



**NOTTINGHAM**

UNESCO City of Literature

building a better world with words

## UNESCO Cities of Literature Celebrate World Poetry Day with a Global Gathering of Poets

19/03/2018

### *Georgina Wilding, Nottingham's Young Poet Laureate, to perform on the international stage in Granada, Spain.*

To mark this year's **World Poetry Day**, Nottingham City of Literature and our colleagues across the globe are linking up to hold simultaneous literary events in 13 UNESCO Cities of Literature.

Nottingham will be marking the day with Nottingham's Poet Laureate, Georgina Wilding, joining 60 other poets across [Granada](#). A poet from Ljubljana City of Literature, Anja Golob, will also take part and the event will be attended by the Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO Creative Cities, Italian poet [Maria Francesca Merloni](#).

Celebrated yearly on March 21<sup>st</sup>, World Poetry Day is the occasion to honour poets and celebrate one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression. Practiced throughout history – in every culture and on every continent – poetry speaks to our common humanity and our shared values, transforming the simplest of poems into a powerful catalyst for intercultural dialogue and peace. It is an art form that, more than any other, demonstrates the transformative power of words.

The following **flagship events** celebrating the breadth and diversity of the UNESCO Cities' poets are taking place across the world on 21 March:

- **Heidelberg** have displayed 45 poems written by 22 poets inside public trams. A special [poetic tram](#) will travel across the city with regular stops, while every 10 minutes another poet will make the ride a poetic journey, reciting poetry to passengers.
- Similarly, in [Tartu](#), audiences will be taken on a Poetry Route movement across the city with 15 poetry performances taking place in 7 locations. Additional readings involving poets and high school students will be performed throughout the day.
- A number of poetry live-stream and television broadcasts will take place in **Obidos** at the medieval gate of the town, by local poet Armando da Silva Carvalho; in **Edinburgh** with local [poets](#) writing throughout the day and literary podcasts shared on the hour, each one with a different theme and international audience from Edinburgh City of Literature's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels; a national television broadcast from bookshops, coffee shops and the main cultural streets in [Baghdad](#); and a [Facebook Live tour](#) of Krakow's bookstores by a Krakow-based poet.
- A wealth of poetry activities will take place in **Krakow** including a walking Poetry Song Trail, a multi-poetry presentation of new poems projected on the façade of a building on Bracka St, and the programme announcement of this year's [Milosz Poetry Festival](#).
- **Heidelberg** House in Heidelberg's French twin city Montpellier will present a [poetic evening](#) of German poetry and its impact on today's French poetic artworks.
- **Barcelona** will host a visual poetry workshop and events with Maria Isern and Guillem Gavalda, prize-winners of the [Francesc Garriga Poetry Prize](#).

- Audiences will enjoy readings from established Norwegian poets in The House of Literature in [Lillehammer](#)
- A children's Poetry Hour at the **Reykjavik** City Library, a public reading at the University of Iceland and in Hólavallagarður, the largest Icelandic cemetery from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, will mark World Poetry Day in [Reykjavik](#).
- Poetry events and artistic performances are taking place in [Iowa City](#) and [Prague](#).

Preceding World Poetry Day on 19<sup>th</sup> March, **Dublin** will be hosting a [Poetry and Spoken Word Trail](#) where audiences will enjoy exceptional performances from an array of emerging and established poets

*“By celebrating poetry today, we celebrate our ability to join together, in a spirit of solidarity and passion to ignite creativity and bring more poetry into the world.”* SANDEEP MAHAL, DIRECTOR, NOTTINGHAM UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE.

This World Poetry Day, follow the social conversation using #WPD2018 and #CitiesofLitPoetry and experience creative and poetic moments in a City of Literature near you.

## CONTACT.

**Georgina Wilding and Sandeep Mahal are all both available for interview**

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

[UNESCO's City of Literature](#) programme is part of a wider [Creative Cities Network](#) which was launched in 2004 and is currently made up of 180 UNESCO Creative Cities globally. As of 2017, the UNESCO Cities of Literature network of 28 cities represents 6 continents and 23 countries, and a combined population of over 26 million, 1250 libraries, 130 literary festivals and over 1200 bookshops. The Network is active in making the literary and creative sectors of cities thrive through the development and implementation of a shared global strategy, which aims to promote the network, share good practice, and ensure that literature reaches diverse audiences.

**About World Poetry Day:** World Poetry Day is on 21 March, and was first declared by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) during its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999, with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.



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