

Information Brief TAROCH at a Glance

What is TAROCH?

- » TAROCH stands for Towards a Recommendation on Open Cultural Heritage and is a community initiative led by Creative Commons.
- » Mission: Encourage UNESCO Member States to draft and adopt a standard-setting instrument, such as a Recommendation, to promote open solutions that enhance access to public domain cultural heritage while respecting diverse governance frameworks for sharing and using cultural heritage.
- » Ultimate Outcome: Cultural heritage is equitably accessible to all, aligning with UNESCO's mission and cultural and information policy—especially in promoting intercultural dialogue and cultural exchange—contributing to more connected, resilient, and sustainable societies.

Who drives TAROCH?

Creative Commons (CC) is the organization steering and funding TAROCH, which is led by representatives of a global, diverse community of organizations and institutions involved in cultural heritage and with an interest in open cultural heritage. While our individual missions differ, we all believe in the transformative power of open solutions and share a vision of fair and equitable access to cultural heritage.

Creative Commons, as the entity that is funding and spearheading the Coalition, serves as the TAROCH Coalition Chair and Secretariat and has the overall responsibility for delivering the work and coordinates, resources, facilitates, and provides secretarial support to the work of the Coalition with a view to reaching our short-term goals.

What is TAROCH's aim?

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes international cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, as well as communication and information. In the past few years, UNESCO adopted Recommendations for Open Educational Resources and Open Science, but there is currently no international instrument enshrining open cultural heritage. This is what TAROCH aims to achieve: the adoption of a UNESCO standard-setting instrument and joint work programs promoting open solutions to enhance access to cultural heritage in the public domain.

What are TAROCH's key deliverables?

We aim to achieve the following by May 2026:

1. Develop and adopt a Statement on Open Access to Cultural Heritage for signature by civil society organizations and institutions.
2. Widely implement an advocacy strategy and disseminate advocacy tools and materials to promote the wider recognition of open access to cultural heritage.

Where can I find more information about TAROCH?

- » Read our 2024 report [Creative Commons strategic workshop reveals big opportunities for open access to cultural heritage](#).
- » Read our [Open Culture webpage](#).
- » Check out our [Open Culture Resources webpage](#).

Why does TAROCH want to promote open access to cultural heritage?

Convinced that culture, including cultural heritage, provides the existential foundation of humanity, we believe open access can contribute to helping people around the world:

- » Exercise their fundamental rights to participate in cultural life and enjoy the arts, as enshrined in Article 27(1) of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (1948) and Article 15 of the United Nations (UN) [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (1966).
- » Preserve and access documentary heritage including in digital form, as enshrined in the [2015 UNESCO Recommendation](#).
- » Benefit from a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient world by advancing the UN's [sustainable development goals](#) and leaving no one behind, including the recognition of [culture as a sustainable development goal](#) in and of itself.
- » Honor, promote, and preserve cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage as per the 2024 [UN Pact for the Future](#).
- » Activate the 2022 [Mondiacult Declaration](#) and enjoy culture, including cultural heritage, as well as the digital commons (in keeping with the [Global Digital Compact](#)) as global public goods.

Can I join TAROCH?

Any organization or institution supporting the mission statement of the Coalition may apply for membership.

- » Read the [Statement of Commitment](#).
- » Submit your application through the [membership application form](#).



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