



Lyon: where culture makes bold strides

An invitation to experience Lyon's cultural energy,
where heritage meets innovation

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Key figures

CULTURAL VENUES IN LYON:

75 conservatories and schools of music, dance, cinema, theater and circus supported by the Lyon Metropolitan Area

40 concert halls

1,8 M visitors to museums in 2023

90 libraries and media libraries

MAJOR EVENTS IN THE REGION:

"NUITS SONORES"

165 000

festival-goers in 2024

"FÊTE DES LUMIÈRES"

2 M

visitors in 2023

"NUITS DE FOURVIÈRE"

165 000

spectators in 2024

"FESTIVAL LUMIÈRE"

166 000

festival-goers in 2023

"QUAIS DU POLAR"

100 000

participants

Lyon: an open-air museum, where history meets modernity

Lyon, a city with over a thousand years of history, offers visitors a unique cultural journey through both time and space. From its Gallo-Roman roots to its industrial growth, the city's history is reflected in its architecture, streets, and squares. Every stone, every façade tells a story, making Lyon a true open-air museum.

From the ancient ruins of Fourvière to the modern Confluence district, via the traboules of Vieux Lyon and the murals of *Cité Création*, Lyon invites you to take an urban stroll where art and history blend seamlessly. The tour concludes in style at *Musée des Confluences*, a contemporary showcase of Lyon's ability to embrace the challenges of the modern world while staying true to its origins.

Lyon's heritage is much more than just a legacy: it's a living, ever-evolving treasure. In Lyon, heritage is not static; it's constantly reinvented through cultural initiatives, making every walk a new discovery.



Fête des Lumières de Lyon: an annual enchantment

Every December, Lyon is illuminated with thousands of lights to celebrate the Fête des Lumières. Over the decades, the event has transformed from a religious tradition into an internationally renowned cultural and artistic festival.

Since the 1990s, the City of Lyon has invited artists from around the world to create light installations that take over many of the city's streets. Today, nearly 2 million visitors come to experience the Fête des Lumières, drawn by the magic of the illuminations and the unique atmosphere of the festival. While the tradition of lighting up the city on December 8 remains a central element of the celebration, the artistic installations have continued to evolve and become ever more complex. Spectacular light displays now fill streets, squares, and monuments, offering visitors a truly magical experience.

With sustainability in mind, the City of Lyon has implemented strict measures to reduce the environmental impact of *Fête des Lumières*. To strike a balance between enchantment and ecology, the city prioritizes the use of low-energy lighting technologies.

The 25th edition of **Fête des Lumières** takes place from December 5 to 8, 2024.

Nuits de Fourvière: a summer under the stars

Each summer, the ancient Fourvière Theatre, a jewel of Roman architecture, hosts the Nuits de Fourvière festival. This internationally acclaimed event offers an eclectic mix of music, theatre, dance, and circus. Set in an exceptional venue, audiences can enjoy high-quality performances and experience powerful emotions.

With over 100 shows in music, theatre, dance, circus, and opera, the festival invites attendees to be surprised by the diversity of artistic expression. Audiences will discover not only their favorite headliners but also new performances and emerging artists, both international and local. It's a chance to come together, to share in the magic, and to enrich oneself through encounters with others.

In 2025, the **Nuits de Fourvière** festival will take place between June and July.

Quais du Polar: a literary investigation

Every year, thriller fans gather in Lyon for the *Quais du Polar* festival. This unique event immerses visitors in the world of crime fiction, with author meetings, exhibitions, events, and a major urban investigation where participants are invited to solve a mystery as they explore the city.

Quais du Polar has become the must-attend event for thriller fans in France. Now a staple of the French and European cultural scene, the festival is recognized by both professionals in the book and publishing industries and the public, who come in ever-growing numbers.

The 21st edition of the **Quais du Polar** festival will take place from Friday, April 4 to Sunday, April 6, 2025.

PORTRAIT:

Séverine Jardin, *CitéCréation's* new lease on life

In 2020, Séverine Jardin took the helm of *CitéCréation*, bringing fresh energy to the company. With 22 years of experience in design and spatial planning, she has a strong artistic and technical foundation. A graduate of the Beaux-Arts de Rennes and the *École d'Art d'Annecy*, she masters every stage of a project, from conception to completion. Her diploma in Building and Civil Engineering gives her additional expertise in construction and development.

CitéCréation, a leading name in mural art in France, has established its distinctive style worldwide. Based in Lyon since 1983, *CitéCréation* is renowned for its expertise in monumental murals. Working closely with local authorities and residents, the collective designs and creates artistic projects that integrate seamlessly into their surroundings. Beyond their visual appeal, these works play a crucial social role, strengthening community bonds and revitalizing neighborhoods.

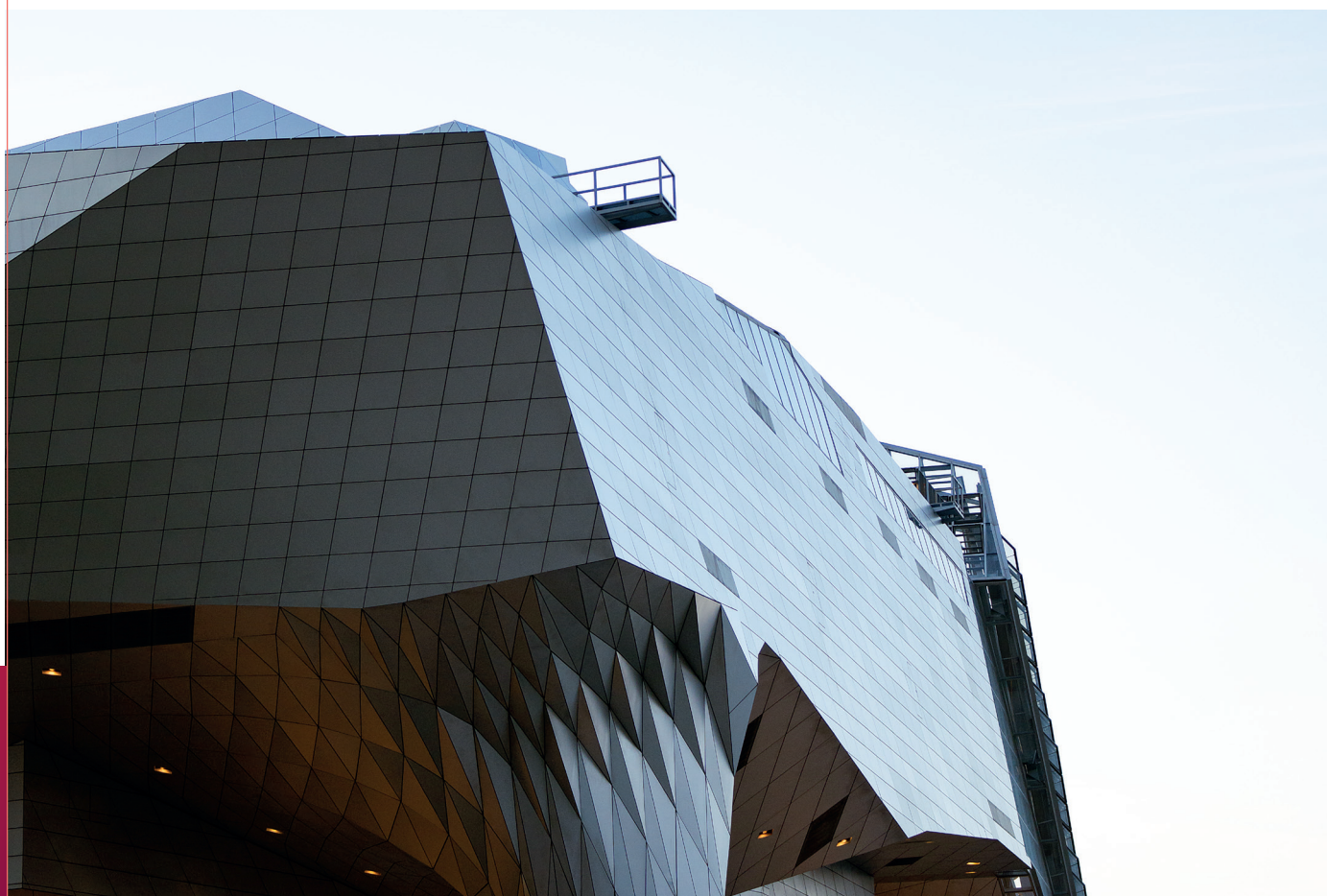
Lyon is a city that lives and breathes art. Every wall is a potential canvas, every public space an opportunity for creative expression. *CitéCréation* is committed to making urban art a medium for social interaction and the enhancement of heritage. Through its monumental artwork, *CitéCréation* contributes to transforming the city, making it more vibrant and beautiful.



A cultural ambition: for a shared culture

Culture in Lyon is fundamentally about encounters and sharing. The city's cultural institutions are dedicated to fostering social connections and encouraging exchanges between artists and audiences. By offering a variety of events and adapting to the needs of the public, Lyon strives to be a city where culture is a true driver of development.

With a rich and diverse program, Lyon invites everyone to explore art in all its forms. From the Biennale d'art contemporain, which explores the most avant-garde trends and spans the entire city, to the Auditorium de Lyon, offering top-tier classical music programming and initiatives aimed at reaching a wider audience, not to mention the many other events throughout the year, the city presents a comprehensive cultural landscape. By making art a shared experience, Lyon underscores its ambition to be a city where culture is accessible to all and where everyone can find their place.



The Lyon Biennial: a key event on the international art scene

The Lyon Biennial of Contemporary Art, one of the five most important in the world, serves as a powerful ambassador for the city. In 2024, the 17th Biennale de Lyon will present an edition titled *La voie des fleuves*, inviting the public to explore the city and its surroundings through a fresh artistic lens. The Biennale offers an extensive range of works throughout the city, aiming to involve visitors directly in the artistic experience. By engaging residents in the creation of the works, the Biennale strengthens its ties to the community and democratizes contemporary art.

This edition further reinforces the Biennale's regional involvement, with artistic interventions proposed at around fifteen venues across the Lyon metropolitan area and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. Artists have collaborated with volunteers to produce their creations, directly involving local populations in the creative process. To make the event even more accessible, special rates are offered, along with guided tours and workshops for children.

The 2024 edition of the **Lyon Biennial of Contemporary Art**, *La voie des fleuves*, will run from September 21, 2024, to January 5, 2025.



PORTRAIT:

Sabine Longin, new general director of the Lyon Biennial: a rich career at the service of an emblematic institution

Appointed as the new head of the Lyon Biennial in June 2024, Sabine Longin brings a wealth of experience to this prestigious institution. With a varied career that includes roles such as Director of the Giacometti Foundation and Cultural Advisor to the French Embassy in Qatar, she has quickly established herself as a key figure in the French cultural scene.

Her appointment as General Manager of the Lyon Biennial which includes both the dance and contemporary art biennials, marks a new chapter in her career. Fully aware of the challenges faced by this international event, Sabine Longin's goal is to preserve its renowned status while adapting it to the evolving art world. Her ambition is to make the Lyon Biennial an unmissable event for art and dance enthusiasts, drawing an ever-growing audience.

By appointing prominent figures in their respective fields, Isabelle Bertolotti and Tiago Guedes, to direct the artistic aspects of the two biennials, Sabine Longin is reaffirming her commitment to promoting contemporary creation while relying on a strong network of partners. Her forward-thinking approach promises to inject new energy into the Lyon Biennial.

The Lyon Auditorium: programming to suit all tastes

The Auditorium-Orchestre national de Lyon offers a unique artistic experience accessible to all. From grand symphonies to original creations, as well as workshops and special encounters with artists, the wide range of cultural events allows everyone to fully immerse themselves in music. The Auditorium, an architectural gem of the 20th century, houses a 2,000-seat concert hall, a century-old symphony orchestra, and a magnificent Cavaillé-Coll organ, which is a true relic from the 1878 Universal Exhibition.

For over twenty years, the Auditorium-Orchestre national de Lyon has been dedicated to making music accessible to everyone. Through a variety of educational and participatory programs, the institution encourages all ages to discover, practice, and create music. As a leading venue for classical music, the Auditorium is not just for connoisseurs. With initiatives like *Midis de l'AO* and *siestes musicales*, it offers opportunities for musical discovery, even during lunch breaks. Additionally, cine-concerts introduce younger audiences to classical music, bridging the gap between different art forms.

All the programming at the Lyon Auditorium can be found here:

<https://www.auditorium-lyon.com/fr>

A cultural ecosystem in constant motion

Lyon Metropole, long known for its historical and industrial heritage, is now a major player on both the French and international cultural scenes. Its creative dynamism is evident in the emergence of new venues, the revitalization of emblematic sites, and a rich and diverse artistic program.

This cultural vitality results from several factors: a proactive policy by public authorities to encourage innovative projects, a dense and creative network of associations, and a population increasingly eager for new artistic experiences. Lyon has embraced the opportunities offered by globalization and digitalization to position itself as an essential cultural destination, attracting artists, creators, and visitors from all over the world.

This creative abundance is reflected in the city's wide-ranging cultural offerings, from the visual arts to music, performing arts, and heritage. Numerous museums, theaters, concert halls, and exhibition spaces contribute to making Lyon a city where art and culture are omnipresent





Les Grandes Locos: a new cultural hub not to be missed

Inaugurated in May 2024, *Les Grandes Locos* has quickly found its place in Lyon's cultural landscape. Housed in former SNCF workshops, this vast complex offers an eclectic program ranging from concerts to cultural and artistic exhibitions. Events like *Les Nuits Sonores*, the Lyon Street Food Festival, and the *Biennale de Lyon* have all found a fitting venue here.

The rehabilitation of this industrial site, carried out with a transitional urban planning approach, has created a vibrant and dynamic space accessible to all. Contributing to the revitalization of La Mulatière, the site stands as a living tribute to the history of French railways.

Discover more about **Grandes Locos**.

LDLC Arena: A multi-purpose venue at the heart of the metropolitan area

Located in Décines-Charpieu, the LDLC Arena is a premier sports and cultural venue. Opened at the end of 2023, it has quickly become a key facility in the Lyon metropolitan area. With a capacity of up to 16,000 spectators, this versatile venue hosts a wide range of events, including concerts, sports competitions, and cultural performances, with between 100 and 120 events taking place annually. Its modern architecture and state-of-the-art technology make it the perfect location for major events.

The LDLC Arena's financing relies on a mixed economic model, combining both public and private funding. This model has enabled the mobilization of significant resources, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the venue.

Lugdunum - Roman Museum and Theaters: A Historic Museum Undergoing a Renaissance

The *Musée Lugdunum*, an archaeological treasure trove, invites visitors to explore the history of Lyon and Roman Gaul. Founded in 1975 and part of the UNESCO-listed Roman theaters site since 2017, the museum offers a unique experience that blends history, culture, and heritage. With one of France's richest archaeological collections, it provides an immersive insight into Lyon's Gallo-Roman past.

Thanks to its dynamic temporary exhibitions and events, such as the Roman Festival and European Heritage Days, the museum attracts new visitors every year. It also offers free admission on summer weekends and the first Sunday of each month. These efforts have paid off, with record-breaking visitor numbers—over 918,000 people visited in 2023.

ZOOM ON:

Lugdunum and the Louvre: A Unique Encounter with the Roman Empire

The collaboration between the *Musée Lugdunum* and the *Musée du Louvre* is a remarkable achievement, underscoring Lyon's international standing. The temporary exhibition *Un Empire, des peuples* is a major event that highlights the ambition and dynamism of the *Musée Lugdunum*. Through the stories of six key figures, the exhibition offers an unprecedented look at the cultural diversity of the Roman Empire.

Showcasing exceptional works, the exhibition provides a truly unique experience for the public. This collaboration is the result of years of effort and emphasizes the importance of partnerships between cultural institutions to enrich the cultural landscape and showcase France's heritage.

The exhibition **UN EMPIRE, DES PEUPLES** will run from October 4, 2024, to June 1, 2025..



Committed Players: Advocating for a Culture Accessible to All

Lyon's cultural scene does more than entertain — it plays an active role in building a fairer and more sustainable society. Both established and emerging cultural players in the city are driving innovative initiatives to create positive change and reduce their environmental impact. More than just artistic creation, they place inclusion, diversity, and ecological transition at the heart of their priorities.

Lyon's cultural life is brimming with initiatives that push creative boundaries. These efforts go together with a commitment to making cultural practices more sustainable and inclusive.



Arty Farty: A Pioneer of Inclusive and Sustainable Culture

Founded in 1999, the non-profit organization Arty Farty has become a landmark on Lyon's cultural scene. Best known for its Nuits Sonores festival, it has established itself as a key player in promoting electronic music across Europe. The association is deeply committed to inclusion and diversity, providing emerging artists with a platform for expression and developing cultural projects that are accessible to all audiences.

Arty Farty is also actively involved in European initiatives, such as the Reset! Network project, launched in 2022 with support from the EU. By creating a European network of independent cultural players, Arty Farty helps to strengthen cultural diversity in Europe and advocates for values like freedom of expression and equality.

Arty Farty

CCO La Rayonne: A Living and Creative Space Open to All

La Rayonne is a cultural venue that includes a concert hall and a third-location center managed by the *Centre Culturel Œcuménique* (CCO) in the heart of Villeurbanne's *Autre Soie* district. A cultural pioneer in Lyon since 1963, the CCO is a non-profit organization that has always prioritized people and diversity. Thanks to the dedication of its teams, the CCO continues to explore new avenues and propose innovative projects.

The *Autre Soie* urban development project, which houses *La Rayonne*, is an ambitious endeavor that reinvents the art of living together. With 293 housing units, a 1,000-seat concert hall, coworking spaces, artistic workshops, and a public park, this unique site offers a wide range of unparalleled experiences for both residents and visitors. As the project aptly puts it, "Culture helps forge a link between everyone", making *Autre Soie* a special space for encounters and exchanges.

Opening in 2023, CCO *La Rayonne* is much more than just a concert hall. It is a true living space where culture, creation, and citizenship come together. With a strong focus on sustainability, *La Rayonne* contributes to the ecological transition by incorporating innovative energy-efficient solutions and waste management practices.

La Rayonne celebrated its first anniversary in 2024.

The Opéra de Lyon: A Committed Player in the Ecological Transition

The *Opéra de Lyon* is a prime example of a cultural institution dedicated to sustainable development. By implementing an ambitious environmental policy, the Opéra is reducing its ecological footprint while offering high-quality programming. The environmental transition strategy is based on three key pillars, both territorial and sector-specific:

- 1. "Nourish the imagination, give birth to new narrative":** The *Opéra de Lyon* aims to promote artistic creation and make the art of opera accessible to all. This is achieved through adapted solutions, cultural mediation initiatives, and touring performances (with initiatives such as flexible pricing, free events, and cultural programs for young audiences...).
- 2. "Thinking up a new model for the production and distribution of works":** The second pillar contributes to transforming the models for producing works: favoring a collaborative financing approach for new productions with other opera houses, ensuring a broad number of performances on a European scale, and focusing on eco-design for sets...

3. "Reducing carbon footprint, boosting energy efficiency": The Opéra is committed to reducing waste (currently serving as a pilot site for the City of Lyon's «zero waste» initiative), improving the energy performance of its buildings, and integrating environmental criteria into its purchasing practices (such as reducing water and energy consumption, replacing over 90% of lighting with LEDs, etc.).

The Opéra de Lyon's Comprehensive Environmental Commitment

Woodstower: A Festival Committed to the Environment and Accessibility

For 25 years, the Woodstower festival has been a must-attend event, offering a diverse program that blends rap, electro, shows, stand-up comedy, conferences, workshops, and entertainment, featuring over 50 established and emerging artists. Held every summer for four days on the shores of Grand Parc Miribel Jonage lake, the festival showcases a mix of genres, such as electro and rap, bringing together both international and regional talent.

Since its creation, Woodstower has made the environment and accessibility central to its mission, earning its place as one of the Top 5 eco-friendly festivals in France. The festival takes concrete steps to reduce its environmental impact, using recycled materials, managing waste, and providing access to drinking water. Woodstower is also committed to making the festival accessible to all audiences. It offers reduced rates (€25 for a day pass instead of €45) for residents of nearby communities, ensuring the event is more affordable for the local public, and providing accessibility for people with disabilities, including adapted toilets and accessible podiums. Woodstower proves that it is possible to organize a major event while addressing both environmental and social issues.



Nurturing Tomorrow's Talent: A New Generation of Artists

Lyon, home to creators from all backgrounds, continues to cultivate its fertile ground to nurture the talents of tomorrow. The city has established itself as a thriving creative ecosystem, where training institutions, spaces for expression, and places for creating art are all within easy reach.

Citizen initiatives come together to offer artists an environment in which they can truly thrive. Thanks to a dense network of art schools, conservatories, and creative hubs, Lyon is shaping a new generation of artists with cutting-edge skills and innovative visions. These talent incubators, true laboratories for experimentation, help shape the city's artistic identity and extend its influence beyond its borders.

Institutions of Excellence at the Service of Creation

CNSMD Lyon

A benchmark in the world of music and dance, Lyon's *Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse* (CNSMD) trains the next generation of talent for the artistic stage. By forging strong connections with professionals in the field, the CNSMD prepares its students for a demanding artistic career and equips them with the tools to succeed in the international cultural arena.

Ensba

As a center of excellence in visual arts and design, the *École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon* supports students in their artistic journey. By providing a framework that fosters experimentation and innovation, Ensba helps new forms of artistic expression come to life.

CinéFabrique

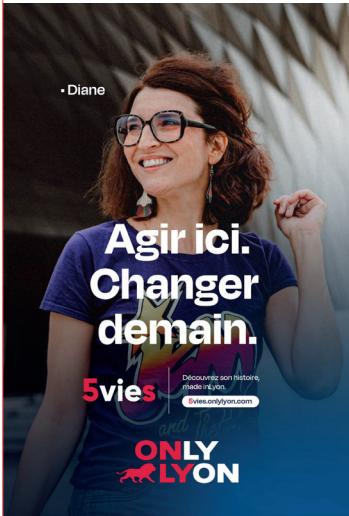
This unique film school offers free, accessible training to all, promoting diversity and inclusion in the audiovisual industry. By training professionals capable of telling original, socially engaged stories, *CinéFabrique* contributes to enriching the French cinematic landscape.

An International City of Circus Arts: A Large-Scale Project

By 2028, the region will be home to the *Cité Internationale des Arts du Cirque*, an ambitious project that will strengthen the region's position as a major hub for artistic creation. This unique venue will bring together training schools, circus companies, and spaces for creation and distribution, providing circus artists with an exceptional platform to develop their talents.

This city will serve as a true catalyst for the growth of circus arts in France and internationally, fostering exchanges between artists, researchers, and audiences.

Diane Le Feyer: A Committed Artist at the Heart of the Lyon Scene



Born in Romans-sur-Isère, Diane Le Feyer was quickly drawn to Lyon, a city that welcomed her and where she chose to thrive. Diane Le Feyer is the perfect embodiment of Lyon's new generation of artists. Drawing inspiration from the city's rich cultural heritage, she creates original works that challenge our relationship with the world and with one another. Her career is a testament to the vibrancy of Lyon's art scene and the city's ability to nurture emerging talent.

A graduate of the *École Émile-Cohl*, she immersed herself in the creative and innovative spirit that defines this Lyon institution. Today, as a teacher at the school, she shares her passion with new generations of artists while continuing to create. She guides young artists on their creative journey, providing them with the tools they need to develop their own artistic vision. Diane Le Feyer is also a committed artist who believes in using art as a means of connection and dialogue. She regularly organizes workshops and exhibitions, allowing a wide audience to discover her work and learn about the creative process.

Lyon: A Culture That Brings People Together

Lyon, a city of a thousand faces, is a true showcase for artistic creation. From its Gallo-Roman origins to the present day, the city has preserved an exceptional heritage while constantly reinventing itself. Today, Lyon is a dynamic metropolis where tradition and modernity blend seamlessly.

As the birthplace of the Fête des Lumières and the Nuits de Fourvière, Lyon has become a key player on the international cultural scene. Its many museums, theaters, and exhibition spaces offer a rich and diverse program that caters to all tastes. The city is also a fertile ground for emerging talents, who find here an environment that encourages experimentation and innovation.

By making substantial investments in culture, Lyon is laying the groundwork for a promising future. The creation of new cultural spaces, such as the Grandes Locos, is a testament to the city's commitment to using culture as a driver of economic and social development. At the same time, the region and its cultural players are committed to ecological transition, promoting more sustainable cultural practices and raising public awareness of environmental issues.

From Place des Terreaux to Confluence, through the historic districts of Vieux Lyon, the city offers a unique cultural experience where history meets contemporary art. Lyon is also a city that beats to the rhythm of its festivals and events, creating strong social bonds between residents and visitors.

Lyon is a creative hub where the arts constantly blend and reinvent themselves. In addition to what we've highlighted here, the city boasts a rich contemporary art scene, from the street art that decorates its walls to the dance that takes shape in all its forms. Lyon's cultural players, driven by a passion for accessibility and commitment, offer a vibrant and diverse program that showcases the city's unparalleled cultural vitality.



About ONLYLYON

ONLYLYON is the brand and program dedicated to promoting and mobilizing the Lyon metropolitan area, its stakeholders, and partners. Founded under a collegial governance structure, it operates through a network of several thousand ambassadors and around twenty partners, all united in their commitment to enhancing the region's influence and supporting its transition.

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