

# RISE UP— FOR

We, the global nighttime community,  
seek a safer, more resilient and sustainable nighttime.

For too long, life at night has been undervalued.

Nightlife is culture.  
Nightlife is built by the people, for the people.  
Nightlife drives new, transformative realities for people and places.

# A BETTER FUTURE

We celebrate those who have not given up on the night,  
in the most challenging of times.

Driven by unity, we commit to making the night  
something we can be proud of.

Through shared values. With a shared culture. For a shared future.

# FOR NIGHTLIFE

# RISE UP FOR A BETTER FUTURE

We, members of the global nighttime community, seek a safer, more resilient and sustainable nighttime. Driven by a **calling** for our creative pursuits and **responsibility** towards our communities and spaces, we commit to fostering a nightlife culture that we can be proud of—and for nightlife to continue being impactful for individuals, communities, scenes, and cities in the future.

Two years into the Covid-19 pandemic, 120 of us—visionaries from nightlife communities around the world—came together to share our aspirations for the future of nightlife and the road we commit to taking us there:

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## We stand for a night that is...

### Aware...

Whereby we educate our communities and engage with the wider cultural, political, economic, and environmental concerns of the time.

### Communal...

Whereby our communities are accepting, safe, and accountable and our efforts are driven by collective interests.

### Creative...

Whereby artistic and innovative endeavors are fostered and our actions are driven by creative imagination.

### Safe...

Whereby our spaces, activities, and work cater to the wellness and wellbeing of our communities.

### Sustainable...

Whereby our actions prioritize our scenes' social, cultural, financial, and environmental sustainability.

## **We rise to...**

**Bridging the gaps between nightlife communities and other stakeholders** through equitable avenues for dialogue and exchange and official positions that represent the interests of nightlife communities.

**Ensuring the safety of our communities and scenes** through the promotion of sexual health and wellness, diversity and inclusion, harm reduction, and safety at night.

**Fostering the next generation of nightlife visionaries and advocates** through socially responsible education and increasing access to scenes for people from underrepresented and marginalized communities.

**Improving the working conditions of the nightlife industry** through the protection of workers' financial, mental, physical, and social wellbeing.

**Raising the awareness of nightlife** as a form of culture, a viable industry to develop one's professional skills, and an essential aspect of city life around the world.

**Strengthening solidarity between local, regional, and global networks of nighttime advocates** through knowledge sharing, artistic and cultural exchange, and resource distribution.

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*United by common values and visions, let us rise up together and foster a more meaningful reality and resilient future for nightlife around the world.*

# WHY SEEK FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR NIGHTLIFE?

In a time of isolation, polarization, and digitalization, nightlife remains an essential analogue space in which people from different walks of life can come together, dance, play, and express themselves and their creativity in the collective presence of others. Nightlife inspires individuals, forms communities, and ignites cities. Rather than serving as an escape from the present, nightlife provides us with a window into different realities, offering us important values and lessons--centered around community, creativity, and acceptance--that can be applied to the rest of society.

The Covid-19 pandemic was a critical moment in nightlife globally, as it exacerbated existing problems and introduced unprecedented ones. Rising rents, gentrification, as well as unsustainable practices, unjust working conditions, and rat races within the industry were already threatening our scenes beforehand. The pandemic, which left us on the backburner of many cities' agendas for recovery, made us seem inessential in the eyes of the public.

**But nightlife is essential** - for individuals, communities, cities, and the world. Nightlife is more than *just* partying and having a good time. **Nightlife is culture.** Nightlife drives new, transformative realities for people and places. Nightlife is built by the people, for the people. And for too long, life at night has been undervalued.

This Manifesto symbolizes a global commitment to raising the awareness around the importance of nightlife.

But raising awareness cannot come without addressing other, intersecting issues that influence the sustainability, resilience, and safety of our scenes and industry--three areas that are becoming more and more important to nightlife communities concerned about their future.

As such, this Manifesto is also a call to action to make our scenes and nights something that we can be proud of.

We all have work to do and a role to play in fostering a better future: investing into our communities, nurturing our youth, increasing access for marginalized populations, creating safer spaces, advocating for better working conditions, implementing circular and sustainable practices, and representing our scenes and communities in the face of greater decision-making.

The onus of applying the visions of this Manifesto in practice is on dedicated leaders and their communities who need to work together and think critically about their local contexts and needs.

Not every community has the same goals or faces the same challenges, and the needs of our communities and our contexts will continue to change. This Manifesto does not claim to be representative of all scenes around the world. Not only would that exclude the regions not represented in the Manifesto project (more below), but that would mean that our work is done. Instead, we hope that we inspire the global nighttime community to continue learning from one another and working together to foster better realities for our nights--now and in the years to come.

# THE GLOBAL NIGHTTIME MANIFESTO PROJECT

This Manifesto was built with contributions from over 120 creatives in 55 cities around the world. Over one year, we hosted 10 focus groups with moderators and organizers based in Antwerp, Bangkok, Belfast, Berlin, Durban, Johannesburg, Malmö, Montreal, New York, São Paulo, Singapore, Stuttgart, and Tbilisi. We engaged artists, promoters, ravers, venue operators, label owners, festival organizers, activists, academics, journalists, and city officials. The topics of our discussions ranged from the future of nightlife in general to specific countries, regions, and issue areas. Through these focus groups, we sought to better understand what a better future means to nightlife communities and what actions they believe can plant the seeds to a safer, more resilient and sustainable future.

While we were able to engage many different perspectives, there are important shortcomings that influence the representativeness of this Manifesto. For one, the majority of our moderators and participants came from European backgrounds, cities, or club cultures, leaving out many non-city, non-club, and non-Western perspectives from different nightlife scenes. The discussions were also held in English, excluding those who did not speak the language. Of those discussions that were hosted online, participants with access to stable and affordable Internet were more likely to join. And as this project was primarily a volunteer effort, those who could not afford to join as a participant or moderator without compensation, were less able to do so.

With these limitations in mind, this Manifesto does not claim to be final nor applicable around the world. Rather, we hope that the ideas here inspire nighttime communities--those represented and not--to embark on future collaborations, engagements, and endeavors with a greater intention to build safer communities and more resilient and sustainable scenes.

**This Manifesto would not exist without the willingness and support of our moderators, participants, and partners that joined the Global Nighttime Manifesto project.**

# We thank our workshop participants and project supporters:

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|---|---|---|
| 1. Focus Group Host: "The Future of Nightlife" (2021)                     | Nightlife in Eastern Europe"                          | 8. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of Nightlife in South Africa" |
| 2. Project Manager  | 5. In memory of                                       | 9. VibeLab Director Asia-Pacific                                    |
| 3. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of Nightlife in The UK and Ireland" | 6. Focus Group Host: "The Future of Nightlife" (2021) | 10. Communications Manager  |
| 4. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of                                  | 7. Designer   | 11. Focus Group Moderator: "Creating Safer Spaces"                  |

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**Riccardo Ramello** (Torino), Club Futuro

**Richard Anderson** (Liverpool), University of Liverpool

**Robbe Van Bogaert** (Antwerp), Eventsure, City of Antwerp<sup>18</sup>

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**Safegigs Ireland** (Ireland)

**Stadt Nach Acht** (Berlin)<sup>19</sup>

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**Sunil Sharpe** (Dublin), Give Us The Night

**Thamar Luthart** (Amsterdam)<sup>21</sup>

**Varghese Chacko** (New York City), Nightlife United<sup>22</sup>

12. VibeLab Co-founder	Nightlife in South Africa"	Nightlife" (2021)
13. VibeLab Co-founder	17. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of Nightlife in Southeast Asia" and "The Future of Nightlife" at About POP Konferenz (Stuttgart 2021)	20. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of Nightlife" at FERVO Conference (São Paulo 2021)
14. Focus Group Support: "The Future of Nightlife" (2021)	18. Focus Group Moderator: "Looking Ahead"	21. Art Director
15. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of Nightlife in South Africa"	19. Focus Group Host: "The Future of	22. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of Nightlife" in conjunction with MONDO.NYC (New York City 2021)
16. Focus Group Moderator: "The Future of		



# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

## Reflection

Reflection, dialogue and exchange were the driving forces behind this project. We invite you to reflect about your purpose and role in nurturing a better nighttime future with the following questions to ask yourself and your communities:

What values drive what you do (parties, projects, initiatives, etc.)?

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How do nightlife communities shape your city or neighborhood?

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How can nightlife play a bigger role in shaping the development of your city?

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What are some unaddressed needs in your scene?

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What does your community need to mobilize and make change?

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What does being a nighttime advocate mean to you, your community, and city?

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Why is envisioning a better future for nightlife important?

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## Action

We hope this Manifesto reminds us of our similarities and connects the global nighttime community. The values and ideas shared here stem from our conversations and inform the seeds of transformative work. As we conclude, we invite you to:

Analyze the ideas in this Manifesto and consider their implications in your local context.

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Engage your community to build a Manifesto or vision statement to guide future endeavors.

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Connect with and learn from nighttime advocates from around the world.

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Use the Manifesto to ignite dialogue and underline the global importance of your communities, scenes, and work.

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Involve different partners and stakeholders to bridge gaps, raise awareness, and build stronger representation for nighttime communities.