

PROGRAM

2026 Jeonju
International Awards
for Promoting
Intangible Cultural
Heritage

PJIA
8TH
CJ

2026.09.11. Fri
10:00 AM Korea Traditional
Culture Center

Contents

2026 Jeonju International Awards for Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage

4	Program
5	Introduction to JIAPICH
6	The 2026 JIAPICH Finalist Selection Process
7	Opening Address Cho Jihun Jeonju City Mayor
8	Welcoming Address Choi Ju Man Chair of the City Council
9	Congratulatory Address Yim dawnhee Member of the Korean Academy of Sciences Yi Jong Hun ICH Division Director of the Korean Heritage Service Park Gyuri Acting Director-General of the ICHCAP
12	Tribute Lee Uisik Holder of Intangible Heritage in Lacquerware
14	The 2026 JIAPICH Finalist Introduction Saranga Puppet Group – Sri Lanka Embodying Reconciliation – Colombia Sunbula – Palestine
18	Jury Commentary Choi Donghwan Chair of the Jury Committee
20	JIAPICH Finalists from Previous Year
22	JIAPICH Digital Archive Exhibition
24	Acknowledgements

Program

Time	Program	
9:30-10:00	Registration and Seating	
10:00-10:20	Welcome Performance	Jeonju Kijeopnori
10:20-10:30	Distinguished Guests Introduction	Kim Hyungkun Professor at Gyeongkuk National University
	Opening Address	Cho Jihun Mayor of Jeonju City
	Welcoming Address	Choi Ju Man Chair of the Jeonju City Council
10:30-10:45		Yim Dawnhee Member of the Korean Academy of Sciences
	Congratulatory Address	Yi Jong Hun ICH Division Director of the Korean Heritage Service
		Park Gyuri Acting Director-General of the ICHCAP
10:45-11:00	Award Ceremony	
11:00-11:20	Performance	Jeonju Pansori Choir
11:20-11:25	Jury Commentary	Choi Donghwan Chair of the Jury Committee
		Saranga Puppet Group Sri Lanka
11:25-11:40	Acceptance Speech	Embodying Reconciliation Colombia
		Sunbula Palestine
11:40-12:00	Performance	Saranga Puppet Group Sri Lanka
12:00	Closing	

The Jeonju International Awards for Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage (JIAPICH) was established to recognize exemplary efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, strengthen cultural diversity and social cohesion, and contribute to a sustainable future. The Award honors individuals, organizations, communities, institutions, and NGOs that have made outstanding contributions to the safeguarding, transmission, and revitalization of intangible cultural heritage. Through the Award, Jeonju City seeks to honor their passion and dedication to keeping heritage alive.

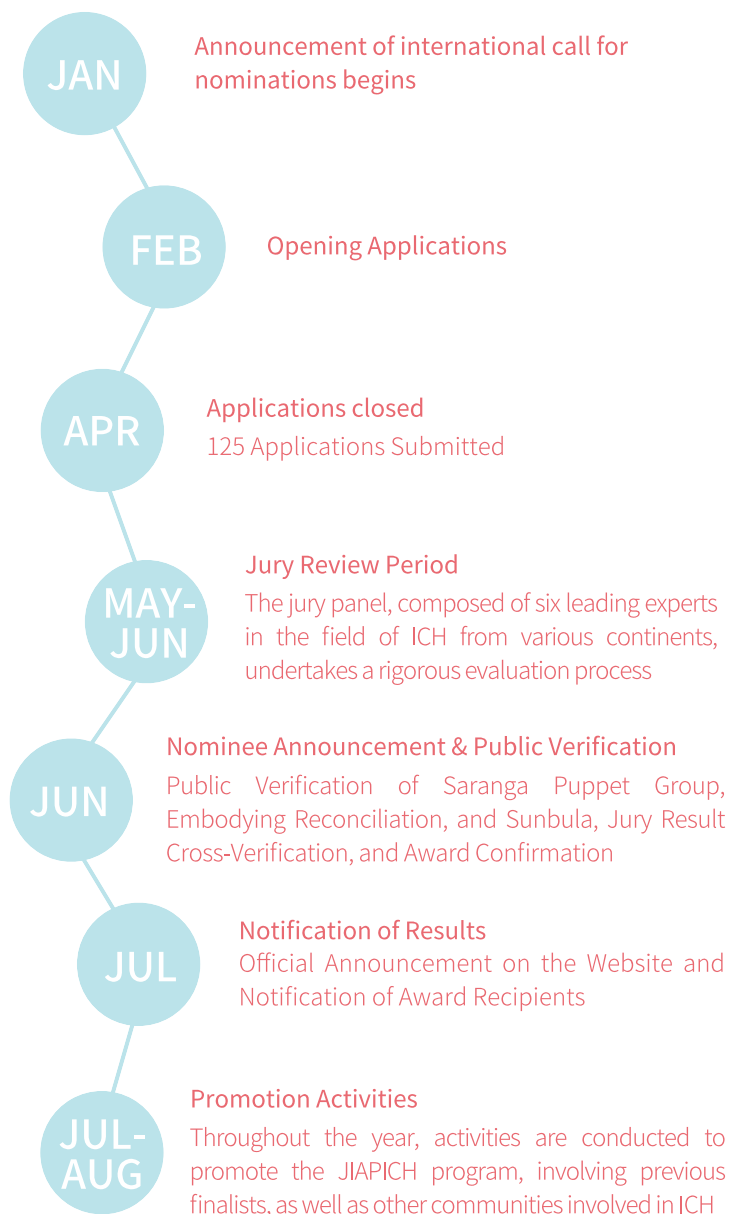
Jeonju, a city rich in intangible cultural heritage, established the Award to recognize and support those who dedicate themselves to preserving traditions and sustaining them in contemporary society. This spirit reflects Jeonju's commitment to the UNESCO philosophy of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Now in its eighth year, JIAPICH honors those who uphold universal human values beyond boundaries of nationality, ethnicity, religion, and gender. Held in Jeonju, a city with a thousand-year history, the Award seeks to connect the heritage of the past with the strength of the future, while promoting global harmony, cultural exchange, and a sustainable future.

In 2026, JIAPICH continues its journey with the support of people around the world. Jeonju City will continue to stand alongside those dedicated to safeguarding and transmitting intangible cultural heritage and further strengthen Jeonju's role as a city committed to its preservation and promotion.

Jeonju City
JIAPICH Secretariat
The Center for Intangible Culture Studies (CICS)

The 2026 Finalist Selection Process



It is my great pleasure to welcome all domestic and international intangible cultural heritage practitioners and citizens who have joined us in Jeonju for the 2026 JIAPICH.

My heartfelt congratulations to the three award recipients: Saranga Puppet Group from Sri Lanka, Embodying Reconciliation from Colombia, and Sunbula from Palestine. Please join me in giving them a well-deserved round of applause.

The Jeonju Gijeopnori performance reminds us that intangible cultural heritage becomes living culture when it is shared and carried on together. It connects communities and helps restore relationships and overcome division.

Now in its eighth year, the Jeonju International Awards has become a bridge connecting the traditions and future values of intangible cultural heritage around the world. In keeping with this year's theme, "Weaving the Threads of Reconciliation," I admire the three award recipients for connecting generations, linking tradition with contemporary life, and advancing reconciliation and solidarity.

As Whale Rider reminds us, "Together, we will go forward with all our strength." I believe tradition gives us the strength to remember who we are and move forward together.

I hope the cultural threads carried forward by today's award recipients will lead to greater understanding and respect. Jeonju City will continue to expand the value of intangible cultural heritage and foster solidarity through culture.

Thank you.

Cho Jihun
Mayor of Jeonju City

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the 2026 JIAPICH on this meaningful occasion, and to warmly welcome all intangible cultural heritage practitioners from around the world who have come to Jeonju, a city of culture and the arts.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to all the award recipients, who have devoted themselves to safeguarding and transmitting intangible cultural heritage and creating new values from it.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.” Intangible cultural heritage, passed down through the warmth and hands of people, is not only a precious legacy from the past, but also a living culture that continues to evolve within our lives today.

I hope that the Jeonju International Awards, held here in Jeonju, where traditions such as pansori, hanji, and hanok continue to thrive, will grow as a meaningful international platform that honors those who safeguard intangible cultural heritage and fosters the sharing of experiences and values across cultures.

Once again, I extend my sincere congratulations to all the award recipients and wish everyone joining us today good health and happiness.

Thank you.

Choi Ju Man
Chair of the Jeonju City Council

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the 2026 JIAPICH on the occasion of its eighth award ceremony. I am delighted to welcome heritage practitioners from around the world who have dedicated themselves to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

This year's three award recipients remind us that intangible cultural heritage is not a relic of the past, but a source of strength for people today. Saranga Puppet Group of Sri Lanka has passed down Rūkada Nāṭya across generations; Embodying Reconciliation of Colombia has used cultural heritage to reconnect communities and foster reconciliation; and Sunbula of Palestine has sustained traditions of embroidery and handicrafts while supporting artisans.

Since 2019, the Award has recognized 24 individuals and organizations from 23 countries. Through these years, Jeonju has built a valuable record of their work and continues to share their stories through exhibitions and other activities.

Intangible cultural heritage can only be passed on through people. To present an award is ultimately to promise that we will not forget them. I hope today's ceremony will become the eighth milestone on a journey that continues for many years to come.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the award recipients and my deepest gratitude to Jeonju City, the Center for Intangible Culture Studies, and everyone who has supported this Award.

Thank you.

Yim Dawnhee

Member of the Korean Academy of Sciences

Distinguished guests, and our three honored award recipients, it is a great pleasure to be with you today. I am Yi Jong hun, ICH Division Director of the Korea Heritage Service.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the 8th JIAPICH and to extend my deepest congratulations to Saranga Puppet Group from Sri Lanka, Embodying Reconciliation from Colombia, and Sunbula from Palestine.

Intangible cultural heritage preserves the memories of communities, fosters understanding among cultures, and carries cultural values to future generations. Today's award recipients have demonstrated its power to safeguard traditions, bring communities together, and build a better future.

It is especially meaningful that practitioners from different continents have gathered here in Jeonju, a leading city for intangible cultural heritage. Culture knows no borders, and the government will continue to work with the international community to promote the value of intangible cultural heritage across regions and generations.

Once again, I offer my warmest congratulations to all the award recipients and wish the Jeonju International Awards continued success as a meaningful international platform for sustaining the world's precious traditions.

Thank you.

Yi Jong Hun
ICH Division Director of the Korean Heritage Service

Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the ICHCAP, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the 2026 JIAPICH on its eighth award ceremony.

I extend my sincere congratulations and deepest respect to this year's award recipients: Saranga Puppet Group of Sri Lanka, Embodying Reconciliation of Colombia, and Sunbula of Palestine. Their efforts to preserve Rūkada Nātya, promote reconciliation through heritage, and safeguard Palestinian embroidery and crafts demonstrate that intangible cultural heritage remains a living force connecting people and communities.

Through these Awards, Jeonju has shared safeguarding efforts from around the world and highlighted the value of intangible cultural heritage. ICHCAP will continue to work with Jeonju and the international community to raise awareness of heritage and contribute to a peaceful and sustainable future.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to Jeonju City, the Center for Intangible Culture Studies, and everyone involved in this meaningful event. I hope the 2026 Awards will inspire continued efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and build a better future together.

Thank you.

Park Gyuri

Acting Director-General of the ICHCAP

Lee Eui-sik, holder of the ICH designation of Ottchiljang (Traditional Lacquerware Craftsmanship), has created a special award trophy for the JIAPICH, reflecting his exceptional craftsmanship and dedication.

Crafted from Korean red pine, the trophy is finished with natural pigments made from earth, stone, and lacquer, and adorned with traditional mother-of-pearl inlay.



Born from the artisan's devotion to his craft, this unique trophy embodies the value of intangible cultural heritage, carrying its spirit from Jeonju and Korea to the world.



Master holder Lee Ui-sik
A bearer of ICH in the art of lacquerware

Biography:

- 1991: Served as the inaugural President of the Jeonbuk Traditional Crafts Association
- 1998: Designated as the Holder of Intangible Cultural Heritage No. 13 in Lacquerware
- 1999: Recognized as a "New Knowledge Worker" of the Republic of Korea
Awarded a Citation by the Governor of Jeonbuk
- 2006: Awarded the "Cultural Prize" as a Proud Jeonbuk Citizen by Jeonbuk
- 2009-2012: Adjunct Professor in Traditional Wood Lacquer Craft at the Korean Traditional Culture Training Institute
- 2013- 2024: Adjunct Professor in the Department of Traditional Wood Lacquer Craft at the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage

Awards:

- 1990: Received the Minister of Trade and Industry Award at the Korea Crafts Competition, among many other accolades

2026 전주 세계무형유산 대상

Jeonju
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2026.
09.11. ^{FRI}
10:00 ^{AM}

한국전통문화전당
공연장



Saranga Puppet Group | Sri Lanka



The Saranga Puppet Group is centered around the Ganwari family, the oldest lineage associated with Sri Lanka's traditional string puppet theatre, Rūkada Nātya. The group safeguards and promotes generations-old knowledge of puppet-making, painting, costume design, stage production, and performance techniques, ensuring the continued vitality of this traditional art form. In recognition of these efforts, Rūkada Nātya was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2018.

Through a traditional apprenticeship system, the group directly passes on skills ranging from puppet construction and manipulation to stage direction and performance to young people and local community members. It also operates a traditional puppet academy in Ambalangoda, dedicated to nurturing the next generation of artists. Furthermore, the group published Hela Ruukada Kalawa, Sri Lanka's first bilingual book on puppet theatre, enhancing public access to this art form. It has also established a puppet museum in Ambalangoda, which serves as an educational and exhibition space for promoting traditional puppetry.

In addition, the Saranga Puppet Group actively participates in cultural festivals and workshops both domestically and internationally, raising the global profile of Sri Lankan puppet theatre. Notably, it has performed in tsunami-affected communities following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and in refugee camps after the civil war, using art as a means of healing and reconciliation. Drawing lessons from the past loss of museum collections, the group has recently advanced the digitalization of its performances and archives, developing a comprehensive safeguarding strategy to ensure that its cultural heritage remains protected even in times of crisis.



Embodying Reconciliation | Colombia



Embodying Reconciliation is a Colombia-based organization dedicated to fostering peacebuilding and reconciliation through cultural heritage and the arts. The organization develops and implements a wide range of cultural strategies that demonstrate how ICH can serve not merely as a record of the past, but as a dynamic tool for healing social divisions and strengthening community cohesion in contemporary society.

In particular, the organization focuses on empowering local communities to safeguard and transmit their own cultural heritage. Through workshops, training programs, and field-based activities, it supports communities in documenting and archiving local knowledge systems and traditional forms of cultural expression, helping to ensure the continuity of intergenerational transmission. The organization also works closely with communities to facilitate the recognition and safeguarding of their ICH, supporting efforts toward its official identification and inscription within relevant ICH frameworks.

Furthermore, Embodying Reconciliation collaborates closely with a variety of ICH networks, NGOs, and cultural platforms in Colombia and beyond, helping to bridge cultural divides and promote mutual understanding. Through artistic practice and community engagement, the organization contributes to healing the wounds left by conflict, fostering a culture of peaceful coexistence, and generating tangible outcomes that support sustainable development and the realization of cultural rights.



Sunbula | Palestine



Sunbula is a non-profit organization dedicated to the safeguarding and sustainable development of Palestinian traditional crafts and cultural heritage. Working closely with artisans across Palestine, the organization helps safeguard traditional craftsmanship and supports artisans in achieving economic empowerment through their skills. By integrating traditional motifs and craft techniques with contemporary design, Sunbula promotes the continued relevance, use, and transmission of cultural heritage in everyday life.

Beyond the marketing of handicrafts, Sunbula is committed to addressing the social and economic challenges faced by artisans and strengthening their capacity to protect their rights and livelihoods. Through educational workshops, training programs, and awareness-raising campaigns, the organization promotes the value of Palestinian traditional crafts to international audiences. It also collaborates with international networks, including the World Crafts Council, to advance the safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage.

Furthermore, Sunbula plays a vital role in strengthening community identity and supporting the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge. By systematically documenting and sharing artisans' knowledge systems, techniques, and practices, the organization contributes to maintaining the vitality of traditional culture. Through its work, Sunbula demonstrates that craftsmanship is not merely a means of producing goods, but also an important form of cultural heritage that preserves Palestinian history, identity, and ways of life.



2026 Jeonju International Awards for Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage

Sep.11.
2026
10:00^{GMT+9}

Korea Traditional
Culture Center
Performance Hall



Host  Jeonju

Organizer CICS UNESCO Accredited NGO The Center for Intangible Culture Studies



Distinguished guests,

It brings me great joy and honor to stand before you as the Chair of the Jury Committee for the 8th JIAPICH.

This year, JIAPICH received a record-breaking 125 applications, the highest in its eight-year history. This remarkable interest demonstrates the growing recognition of Jeonju and JIAPICH in the global field of ICH. The selection process was particularly challenging, as many applicants demonstrated outstanding achievements. The six Jury members engaged in in-depth discussions and multiple rounds of voting before selecting this year's three award recipients. The dedication and achievements of all the applicants were truly impressive.

Today, as national self-interest and social division continue to grow around the world, rebuilding trust, solidarity, and resilience has become more important than ever. Communities need to see both global and local challenges not simply as someone else's concerns, but as matters that belong to all of us. In this context, ICH can provide a valuable foundation for reconnecting communities and strengthening solidarity, especially in times of social crisis.

ICH is not simply a relic of the past to be preserved. It is a living source of identity, wisdom, creativity, and solidarity that connects people and generations. It fosters hospitality and understanding among different cultures, helps restore relationships, and provides communities with a sense of direction in a rapidly changing world.

Moreover, in an era of climate crisis and social conflict, ICH carries the accumulated wisdom of communities in adapting to change and sustaining their ways of life. It is not only a source of cultural diversity and creativity, but also a valuable resource for building resilient communities and promoting peace. In this light, Jeonju City and JIAPICH play an important role in reconnecting communities through ICH and sharing its value with the world. I deeply appreciate their continued commitment to this meaningful journey.

Today's ceremony is especially meaningful as we honor organizations that have dedicated themselves to peace and community restoration through ICH in Colombia and Palestine. Their work demonstrates that culture can transcend conflict and become a powerful force for healing, reconciliation, and solidarity.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to this year's winners: Saranga Puppet Group from Sri Lanka, Embodying Reconciliation from Colombia, and Sunbula from Palestine. I also express my deepest respect to all 125 applicants from around the world who continue to safeguard and transmit ICH.

Finally, on behalf of the Jury Committee, I sincerely thank Mayor Cho Jihun and the City of Jeonju for establishing JIAPICH in 2019, Director Hahm Hanhee and the staff of the Center for Intangible Culture Studies, and the citizens of Jeonju for their continued support.

I hope that today's awards will serve as a new starting point for intangible cultural heritage—moving beyond division toward reconciliation, beyond conflict toward solidarity, and toward a more peaceful and sustainable future.

Thank you.

Choi Donghwan
Chair of the Jury Committee

JIAPICH Finalists from Previous Year



2019
Ahmed Skounti
Morocco



2019
Contact Base
India



2019
Heritage Foundation of NL
Canada



2020
ASAMA
Burkina Faso



2020
Hieu Duc Vu
Viet Nam



2020
Impacto
Mexico



2021
Dil Kumar Barahi
Nepal



2021
El Felze
Italy



2021
Shirinbek Davlatmamadov
Tajikistan



2022
Anka Raic
Bosnia Herzegovina



2022
Ifugao Museum
The Philippines



2022
Serfenta
Poland



2023
Art for Refugees in Transition
USA



2023
Rural Development
Kyrgyzstan



2023
Woodfordia Inc.
Australia



2024
The Foundation of Koble
Cote d'Ivoire



2024
Roya Taghiyeva
Azerbaijan



2024
ACAIPi
Colombia



2025
Wayang Sasak Puppetry School
Indonesia



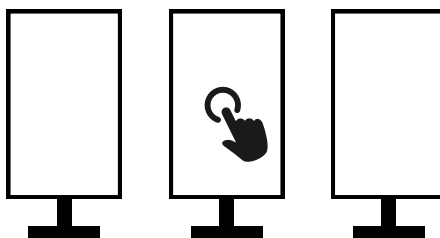
2025
Iepé
Brazil



2025
Keshet NGO
Israel

Kiosk Touchscreen

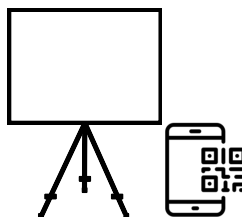
Explore the Exhibition on the Touchscreen



Tap the screen to explore the exhibition at your own pace.
Select the materials that interest you to discover a variety of images and information.
Scan the QR code below each image to learn more about the photographs and records.

QR Code

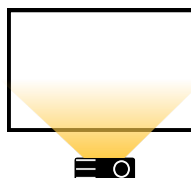
Scan the QR Code for More Information



Scan the QR code to go directly to the online detailed page for each heritage item.
Click the icon of the relevant country to listen to the audio guide.

Media Projection

Experience the ICH of the World Beyond the Screen



Discover the vibrant expressions of ICH from around the world through immersive audiovisual content.
Experience moments of solidarity and inspiration in safeguarding ICH through highlights from the eight-year history of the JIAPICH.

1. What is the JIAPICH Digital Archive?

Q Why should the records of the JIAPICH be archived digitally?

A The JIAPICH recognizes individuals and organizations worldwide who safeguard ICH, while its Digital Archive preserves their activities, achievements, and stories in an accessible and searchable digital format.

The stories of those who have safeguarded ICH now live on in the digital space.
Explore the people and stories behind the heritage.

Q Where can I find the JIAPICH Digital Archive?

A The archive is built on a database and can be easily accessed through the kiosk. In the future, it will also be available online, allowing users to explore diverse stories and materials anytime, anywhere.

Q How can I easily explore the archive?

A Use the kiosk touchscreen to quickly search through award recipients, nominees, annual award information, photographs, and videos.

No complicated searching. Explore the history of JIAPICH at your fingertips.

2. How Was the JIAPICH Digital Archive Created?

Collecting Materials

- Collect materials
- Collect photos· videos
- Event Records

Organizing Records

- Organize by year · recipient
- Recipient Activities
- Write descriptions

Database

- Add metadata
- Build database
- Create web database

Kiosk

- Integrate with Database
- Enable search
- Public access

3. How Can the Archive Be Used?

For Citizens

Explore the history and activities of past award recipients and experience the stories of ICH through Jeonju's representative events.

For Education

Use ICH materials and international cultural heritage content as educational resources to learn about sustainable cultural heritage practices.

For Research & Academic

ICH-related research materials
policy documents
academic and research resources

For the Future

Preserve JIAPICH's history and document Jeonju's efforts to safeguard ICH, creating a foundation for sharing its stories with the world.

The 2026 JIAPICH would not have been possible without the support of our valued partners, institutions, and experts from diverse fields who have shared their vision for the future, dedicated their time and expertise, and provided generous support.

The leadership of the Mayor of Jeonju and the National Heritage Management Division of Jeonju City, together with their unwavering commitment to cultural heritage, has been a cornerstone of JIAPICH's continued success.

We would also like to extend our special thanks to the Ambassadors of the JIAPICH. Their enthusiastic support and dedicated efforts have helped further strengthen JIAPICH's international standing. Thanks to these collective efforts, JIAPICH achieved unprecedented milestones in 2026.

Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to the institutions and experts listed below for their generous encouragement and cooperation, and for sharing their invaluable knowledge and insights.

Ahmed Skounti	Amareswar Galla	Aye Min Oo
Cha Boyong	Choi Donghwan	Choi Hana
Choi Younghwa	Cristina Amescua	Gabriele Desiderio
Ghil'ad Zuckermann	Jeong Sungmi	Jessica Rossi
Jorijn Neyrinck	Jorge Gustavo Caicedo	Ki Leonce
Kim Eunjeong	Kim Mingyu	Kim Yonggu
Laurier Turgeon	Noriko Aikawa-Fare	On Kat Kanya
Paulina Adamska, Łucja Cieślak Ula Szwed (Serfenta)	Robert Baron	
Sara Green	Saverio Pastor	SEDE Donatien
Tamara Nikolić Đerić		

Korean UNESCO Accredited NGOs

IMACO	Korea Heritage Agency	WoMau
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Their dedication and expertise continue to inspire communities around the world working to safeguard and promote ICH.



Jeonju
International Awards
for Promoting
Intangible Cultural Heritage

JIAPICH.ORG

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Host



Organizer

CICS

UNESCO Accredited NGO
The Center for Intangible Culture Studies

