



## MANIFESTO

In 2021, Associação Sons da Lusofonia (ASL), as a non-profit cultural association, formally celebrated 25 years of activity. In this context, we think it's time to look back over its history and remember the achievements made in high-quality projects, the immense challenges, the battles lost, and many others won over time, the work for personal and intercultural integration, the creation of authentic and courageous communities, transformation through art or the visibilisation of creators and communities from various cultural backgrounds who inhabit cities.

Founded in 1996, ASL's main goals were initially to give visibility to the musical and cultural wealth of Portuguese-speaking peoples, to the multicultural heritage of Lusophony, transposing values to urban centres where cultural diversity is a constant. But it also set out to carry out creative projects in the field of music and the performing arts at the intersection of urban social life, designing cultural content and programmes that would define a contemporary vision of the creative relationship between cultures and peoples, combining social intervention and global education with the performing arts, including expressive behaviour, which are true bridges for interaction between communities, people, and the arts. Since its foundation, one of the ASL's main objectives has been to contribute to co-operation between geoculturally diverse countries, promoting the development of an identity based on traditions, common or not, oriented towards the future - creating a platform for communication between generations and groups with different and sometimes contradictory cultural habits and heritages. Since its foundation, the Association has fought discrimination based on the discriminatory factors that plague the Western world and that have grown within the discourses of indifference.

ASL then also brought jazz to its home, thus promoting a social and artistic intervention that is attentive to change and transposing improvisation into social creativity. We believe it is imperative to work towards guaranteeing individual freedoms for all and equally, intercultural dialogues, ensuring policies of equality between individuals and access to culture as an inexhaustible source of human development. ASL also sees itself as an association committed to the causes associated with Democracy and Freedom, seeking to provide tools for the creation of spaces for citizenship that blur the boundaries between high and low culture.

By disseminating the diversity and artistic wealth of people and groups from different geocultural and social backgrounds, promoting intercultural dialogue and education for citizenship, ASL has been providing a real public service in that it contributes to the creation of a culturally active society that brings together the various communities that make it up.

ASL is and will always be at the disposal of those who want to make the world a better place.

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Carlos Martins

President of the Sons da Lusofonia Association