



Dear friends,

We are pleased to send you the ninth issue of the Ostrava 2015 Newsletter, which regularly brings you news relating to Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015. We wish you a beautiful and sun-filled summer.

Ostrava 2015

We submitted the application

After long months of intensive work, the city of Ostrava submitted an updated version of its application for the second and final selection round of the competition for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015 to the Czech Ministry of Culture on 30 June. The application, which was prepared in both Czech and English versions and comprises three books which together contain more than 700 pages, was personally delivered to the ministry by Ostrava 2015 project director Čestmír Kopecký.

Celebration of the application in the Hlubina Mine

Completion and successful submission of the application is without a doubt an important occasion, deserving nothing less than a major celebration. That happened on 25 June with ApplicationFest, held by the Ostrava 2015 project at The Factory, a newly reconstructed space in the Hlubina Mine complex. The event, which was attended by members of the Ostrava 2015 project team and Ostrava artists, culminated with an official presentation and the christening of the application. This duty was performed by the application manager, Dita Eibenová.

The Month of Authors' Readings was opened and continues at the Old Arena

Since 1 July, the theatre space of the Old Arena has been resounding with the word read aloud. On Thursday 1 July, the eleventh year of the biggest Czech literary festival – the Month of Authors' Readings – was opened at the club. This year, it is taking place for the first time in Ostrava in addition to its traditional location of Brno. The official opening was dedicated to the recently deceased Ostrava writer Jan Balabán and his last book Zepetej se táty (Ask Your Father), issued by the Host publishing house.

Our website offers you the opportunity to watch live transmissions of readings by Czech and French authors every evening online. Here you will find reflections on the festival's first week.

The Old Arena is the meeting point for the professional public

On 24 and 25 June, the Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015 hosted a conference about the influence of culture and creativity on the development of cities and regions. It was a meeting of Czech and European experts, during which representatives of the Ostrava 2015 team had the opportunity to compare experiences in preparing the city's candidacy for the ECOC title with others. Additionally, discussions took place about urban transformation, cultural clusters, and also a key document for the creative sector, Green Paper: Unlocking the Potential of Cultural and Creative Industries, published by the European Commission. For both days of the conference, our website published daily news updates, a round-up of which you can read here.

Ostrava in Prague continues

The "Ostrava in Prague" cultural survey is currently focusing on exhibitions. On Monday 28 June, the opening for the exhibition "Café Ostrava" was held in the building of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The exhibition centres on the rich cultural past of Ostrava and its environs. It includes works by artists such as Martin Souček, František Jurečka and Aleš Veselý, photographs by Jindřich Štreit, and information panels about the revitalization of the Lower Area of Vítkovice. The exhibition then moves to the Mánes gallery, where beginning on 14 July it will remain on view until 10 September.

Ostrava 2015 presented itself in Brussels

The motto of this year's Czech Street Party on Caroly Street in central Brussels was "Ten Years of the Regions". At the now traditional presentation of Czech culinary specialities, culture and the country in general, Ostrava's candidacy project was introduced to visitors on 25 June as part of the presentation of the Moravian-Silesian Region. At the stand of the Moravian-Silesian Region, visitors could learn more details about the project, have themselves photographed with its Daniel logo, or take home various souvenir items.

Theme: Inspiration 2015 and Wheels of Ostrava

This year, the Ostrava 2015 project has gotten actively involved in one of the biggest music festivals in the Czech Republic, Colours of Ostrava, which takes place in the city from 15 to 18 July. The Old Arena will host one of the festival's stages, called Inspiration 2015. Another contribution by Ostrava 2015 to the Colours of Ostrava festival is provision of bicycle transportation – Wheels of Ostrava – which festival participants can use to move between individual stages more quickly.

For four days, the Old Arena will become an audiovisual and discussion venue for music and for ideas about the near future. Visitors can look forward to films, clips, discussions, interaction, audio sessions, and programmes about the independent music scene, misdeeds in music, transgender artists and social networks – all led by music journalist Pavel Klusák. As part of the Inspiration 2015 programme, the Old Arena is providing its spaces to the magazine Reflex, which is holding two debates there: with the photographer Jan Šibík on Saturday 17 July at 1 pm and with Milan Tesař and Čechomor band member Karel Holas on Sunday 18 July at 1:30 pm. You can find more details about the programme of the Old Arena stage here.

Because the environment is one of the key pillars of Ostrava's candidacy project, the Ostrava 2015 team has long supported bike transportation in the Moravian-Silesian metropolis. A token of its support is to offer this mode of transportation during the Colours of Ostrava festival. At two cyclotents, on all four days of the festival visitors will be able to rent one of 80 bicycles. Special cycling maps marked with routes and Ostrava landmarks will be available. Further information, including prices, location of the cyclotents and opening hours, can be found here.

Events at the Old Arena - club for culture and information 2015

The Month of Authors' Reading

In terms of programming, July at the Old Arena is exceptional. In place of its regular programme, literary readings in the Month of Authors' Readings are taking place every day, supplemented with events such as wine and cheese tastings, free crêpes for visitors to the French readings, and creative workshops for children.

Colours of Ostrava at the Old Arena

The unbroken stream of literature will be interrupted only once, on 15–18 July, when the Old Arena becomes one of the stages for the Colours of Ostrava international music festival and changes into an audiovisual and discussion venue. The Inspiration 2015 stage offers a rich programme, from projection of archival films, discussions and creative workshops to a YouTube Party.

Even during the music festival, fans of authors' readings won't be disappointed. During the four days, the Czech readings will begin at their usual time of 7 pm, followed by the French readings at 8:30 pm.

Ostrava 2015 recommends

The Month of Authors' Readings

In the Month of Authors' Readings, Ostrava can look forward to almost three more weeks filled with the written word and the word read aloud. You certainly won't want to miss the reading on 12 July by the novelist, playwright, screenwriter and film critic Jacques-Pierre Amette, whose novel Brecht's Mistress won the Prix Goncourt, the highest French literary award. At the very close of the festival, on 31 July, you can look forward to another Prix Goncourt winner, Laurent Binet. Among the notable Czech writers yet to appear at the festival are Pavel Kohout (17 July), Arnošt Goldflam (21 July) and Michal Viewegh (30 July).

The SUMMER!!! event

The city of Ostrava has prepared a rich culture and entertainment programme for its residents during the summer months. Ostravans can look forward to Party!!! on Masarykovo náměstí (Masaryk Square), Fair!!!, with an on-site beer festival, events and contests for children, public performances by Ostrava theatre troupes, and much more. On Masaryk Square, the Klub Náměstíčko (Square Club) will also be open through the months of summer vacation, offering a pleasant place to relax, film projections, performances by bands, wifi connections, and more. View the entire SUMMER!!! programme.

Get involved

YouTube Party

Connect with others to show the most excellent, the funniest or the most radical videos you've found on the site. As part of the Inspiration 2015 stage, you can join the YouTube Party and use your six minutes to share with others what you think are must-see videos. Due to the limited amount of time (enough for 20 people), it is necessary to register in advance. Send us an e-mail with your name, the length of the video and its web address, and show the others what interests you on YouTube the most.

Mentions in the media

The director of the Ostrava 2015 project, Čestmír Kopecký, together with the artistic director of the Pilsen project, Yvona Kreuzmannová, were guests on the "Aréna" programme broadcast by Czech Radio 6 on 23 June. (in Czech only)

The Czech Television programme "European Manual" was devoted to Ostrava as a candidate for the title of European Capital of Culture on 24 June. (in Czech only)

The newspaper Hospodářské noviny on 28 June published news about the winning design by Dutch architecture studio Maxwan for the revitalization of the Black Meadow site, supplemented with the city's investment plan for this area. (in Czech only)

Even the women's magazine Elle devoted space to the city of Ostrava. In her article, Scarlett Wilková focuses on Ostrava's special atmosphere, which, according to her, is made complete by the panorama of the Lower Area of Vítkovice and the presence of the Ema slag heap.

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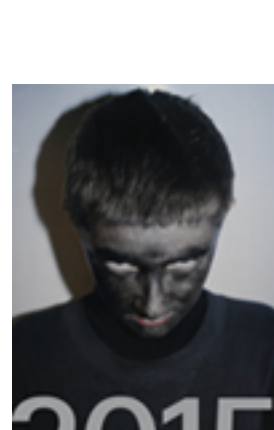
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