Improving Society through Culture and Science
Here at the "la Caixa" Foundation, we believe in culture and science, we believe in people. That's why, since the 1970s, these two fields have played an important role in our programming.

The drive to work for personal development and social cohesion through cultural and scientific programmes is what fuels our progress. We believe in the capacity for innovation, in talent, in passion, in knowledge, in culture and in art.

We do this by helping society access knowledge through programming that covers contemporary and historical topics and seeks to create connections between the huge questions posed by science and culture.

**Our Commitment to the Future**

We believe that culture and science need to play a central role in society and in people’s lives; they need to be a tool for knowledge and change that will allow us to take on the huge social and environmental challenges in the coming years.
We overcome boundaries
We provide new perspectives, we analyse the past, we connect with the present and we build the future through exhibitions, activities and calls. We make culture and science more accessible, helping them to contribute towards social cohesion.

We work as a network
We collaborate with culture and scientific institutions, artists, mediators, and we have a presence at all of our CaixaForum and CosmoCaixa centres across Spain.

We get close to all regions
We organise dozens of exhibitions and events around Spain and Portugal, which are available in different mobile formats such as expandable units, street art and mixed formats.

↑ Family Activity. Exhibition: “H. Anglada-Camarasa. A Pictorial Take on Reality”
↑ CaixaForum Valencia
↑ Symphony
CaixaForum and CosmoCaixa Centres

A Network of Centres that Are Part of their Cities’ Monumental Heritage

Throughout the years, in the main cities in our country, we have recovered buildings of huge architectural importance to turn them into cultural and scientific outreach centres.

Meeting points between people and knowledge, dynamic spaces that take geographical proximity into account, a range of topics, diverse formats, high-quality programming that is accessible for everybody and the huge amount of diversity in our audiences.

That’s how, through the CaixaForum and CosmoCaixa centres, we bring culture and science closer to the general public by designing exhibitions with a specific interactive and educational spirit. Creating our own content and collaborating with international institutions helps us to meet that goal.
**CosmoCaixa - Science Museum**

In a building that blends *modernista* and avant-garde styles, the Barcelona Science Museum is one of the leading centres in the city that seeks to bring science closer to all kinds of audiences, stimulating curiosity about science and advocating for the role that science plays in society.

↑ Opened in 1981

**CaixaForum Madrid**

Located in the very heart of the city, the old building of the Mediodía electricity plant is now a cultural, social and educational centre for all kinds of audiences, which covers a space of over 10,000m² and has an iconic wall garden that welcomes visitors in.

↑ Opened in 2008
CaixaForum Palma

The building that once housed the Gran Hotel, is now a CaixaForum and is the most notable example of *modernista* architecture in the city of Palma. Since it opened its doors in 1993, the people of the city can enjoy an excellent level of cultural programming.

CaixaForum Zaragoza

The unique architecture of the building, characterised by its arboreal shape, makes this cultural centre a must when visiting the city, with an underground auditorium that particularly stands out, as well as cultural and artistic programming for all audiences.
CaixaForum Sevilla

Located right next to Triana and the historical centre of Sevilla, this building is thought to be an impeccable exercise of avant-garde architecture and acts as a motor of culture in the city with over 8,000m² of space for exhibitions, art and knowledge.

CaixaForum Tarragona

This meeting point of culture and science for the residents of the city and the surrounding area is located under the monumental gaze of the Centenari fountain, an icon of the urban expansion of Tarragona.

↑ Opened in 2017  ↑ Opened in 2001
CaixaForum Lleida

The glorious building, which was once home to the famous Vinyes cinema, a jewel of modernista architecture in Lleida, has been a cultural touchstone, serving local residents since the 1980s.

CaixaForum Girona

Fontana d’Or is a fine example of Catalan civil architecture from the mediaeval period and is part of Girona’s historical heritage. Since 2011, it has been home to our centre, which has become an important space for the people of the city.

↑ Opened in 1985  ↑ Opened in 2011
CaixaForum Valencia

An outstanding piece of architecture, the latest cultural centre of the "la Caixa" Foundation is located in the city of Valencia, in an important enclave of the Ágora building, part of the City of Arts and Sciences.

CaixaForum Macaya

Casa Macaya, an architectural gem of Catalan modernisme in Barcelona, is a centre for reflection and debate among a range of players in our society; the aim of the centre is to work on challenges in the social, economic, industrial, technological, humanistic and environmental fields.

† Opened in 2022  † Opened in 1978
Exhibitions on Culture and Science

**Discovering, feeling, participating**

The exhibitions cover current-day topics and interlock different disciplines and time periods. The variety in the exhibition programming, (from archaeology to contemporary art, covering the old masters and even architecture and cinema), allows them to connect with all audiences. The exhibitions are also the starting point for many activities that generate a range of perspectives and bolster the CaixaForum experience.

Deals are made with some of the most important museums in the world (the British Museum, Centre Georges Pompidou, La Cinémathèque française, the TATE or Museo del Prado), which are on the cutting-edge in terms of culture regeneration and their social dimensions. By presenting their collections, we create new narratives that link the past to the present, we

Alliances

† Exhibition: “teamLab. Art, Technology, Nature”
support our audiences, we blend research and outreach, thought and debate. Furthermore, we collaborate with other museums around the world on occasional projects, collaborating with top specialists.

**Travelling Exhibitions**

*Culture and science, closer to everyone*

We work to help the general public get closer to culture, science and knowledge all across the country. As such, for some years now, our programming also involves travelling exhibitions: a selection of exhibitions that travel around the towns and cities of Spain and Portugal.

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**Agreements**

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**Exhibitions in CaixaForum centres in 2021**

31

**Visitors per year for all centres and travelling exhibitions**

4,653,815

**Travelling exhibitions in 2021**

78

**Cities visited per year across Spain and Portugal**

72
Homo Ludens
Videogames for Understanding the Present

Could the videogames industry be dangerous? Can videogames stimulate our creativity? Can you really get to know someone by playing online with them? Can videogames change our perspective on a given topic? Are likes points in a real-life game?

These are some of the questions that a visit to ‘Homo Ludens’ brings up: an immersive and participatory experience in the world of videogames, as an industry, creation and culture.

The exhibition examines what videogames bring to the table in the field of science, design and art; how they have changed our identities, the way we relate to them and how they have made their way into all aspects of our lives.
The Magritte Machine

In 1950, René Magritte (1898 - 1967) participated in La Manufacture de Poésie, a catalogue of imaginary products, importantly including a Machine universelle à faire des tableaux.

‘The Magritte Machine’ was inspired by this story. It underscores the non-systematic yet methodical approach of the work of the Belgian painter. The many replicas and variation on Magritte’s work were a way of “pinpointing mystery, getting a better grip on it.” The artist himself recognised that his central predicament involved coming up with variations and combinations based on a limited number of motifs.

The exhibition, organised alongside Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, presents over 70 pictures, along with a selection of family photographs and videos from over 50 museums and collections spread out across Europe, Canada, the USA and Japan.
Cinema and Fashion
By Jean Paul Gaultier

With this exhibition, the "la Caixa" Foundation and Cinémathèque française are following through on a collaboration that has allowed them to present outstanding exhibitions of cinema and culture.

This time, the fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier was invited to examine the relationship between fashion and cinema based on the Cinémathèque française collections, and those of over twenty international lenders: dresses, looks and haut-couture pieces, fashion accessories, sketches, film posters, photographs from film sets, document, set reconstructions and film extracts.

The display goes over the presence of the world of fashion and runways in cinema, the collaborations of huge names in fashion on film costumes and the creation of masculine and feminine archetypes. With a Gaultier flourish, special attention is paid to heterodox figures of warriors, both male and female, androgynous and cross-dressing, and the influence of rock, punk and queer culture that have had such a huge influence on fashion in recent years.

Exhibition co-organised by
Cinématèque française and the "la Caixa" Foundation
Mummies of Egypt
Rediscovering Six Lives

New non-invasive techniques have paved the way for extraordinary developments in what we know about mummies. Now, we don’t need to remove their bandages to know who those men and women were, how old they were or how they died. Each mummy has a story to tell.

The exhibition reconstructs the lives of six people over a period that spans 400 years: an official from Thebes (c. 600 BC), two priests (c. 700 BC and c. 800 BC), a woman from Thebes (c. 700 BC), a child (1st Century AD) and a young Greco-Roman man from Egypt (c. 100 BC – 100 AD).

Based on these specific individuals, we plunge into the story of the mummies, in the techniques used to preserve their bodies in Ancient Egypt and their ideas about the afterlife.
Educating in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

We are living in the age of information and big data creation, and artificial intelligence is crucial for making sense of the digital world that forms part of our lives.

Education, as the main point of leverage for changing society, is both the beneficiary and an instrument for working towards a form of artificial intelligence that will support human progress.

This exhibition is a space for research and debate on the opportunities and risks involved in using artificial intelligence in education. An interactive and stimulating experience that helps visitors to develop a critical view of these applications, understand their huge potential and identify the humanistic applications of this technology. It takes a specific look at aspects related to student creativity, privacy and bias in the algorithms, the agency that teachers have, the promotion of equality and equity, the drive to monitor, assess and research the impact of this type of software.
The Sun
Living with Our Star

These days, we do our utmost to predict the behaviour of the Sun and understand the impact it could have on our lives. We live on a small planet that orbits the sun. This simple fact determines whether it is day or night, what seasons it is, the length of the year, etc. The Sun also has an effect on bodies and health.

This interactive exhibition invites us to discover the secrets of our star and shows us the fascinating history of the relationship between human beings and the Sun. The display covers four main topics: measuring the passing of time using the apparent movements of the Sun, making the most of its energy, the relationship between the Sun and health and, lastly, studying the Sun from an astrophysical perspective.

Exhibition organised in collaboration with the Science Museum
Human Image
Art, Identities and Symbolism

The display takes us on an emotive journey through one of the most common themes in figurative art: the human being. These iconic pieces from ancient civilisation housed in the British Museum are paired with contemporary pieces from the "la Caixa" Collection, with important artworks on loan from other institutions such as Museo del Prado. In one single space, a juxtaposition is drawn between pieces from vastly different eras and cultures, with vastly different subjects.

In every corner of the world, people have been constantly trying to represent themselves. Many of these representations contain complex symbolism; some of them depict the beauty and mystery of the human body through different means, from profound stylisation to hyper-realism.
Pixar
Building Characters

Pixar Animation Studios is well known, mainly because of a fanciful idea that drives their films (toys that come to life, an old man that makes his house fly using thousands of balloons, a family of superheroes, etc.). These stories stem from the ups-and-downs in the daily lives of their creators. From the first sketches and hastily scribbled notes to the finishing touches of lighting and special effects, the Pixar creators are constantly doing their utmost to contribute to the emotional development of their characters with all the tools they have at their disposal.

Over the years and years of work and effort that go into producing each film, the Pixar team doesn’t leave anything up to fate, everything is done to help the story rouse our emotions. This exhibition gives us a glance into Pixar’s design process from the artists’ perspective. The works on display provide a general idea of the years of experimentation, deliberation and repetition that are poured into each film.

Pen on paper
© Pixar

Exhibition organised by Pixar Animation Studios in collaboration with the "la Caixa" Foundation
The CaixaForum and CosmoCaixa centres are spaces for reflection, dialogue and participation. There, people can learn and exchange knowledge with the goal of generating meaningful experiences in the fields of art, culture and science.

Our programming works in four different lines:

1. **Knowledge and reflection** to promote critical thinking and reflection on the world around us

2. **Contemporary creation** to encourage and spread creative and innovative initiatives

3. **Active learning** to activate processes for production and participation based on learning by doing

4. **Cohesion** to promote inclusion, social justice and equity

Bearing in mind the wide range of audience and their varying interests, we generate specific programmes with a transversal and complementary vision that blend the humanities, arts and sciences.
For school groups
We provide support for children, starting with their first experiences and following them through different stages of knowledge in order to provide them with tools for understanding the world and understanding themselves.

For family groups
We create meeting places for little ones and grown-ups. We put on enjoyable participatory activities with a wide range that encourages artistic and active action.

For the general public
We encourage critical thinking and reflection through projects that make knowledge accessible with a transversal perspective that integrates and includes science, technology, arts and humanities.

For youth groups
We identify, spread and promote creative and innovative initiatives within the fields of science, humanities and the arts through contemporary creation with the collaboration of interdisciplinary artists.

12,147
activities in 2021

455,765
participants in activities in 2021
The Contemporary Art Collection
and Calls for Young Curators and Artists

† The "la Caixa" Foundation Contemporary Art Collection

† Tours for School Groups. The "la Caixa" Foundation Contemporary Art Collection
In the 1980s, a pioneering art collection was started, which is now one of the most important private collections in Spain and Southern Europe.

From its very beginnings, the "la Caixa" Foundation Contemporary Art Collection has valued dialogue above all else. Between artists and critics, different eras and different nationalities.

The collection also establishes contact between people and their world. Based around the collection, we set up programmes to bring art closer to visitors, to families and to schools.

We organise exhibitions to present what we have in the collection in various cities in Spain and abroad. We have also created two funding calls to support contemporary creation aimed at artists and young professionals. The collection’s life grows thanks to the pieces we add each year, the contact we have with the creators and the network of young professionals who create their own projects based on the pieces in our collection.
Music
Participation as an Instrument for Outreach

The Participatory Messiah

Symphony

#YoCanto
Our musical activities approach this artform in the broadest way possible: we explain the story behind the music, we bring it closer to little ones, and we ensure that we always have a complete and varied range of concerts, from classical to electronica, including jazz and world music.

In the 1990s, we introduced *The Participatory Messiah*, the first of a series of concerts (from choral symphonies to Broadway musicals) in which amateur singers take part alongside prestigious professionals.

During the lockdown in the spring of 2020, since it was impossible to put on participatory concerts in person, we shifted to digital space and created videos based on recordings that the singers made at home. This is the #YoCanto project, which led to in-person meet-ups in different cities in Spain and video recordings. We also recorded symphonies in an educational manner with a lot of explanations.

The *Symphony* project involves a journey through music and emotions, with the aim of bringing classical music closer to all audiences. Using real images, CGI with special effects on a large screen and immersive music, spectators end up feeling like they are a musician playing in a concert.

| 114,245 visitors for *Symphony* (from the beginning) |
| 60,615 participating singers (from the beginning) |
| 513,280 audience members for the participatory concerts (from the beginning) |
Art for Change

Art as a Tool for Improving Society

The "la Caixa" Foundation's Art for Change programme is an initiative in which art and culture are used as a tool for improving society. Based on an annual call, we promote projects with creative processes headed up by an artist in which all kinds of people take part, especially collectives in vulnerable situations.

Through these initiatives, we want to give participants the chance to have contact with art and culture and offer equal opportunities and conditions, contributing towards empowering people and groups through an artistic process connected with the plastic arts, photography, video, music, theatre, circus, dance and literature.

224 projects submitted in 2021

19 projects selected 2021

€399,320 in funding for the projects in total

† Art for Change. Human Rights on the Stage Project
CaixaForum+ is a platform that brings us closer to the world of culture and science through videos, podcasts and streaming events. Accessible by registering, the contents can be viewed on mobile devices, tablets, computers and televisions.

CaixaForum+ has a broad scope of action: music, plastic and visual arts, performing arts, thought and history, cinema, architecture and design, literature, physical sciences, life science, etc. We offer an ecosystem of cultural content and scientific outreach, which are accessible for all kinds of audiences, anywhere and at any time.

We expand and take a deeper look with proposals that allow us to approach culture and science through new perspectives and using different formats: from concerts to interviews, dance, digital art, theatre, opera, poetry, cinema, conversations and documentaries.

The objective is part of the ”la Caixa” Foundation’s commitment to society, to bring culture and science closer to people. We provide the audience with rigorous and unique content with the CaixaForum hallmark: discovery, knowledge and dialogue between different disciplines involving all cultural agents.
Exhibition: "teamLab. Art, Technology, Nature"

"la Caixa" Foundation

It’s only progress if we all progress