

3/7 Sat. ZINE Stadium

ZINE Stadium at Okayama Dome will showcase independently created works from both individual and group creators. Explore books featuring creative expressions through writing, photography, art, and more at the venue. Meet and chat with the creators!

Date & Time: Sat, 7th March 2026 11:00-16:00
Venue: Okayama Dome
(Kitanagase-Omotemachi, Kita-ku, Okayama City)



3/20 Fri. 3/21 Sat. Omotecho Book Street

Omotecho Book Street will feature beloved bookstores, publishers, mobile libraries, and workshop booths. You may find that one book that will truly change your life! We look forward to welcoming you!

Date & Time: Fri, 20th March & 21st March 2026 11:00-16:00
Venue: Omotecho Shopping Street & Shirochika Underground Square
(Omotecho, Kita-ku, Okayama City)



Related Books

Scheduled for release in late February



Collected Works of Tsubota Joji <Japanese>
Kokoro no Tōki Tokoro Hajimete no Tsubota Joji
(A Distant Place in the Heart: An Introduction to Tsubota Joji)

Written by Tsubota Joji, Edited by Yamane Tomoko
Published by Komine Shoten
Planned by Okayama City Literary Award Organising Committee, Okayama City

A collection of 9 treasured Tsubota-works that deserve to be read today, including Children In The Wind!

Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Tsubota Joji Literary Award, we are publishing this collection of Tsubota Joji's works. "Kokoro no Tōki Tokoro Hajimete no Tsubota Joji (A Distant Place in the Heart: An Introduction to Tsubota Joji)" features heartwarming stories by Tsubota Joji, a writer who deeply loved his hometown of Okayama, including "Kappa no Hanashi (A Story of a Water Sprite)", "Kitsune to Budō (The Fox and the Grapes)", and "Children In The Wind". This collection can be enjoyed by both adults and children, whether you're reading Tsubota's works for the first time or rediscovering them.

●The price: ¥2,000 (plus tax) ●Hardcover, 188 x 127 mm ●216 pages

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES OF LITERATURE
OKAYAMA INTERNATIONAL MEETING

コエス
文学
創造都市
おかやま
国際会議



The Cities of Literature Okayama International Meeting

Okayama City hosts the Okayama Literature Festival, which features a wide range of events related to literature and books. It brings together people who love reading and creating/writing books and engaging with authors. Okayama City has invited Focal Points from several cities, mainly in the Asia-Pacific region, among the 63 Cities of Literature worldwide. This marks the first meeting in Okayama concerning the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and will serve as an opportunity to connect Okayama with the world's Cities of Literature.

Programme

From 12:30 Admission Opens *Note: Seating is unreserved.*

From 14:00 “Stone Over Storms”: A City of Literature Built on Volcanic Rock

Part 1

Edinburgh was the first city in the world to be designated as a UNESCO City of Literature in 2004. And Edinburgh hosts more than 600 literary events annually. Dr. Harriet MacMillan from the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust will present case studies to exemplify Edinburgh's initiatives.

From 14:40 Dialogue: “The Primal Scene of Creativity”

Part 2

Dialogue: “The Primal Scene of Creativity.” Under this theme, the two authors will discuss the landscapes and memories that have inspired their work, tracing the roots of their creative journeys!

Note: Audio/video recording and photography are prohibited.

『The Housekeeper and the Professor』

OGAWA Yoko

『Kimi wa ii ko (You're a Good Kid)』

NAKAWAKI Hatsue



Okayama Book Stand Open!

Okayama Convention Center

1st Floor Lobby [Time] 11:00-17:00

Bookstores and publishers participating in the Okayama Literature Festival and other events will be selling books and related items. Open to all visitors.

Participating Vendors

- 451BOOKS ●Hanmyouken Secondhand Bookshop ●Book Store SELVA
- Kibito Publishing ●chiisanahonya MARCO ●Books Okamura

Speaker Profiles

Part 1



Dr. Harriet MacMillan

Director of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust. Following her work in the literature department at Creative Scotland, the national agency for arts and creative industries in Scotland, she managed poetry awards in the UK and Ireland. She graduated from the University of Edinburgh and the University of Oxford. Her doctoral thesis explored contemporary feminist reinterpretations of ancient mythology. She has authored works in both poetry and prose.



Part 2



小川 洋子 OGAWA Yoko

Novelist. Born in Okayama City in 1962. She has loved reading since childhood and always dreamed of becoming a storyteller. She made her debut in 1988 by winning the Newcomer Writers Prize from the literary magazine “Kaizen”, published by Fukutake Publishing. In 1990, she received the Akutagawa Prize for “Pregnancy Diary”. Since then, she has continued writing novels. Major works include “The Housekeeper and the Professor”, “Mina's March”, “The Diving Pool”, and “The Memory Police”.



中脇 初枝 NAKAWAKI Hatsue

Author. Born in Tokushima and raised in Kochi. Member of the selection committee for the Tsubota Joji Literary Award. She made her debut while in high school by winning the Botchan Literary Award for “Sakana no yōni (Like a Fish)”. She studied folklore at the University of Tsukuba and, alongside her creative writing, retells and narrates folktales. She won the Tsubota Joji Literary Award for “Kimi wa ii ko (You're a Good Kid)”. Major works include “Children at the End of the World”, “Dengon (Message)”, and “Ten Made Nobore”, a biographical novel about Kusunose Kita, the first woman in Japan to demand women's suffrage.



The UNESCO Creative Cities Network

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was established in 2004 as a UNESCO initiative. Through international collaboration among cities centred on creativity, it aims to foster the development of local creative industries and promote sustainable urban development. Creative Cities are designated in eight fields: Literature, Film, Music, Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Media Arts, Gastronomy, and Architecture. Member cities utilise the network to exchange knowledge and experience, develop human resources, and cooperate on programmes. As of October 2025, 408 cities worldwide have been designated as UCCN members, including 63 in the field of literature. Okayama City became Japan's first UNESCO City of Literature in October 2023.



Okayama City of Literature

Okayama City has been promoting community development in the cultural and artistic fields. In literature, it has maintained nationally acclaimed initiatives over many years, including the Okayama City Literary Award. Additionally, the roots of Momotaro, Japan's most famous folktale, lie in Okayama. As a symbol of Okayama, Momotaro has become deeply embedded throughout the city—in statues, street names, souvenirs, festivals, and more. Furthermore, in the 18th century, Japan's first private library was established here, promoting regional education even in an era when books were not accessible to everyone. In this context, Okayama City has established a new organisation uniting industry, academia, and government to promote creative initiatives centred on literature. Following Okayama City's designation as Japan's first UNESCO City of Literature in October 2023, Okayama City is collaborating with many partners to further expand literature-based initiatives.

Official Okayama City of Literature website

