АКЦЕНТИ ОТ ПРОГРАМАТА

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

PLOVDIV 2019
European Capital of Culture
Plovdiv is the first Bulgarian city to be the European Capital of Culture. After four years of preparation, the programme is already a fact, with more than 300 projects and nearly 500 events covering not only the city but also the whole South Central Region as well as the cities finalists from the second round of the competition – Varna, Sofia and Veliko Tarnovo. Most of the projects in the programme started in 2017 and 2018 and will develop and manifest in the year of the title. Within the framework of the initiative, many traditional city events have gained new strength and have expanded, new festivals have emerged, and an extraordinary amount of new experience with cultural content and its management, will surely remain as a legacy of the initiative.

The accents presented are a small part of the 2019 programme. They are chosen according to their potential to gather the most numerous and colorful audiences and participants to highlight the high amplitudes in the calendar. Festivals, large-scale shows, programmes – each of the selected accents is a collection of events that are hard to fit into a standard genre definition, because they usually have many varied elements included within them.

The purpose of the European Capital of Culture programme is precisely to challenge the stereotypical attitude towards the functions and character of art, the places where it appears and the people who create it. The initiative aims to maximize the authenticity of cultural events within the city, to find a way to the audience and, above all, to achieve the state which can be gathered simply and clearly in the motto ‘Together’.

This list of highlights will be expanded and enriched throughout the forthcoming year by the personal experiences of each participant and viewer, unexpected artistic appearances and the initiative of the hundreds of partners who have joined Plovdiv 2019 with great enthusiasm and creative energy.

Art is a subjective experience which depends on many factors, but mostly on its audience. Choosing art is both great and personal experience and at the same time has the greatest power to gather us.

We are waiting for you in Plovdiv!

Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva
Artistic Director of Plovdiv 2019 Foundation
The programme of Plovdiv – European Capital of Culture 2019 is structured in four thematic platforms – Fuse, Transform, Revive, Relax – related to the typical features of the city, the communities that inhabit it, its cultural heritage, history, pace of life, and problems and stereotypes of overcoming. The selected highlights include projects and events from all the thematic platforms and clusters of the programme, arranged on a calendar basis, by dates. Their distribution on platforms as well as current events information, hours and locations, map of locations, entry conditions and ticket purchase links can be found on the website of the initiative: www.plovdiv2019.eu.
ЯНУАРИ
Откриване
Дим. Истории за тютюна
Изкуство на свободата
Пътуваща изложба „Еврика!”
aW(Е)are
Одисей
Разнообразни заедно – споделяне на хлябове и истории
Променяне

ФЕВРУАРИ
КИНОПЛОВДИВ
Видеоформа/Видеоплатформа
Чуйте ни – Артистичен интелект
Брата Караянови
Пловдив за вкъщи
Електрически Орфея
Европейски краткосрочен програмен спектакъл на Европейската краткосрочна програма 2019 (ESP)
Програма АДАТА
Айлиак парад
Дигитални екология
Принципът на началото и принципът на бегството
FLUCA – Австрийски културен павилион
Brexit Blues
Балкански танц в Пловдив
Съединение в окръг на праневритмиките
Южен Уикенд
MOVE Седмица Пловдив
Програма Кирилизация

МАРТ

АПРИЛ
Алъск парад
Дигитални екология
Принципът на началото и принципът на бегството
FLUCA – Австрийски културен павилион
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Съединение в окръг на праневритмиките
Южен Уикенд
MOVE Седмица Пловдив
Програма Кирилизация

МАЙ

МАЙ

ЮНИ
Израждаме заедно –
Графика за децата
Пловдив Каравана
LIEU d’ÊTRE
ФАРА – Фестивал на Българската асоциация на комуникационните агенции
Опера Откриване
Стрийт мастерс
Аниме & Гейминг Фестивал
Една Група
Хилс на Рок

ЮЛИ
Лятно кино в парка
Пловдив Етик
World Фест Пловдив 2019
Македонски симфоничен оркестър „PROGRESSIVE“
Израждаме заедно – Учим от Столипиново

АВГУСТ
Лятно на реката

СЕПТЕМБРИ
5 години Пловдив ЕСК 2019
Седмица на съвременното изкуство НОШ/Пловдив
ONE DANCE WEEK 2019
Mood for Food
Театър Но с Европейски дух

ОКОТМБРІ
Love Swing Dance Festival
100% Пловдив
форум 2019 – образователни програми
Читалища

НОЕМВРІ
Градски игри

ДЕКЕМВРІ
Малък театър на края на света... Опус II
Арс Ескаванги
Закриване

ЮЛЕ

2019 TIMELINE
We are all Colors
Opening of Plovdiv European Capital of Culture 2019

We are most thrilled to invite you to join us in celebrating the opening of the ECOC 2019 with the most attractive and momentous highlight in its programme – the ‘We are all Colors’ show. Over the course of an extended weekend a series of events will take place at various in- and outdoor spaces across the city. Its culmination will be on Saturday, 12 January.

The very heart of Plovdiv will welcome the ceremony. The show, combining music, light and dance, will give the key to the whole year ahead and to the basic concept of the European Capital of Culture project, in which the citizens themselves are not only audiences and actors, but also creators of events. More than 1500 participants from Bulgaria and abroad will recreate on the open stage a large and colorful metaphor of all the main themes of the programme ‘Plovdiv 2019’ and their relationships under the motto ‘Together’.

The ECOC opening event is produced by the Plovdiv 2019 Foundation in partnership with international organizations, the major cultural institutions in Plovdiv, Plovdiv Municipality, artists and performers from Bulgaria and abroad.

The concept of the event is created by the German artistic network phase7 performing.arts, artistic director Sven Sören Beyer.

The opening weekend programme is made jointly with partner organizations from Plovdiv and Bulgaria and with the special participation of our partners from Matera - European Capital of Culture 2019, Italy.
Smoke. Tobacco Stories

‘Smoke. Tobacco Stories’ is an exhibition produced especially for the opening of Plovdiv – European Capital of Culture 2019 and dedicated to Tobacco City, one of ECOC’s flagship projects. The exposition features archives, photography, video, films, literature and art works by most renowned Bulgarian artists that explore the history of Plovdiv through the tobacco industry.

The Tobacco City of Plovdiv represents a lively node of storylines that entangle and distract. If we follow them, they will tell us not only about the centuries-old identity of the city, but also about all the stories closely related to it. Tobacco is an unusual prism through which citizens and visitors of Plovdiv can view from a new angle the great tale of the place of Southeastern Europe in the world. This story is almost untouched by clichés, because tobacco is part of Bulgaria’s real, not symbolic capital, as opposed to the rose oil or the wheat stalks present in the coat of arms.

Peering through the gauze of cigarette smoke, one can see the onset of emancipation and feminization, the socio-cultural processes that consumed Bulgarian women at the turn of the 20th century, and follow the birth of entire strata in Bulgarian society and the social growth of others. Smoke was a constant companion: It was the protagonist in the trenches during the wars and at cafes where writers, artists and others were splitting hairs over intellectual subtleties. Tobacco was the permanent image in cinema but also in the years of cinema’s intellectual rebellion, and has remained perhaps the only truly convertible means of exchange in each epoch outside Bulgaria.

The exhibition is arranged chronologically and thematically, starting from the National Revival period and the first years after Bulgaria’s liberation in 1878. It then follows every transformation of society through its connection with tobacco, wars, protests, the Process of Rebirth in the 1980s, up to the present day as depicted in the works of Bulgaria’s most prominent contemporary artists.

The exhibition is realized on the idea of Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva as a production of ‘Plovdiv 2019’. The authors of the concept and the historical study are Stanislava Gruева, Boris Stoyanov, Mihail Gruев. Curator is Vessela Nozharova, stage designer: Dimitar Vodenicharov, designer: Kalina Dimitrova, technical implementation: Kalin Serapionov.
12 ЯНУАРИ – 30 МАРТ 2019 г.,
ПЛОЩАД “РИМСКИ СТАДИОН” (ДЖУМАЯ)

Изкуство на свободата – от Берлинската стена до уличното изкуство

На повод 30-годишнината от падането на Берлинската стена, която се отбелязва през 2019 г., в Пловдив гостува единствената пътуваща колекция от оригинални фрагменти от Берлинската стена. Изложбата представя предшественици на българското улично изкуство и съвременни стрийт артисти. Включени са творби на емблематични художници, творили по Берлинската стена, като Тиери Ноар, Кристоф-Еманюел Буш, Киди Ситни, Индиано, Хайнц Кузас и Петер Унсикер, както и произведения на международно признати улични художници, като Джеф Аерозол (Франция), Борондо (Испания), C215 (Франция), Джон Краш Матос (САЩ), Фейт47 (Южна Африка), Джимми Си (Австралия), Рън (Италия) и Джон Долан (Великобритания). Изложбеният проект съпътства програмата на Пловдив 2019 в партньорство с Френски институт България.

Art Liberty – From the Berlin Wall to Street Art

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 2019, the only traveling collection of original fragments of the Berlin Wall is coming to Plovdiv. The exhibition consists of works created by the predecessors of the Berlin street art movement, as well as by contemporary street artists. The collection is presenting the art of the emblematic artists who used to work on the Berlin Wall, among them Thierry Noir, Christophe-Emmanuel Bouche, Kiddy City, Indiana, Heinz J. Kusdas and Peter Unsicker. It will also include works by internationally recognized street artists such as Jef Aérosol (France), Borondo (Spain), C215 (France), John Crash Matos (USA), FAITH47 (South Africa), Jimmy C (Australia), L7M (Brazil), RUN (Italy), 1up (Germany), John Dolan (UK).

The exhibition will host an array of accompanying events – a screening programme of more than 30 short movies, photos, tourist walks on the Wall, political debates, artists talks, and concerts. Along with the collection of artworks, the exhibition also includes three Trabant cars, painted by Thierry Noir, Christophe-Emmanuel Bouche and Kiddy City. The catalogue of Art Liberty – From the Berlin Wall to Street Art is the first in the world, which allows the viewer to discover the process of creating each work thanks to QR codes.

The collection is owned by the noted French curator Sylvestre Verger. The exhibition is made possible by Plovdiv 2019 in partnership with French Institute Bulgaria.

Колекцията е създадена от известния френски куратор Силвестър Вержер. Изложбеният проект се осъществява от „Пловдив 2019“ в партньорство с Френски институт България.
Пътуваща изложба „Еврика!”

Детски научен център „Музейко“ в Пловдив, за да представи едни от най-популярните открития от 19 и 20 век „Пътуваща изложба „Еврика!” е експозиция на интерактивни модули, които ще бъдат разположени в Музеен център за съвременна история през цялата 2019 г. Изложбата пресъздава процеси на научни открития и някои от водещите научно-технически постижения.

Посетителите ще имат възможност да научат как са създадени рентгенът, телефонът, морзовият апарат, както и изобретения като играчка пружина слинки, балонът с горещ въздух и задвижваните от човешка сила автомобили.

Играейки, децата и техните родители ще научат интересни факти за модернизацията на света и ще преоткрият музея като място за забавление, което може да пробуди любопитството и въображението.

Проектът е на Фондация „Музейко“ в партньорство с Регионален исторически музей Пловдив.

Eureca! Travelling Exhibition

Muzeiko Science Center for Children comes to Plovdiv to present some of the most popular discoveries of the 19th and 20th centuries. "Eureca! Travelling Exhibition" consists of interactive modules. The exhibition will remain in Plovdiv’s Museum Centre of Modern History throughout the year.

The exhibition recreates some of the leading scientific and technical achievements and discoveries. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn how the X-ray apparatus, the telephone, the Morse code machine, as well as inventions such as the Slinky spring, the hot air balloon and human-powered transport came to be.

Playing kids and their parents will learn more about the process of the world’s modernization and rediscover the museum as a place of entertainment that can provoke curiosity and imagination.

‘Eureca! Travelling Exhibition’ is a project by the Muzeiko Foundation in partnership with the Plovdiv Regional History Museum.

aW(E)are

„aW(E)are“ (в превод на български: „Ангажиран/е“) на италианската театрална асоциация „GOMMALACCA Teatro“ е насочен към създаване на театър за деца и младежи от Столипиново и други райони на Пловдив. Невидимата граница между кварталите е мястото, където младите се срещат със своите преживявания и нови истории за града, границите и различията. По пътя на проекта, в поредица от обучения и срещи, тази граница се заличава, създава се обща нов език. На 27 януари 2019 г. е финалният общ спектакъл с всички участници в обученията.

"aW(E)are" is a project by the Italian GOMMALACCA Teatro Association. The partners are the Youth Club Roma – Stolipinovo 1996 Association and IAC: Integrated Center of Arts of Matera.

27 ЯНУАРИ 2019 г., ЗАЛА РАДИО ПЛОВДИВ (ПЪРВО СТУДИО)

27 JANUARY 2019, RADIO PLOVDIV HALL (STUDIO ONE)
“Odysseus” is a large-scale show based on Homer’s work. The theatre project will give theatre people from various countries an opportunity to explore the myth in its contemporary dimensions – creating an epic, modern and visually compelling spectacle.

The Odyssey is an immortal poem about man’s journey towards light, about the vicissitudes and tests of the spirit, about the finding of life’s meaning and its stoical acceptance as a gifted journey amid longings and illusions and through hopes and the stages of life. The Odyssey is also about return – the moment when man is alone and naked under the sky just as he was in the hour of his birth; it is also the moment when his other, eternal journey begins through the seas and islands of recurring time.

The show deals with all the politico-philosophical issues of human migration and the necessity for a new comprehension of this phenomenon of civilization in a modern European context.


There are special guest appearances by Yannis Pantonis, a Greek musician who crafts and plays instruments from antiquity, and the Greek composer and theatre director Theo Abazis (Deputy Artistic Director of Greek National Theatre).

This a project by the N. O. Masalitinov Drama Theatre Plovdiv.
Various Together – Sharing Breads and Stories

The bread will be the center of events united in the project ‘Various Together – Sharing Breads and Stories’. At 9 open culinary events in Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna popular foreign culinary people will present recipes for bread from their countries; will share their personal history, and the challenge of being a foreigner in Bulgaria.

The project is part of the City Candidates programme and is implemented by the International Council for Cultural Centers and Multi Kulti Kolektiv Association.

Changing

‘Changing’ is a dramatization of ‘Metamorphoses’ by the Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann, and is the first solo performance of the actress Yoana Bukovska-Davidova. The performance is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Ms Ullmann and the 100th anniversary of the Swedish director Ingmar Bergman. This is also one of a handful of theatre spectacles in Europe to feature augmented reality. The focus of the dramatization, which is Ms Bukovska-Davidova’s own project, is the actress, she, who displays a multitude of faces without anyone ever knowing the one that’s truly her own. Story by: Yoana Bukovska-Davidova. Performed by: Yoana Bukovska-Davidova. Directed by: Gergana Dimitrova. Cast: Anna Berovska, Rada Ilieva and Alexander Mitrev. Choreography by: Marta Trifonova-Varlaamova.

The project is a production of the Contemporary Alternative Art and Culture Organization – 36 monkeys.
CINEPLOVDIV

For a period of one year seven teams of Bulgarian film directors have been shooting seven short films inspired by and dedicated to the city of Plovdiv. The seven films will be merged into an omnibus release. The official premiere of the omnibus will be held in March 2019.

The directors are Petar Valchanov and Kristina Grozeva (‘Glory’ – holder of more than 30 awards from international festivals, and ‘Lesson’ – the Bulgarian nomination for 2017 Best Foreign Language Film of the Academy Awards); Nikolay Todorov (for whom Emir Kusturica set up a special prize for a ‘most poetic film’ for his short movie ‘Before I Fall Asleep’); Raïtsa Petrova (holder of the Golden Leopard Award from the Locarno Film Festival for her film ‘Bezbog’); Dimitar Kutmanov (‘Ecce Homo’ – part of the official selection of many film festivals); Pavet Vesnakov (‘Honor’, ‘Zeus’ – holder of festival prizes); Lyubomir Madenov (‘Hunting Park’, ‘A Ship in a Room’ represented at many film forums); and Hristo Simeonov (his debut movie ‘The Son’ holds many prestigious film awards).

Each director has his or her own visual style and dramaturgical language, and will present their idea of what Plovdiv may look like when presented in a film.

‘CINEPLOVDIV’ is a project by the production house Screening Emotions.
Listen To Us –
Artistic Intelligence

Works from Art Collection Telekom

Plovdiv 2019 presents for the first time in Bulgaria Deutsche Telekom’s prestigious collection of contemporary art initiated in 2010 with a clear focus on the cultural area of Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The project is curated by Nathalie Hoyos and Rainald Schumacher. Coordinator is Dimitrina Petrova. The City Art Gallery and SKLAD, the former tobacco warehouse, will present exhibitions that show that, despite all cultural and national differences, artists communicate with one common language. There will be subtle interventions with contemporary art in some of the houses in the Old Town. LISTEN TO US is an invitation to listen to the works. Their sensual presence and intelligence are telling a lot about our common reality and encourage our own reflection. Additionally, beside the works from the Art Collection Telekom, a few newly commissioned artworks by Bulgarian artists and some works of the recent history of contemporary art in Bulgaria will be integrated in the exhibition. The project is accompanied by its own educational programme, reaching out to the general public. Starting in autumn 2018, first workshops establish practical training experiences to mediate content and storylines of the works in the exhibition. Participating artists from the Art Collection Telekom: Nevin Aladağ, Anatoly Belov, Yane Calovski, Sanja Ivecovski, Vladimir Houdek, Hristina Ivanoska, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Luka Kedžo, Genti Korini, Eva Kot’atkova, Maria Kulikovska, Nikita Kadan, Mi Kafchin, Lito Kattou, Luka Perjovschi, Dan Perjovschi, Cristiano Rüdutarga, Šejla Kamerić, Lato Solakov, Nedko Solakov, Lito Kedžo, Šejla Kamerić, Lato Solakov, Nedko Solakov, Lito Solakova, Eva Kot’atkova, Maria Kulikovska, Lada Nakonechna, Vlad Nancă, Paulina Olowska, Romana Onďák, Dan Perjovschi, Cristiano Rüdtarga, Šejla Kamerić, Lato Solakov, Nedko Solakov, Mladen Stilinović, Martina Vacheva. Invited artists: Lucezár Byagdzhev, Dimitar Genchev, Alben Mihajlova Manz, Sasho Stoitzev, Krassimir Terziev.

The exhibition is made possible by Plovdiv 2019 in partnership with Goethe-Institut Bulgaria, Deutsche Telekom – Art Collection Telekom and Open Arts Foundation. The mediation programme is developed with support by the educational team of Folkwang Museum Essen and Berlin Biennale.
The Brothers Karamazov
Ivan Vazov National Theatre features the play ‘The Brothers Karamazov’ by Fyodor Dostoevski. This is the first performance of a series of projects to be realized within the framework of the Association of Balkan National Theatres, established on the initiative of the National Theatre in March 2018. One of the most popular Macedonian directors (a Bulgarian graduate in theatre direction) Deyan Proykovski is directing the show - with the participation of several renowned Bulgarian actors: Vladimir Penev, Deyan Donkov, Velislav Pavlov, Marin Yanev, Deyan Angelov, Dimitar Nikolov, Valeri Yordanov, Yordan Bikov, Yosif Shamli, Ana Papatopulo, Alexsandra Vasileva, Zhoreta Nikolaeva, Radina Kardzhilova, amongst others.

The project is implemented by the Ivan Vazov National Theatre.

Take Away Plovdiv
‘Take Away Plovdiv’ is a project which invites Bulgarian contemporary artists to come up with new designs for souvenirs based on Plovdiv motifs. The project is seeking meaningful, intriguing alternatives to mass-produced low-quality souvenirs. The project seeks to expand the idea of souvenir by creating new design objects conceived by professional designers, artists and architects. The new souvenirs are made by six artists from different spheres – graphic and product design, fashion, architecture, art and illustration. These are architect Penka Stancheva, design studio Artelie and Nikoleta Nosovska, illustrator Teodor Georgiev, Misirkov/Bogdanov, studio tochka & tochka and jewelers Neva Balnikova.

This is a Studio Komplekt project (Adriana Andreeva and Boiana Gjaurova).
Electric Orpheus

Електрическият фестивал „Electric Orpheus“ съчетава музика и съвременен танц. Форматът представя артисти от световната и българска сцена, като комбинира разнообразни стилове и жанрове – от рокенрол, космически джаз и психеделически джаз до електроника, DJ сетове, пърформанси.

Изданията на „Electric Orpheus“ се провеждат в Пловдив и региона. Градските събития на „Electric Orpheus“ са в различни квартал и разнообразни пространства за култура. Летните са в парк-лозя на Вила Юстина, в подножието на Родопите, в съчетанието от хълмове, гроздови масиви и артисти от цял свят.

През 2018 г. лятното издание предлагаше ретро фанк и джаз в парк-лозя на Вила Юстина. За първи път в България пристигнаха италианците Calibro 35. Заедно с още четири групи те представиха смесица от различни стилове и алтернативни музикални формати.

Изданието през октомври в квартал „Тракия“ включва специално участие на MC Gaff E и българската група Kopriva.

Изданието през 2019 г. е с различни дати и локации – 20 април в квартал „Западен“, 22 юни в парк-лозя на Вила Юстина, 19 октомври в квартал „Кючук Париж“, ще бъде последният „Electric Orpheus“.

„Electric Orpheus“ е проект на Сдружение „Общо бъдеще“. 

European Short Pitch 2019 (ESP)

European Short Pitch 2019 (ESP) е международен обучителен форум и едно от най-важните събития в Европа за развитие на късометражна филмодържа. В рамките на 13-тото издание на ESP в София и Пловдив взимат участие шестнадесет обещаващи проекта на млади и талантливи екипи от цяла Европа, между които и два български. В програмата са включени лекциите, дискусии и съревнования на късометражни филми.
ADATA Programme

In 2018, Plovdiv 2019 implemented the ADATA AiR in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Bulgaria and the Polish Institute in Sofia. Nearly 50 artists from around the world participated.

The artist-in-residence programme has two main themes related to the nature-culture relations, the river passing through the city and the wild island Adata, and the city-specific architectural layering – a mixture of styles and epochs, having some remarkable examples of Modernist, Soviet, Bauhaus architecture as well as an intriguing heritage of industrial and religious buildings, and even some illegal community-created structures.

Between April and October 2019, over 15 creative concepts proposed by artists participating in the residence will be implemented in Plovdiv as part of the main European Capital of Culture programme. The ADATA programme focuses specifically on art from nature, citizen participation, integration of the river into the city’s everyday life, new alternatives and approaches to the architectural and monumental heritage. The main goal of the programme is to change the usual settings of the citizens with the help of fresh, new artistic interventions.

ADATA Programme is a project of the Plovdiv 2019 Foundation, in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Bulgaria and the Polish Institute in Sofia.
4 МАЙ 2019 г.,
ГЛАВНАТА ПЕШЕХОДНА УЛИЦА

Айляк парад


Стотици участници със специално създавани лично от тях костюми, водещи големите кукли, задвижващи инсталации и подготвили специална хореография ще осъществят най-пъстрото и щастливо шествие по улиците на града. Читалищата, културни центрове и граждани, всеки, припознал празника, ще намери място в него. Партньорите от HANDMADE PARADE – Великобритания и STALKER TEATRO – Италия ще допринесат за магията с опита и емоциите от градовете си, в които цветните паради са най-обичаните градски събития.

Айляк парад е проект на Фондация „ЖАР театър-изкуство-култура“ със съвместна организация с HANDMADE PARADE, Великобритания; STALKER TEATRO, Италия; НЧ „Възраждане'1983“; НЧ „Младост'1983“; НЧ „Н. Вапцаров'1928“.

4 МАЙ – 29 ЮЛИ 2019 г.,
СКЛАД, ЦЕНТЪР ЗА СЪВРЕМЕНО ИЗКУСТВО „БАНЯ СТАРИННА“

Дигитални екологии

„Дигитални екологии“ е международен проект за съвременно изкуство. Той изследва взаимодействието между електронните технологии и градската среда в нейната комплексност от изразните средства на изкуството. Изучаването през 2019 година е под наслов „Дигитални драматизация: Екологии от бъдещето“ с придружаващ симпозиум (5 – 6 май 2019 г.). Концепцията на проекта е на куратора Димитрина Севова (Швейцария/България), съвместно с Катарина Свобода и Емил Миразчиев (България).

Дигитални екологии е проект на Сдружение „Изкуство днес“.
The Prince of the Sea and the Prince of the Earth

The puppet-theatre performance created specially for the programme is inspired by the traditional Japanese Bunraku theatre, based on the famous story of the two brothers whose love for the Dragon princess of the Ocean gave birth to the first Japanese emperor – a classic Japanese legend for love, trust, the given word and meaning of life. The performance ‘The Prince of the Sea and the Prince of the Earth’ is created by some of the most established Bulgarian theatre artists in collaboration with two Japanese artists: a puppet maker-master and a choreographer. Director will be Elena Panayotova, set design – Yuliana Voikova Naiman.

The project is part of the FOCUS: Japanese Culture Programme, which is implemented in partnership with the EU-Japan Fest Foundation. The project is implemented by the State Puppet Theatre Plovdiv.

FLUCA – Austrian Cultural Pavilion

‘FLUCA – Austrian Cultural Pavilion’ is an innovative project for a mobile cultural scene. It is a transport container transformed into a mirror art installation and a scene for contemporary art. Curators of the programme for 2019 will be the Austrian curator Ursula Maria Probst and the Bulgarian curator, based in Vienna and Berlin – Boris Kostadinov. FLUCA will present projects in the field of contemporary visual arts, multimedia, experimental cinema, performance, architecture, design and music. Artists and teams from Bulgaria, Austria, USA, Germany, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and others are invited to participate. A separate part of the FLUCA programme will be the residency programme, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Styria Department of Culture. In September, Anais Horn (photographer from Graz) arrives in Plovdiv for a month to work on the spot and create a special series of photographs inspired by the European Capital of Culture.

‘FLUCA – Austrian Cultural Pavilion’ is a project of the Open Arts Foundation and the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Bulgaria.
Brexit Blues

The Brexit Blues music festival will send out a strong international message – that Europe’s cultural links remain despite Brexit. The weekend programme of Brexit Blues will feature a series of city concerts of Bulgarian and British musicians presenting the British music scene from the 1950s to date – English rock’n’roll, progressive rock, punk, jazz and blues and choral performances, among other styles and forms of music presentation. The festival’s final show will be on Sunday when some 400 performers – professional musicians; choral formations from Plovdiv; students of jazz, classical music and folklore; a big band; brass ensembles from the city; as well as amateur musicians will come together onstage. The festival’s international curators are Dr. Gordon Okafor-Ross, music director of Liverpool ECOC 2008, and Dr. Tim Steiner, who organized large-scale music events for Guimarães ECOC 2012.

The Brexit Blues music festival is a joint project of two European capitals of culture – Plovdiv 2019 and Liverpool 2008 – and the Sofia branch of the British Council. It is part of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the cultural institute’s presence in Bulgaria.
**Talyana Weekends**

Talyana Weekends gathers local and international artists in a ten-day residence. The result of their artistic collaboration will transform the Talyana neighborhood in Varna. Facades of abandoned buildings, fences and transformer substations will become artworks via 3D mapping, street theatre and cinema. There will also be live music, dancing and creative workshops.

The project is implemented by the Beehive Co-working Space Varna.

**Ancient Theatre**

Together in the Circle of Paneurhythmy – Harmony of Body, Mind and Spirit

A project that is searching for the point of intersection between art and physical activity in paneurhythms. ‘Paneurhythmics’ is a group practice performed out of doors. This is the Bulgarian system which combines movement, music, singing and meditation. The project’s capstone will be an interactive spectacle led by the charismatic conductor and composer Yordan Kamdzhalov. On 25 May 2019 the show will merge chamber music, choral music and music from ‘Bulgaria Sings’ – the three formats of ‘Music Laboratory for Man’. The show will feature a concert component, set to the music and text of paneurhythmics’ second strand, based on Bulgarian rhythms and motifs.

A project by the Vidya Project Association.

**MOVE Week Plovdiv**

MOVE Week is a pan-European initiative shared in more than 30 countries. Over a million people take part in this initiative every year. Plovdiv is one of the first cities to take part in the initiative.

Various events make up ‘MOVE Week Plovdiv’ which has free admission and is targeted at all citizens, regardless of gender, age, and social status. The programme features a variety of activities – yoga, combat sports, functional training, pilates, kangoo jump, zumba, paneurhythmy, classical ballet and modern dances, games and races for all the family. In 2019, ‘MOVE Week Plovdiv’ again offers a programme for all those who want or seek support and advice on how to make physical activities a lifestyle. ‘MOVE Week Plovdiv’ is a ‘BG Be Active Association’ project.
Cyrillization Programme

Plovdiv is the first European Capital of Culture that uses the Cyrillic alphabet. As a major asset in the diversity of cultures, Cyrillic is also one of the most valuable elements of the European dimension of the programme. The ‘Feast of Writing in Bulgaria’ – May 24 – celebrates the culture as a whole. Therefore, the programme devoted to the Cyrillic alphabet in 2019 includes a very wide range of events.

The main concept of the project is the popularization of Bulgarian forms of Cyrillic fonts, the use of the ECOC initiative as a platform for popularisation and the official introduction and adoption of Bulgarian fonts, as well as the transformation of the urban environment. The implementation of the project will be done using the tools of literature, translation, font, design, conceptual text and visual media.

Within the framework of the programme, the Pamet Foundation Project is being implemented, dedicated to the work of the writer Nikolai Haitov and the artist Boris Dimovski; project by the chitalishte in Skobelevo village, dedicated to the poet Yavorov; competitions for translating fiction, organized by Pen & Quill; the month of Radichkov by NIKE Publishing; Literary Tours in Plovdiv by Lettera Publishing House; the workshops dedicated to the Adzhar Literary and Calligraphic School in Svezhen; the initiatives by Association of Bulgarian Schools Abroad; the Cyrillic alley in Kyuchuk Paris by disabled people; the installation by Anna Bacheva and Stefan Hristov; Graphema Exhibition; Galina Yotova photographs; the exhibiton of Plakat Kombinat; and dozens of new works created specially for the programme in numerous workshops and creative exchanges.
Building Together – Children City

The Children City is an artistic intervention at the highest hill of Plovdiv, the so called Youth Hill, known for its children railway. In 2019 children of Plovdiv will be invited to join the hands-on construction of their Children City. Here, they will become active participants of city planning, architects and builders, supported by the expertise of professionals. Over the time the children erect their own town using timber, recycled materials from construction sites and industry as well as donations from Plovdiv’s households and companies. Picking up on the idea of ‘junkitecture’, this project upcycles what may usually be looked upon as junk into a new sustainable version of architecture. The Children City does not intend to copy the adult world in miniature, but is deliberately a work-in-progress ideal city from a child’s perspective, where in addition children will learn about democratic decision-making, participation and sustainability – and of course have a lot of fun, too...

‘Building Together – Children City’ is a project based on the concept by Martin Kaltwasser and Maik Ronz (Germany), implemented by Goethe-Institut Bulgaria, Children’s Architecture Workshop (Bulgaria), Discovered Spaces (Bulgaria), Atelier 3 (Bulgaria) and local partners.
In 2019 the theatres from CITI – INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRAVELLING THEATRES will gather in Plovdiv. 13 artistic companies from Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland are setting off on European roads by foot, horses, bicycles or trucks to meet in the European Capital of Culture. In June 2019 from 1st to 10th they will set up 3 large artistic camps – in Trakia district, in Stolipinovo district and in the Rowing Canal. No less than 200 artists, technicians and art reporters will come to share their art in Plovdiv. In their luggage they carry theatre, dance, music, circus, street art, games, poetry, shows, parades and workshops in search of opportunities to meet others and explore new artistic fields.

On 10th of June 2019 all 13 companies together will launch the Farewell Parade on the streets of Plovdiv.

‘Plovdiv Karavana’ is a project of the CITI – INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRAVELLING THEATRES.
FARA – Bulgarian Association of Communications Agencies Festival

FARA, the annual festival of the Bulgarian Association of Communications Agencies (BACA), is the biggest forum of Bulgaria’s creative industry. More than 500 professionals from the communications industry, representatives of creative professions, directors, producers, leading advertisers, marketing experts and media take part.

An inspiring competition of creative ideas, the event presents the most successful advertising formats and campaigns created in Bulgaria and realised here or abroad. Communications agencies showcase their achievements in 26 categories, grouped into four sections: Audiovisual Forms and Copywriting, Art Direction and Design, Digital Forms and Creative Media Use, and Campaigns. FARA is also a reputable forum for trainings with international lecturers, and a place for ‘setting watches’ on the global trends in the industry. Since 2017 FARA and Plovdiv 2019 have been collaborating for strengthening its lectures and trainings forum. Its programme boasts a bevy of international lecturers, who demonstrate different perspectives for the present and future of communications.

The festival is carried out by Bulgarian Association of Communications Agencies (BACA).
Opera Open

Thrilling shows spread across centuries-old cultural layers. This is the basis of the music festival ‘Opera Open’. Starting in 2017 as part of the ECOC programme, the festival that is the successor to a 33-year-long tradition has been staging many premiere titles and projects featuring some of the world’s most noted artists. The festival builds a different world, one filled with emotion and spirituality, which makes it an important part of the national and international cultural landscape. OPERA OPEN, Plovdiv State Opera’s multi-genre platform, has welcomed, on the stage of the Ancient Theatre in Plovdiv, several leading soloists of the largest opera and ballet companies in the world. Over the past five years this has included names such as Paata Burchuladze, Hui He, and Ana Lucrecia Garcia, Elisabet Strid, Donata D’Annunzio Lombardi, Alberto Gazale, Christian Benedict, Lala Leigh, performers from the Vienna Volksoper and the Budapest Opera, prima ballet dancers from the Bolshoi Theatre and many others have starred in more than 45 shows seen by over 70,000 people as part of the programme of Plovdiv – European Capital of Culture 2019.

Programme 2019

June
- 8 June – Gala Opening
- 15 June – ORPHEUS – premiere, directed by Stefano Poda
- 21 June – LA FORZA DEL DESTINO – Verdi
- 25 June – THE SOUND OF STRADIVARIUS, a concert of Kamerata Stradivarius, Orchestra Netherlands

July
- 13 July – RIGOLETTO - Verdi (Premiere)
- 16 July – LIZZ WRIGHT IN CONCERT
- 17 July OPERA GALA
- 20 July – SWAN LAKE – Tchaikovsky
- 26 July – OTELLO – Verdi, with Jose Cura

August
- 21 August – RIGOLETTO – Verdi
- 24 August – ORPHEUS – premiere, directed by Stefano Poda
- 27 August – INTERNATIONAL BALLET GALA
- 30 August – AIDA – Verdi

The ‘Opera Open’ music festival is made possible by State Opera Plovdiv.
Street Masters

Ever heard of Dimitrios, the New York courier from the late-1960s? He used to post his nickname – TAKI 183 – on the walls of buildings to which he delivered his parcels. Soon his signature was all over the city, laying the foundation of graffiti culture in America. It was the time when street dances, music and art became an inseparable part of contemporary urban culture as a form of self-expression and the counter-culture of young people around the world.

The ‘Street Masters’ Festival unites a series of events about urban culture and street art. It started in 2017, with a programme that featured beatbox and hip-hop competitions, graffiti, concerts, a film programme, and dance trainings.

The project is made possible thanks to Upper Ltd.

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Anime & Gaming Festival

A two-day event that will feature lectures, demonstrations and screenings, dedicated to Japanese mass culture. The programme includes a cosplay contest, an exhibition of Bulgarian artists, inspired by Japanese art, an E-sports area – and a free-play area with PC and PS consoles.

The project is part of the FOCUS: Japanese Culture Programme, which is implemented in partnership with the EU-Japan Fest Foundation. The project is organized by Nakama Association.
Medea

‘Medea’ focuses on one of art’s most familiar plots – the plot from the eponymous drama by Euripides – and seeks a modern interpretation of the human condition as presented by the play – the right to life, the process of choosing, the nature of love and the power of vengeance. A string of art trainings as part of the rehearsal process brings together, in collaboration, established personalities from the world of theatre, such as the actress Snezhina Petrova and children from various ethnicities in Plovdiv – Roma, Turks, Jews, Armenian and Bulgarians. The project’s activities study the aspects of diversity – generational, ethnic, linguistic – and those concerned with stage interpretation.

The project concludes with ‘Medea’ - a large-scale spectacle, in a new translation from the Ancient Greek by Dr Georgi Gochev and Petya Heinrich. It is staged at Plovdiv’s Ancient Theatre on 28 June, under the direction of Desislava Shpatova. The cast includes more than 40 actors, musicians and children, among them Snezhina Petrova (Medea), Petar Dochev (Jason), Vladimir Penev (Creonte), Stanka Kalcheva (nurse), Georgi Gotsin (Aegeus), Almuth Gotscheff of Deutsches Theatre, Berlin (messenger), Asya Ivanova and students from the New Bulgarian University (chorus). Music is by Asen Avramov, and set designs and costumes are by Sina Gentsch (Germany). The work with children actors is in the hands of Alexandra Gocheva (psychodrama coach) and Tsveti Spirdonova (artist).

The performance is in Bulgarian with English subtitles.
HILLS of ROCK

The ‘HILLS of ROCK’ festival is one of the major music events in Bulgaria initiated specially for the European Capital of Culture programme. It brings together the emotions of thousands of fans, who enjoy live performances by international stars, rising artists from neighbouring Balkan countries and some of the best Bulgarian bands.

Starting in 2017, the festival takes place annually at the Rowing Canal in Plovdiv – on three stages, each offering different music genres and sounds. In an area of about 70,000 square meters the audience enjoyed performances by over 30 bands and artists, including the headliners Epica, Evanescence, Three Days Grace and Guano Apes, as well as the Bulgarian Paraplaner, Bloodrash, Hayes & Y, Plastic Bo, Lieveil, Merudiya, Ukeda and others.

In 2018, there were four locations – Main Stage, Alternative Hill, Na Tamno Stage and the Hills of Bass Stage after midnight. Over 50 artists and groups from the United States and Europe were presented. The rock giants Iron Maiden with a spectacular show with special set and effects, and Judas Priest participated in the 2018 HILLS of ROCK (20 - 22 July). During the second edition of the festival, the Germans Crematory performed right before the headliners Sabaton. The English Airforce, Austrian Serenity and Ukrainian Jinjer were joined by the Bulgarian bands D2 and ODD Crew. The lineup included also the punk band Kultur Shock!, Infected Rain, the English band District 13, as well as the Bulgarians Velian, Pool Circle, Saint Electrics, Exit Reality, Paracosm, X Husband, DJ Dhurba, Axez, Drive Your Life and DJ KalashNICK. HILLS of ROCK welcomed more than 60,000 people during the three festival days.

HILLS of ROCK’s edition in 2019 takes place in June (28 – 30) at the Rowing Canal and continues with the inclusion of world class performers. DISTURBED are the headliner of the first festival day of HILLS of ROCK 2019 - and this will be their first time in Bulgarian Soil! Also on the bill are – the American band DISTURBED who are one of the most successful hard-rock bands in modern musical history and the alternative rock band GARBAGE will be the headline on the third festival day. The Swedish Amaranthe and Royal Republic are also joining the festival on June 30th.

‘HILLS of ROCK’ is organised by Sofia Music Enterprises.
Summer Cinema in the Park

‘Summer Cinema in the Park’ brings one of the most popular and beloved arts directly to the places for leisure in Plovdiv. City parks and green areas are turned into outdoor cinema halls. After gathering hundreds of admirers with its first edition in 2018, the summer cinema festival continues to grow, moving on to the neighborhoods of the city. Under the auspices: ‘Wear something for you to sit down!’ the citizens will gather again to enjoy together a rich programme of European and Bulgarian films as well as guest-starring special events.

‘Summer Cinema in the Park’ is organized by B2B.

Puldin Ethno – Festival of Ethnic Culture

‘Puldin Ethno – Festival of Ethnic Culture’ will be an international festival – celebration, where people of different nationalities, ethnicities and religions will be able to present their art and traditions. The main events of the festival are positioned at various locations in The Old Town of Plovdiv. The programme includes concerts of ethnic music at the Ancient Theatre as well as at houses, clubs, museums and other iconic spaces; dance, theatre, rituals and colored traditional costumes. There will be a presentation of traditional national cuisines, a street bazaar of herbs, honey, spices, aromas, and antique books, paintings, souvenirs, and musical instruments. There will also be open lessons and master classes, thematically related to the festival.

‘Puldin Ethno – Festival of Ethnic Culture’ is a project of the Open Stage non-governmental organization.
World Fest Plovdiv 2019

The legendary Grammy-nominated Colombian bass player Juan Garcia-Herreros and his band headline the World Fest Plovdiv 2019 music festival. The events presents three concert parts in two evenings – fragments from Bulgarian folklore, attractively combined with Latin jazz and classical music. The festival’s second evening begins with ‘Jazz Sings in Bulgarian’. Further participants are Antoni Donchev, the pianist and conductor of the National Radio Big Band, the trumpet player and composer Ventsi Blagoev and the jazz prima Marina Gospodinova. The festival concludes with a set of the ethno-jazz band Authentic, which shows folk songs in classical and jazz and pop interpretations.

The project is an Authentic Foundation production.

Youth Symphony Orchestra ‘PROGRESSIVE’

The project provides an opportunity for practical training, tuition and improvement of young professional musicians, together with prominent representatives of various music education schools. The young musicians in the orchestra prepare for a whole year before the big event. They participate in open rehearsals, lectures by prominent pedagogues, master classes and pre-premiere concerts. The project’s culmination is the annual large-scale gala in Plovdiv with the participation of a famous soloist.

With its first edition in 2018 The Balkan Youth Symphony Orchestra ‘PROGRESSIVE’ gathered young musicians from Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, and Turkey. At their first gala concert, the youngsters played with the world-famous Bulgarian musician Theodossi Spassov under the baton of Lyubomir Denev Jr. and Dimosthenis Fotiadis (Greece). In 2019 the Orchestra will expand, in progress with the inclusion of young performers from all over Europe and there will be an even bigger open-air show at the Roman stadium, for the joy of the audiences in the European Capital of Culture.

‘Youth Symphony Orchestra ‘PROGRESSIVE’ is a project by the MusicArtissimo Foundation for Culture and Art.'
Building Together – Learning from Stolipinovo

The German artists and architects Martin Kaltwasser and Maik Ronz developed a concept for building a sustainable, temporary structure at the Maritsa river-bank in the area adjacent to the district of Stolipinovo in cooperation with participants from the local Roma neighborhood. The project is dedicated to the largest Roma community in the Balkans and aims at creating new connections between the neighborhood and the rest of the city, literally and symbolically. The method of the artists involves looking at the everyday public space and its transitory nature as a reflection of general social processes. Assigned to their own networks and craftsmanship the Roma have founded micro-manufactories of all trades here. With ‘Learning from Stolipinovo’ the project team takes up this local expertise and – together with volunteers, activists and neighbors – implement an architectural intervention that connects Stolipinovo with the city of Plovdiv. The residents of Stolipinovo are already connected to their family members, friends and colleagues living in (Western) Europe. The project will be uncovering common stereotypes in the perception of the Roma community and will be encouraging intercultural communication through the means of art.

Learning from Stolipinovo is a project by Martin Kaltwasser and Maik Ronz, which is being developed in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Bulgaria and local partners.
Five Years Plovdiv ECOC 2019

Official celebration of the fifth anniversary of the city’s nomination for European Capital of Culture title

Every year on 5 September Plovdiv 2019 returns to the solemn moment, when the city was nominated for European Capital of Culture in 2014 to celebrate the birthday of the initiative. Traditionally, this celebration is devoted to children, with specially organized entertainment, games and cultural events. In 2019, this largest and most ambitious cultural project in Bulgaria will be five years old. A special children’s programme will be organized again. In connection with the anniversary and the experience gained with the project, besides the events for citizens, a meeting of the Forum 2019 series is scheduled to be held on the day to make a retrospection of the past period and the achievements of it.

The celebration of the fifth anniversary of the European Capital of Culture is a production of Plovdiv 2019.
13 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2019, VARIOUS SPACES IN THE CITY

**NIGHT/Plovdiv**

NIGHT/Plovdiv is one of Plovdiv’s most enduring projects. Each year it invites more than 100 participants and hosts events at more than 70 locations, with thousands of people crossing the city each night to become part of an arts universe. NIGHT’s programme is wide-ranging and varied, with many specially developed projects free to attend.

The programme of NIGHT/Plovdiv includes several modules related to the main cultural institutions in the city, the public spaces, the club stage and artists’ studios.

In 2019 NIGHT/Plovdiv’s special motto, and a conceptual framework of the Open Arts programme, is **COMMON PLACE**. The project, led by its chief curator, Vladia Mihailova, highlights the shared process of organising NIGHT and calls attention to the necessity for cultivating a common place for dialogue and meetings, by developing together strong concepts for a shared world.

As every year the programme in 2019 offers projects created especially for Plovdiv by artists from Germany, Sweden, Austria, Turkey, France, Israel, USA and elsewhere, developed jointly with cultural institutions across Bulgaria. A special highlight is the children’s programme, **SMALL NIGHT**.

“NIGHT/Plovdiv” is a project of the Open Arts Foundation.

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**ONE DANCE WEEK 2019**

ONE DANCE WEEK is the biggest forum in Bulgaria dedicated solely to contemporary dance. In Plovdiv, the festival is presenting the most exciting and notable performers in the field of contemporary dance practices in Europe, Asia and America. For its over ten-year history, the festival has been the scene of world premieres and pre-premieres of the most prominent artists. Developing more and more intensively as a programme and ambition, the festival brings for the first time in Bulgaria and in this part of the world performances of the famous Japanese choreographer Shiro Takatani and the world-famous choreographer Dimitris Papaioannou.

In 2019, ONE DANCE WEEK will mark another culmination in its programme within the European Capital of Culture.

The “ONE DANCE WEEK – International Festival for Contemporary Dance and Performance” is a project by ONE Foundation for Culture and Arts.
**Mood for Food**

In September 2019, for the second time, you will have the opportunity to enjoy this food feast in the center of Plovdiv. The programme will feature thematic forums, lectures and workshops for people who care very much for city living; restaurants and eateries featuring emblematic menus; local and regional producers; and start-ups developing culinary innovations; bio foods and locally produced foods and beverages.

The ‘Mood for Food’ festival is a project by All Channels Communication.

**Noh Theatre with European Spirit**

The new Noh play, ‘Orpheus’ aims to emphasize the peculiarities of the Japanese traditional aesthetics through the widely known image of the hero Orpheus, placed in the center of an ethical dilemma, typical for both Japanese and European cultures. The creation of the play, as well as the actual performances, will involve popular Bulgarian actors, directors and children from the local schools, as well as Japanese masters. Director, screenwriter and chief executive of the show is Yamamoto Akihiro, starring Maya Bejanska.

The project is part of the FOCUS: Japanese Culture Programme, which is implemented in partnership with the EU-Japan Fest Foundation.

The project is organized by Yundola Association.
Love Swing Dance Festival

The festival’s second edition will take place in September 2019. The programme includes open-air swing lessons, international dance competitions, dance evenings, evening parties to music from the 1920s, a city tour with live music and dancing.

The festival is made possible by Lindy Hop Bulgaria.
THE PROJECT IS CARRIED OUT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Forum 2019

Forum 2019 is a flagship project and a highlight in the programme of Plovdiv – European Capital of Culture 2019. It’s an educational platform that includes information workshops, lectures and meetings aimed at creating partnership networks in an effort to increase awareness, build and develop capacity and audiences in order to lay the foundations for the successful implementation of the ECOC project. The themes of Forum 2019 focus on the main issues related to the implementation of the project and aim to provoke professional discussions, exchange of experience and knowledge, and feedback on various topics from the cultural sector.

The project started in 2015 with the idea of creating a legacy of the initiative to transfer skills, experiences and partnerships in the cultural sector. Since 2015 40 workshops and training events have been held by Plovdiv 2019 as part of the project, providing information on what the European Capital of Culture project is and teaching practical skills for the preparation of project proposals and project management. The platform clearly seeks to develop capacity in the field of international activity, management and community work and networking. In 2018 the educational series focuses on digital media and art.

Some of the Forum 2019 meetings in 2019 are specifically planned with a focus on the accumulation of specific skills in the field of interactive trainings and the creation of special children’s programmes in cultural institutions. The year of the title is also a year of summaries of the whole preparation period, to be organized on the platform of the Forum 2019 project.

*Forum 2019* is a project of Plovdiv 2019 in partnership with cultural organizations from Bulgaria and abroad.
Проектът „Читалища“ цели да възроди и развието местните културни традиции, подобряването на връзките между поколения и пренасяне на опит и памет от голяма като и от малките населени места. Читалищата са ориентална българска форма на социо-културно центрове, една от най-характерните изяви на страната в многообразието на европейските култури. В много населени места читалищата са основен формат на обществения живот. Те се изявяват като най-гледните партньори в неговия живот. Те се осъществяват като неправителствени организации, които заедно работят за развитието на културата, образованието и сигурността на населението. Читалищата организират събития като артистични представления, изложби, лекции, дискусии, концерти и много други. Те включват различни етно-культурни общности и стимулират междулъчните връзки между поколенията. Читалищата са основен двигател на обществения живот. Те се изявяват като най-дейните партньори на инициативата Европейската столица на културата, благодарение на които малките и големите градове и села в целия Южен Централен регион се присъединяват успешно към програмата.

Проектът се осъществява в партньорство с асоциациите на читалищата в Пловдив и Южен Централен регион. Читалищата са основен двигател на обществения живот. Те се осъществяват като неправителствени организации, които заедно работят за развитието на културата, образованието и сигурността на населението. Читалищата организират събития като артистични представления, изложби, лекции, дискусии, концерти и много други. Те включват различни етно-культурни общности и стимулират междулъчните връзки между поколенията. Читалищата са основен двигател на обществения живот. Те се изявяват като най-дейните партньори на инициативата Европейската столица на културата, благодарение на които малките и големите градове и села в целия Южен Централен регион се присъединяват успешно към програмата.

**Chitalishta**

The 'Chitalishta' project seeks to revive and set in motion local cultural traditions, the improvement of intergenerational connections and the carriage of experience and memory from and to the small settlements. 'Chitalishta' are an original Bulgarian form of socio-cultural centers, one of the most characteristic manifestations of the country in the diversity of European cultures. In many settlements the Chitalishta are a major driver of public life. They have emerged as the most active partners of the European Capital of Culture initiative, thanks to which the small towns and villages across the South Central Region have successfully joined the programme.

The projects include the full range of events – from folklore performances, bread makings and feasts to lighting installations, vlogger workshops and graffiti. These events, with unusual approaches and spaces, succeed in attracting wide audiences and popularizing the artistic production of the Chitalishta by encouraging the participants to communicate, and share their similarities and differences.

Chitalishta 'Hristo Botev 1869' Kalofer reveals the way of the famous Kalofer lace (July 2019). The holidays of the Jewish community will be recreated by 'Shalom Aleichem 1945' Chitalishte in Plovdiv with the project "From Orta Mezar Onwards" in a series of creative meetings, an exhibition, open lessons (2019). 'Trakia 2008' Chitalishte will tell stories from the Küçük Paris quarter and the Thracian refugees in Plovdiv (May 2019). The Shakespeare Theatre School ‘Petrovden’ in the village of Patalenateza of the ‘Youth Activities’ Association Pazardzhik leads Shakespeare directly to the small settlements with amateur productions (July 2019). Art, peeking from every corner of the village of Staro Jelezare will be presented through the street arts Fest Staro Zhelezare (August 2019). Asenovgrad and ‘Rodoljubie 1873’ Chitalishte will show the wedding ritual through the prism of different ethnic-cultural communities (November 2018). Starosel will be represented by the dance performance 'The Legend of the Magical Oil Rose – the Queen of the Colors' with the project of 'Geo Milev 1907' Chitalishte, which will recreate the rose-picking, rose jam, rose liqueur, and rose water (May 2019). 'Mladost 1983' Chitalishte – Plovdiv will present a colorful mesh of dance and music in partnership with 13 other community centers (May – June 2019).

"Chitalishta" is a project of "Plovdiv 2019", which is implemented in partnership with the local associations of chitalishta, non-governmental organizations and artists from Bulgaria and abroad.
Urban Games

Searching for hidden treasures and signs in the city, making strategies for planning and building your own buildings and cardboard factories, ghost and zombie gauntlets in the dark, discovering the most unexpected places in the familiar environment – these are part of the urban gaming experience for participants of any age.

The pilot edition in Plovdiv under the name ‘Genesis!’ was organized in 2017 in partnership with the Department Gier from Poland, PlayVienna from Austria and the Italian collective Urban Games Factory. Despite its small format, the event attracted 230 players, including neighborhood residents, students, and families with children. The project is a joint production of Plovdiv 2019 and Matera 2019.

In 2019, the two capitals of culture will produce special new games dedicated to the rethinking and transformation of the urban environment, meaningful communication with material and intangible cultural heritage and the identification of identity.

The project is produced by Plovdiv 2019 and Matera 2019.

Plovdiv Jazz Fest

Plovdiv Jazz Fest is an international music festival for jazz music and culture. The Fest which is a successor of a ten-year tradition of the Plovdiv Jazz Evenings welcomes each year in Plovdiv some of the world’s most influential jazz artists. The main programme of these jazz-filled autumn nights includes a number of accompanying events – master classes, jam sessions, exhibitions, a full jazz award, as well as a Youth Jazz Contest.

In 2019, at the beginning of November, Plovdiv Jazz Fest will introduce again jazz admirers with outstanding artists.

Plovdiv Jazz Fest is being organized by the singer Miroslava Katsarova and her company Blue M.
Military Club
The Small Theatre from the End of the World... Opus II

The Small Theatre from the End of the World... Opus II is the smallest theatre in the world that tells the shortest and the greatest history of the world. In three movements, the puppet shows you all of life's humanity: its birth, its life and its disappearance in the bosom of the universe.

The project is realized by Theatre de la Massue – Ezequiel Garcia Romeu.
Ars Escavandi

‘Ars Escavandi’ is the first deep and artistic study of the history of rock architecture over the centuries and its relationship with Matera presented as an exhibition by which the Italian capital of culture will open its title year on January 19, 2019. The exhibition will be hosted by Plovdiv as part of the common programme between Plovdiv 2019 and Matera 2019 for the closing of 2019. From a contemporary point of view the exhibition presents the history and culture of the underground architecture from the Paleolithic Period to the present day. In Italy, the exhibition will be housed in the impressive rock houses - Sassi - and in Plovdiv will be hosted in the rock bombshelters. The exhibition is carried out as a production of Matera 2019.

Closing Ceremony

Every beginning has an end. With the closing ceremony, we end our joint journey, called European Capital of Culture, and the events that filled it with cultural content and creative energy. But we do not put an end to the partnerships we have created, the creative changes, and the gained experience. And we hope that they will remain our heritage for Plovdiv and a solid foundation for our development together as united European citizens. We are sending our best wishes to Rijeka and Galway – European Capitals of Culture in 2020.

The closing ceremony is a production of ‘Plovdiv 2019’ in partnership with local and international organizations.
Antichent theater – one from the top three historical sites in Bulgaria and symbol to Plovdiv, dating back to the end of the 1st century. It has the capacity to hold more than 3,500 spectators, located in the Old Town and currently used as an open stage for many cultural events.

**Location: Old Town**

**Vito Paschev Exposition – 1** Art in Time

**Plovdiv Permanent Exposition – 1**

**Painting Gallery – 22 Saborna Str, Encho Pironkov**

**Grebena – 3**

**Radio Plovdiv Hall (Studio One)**

Dramatic theater Plovdiv – it is a modern stage with a rich repertoire, and home stage of many of the city’s theatrical ensembles. Nowadays, it is located in the West District of Plovdiv.

**Location: West District of Plovdiv**

**State Puppet Theatre Plovdiv – home of the puppet theatre art in Bulgaria. The rich repertoire of the theatre includes performances for children and adults.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Cultural Movie Centre, a place in Plovdiv for quality cinema**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**City Art Gallery – 15 Knyaz Alexander I Str, Icon Hall.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Drama Theatre Plovdiv – was the first Bulgarian city with its own theatre building and ensemble in 1881.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Plovdiv Airport – is located about 12 km southeast of Plovdiv.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Lucky House of Cinema**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Academic Theatre Plovdiv – it is the most attractive and vibrant artistic centers in the country.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Lucky Domo Cinema (1 Gladston Str.) – Cultural Movie Centre in Plovdiv for quality cinema lovers, and for cultural and educational events.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Kapana Creative District – an area in the city center with streets entangled like a maze where the name comes from – ‘Kapana’ means ‘a maze’ in Turkish.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Kvartral „Stolipinovo“ – Plovdivskii Kvartral is a popular place for valuable cultural events.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Lucky Domo Cinema (1 Gladston Str.) – Cultural Movie Centre in Plovdiv for quality cinema lovers, and for cultural and educational events.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Kvartral „Тракия“ – Kvartral is a popular place for valuable cultural events.**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**

**Museum centre for contemporary history – Plovdiv:**

**Location: Downtown Plovdiv**
The Roman Stadium — античният стадион на Пловдив от началото на 2 в. с приблизителни размери 240 м дължина и 50 м ширина. Стадионът е побирай около 30 000 зрители. Разкрит е само северната му част с мраморни седалки на едноименния стадион на Пловдив от началото на 19 в. за първото търсачко музейно изложение в България. Любимо място за разходка на пловдивци.

The Tobacco City – бившия тютюнев склад на ул. „Екатерина Иосифов“ 16 в Пловдив, превърнат в пространство за култура и изкуство на Фондация „Пловдив 2019“ и Диржанова оперра – Пловдив в реализация на концепцията за артистично обживяване на Тютюневия град.

SKLAD (Warehouse in direct translation) – a former tobacco warehouse on 16 Evlazh Yosif St., turned into a space for culture and art by Plovdiv 2019 Foundation and the State Opera – Plovdiv, in realization of the concept for reviving the Tobacco City.

The Hills – хълмовете, известни още като Стария градът обхваща център, къщите от началото на 20 в, със започнал процес на експониране на турския архитектурен паметник в центъра на града, на ул. „Четвърти март“. В края на 19 в. мястото на „Стария град“ е разположено в квартал с къщи от началото на 20 в, включително и Държавна опера – Пловдив.