

Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Years of Culture Delegation Advances Cultural Diplomacy in Santiago and Buenos Aires

30 September 2025 – Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile: A high-level delegation from Years of Culture, Qatar's flagship cultural diplomacy initiative, has wrapped up a series of landmark engagements in Buenos Aires and is continuing its mission in Santiago. The visit comes at a defining moment for Qatar's cultural diplomacy, showcasing how the Gulf state is deepening ties with Latin America ahead of an ambitious programme that will unfold across both regions.

Led by H.E. Mohammed Al Kuwari, former Ambassador of Qatar to Mexico and Advisor on Latin American Affairs for Years of Culture, the delegation arrived in Argentina to coincide with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra's historic debut at Teatro Colón. Demand for the performance was so overwhelming that the theatre opened its standing-only sections for the first time in decades, a powerful symbol of the resonance of Qatari cultural institutions on the global stage.

During its stay in Buenos Aires, the delegation unveiled the Spring Programme of the Year of Culture, headlined by the Doha Debates Town Hall on the future of cities, which brought together students from Argentina, Chile, and Qatar for an energetic discussion on architecture, urbanism, and sustainability. The programme also launched CultuRide, an unprecedented cross-border cycling initiative linking Argentina and Chile across the Andes, alongside the expansion of the International Volunteer Exchange, which mobilised participants from Qatar and Argentina to begin grassroots community projects that will now continue in Matanzas, Chile.

Beyond cultural programming, the delegation explored Argentina's innovation and business ecosystem. Meetings at Innovation Park introduced Qatari representatives to startups working on AI, energy, and communications, while discussions with leading Argentine exporters and designers, from logistics and food production to textiles and furniture, opened fresh avenues for bilateral trade and cultural exchange. The support of the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Buenos Aires was instrumental in ensuring the success of these dialogues.

In Santiago, the delegation's agenda has emphasised public cultural dialogue and creative exchange. A media evening with Alejandro Aravena, the Pritzker Prize-winning architect behind Doha's upcoming Art Mill Museum, sparked conversations on adaptive reuse and sustainability in global urbanism. The delegation also met with Chilean designers Guido Vera and the Munay Sisters, whose innovative approaches to contemporary fashion and craft will soon be showcased in Doha, further cementing the cultural bridge between Qatar and Chile.

Looking ahead, the visit laid the foundation for a series of forthcoming collaborations: large-scale mural projects in both Buenos Aires and Santiago; a heritage conservation workshop in Valparaíso in partnership with ICCROM; and a new library exchange programme between Centro Cultural La Moneda and Qatar National Library focused on archival practices and cultural preservation.

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About Years of Culture

The Years of Culture initiative, chaired by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, spearheads long-lasting cultural partnerships between Qatar and other nations. It exists to

promote respect and understanding among diverse cultures and serves as a catalyst for bringing people together, nurturing connections, encouraging dialogue, and deepening understanding. At its heart, Years of Culture celebrates the power of cultural exchange, which enriches Qatar's ties with partner countries beyond the dedicated year.

Each year is organised with support from Qatar and partner countries' cultural institutions, ministries, foundations, and private and public sector partners, with assistance from Embassies in Qatar and abroad. Programmes are tailored to explore the unique nature of each partner country with a focus on cultural heritage, creative industries, social and economic development, and innovation.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, Qatar-USA 2021, Qatar-MENASA 2022, Qatar-Indonesia 2023, and Qatar-Morocco 2024.

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