



In the absence of a comprehensive city-wide guide that provides listings and events CUIP will prove to be an essential tool for those interested in Cairo's cultural/urban/architectural events and happenings. It could also help organizations coordinate to avoid overlapping events and conflicting calenders.

Like any map, however, CUIP while it makes certain spaces and initiatives visible it also makes invisible other potential spaces for arts and culture, namely the official establishment. It would be useful to include perhaps another color-coded category for official museums and other state-managed cultural spaces some of which sit empty and could potentially be used for events and programs by independent initiatives. The current map perpetuates the invisibility of this latent potential by only highlighting the active and energetic independent arts and culture scene.

CUIP is an important initiative of its own that is much needed in a city where sometimes it seems that nothing is happening at all and at other times it seems everything is happening at once. The platform helps us in navigating the clutter of facebook invites and email invites to separate events and spaces that are now listed and visible in one resource and calender. The success of the platform depends on the active participation of the various initiatives listed on the site who must use their login access to maintain their profiles and update their events.

For the how-to guide for using the site (pdf) [click here](#).

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[CUIP: Introducing the Cairo Urban Initiatives Platform](#)



The [Cairo Urban Initiatives Platform](#) is a project by [CLUSTER](#). CUIP “is a bilingual Arabic/English online directory and a shared calendar of events for the multiple art, culture, architecture, advocacy, urban development and interdisciplinary organizations/initiatives addressing issues related to the city, the urban environment and public space in Cairo. CUIP offers an expanding index of organizations and initiatives operating in Cairo, and an overview of events in categories including academia/research, advocacy, architecture, urbanism, crafts, cultural development, film, heritage, literature, music, networking, performing arts, photography, public space, sustainability, technology and visual arts.”

The online platform uses an attractive interface that is easy to use and navigate. For the first time Cairo has a tool that allows us not only to list in one place but also see on a map the various initiatives and arts spaces, creating a sense of perspective that was missing until now. The list of institutions, initiatives and groups is a work in progress, although most are already listed on the platform. The site is meant to be user-generated allowing persons/initiatives to create a new listing by filling an [online application](#) and creating a user name and login to maintain their organization’s events up-to-date. Organizations are then shown on the map and color coded. Upcoming events show on the map and they become animated (flashing) to attract attention. The color coding system while attractive at first impression doesn’t immediately translate into a clear distinction of theme or function (meaning it may not become obviously clear what the difference is between light blue and dark blue coded initiatives). However there is a tab on the interface that allows users to choose by [name](#), by type, by focus, by activity and by resource.