European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards (2026)
1642-Conservation and Adaptive Reuse 1. Conservation & Adaptive Reuse

JqdvzMnE

Turning Bologna's Industrial Past into a Vibrant Creative and Cultural Hub

Entry details

General information

Main country of application	Italy
Name of the building, site or work of art	DumBO - Distretto Urbano Multifunzionale di Bologna

Address of the building, site or work of art

> Via Camillo Casarini 19, Bologna 40131 - ITALY

Type (select one type only, as applicable):	✓ Building

Brief description of the project

> **DumBO** is where a forgotten railway yard has become one of Italy's most vibrant cultural engines. Since 2019, this 40,000 m² urban playground has transformed rust and concrete into a **thriving hub for art, music, education, and social innovation**. Open to everyone, every day, it's where institutions meet creatives, communities meet opportunities, and ideas find the space to grow. By preserving its raw industrial character while sparking new forms of civic participation, DumBO proves that **abandoned spaces can become powerful urban catalysts**—sustainable, inclusive, and ready to inspire change across Europe.

Start date of the project	2019-05-01
Completion date of the project	2023-12-31
Website(s) of the project/nominee	https://dumbospace.it/

Facebook page of the project, if any	https://www.facebook.com/dumbo.space
Instagram page of the project, if any	https://www.instagram.com/dumbo.space/
Any other relevant social media	Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dumbo-bologna/
Does the site or heritage in question have national/regional/ local cultural heritage designation or protection status in its country?	Yes

If yes, please specify:

> In December 2012, the Ravone freight yard was declared a disused industrial heritage site.

Is the site or heritage in question included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, either as a single World Heritage Site or as part of one larger site? If so, please specify which one.

> No

Is the site or heritage in question designated as a European Heritage Label? If so, please specify which one.

> No

If relevant, is the site/heritage accessible to the public?	Yes

What steps have been taken to ensure that the site / project is inclusive and accessible to as wide an audience as possible?

> Since its regeneration, DumBO has been intentionally designed as an **open, everyday-accessible space for all**, fostering inclusion, community engagement, and shared use across diverse social and cultural initiatives.

Contact details

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Name of the project leader	Mr. Andrea Giotti
Project leader's position	CEO
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Other relevant participants

> Ms. Mara Polloni - Open Event Srl - Project and Administrative Manager

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Concise summary

Concise summary

> **DumBO – Distretto Urbano Multifunzioale di Bologna** – is Italy's largest urban regeneration project based on the adaptive reuse of disused railway infrastructure. Located within a 40,000 m² former freight yard near Bologna's city center, DumBO was opened in 2019 in response to the growing need for inclusive, flexible, and accessible urban spaces.
> The area had long remained underutilized and disconnected from the surrounding neighborhood, characterized by a mix of industrial heritage, residential housing, and social vulnerability.
>
> The aim of the project was to **reclaim and reactivate this vast area through a temporary use model** that respects its historical and architectural identity while opening it up to cultural, social, and civic innovation. Since its opening, DumBO has been conceived as **an open platform where cultural operators, local communities, public institutions, and social enterprises could coexist, co-create, and experiment**. The project fosters artistic expression, inclusive practices, sustainable entrepreneurship, and community-driven urban transformation.
>
> Since its opening, DumBO has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors and hosted over 700 events ranging from music festivals, art exhibitions, and theatre performances to educational workshops, civic forums, and social inclusion programs.
> It engages a **wide and diverse audience**, including young people, children, seniors and various communities such as the LGBTQ+ community, migrants, and people from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds. Through its affordability, openness, and multidisciplinary programming, DumBO creates a welcoming environment that encourages active participation across all ages and social groups.
>
> This inclusive dimension has contributed significantly to the social and cultural revitalization of the neighbourhood in which DumBO is located, named Porto-Saragozza.
>
> DumBO stands out at a European level for its integrated governance model, combining public ownership (nowadays, the area is owned by the Municipality of Bologna), social innovation and cultural management (via private

cooperative entities). This cross-sector collaboration ensures institutional continuity, community engagement, and operational flexibility.

The total cost for the regeneration of the district was approximately €600,000, composed of regional authority grants (€400,000) and private funds (€200,000). The space continues to operate under a **sustainable economic model, while keeping many of its public-facing activities free and accessible**.

The project adopts a qualitative framework based on **temporary use and tactical urbanism methodologies, emphasizing adaptive, light-touch interventions, co-design, and incremental transformation**. DumBO's model is replicable and scalable, offering a forward-looking vision for regenerating Europe's many vacant or underused industrial spaces by fostering culture, inclusion, and innovation at the local level.

Historical background

Historical background with dates

DumBO is located within Bologna's former **Ravone railway freight yard**, built between the late 19th and early 20th century. **Decommissioned in the early 2000s**, it soon attracted informal interest: since the 1990s, street artists had begun to engage with the site, turning it into an underground landmark. **In 2012, the Municipality officially recognised it as disused industrial heritage** and launched an invitation-only competition for redevelopment projects.

In 2019, the Municipality designated the area for temporary reuse, granting management to Open Event Srl while ownership remained with FS, the Italian state railway company. DumBO was then launched as a public-private partnership, initially activating 20,000 m². Over time, it has expanded into Italy's largest urban regeneration project, becoming a national reference for adaptive reuse and community-driven revitalisation of industrial spaces.

In 2024, within the Recovery Fund framework, the Municipality took formal possession of the site, strengthening its engagement in DumBO's future.

Value and significance in its local/regional/national context

DumBO holds strong value at local, regional, and national levels. Locally, it reactivated a long-neglected area, **reconnecting it with the Porto-Saragozza neighbourhood** and creating a vibrant space for culture, community, and social innovation. Regionally, it is a hub for Emilia-Romagna's creative industries and social economy. Nationally, it represents **Italy's largest temporary urban regeneration initiative** and a flagship case of industrial heritage reuse, inspiring similar projects across the country.

DumBO is also **deeply engaged in European and national networks** (ECHN, ENCC, Creative Feed, Lo Stato dei Luoghi, ClustER Create Emilia-Romagna, Keep On, AUDIS, etc.), fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, which strengthens its ability to test and disseminate innovative practices. Symbolically, it transforms an abandoned site into a laboratory of participation and sustainability, proving how underused infrastructure can generate cultural, social, and economic value.

Open Event is also lead partner of the Creative Europe project *Greening the Hubs*, dedicated to ecological transition.

Former and new use of the building/site, if applicable

Originally serving as Bologna's Ravone railway freight yard (late 19th–20th century), the site operated as a key logistics hub for trains until freight activities were transferred to a larger yard on the opposite side of the city to support urban expansion. Since 2019, through adaptive reuse, it has been transformed into DumBO, Italy's largest temporary urban regeneration project, hosting culture, innovation, sports, coworking, events and community activities.

State of conservation of the building/site/work of art before the project commenced

The Ravone freight yard was in a state of **advanced neglect**: the site had been abandoned since 2010 with many of its industrial warehouses and structures exposed to weathering and structural deterioration.
Vegetation had overtaken large portions of the outdoor areas, and several buildings showed signs of **water infiltration or damaged points**.
Despite this degradation, the architectural identity of the site remained largely intact.
Informal use by street artists and urban explorers also left traces, highlighting the site's latent cultural appeal, until 2019, when the first interventions to adapt the space for public use started.

Conservation work undertaken

Aims and objectives of the project.

The project “DumBO” was initiated with the primary aim of regenerating a large, disused industrial area through temporary reuse, turning it into a space for cultural production, social inclusion, and civic innovation. Its core objective is to reactivate underutilised urban heritage in a way that is participatory, flexible, and sustainable, creating long-term value while preserving the district's historical identity.
DumBO was conceived as a **multifunctional urban ecosystem**, open to a wide range of communities, disciplines, and activities. Its main objectives include:
Providing accessible, inclusive spaces for cultural events, artistic production, education, and social initiatives, addressing the needs of a broad and diverse public.
Encouraging community participation through co-designed activities, shared governance, and dedicated public-use spaces such as *Blocco Comune* — a hub for peer-to-peer learning and skill-sharing — and “P.Orto Urbano” a community garden revitalised through the active involvement of residents and non-residents. DumBO hosts projects specifically targeting groups often excluded from such initiatives, including elderly citizens.
Revitalising the surrounding neighbourhood, strengthening local identity and reconnecting the area to the social and economic fabric of the city.
Fostering innovation in cultural and urban practices, experimenting with temporary use and modular infrastructure. Many of DumBO’s venues are designed to be mobile, replicable, and dismantled after events, supporting a flexible and reversible use of space.
Promoting environmental sustainability, with a focus on the events sector, both through responsible site management and dedicated initiatives such as *DumBO Green District* and the ongoing *Greening the Hubs* project.
Facilitating networking and cross-sector collaboration, positioning DumBO as a space of dialogue, contamination, and shared practices among organisations, artists, and communities that previously had little or no connection.
By positioning cultural heritage as a resource for inclusion and innovation, **DumBO offers a replicable model for participatory and sustainable urban transformation**.

Historical and technical research undertaken for the project.

The Ravone freight yard area, with buildings dating mainly from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was for decades a strategic hub within Bologna’s railway network, specializing in freight transport. Following its official decommissioning in 2012, the site experienced a long period of disuse, during which its structures suffered water infiltration, partial deterioration, and overgrowth of vegetation. Despite this neglect, the architectural and historical identity of the site remained largely intact, sparking growing interest from the local community, cultural operators, and alternative urban groups such as writers who began to frequent the space from the 1990s onwards.

Initially, **plans for the area envisioned the dismantling and demolition of existing buildings** to make way for new residential developments. However, **increasing awareness of the site's industrial heritage and socio-urban value led to reconsideration of these plans**. The regeneration project thus adopted an approach combining heritage preservation with cultural innovation, aimed at preventing irreversible loss of property value and community identity.

Technically, extensive historical research was conducted, relying on **archival maps, aerial photographs, technical documentation, and historical records**. This research helped clarify the original functions and subsequent transformations of the buildings, guiding adaptive reuse strategies that respect the site's historic fabric. Environmental challenges, such as water damage and residual industrial pollutants, were also investigated to plan necessary remediation and ensure safety.

This approach has allowed the area to be reimagined as a hub for cultural and social innovation, introducing flexible and modular temporary uses honoring its layered history while fostering local community engagement.

Stages of implementation of the project.

The implementation process at DumBO was shaped by a combination of pragmatic interventions, adaptive reuse strategies, and strong community involvement. Initial actions focused on essential works to restore safety and usability: debris removal, clearance of overgrown vegetation, perimeter fencing, and securing of unsafe or structurally compromised areas. Fire prevention systems were installed or restored, and basic regulatory upgrades were undertaken to adapt spaces for new functions while preserving their industrial identity.

The approach prioritized flexibility and low-impact interventions, reusing rather than radically altering spaces. This meant introducing modular, movable, and easily reconfigurable infrastructure and furniture, allowing venues to adapt to different programs and to be dismantled after specific events or seasons. Investments were proportional to three factors: the expected duration of temporary use, the intended function of each space, and its initial state of maintenance.

Crucially, **tenants and users were directly involved in self-building and self-maintenance**, fostering a sense of ownership and ensuring that reactivated spaces were "adopted" by their communities. The design process relied on a creative network of local initiatives, organized into a participatory "temporary factory" that contributed ideas, resources, and management input. Spaces were functionally divided to balance commercial viability with cultural and social programming, ensuring the sustainability of the overall system.

Once each area's vocation was defined—aligned with the guidelines of FS Sistemi Urbani (owner of the yard), local authorities/the Municipality, and the needs of participating actors—**a feasibility study was prepared to balance economic sustainability with social impact**.
The final stage involved mobilizing start-up capital through a mix of self-financing and public funding. This capital enabled the activation of the first intervention areas, setting in motion a scalable process of phased regeneration that continues to evolve.

Description of the design and conservation work undertaken, including the rationale behind key decisions made during the process.

The regeneration of DumBO was guided by a philosophy of adaptive reuse, aiming to preserve the former Ravone railway freight yard's industrial heritage while giving it new social, cultural, and economic functions.
From the outset, **minimal-impact and cost-effective interventions were prioritized**, respecting the site's raw character, avoiding large-scale demolition or irreversible alterations.
Key works included removal of debris and overgrowth, securing unsafe structures, restoring primary utilities (electricity, water, heating, sanitary facilities), **installing or repairing fire prevention systems, and bringing spaces into compliance with safety and accessibility regulations**. Selected areas were reconfigured with flexible layouts and modular furnishings to accommodate a variety of uses, from concerts and exhibitions to workshops, markets and community gatherings. The project also invested in improving emotional appeal.

Urbana Festival carried out **street art interventions** to reconnect with the freight yard's past, decorating the building's façades - with figurative references to the railway context and the history of Bologna - by both contemporary street artists and members of the previous street artists generation, creating a visual dialogue across eras.

Rather than overdesigning, the approach focused on reinterpreting spaces according to their existing state, matching them with compatible functions to prevent further decay. This “light touch” strategy enabled faster implementation, lower costs, and greater adaptability to changing community needs. Importantly, tenants and users were involved in co-design and partial self-construction, fostering a sense of ownership and long-term care for the spaces.

A decisive factor behind this model was economic efficiency: **the intervention represented a very modest investment compared to the substantial loss in real estate, patrimonial, and socio-urban value that prolonged abandonment would have caused**. This rationale ensured that the site’s recovery not only safeguarded its architectural integrity but also preserved its potential as a civic and economic asset for Bologna.
This balance between preservation, functionality, and financial prudence has proven essential for DumBO’s success.

By maintaining the site’s authentic industrial identity while adapting it for new cultural, social, and entrepreneurial uses, the regeneration demonstrates that heritage conservation can be both economically viable and socially transformative.

Problems encountered and justification for the decisions taken to overcome these problems, both before and during the project.

The regeneration of the Ravone freight yard faced **several challenges, both before and during implementation**. One of the first issues encountered was the poor condition and obsolescence of many technical installations, including electrical and hydraulic systems. This required **unplanned maintenance and upgrades, leading to higher operational costs than initially anticipated**. Addressing these problems was essential to ensure safety, functionality, and compliance with current regulations.

The COVID-19 pandemic further slowed the project’s timeline, forcing the **temporary suspension of public activities and structural intervention**s. In response, the team adapted programming to comply with health restrictions, prioritising open-air spaces such as the “Baia” area, which allowed cultural and community events to continue in safer conditions.

Another structural limitation was the fact that Open Event, the project operator, is not the property owner. **This status excluded the project from certain opportunities**, such as joining renewable energy communities or applying for specific public funding schemes that require ownership or long-term concessions. As a result, the team focused on flexible and low-impact interventions and sought alternative financing strategies.

These constraints also encouraged a more creative and collaborative approach to site management, involving tenants and community members in maintenance and activation efforts.

By transforming challenges into opportunities for innovation and participation, the project not only overcame immediate obstacles but also developed a resilient operational model capable of adapting to future uncertainties.

Description of the building and conservation techniques and principles applied, materials employed and any traditional crafts and skills used.

The conservation and design work at DumBO prioritized sustainability, reuse, and the activation of traditional crafts. T**he project extensively employed reclaimed materials, integrating existing furnishings and resources from the site’s warehouses**, including pallets and other salvaged items. Inside DumBO, carpentry workshops played a central role, both as a functional craft and as a participatory activity, allowing users to engage directly in the construction and adaptation of the space.

Complementing this, **co-design and co-construction** labs enabled collaborative creation of furniture, fittings, and functional structures, merging technical skill with community involvement. These practices not only minimized new material consumption but also preserved and highlighted artisanal techniques, traditional skills, and participatory fabrication.

European significance

European significance of the project/initiative/nominee.

> **DumBO embodies key European values** by transforming a neglected industrial site into a shared space for culture, inclusion, and collaboration.
>
> Its participatory, cross-sectoral model fosters unity in diversity, social cohesion, and creative exchange. As one of Europe's largest cultural hubs, DumBO actively guides the development of similar spaces across the continent. In 2023, it completed the ***DumBO Green District*** project under the MusicAIRE programme, promoting sustainable event management.
>
> It now leads ***Greening the Hub**s*, a three-year European initiative uniting nine cultural centres engaged in events and urban regeneration, aiming to strengthen environmental competitiveness through training, financial support, and skills development.
>
> Fully aligned with the **New European Bauhaus principles** — sustainability, inclusivity, and beauty — it offers a forward-thinking model where cultural heritage meets climate action and community engagement. DumBO's approach fosters a shared European identity rooted in participation, resilience, and ecological responsibility, offering scalable relevance well beyond national borders.

Results and impact

Summary of the main results achieved and knowledge that has been gained. List the ways that the project/initiative contributes to the preservation and/or enhancement of the historical, cultural, environmental, educational and/or social values of the heritage in question. Mention the project's impact on conservation policy and practice, if any.

> The regeneration of DumBO has produced significant results, both in terms of tangible impacts on the site and intangible contributions to knowledge, practice, and community engagement.
>
> **The main achievement lies in the preservation and adaptive reuse** of the former Ravone railway yard, transforming an abandoned industrial heritage site into a living cultural hub. Instead of incurring high social, economic, and patrimonial costs linked to abandonment, the project demonstrated that relatively low investment in regeneration can unlock immense long-term value.
>
> From a cultural perspective, **DumBO has enhanced Bologna's creative ecosystem** by hosting hundreds of events in art, music, education, and social innovation, ensuring accessibility for diverse audiences. The site now functions as a laboratory of cultural practices, where industrial heritage is preserved not as a static monument but as a framework for dynamic and inclusive activities.
>
> This model enriches both the historical memory of the railway yard and the contemporary cultural identity of the city.
> Environmentally, t**he project has promoted sustainable approaches** such as reuse of materials, adaptive maintenance, and the integration of green practices in event management.
>
> **Socially, DumBO has become a space of cohesion, fostering intergenerational participation, inclusion of marginalized groups, and collaborations with local communities and associations.** Educationally, it has delivered programmes in co-design, creative skills, and civic engagement, turning heritage into a tool for learning and empowerment.
>
> On a policy level, DumBO serves as a **replicable model of temporary reuse**, informing debates on how underused urban spaces can be transformed through participatory governance and cultural programming. Its success has positioned it as a reference for future urban regeneration strategies in Italy and across Europe, **proving that heritage conservation can go hand in hand with innovation, sustainability, and social value creation**.

Aspects of the project that can be considered innovative within its area or field.

DumBO is innovative on several levels. Socially, it pioneers a **participatory model of urban regeneration**, where residents, associations, and creative industries co-design and manage spaces, fostering community ownership.
Economically, it applies a **hybrid sustainability model that balances cultural and commercial functions**: revenue from events and rentals sustains free programs, ensuring both accessibility and viability.
Environmentally, DumBO follows **adaptive reuse principles**, repurposing existing structures with minimal, reversible interventions to reduce waste and resource use. This approach, inspired by the New European Bauhaus, combines functionality, inclusivity, and aesthetics.

Together, these strategies make DumBO a **replicable model** for inclusive, resilient, and environmentally conscious cultural spaces, proving that urban regeneration can merge innovation with long-term sustainability

Steps taken to reach people who have not previously interacted with the site/project. This might include youth, local communities, non-traditional audiences, people with disabilities, etc.

DumBO has actively sought to **involve communities and audiences** who had not previously engaged with the site.
For **young people**, it offers educational workshops, internships, creative labs, and diverse social events in collaboration with schools and universities, making the hub a space for learning, creativity, and community-building.

Local residents are engaged through neighborhood festivals, markets, and cultural activities that connect the regenerated space to everyday life.
A specific challenge has been reaching **older generations**. Beyond gardening and green care initiatives, DumBO has introduced theatre and cultural events designed to include also senior audiences, as well as a training course on digital skills for over-60s, helping bridge generational divides.

Finally, DumBO emphasizes **inclusive cultural programming** and **ensures accessibility** for people with disabilities through barrier-free facilities and collaborations with dedicated associations.

Project's interaction with the surrounding community and landscape.

DumBO has developed a strong and practical relationship with the Porto-Saragozza neighborhood. What was once an abandoned railway yard is now a place where local residents feel welcome and involved. **Direct contact with the local district committee** plays a key role in this process: regular exchanges help DumBO to listen to community needs, gather feedback, and identify suggestions for improvement. This ongoing dialogue ensures that the project grows in step with the neighborhood, responding to concrete requests rather than imposing predefined solutions.
Families, young people, and older residents can now enjoy spaces that were once closed off, making the site a natural extension of the district's daily life.
This balance between memory and renewal helps the project strengthen its ties to the neighborhood and support a sense of belonging among residents.

Environmental, social, and economic sustainability of the project (e.g. contribution to climate action and environmental protection; measures to ensure long-term financial sustainability or future viability; benefits for people and communities, where relevant).

The sustainability of DumBO is rooted not only in the regeneration of a former railway yard, but also in the establishment of a living system capable of adapting and growing over time. From the beginning, the project was designed to minimize environmental impact, maximize social return, and ensure economic resilience.

Environmentally, the decision to reuse rather than demolish was itself a climate action.
Preserving industrial buildings avoided the generation of construction waste and the carbon footprint of new development. Complementary measures include the creative reuse of stored materials—wood, pallets, and furnishings—through co-design workshops that encourage circularity and community craftsmanship.
Beyond infrastructure, DumBO has experimented with **new standards for sustainable event production, such as waste reduction, greener logistics, and training schemes for cultural operators**. These practices turn the site into a laboratory where cultural activity and ecological responsibility reinforce each other.
Social sustainability is ensured through a participatory model that sees DumBO as a civic commons. The site

functions as an accessible meeting ground where different generations, communities, and organizations collaborate. The active **involvement of neighborhood committees provides constant feedback loops**: requests, needs, and ideas from residents translate into programming choices and infrastructural improvements.
Dedicated initiatives have been created to reach groups who often remain at the margins of cultural life: community gardening and tailored performances for seniors, literacy programs for over-60s, inclusive access for people with disabilities, and aggregation events for young people. This multidimensional approach ensures that DumBO is not only a cultural venue, but also a social infrastructure.
Economically, the project **balances public investment with private income to guarantee long-term viability**.
The initial regeneration was supported by regional and national funds, but financial autonomy is pursued through a diversified portfolio: space rentals, event ticketing, food and beverage, and sponsorships. This model reduces dependency on subsidies, while keeping many activities free or affordable for the public.
Furthermore, DumBO **hosts over 40 organizations that generate creative and entrepreneurial activity**, producing spillover effects in employment and innovation.
By weaving together these three strands—ecological responsibility, social inclusion, and financial resilience—DumBO demonstrates that urban regeneration can evolve into a sustainable ecosystem. Its model highlights that sustainability is not a single achievement, but a continuous process of adaptation, shared responsibility, and reinvestment in community value.

Measures adopted to ensure the longer term maintenance of the site.

The long-term maintenance of DumBO is ensured through a balance of governance, participation, institutional support, and economic sustainability.
Management is coordinated by Open Event Srl together with institutions, through a structured maintenance plan that covers building safety, utilities, and green areas, supported by agreements with specialized contractors. This technical framework is complemented by the active involvement of users and tenants: many of them directly take care of the spaces they use, ensuring their functionality, attractiveness, and accessibility.

Institutional partnerships with the Municipality of Bologna and FS Sistemi Urbani provide strategic oversight and policy alignment, embedding DumBO within broader strategies of urban regeneration and cultural development.

Dissemination of the project's results and knowledge gained and any outreach or educational activities.

Dissemination of DumBO's results has been a core aspect of its mission, ensuring that the knowledge gained is shared widely and can inspire similar initiatives elsewhere.

The project communicates through conferences, workshops, and publications, actively contributing to debates on urban regeneration, cultural innovation, and sustainable event management.

Results from projects such as DumBO Green District and Greening the Hubs are circulated through European networks, fostering peer learning with other cultural hubs. A key strategy has been the constant expansion of **DumBO's presence in national and international networks, which has greatly amplified the dissemination of practices and methodologies developed on site.**

Locally, DumBO organizes **guided tours, educational workshops, and open days to engage schools, universities, and residents, providing direct insight into the regeneration process** and its cultural impact.

Digital platforms and research collaborations further ensure that DumBO generates transferable knowledge for Europe's cultural and social innovation.

Transferability of the initiative to other contexts and its scalability potential.

DumBO's model is **highly transferable** and adaptable to other contexts, particularly where large, unused industrial or infrastructural sites exist.
Its approach is based on **temporary use agreements, modular and reversible venue design, and a mixed programming strategy that blends cultural, social, and commercial activities**.
This flexibility allows it to respond to different urban, social, and economic conditions while maintaining low initial

investment and high community impact.
While urban regeneration through cultural reuse is more common in Northern Europe, DumBO demonstrates how such practices can thrive in Mediterranean and Southern European contexts.

The project's governance structure—combining public, private, and non-profit actors—ensures resilience and diverse funding sources, making it scalable in both metropolitan and smaller city contexts.

Costs of the project/initiative

Costs of the project (in euro), financial and management arrangements, funding partners and/or the type of funding.

The total cost of the project was approximately **€600,000**. Of this, **€400,000 came from public funding,** divided as follows: €380,000 from the Regional Authority through a specific financing fund linked to the Recovery Fund, and €20,000 from the Ministry of Culture's Creative Living Lab programme.
The remaining **€200,000 derived from private sources**, broken down into: €100,000 from space rentals, €50,000 from event ticket sales, €40,000 from food and beverage services, and €10,000 from sponsorships.
The project operates under a hybrid financial model that combines public investment with self-generated revenue, ensuring both the sustainability of the initiative and its capacity to maintain free or low-cost access to many public activities.

Funding provided by the European Union or the EEA/Norway Grants (including programme, year and amount of the Grant), if any.

DumBO has benefitted from European support through key cultural and recovery programmes.
In 2023, it successfully completed the **MusicAIRE – An Innovative Recovery for Europe programme**, co-funded by the European Union, which supported the implementation of the *DumBO Green District* project. This initiative focused on developing sustainable event management practices, reinforcing DumBO's commitment to climate action and environmentally responsible cultural production.
In addition, DumBO is currently a lead partner in Greening the Hubs, a three-year collaborative initiative funded under the **Creative Europe Programme – Cooperation Grants**.
This project brings together nine cultural hubs from across Europe to exchange practices, deliver training, and strengthen the environmental competitiveness of cultural centres through sustainable management models.
These grants have been essential in consolidating DumBO's European dimension, enabling it to move from a local regeneration initiative to a recognized cultural and sustainability reference point at European level.

Additional information

How would winning the European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award benefit you, your project and/or your organisation?

Winning the European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award would give DumBO international recognition, strengthening its credibility with institutions, partners, and funders. It would support the project's long-term sustainability and amplify its visibility, inspiring other cities to embrace adaptive reuse as a tool for creativity, social cohesion, and climate action. For our organisation, it would validate years of participatory regeneration and empower us to share knowledge within European cultural and urban networks.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, what will the monetary award be used for?

If awarded the Grand Prix, the prize would support accessibility, and safety upgrades, while funding inclusive cultural production and educational programmes. This investment would reinforce DumBO's sustainability and inclusivity.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, who will be the recipient of the monetary award?

> The monetary award would be received by **Open Event Srl**, the organisation managing DumBO. As the lead entity responsible for the site's operations, programming, and long-term development, Open Event Srl would ensure that the funds are invested directly into sustaining and expanding DumBO's inclusive cultural, educational, and community-led initiatives.

How did you find out about the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Creative Europe website
Is this the first time that this entry has been submitted to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Yes
On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied are you with this online submission form?	✓ 9
By submitting your data, photographs and other material to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards you agree to the processing and sharing of your data in accordance with Europa Nostra's Privacy Policy. Please check the box to indicate you agree with the Privacy Policy.	✓

Log in to european-heritage.awardsplatform.com to see complete entry attachments.



1_VascelloBefor... 2.0 MiB



2_VascelloAfter.... 815 KiB



3_Temporanea... 5.2 MiB



4_Temporanea... 2.1 MiB



5_SpazioBianco... 1.6 MiB



6_SpazioBianco... 1.1 MiB



7.P.OrtoUrbano... 1.5 MiB



8_P.OrtoUrbano... 2.1 MiB



9.P.OrtoUrbano... 292 KiB



10_P.OrtoUrban... 2.2 MiB



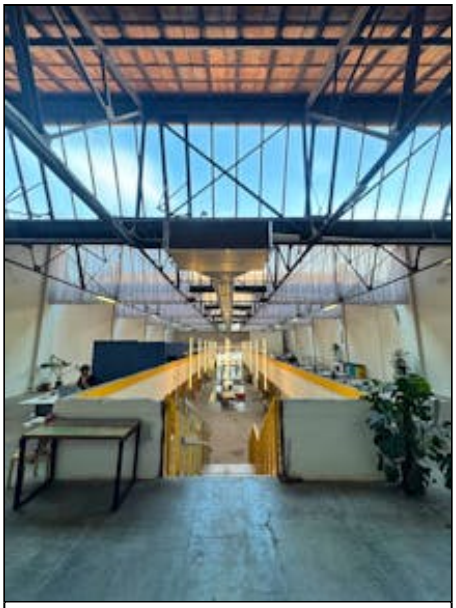
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12_OfficinaCow... 1.9 MiB



13_OfficinaCow... 2.8 MiB



14_OfficinaCow... 1.7 MiB



15_BinarioCent... 2.3 MiB



16_BinarioCent... 1.4 MiB



17_BaiaBefore.J... 2.0 MiB



18_BaiaAfter.jpg 3.8 MiB



19_BaiaBefore2... 1.4 MiB



20_BaiaAfter2.j... 2.3 MiB



21_DumBOEntr... 274 KiB



22_SchoolVisiti... 2.7 MiB



23_OutdoorLive... 359 KiB



24_MuralsInThe... 2.8 MiB



25_FamiliesEnt... 1.8 MiB



26_DancersInB... 547 KiB



27_LiveConcertI... 1.6 MiB



28_DumBOPlay... 1.5 MiB



29_ECHNMeeti... 974 KiB



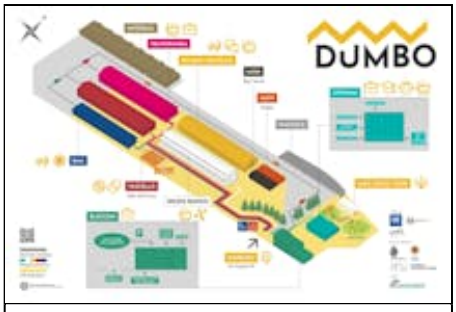
30_LiveConcertI... 7.0 MiB

DOCX

Credits (1).docx 747 KiB



1.jpg 1.3 MiB



DumBO_Map.jpg 168 KiB

PDF

Binario Central... 422 KiB

PDF

DumBO-TEMPO... 95 KiB

PDF

DumBO-OFFICI... 55 KiB

PDF

DumBO-BAIA - ... 68 KiB

PDF

HA2026 Entrant... 261 KiB

Attachment name
DumBO's overview

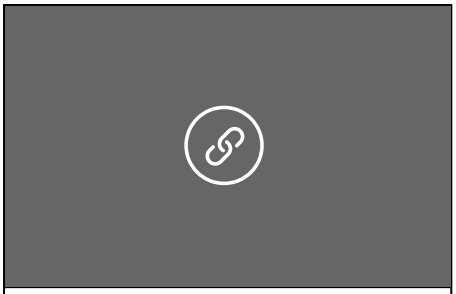
https://www.youtube.co...

Attachment name
Viva La Vida: Mexican m...

https://www.youtube.co...

Attachment name
Urbana - Underground ...

https://www.youtube.co...



Attachment name

DumBO - SHORT PRESE...

https://drive.google.co...

