

# Newsletter Ostrava 2015

Dear friends,

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

The newsletter regularly brings you news relating to Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015.

## The Ostrava 2015 project

### Ostrava in Prague

From 24 May to 10 June a cultural survey with the title [Ostrava in Prague](#) is being held in the Czech capital with the aim of presenting Ostrava's cultural production to residents of Prague and visitors to the city. The survey encompasses theatre performances, film screenings, exhibitions of fine art and photography, architectural displays, and concerts. An Information Centre will be set up on the plaza of the New Stage (Nová scéna) of the National Theatre from 26 May to 19 June to provide people with more information about the project itself, about the city of Ostrava, and also about Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015. This extensive survey is undoubtedly the biggest and most comprehensive presentation of Ostrava culture outside the Moravian-Silesian Region. You can learn more about the programme, its individual components and featured performers [here](#) and also on the [Ostrava in Prague](#) website.

### Ostrava in Brussels

Ostrava culture is being presented not only in Prague but also in Brussels. On 1 June beginning at 7:30 pm at the Czech Centre, there will be an opening of the exhibition "Ostrava, the City of My Hope", featuring works by Ostrava photographers associated with the Fiducia Gallery. The photos capture visitors and art works at the "Ostrava?" exhibition, which was held last year in the north Moravian metropolis in support of Ostrava's candidacy. Those with an interest will be able to view the photographs and to become more familiar with Ostrava's candidacy project until 17 June in Brussels.

### Black Meadow Event!!!

The Ostrava 2015 project is the main organizer of a day-long happening with the subtitle *Everything You Won't Experience in Your Living Room*, which takes place on 30 May at Black Meadow. The event and site where it is taking place call attention to the planned establishment of the Black Meadow cultural-social district, which is the pivotal element of Ostrava's candidacy. Those who come to the happening can look forward to theatre performances, majorettes, mud wrestling tournaments, a fashion show, contests, and also musical performances by Cimbalom Music Friš, the pop-rock band Kuzniecef and the Rock & Roll Band of Marcel Woodman. You will find an invitation to the event along with detailed information [here](#).

### Ostrava 2015 at a conference about culture and tourism in Rijeka

Blanka Marková, a member of the Ostrava 2015 preparatory team, actively participated in a conference titled *Towards Cultural Tourism?*, which took place 6 to 9 May in Rijeka, Croatia. The focus of the meeting, organized by the French nonprofit organization *Les Rencontres*, was to initiate debate among experts in the areas of culture and tourism with the involvement of representatives of local governments. The [Black Meadow Cluster](#), which is at the centre of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015, met with great interest among conference participants. There was also a positive response to the [video clip](#) which the candidacy project is using to officially present itself. You can read more about this event [here](#).

### Ostrava Museum Night

The Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015 joined the ranks of institutions that presented themselves to city residents in a nontraditional light during even less traditional evening hours on Saturday 15 May as part of Ostrava Museum Night. Visitors to the Old Arena found themselves in a simulated museum space where they could view such exhibits as *The Original Ostrava Cough* or *Nonfunctional Stone Escalator*. The highlight was a display of an original of one of the three Ostrava exclamation marks. You can read reflections on the event and view photographs from it [here](#).

## Theme: International symposium about culture and creativity

On 13 and 14 May, the Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015 hosted the international symposium "Art, Cultural Diversity and Social Inclusion – Preconditions for the Development of Creativity". It was an event of key significance, and participants included not only Czech professionals but leading international experts on the issues under discussion. The main lecturers were Colin Mercer, an expert in the analysis of strategic cultural and creative sectors; the urban sociologist Lia Ghilardi; the managing director of ProCulture/Open Society o.p.s., Marta Smolíková; and Adam Gebrian, an architect and the originator of the concept for the Black Meadow Cluster. As Radana Zapletalová, the chairwoman of the Culture Commission for the city of Ostrava, emphasized at a press conference, it was the very first conference of its kind in Ostrava, to which the candidacy project for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015 directly contributed.

On the first day, lecturers focused on defining basic concepts such as cultural planning, cultural and intercultural policy and the so-called cultural DNA of a city. They also evaluated the outcome of [Future City Game](#), which we wrote about in the previous issue of the newsletter. The second day of the symposium centred on concrete case studies of cities including Mantua, Turku, Córdoba, and naturally Ostrava. Participants split up into working groups and actively worked on issues relating to the city's multicultural and post-industrial potential. The organizers were pleased with how much positive feedback the symposium met with among the professional public.

You can find out more information and view photo documentation [here](#) and also [here](#).

## Interview

### Colin Mercer and Lia Ghilardi: Culture and creativity in daily life

Two of the main lecturers at the symposium explain in an [interview](#) what roles culture and creativity play in the daily functioning of cities and in the lives of their residents. As Colin Mercer and Lia Ghilardi stress, it is not possible to understand culture as something elevated or as defined from above. On the contrary, culture is only that which it is considered to be by the people who live in the midst of it. In other words, the design of a pair of reading glasses is culture just as much as an opera performance.

### Kunsthalle in Ostrava

An [interview](#) was also provided for our website by Martin Mikolášek, a member of the Kunsthalle Ostrava o. s. civic organization. The organization, which is closely cooperating with the Ostrava 2015 project, supports the establishment of a municipal gallery in Ostrava, which is one of the structures planned for the Black Meadow cultural-social district. As Mikolášek points out in the interview, the Kunsthalle would be geared primarily towards contemporary art by artists active on the cultural scene from the 1980s to the present.

## Events at the Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015

### Roman Sikora: Sweeping Up Antigone

On Monday 31 May at 7 pm there will be the premiere of a production of this play from antiquity directed by Martin Františák and performed by students in the fifth and sixth years of study in dramatic art at the Janáček Conservatory and High School in Ostrava.

### Ostrava Full of Children

Come with your offspring to celebrate Children's Day at the Old Arena on 1 June from 9 am to 6 pm, when the interior of the Old Arena will be transformed into a blast furnace. In the spirit of Ostrava's industrial past, children will be able to mine coal, detonate rock, and sort iron ore.

### William Mastrosimone: BANG, BANG, YOU'RE DEAD!

On Friday 4 June at 7 pm, visitors to the Old Arena will have the opportunity to see a performance by the Damater ensemble from Český Těšín about an assailant who turns a weapon against his classmates at school. The performance will be supplemented with a thematically related discussion and film projection.

### Conservatory Mondays

On Mondays at the Old Arena starting at 7 pm, you can encounter young musicians from the Janáček Conservatory, whose playing will make gathering over coffee or cake that much more pleasant.

We believe that [other events](#) at the Old Arena in May and June will inspire you to make a visit.

## Ostrava 2015 project – we recommend

### Concert: A Treasury of French Classics

You won't want to miss a concert from the *Janáček's* May festival that takes place on 26 May at 8 pm at the Ostrava House of Culture (it has been moved there from the originally planned venue of the Silesian Ostrava Castle because of the relentless rain). At the concert, two suites from Maurice Ravel's ballet *Daphnis and Chloé* will be heard along with the orchestral composition *The Sea* by Claude Debussy, performed by the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra and the Czech Philharmonic Choir of Brno, conducted by Libor Pešek. Part of the concert will be a video projection and a ballet performance by soloists from the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre ballet.

### Fourth Evening of Ostrava Arrivals

On Thursday 27 May at 6 pm, the Old Arena will be the fourth time with recollections of people who were not born in Ostrava but have found their new home here. This time, Radovan Lipus will speak with his guests – Leo Židek, Lumír Čermák and Doroška Palkovská – on the theme of [arrivals](#) for political reasons. Music will be provided by evening's guest, the pianist Vlastimil Šmíd.

### The Arena Theatre in Prague

An integral part of the Ostrava in Prague survey is a presentation of the [Ostrava theatres](#). From a total of seven theatres, we would like to call your attention to a performance of *Burn Party: Flashes from the Slag Heap* performed by the Arena Theatre, which takes place on 6 June at 7 pm at the Theatre Without a Balustrade (Divadlo Bez zábradlí).

## Get involved

### Hyde Park at Black Meadow

The **Black Meadow Event!!!** happening is providing space for creative Ostravans who would like introduce others to their nontraditional talents and thereby express their support for Ostrava cultural goings-on. If you would like to sing, play an instrument, perform, dance or express yourself in some other way, an independent stage at Black Meadow will be prepared just for you. Simply contact us by [e-mail](#) no later than 26 May to tell us about your idea.

### Ostrava 2015 logo

You can also express your support for the Ostrava 2015 project by downloading one of several logos of our candidacy from [our website](#) and putting it on a T-shirt, your internet site, your promotional materials, or elsewhere. If you [inform](#) us about it, in return we will place your logo on our website.

## Mentions in the media

On 17 May, the culture section of the daily newspaper [Lidové noviny](#) published an article about the upcoming Ostrava in Prague survey of Ostrava culture in the capital city, which will present the Petr Bezruč Theatre, the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre, Jaromír Nohavica, Tomáš Kočko & ORCHESTR and many others. Three days earlier, the internet news server [Regiony24.cz](#) covered the same topic. (Only in Czech)

On 14 May, Studio 6 – a morning information programme on Czech Television's [ČT24](#) station, broadcast an interview with Colin Mercer, a British expert on cultural policy who was one of the main lecturers at the two-day symposium about cultural diversity and social inclusion that took place at the Old Arena.

## Join us!

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

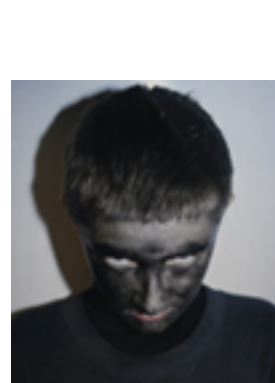
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