

Themes

Each of the themes we propose aims to open up space for artistic discourse focused on problems of human life that occur in its six spaces – natural, social, public, private, intimate, and cyberspace. We want such problems to become the subject of artistic contemplation and to be critically reflected in works of art and culture. Wrocław's proposal for the European Capital of Culture 2016 will be built around the following five themes:

- *Opening up Spaces*
- *Beauty in Sight*
- *Intimate Beauty*
- *Beauty in Cyberspace*
- *Forces of Nature – Power of Culture*

The above themes are accompanied by projects aimed at regenerating Wrocław's numerous cultural facilities and plans to build new ones:

- *Reclaiming Beauty*
- *New Spaces for Beauty*

The above themes are names of interdisciplinary and cross-sector artistic programmes through which we intend to create spaces for beauty in Wrocław and Lower Silesia. The purpose of these projects is to reinvigorate culture in our city. We hope that the spaces will serve the organisation of the European Capital of Culture in Wrocław. Regeneration and infrastructural programmes are discussed in the answer to question IV.3.

Projects and Events

The ideas contained in the above themes and lead programmes have become inspirations for independent artistic exploration by the cultural actors involved in planning and implementing the European Capital of Culture in Wrocław and Lower Silesia. These ideas have also defined a platform of mutual understanding for Wrocław and Lower Silesia cultural institutions and international partners. They will also constitute the criteria for the selection of initiatives proposed by the *Wrocław Culture Stakeholder Platform* and the *Children's Culture Stakeholder Platform*. These ideas will also form the framework for projects to be undertaken jointly with the partner city in Spain to prepare a joint cultural offering for 2016.

Operational Structure of the Event

The Wrocław European Capital of Culture programme will consist of four categories of artistic events. The events planned in each of the categories are inspired by one or more of the above-mentioned themes proposed by Wrocław 2016.

I. Lead programmes. For each of the five themes the Institution of Culture Wrocław 2016 has developed four lead programmes. They were described at length in the first version of Wrocław's application.

II. Public Projects. Category two are projects proposed in response to our campaign involving numerous meetings and individual discussions with many of Wrocław residents desiring to contribute. Our campaign has brought more than 600 projects proposed by residents, individual artists,

independent artistic groups, and NGOs at home and abroad.

III. Institutional projects. Category three are projects proposed by public institutions of culture in Wrocław or Lower Silesia with a particular emphasis on Wrocław's numerous festivals in various fields of art.

IV. Key events. Category four consists of nearly twenty proposed key events.

Below we provide a brief overview of:

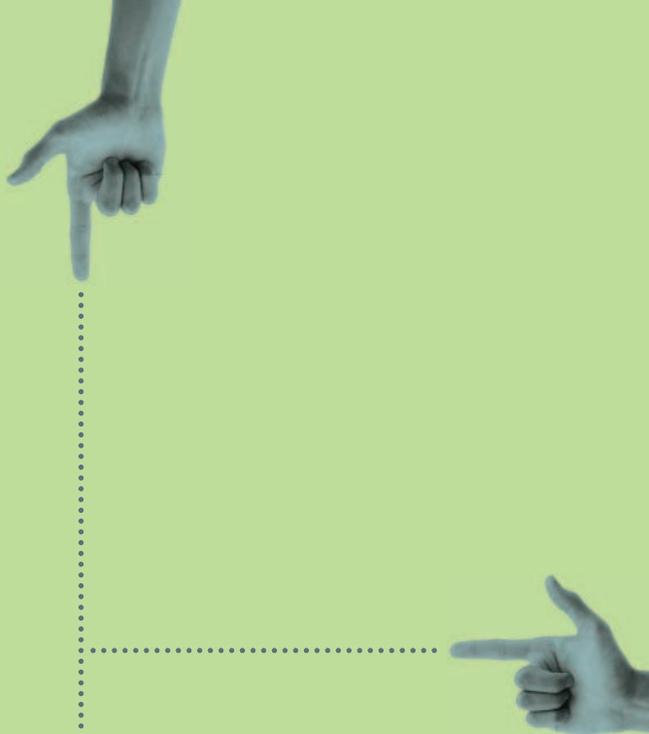
- **20** internally developed lead programmes;
- **150** projects proposed by the public;
- **51** special editions of Wrocław festivals;
- **17** key events, designed by Wrocław 2016 in consultation with city's main art centres.

CATEGORY I: Lead programmes

Theme: *Opening up Spaces*

The underlying concept of *Opening up Spaces* is the democratisation of beauty. We believe that wider access to cultural goods and art will awaken the creative potential of individuals. By democratising beauty, we want to restore beauty to democracy.

Wrocław intends to carry out a programme that will give excluded groups in society greater access to culture. This goal is to be achieved by institutional means conducive to creating a *two-way cultural traffic*. The programme has as its aim the construction of a solid system of incentives that will attract people to cultural institutions and a supplementary system of impulses that will support cultural institutions in terms of developing and popularising their offering.



PART II

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENT

1. What structure does the city intend to give to the year's programme if it is designated "European Capital of Culture" (guidelines, general theme of the event)? How long does the programme last?

GUIDELINES

Wrocław's proposal for 2016 is a comprehensive programme of cultural, artistic, and social activities aimed at creating and opening up spaces for beauty in its various forms and spiritual dimensions as experienced by contemporary Europeans. Those activities will be focused on bringing out beauty within the space of a modern and modernising city – the beauty of history, customs, art, and nature. The aim of the programmes we have designed is to seek beauty in every space traversed by people in their daily lives.

Our efforts are expressed in the idea of opening up spaces in spiritual and public life for pursuing the ideals of what individual people consider beautiful, and for giving concrete form to those ideals. We want the space of European Capital of Culture 2016 in Wrocław, if the city is designated, to be used by artists, thinkers, scholars, historians, and audiences to engage in dialogue, through works of art and artistic activities, about the various possible ways of understanding the essence of beauty and its relevance to people's daily lives.

Our effort to create spaces for beauty does not arise from a desire to impose any vision of beauty. Neither is it our aim to trivially aestheticise public life in our city, let alone to fill its spaces with what is pretty and what people usually like. The most important purpose of the spaces will be to enable a collective search for new forms of beauty. We believe that it motivates every free human to original and creative work in every sphere of human activity.

General themes of the event

Thematic content of the European Capital of Culture in Wrocław will be designed in accordance with our slogan *Spaces for Beauty* and the concept of *Metamorphoses of Cultures*. We believe that this formula provides ample room for artistic expression of various forms of transformations that the changing realities of contemporary people's lives are undergoing both within the European Union and worldwide. We want to see these transformations reflected in works of art and cultural events with which we would like to fill our city and region in 2016.

Formal Programme Structure

Wrocław's celebration of European Capital of Culture, expressed in the concept *Metamorphoses of Cultures* and the slogan *Spaces for Beauty*, will be structured on four levels:

Themes

Lead programmes

Projects

Events

Ideas underlying the themes and lead programmes will be an inspiration and a common platform, as well as criteria for the selection of the proposed initiatives. The themes and lead programmes will form a foundation for artistic events prepared by Wrocław's, Lower Silesian, and foreign cultural operators, open-air events and concerts, seminars, workshops, and conferences inspired by the themes of our application.