

yannis bekhti appointed president of the epcc cité du design-ésad saint- étienne



Yannis Bekhti © Jérôme Abou /
Ville de Saint-Étienne

An international affairs consultant, Yannis Bekhti is a graduate of the École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr (Castelnau class, 2014) and HEC Paris (2016). He also studied at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York. In 2019, he co-founded the audiovisual production company Malfamé.

A few weeks after the installation of the new municipal team in Saint-Étienne and the new executive of Saint-Étienne Métropole, the Board of Directors of the Public Institution for Cultural Cooperation (EPCC) Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne elected its new President on Tuesday 2 June 2026. Yannis Bekhti, Metropolitan Councillor and Deputy Mayor in charge of the city's image, international relations, digital affairs and design in the city, has been entrusted with this mandate.

Meeting on 2 June 2026 in the presence of Régis Juanico, Mayor of Saint-Étienne and President of Saint-Étienne Métropole, the Board of Directors of the EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne elected Yannis Bekhti as Head of the EPCC.

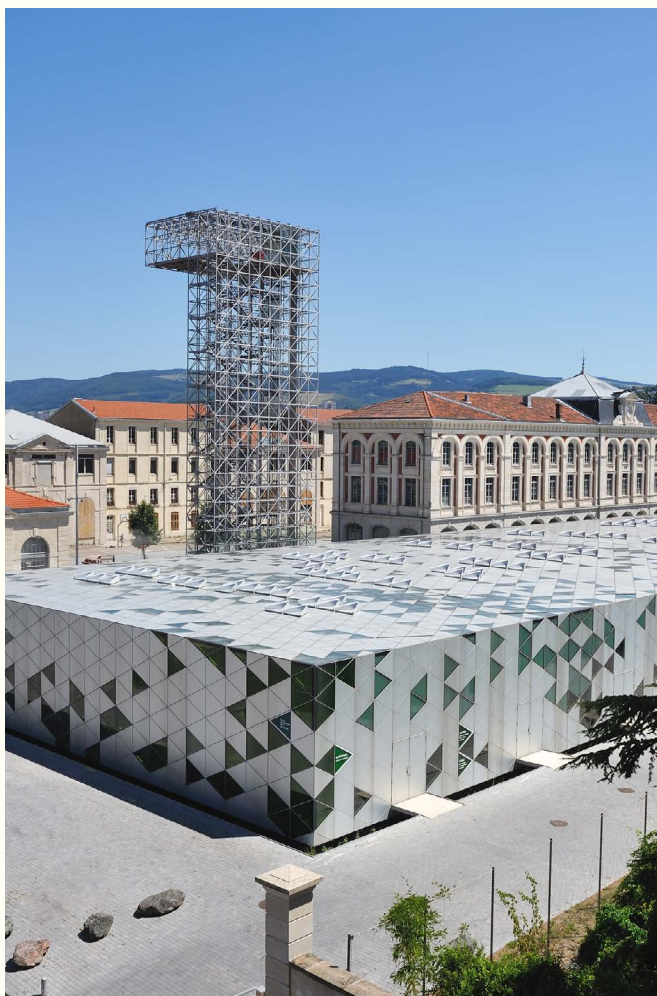
Daniel Damart, Municipal Councillor and Vice-President of Saint-Étienne Métropole in charge of economic development, was also elected Vice-President of the institution.

Yannis Bekhti is a Metropolitan Councillor delegated to research and design, and Deputy Mayor of Saint-Étienne in charge of the city's image, international relations, digital affairs and design in the city. He is actively committed to strengthening the area's attractiveness and enhancing its profile, notably by promoting industrial and creative sectors such as design.

"Our region is facing major economic, environmental and social transformations. To address these challenges, the talent of our local designers is a key asset: they will help us develop concrete and sustainable solutions."

Yannis Bekhti, new President of the EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne

As President of the EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne, Yannis Bekhti intends to act with both method and ambition: "Our priority is to rebuild the Cité du design on sound financial and governance foundations in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the school. Once this has been achieved, we will be able to deliver an ambitious project firmly rooted in the local context, for the benefit of all stakeholders across the metropolitan area. The Cité must reconnect with its history and embody the continuity that links the *Manuchards* (former workers of the arms factory), to the creators who today bring life to the walls of the former *Manufacture d'armes* (arms factory)."



The Public Institution for Cultural Cooperation (EPCC) Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne is tasked with training the creators of tomorrow and engaging with all audiences to embed design at the heart of society. It brings together, on the one hand, the teaching and research activities of the École Supérieure d'Art et Design de Saint-Étienne (ranked 5th best French design school in 2026 by *Le Figaro Étudiant* journal), and on the other, a range of cultural programmes that make it a unique space for discovering, experimenting with and sharing design: exhibitions, publications, conferences, workshops for young audiences, and events – including the Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Étienne.

In June 2026, the opening of the Galerie Nationale du Design, run jointly with the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole (MAMC+), marks a major milestone in the development of the cultural offer within the Cité du design quarter, through a venue dedicated to showcasing French public design collections.

Supported by the City of Saint-Étienne and Saint-Étienne Métropole, with the backing of the French State (Ministry of Culture) and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, the EPCC Cité du design-Ésad Saint-Étienne contributes to the national and international profile of the area, as part of the UNESCO Creative Cities of Design network.

PRESS CONTACT

Nathalie Colonge,
Communications and Press Relations Officer
presse@citedudesign.com
+33 (0)7 64 06 70 93