



UNESCO Cities of Literature

# Press Pack

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## The UNESCO Cities of Literature network of 28 cities represents 6 continents and 23 countries

The UNESCO Cities of Literature network boasts a combined population of over 26 million, 1250 libraries, 130 literary festivals, over 1200 bookshops, the world's oldest book, the world's tallest monument to a writer, the world's first Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing programme, the oldest university in central Europe, and the only train station named after a book.

The range of activity is impressive, from the world's largest book festival to the most unusual literary hotels. Individual authors from the cities are commemorated in public celebrations such as Bloomsday and Robert Louis Stevenson Day. Poetry is celebrated in the Young Poet Laureate scheme, poetry entryphones, live literature

performances, and several poetry festivals in different cities. Celebrations of heritage – from paved walkways to statues and bridges named after writers – work alongside citywide programmes to nurture new readers.

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**The range of activity is impressive, from the world's largest book festival to the most unusual literary hotels.**

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Emerging writers' festivals and programmes are championed by the cities, as well as several children's literature festivals, reading initiatives, and library campaigns.

Numerous prizes, writing residencies, and scholarships play a large part in advancing the creative output of the cities, celebrating works of translation, poetry, fiction, design, illustration, and much more. A Book-Flood Before Christmas, book fairs, curated tours, A Writer's Studio, and the Children's Culture House - these are just a few of the activities and projects that recognise the importance of books, publishing, reading, and writing, in each of our cities of literature.

## Who we are - Network map



In 2004, Edinburgh was the first city to become a UNESCO City of Literature, sparking a global network of creative cities. Now there are 28 Cities of Literature that come together as an international advisory hub for aspiring Cities of Literature.

Each city is dedicated to a host of international projects, collaborations, and advocacy for literature.

## We are a global network of 28 cities that specialise in literature

The UNESCO designation 'City of Literature' recognises excellence and places an obligation on cities to nurture and support their artform. We collaborate internationally by sharing best practice, supporting freedom of speech and running projects which ensure literature reaches as wide and diverse an audience as possible, locally and internationally.

The 28 Cities of Literature are part of a wider UNESCO Creative Cities Network currently made up of 180 UNESCO Creative Cities globally. Members from 72 countries covering 7 creative fields – Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Music, and Media Arts – have all received UNESCO designations, which recognise past, present

and future: a strong cultural heritage, a vibrant and diverse contemporary cultural scene, and aspirations to extend culture to the next generation at home and to other cities in a global partnership.

The designations are monitored and reviewed every 4 years by UNESCO. To meet the criteria, each city makes a commitment to develop a shared network strategy, foster the exchange of information, encourage global partnerships, and promote creativity and culture.

“Reading for pleasure is the single most important thing that will make a child successful in life.”

UNESCO



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## Our shared activities

The UNESCO Cities of Literature network is home to a collection of diverse personalities and languages

We are active in making the literary and creative sectors of our cities thrive through the development and implementation of a shared global strategy. We have collaborated internationally through projects which promote the network, share good practice, and ensure that literature reaches diverse audiences. **Please take a look at the next few pages, which contain information to help find 'hooks' for press features.**

Network-wide collaboration -  
World Poetry Day

## The annual World Poetry Day returns in March 2018

In 2018, the Network will collaborate with a simultaneous literary event, modelled on Granada's 2017 event where 44 poets performed in 18 different bookshops across the city for 3 hours.

Our shared activities

Granada  
Ciudad de Literatura  
UNESCO

# 21/3Día Mundial de la Poesía



## lectura de poemas

### Librerías participantes

AGAPEA  
ALSUR  
ATLAS  
BABEL GRAN CAPITÁN  
BABEL SAN JUAN DE DIOS  
BAKAKAI  
CENTRO FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA  
CENTRO JOSÉ GUERRERO  
JUAN DE MAJRENA  
NUEVA GALA  
PICASSO  
PICASSO INFANTIL  
RECICLAJE  
SOSTIENE PEREIRA  
TIENDA DE LA ALHAMBRA  
UBÚ  
UN MUNDO FELIZ  
URBANA VERGELES

### Poetas

MIGUEL ÁNGEL BARRERA  
JAVIER BÉNTEZ  
MAISA BLANCO  
JAVIER BOZALONGO  
BEGOÑA CALLEJÓN  
LOLA CALLEJÓN  
CARMEN CANET  
VIRGILIO CARA  
PEDRO LUIS CASANOVA  
JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO  
OLALLA CASTRO  
NIEVES CHILLÓN  
ANTONIO DAFOS  
MÓNICA DOÑA  
PEDRO ENRÍQUEZ  
MÓNICA FRANCÉS  
JUAN CARLOS FRIEBE  
LUIS GARCÍA MONTERO  
TRINIDAD SAN  
TERESA GÓMEZ  
JOSÉ MIGUEL GÓMEZ ACOSTA  
IOANA GRUIA  
RAFAEL GULLÉN  
FERNANDO JAÉN  
RAFAEL JUÁREZ  
IGNACIO LÓPEZ DE ABERASTURI  
JUAN DE LOXA  
RUBÉN MARTÍN  
ERIKA MARTÍNEZ  
MANUEL M. MATEO  
LUIS MELGAREJO  
ISABEL MELLADO  
JESÚS MONTIEL  
ÁNGELES MORA  
GRACIA MORALES  
ANDRÉS NEUMAN  
ALEJANDRO PEDREGOSA  
RAMÓN REPISO  
ÁNGEL RODRÍGUEZ  
DANIEL RODRÍGUEZ MOYA  
JOSÉ CARLOS ROSALES  
F. DAVID RUIZ  
ALFONSO SALAZAR  
ÁLVARO SALVADOR  
MARINA TAPIA  
AYES TORTOSA



Granada  
Ciudad de Literatura  
UNESCO



Ayuntamiento  
de Granada



Toda la información  
sobre horarios y lugares  
de las lecturas en  
[granadaciudaddeliteratura.com](http://granadaciudaddeliteratura.com)

Colaboran



Centro Federico García Lorca



OJO  
DEL OCHO

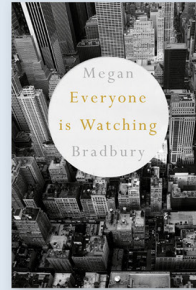
Foto: J. L. García

Network-wide collaboration -  
Cities of Literature recommend

## Enjoy hand-selected literature from each of our cities

In 2015, the network started a 'Cities of Literature Recommend' summer (winter for Dunedin and Melbourne) reading list. All cities selected one book and one author to promote from their city. The books selected were shared widely and promoted through the network's social media and website channels.

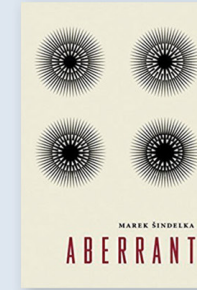
Our shared activities



**Norwich**



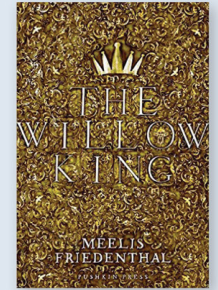
**Nottingham**



**Prague**



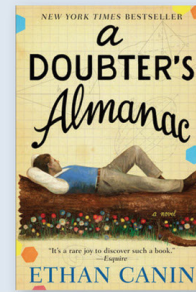
**Reykjavik**



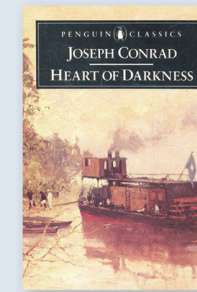
**Tartu**



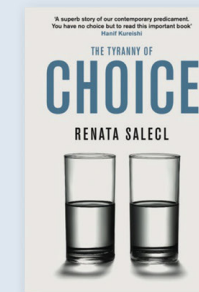
**Heidelberg**



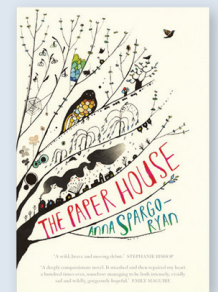
**Iowa City**



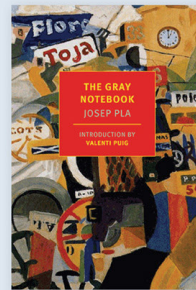
**Krakow**



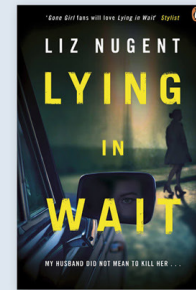
**Ljubljana**



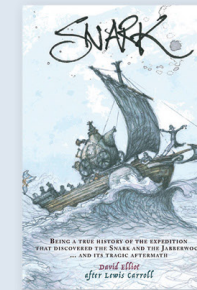
**Melbourne**



**Barcelona**



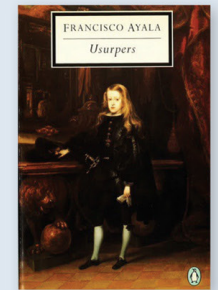
**Dublin**



**Dunedin**



**Edinburgh**



**Granada**



**Network-wide collaboration -**  
Annual Network Meeting

## The network comes together in Iowa City, April 2018

The UNESCO Cities of Literature network comes together every year in April for a 4-day conference to showcase activity in their literary cities and to discuss projects and potential collaborations for the future.

In 2017, Barcelona welcomed 23 network delegates to their city. The conference received strong media attention with features on the news in Tv3 (Catalan TV) and articles in *La Vanguardia* (print) and *EIPuntAvui* (print), as well as references in long articles on Sant Jordi's day at *El Periodico* (print) and *Ara* (print).

**IMAGE** Cities of Literature group,  
Enghien-les-bains, June 2017

Our shared activities



“UNESCO City of Literature has been an invaluable source of support and encouragement, not least in the early stages of my career. Writers’ Centre Norwich, the management organisation, has provided expert advice on Arts Council funding applications; invited me to take part in events such as the Norfolk & Norwich Arts Festival and the East Anglian Book Awards, where I have been both award-winner and speaker; and put me forward for a two-month residency as the UNESCO City of Literature writer-in-residence in Prague, which has been integral to drafting my third novel.

**The UNESCO Cities of Literature Network is, both domestically and internationally, an irreplaceable resource for both writers and readers.”**

**Sarah Perry**, novelist, Norwich City of Literature

## Our shared activities - Flagship collaboration between cities



Barcelona | Norwich | Krakow

### Engage

Engage is a development programme for young producers to work together to create a literature and freedom-of-expression festival with UNESCO Cities of Literature and ICORN Cities.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



Dublin

### Finnegan's Wake

To mark the 75th anniversary of the publication of James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*, 7 UNESCO Cities of Literature each took one of the short stories from the book and filmed them. The short films are available individually and also as one film.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



Edinburgh

### Let's Get Lyrical

This was the first cross-artform collaboration between UNESCO Creative Cities. Initiated and co-ordinated by Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust in collaboration with Glasgow UNESCO City of Music, Let's Get Lyrical dedicated the month of February 2011 to celebrating the power of song lyrics. It brought together 69 partners to deliver a programme of 86 events in 28 days across Glasgow and Edinburgh.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



Krakow | Heidelberg | Reykjavik | Tartu

## Drop the Mic

Drop the Mic was a networking programme for slam poets which enhanced knowledge, talent-exchange, international connections, and mentorship. The project included 5 meetings in the participating cities, which brought together slam poets from each of the Cities of Literature and offered them an opportunity to exchange experiences and perform together.

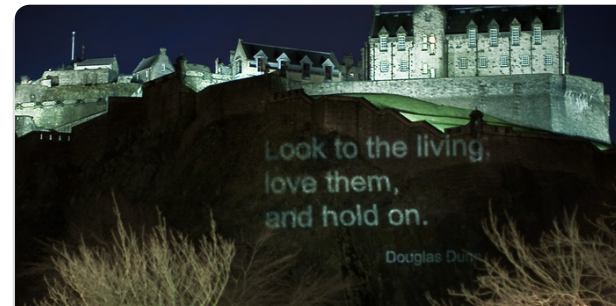
[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



Granada | Heidelberg

## Osip Mandelstam

On the occasion of the 125th birthday of Russian-Jewish poet Osip Mandelstam, UNESCO Cities of Literature Heidelberg and Granada presented the exhibition 'Osip Mandelstam: Word and Destiny' together with the State Literary Museum in Moscow in 2017.



Lviv

## Letter of the Day

Letter of the Day is an education and promotional project which explores the literary traditions of other UNESCO Cities of Literature.



Melbourne | Reykjavik

## Sleipnir Travels

Sleipnir Travels is an online digital publishing tool for children aged between 8 and 14. It hosts a micro-publishing postcard interface which allows children to send postcards from Sleipnir to their friends via email. Sleipnir travels from one city to another, stopping up to 10 times during his trip, thus allowing the young writers with a character (Sleipnir) as inspiration and allocation.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



Prague

## Residency Programme

Since 2015, Prague City of Literature has offered six residential stays for writers and translators from the UNESCO Cities of Literature network.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)



Annual event

## Ulyanovsk Cultural Forum

Now in its 7th year, the international forum has become a platform for discussing key issues between cultural professionals from the regions of Russia and other countries of the world. The forum provides an excellent opportunity to make contacts with partners and to get acquainted with Russian culture.

[FIND OUT MORE →](#)

## Who are the Cities of Literature?

Discover more about our Cities of Literature, and read more fast facts, with the links below

### 2004

[Edinburgh \(UK\)](#) →

### 2008

[Iowa City \(USA\)](#) →

[Melbourne \(Australia\)](#) →

### 2010

[Dublin \(Ireland\)](#) →

### 2011

[Reykjavik \(Iceland\)](#) →

### 2012

[Norwich \(UK\)](#) →

### 2013

[Krakow \(Poland\)](#) →

### 2014

[Dunedin \(New Zealand\)](#) →

[Prague \(Czech Republic\)](#) →

[Granada \(Spain\)](#) →

[Heidelberg \(Germany\)](#) →

### 2015

[Baghdad \(Iraq\)](#) →

[Barcelona \(Spain\)](#) →

[Ljubljana \(Slovenia\)](#) →

[Lviv \(Ukraine\)](#) →

[Montevideo \(Uruguay\)](#) →

[Nottingham \(UK\)](#) →

[Óbidos \(Portugal\)](#) →

[Tartu \(Estonia\)](#) →

[Ulyanovsk \(Russia\)](#) →

### 2017

[Bucheon \(South Korea\)](#) →

[Durban \(South Africa\)](#) →

[Lillehammer \(Norway\)](#) →

[Manchester \(UK\)](#) →

[Milan \(Italy\)](#) →

[Québec City \(Canada\)](#) →

[Seattle \(USA\)](#) →

[Utrecht \(Netherlands\)](#) →

## Latest news from the network



Edinburgh-based novelist **Kirsty Logan** selected for Granada's Writers in Residence Programme

[READ →](#)



Dublin announces **The Long Gaze Back**, An Anthology of Irish Women Writers, edited by Sinéad Gleeson, as the Dublin: One City, One Book choice for 2018

[READ →](#)



The Third **New Zealand Young Writers Festival** to be Held in Dunedin

[READ →](#)



**Iowa City Book Festival** celebrates International Connections

[READ →](#)



**The 83rd PEN International Congress**, hosted by Ukraine PEN in Partnership with Lviv UNESCO City of Literature Office

[READ →](#)



**Monem Mahjoub**, Libyan poet, philosopher, historian and political critic, becomes the seventh beneficiary of ICORN's scholarship programme in Krakow

[READ →](#)



Nottingham announces its First Young Poet Laureate, **Georgina Wilding**

[READ →](#)

## Testimonials

# What does it mean to be in the network?

"When the idea for a 'City of Literature' designation first came into being, we imagined it as something permanent with Edinburgh as the first in an international network of cities, a partnership of literary cities around the world. Looking at the network today, we are proud to be part of something so vibrant and diverse. We learn from, and are constantly inspired by, our sister cities of literature."

**Jenny Brown**, Founding Trustee,  
Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature

"The designation of Iowa City as a UNESCO City of Literature gave an already vibrant literary city a new dimension of growth. From locally to internationally, the profile of the city has been raised, attracting new visitors and opportunities. The literary ecosystem is growing from all angles, and our organization, the Iowa Writers' House, is a shining example of that growth!"

**Andrea Wilson**, Founder and Executive Director,  
Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City of Literature

"Literature is universal, taking us to different times, different places, different lives. The City of Literature network is a great way to share experiences and project ideas with each other. By tapping into the diversity of each city, the network enriches the projects which are happening in each individual city."

**Rebecca Moynihan**, Deputy Mayor,  
Dublin City of Literature



"Since Heidelberg has been named a City of Literature, a lot has changed for me as an author. I have come into closer contact with literatures of the other cities: on the one hand through my literary salon, where the literature of Dublin and Barcelona were presented; on the other hand via a translation project involving 6 authors through the Expedition Poetry to Prague. I have experienced enrichment through the preoccupation with literature from other cities and most notably the direct co-operation with authors, immediate exchange of texts, thoughts, and ideas as an initiative of creativity and friendship."

**Frank Barsch**, literary scholar and author  
Heidelberg City of Literature

"The Cities of Literature Network provides the Villa Decius Association with the unique possibility to host even more talented and young writers from all over the world. The Krakow UNESCO City of Literature Residency Program that we are running together with the Krakow Festival Office, is a great opportunity for us to develop interconnections, support mobility and promote excellent literature in the City. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for its further development!"

**Małgorzata Róžańska**, Villa Decius  
Association, Krakow City of Literature

"As a young poet starting a young press in Iceland, I found the Reykjavík UNESCO City of Literature office to be instrumentally helpful in the early stages of my career. They are hands-down the only organisation in Iceland providing financial support to grassroots and/or avant-garde literature, and my press and my practice would not be what it is today had it not been for their support at the crucial early stages."

**Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir**, poet and publisher  
of Partus Press, Reykjavík City of Literature



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# Contact the UNESCO Cities of Literature network

## **Justyna Jochym**

Chair of UNESCO Cities of Literature  
Network, Head of Development &  
International Cooperation, Krakow

**EMAIL** [jjochym@biurofestivalowe.pl](mailto:jjochym@biurofestivalowe.pl)

**PHONE** +48 504 084 577

## **Sandeep Mahal**

Communications & Promotions Group  
Director, Nottingham City of Literature

**EMAIL** [sandeep@nottmcityoflit.org](mailto:sandeep@nottmcityoflit.org)

**PHONE** +44 7903 342979