

SVENSKA P·E·N

FÖRSVARAR DET FRIA ORDET

GRUNDAT 1922



Stockholm
2021-01-20

Dear Sir/Madam

It is with great pleasure that we declare our support for the City of Gothenburg's application to join the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities in the field of Literature. Swedish PEN is a part of the broad network of PEN Centers around the world. The Swedish section was founded in 1922 and it organizes writers, publishers and essayists. Our work is very much focused on issues like the role of literature, the importance of dialogue and freedom of speech. Our head quarter is in Stockholm but the organization also has a section in Gothenburg (the first section established outside the capital).

We find Gothenburg to be a City with a vibrant culture life and a very interesting literature scene. The annual Book fair, Gothenburg House of Literature, libraries, a living civil society and a number of other things are good examples of this. We are sure this will be even stronger, and also mean a lot for the role of literature in a time when this is a more relevant issue than ever.

Best wishes

Jesper Bengtsson
President, Swedish PEN

Letter of Support for the City of Gothenburg

The Swedish Writers' Union wishes to express wholehearted support for Gothenburg's application to become a UNESCO City of Literature.

The Swedish Writers' Union is the only professional union in Sweden representing writers and literary translators. We have in excess of 3,000 members whose interests we represent as their "spokesperson" in dealings with the Swedish Government and the Riksdag, as well as all other organisations involved in cultural policy, on matters related to the professional conditions for all writers and translators in the literary field.

The basis of our operations is safeguarding our members' interests by defending freedom of expression, monitoring copyright legislation and ensuring that authors receive reasonable remuneration for their literary works.

Literature is a multifaceted sector covering everything from public events, libraries, book circles and writing courses to literature study programmes, criticism, authorship, literary mediation and initiatives to promote reading. We often speak of the importance of a functioning literary ecosystem, the health of which depends on each component functioning properly. This is the case in Gothenburg. While it may be Sweden's second city, Gothenburg is very much at the forefront when it comes to literature.

Investments in literature made by Gothenburg benefit the whole of Sweden. The annual Göteborg Book Fair is a case in point, as are the activities held at Göteborgs Litteraturhus [Gothenburg House of Literature] and the Literary Composition and Literary Translation programmes at HDK-Valand – Academy of Art and Design at the University of Gothenburg, not to mention the outstanding annual initiative to promote reading among children and young people that sees authors from all around the country visiting every school in Gothenburg and its suburbs. And Writers' Centre West, an association for professional writers, organizes various literary events for the public including the Forum for poetry and prose.

The exemplary literary activities conducted by the City of Gothenburg deserve international recognition. There is much happening in Gothenburg that others would do well to take note of and draw inspiration from. A healthy literary ecosystem guarantees tomorrow's readers.

Stockholm 22.01.2021

Grethe Rottböll
Chair of the Swedish Writers' Union

January 11, 2021

Nomination as a UNESCO City of Literature

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Goteborg/Gothenburg, Sweden nomination as a UNESCO City of Literature. Having visited the city twice in the last twenty years, and knowing full well the dynamic nature of the city of Goteborg and its wonderful Goteborg Book Fair, I can only encourage you to seriously consider its application. In addition to my role as Secretary General of the International Book Fair Directors, I am also the International Representative of the Guadalajara Book Fair; for your information, Guadalajara has been chosen as the UNESCO Book Capital for 2022. This is a great, great honor. Further, as a novelist, I have had many friends, including Jacqueline Woodson and Paul Auster, take part in the late September book fair and festival and delight in the city and its passionate support of writers and reading.

Below is the mandate of our organization:

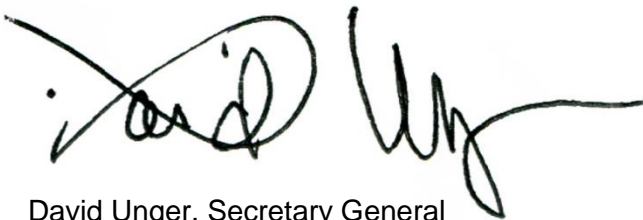
The Conference of International Book Fair Directors is an independent worldwide collaboration of book fair organizers working together to promote books and reading both in their own region and across the globe. Our mission is to bring together book fair directors from around the world to communicate openly and with honesty, to discuss ideas, share experiences and learn from each other in an atmosphere of friendship and support, away from the pulls of our day-to-day business.

The first meeting of the book fair directors took place in Bellagio, Italy in 1994 with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and since then twenty directors have met every other year in a different book fair site to discuss issues of common interest and concerns.

As you can see, books and book fairs have been my life's interest. I can only say that if Goteborg is selected as a UNESCO City of Literature. You will be amazed by how the city and its citizens will support this selection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Unger', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Unger, Secretary General
Conference of International Book Fair Directors
Div of Hum NAC 5225
The City College of New York
New York, NY 10031
(212) 650 7925 filny@aol.com

Stockholm 2021-02-16

To the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Ms Audrey Azoulay

Letter of Support. Gothenburg, candidate 2021 in Literature. UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

The Swedish Library Association supports the City of Gothenburg's application to join the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities in the field of Literature.

The Swedish Library Association is a non-profit and politically independent association with institutions, organizations and individual members. Our aim is to promote libraries of the highest quality. We work on our members' behalf to increase awareness of libraries' tasks and functions and to strengthen libraries' conditions and opportunities. We act as a hub for people who are committed to, and interested in, explaining, developing and acting on behalf of libraries. Our members are leading experts in the library field and we support their professional development.

We are part of an international movement. The aim of our international activities is to promote sustainability and the creation of durable structures for library development. For this reason, the Swedish Library Association has chosen, as its main strategy, to channel its international activities through cooperation with the Nordic countries, the European organizations (EBLIDA and LIBER), and its membership in the IFLA. International activities and cooperation with other countries are characterized by mutual learning.

The City of Gothenburg and its libraries (public libraries as well as school libraries) works strategically to develop reading and democratically active citizens. Especially when it comes to children and young adults Gothenburg has been especially active during the last few years. Gothenburg could contribute to other cities around the globe on how to think and work with library services in new ways.

We agree with the Göteborg Book Fair that the fair is “a manifestation of literature, a four day long literary festival, a tribute to freedom of expression” and it is a place for our members as librarians to meet and celebrate the power of stories. The fair is an important factor in Gothenburgs role as a city of literature in Sweden.

We would also want to add the fine cooperation our association had with the City of Gothenburg in organizing the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Gothenburg in 2010. It was a great success. 3,500 delegates from more than 125 countries met and the event was by far the biggest task for the association in 2010. It was ranked very high by the participants.

Swedish Library Association



Karin Linder

Secretary General
karin.linder@svbib.se

Gothenburg

4:th of February 2021

UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Letter of Support. Gothenburg, candidate 2021 in Literature.

Dear Ms Director General,

As the CEO of the West Sweden Chamber of Commerce I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Gothenburg, Sweden, as a UNESCO City of Literature.

The West Sweden Chamber of Commerce is a private, politically non-affiliated, private-sector organisation focused on strengthening the West Sweden business community.

The Chamber's history dates back to 1661 and today it has 3,000 companies and businesses as its members, including some of Sweden's largest companies, such as AB Volvo, Volvo Cars, Ericsson and AstraZeneca.

Approximately 85 full-time employees are working for our members. Companies from all kinds of trades and industries are welcome to contact us for help and guidance, knowledge improvement and networking. The Chamber of Commerce is the natural venue for business people and companies who are seeking inspiration and business opportunities.

Our aim is to contribute to growth creation and the development of West Sweden both by providing direct help to companies to do more and better business and by influencing political decisions. The main thrust of our efforts is regional, as in our experience economic growth is primarily related to regional conditions rather than local or national ones.

The business community takes a strong interest in Gothenburg being an attractive city with a rich and varied cultural life. It is also very much concerned about literacy projects for children and teenagers, such as the initiatives 'The City Where We Read for Our Children' and 'Open the Door for Reading'.

Today Gothenburg is well known for its annual Book Fair, the Gothenburg Film Festival and institutions like the GöteborgsOperan, The Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and Gothenburg City Theatre. The Gothenburg University offers a master's degree programme in creative writing, the only one in Sweden.



The City is also the home for a number of publishing companies, literary magazines and an active community of writers and collaborative projects.

In 1996 Gothenburg became Sweden's first ICORN city, offering writers and artists at risk a safe space to live and work. Nobel Prize Laureate Svetlana Aleksijevitj was one of those writers.

With this ecosystem of literature, companies, academia, municipality initiatives and organisations, it is my firm belief that Gothenburg is well suited to be a UNESCO City of Literature.

Kind regards

Johan Trouvé

CEO West Sweden Chamber of Commerce

Gothenburg 2021-01-28

UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Letter of Support UNESCO City of Literature 2021 Gothenburg candidacy

It has been brought to my attention that Gothenburg is applying to be appointed the UNESCO City of Literature 2021. As the CEO of Göteborg & Co, I would like to express our support for the application.

This year Gothenburg turns 400 years. We are celebrating this by developing Gothenburg into an even better place to visit, live in, and work in. The anniversary efforts are built on all three aspects of sustainability: social, ecological and economic; all in line with the city's sustainability policies and guidelines for managing and implementing initiatives in residents' best interests.

Gothenburg is mobilising to become "The City Where We Read to Our Children". The project is designed to encourage reading with and for children in their early age, where the initiative is part of the city's equality work and a tribute to the fairy tale moment. In a city where we read for and with our children, more people become eligible for upper secondary school, more people can further their education, and more people get employed. The earlier we create a desire to read in our children, the greater the chance we have of giving them good opportunities later in life.

Being appointed a City of Literature would be a great honour and great opportunities for Gothenburg.

I strongly support the application of the UNESCO City of Literature 2021.



Peter Grönberg
CEO of Göteborg & Co

Göteborg & Co is a municipal company, fully owned by the City of Gothenburg. We work towards a sustainable city, open to the world. The company mission is to get more people to discover and choose Gothenburg. We do this through wide-reaching collaboration, by leading and promoting the development of Gothenburg as a sustainable destination so that everyone who lives and works here benefits from a growing hospitality industry.

Letter of Support UNESCO City of Literature 2021 Gothenburg candidacy

As head of Cultural and Creative Industry at Business Region Göteborg I was very happy to hear that Gothenburg is applying to be a UNESCO City of Literature 2021. I would like to express our support for the application.

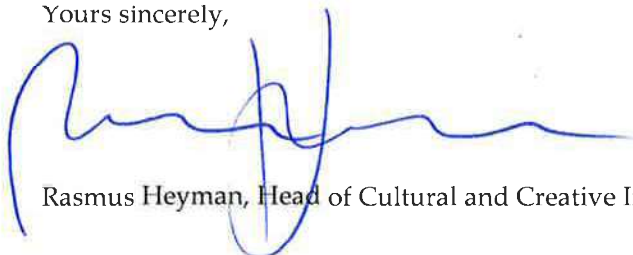
Business Region Gothenburg is responsible for business development in the City of Gothenburg and represents 13 municipalities in the region. We will contribute in creating more jobs and achieve sustainable growth in the Gothenburg region's business life.

We do this by offering knowledge and contacts that create conditions for those who want to start, establish or develop companies in the region. It should be easy to start, develop and establish companies in the Gothenburg region. We also support cluster initiatives in the field with focus on business development with close dialogue and cooperation with academy and industry associations.

In Gothenburg we have a number of fine publishers and cultural magazines. They are striving cluster with an increasing amount of collaboration. An appointment as a UNESCO City of Literature would spur this development a great deal.

If we would be appointed a City of Literature it would give great further strength to those initiatives as well as those to come. I strongly support the application of the UNESCO City of Literature 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Rasmus Heyman, Head of Cultural and Creative Industry, Business Region Göteborg



Gothenburg 2021-04-14
D. no. 0216/21

Letter of Support UNESCO City of Literature 2021 Gothenburg Candidacy

The Consortium of Masthuggskajen, Gothenburg hereby wish to express our strong support for the City of Gothenburg's application to join the Network of Creative Cities of UNESCO in the field of Literature.

We consist of a group of culturally engaged real estate developers (private and public) working in collaboration to create a new urban district in the very heart of Gothenburg. Our objective is to make Masthuggskajen an inclusive, green, and dynamic addition to the RiverCity Gothenburg which is the largest urban development project in Scandinavia.

The development of Masthuggskajen includes 1300 new apartments and 150 000 sqm of premises for offices, retail, restaurants, civil society organisations and cultural life. A new sustainable district is emerging that will complement the already teeming city life of the surrounding area.

Masthuggskajen and the surrounding area is a cultural node with numerous theatres, music clubs, Gothenburg International Film Festival exists side by side with important literary organisations and businesses such as *Göteborgs Litteraturhus* and *Förlagshuset i Göteborg*. The Consortium of Masthuggskajen aims to develop and strengthen the cultural life by creating new space for culture, where both existing functions and expressions are mixed and co-exist with new ones. The contrasts create a stimulating and dynamic cityscape.

Becoming one of UNESCOs Cities of Literature would be a great acknowledgement enhancing our ambition to strengthen Gothenburg as a rich cultural city.

Yours Sincerely,

The Consortium of Masthuggskajen



Masthuggskajen

Lennart Hedström
Elof Hansson Fastigheter AB

Martin Gidenstam
Stena Fastigheter AB

Johanna Hult-Rentsch
NCC Property Development AB

Mikael Ahlén
Riksbyggen Ekonomisk Förening

Joakim Gralén
Fastighets AB Balder

Niels-Peter Jacobsen
Nordre

Mats Arnsmar
Folkets Hus Göteborg

Lena Andersson
Älvstranden Utveckling AB



Detta dokument är elektroniskt signerat och juridiskt bindande.

Signed by: LENA ANDERSSON

Date: 2021-04-14 23:21:10

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Vd: Lena Andersson

Signed by: MATS ARNSMAR

Date: 2021-04-14 16:29:12

BankID refno: b02d7170-29cb-45ee-92dd-fd2ac69a14af



Konsortiet Masthuggskajen: Mats Arnsmar

Signed by: MIKAEL AHLÉN

Date: 2021-04-14 16:40:23

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Konsortiet Masthuggskajen: Mikael Ahlén

Signed by: Anders Lennart Hedström

Date: 2021-04-14 16:55:38

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Konsortiet Masthuggskajen: Lennart Hedström

Signed by: Bo Gustav Joakim Gralén

Date: 2021-04-14 16:31:42

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Konsortiet Masthuggskajen: Joakim Gralén

Signed by: Johanna Hult Rentsch

Date: 2021-04-14 16:27:49

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Konsortiet Masthuggskajen: Johanna Hult Rentsch

Signed by: Sven Erik Martin Gidenstam

Date: 2021-04-14 16:25:32

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Konsortiet Masthuggskajen: Martin Gidenstam

Signed by: Niels-Peter Jacobsen

Date: 2021-04-14 17:36:36

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Konsortiet Masthuggskajen: Niels-Peter Jacobsen

Letter of Support for the City of Gothenburg

It is with great pleasure that we, the Writers' Centre West, express our support for Gothenburg's application to be included in the UNESCO network of creative cities, as a City of Literature.

Writers' Centre West (WCW), is a non-profit organisation for writers of all genres. The organisation consists of 365 members and includes the counties of Västra Götaland, Halland and Värmland. The main task of the Writers' Centre is to work for freedom of speech and support writers' rights as well as bringing literature out in the society. Multiculturalism and active inclusion are keys when we in different ways create meeting places for literature, writers and readers. The free-of-charge Authors' Agency (Författarförmedlingen) is part of our base work and is run in collaboration with the other Writers' Centre organisations in Sweden. The Forum for Poetry and Prose, our regional stage for live literature, organises eight bigger tours for writers annually with around 30 authors from Sweden and the Nordic countries as participants. The authors visit 12 towns in the west of Sweden, which makes it 30-40 public events a year, with Musikens Hus as a home venue in Gothenburg. This is possible through collaborations between local organisers on site in Västra Götaland and Halland. The regional authority of Västra Götaland provides us with activity funding as well as the municipality and the state.

Gothenburg is a vibrant cultural city and literature has established groundwork for further development through a large number of literary organisers, in parallel and in collaboration with artists from other fields, as well as by cooperating with the cultural administration within the municipality and the regional authority. Literary festivals are held every year, from Gothenburg Poetry Festival to the recent Gothenburg Novel Festival and the "Scenes & Conversations" (Scener & Samtal) run by the Gothenburg House of Literature. The House of Literature is a permanent meeting place for people interested in literature and a home for many of their members' events. In addition, the local PEN organisation in Gothenburg organises the Imprisoned Author's Day in association with independent organisers and the City Library.

Gothenburg can proudly present tales from the West of Sweden since Medieval times and a number of well-known authors in the modern days. We don't have a Bellman, but we do have our Evert Taube. "Gothenburg has shaped half of me" the nobel prize winner Harry Martinson is quoted, and even went to sea from the harbour of Gothenburg. The city was also Sweden's first city of refuge for authors within international ICORN and has since 1996 welcomed cities of refuge authors and artists. Among them is Belarusian Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Aleksijevitj, city of refugee author in Gothenburg 2006-2008.

Gothenburg's literary scene has traditionally been characterised by non-hierarchical structures and collaborations. The University of Gothenburg and grassroot activists have a well-established collaboration, which has led up to the master program "Creative writing" (Litterär gestaltning), the only professional education for writers on master level in Sweden. The municipality's and the region's institutions within e.g. school and health services meet literary activists through new concepts. Collaboration with the private sector is also present within the field of literature with the Gothenburg Book Fair, an event that annually attracts the book business and writers from all over the world.

We are deeply convinced that it is time for Gothenburg to be a part of the UNESCO network growing together with the other cities in the network towards the Agenda 2030 goals, with literature as a key tool for achieving sustainability.

Gothenburg, 26.01.2021

Kristin Bjarnadóttir
Chair of Writers' Centre West



BOKMÄSSAN

GÖTEBORG BOOK FAIR

April 16, 2021
Gothenburg

To whom it may concern,

The book fair in Gothenburg is the Nordic region's largest cultural event and is held every year in Gothenburg. Gothenburg Book Fair can warmly recommend UNESCO to let Gothenburg become part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and UNESCO City of Literature.

During my 5 years as the director of Gothenburg Book Fair, I can emphasize Gothenburg's literary power within around city, in the creative industry, with the author circle and the culture of the municipality. Through strong collaboration literature and authors become central to the culture and stories and books takes place in school and education, but also characterizes the city's arrangements and environment.

It is my opinion that an award such as UNESCO City of Literature will give Gothenburg a recognition as a city of literature, which can give birth to new collaborations and strengthen the collaboration that already characterizes the city's literary work. As far as I know, the planning is already underway to further strengthen the literary work in the city, I am impressed by the city's will and power in strengthening the literary city of Gothenburg.

Gothenburg Book Fair is and will always be a part of that work.

Best regards

Frida Edman
Director of Gothenburg Book Fair

GÖTEBORGS
LITTERATURHUS


Göteborgs Litteraturhus (Gothenburg House of Literature) is a non-profit association and a place where literature - in all its diversity - is at the center. The purpose of the association is to take advantage of the public's and members' literary commitment. Through its work, the association wants to empower Gothenburg's literary community and create a space for the literary field to nourish and grow; to be a context where readers of all kinds gather in conversation and work; writers, publishers, editors, translators, producers, poets, communicators, critics and, of course, a literary-interested public at large.

The association's members are about 60 organizations and groups that conduct literary activities, which share the association's goals and purposes, carry out public literary events in the Gothenburg House of Literature.


That Gothenburg now chooses to apply to become a UNESCO city of literature is something **we wholeheartedly support and in every way encourage.**

Why? Gothenburg as a city of literature is characterized by breadth, diversity and commitment. Something we see daily in our house. In 2019, 409 bookings were made in the calendar. Of these, 237 were public literary events. Since the opening in 2015, we have steadily expanded our program. By making Gothenburg a UNESCO city of literature, we can take the next step. It is about strengthening literature as an artform and to make it accessible to the public. To improve and make visible what is already being done. To create forums and dialogue between practitioners, politicians and officials. An opportunity to create new projects, but even more important is collaboration. To take advantage of the fantastic things that are already being done. At our house by the Göta älv river and throughout the city.

On behalf of Gothenburg House of Literature,


Åsa Hedberg Karlsson
Chairman of the Board


Sofia Gräsberg
Manager


Olav Fumarola Unsgaard
Program director

March 3, 2021

Letter of Support for the City of Gothenburg's application to become a UNESCO City of Literature 2021.

To Whom It May Concern:

Angered Book Fair hereby wishes to express our support for the City of Gothenburg's application to become a UNESCO City of Literature.

Angered Book Fair is a fairly newstarted scene for authors that write in other languages than Swedish and whose literary perspective originate from the city suburbs. The book fair puts light on representation in the literature field of Sweden and give voice to authors that might not have other possibilities to reach out to an audience. We also invite established authors, publishers, publications and literary organizations to enable new contacts, possibilities and network for the participating authors.

Angered Book Fair is now in the planning of its fourth year and each year has been arranged in good companion with different literary institutions in Gothenburg.

Angered Book Fair experiences that Gothenburg is a city that enriches a wider perspective on literature and the literary field. The multiple literary institutions in our city also works in a including and well-organized way with a strive to strengthen the literary field for both authors and audience. The City of Gothenburg reinforces, supports and embraces all this hard work and therefore deserves all international recognition.

Best regards,



Madelen Lundin

Projectmanager Angered Book Fair

Kulturhuset Blå Stället

Angereds Torg 13

424 65 Angered



**ANGEREDS
BOKMÄSSA**



Poesiwerken
Skytteskogsgatan 15
414 76 Göteborg
Sweden

Gothenburg, 24 February, 2021

**Letter of Support. Gothenburg, candidate 2021 in Literature,
UNESCO Creative Cities Network**

To whom it may concern,

Poesiwerken would like to express their support for Gothenburg's application for UNESCO City of Literature.

The underground literary organisation Poesiwerken was founded in 2015 with the aim to make the literature climate in Gothenburg more warm and welcoming. At the time we were the only organisation in the city running an open mic for poetry, prose and performance on a regular basis where anyone regardless of experience could share their written work. Since then a lot of things have happened for the better. We still run our open mic sessions for any kinds of writing and other organisations have followed example. In 2019 we also started an independent poetry press: Poesiwerken Publishing where we publish work by both established and less established poets, particularly from the performance and spoken word scene. We also host workshops and organise literary happenings and performances in public spaces, often collaborating with musicians and performance artists.

The reason for supporting this application is that we believe that the wider community, both people who are already interested in literature and those who aren't, benefit from writing and reading. We believe in collaboration and learning from each other: from different kinds of people, from different parts of the city, different parts of the country and from other countries. We believe in imagination, making the world a better place by sharing ideas through the written and the spoken word. If Gothenburg is included in the UNESCO City of literature, we hope that grassroots organisations as well as the big established institutions will come together to create more opportunities for everyone to take part in the so-called literary world.

Kind regards,

Louise Halvardsson,
Chair of Poesiwerken