his work is acclaimed internationally.

Eko Nugroho⁵⁸

Eko Nugroho is an internationally-renowned contemporary artist. Having graduated from Yogyakarta Art Institute, he has an expanded body of work drawing on his background in street art and community-based artwork. Including paintings, drawings, embroidery, murals, sculpture, and video, his works are deeply anchored in both local traditions and the urban environment, where political messages are playfully intertwined with appropriated aesthetics of street art, graffiti, and comics.

Maria Tri Sulistyani⁵⁹

A puppet artist and theatre producer, Ria is the co-founder of the Papermoon Puppet Theatre, and initiator and organizer of Pesta Boneka, the international puppet biennale held in Yogyakarta.

Joko Pinurbo⁶⁰

Joko Pinurbo is a poet, writer and academic. Graduating from the Department of Language and Literature at Indonesia Sanata Dharma in Yogyakarta in 1987, he has since taught there, while also writing and editing numerous literary and cultural journals. Widely published, he often appears at discussions and poetry readings both nationally and internationally.

Martinus Miroto⁶¹

Martinus Miroto is a dancer, actor, choreographer, and dance instructor at the Indonesian Institute of Arts (ISI Yogyakarta) He is also founder of the Miroto Dance Company which he set up in 1986, The Miroto Dance Foundation (1998), and the Banjarmili Dance studio in (2001). Known for creating 5-mask dances, he has performed internationally and was part of the International Choreographer Commissioning Programme for the American Dance Festival 2005.

Putu Sutawidjaya⁶²

Putu Sutawidjaya studied art at Indonesia Institute of Fine Art (ISI) Yogyakarta. As a painter, sculptor and performance artist, Putu is aligned with the multi-media, cross-disciplinary character of Indonesian contemporary art. Famous for his paintings of androgynous bodies, the spontaneous energy of Putu's paintings translates into his sculptures. Putu is also deeply drawn to sacred sites and often travels to the ancient temples scattered around Java and Bali.

⁵⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/masbutet/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.instagram.com/didikninihowok/>

⁵⁸ <https://ekonugroho.or.id/bio/>

⁵⁹ <https://www.instagram.com/riapapermoon/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/jokpin.jogja/>

⁶¹ <https://pasca.isi.ac.id/resume/dr-martinus-miroto-m-f-a/>

⁶² <http://www.sinsinfineart.com/putu-sutawidjaya.html>

Nasirun⁶³

Nasirun is a contemporary painter famous for incorporating Javanese culture elements in his works. Having studied batik and carving at SSRI (Indonesian Art School), he then majored in fine arts at ASRI (Indonesian Academy of Fine Arts) in Jogja. He lives and works in Bantul, home of his Nasirun studio, where he also keeps and exhibits his own art collection.

Senyawa⁶⁴

Senyawa are an experimental musical duo who combine folkloric traditions from across Indonesia with the sonic aesthetics of avant-garde metal. Formed in 2010 and using extended vocal techniques and self-built musical instruments made from bamboo, the duo has gained an international reputation, bringing Indonesian experimental music to audiences in Asia, Europe and the United States. In 2021, the band collaborated with 44 independent labels from across the globe to release their album *Alkisah*. The labels were provided with the digital tracks and chose artwork and audiomixes according to local tastes.

Jogja Hiphop Foundation⁶⁵

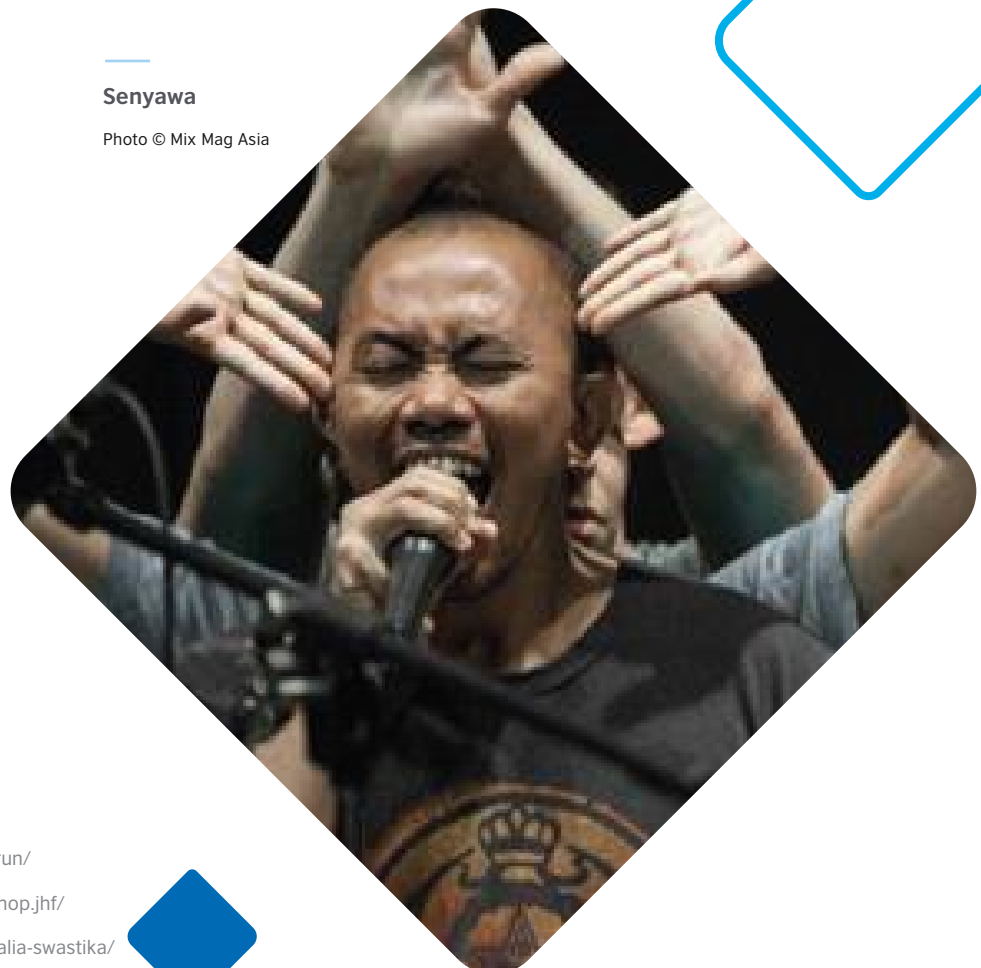
Jogja Hip-hop Foundation (JHF) was founded by a rapper and music producer Marzuki Mohammad⁶⁶, also known as Kill the DJ, in 2003. A loose musical group and collective, they also support and promote other hip-hop crews in Yogyakarta and beyond. Their uniqueness is that they combine Javanese language, poetry, traditional music and sounds with urban beats.

Alia Swastika

Alia Swastika is an independent curator and research works in Yogyakarta and Jakarta. She has been the Director of Biennale Jogja Foundation since 2018 and Curator and Program Director for Ark Galerie⁶⁷ in Jakarta since 2008.⁶⁸ Alia had worked as Co-Artistic Director of Gwangju Biennale 9: ROUNDTABLE for its 2012 edition and the Director of Biennale Yogyakarta XIV in 2015.

Senyawa

Photo © Mix Mag Asia



⁶³ <http://www.artnet.com/artists/nasirun/>

⁶⁴ <https://senyawa.tumblr.com>

⁶⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/javahiphop.jhf/>

⁶⁷ www.arkgalerie.com

⁶⁸ <https://curtain.artcuratorgrid.com/alia-swastika/>

4. Other future trends, opportunities and links

Due to its rich history and the abundance of artefacts and living heritage, Yogyakarta is a member of the Indonesian Heritage Cities Network (Jaringan Kota Pusaka Indonesia/ JKPI). At an international level, Yogyakarta belongs to the League of Historical Cities since 1994, and since 2017 has been developing a submission to UNESCO to achieve World Heritage City status.

With all its strategic networks, Yogyakarta aims to develop its potential in both traditional arts and culture, as well as contemporary art and cultural development.



The city truly feels like a hub now. For those looking for an alternative art scene in Indonesia, Yogyakarta is probably one of the best places to experience how collectivity has contributed to a more vibrant environment in the arts. A medium-sized city filled with self-financed collectives operating differently through various organizational forms and relationships with community. Ultimately, in Yogyakarta, the friendship is the currency.

Mira Asriningtyas and Dito Yuwono,
Co-Curators, Lir Space⁶⁹

The city's ecosystem of arts and culture is growing, diversifying and is increasingly internationally facing. Jogja Festivals brings a level of capacity, coordination and professionalism to the festivals sector and is playing a leadership role in festival development both locally and nationally. Jogja Festivals also provides a clear landing point for international artists and organisations seeking to participate in the city's festivals or looking for collaboration more generally.

Jogja Creative Society (JCS), a cross-community forum that represents Yogyakarta in Indonesia Creative Cities Network signed a memorandum of understanding with Yogyakarta Municipality in June 2020, as a joint commitment to develop the creative economy sector in Yogyakarta.



The objectives of this memorandum of understanding are the development of a roadmap of Yogyakarta as a creative city, the management of creative economy development innovation program, and the development of Kotabaru and other regions that are designated by Yogyakarta Municipality as creative spaces.

Haryadi Suyuti,
Mayor of Yogyakarta

⁶⁹ <https://culture360.asef.org/magazine/people-cities-yogyakarta-indonesia-city-profile/>

Jogja Creative Society sees these points as a huge opportunity for Yogyakarta. The creation of a community hub for arts and culture in order to initiate greater collaboration among actors within the ecosystem is seen as the key to preserve and optimise the potential of traditional arts and culture in Yogyakarta.



Local creative communities are what makes this city “alive”. Through its varied art and cultural groups, Yogyakarta provides opportunities for young people to develop and add insights according to what they like to explore. With its many art and cultural activities and festivals, this city constantly provides a chance for young people to take part, learn new things and express themselves.

Uniph Kahfi,
Program Coordinator, Kedai Kebun Forum⁷⁰

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