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 cultural 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
Програмата на Пловдив – Европейска столица на културата 2019, е структурирана в четири тематични платформи – СЛИВАНЕ, ТРАНСФОРМИРАНЕ, ВЪЗРАЖДАНЕ, РЕЛАКСИРАНЕ – свързани с типичните особености на града, общностите, които го населяват, с неговото културно наследство, история, темпо на живот, както и с проблемите и със стереотипите за превъзмогване. В избрани акценти са застъпени проекти и събития от всички тематични платформи и клъстери на програмата, подредени на календарен принцип, по дати. Тяхното разпределение по платформи, както и актуалната информация за събитията, часове и локации, карта на локациите, условия за вход и линкове за закупуване на билети се намеря на съответните платформи на издателството: www.plovdiv2019.eu.

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.
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FLUCA in Plovdiv

‘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. FLUCA is an open platform for a large number of public events from May to October 2018 and 2019. It will present a rich programme – digital art and new technologies, street art and urban design, music, cinema, dance, theater and literature, exhibitions, concerts, movies, workshops, discussions and meetings with artists.

In September and October 2018 FLUCA will be in Plovdiv – in its reserved place in front of Sariev Gallery. Its programme includes an exclusive solo show by Reinhold Zisser.

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

Mood for Food

Enjoy the food. Share the experience. Have fun with your loved ones. This is the philosophy of ‘Mood for Food’ – a culinary festival which offers food for all the senses.

The festival’s first edition takes place in Plovdiv in 2018. In ‘Mood for Food’, food is at the heart of everything, but reathing it is best combined with music and favourite artists. The festival is a cookery jubilee, an event that elevates eating to a special culture.

In the festival’s programme there are offerings for every taste, and varied recipes and aromas from different parts of the world.

‘Mood for Food’ is a project of All Channels Communication.
**Week of Contemporary Art**

‘Week of Contemporary Art’ is an extensive international exhibition project with more than 20 years of history in Plovdiv. The project’s 2018 edition is curated by Katya Angelova and Alessandra Poggianti under the title ‘Metaphorai’. The title corresponds to the Greek word for public transport vehicles, ‘metaphor’. “You take a metaphor – a bus or a train – to go to work or get back home. Stories can carry this noble name too: everyday stories that cross and organise locations; they pick out the locations and link them; they then create sentences and routes out of them.”

As part of the project in September 2018 an exhibition by Alberto Garutti, titled ‘To Those Born Today (1998– )’, will take place in Plovdiv’s central area as part of the project.

‘Week of Contemporary Art’ is a project by the Art Today Association.

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**ONE DANCE WEEK 2018**

ONE DANCE WEEK is the largest forum in Bulgaria dedicated solely to contemporary dance. In Plovdiv, the festival will be presenting the most notable performers in the field of contemporary dance practices in Europe, Asia and America.

A special Lithuanian focus of three performances will offer a meeting with the modern face of Lithuania. The youngest generation of artists will be presented in the Young Choreographers initiative. The World Premiere of the Spectacle # MINARET of the star Omar Rajeh will open the festival. The program includes two solo dance performances [K(-A-)O] & [LOVE] by the Japanese choreographer Kenji Shinohe, a contemporary circus spectacle ‘Night’ of the Portuguese company CIRCOLANDO, the world premiere of ATMA by the Greek artists Danae Dimitriadi and Dionysios Alamanno, the miniature [DEMONS] inspired by the traditional Korean dance and realized by the choreographer Kim Jin A and the visual artist Kim Ju-bin. The world renowned choreographer Dimitris Papaioannou arrives for the first time in Bulgaria with the performance ‘THE GREAT TAMER’.

‘ONE DANCE WEEK – International Festival for Contemporary Dance and Performance’ is undertaken by the ‘ONE Foundation for Culture and Arts’.

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**ONE DANCE WEEK 2018 © Julian Mommert**

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**ONE DANCE WEEK 2018 © Джулиън Момерт**

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**ONE DANCE WEEK 2018 © Сдружение „Изкуство днес“**

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**Week of Contemporary Art © Art Today Association**

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**Week of Contemporary Art © Сдружение „Изкуство днес“**
Love Swing Dance Festival

Young dancing boys with bow ties and suspenders, girls with retro hairdos and brightly coloured dresses. Warm, open and free, just like swing music and dances, they will be turning Plovdiv into the new swing destination.

The festival’s first edition includes open-air swing lessons led by the world’s best instructors; international dance competitions and world performers; 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.

Electric Orpheus

The Festival is merging music and contemporary dance. The format presents Bulgarian and international artists through the combination of various styles and genres - from rock’n’roll, space jazz and psychedelic up to electro, DJ sets and performances.

Electric Orpheus’s editions will be held in Plovdiv and the region.

The urban events are in different neighborhoods and develop alternative spaces for culture. The summer ones are in the area of Villa Justina vineyard-park at the foothills of the Rhodope Mountains and amid a blend of hills, grapevine-covered massifs and artists from around the world.

In 2017, the Festival offered a high-quality music selection – rock’n’roll from Berlin, abstract pop from Switzerland, and contemporary dance performance from the Atom Theatre. In 2018, the summer edition offered retro funk and jazz in Villa Justina vineyard-park. Especially for them, the Italians Calibro 35 arrived for the first time in Bulgaria. Along with four other groups, they presented a mix of different styles and alternative music formats.

On October 20, 2018, Electric Orpheus will be in Trakia neighborhood with the exclusive participation of MC Gaff E – artist and musician from Berlin and the Bulgarians from Kopriva.

‘Electric Orpheus’ is a project of the Common Future Association.
Айляк парад
Уличният АЙЛЯК ПАРАД е уникално артистично празнично събитие, направено със и за широка публика. Съставянето и развитието на Айляк, тази уникална жизнена философия, ще бъде представено артистично чрез атрактивни паради в голяма част от град Пловдив през 2018 г. и основния парад на главната улица на град Пловдив през 2019 г.

Темата на парада е разработена с хумор и въображение, с участието на професионалисти и любители, водещи артисти с голям опит и желание да осъществят това пъстро шествие в града.

Пловдив такъв парад и такъв вид творческа изява се организират за първи път.

АЙЛЯК ПАРАД е проект на Фондация „ЖАР театър-изкуство-култура“, който се осъществява в партньорство с HANDMADE PARADE (UK); STALKER TEATRO (IT); и някои от най-влиятелните учредения в областта на джаз в Пловдив – НЧ „Възраждане'1983“, НЧ „Младост'1983“, НЧ „П. Р. Славейков'1908“, НЧ „Назым Хикмет'1922“ и НЧ „Н. Вапцаров 1928“.

Пловдив Джаз Фест
„Пловдив Джаз Фест“ е международен музикален фестивал за джаз музика и култура. Фестивалът, наследил 10-годишната традиция на пловдивските джаз вечери, посреща ежегодно в Пловдив някои от най-влиятелните артисти на световната джаз сцена. Ноември е месецът на джаз фенове и на великолепните джем сесии, които следват всеки концерт.

Бразилската певица и пианистка Елиане Елиас открива „Пловдив Джаз Фест 2018“. Изпълнение на световноизвестен нареждане джаз-саксофонист Ян Гарбарек закъснява в музикалния нощен пир в двора на „Кръст. Потър“ от趸 и Насим Хикмет. Специално за Айляк, Стела Борисова, Доминик Стратус и Даниел Елиас замират в музикалния пир в двора на „Кръст. Потър“ и Денис Дениских.

Пловдив Джаз Фест е създаден в сътрудничество с „Вестърн Джаз“, „Арт Геймс“ и областна администрация на област Пловдив със спонсорство на НЧ „Възраждане'1983“.
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.

The exhibition is realized on the idea of Svetlana Kuyumdzhiieva as a production of ‘Plovdiv 2019’. The authors of the concept and the historical study are Zornitsa Hristova and Stanislava Gruева. Curator is Vessela Nozharova, stage designer: Dimitar Vodenicharov, designer: Kalina Dimitrova, technical implementation: Kalin Serapionov.
Изкуство на свободата – от Берлинската стена до уличното изкуство

По 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 на обекти от Берлинската стена в Пловдив е съпътствана от проекции на повече от 30 късометражни филма, документални фотографии, туристически турове по “стената”, политически дебати, срещи с някои от авторите, концерти. Наред с произведенията, изложбата ще включва три автомобила “Трабант”, изрисувани от Thierry Noir, Christophe-Emmanuel Bouche и Kiddy Citny.

Колекцията е създадена от известния френски куратор Силвестър Верже. Изложбеният проект се осъществява от „Пловдив 2019“ в партньорство с Европейската агенция за туризъм.

The collection 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 Citny, Indiana, Heinz J. Kusdas and Peter Unsicker. It will also include works by internationally recognized street artists such as Jef Aerosol (France), Borondo (Spain), C215 (France), John Crash Matos (USA), DAEleast (China), FAITH47 (South Africa), Jimmy C (Australia), L7M (Brazil), Run (Italy), 1up (Germany), John Delan (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 Citny.

The collection is owned by the noted French curator Sylvester Verger. The exhibition is made possible by Plovdiv 2019 in partnership with French Institute Bulgaria.
Пътуваща изложба „Еврика!“

‘Музейко’ идва в Пловдив, за да претстави едни от най-популярните открития от 19 и 20 век. ‘Пътуваща изложба „Еврика!“ е експозиция на интерактивни модулни, които ще бъдат разположени в Регионален исторически музей – Пловдив през цялата 2019 г. Изложбата пресъздава процеси на научни открития и някой от водещите научно-технически постижения. Посетителите ще имат възможност да научат как са създадени рентгенът, телефонът, морзовият апарат, както и изобретения като играчката пружина Slinky, балонът с горещ въздух и задвижваните автомобили от човешката сила. Изложбата ще пресъздаде процеси на научни открития и някои от водещите научно-технически постижения.

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

27 ЯНУАРИ 2019 г., ФОАЙЕ НА ЦЕНТРАЛНА ПОЩА

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 в Пловдив. Необходимата граница между квартали е мястото, където младите се срещат със своите преживявания и нови исторични проекти. За тази цел създава нов език, който може да прокара любопитството и изографсенното въображение.

‘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.
European Odyssey 2019.
The Travelling Man

‘European Odyssey 2019. The Travelling Man’ 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 premiere ‘European Odyssey 2019. The Travelling Man’ will have its opening night at the Plovdiv Drama Theatre on 10 February 2019. Text: Alexander Sekulov. Director: Diana Dobreva. Set design: Mira Kalanova. The National Theatre of Greece will contribute to the show. There will be a special guest appearance of Yannis Pantazis, a Greek musician who crafts and plays instruments from antiquity.

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.

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**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’); Baltsa Petrova (holder of the Golden Leopard Award from the Locarno Film Festival for her film ‘Bezbog’); Dimitar Kutanov (‘Ecce Homo’ – part of the official selection of many film festivals); Pavel Vesnakov (‘Honor’, ‘Zeus’ – holder of festival prizes); Lyubomir Mladenov (‘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, Rainald Schumacher and 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.


Invited artists: Luchezar Boyadjiev, Dimitar Genchev, Alena Mihaylova Manz, Sasho Stoitzov, Krassimir Terziev.

The full list of artists and works in the exhibition will be made public by the end of 2018.

04 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2019
City Art Gallery, SKLAD, Houses in the Old Town of Plovdiv

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 program is developed with support by the educational team of Folkwang Museum Essen and Berlin Biennale.
**Electric Orpheus**

Electric Orpheus is merging music and contemporary dance. The format presents Bulgarian and international artists through the combination of various styles and genres – from rock’n’roll, space jazz and psychedelic up to electro, DJ sets and performances.

Electric Orpheus’s editions will be held in Plovdiv and the region. The urban events of Electric Orpheus are in different neighborhoods and develop alternative spaces for culture. The summer ones are in the area of Villa Justina vineyard-park at the foothills of the Rhodope Mountains and amid a blend of hills, grapevine-covered massifs and artists from around the world.

In 2017, Electric Orpheus offered a high-quality music selection – rock’n’roll from Berlin, abstract pop from Switzerland, and contemporary dance performance from the Atom Theatre. In 2018, the summer edition offered retro funk and jazz in Villa Justina vineyard-park. Especially for them, the Italians Calibro 35 arrived for the first time in Bulgaria. Along with four other groups, they presented a mix of different styles and alternative music formats. The edition in October was held in Trakia neighborhood with the exclusive participation of MC Gaff E – artist and musician from Berlin and the Bulgarians from Kopriva.

In 2019 the editions of Electric Orpheus will be held in various quarters – on 13th of April in Zapaden District, on 22nd of June in Villa Justina vineyard-park, on 19th of October in Kyuchuk Paris District the last edition of Electric Orpheus will take place.

**Videoforms/Videoplatform**

`Videoforms/Videoplatform’ is a large-scale campaign in Sofia, which aims to show innovative, contemporary art content, synchronized on building facades, electronic billboards, bus stops and more for a period of one week. It is an open architectural screening platform dedicated to the public presentation of video installations and performances of Bulgarian and international artists (Trine Lise Nedreaas, Breda Beban, Bryan Daily), as well as works of the photographer James Hill. The city’s chosen location for transformation is the Women’s Market.

The project is part of the City Candidates Programme and is implemented by the Art Agency.

**Electric Orpheus**

Electric Orpheus is a project of the Common Future Association.
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.
ГЛАВНАТА ПЕШЕХОДНА УЛИЦА

Айляк парад


Сотни участници със специално създадени 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, клубовете по интереси, спортните клубове, училищата и организации, 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.


4 МАЙ 2019,
MAIN PEDESTRIAN STREET

Aylak Parade

The Aylak Parade which on May 4, 2019 will have its second and special edition, will revive the entire length of the main pedestrian street of Plovdiv – 1.8 km – the longest pedestrian street in Europe: from ‘Maritsa Pharmacy’ on ‘Rayko Daskalov’ Street, along the Central Hall and the Ancient Stadium, through Dzhumaya square, then along ‘Alexander I Battenberg’ Street, along ‘Stefan Stambolov’ square and will end on the Tsentralsen Square with a presentation of each of the sections and a music and dance fiesta for all attendees. Hundreds of participants with specially designed costumes, leading giant self-made puppets, platforms and installations and having a specially designed choreography, will create the most colourful and happy procession on the streets of the city. The Chitalishte cultural hubs, the sports and NGO clubs, schools and organizations, everyone who wants, will find their place in the celebration, and the partners from HANDMADE PARADE, UK and STALKER TEATRO, Italy will contribute to the magic with the experiences and emotions of their cities where these colourful parades are the most beloved city events.

The Aylak Parade is a project of the ZHAR Theatre-Art-Culture Foundation in conjunction with HANDMADE PARADE (UK); STALKER TEATRO (IT); and the Plovdiv-based community centres Vazrazhdane 1983, Mladost 1983, P.R. Slaveykov 1908, Nâzım Hikmet 1922 and Nikola Vaptsarov 1928.

SKLAD, ANCIENT BATH CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Digital Ecologies

‘Digital Ecologies’ is a large-scale international contemporary art exhibition that is exploring the interaction between electronic technologies and urban environment in its complexity.

The motto of the 2019 edition is ‘Digital Affects: Reflections from the Future’. An accompanying symposium will take place on 5–6 May 2019. The concept behind the project comes from the curator Dimitrina Sevova (Switzerland/Bulgaria), in collaboration with Katharina Swoboda (Austria) and Emil Mirazchiev (Bulgaria).

‘Digital Ecologies’ is Art Today Association’s project.

Дигитални екологи

‘Дигитални екологи’ е международен проект със специално изкуство. Той изследва взаимодействието между електронните технологии и градската среда в нейната комплексност с изразните средства на изкуството. Изграждането през 2019 година е под надслов ‘Дигитални драматизаци’ – Екологи от бъдещето. Събитията се провеждат в България, Австрия и Швейцария.

‘Дигитални екологи’ е проект на Сдружение „Изкуство днес“.
10 MAY 2019,
STATE PUPPET THEATRE PLOVDIV

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.

MAY – OCTOBER 2019

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 1930s 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.

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

"Together in the Circle of Paneurhythmy – Harmony of Body, Mind and Spirit" is a project that is searching for the point of intersection between art and physical activity in paneurhythmics. "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.

"Together in the Circle of Paneurhythmics – A Harmony of Body, Mind and Spirit" is a project by the Vidya Proekt Association.
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 theater and cinema. There will also be live music, dancing and creative workshops.

The project is part of the City Candidates Programme and is implemented by the Co Working Place – Varna 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 which was launched in 2012 by the International Association for Culture and Sports (Denmark).

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.
Prограма Кирилизация

Пловдив е първата Европейска столица на култура, която ползва кирилската азбука. Както основно преимущество в многообразието на културата Кирилицата е и една от най-ценните елементи на европейското измерение на програмата. През май във Великата България – 24 май – честват и културата като цяло. Затова програмата, посветена на Кирилицата през 2019, покрива много широк спектър от събития.

Основна концепция на проекта „Кирилизация“ е ползването на инициативата Европейска столица като платформа за популяризиране, официално въвеждане и възприемане на българските шрифтове за Кирилица, както и преобразоването на градската среда.

В рамките на програмата се осъществяват проекти на Фондация „Памет“, посветени на Николай Хайтов и Борис Димовски; проект на читалището в село Скобелево, посветено на Яворов; конкурсите за превод, организирани от Сдружение „Писалка и перо“; месец на Радичков на издателство „Ника“; литературните пътешествия на издателство „Летера“; работилниците, посветени на Аджарската книжовна школа в село Свежен; инициативите на Асоциацията на българските училища в чужбина; акциите за хора с увреждания в „Кючук Париж“; инсталацията на Анна Бачева и Стефан Христов и изложбата „Графема“, фотографиите на Галия Йотова, плакатите на Плакат Комнин и десетки нови произведения, създадени специално за програмата в многобройните работилници и творчески обмени.

The Cyrillization Programme is implemented in partnership with the National Art Academy, Punct design studio, community centers, the network of Bulgarian schools abroad, with organizations and artists from Bulgaria, etc.
**Children City**

The Children City project is an artistic intervention in a somewhat abandoned urban environment by the German artists and architects Martin Kaltwasser and Maik Ronz. The project’s authors have a long-term experience in creating buildings and installations in public space making use of recycled materials. In 2019, they will invite all children of Plovdiv to join the hands-on construction of their Children City. It will be staged at the foot of Plovdiv’s highest hill – the Youth Hill. Here, children can become active participants of city planning, architects and builders, supported by the expertise of professionals. In the course of three weeks, the children will have erected their own town using timber, recycled materials from construction sites and industry as well as donations from Plovdiv’s households. 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 intended 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.

*Children City is a project by Martin Kaltwasser and Maik Ronz, which is being developed in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Bulgaria and local partners.*
Пловдив Каравана


„Пловдив Каравана“ се осъществява от френската театрална асоциация на пътуващите театри CITI – INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRAVELLING THEATERS.

"Лийу д’Êтре" (буквално „място на съществуване“) е необичайно представление. Повече от 40 пловдивски домакини отварят вратите на домовете си, за да приемат гостуващи артисти. Професионални танцьори и хореографи ще привлекат непрофесионални „съучастници“, които след 3 седмици обучение и репетиции също ще станат част от финалното представление. Спектакълът променя ежедневния ни поглед към градската среда. Неговата сцена са балконите, прозорците и фасадата на един жилищен блок. Действието за публиката навън е значително по-динамично и взискателно за участниките в къщите на граджани. "Лийу д’Êтре" е номадско творение за градовете, олицетворява историята на обитаваните места. "Лийу д’Êтре" се осъществява в Пловдив през 2019 година, като част от проекта "Caravane Plovdiv" на френската театрална група "COMPAGNIE ACTE".
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 training 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 along 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 putting on 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, welcomed, on the stage of the Ancient Theatre in Plovdiv, leading soloists of the largest opera and ballet companies. Over the past five years names such as Paata Burchuladze, Hui He, 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.

In 2019, OPERA OPEN will present 10 shows between 14 June and 31 July. The highlights will be the opening event – a premiere of Gluck’s ‘Orfeo ed Euridice’, a large-scale co-production with Teatro Regio di Parma directed by the leading Italian director Stafano Poda – a Verdi festival, and a ballet performance with stars of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. The festival will feature world-famous opera performers and conductors from Europe, the USA and Asia, as well as Bulgarian singers and musicians with established international careers. An ancillary LIGHT programme is currently in preparation which will present concerts, singing shows, and a sequel, in August and September, to ‘NA BIS’ (‘ENCORE’), which will feature the festival’s best moments. ‘NA BIS’ will take place at the Ancient Theatre in Plovdiv.

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 counterculture 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.
PREMIERE – 29 JUNE 2019,  
ANCIENT THEATRE

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 from 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 will conclude with a large-scale spectacle of ‘Medea’, in the new translation by Georgi Gochev and Petya Heinrich. It will be staged at Plovdiv’s Ancient Theatre on 30 June, under the direction of Desislava Shpatova. The cast includes, among others, Snezhina Petrova, Vladimir Karamazov, Vladimir Penev and Almut Zilcher. The score is by Asen Avramov, and the costumes are by Yulian Tabakov. The participation of children will be guided by the psychodrama leader Alexandra Gancheva and the artist Tsveti Spiridonova.

‘Medea’ is a project by the theatre association Legal Art Centre.
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 program 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 program includes concerts of ethnic music at the Ancient Theatre as well as at houses, clubs, museums and other iconic spaces; dance, theater, 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.
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 Paraplanter, Bloodrush, Hayes & Y, Plastic Bo, Lieveil, Merudiya, Uikeda and others.

In 2018, the locations were 4 – Main Stage, Alternative Hill, Na Tamno Stage and 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 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, Fool Circle, Saint Electrics, Exit Reality, Paracosim, X Husband, DJ Dharba, 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 will take place from 19th to 21st of July at the Rowing Canal and will continue with the performance of world class performers.

‘Hills of Rock’ is organised by Sofia Music Enterprises.
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 Theodosii Spassov under the baton of Lyubomir Denev Jr. and Dimostenis 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.'
To Learn From Stolipinovo

The German artists and architects Martin Kaltwasser and Maik Ronz will be building a sustainable, temporary structure at the Maritsa riverbank 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 transitional 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. They have built up a cultural life and their own economy – based on improvisation, impressive ingenuity, gifted craftsmanship and an immense sense of community. With Learning from Stolipinovo the artist team takes up this local expertise and – together with the community – implement an architectural intervention that connects Stolipinovo with the city of Plovdiv. While they are almost decoupled from the surrounding world, the residents of Stolipinovo are intensively 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.

Summer by the River

The main summer highlight of the programme coincides with the beginning of the holiday season, again turning the attention of citizens and guests to the great wealth of the city – the Maritsa River. Its natural pull in the summer heat will be turned into a whole day experience where a big city picnic, a parade and a spectacular evening show on one of the bridges in the city center where, with the help of light and sound, images from the past and the present of Plovdiv will come to life.

The summer event of the European Capital of Culture is produced by Plovdiv 2019 in partnership with international organizations, major cultural institutions in Bulgaria, Plovdiv Municipality, artists and performers from Bulgaria and abroad.
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 program 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.

Week of Contemporary Art

‘Week of Contemporary Art’ is an extensive international exhibition project with more than 20 years of history in Plovdiv and content of the highest quality. As part of our programme the 2017’s edition of the ‘Week of Contemporary Art’ was held under the rubric ‘Migrations of Fear’. The project focused on the fears of contemporary Europe; the curators, Ilina Koralova and Boris Kostadinov, addressed the questions, anxieties and threats that have been occupying people’s minds in the wake of the latest refugee crisis. They invited notable names of the contemporary art scene. The project’s 2018 edition is titled ‘Metaphorai. Narration-Created Humanity’. The edition’s curators will be Katya Angelova and Alessandra Poggianti. The title, “Metaphorai”, corresponds to the Greek word for public transport vehicles. Part of the project is also the contemporary art exhibition, by Alberto Garutti, titled “To Those Born Today (1998– )”.

In 2019 Contemporary Art Week will be held from 1 September to 1 October. Curators will be Emil Mirazchiev and Ilina Koralova.

This is a project by the Art Today Association.
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.

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 premières and pre-premieres of the most prominent artists. Developing more and more intensively as a program 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.

ONE DANCE WEEK 2019 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.
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.

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; 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.
100% Пловдив

Прочутата немска театрална група „Римини Протокол“ гостува в Пловдив с един от най-известните си спектакли. „100% Пловдив“ е документална сценична продукция, която изцяло е изпълнена от непрофесионални актьори – жители на града. Групата подчертава, че „прехвърля“ реалния живот на сцената без посредничеството на актьори.

В проекта участват 100 представители на общността, избранi според определени статистически критерии – пол, възраст, рамката, социално положение, семеен статус, политически предимства и т.н. Кастингът продължава няколко месеца, за да се постигне максимално огледален образ на общността по статистически данни.

Участвниците обсъждат различни актуални или наболелни теми в своите индивидуалности, но споделят общ пространство и усещане за една общност.

Проектът „100% Пловдив“ е на Фондация „Пловдив 2019“ и „Римини Протокол“ в партньорство с Гьоте институт България.
Форум 2019

Форум 2019 е ключов проект и акцент в програмата на Пловдив – Европейска столица на културата 2019. То е образователна платформа, обвързваща информационни семинари, лекции и срещи с цел създаване на партньорски мрежи за засилване на равнището на осведоменост, образование и развитие на качеството и публика, създаване на основа за успешната реализация на проекта ЕСК. Темите на „Форум 2019“ се фокусират върху основните проблеми, свързани с реализацията на проекта, и целта им е да предизвикат начинаещите и специалисти към обмен на опит и знания и обратна връзка по различни теми от културния сектор.

Проектът започва през 2015 г. с идеята да създава наследство на инициативата на културните организации и партньори. От 2015 г. до днес „Пловдив 2019“ организира 40 събития и обучения, чиито фокус са спецификите на проекта Европейска столица на културата, практическите умения, необходими за подготовката на проектни предложени и управление на проектите. Възможните подходи спрямо публиките, работата с обществата, доброполезните програми, адаптирането на турисъмия сектор към големия европейски проект и т.н. Основна цел на платформата е създаването на мрежи и партньорства. През 2018 г. събитията се разширяват и към работа с възрастни и млади в цялата страна. Някои от срещите от серията „Форум 2019“ през 2019 г. са планирани специално с фокус върху натрупване на определени умения в сферата на интерактивното обучение и създаването на специални програми за деца в културните институции. Годината на титлата е и година на равносметка за процеса на подготовката, която се организират на платформата на проекта „Форум 2019“.

**Chitalishta**

The ‘Chitalishta’ project seeks to revive and set in motion local cultural traditions, the improvement of intergenerational connections and the carrying of experiences 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 program.

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’ in Plovdiv with the project From Orta Mezar Onwards (August 2019). The ‘Geo Milev 1907’ Chitalishte, which will recreate the rose-picking, rose jam, rose liqueur, and rose water (May 2019). Mladost 1983’ 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 program 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.
**Travelling the World. Art from Germany**

**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2019, SKLAD, CITY ART GALLERY**

The Institute for Cultural Exchange (ifa) presents the touring exhibition for the first time in Bulgaria. Drawing on ifa’s own large collection of contemporary art, curators Matthias Fluege and Matthias Winzen have compiled an overview that traces artistic key developments in Germany since 1949, and present 380 works of art by nearly 100 artists. Works of art from East and West Germany are brought together for the first time in such density.

The exhibition includes works by internationally renowned artists such as Joseph Beuys, Arno Fischer, Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Polke, Rebecca Horn and Katharina Fritsch as well as younger positions from the German art scene.

The exhibition in organized by Plovdiv 2019 and ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) in partnership with Goethe Institut – Bulgaria.

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**FilmGate BG Plovdiv**

FilmGate BG Plovdiv is a first-of-its-kind free zone for Bulgarian short films at Plovdiv Airport. Just before being taxed to their flights, all passengers now have the opportunity to spend the wait time in the company of Bulgarian cinema and learn about the young generation of Bulgarian filmmakers. The programme features some 50 titles, among them feature films, animated films and documentaries.

**Project by Menclips Films production company.**

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**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 theater 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 – company Ezequiel Garcia Romeu.
DECEMBER 2019,
BOMB SHELTER IN THE CITY CENTER

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.

20 DECEMBER 2019,
SKLAD

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.

Закриване
Със закриващото събитие се слага краят на календарната година, белегана от титлата Европейска столица на годината, но програмата, партньорствата, процесите на трансформиране, слънцето и Възраждане, започнати с нея, продължават. За разлика от всички други масштабни продукции в програмата, които са открити и насочени към най-разнообразни публики и почитатели от страната и чужбина, закриването ще е посветено специално и само на пловдивчани – хората, които ще останат с наследството на тази инициатива и с промените от нея. Изразяваме своите най-добри пожелания на Риека и Голуей – европейски столици на културата през 2020 година.

Закриващото събитие е продукция на „Пловдив 2019” в партньорство с местни и международни организации.

Адресата за всеки да отбележи своите собствени фаворити от програмата, малките и големите жестове и събития, които са го зарадвали искрено през годината.
**Ancient Theatre** – one of the best preserved Roman theaters in the world and a symbol of Plovdiv, dating back to the end of the 1st century and a symbol of Plovdiv, preserved Roman theaters in the country. Its main building is in the Old Town, just below the Antiquity. It hosts many cultural events.

**Bulgarian University of Fine Arts in Plovdiv** – the main transport artery of Plovdiv, passing through the tunnel under the three hills or the Old Town.

**City Art Gallery** – exhibitions of the City Art Gallery are located in five spaces on the main pedestrian street and in the Old Town – Permanent Exhibition – 14 Saborna St., Temporary Exhibition – 15 Knjaz Alexander I, Leon Hall – 22 Saborna St., Encho Pironkov Permanent Exhibition – 1 Vasil Kanchev Str., Mexican Art Permanent Exhibition – 15 Knyaz Alexander I St., and Dance performances.

**Dramatic Theatre** – Plovdiv Drama Theatre is the first Bulgarian city with its own theatre building and ensemble in 1881. The Dramatic Theatre has been the home of the puppet theatrical art in Plovdiv since 1881. It is a modern stage with a rich repertoire, home stage of many prestigious theater festivals and events.

**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. One of the flagship projects in the European Capital of Culture programme which began in 2012 with infrastructure improvements to become one of the most attractive and vibrant artistic centers in the country.

**Kvarmal “Тракия”** – Kvarmal 8 is located in the southeastern part of the city, the third largest in Bulgaria, built with panel blocks from the era of socialism. Its population is about 60,000.

**Rowing Canal** – the longest pedestrian street in Europe. It is the longest pedestrian street in Europe and a symbol of Plovdiv. The main building is in the Old Town, next to the Ancient Theatre. Some of the concerts part of our programme will be held in the Concert Hall of the Academy.

**Theatre of the Bulgarian National Academy of Arts** – the main transport artery of Plovdiv, passing through the tunnel under the three hills or the Old Town.

**Theatre of the City Art Gallery** – exhibitions of the City Art Gallery are located in five spaces on the main pedestrian street and in the Old Town – Permanent Exhibition – 14 Saborna St., Temporary Exhibition – 15 Knjaz Alexander I, Leon Hall – 22 Saborna St., Encho Pironkov Permanent Exhibition – 1 Vasil Kanchev Str., Mexican Art Permanent Exhibition – 15 Knyaz Alexander I St., and Dance performances.

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Lauta Park – a park area in Trakia District in the southeastern part of the city.

Plovdiv Regional History Museum is one of the largest and richest museums in Bulgaria, divided into four thematic expositions, each in a separate building connected with the history of Plovdiv. The Muzeiko Exhibition is installed in the building on Saedinenie Sq.

The Roman Stadium – античният стадион на Пловдив от началото на 2 в. е бил изоставен, но сега е възстановен и е една от най-популярните атракции в града.

The Hills – хълмовете, известни като пловдивските тепета, въвеждат градът. През вековете настои със съживяване на някои от ансамблов паметници на културата и наместо на съживяване което в миналото било основно място за съкръжаване на културата на града.

Ancient Plovdiv – една от най-важните райони в града. Красива и антракътна квартал, където се намира музей на лошо отношение и възможни разрушители на урбанско пространство за културата и изкуството.

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Plovdiv 2019 Foundation and the State Opera – Plovdiv, in realization of the concept for reviving the tobacco industry in the city since the beginning of the 20th century, also known as one of the active points for contemporary city culture.

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