

Gayane Umerova

Gayane Umerova is dedicated to developing the culture sector in Uzbekistan.

Driven by a deep passion for arts and culture, and the belief in their power to enrich society, she is at the forefront of building Uzbekistan's cultural infrastructure. Gayane Umerova is Head of the Department of Creative Economy and Tourism of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chairperson of the Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation (ACDF) and Chairperson of the 25th session of the UNESCO General Assembly.

Her efforts are bringing the nation's art, artists, and cultural heritage into the global spotlight. Currently, she is overseeing the restoration and development of the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) in Tashkent, opening in March 2026 which is poised to become a new cultural hub for the region, and is driving the construction of the new National Museum of Uzbekistan designed by Tadao Ando, set to become an architectural and symbolic landmark in the heart of Tashkent. Gayane Umerova commissioned the inaugural Bukhara Biennial (5 September - 20 November 2025) which welcomed over a million visitors to the city, connecting the world with the local community of Bukhara, its artists and artisans. She has also spearheaded the inaugural Aral Culture Summit (April 4-6, 2025) bringing together global experts to work towards ecological and cultural renewal for the region.

Committed to boosting Uzbekistan's prominence on the international culture scene, Gayane Umerova was central in encouraging UNESCO to make the landmark decision to host its 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand on 30 October - 13 November 2025. She serves as the Chairperson of the National Commission of Uzbekistan on UNESCO Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers and in April 2025 has been



awarded France's Order of Arts and Literature. Her public service commitment is evident in her dedication to creating opportunities for young people in Uzbekistan's cultural sector and fostering a cultural economy that unites communities and generations.

Throughout her career, Gayane Umerova has tirelessly worked to elevate Uzbekistan's art on the global stage. She has been instrumental to bringing pioneering exhibitions of Uzbek art and culture to prestigious institutions worldwide and showcasing the works of major international artists in Uzbekistan. She is the commissioner for the Uzbekistan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale Arte and Architettura since 2021 as well as for Uzbekistan's participation in Expo 2025 Osaka, among other significant projects.

Under Gayane Umerova's direction, Uzbekistan's cultural heritage was first showcased at the Louvre and the Arab World Institute in 2022. She also organised an exhibition of archaeological artifacts at the James Simon Gallery in Berlin in 2023, led two exhibitions in China and brought the *Craft of Uzbekistan: Traditions in Threads* exhibition to Design Doha Biennale in 2024. For the first time, *Uzbekistan: Avant-Garde in the Desert, Light and Colour* and *Uzbekistan: Avant-Garde in the Desert, Form and Symbol* exhibitions are currently on display at the Uffizi Gallery and Ca Foscari. A groundbreaking exhibition on Uzbekistan's culture and heritage, Silk Roads, opened at The British Museum in autumn 2024. She also hosted the World Conference on Creative Economy for the first time in Uzbekistan in October 2024. In 2017 Gayane Umerova launched *Tashkent Modernism XX/XXI*, an ongoing research project documenting and protecting the city's modernist architecture. To support this project, she commissioned two significant publications in collaboration with Rizzoli New York (November 2024) and Lars Müller Publishers (May 2025)

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