

Thursday 7 January

NORWICH TO BE HOME TO A NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING

The plan to open a National Centre for Writing in Norwich, England's first UNESCO City of Literature took a major step forward today following an announcement by Arts Council England. Writers' Centre Norwich (WCN), the organisation behind the ambitious project has been successful in the highly competitive funding process and now has access to £900,000 towards the development.

The announcement makes it increasingly likely that Norwich will house a new National Centre for Writing based in Dragon Hall, one of the city's most iconic buildings.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive of WCN says: "The National Centre for Writing will be a really significant development for the literature sector and a major achievement for England's first UNESCO City of Literature. Its development will enable our country's most significant art form to have a space to explore its role in the modern world, champion writers and translators as well as readers, bring the literature world together and promote the export and exchange in the best of new work and new talent. It will be a world-leading centre of excellence in a city with an outstanding literary heritage."

Following the funding success WCN has been awarded a grant of £110,566 to support its plans with access to an additional £789, 434 as the project progresses. The total amount would mean WCN had secured 88% of the overall funds necessary to open a National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall. Over the coming months the organisation will be campaigning to secure the remaining funds.

David Gilbert, Chair of WCN says: "This is the closest we've come to realising the vision to create something truly game changing for the city, the country and the art form. There is still much to do but we've taken a very big step forward and will be doubling our campaigning efforts to make sure we achieve this world-class venue for a world-class literary city".

Gail Harris, Deputy Leader of Norwich City Council, says:

"This is hugely exciting news for both Writers' Centre Norwich and the city. It will help the centre achieve its long-term vision and give it the national recognition it so richly deserves. Dragon Hall is one of the most historic and atmospheric buildings in the city and it is wonderful to see it being developed in a way that will sustain it into the future."

Hedley Swain, Area Director, South East, Arts Council England, says: "Writers' Centre Norwich is in a really exciting period in its development and the move to Dragon Hall has been a strong catalyst for this. The development plans outlined for Dragon Hall will help its ambitions to be a world class centre for writing – working with writers, readers and translators - and we are delighted to be able to support Writers' Centre Norwich as it works to make this happen."



WRITERS'
CENTRE
NORWICH

— National Centre for Writing —

The National Centre is expected to open in early 2018. Today's announcement means that WCN is close to securing the total amount necessary to realise the project. All those interested in finding out more about WCN's plans and interested in supporting the fundraising campaign should see: www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

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