

Newsletter Ostrava 2015

Dear friends,

We are pleased to send you the first issue of the Newsletter Ostrava 2015.

In the newsletter we will regularly publish news relating to Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015.

The Ostrava 2015 project

Ostrava 2015

At the end of last year, Ostrava advanced to the second selection round of the competition for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015. For that same year, the title will also be held by the Belgian city of Mons, whose former industrial character gives it a connection to Ostrava. Ostrava is well on the path to becoming a successful post-industrial city with a strong cultural, educational, social and urban-planning potential.

The city's candidacy for the title of [European Capital of Culture 2015](#) is a natural extension of its long-term philosophy of developing this former industrial city toward into place for a happy life. Indeed, "A place for a happy life" is the motto of the Ostrava 2015 project.

A comprehensive approach

The Ostrava 2015 project is an outgrowth of European cultural values and aspires to renew the city's ties to its interwar history, when Ostrava truly was a European centre – progressive, multicultural, and swiftly communicating with the rest of Europe. The Ostrava 2015 project aims to contribute in a meaningful way to the development of European creativity and contemporary artistic production.

The Ostrava 2015 project is conceived as a direction for the city's development over the long term. The candidacy project combines urban planning, architectural, social, environmental, economic, societal and cultural aspects. This is in keeping with the [four key components of the project](#) – buildings, the cultural programme, education in the area of arts management and quality of life. The project is based on the participation and cooperation of all major forces in Ostrava and the surrounding area – the city of Ostrava, the private investor Vítkovice, a.s., and the Moravian-Silesian Region. Due to Ostrava's location, the entire extended agglomeration will naturally benefit from the project.

The Old Arena – a centre for culture and information 2015

Old Arena, new possibilities

The Old Arena is a contemporary space for art that originated as part of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015 and at the same time serves as an information centre for the entire project. The Old Arena – a unique club for culture and information 2015 – is a multi-genre space with a café that strives to build an interactive relationship with its visitors. It is a place for the presentation and realization of projects by progressive young artists as well as established and underground artists and scientists. The common thread among the visual art, theatrical and film events staged here is creativity, quality and originality. The Old Arena aims to interconnect various types of art and artists, to familiarize the public with exceptional personalities and themes not only from Ostrava but also from the Czech Republic and especially from elsewhere in Europe. [The current programme of the Old Arena](#) is available on our website.

The Old Arena is located on Masaryk Square (Masarykovo náměstí) in the space that was once home to the Music Theatre (Divadlo Hudby) and the Arena Chamber Theatre (Komorní scéna Aréna). The space had been vacant since 2005, and the opening of the Old Arena has given this inspirational building right in the heart of the city a new lease on life. Operation of the Old Arena began on 3 March 2010, and since that time it has been functioning as a theatre, cinema, rehearsal space, studio, laboratory and a club all rolled into one. The programme is actively shaped by visitors in cooperation with programming director David Mírek. Anyone with an interest has the opportunity to get involved. You can read more about the Old Arena and its [history](#).

Interview

The programming director of the Old Arena is Ostrava native David Mírek (born in 1986), a fifth-year student in the Department of Arts Management at DAMU, the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. He has been responsible for such projects as the Dream Factory theatre festival, Mine Games, and Karolina – Dream Factory. You can learn more about the overall concept and direction of the club in an [interview with the programming director of the Old Arena](#).

Ostrava 2015 events

Contest for the most original graduation tableau with Daniel

The Ostrava 2015 team is counting on the active participation of Ostrava residents and has faith in their creativity. And it isn't forgetting about the city's young residents – in fact, it is depending on the progressive ideas of the younger generation. For this year's graduating high school class, it has prepared a [contest for 6 x 2 015 Czech crowns](#). All that is required is to include Daniel, the boy with the blackened face in the logo of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015, in your graduation tableau (a photograph of students that is displayed for a month in a shop window). The contest winners will be selected by a jury of students from Mons, the European Capital of Culture 2015 from Belgium.

Public presentations of the Ostrava 2015 project

Since 30 March 2010, [presentations of the Ostrava 2015 project](#) specially geared toward high school students and teachers are being given every Tuesday from 8 to 9:30 am at the Old Arena on Masaryk Square (Masarykovo náměstí). The Ostrava 2015 team wants to improve the future face of Ostrava and is really counting on the involvement of the younger generation, which in the very near future will play a crucial role in the transformation of the city in which we live.

Launch of the White Book

On Tuesday 13 April at 7 pm at the Old Arena, we will officially introduce and launch [The White Book of Ostrava Culture](#). The White Book, which is the collective work of 42 authors, gives a lucid overview of basic information about the history and the current state of Ostrava culture and the city's place on the cultural map of Europe. The book will form the basis for an open internet encyclopedia, which is part of the Ostrava 2015 project. You can find out more in an [interview with the White Book's editor](#), Ivo Kaleta.

Ostrava 2015 recommends

Echoes of the Fresh Film Fest, a progressive festival of student films, brings Retrospektiva(L) by television and theatrical director Petr Lébl to Ostrava. Retrospektiva(L) takes place from April 19 – 21 at the Old Arena. You can find a [programme overview](#) on our website or on the [Facebook page of the Old Arena](#).

Get involved

Ostrava's main pillar of culture

Are you a part of Ostrava's culture scene? Bring the logo of your institution, group, ensemble, association, etc., in an A5 format to the café in the Old Arena or drop by and put your signature on Ostrava's main pillar of culture.

We have a new interactive section

Ostrava 2015 is a project for all of us. That's why we've set up a new interactive section on our website called [Get involved](#). This is where you can contact us, ask us questions, send us your proposals and suggestions, compete in contests, take part in discussions, and also express your support for us.

Ostrava 2015 in the media

The Ostrava phenomenon

The prestigious architecture magazine [Era 21](#), the most distinctive periodical in its field, devoted the entire first issue of 2010 to [Ostrava and its architecture](#). One of the articles in this issue presents the project for the revitalization of the Lower Area of Vítkovice, which is part of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015.

[Thanks to Ostrava's Candidacy, the Old Arena Has Come Back to Life](#) (Moravian-Silesian Daily, only in Czech)

[Inhabitation of the Old Arena](#) (News from the Regions – beginning at the 14:45 minute mark, Czech Television Ostrava, only in Czech)

What's new with us

A member of the Ostrava 2015 team will be a climate advocate for 2010

Markéta Volná from the Ostrava 2015 team was selected for the international [Challenge Europe project](#) thanks to her ideas about how to improve the environment in Ostrava and the surrounding area. The project's goal is to seek answers to the problem of climate change. In the framework of the Ostrava – candidate for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015 project, she is involved with [environmental issues](#), which is a part of Ostrava's application for the competition for this prestigious title. Therefore she will try to focus her projects directly on the Ostrava area. We are hopeful that she will be able to implement her ideas.

Join us!

Choose a way to find out the latest news about Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015.

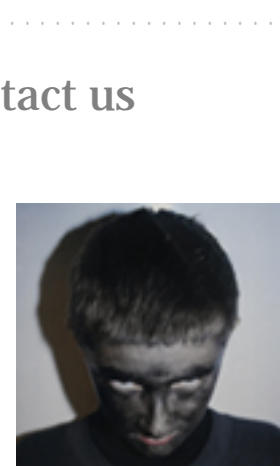
Facebook: [Ostrava 2015](#)

Facebook: [Stará Aréna](#)

E-mail: info@ostrava2015.cz

Web: <http://www.ostrava2015.cz/>

Contact us



Ostrava 2015

28. října 23

702 00 Ostrava

Czech Republic

Tel: +420 596 110 523

Fax: +420 599 443 060

E-mail: info@ostrava2015.cz

Web: www.ostrava2015.cz

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ostrava2015>

Copyright © 2010

OSTRAVA!!!