



LUBLIN 2029
RE:UNION
L.O.V.E.



APPLICATION LUBLIN ECoC 2029 ABSTRACT

LUBLIN 2029 RE:UNION L.O.V.E.

We are pleased to present you with our European Capital of Culture 2029 application, created collectively with the cultural sector of Lublin: artists, community organisers, cultural managers, and social activists. It constitutes an expression of our responsibility for the future of Lublin and Eastern Europe, our trust in the strength of Lublin's civic community, and our courage in rising to present-day challenges the European Union contends with.

Our answer to this call is RE:UNION.

Mayor of the City of Lublin
Dr Krzysztof Żuk

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LUBLIN

ECOC 2029

RE:UNION

LUBLIN

Lublin is a historic city awarded the European Heritage Label, and on the other hand it is a questing city-laboratory, ever developing, keeping up with trends and dynamic cultural changes.

Lublin is the capital of one of Poland's least polluted regions, and a city built to the human scale. It prioritises quality of life and close interpersonal relations. An important strand in Lublin's DNA are its universities. The sheer presence of students, comprising up to a fifth of its residents, imbues the city's life with vitality and enables it to constantly renew itself. Its international students are – in proportion to our permanent residents – the most numerous international academic community in Poland.

Lublin is also a key Gateway to the East: poised for centuries at the intersection of trade routes and cultures, today it cultivates the memory of its multicultural heritage while, thanks to its high intercultural competences, holding the capacity to face current geopolitical and social challenges. Lublin has been championing Eastern Europe for decades. These years of looking to the East, beyond the Schengen border – predominantly to Ukraine and Belarus, our nearest neighbours – were pioneer in character and have contributed to creating relations and building international contacts, with results ranging from joint artistic projects to life changes as well. Lublin today, as a European city not even a hundred kilometres from the border with our war-torn neighbour, in the spirit of solidarity with those neighbours, takes responsibility for supporting pro-European developmental processes in Ukraine's culture.

RE:UNION AS LEGACY

In 1569, the Union of Lublin was signed: a covenant between Poland and Lithuania. As a result, the new state of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth came into being, a precursor of the European Union as a locus of friendly co-existence among numerous cultures, nationalities, religions; an appealing model of political thinking. It was in Lublin that conditions for peaceful coexistence and cooperation of many peoples and nations were created, all with respect for their autonomy and preserving their ethnic, cultural, and religious specificity. The Commonwealth was a country where Poles, Lithuanians, Belarusians, and Ukrainians held equal legal status as a matter of principle, and where Germans – whether from Royal Prussia or the Duchy of Prussia – played a significant role. We must emphasise Jews here, who for over 700 years cultivated their distinct culture, and due to whom Lublin was renowned to as the Jewish Oxford. From the present-day European perspective, the Union of Lublin's provisions and the commonwealth that followed can justifiably be called a unique cultural crucible and a fusion of countless influences and components.

European Heritage Label for Lublin

The city of Lublin and its historic buildings, some of which witnessed the signing of the Union of Lublin, have been awarded the European Heritage Label as a symbol of the European conception of integration, the legacy of democracy and tolerance here, and a dialogue of cultures between East and West.

Sealed in Lublin, the Polish-Lithuanian Union was unique. Lasting for over four centuries, it was a union of two states within one commonwealth, a community of equal citizens. Crucial to the understanding of the Union is the term *applicare*. It meant the Union was grounded in the principle of *aeque principaliter*, or the equality of partners.

Robert I. Frost, author of *The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania*

CHALLENGES THAT LUBLIN FACES

Here in Lublin, people still feel that imagination can save the world. Imagination is the *modus operandi* of our city, and it has assisted us in coming up with the idea of RE:UNION. To us, inhabitants of the divided contemporary world, it promises the rebuilding of communities and the establishment of new links and alliances.

We live in a challenging, decisive moment in human history, in the times of rapidly accelerating civilisational and cultural changes. We are still feeling the social and economic pain of the pandemic, while in our vicinity, just over the EU's eastern border, war against Ukraine is raging. We have experienced the refugee crisis, the aftermath of the pandemic, and the relentless economic downturn. We are grappling with global challenges and political turmoil.

Our new, diversified community is in dire need of creating conditions conducive to coexistence and to fulfilling its potential.

In these threats and fissures, we are searching out opportunities for the new. Art is the dawn of each and every change.

For decades, multiethnicity had been a mere memory in monocultural Lublin, a phantom pain resulting from 20th-century totalitarianisms. Then, in just a matter of months, the city underwent a rapid transition. Lublin's streets now peal not just with Polish, but with Ukrainian, Belarusian, English, and numerous African languages. We are a gateway not just for refugees fleeing war against Ukraine, but for youth of Zimbabwe and other countries of Africa, who arrive in Lublin to study and, increasingly, are staying for good.

In Lublin, we believe culture has integrative and therapeutic power: in shaping our imaginations, it opens minds to change and to solutions.

706 years
of history since
the city's
charter

Over
40
festivals

10
universities

26 twin
towns

Express Berlin-Warsaw-Lublin
-Kyiv railway connections

European
Heritage
Label

65 000
students

15 000
international
students

40
library

331 991
residents

7600 seat
capacity
in concert halls
and auditoriums

Over 200
cultural
NGOs

68 000
new
residents from
Ukraine

21
institutions
of culture

Expressways
to the East, West,
North, and South

Introduction – General considerations

To initiate thinking about the title of the European Capital of Culture, we asked ourselves the question: just what kind of capital of culture should Lublin be in 2029?

We are keen to be a city fostering fundamental European values: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality – that is, those values that we must safeguard at the periphery of the European Union and of which we must remind ourselves and others over and over.

A city that joins the West with the East at an international level, while preserving their diversity and selfhood.

A city that cares about integration and mending broken ties, as well as about intergenerational, intersectoral, intercultural dialogue.

A city inviting active meetings of culture rather than passive consumption of it.

A city relying on processes, not one-off events.

Vying for the title of the European Capital of Culture, we are a city undergoing a diagnosis: we strive to understand the character of the contemporary city, to search for solutions to problems both local and those caused by the broader geopolitical situation. We believe culture to be the driving force of change, for it generates scenarios for the future, integrates and develops the international community, transports us on to the spiritual plane, and is an expression of human freedom.

We are also awake to challenges posed by our aging population and by changes in its structure. Many young people treat Lublin as the point of departure in their life trajectories; they study here and then move on. It is time we came to terms with Lublin's identity as a city in constant flux, a port of call for ideas in transit.

We regard our bid to become European Capital of Culture 2029 as an opportunity to implement solutions devised by culture professionals themselves, and to secure decent economic conditions for that group. Only then will they be able to fully engage with their mission.

Lublin-based artists seek new means of expressions which fuse arts and technology, spirituality, and the human body – from virtual reality and artificial intelligence to intuitive practice. We see them as phenomena to be captured and named, to ensure their lasting existence. Lublin's ECoC 2029 application, therefore, has been drafted by people who gave their hearts to the city, who for years have been co-creating its culture. To us, creating this document and implementing its ideas are processual activities; they result from cooperation between many people and organisations.

We know just how strong a stimulus for a city's development comes from competing for the title of European Capital of Culture: we took that route when bidding for ECoC 2016. That was an inspiring, invaluable process, in which culture became the flywheel generating momentum for Lublin's development. The city came to believe in itself and came to see its potential, which extends beyond cultural activities. No other sphere of Lublin's social life – its universities, sports, tourism, or economy – has had such impact. Today, though, Lublin needs an external impulse; just such a catalyst will be constituted by earning the ECoC 2029 title and by the process of working up to the ECoC year. At present, our objective is to create a new operating system for Lublin's culture; a system that will emanate to other spheres of life, and be of assistance to institutions, foundations, associations, as well as ordinary residents.

<<< Why does your city wish to take part in the competition for the title of European Capital of Culture?

>>> Does your city plan to involve its surrounding area? Explain this choice.

Within the European Capital of Culture, we will establish a union of Eastern cities, embracing smaller cities and towns across the Lublin voivodeship and across eastern Poland. Our plan is to share the idea of EcoC with the region, taking it as a starting point for reflecting on European values in towns and cities around eastern Poland. The idea of RE:UNION has inspired us to

activate the regions to which we have a close connection, whether geographical, cultural, or mental. The process initiated by ECoC 2029 is to result in a real, material network of cities, and in their lasting cultural cooperation after 2029 – “Union of Lublin Region Cities” is more fully described in Chapter 3: European dimension.

>>> Explain briefly the overall cultural profile of your city.

Lublin is Western Europe's eastern face. Our location in the European Union's borderlands enables us to offer Europe a vision of cyclical reintegration of the union as a community effected by culture. Being 'a city in-between', a gateway, is something we value as among Lublin's greatest gifts, enabling the observation of ideas in their flow.

of contemporary circus, inspired by Nobel laureate I.B. Singer's *Magician of Lublin*, with festivals that inscribe arts, grassroots activities, and popular culture onto urban space; incubators of creative industries; alternative-education activities; student culture; as well as various fan-based initiatives.

The rich permanent repertoire of our institutions of culture is complemented by the extensive list of Lublin-specific projects that could only be conceived here. These include activities of institutions – sites of memory upholding the city's multicultural legacy. We sustain the 700 years of Lublin's Jewish legacy in the shadow of Majdanek concentration camp, which now stands within the city limits. Lublin is the countercultural strand of alternative theatre; fearless galleries; an international hub for contemporary dance; publishing houses and festivals promoting the literatures of our eastern neighbours. It is Poland's capital

Lublin's hallmark is taking culture into the public space. The city boasts over a dozen festivals of high quality and inclusivity; these, best described as cultural phenomena, redefine the concept of site-specific events. Cultural education, music, visual and performing arts make use of and transform spatial codes, urban space and architecture, while culture and the arts – including those that might be regarded as elite and challenging – step forth from institutional and gallery settings into the streets, town squares, and back alleys, to the enjoyment of audiences in their thousands.

>>> Explain the concept of the programme which would be launched if the city is designated as European Capital of Culture.

Lublin, aware of its resources and shortfalls, is establishing its RE:UNION grounded in the L.O.V.E. operating system, compatible with the Lublin 2030 Strategy. The historical perspective of the Union of Lublin, which we embrace and call on, a starting point for subsequent reflection on the present-day state of the city and its cultural surroundings, and on future endeavours.

The programme concept for ECoC Lublin 2029 follows organically from RE:UNION; it is contained in the acronym L.O.V.E. Oriented at Longevity, it engages in mindful Observation of one another, resonates with relational Vibrations, and results in their Embodiment as art. Positioning L.O.V.E. as an analytical category also in the critical sense will allow us to inspect the currency of formats and models that presently function in culture.

RE:UNION is reintegration, mending broken ties, dialogue between generations, sectors, and cultures; it is creating networks with Lublin's regional and international partners. RE:UNION encourages questions about new community and the awareness of being distinct and unique. It is an opportunity to revitalise community built on city resources and potentials, in the centre and in outlying districts, with institutional and civic, grassroots actions, in cooperative endeavours which can offer another vision of the future, one based on values such as democracy and solidarity.

This is no BID BOOK, an application stuffed with plans for yet more festivals, performances, concerts, with featured celebrities and packed audiences. Nor is it a comfortable bid. The city is setting itself a challenge through an application that is not a facile, populist programme chasing boasting rights. Rather, it constitutes an entry into a long-term process that requires care and nurturing.

1. Contribution to the long-term strategy

THE LUBLIN 2030 STRATEGY

The overarching strategic document for the City of Lublin is the Lublin 2030 Strategy, compatible with the following sector-specific documents: 2030 Strategy for Culture, Strategy for the Development of Creative and Cultural Industries in Lublin and the Lublin Functional Area for 2020-2030; Priorities and recommendations in international cooperation; the City of Lublin Youth Policy until 2030. The application setting out the process of preparation for ECoC 2029 draws on all of the above documents.

Lublin 2030 Strategy: the result of a social process

The Lublin 2030 Strategy originated in a process of social consultation. For this reason, the strategy is a projection of the ideas and hopes of Lublin's residents and the result of material needs and capabilities of the city stemming from its potential as well as domestic and international trends. Over 15,000 residents and many experts and institutions were involved in drafting the strategy.

The processes of diagnosis, formulating development priorities, and consulting on the final version of the documents were grounded in extensive research and participatory activities, which involved on average one out of twenty residents. Such strategies generally tend to be formulated through an expert-based model, where social consultation is merely a formal addition at the end of the process. The Lublin 2030 Strategy adopted the reverse approach: the document was consulted at every stage of its creation, with the process firmly grounded in direct dialogue with Lublin residents. Those residents are therefore co-authors of the document, not the target of the city's strategy.

In the Lublin 2030 Strategy, culture is a key element of the image of the city: "treated as an important element of the identity and image of the city, the fabric of a modern and creative civil society. It is rooted in shared history and heritage, and permeates other spheres of life, which it both catalyses and binds".

Diagnosing the state of culture in the Lublin 2030 Strategy

Social research and participatory activities in creating the Lublin 2030 Strategy have defined strengths and weaknesses in the local cultural sectors. They have also indicated challenges and identified problems, along with outlining actions to be taken to solve them. Compared to other seats of regional governments, Lublin has now been outranked in terms of general expenditure on culture, remunerations in the sector, as well as the number of foundations, associations, and social organisations. Residents also pointed to the slow waning of enthusiasm after efforts in 2007–2011 to prepare the previous ECoC bid.

<<< Describe the cultural strategy that is in place in your city at the time of the application, including the plans for sustaining the cultural activities beyond the year of your title.

<<< Describe the city's plans to strengthen the capacity of the cultural and creative sectors, including through the development of long-term links between these sectors and the economic and social sectors in your city.

<<< How is the ECoC action included in this strategy?

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high rank of culture in documents outlining city strategies • numerous residents participating in culture • significant institutions of culture • distinctive festivals • rich and high-quality repertoire of cultural events • presence of institutions of higher education and student culture • strong creative environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • underfinancing of the cultural sector • insufficient grant funding for NGOs, residencies, and scholarships • difficulties for emerging artists • insufficient (though recently growing) cooperation between various entities in the cultural sector • new technologies not utilised • cultural repertoire not adjusted for various audiences

Culture's high rank and the sector's crisis

Importantly, the high rank and overall assessment of culture in Lublin does not reflect the present situation. The Lublin 2030 Strategy was drafted before 2021 and thus does not take into account subsequent crises: the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and high inflation, all of which have adversely affected Lublin's cultural sector. The lack of stability the sector faces is weakening its creative potential, and the threat to the preservation and continuity of existing projects is causing uncertainty, tensions, and stress. The culture community is undergoing fragmentation, while atomised institutions and NGOs struggle to survive. For these reasons, the present endeavour to secure the ECoC title is providing substantial momentum to the cultural sector.

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE LUBLIN 2030 STRATEGY AND IN LUBLIN'S ECoC 2029 BID

The Lublin 2030 Strategy comprises five pivotal development areas, complementing and permeating each other: a creative, academic, and entrepreneurial Lublin; a green, sustainably planned Lublin; an open, multigenerational, socially engaged Lublin; a creative, active, and hospitable Lublin; a metropolitan Lublin. While drafting the Strategy, 12 thematic working groups were formed to plot directions in the city's development until 2030. The themes include: Academic city; Education; Socially responsive city; Green city; Participation and governance; Culture and creative industries.

The areas of development indicated in the Lublin 2030 Strategy intertwine with the L.O.V.E. operational and programme pillars of Lublin's ECoC 2029 bid, described in detail in the section about programming.

2. Cultural and artistic content

ARTISTIC VISION

The artistic programme to be implemented for ECoC Lublin 2029 is grounded in the idea of RE:UNION, understood as renewed integration, mending broken bonds, and intergenerational, cross-sectoral, intercultural dialogue evoking the historic, pioneer project that was the Union of Lublin.

Observing our city at a time of meta-crisis, we recognise that what is needed most acutely is reintegration: that which naturally follows social fragmentation. We tackled the pandemic; then, as a result of full-scale war in Ukraine, the city's social structure has morphed from a monocultural profile to one that is multicultural in real, material ways. RE:UNION works as a form of psychotherapy for the city; it reintegrates and harmonises parts of the collective through interpersonal contacts of increasing intensity and growing frequency. RE:UNION is acceptance that strategies, norms, and judgments are many; it is the identification of a set of values that constitute a new, inclusive social contract.

This idea has been the source of inspiration for conversations and meetings, and formed the basis for an open call for projects. From these dialogues with the local cultural environment, around 300 entries were submitted. In their descriptions,

needs and concepts are articulated that interpret the idea of RE:UNION as a platform for meetings, creative cooperation and relations, and cultural exchange rooted in values from tenderness and sustained care to sensitivity to other people. Proposed projects, drawn up with continuity and the long-term in mind, extend far beyond Lublin in their activities and outreach. Acknowledging these needs and striving to answer them is the approach adopted in the programme of ECoC Lublin 2029, summed up in the acronym L.O.V.E., with *Longevity*, *Observation*, *Vibration*, and *Embodiment* as the programme's four pillars. This conceptual quartet provides momentum in conceiving, developing, and implementing the cultural projects of ECoC Lublin 2029: in practical aspects of working on culture, in building relations, in cooperating with partners. In conjunction, these pillars also mark the programme's main axes, becoming a new operating system for our city.

The table below shows selected projects received through our open call; they have since become the inspiration in conceptualising the four-pillar quartet of Longevity, Observation, Vibration, and Embodiment. Some smaller projects have merged in umbrella programmes that encompass their given sphere in the city's cultural life. Of the projects that have been received, we chose to describe below those best representing the L.O.V.E. concept, yet we intend to implement the vast majority of all entries within ECoC Lublin 2029.

Earth Festival, Feel the Ground, Urban Land Art, Community Gardens, Open Dramaturgy Lab, Rivers of Lublin, Dwarfs and Giants, Experiments Festival, Lub Game Conference, Virtual Museum of City History, Creative Women, Genius Loci, Dance and Movement in City Districts, Direction Earth/Space, Cultural Influencers, School of Culture Practitioners, New Club Music, Pulse, A New Organon, Lublin: An Inspiration to Read, Theatre Decalogue, Lublin Programme of Inclusive Art, Mobile Centre for Apitherapy and Nature Education, Signing In Festival, Slow Food Festival, Lublin's Districts, Tender Senses, The Jewish Oxford

<<< What is the artistic vision and strategy for the cultural programme of the year?

<<< Give a general overview of the structure of your cultural programme, including the range and diversity of the activities/main events that will mark the year.

<<< Explain succinctly how the cultural programme will combine local cultural heritage and traditional art forms with new, innovative and experimental cultural expressions.

3. European dimension

In the European dimension of the ECoC Lublin 2029 programme, we answer the question of Poland's present status in the European Union. In 2029, with Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Hungary, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our EU accession. And 2029 marks a forecasted date for the accession of Georgia, Moldavia, and Ukraine.

Our programming projects develop the idea of RE: UNION, inscribed in our L.O.V.E. operating system. It results from community-consultation meetings (see Chapter 4: Outreach) conducted through Zone of Thought, our open-access ECoC info point, and from analysing over 300 event proposals received from Lublin's cultural entities and residents.

General outline of activities with a European dimension

Situated at a geopolitical junction, Lublin is an organic site of the meeting of cultures. ECoC Lublin 2029 programming, therefore, will rely on identifying its specific sphere of influence and on profiling and developing our own, highly distinct cultural offer. We will programme events through building a complex system of international cultural cooperation, based on mechanisms and toolkits that networks and artistic projects provide. Municipal institutions will prepare long-term strategies for international cooperation, with city authorities guaranteeing necessary financial

stability, due to diversification of sources and to increased competence among industry practitioners in their marketing and fundraising approaches. Existing networks of multinational relations, expanded as part of the ECoC Lublin 2029, will contribute to the European dimension of the city's cultural offer, enabling residents and visitors to engage with premium works of continental art and with the most influential trends and phenomena in contemporary culture. Lublin will draw Europe and the East closer, showcasing the latter's magnificent spiritual traditions and present-day potential for cultural cooperation. This will also allay fears and dispel prejudices fixed on both sides, breaking the spell cast by the Schengen Zone – the border dividing these two worlds – and enchant the EU with original artistic visions.

We take partnership with Eastern European states to be a project centred on intercultural dialogue. We feel representative of Poland in this regard, and of the EU as well. Our commitment to Eastern Europe countries stems from our historical, cultural, and political responsibilities in the region. Simultaneously, it is high time we brought our decades of competence to the EU over the course of preparing for and then during ECoC Lublin 2029. Receiving this title will propel long-established Lublin-based cooperation with Eastern European organisations and artists into a considerably wider dimension; it will prove instrumental in further developing associations and cultural exchanges by bringing Western European audiences in focused contact with creative output from the East. In the light of war being waged against Ukraine and destructive repressions in Belarus, our civic duty is supporting and showcasing the work of artists, activists, and community organisers who constitute a treasure trove of European identity.

<<< Give a general outline of the activities foreseen in view of:

– Promoting the cultural diversity of Europe, intercultural dialogue and greater mutual understanding between European citizens;

– Highlighting the common aspects of European cultures, heritage and history, as well as European integration and current European themes;

– Featuring European artists, cooperation with operators and cities in different countries, and transnational partnerships.

4. Outreach

A task-specific team appointed by the Mayor of Lublin, composed of departmental and divisional directors of the City Office, Lublin's cultural institutions, and some NGOs, is formally responsible for preparing both competition applications. The work, however, has in large part been entrusted to Lublin's cultural animators, artists, activists, and citizens appreciating culture. At the Centre for Culture in Lublin, one of the city's largest institutions, a working team was formed to prepare the programme and the application. Team members were selected in an open formula, based on curatorial ideas that had been submitted. The team comprises ten people, who represent different fields of culture and types of entities. Team members have become ambassadors of the project in their communities, consulting among those communities on programming policies.

To engage city residents in developing the application, the ECoC Zone of Thought, an open information point, was set up at the Centre for Culture in Lublin. A special handbook was prepared to explain the competition's rules and the mechanism for submitting programme ideas. The handbook, printed in four language versions: Polish, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and English, was distributed to two thousand individuals and organisations. These activities have helped create a participatory model based on open, diverse dialogue, following the work on the city strategies. Nearly three hundred ideas and projects were submitted by cultural operators and residents. The programme team made a selection from these ideas and projects, and included these into the L.O.V.E. operating system and in larger umbrella projects described in this section.

EYC 2023'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECoC 2029 PROGRAMME

As European Youth Capital 2023, Lublin continues setting and pursuing its long-term objectives in introducing new standards of social interaction and integration. City authorities have placed the primary focus on embedding developmental processes in the local fabric, not on organising one-off events. Support, guidance, and care have proved crucial in implementing Lublin's European Youth Capital activities and purposes. The ongoing EYC programme is just an extensive introduction in getting young inhabitants of the city interested in culture; now they will enter the preparation processes for ECoC smoothly, with new energies and competences. The 2023 experience shows the cultural sector's readiness, along with that of Lublin as a whole, for the distinctly processual character of these preparations then for events of ECoC 2029. At least as telling is the expectation level among inhabitants that all of this will come to pass.

City authorities and organisers of European Youth Capital 2023 know that young people are a vital driving force in our city's future. A place for them is firmly established in the ECoC Lublin 2029 project: a wide-open door for innovative youth programmes. The final shape these will take will be the result of analysing young residents' aims and expectations. These aspects of programming will be presented in the final competition proposal.

<<< Explain how the local population and your civil society have been involved in the preparation of the application and will participate in the implementation of the ECoC year.

In response to survey results about residents' needs, between 2024 and 2031 ECoC Lublin 2029 will be implementing horizontal umbrella projects, the large scale of which is among the significant challenges of ECoC 2029. These go well beyond the obvious cultural and artistic programme, and aim toward bringing about lasting social change. The umbrella projects will use European best practice and will be consulted with local residents, in consideration of their crucial visions and opinions.

Essential control of the projects described below will be taken up by the ECoC Lublin 2029 institution, while City Office departments will be responsible for their comprehensive implementation. The project Senior-Friendly Lublin will be supervised by the Department of Social Initiatives and Programmes; educational projects will be partnered by and implemented through Lublin's Department of Education, which supervises 170 schools. The Strategy and Entrepreneurship Department will undertake work with the creative sector, and the Participation Office will hold responsibility for

the Lublin Volunteers application, and for all participatory activities. The project Study-Friendly Lublin will be the responsibility of the Union of Lublin Universities, with the Chatka Żaka Academic Cultural and Media Centre as its operator.

The City of Lublin knows the great scope and broad range within planned activities for extensive target groups. Challenges of this ambitious scale are what Lublin has been actively developing towards, and the title of the European Capital of Culture presents a prime opportunity to demonstrate this. These goals are as extensive as they are realistic and achievable, with all units and staff expertise involved and the urban infrastructure being appropriately used. Lublin, as a compact city that functions on a manageable scale, is a superb place for the implementation of such projects.

Support in preparing umbrella projects will come through European networks in which Lublin is a participant of long standing, along with Lublin's twin towns, and those associated through the Union of Polish Metropolises.

<<< Explain your overall strategy for audience development, and in particular the link with education and the participation of schools.

The table below shows the range of impacts of umbrella projects, their objectives, target groups, and indicators to be achieved.

NAME OF THE PROJECT	AREA	OPERATOR	TARGET GROUPS	INDICATORS
Education-friendly Lublin: alternative education and animation process	Artistic education for children and young people	ECoC Lublin 2029 institution Department of Education, Lublin City Office	46,000 primary- and secondary-school students	Min. 40% of school students included in the free artistic-education programme
Study-friendly Lublin: networking European student culture	Student culture	ECoC Lublin 2029 institution Chatka Żaka Academic Cultural and Media Centre Union of Lublin Universities	65,000 students from 10 Lublin institutions of higher education 13 student culture centres in Poland	Acquiring min. 15 European partners Min. 10% student participants in European networks
Senior-friendly Lublin: AIP (Activity, Independence, Participation)	Senior residents' activation and participation	ECoC Lublin 2029 institution Department of Social Initiatives and Programmes, Lublin City Office	86,000 senior residents	Min. 20% of Lublin seniors
CCI-friendly Lublin	Support and development of creative-industries sector entities	ECoC Lublin 2029 institution Department of Strategy and Entrepreneurship, Lublin City Office	Over 3,000 potential entities that formally met the criteria adopted for identification in the creative sector	Min. 5% of entities covered by the programme
Volunteer-friendly Lublin	Involvement of young people, students, seniors	ECoC Lublin 2029 institution Operators of artistic events	Pupils, students, senior residents participating in umbrella projects	10% of participants in umbrella projects

5. Management

A) FINANCE

City budget for culture:

Tables 1 and 2 below show two ways of calculating the budget for culture in Lublin. Table 1 shows the city's annual budget for culture against its entire

budget; Table 2 shows the annual budget for culture calculated in accordance with the practice of Statistics Poland (the country's central statistical office), which excludes EU funds and capital expenditure. As per Table 2, average expenditure on culture and the protection of national heritage in the region amounts to 3.2%.

<<< What has been the annual budget for culture in the city over the last 5 years (excluding expenditure for the present European Capital of Culture application)?

TABLE 1:

Year	Annual city budget for culture (euros)	Annual city budget for culture (% of total budget)
2019	14 680 000	2,68%
2020	11 500 000	2,17%
2021	11 650 000	1,99%
2022	12 180 000	2,09%
Current year	14 460 000	2,24%

TABLE 2:

Year	Annual city budget for culture (euros)	Annual city budget for culture (% of total budget), excluding capital expenditure and EU funds	Average current expenditure on culture as % of all current expenditure of cities in Poland (Source: Statistics Poland)
2019	14 680 000	3,62%	3,2%
2020	11 500 000	3,03%	2,8%
2021	11 650 000	2,84%	2,3%
2022	12 180 000	2,62%	bd
Current year	14 460 000	3,00%	bd

Operating budget of ECoC Lublin 2029

12 500 000 € – City of Lublin

New special funds to be included in the Long-term Financial Forecast.

24 500 000 € – Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Funding at twice the level of Lublin's expenditure has only been estimated, as no binding arrangements for the Ministry for the Capital of Culture funding exist at present. However, based on Lublin's experience in implementing large international projects with the ministry, the ratio in euros of 1:2 in the entire ECoC project budget is appropriate. This was the ratio between national- and local-government funding used in planning the final budget for ECoC Wrocław 2016.

6 500 000 € – Office of the Marshal of Lublin Voivodeship

This estimate is based on the experience of previous ECoCs. The relevant resolution for ECoC financing will be adopted after Lublin advances to the final stage of the competition.

5 500 000 € – Sponsors

In initial talks, potential sponsors have indicated their great interest. The business community (e.g. seventy companies of the Lublin Special Economic Zone, and national state-owned companies) see the possibility of winning the ECoC title as an excellent opportunity for the city and are behind Lublin's selection.

3 500 000 € – European Union

Funds acquired for projects of ECoC Lublin 2029 programme. In accordance with recommendations of the European Parliament for Candidate Cities, Lublin will prepare special grant applications, including for the Creative Europe programme.

2 500 000 €

Income from tickets and other sources outside public funds.

Total: ca. 55 000 000 €

<<< Have the public finance authorities (City, Region, State) already voted on or made financial commitments to cover operating expenditure? If not, when will they do so?

Total income to cover operating expenditure (euros)	From the public sector (euros)	From the public sector (%)	From the private sector (euros)	From the private sector (%)
55 000 000	46 750 000	85%	8 250 000	15%

Income from the public sector:

Income from public sector to cover operating expenditure	euro	w %
National government	24 500 000	52%
City	12 500 000	27%
Region	6 500 000	14%
EU (excluding the Melina Mercouri Prize)	3 500 000	7%
Total:	47 000 000	100%

<<< What is the breakdown of the income to be received from the public sector to cover operating expenditure?

6. Capacity to deliver

ECoC Lublin 2029 has strong political support from the local authorities, as evidenced by our City Council's unanimous vote in backing the initiative.

All thirty-one councillors sitting on the Council of the City of Lublin and representing various political movements supported Lublin's bid for the title

of the European Capital of Culture in 2029. On 25 May 2023, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1477/L/2-23, expressing support for Lublin's candidacy for ECoC. It is worth emphasising that for the very diverse Council, such unanimous votes are exceedingly rare.

<<< Please confirm and supply evidence that you have broad and strong political support and a sustainable commitment from the relevant local, regional and national public authorities.

Can we organise a year-long programme of the European Capital of Culture 2029 in Lublin?

In 2017, Lublin celebrated its Grand Jubilee: the 700th anniversary of its city charter. The year-long programme of activities and events was divided into six thematic seasons, which included over a thousand dedicated events and drew the enthusiastic interest of residents and visitors. Of our residents, 78% positively evaluated the programme and celebrations of the Grand Jubilee.

Events and activities marking the 700th anniversary of Lublin having been granted its city charter under Magdeburg Law were the outcome of years-long processes. The programme's initial versions were published in the final application of Lublin's ECoC 2016 bid, where they were described as a contingency option. Those proposals then underwent extensive cross-sector consultations and debates. The first multi-year programmes opening the cycle of preparations were initiated

two years in advance of 2017, enabling the start of long-term processes and of numerous studies and surveys; those results then fed into adjustments in the programming offer. The Grand Jubilee was divided into six thematic seasons, correlated with the natural rhythm of Lublin's cultural life. The seasons were: *Prologue* (carnival), *Live the History* (winter), *Feel the Energy* (spring), *The Great Goings-On* (summer), *Emotions of Art* (autumn), and *Celebrate Lublin* (the winter holiday period). The Grand Jubilee and the civic programme of events and wider activities gave rise to "a fashion for Lublin", creating a bond within the urban community. This process of positive integration through cultural heritage, art, and culture has now been decelerated by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Today and moving forward, our answer is RE:UNION.

ECOC LUBLIN 2029

ECOC Lublin 2029 application task team:

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- Rafał Koziński (Managing Director, Centre for Culture in Lublin / Deputy Team Leader),
- Michał Karapuda (Director, Culture Department / Deputy Team Leader),
- Joanna Żytkowska (Director of the Mayor's Department),
- Beata Szopińska (Director of the Mayor's Office),
- Krzysztof Stanowski (Director of the International Cooperation Centre),
- Katarzyna Duma (Spokesperson for the Mayor of Lublin),
- Agnieszka Barańska-Szamryk (Deputy Managing Director, Culture Department),
- Magdalena Zaręba-Opalińska (Manager, External Communication and Promotion of Culture Office, Culture Department),
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ECOC Lublin 2029 programming team:

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- Paweł Passini,
- Marta Ryczkowska,
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- Izabela Śliwa,
- Michał Miłosz Zieliński,
- Gabriela Żuk.

- Council for Culture of the City of Lublin
- Councillors of the Lublin City Council
- Lublin City Youth Council
- Creative Industries Council of the Mayor of the City of Lublin
- Lublin Students' Council of the Mayor of the City of Lublin
- Lublin Women's Forum
- Council for the Culture of Space
- Seniors' Council of the City of Lublin and associates
- Council for Public Benefit Activity of the City of Lublin
- European Youth Capital Organisation Office
- Chatka Żaka Academic Culture and Media Centre
- Centre for Culture in Lublin
- Centre for the Meeting of Cultures in Lublin
- Bronowice District Culture Centre
- Węglin District Culture Centre
- Henryk Wieniawski Philharmonic in Lublin
- Labirynt Gallery
- Lublin's cultural NGOs
- Hieronim Łopaciński Municipal Public Library in Lublin
- National Museum in Lublin
- Lublin Open-Air Village Museum
- Lublin Opera
- Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre in Lublin
- Crossroads Centre for Intercultural Creative Initiatives
- Gardzienice Centre for Theatre Practices
- State Museum at Majdanek
- Hans Christian Andersen Theatre in Lublin
- Juliusz Osterwa Theatre in Lublin
- Old Theatre in Lublin
- Workshops of Culture in Lublin
- Wanda Kaniorowa Lublin Song and Dance Ensemble

ESK Lublin 2029 – RE:UNION – L.O.V.E.

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The application is based on social consultation meetings with artists, activists, and residents of Lublin. In an open call, over 300 projects and ideas of events and ECoC Lublin 2029 concepts were submitted.

All copyright belongs to respective authors, editors, individuals, and entities submitting their ideas and projects as part of the open call.

Our bid book features drawings by Mariusz Tarkawian. For a decade now, Tarkawian has been at work on his “Colloquium on History of Art and Civilisation”, a monumental fresco covering walls in one of the city’s cultural institutions. At 500 square metres to date, his project displays our city’s dynamic, ever-changing nature. Drawings selected and edited by Piotr Wysocki.



Lublin ®
MIASTO INSPIRACJI

L.O.V.E. – operational and programme pillars

LONGEVITY

Nature / Vitality / Well-Being / Sustainability

OBSERVATION

Research / Mindfulness / Reflection / Understanding

VIBRATION

Energy Flow / Impulses / Interventions / Empowerment

EMBODIMENT

Incarnation / Inclusion / Community / Lasting Relations

