



THE MILANO CORTINA 2026 CULTURAL OLYMPIAD SUMMARY SHEET

The Milano Cortina 2026 Cultural Olympiad is the official program of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and is recognized by the IOC as one of the three pillars of the Olympic Movement, alongside sport and education. Rather than a centralized showcase, the Cultural Olympiad is a dynamic and widespread platform that involves territories, institutions, and communities across Italy. Its purpose is to enhance Italy's cultural heritage while promoting Olympic values through art, history, and participation.

Vision: Culture as Movement

At the heart of the Cultural Olympiad lies the idea of culture as a symbolic and social movement, capable of generating connections, dialogue and positive change within the involved territories. Its impact is measured in terms of transformation and shared value, with the ambition of creating a lasting legacy well beyond the Games.

Thematic Framework

The program is structured around six thematic pillars, guiding programming and project selection:

- **Sport, art, history, and culture:** enhancing the Games through artistic and cultural expression.
- **Active communities:** promoting social engagement, participation and personal development.
- **Territory and lifestyle:** celebrating outdoor activities and sustainability.
- **Inclusion, diversity, and empowerment:** addressing disability, gender equality, and cultural plurality.
- **Peace and Olympic Truce:** encouraging dialogue and integration.

Activation and Implementation Plan

Launched in January 2024 and running through March 2026, the program will reach its peak during the Games. It includes:

- **Iconic co-design projects:** symbolic initiatives developed with major institutional and cultural partners.
- **Recognized initiatives:** projects selected through open calls involving cultural institutions, schools, and artists, awarded the official Cultural Olympiad sub-brand and visibility through Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 channels.

Governance and Program Development

The Cultural Programme is governed through a multi-level structure, involving local, national, and international entities, including the cities of Milano and Cortina, the Regions of Lombardia and Veneto, the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, and several Ministries. Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 leads the programme, supported by an expert board and an extensive network of cultural partners.

Cultural Olympiad in Action: Figures and Highlights

From 2024 to 2025, the program has already demonstrated significant momentum:

- **500+ proposed initiatives**
- **6.8 million people engaged across affiliated activities**
- **1,481+ educational and engagement initiatives**
- **57,000 students involved**
- **300 labelled projects**
- **2,250 days of events**
- **1,152 press articles using #culturalolympiad**

Highlight by Territory

Milano

- **Iconic Poster – Triennale Milano (October 2025 – March 2026)** The official Olympic and Paralympic posters of the Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 – **ICONIC EXHIBITION**
- **Art Posters – Triennale Milano (June 2025 – February 2026)** Exhibition featuring 10 artists under 40 who reinterpreted Olympic and Paralympic values. – **ICONIC EXHIBITION**
- **White Out. The Future of Winter Sports & Milano Cortina 2026 Cultural Olympiad –** Exhibition exploring innovations and design in winter sports between technique and culture – **EXHIBITION**
- **Supera te stesso – Isola, Milano (September 2025)** Street art piece by artist Camilla Ginesi in Via Pepe, selected through the Visa Street Artist Contest for the “Supera te stesso” campaign – **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION**
- **Fondazione Rovati – I Giochi Olimpici. Una storia lunga 3000 anni – spazi museali della Fondazione, Milano (26/11/2025 – 22/03/2026)** Exhibition dedicated to the origins of the Games, from Greek foundations to Etruscan reception. In collaboration with the Olympic Museum and MCAH Lausanne – **EXHIBITION**
- **Slava's snowshow. Slava Ponunin – Teatro Strehler, Milano (28/01/2026 – 22/02/2026)** Masterpiece by the renowned artist Slava Polunin, a poetic and surreal theatre experience transforming the stage into a snowy landscape – **PERFORMANCE**
- **Gioco di Squadra-Campogrande – Auditorium di Milano Fondazione Cariplo (Friday 30 January at 20.00 and Sunday 1 February at 16.00)** World premiere of Gioco di squadra for orchestra by Nicola Campogrande; commissioned by the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano for the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, within the 2025/2026 symphonic season – **MUSIC**
- **First Love – Teatro Strehler, Milano (04/02/2026 – 15/02/2026)** A performance blending autobiography, sport, and Olympic memory, inspired by Stefania Belmondo's legendary race at Salt Lake City 2002 – **PERFORMANCE**
- **Latvian Rocket – Teatro Lirico Giorgio Gaber, Milano (07/02/2026)** A show celebrating legendary Latvian bobsleigh athletes, merging dance, imagery, and sport – **PERFORMANCE**

- **[Anselm Kiefer Le Alchimiste – Palazzo Reale, Milano \(February 2026\)](#)** “Le Alchimiste,” the monumental new exhibition by Anselm Kiefer, among the most influential contemporary artists, displayed in the Sala delle Cariatidi from 7 February to 27 September 2026 – **EXHIBITION**
- **[The moment the snow melts by Chiharu Shiota – MUDEC \(18/11/2025 – 28/06/2026\)](#)** Site-specific installation by Chiharu Shiota (Tate Modern, Centre Pompidou). The Japanese artist uses the fragility of snow as a metaphor for human relationships, creating an ethereal landscape of suspended threads and paper notes with the names of people who were once part of our lives but can no longer be met – **INSTALLATION**
- **[Il Senso della Neve – Mudec, Milano \(12/02/2026 – 28/06/2026\)](#)** Exhibition exploring the meaning of snow across art, anthropology, and science, including reflections on climate change - **EXHIBITION**
- **[Giochi di Oroseba – Teatro Lirico Giorgio Gaber, Milano \(4 February\)](#)** A new contemporary opera inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic values of Milano Cortina 2026 – **THEATRE**
- **[Apri la vita murales – ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda Ca' Granda \(from 20/11/2025\)](#)** Monumental mosaic on Olympic values created by the Olympic Hospital Niguarda – **INSTALLAZIONE D'ARTE PUBBLICA**
- **[Steve McCurry – The world in motion – Malpensa Airport \(01/01/2026 – 28/02/2026\)](#)** Steve McCurry celebrates the Olympic spirit with portraits of humanity in motion – **EXHIBITION**
- **[BAM – Biblioteca degli Alberi, Milano \(September 2025 – June 2026\)](#)** Outdoor program of music, dance, and wellness fully dedicated to Olympic and Paralympic values – **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION**
 - 8 February 2026: Performative land art installation (Agitos and Olympic Rings)
- **[TEDxMilano: Umanità, Teatro dal Verme Milano \(15/01/2026\)](#)** TEDx event dedicated to the theme of “humanity” in a time of profound social, technological, and environmental transformation. Eight speakers explore the concept through challenge, sport, science, inclusion, and solidarity – **PUBLIC TALK**
- **[Universal Language. Nulla Virtus, Istituto Canossiano Milano \(13/12/2025\)](#)**. Second mural of the Nulla Virtus project by SMOE, transforming Via Benaco into a message of peace and inclusion for Milano Cortina 2026. **MURAL**
- **[L'Italia sulla neve. Gli italiani e gli sport invernali nei periodici illustrati e nella grafica pubblicitaria della Raccolta Bertarelli, Castello Sforzesco Milano - \(18/12/2025 al 22/03/2026\)](#)** The Castello Sforzesco and the Civica Raccolta delle Stampe “Achille Bertarelli” present an exhibition dedicated to the birth and spread of winter sports culture and snow tourism in Italy. Through a rich selection of illustrated magazines, catalogues, postcards, brochures, booklets, and advertising posters from the Bertarelli Collection, the exhibition narrates the evolution of skiing and snow sports, their aesthetic transformations, and the role of visual communication throughout the twentieth century. A specific section is dedicated to

the promotion of Italian touristic destinations, featuring historical materials produced by ENIT, Touring Club Italiano, local authorities, hotels, and ski resorts. Among these are works by major twentieth century graphic designers such as Fortunato Depero, Leopoldo Metlicovitz, Marcello Dudovich, and Marcello Nizzoli – **EXHIBITION**

- **Winter Games Express: Il treno di Cioccolato da Guinnes dei Primati – Palazzo della Regione Lombardia Milano (26/01/2025 - 27/01/2025)**. The longest chocolate train in the world, created under the guidance of Master Chocolatier Andrew Farrugia, already holder of the world record. Designed in anticipation of the Winter Olympic Games Milano Cortina 2026, the project is an important educational and solidarity initiative. By involving schools, consortia, and local organizations, the Winter Games Express becomes an opportunity to promote young talent and support charitable activities in Italy and Malta, Farrugia's country of origin. **INSTALLATION**
- **Earth Pieces Milano, Teatro Del Verme Milano – (15/03/2026)** Born in Yokohama in 2024 and inspired by the United Nations 2030 Agenda, Earth Pieces arrives in Italy on the final day of the Paralympic Winter Games with a concert open to the participation of all disadvantaged groups. – **MUSIC**
- **La Nona di Beethoven, Sala Verdi del Conservatorio di Milano – (14/02/2026)**. A magical choral-symphonic performance that reunites orchestra, choir, and soloists to celebrate, with the Ode to Joy, a shared ritual of community, emotion, and brotherhood. – **MUSIC**

Lombardia

- **Teatro Sociale di Como – Como** (Season 2025–2026) The “Fairplay” programme includes performances dedicated to sport and Olympic values – **PERFORMANCE**
- **Ville e Musei del lago di Como – Como** (31/01/2026 - 15/03/2026) A widespread itinerary across villas, museums, and symbolic locations of Lake Como celebrating the dialogue between art, sport, and creativity - **EXHIBITION**
 - Stoffe da Campioni – Museo della Seta, Como (31/01/2026 – 15/03/2026)
 - Giardino dei Talenti – Villa Carlotta (03/02/2026 – 15/03/2026)
 - Intrecci Creativi – Villa del Grumello (03/02/2026 – 14/03/2026)
 - Il Museo e i suoi Campioni – Museo Barca Lariana (07/02/2026)
- **Vette. Storie di Sport e Montagna – Museo Nazionale Palazzo Besta Teglio** (30/01/2026 - 30/08/2026) An exhibition exploring the history of winter sports, the role of women in the Olympic Games, and the impact of sports tourism on mountain life, including special events hosting Olympic and Paralympic champions. - **EXHIBITION**

Trento

- **Performance - Anelli di congiunzione** - **Competition– Le Gallerie, Trento** (06/02/2025 – 06/01/2026) An exploration of sport and technology through artistic language – **EXHIBITION**
– The exhibition represents the third edition of a broader three-year project, Anelli di Congiunzione, dedicated to sports disciplines and the celebration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The project, carried out in collaboration with the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, explores the theme of technique and technology as fundamental elements for the progress of disciplines and performance. The exhibition is hosted at Le Gallerie di Trento, managed by the Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino — a space created through the redevelopment of two former road tunnels for cultural purposes.
- **Sport – Le sfide del corpo** **Museo di arte moderna e Contemporanea Rovereto** (01/11/2025 – 22/03/2026) A large exhibition curated by Antonio Calbi, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris, and Daniela Ferrari, Mart curator.
• More than 300 ancient, modern, and contemporary artworks celebrate the extraordinary dimension of the human body. – **EXHIBITION**
- **Concerto N.Ice Cello - Giovanni Sollima & Orchestra Haydn** – **Teatro sociale di Trento** (29/01/2026) Trento welcomes the Olympic Flame with a concert. – **MUSIC**

Cortina

- **Cortina di stelle. I limiti non esistono** – **Lagazuoi EXPO**, Cortina (03/01/2026 – 28/03/2026) Final exhibition of the project “I limiti non esistono” by Fulvio Morella, hosted at Lagazuoi, Dolomiti at 2,732 metres. In one of the symbolic locations of Paralympic Winter Games the Milano Cortina 2026, the artist presents for the first time the complete series of luminous Braillight sculptures, designed to be experienced through both touch and light. – **EXHIBITION**
- **Una Montagna di Libri – Cortina d’Ampezzo** (06/12/2025 - 22/03/2025) Since 2009, *Una Montagna di Libri* has animated Cortina with encounters between writers, thinkers, and athletes. The 33rd edition celebrates the Olympic spirit with 25 events on literature, sport, and memory, hosting authors and legends sharing stories of challenge, resilience, and beauty. – **CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

Bolzano

- **What we carry** - **MUSEION Museo d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bolzano** (07/11/2025 – 29/03/2026) The exhibition, created in collaboration with the Olympic Aid and Sport Promotion Project, presents a rich collection of Olympic torches, emblem of the Olympic spirit, featured within a new site-specific installation conceived by artists Sonia Leimer and Christian Kosmas Mayer. – **EXHIBITION**
- **Stoanerne Mandln / Ometti di Pietra** (01/12/2025 – 31/01/2028) Installations inspired by alpine stone cairns celebrate Olympic values and identity. They are placed in the main roundabouts of the city. – **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION**

- **Flags of art – Entrance of Anhtolz Valley Bolzano** (04/12/2025 – 16/03/2026) Art competition of Olympic-themed flags exhibited at the entrance to the Antholz/Anterselva Valley. – **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION**
- **AL LIMITE. 7 OLYMPIANS 7 VISIONS – SKB Artes** (12/12/2025 – 16/03/2026) Exhibition linking Olympic athletes from South Tyrol with installations reflecting the emotional dimension of sport. – **EXHIBITION**
- **Concerto per l'arrivo della Fiamma Olimpica** Bolzano (27/01/2026) Bolzano welcomes the Olympic Flame with a concert by local South Tyrolean bands. – **MUSIC**
- **Concerto N.Ice Cello - Giovanni Sollima & Orchestra Haydn** –*Haus der Kultur, Bolzano* (27/01/2026) At the end of the city celebrations for the passage of the Olympic Flame, the **Haydn Foundation of Bolzano and Trento** presents a special concert. The **Haydn Orchestra** performs alongside cellist and composer **Giovanni Sollima**, protagonist of the extraordinary project *N.Ice Cello*: a unique re-staging in which the artist plays an **ice cello**, symbolizing the fusion between art and nature. - **MUSIC**
- **I Tifosi – Stadio Biathlon** Antholz/Anterselva (6/02/2026 – 22/02/2026), wooden sculptures created by UNIKA artists portraying fans, displayed in Antholz/Anterselva during the Olympic Winter Games. – **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION**

Veneto

- **Giovanni Segantini** – **Museo Civico, Bassano del Grappa** (25/10/2025 – 22/02/2026) Exhibition dedicated to painter Giovanni Segantini, focusing on alpine landscapes and spirituality. – **EXHIBITION**
- **UN MAGICO INVERNO. Bianca Emozioni dalla Collezione Salce "In armonia con l'inverno: natura, sport e salute. Un percorso diffuso nei musei nazionali del Veneto** – **Museo Nazionale Collezione Salce di Treviso** (21/11/2025 – 29/03/2026) The alpine winter told through iconic historical posters from the Salce Collection. – **EXHIBITION**
- **Piccolo orso e la montagna di ghiaccio. Prima Assoluta**. – **Teatro Malibran Venezia** (30/01/2026) Debut of this participatory opera for children, bringing together music, storytelling, and science in a European tour. - **PERFORMANCE**
- **#scivolare. La slitta fra tradizione, gioco e competizione** – **Museo Etnografico di Belluno** (30/01/2026 – 30/04/2026) Exhibition on snow and sleds exploring alpine traditions and Olympic disciplines. – **EXHIBITION**
- **Olympus, alle origini del gioco, Carnevale di Venezia** – **Venezia** (31/01/2026 – 17/02/2026) In 2026, the year of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Milano Cortina 2026, Venice presents Olympus, a journey through art, sport, myth, and tradition. The city celebrates its ancient challenges — from regattas to popular games — transforming competition into festivity. Values such as courage, fairness, inclusion, and imagination guide a collective narrative uniting peoples and cultures. – **CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

- **Una Vita per lo Sport, Volti e Conquiste delle #100 esperte – P.ta Borsari Verona** (4/02/2026 – 15/03/2026) Photographic exhibition by Gerald Bruneau featuring portraits of athletes and professionals. – **EXHIBITION**
- **Beyond Barrier – Piazza Brà Verona** (permanent installation) A permanent sculpture in Piazza Brà, Verona, created for the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. It symbolically celebrates Olympic and Paralympic values through contemporary art, connecting the city's historical identity with a message of inclusion and universality. – **INSTALLATION**
- **Mirandolina – Teatro Goldoni, Venezia / Teatro Verdi, Padova / Belluno** (11/02/2026 - 22/02/2026) Mirandolina, Marina Carr's reinterpretation of Goldoni's La locandiera, intertwining the eighteenth century with the present to explore female fear, self-determination, and social dynamics. A powerful piece celebrating women's intelligence and promoting reflection on equality, inclusion, and freedom of choice. – **PERFORMANCE**
- **International Kids Carnival – La Biennale di Venezia Ca' Giustinian** (7/02/2026 - 15/02/2026) Ca' Giustinian becomes the House of Creativity with a special edition dedicated to the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. A program for schools, families, and citizens celebrating sport and culture, hosting the Olympic Museum and three Olympian Artists with creative workshops. New features include: *Carnevale in barca*, immersive experiences on the journeys of the Serenissima, Happiness 2.0, reflecting on social media and well being.

The Cultural Olympiad remains open, with new projects still eligible for inclusion in the official schedule.

Applications can be submitted via the Cultural Olympiad website, where all participation criteria and guidelines are available.

ORGANIZATIONS, ENTITIES AND PARTNERS THAT HAVE ALREADY JOINED THE CULTURAL OLYMPIAD OF MILANO CORTINA 2026

- Accademia Teatro alla Scala
- AGA Associazione Giochi Antichi
- Agis
- AIB Italian Library Association
- ASSOMIDOP – Associazione Mostra Internazionale dei Documentari sui Parchi
- Associazione Cramum Art
- Associazione Culturale Mitmacher
- Associazione per il Patrimonio delle Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene
- BAM, Biblioteca degli Alberi
- Belluno Photo Festival
- Castello del Buonconsiglio, Trento
- Comune di Milano
- Fondazione Bagatti Valsecchi
- Fondazione Bracco, Milano
- Fondazione Cineteca Italiana
- Fondazione Cortina
- Fondazione Mondadori

- Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino, Trento
- Fondazione Rovati
- Fondazione Teatro Stabile del Veneto – Teatro Nazionale
- Fondazione Trentina Alcide De Gasperi
- FS
- Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venezia
- Gamec, Bergamo
- Giffoni Film Festival, Giffoni
- Haydn Foundation
- Italian Gospel Choir
- La Biennale di Venezia
- La Triennale di Milano
- Livigno Next
- M9 Museum
- Marsilio Editore
- Mart, Rovereto
- Mets, Museo Etnografico Trentino San Michele
- Mondo Mostre
- Muse, Trento
- Museion, Bolzano
- Museo Civico di Santa Caterina, Treviso
- Museo Etnografico, Belluno
- Olivetti / Tim
- OnDance di Roberto Bolle
- Rai
- SKB Artes
- Skira Editore
- Società dei Concerti
- Sudtirol Philharmonic
- Teatro Sociale di Como
- TEDx, Cortina
- Terres des Hommes
- Una Montagna di Libri, Cortina
- UNESCO Office in Venice
- Venice Film Festival, Venice
- Visa
- Yes Milano
- Zebra Cultural Zoo