

Melbourne City of Literature









In 2008, Melbourne joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network when it was designated the first and only City of Literature in Australia and the second of its kind in the world.

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The designation was made in recognition of the following factors, among others:

1. The quality, quantity and diversity of publishing and editorial initiatives in Melbourne
2. The quality and quantity of educational programs in Melbourne
3. Melbourne's urban environment, to which literature is integral
4. Melbourne's experience in hosting literary events and festivals, and promoting foreign and domestic texts
5. Melbourne's libraries, bookstores and cultural centres
6. The use of new media in Melbourne to promote and strengthen the literary market.



EMERGING WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2015

26 May - 5 June 2015

emergingwritersfestival.org.au

#ewf15 | @emergingwriters







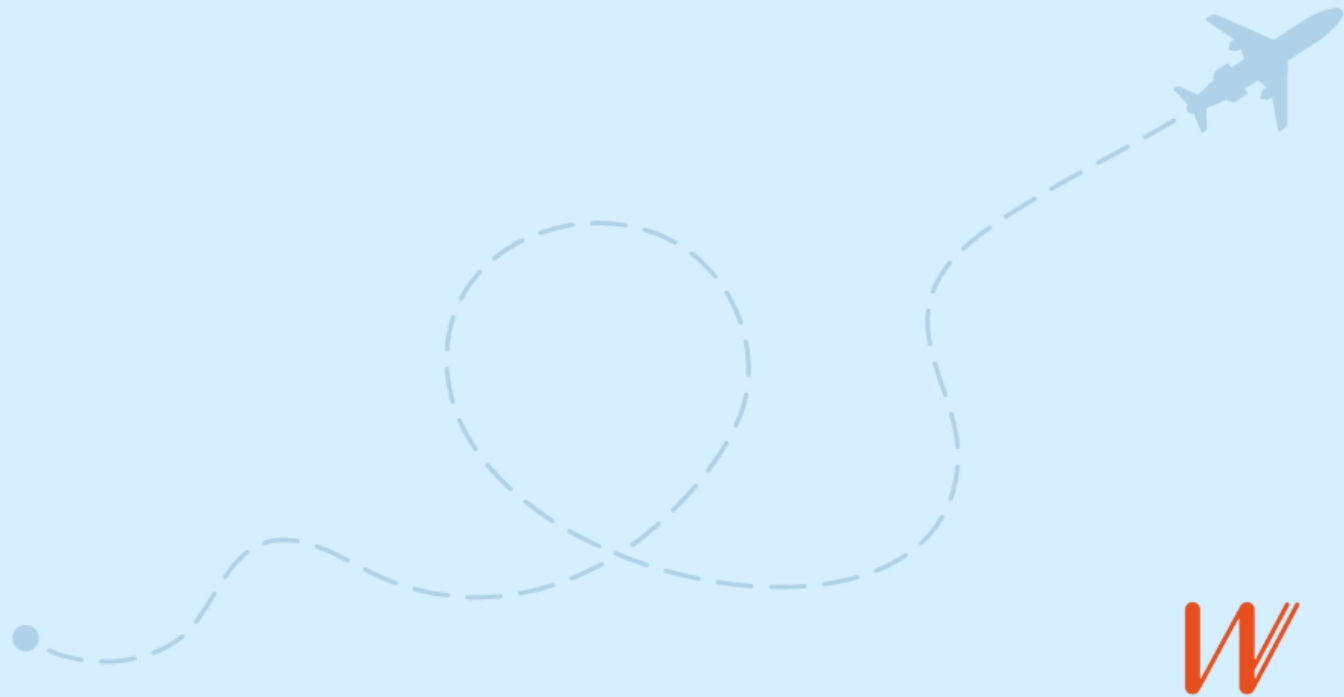


Creative Victoria and the City of Melbourne agreed to partner in establishing a City of Literature Office which was established in 2014.

The City of Melbourne and Creative Victoria provide financial support for the Office and Director, and the Wheeler Centre provides in-kind assistance with operational and administrative costs, and access to facilities.

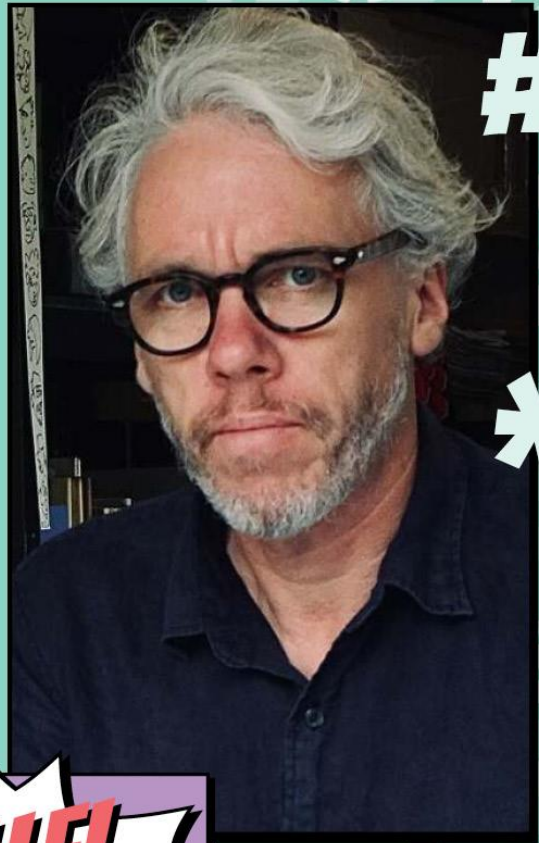
The Office and the Director are housed in the Wheeler Centre.

The Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund



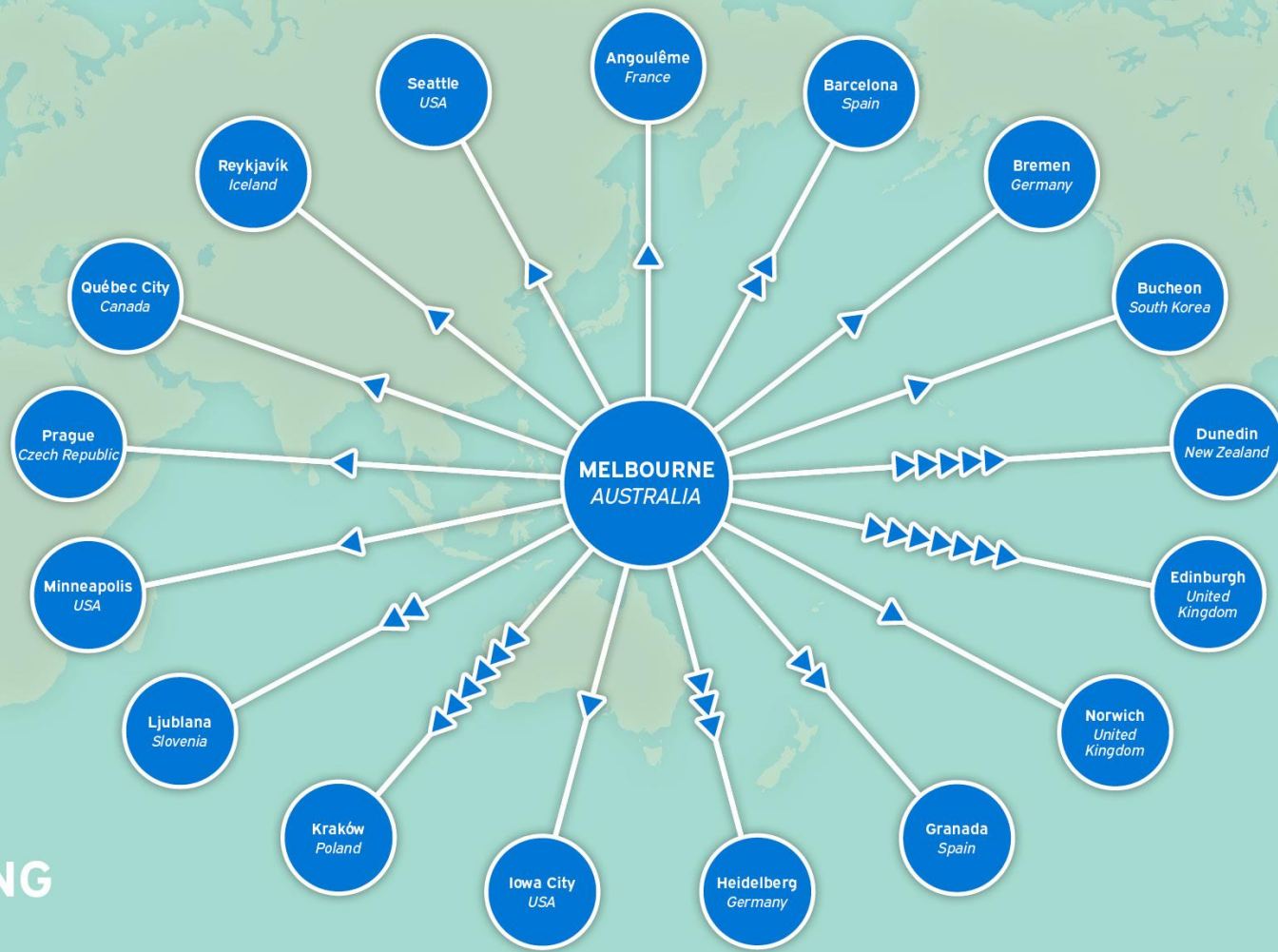


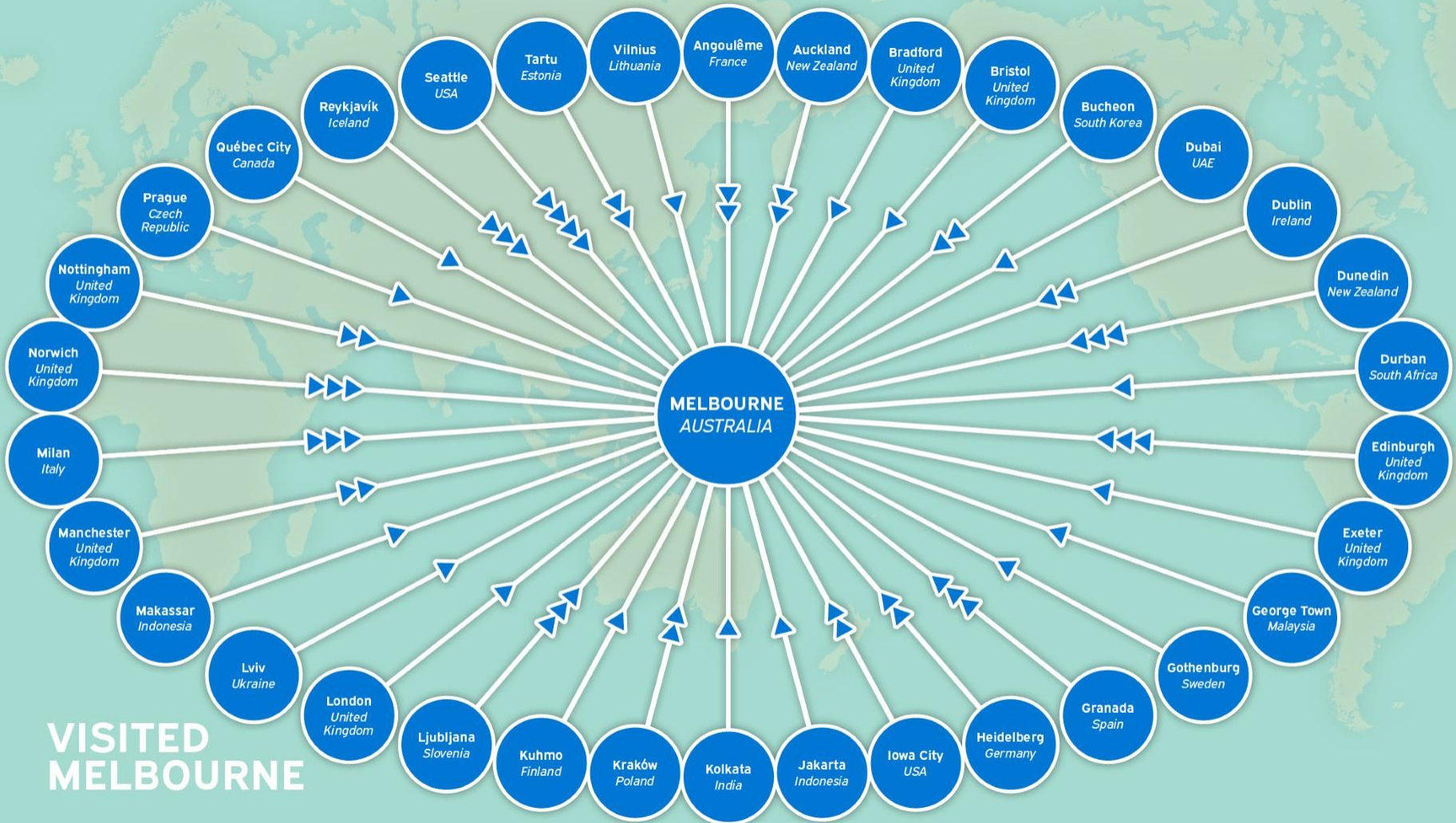




**PARALLEL
PANELS**

VISITING





**VISITED
MELBOURNE**

1. Melbourne is a city of literature

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2. Melbourne has chosen to become a UNESCO City of Literature

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3. Melbourne has a City of Literature Office

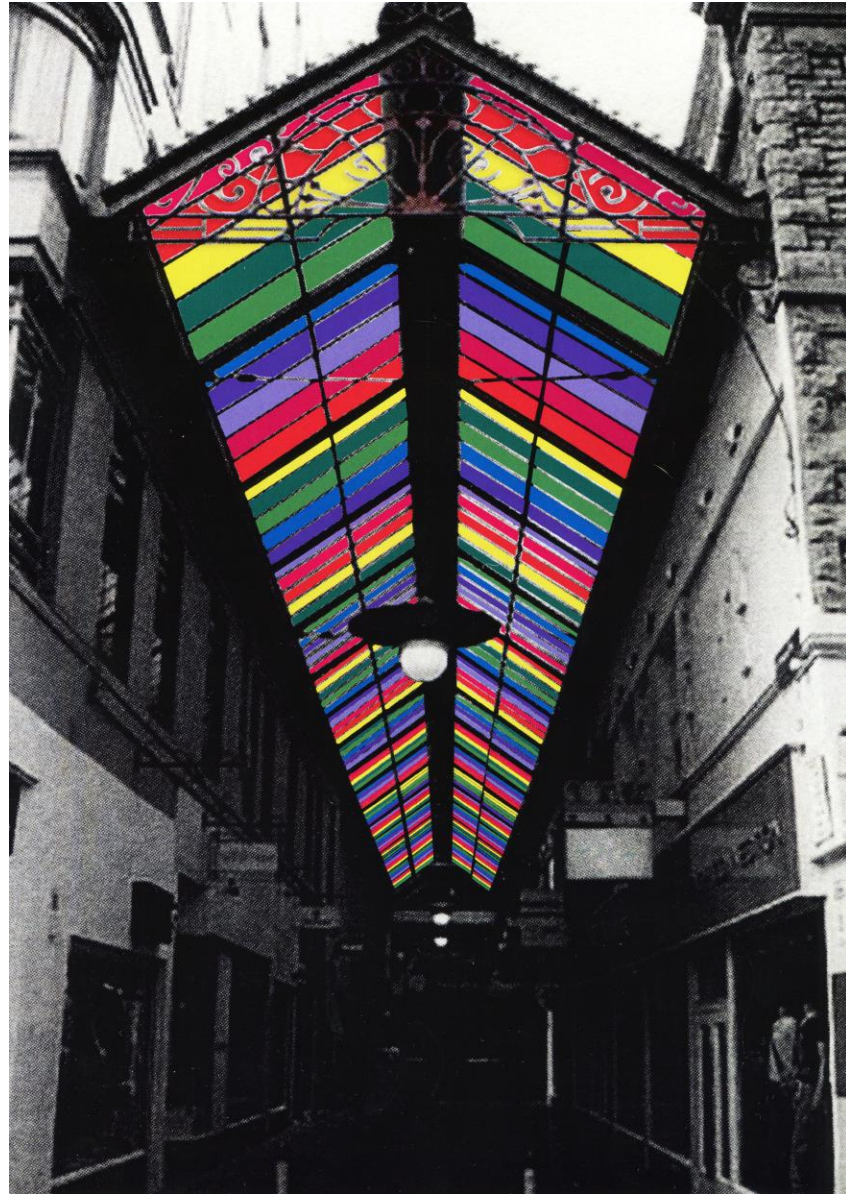
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We use 3 to utilise 2 to change 1

The Office started with three broad areas of action that address the aims of the Creative City Network as well as the needs for Melbourne as a City of Literature:

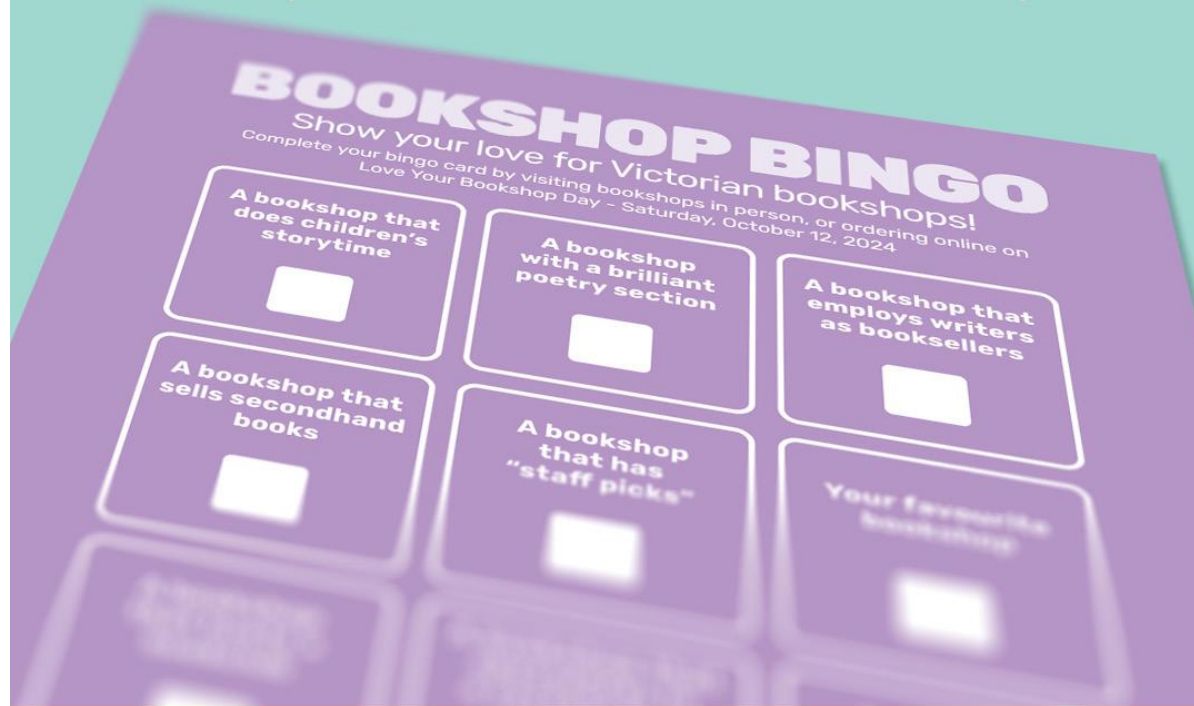
1. Connecting the City of Literature
2. Reflecting the City of Literature
3. Supporting the City of Literature

*Reflecting Melbourne
as a
City of Literature*



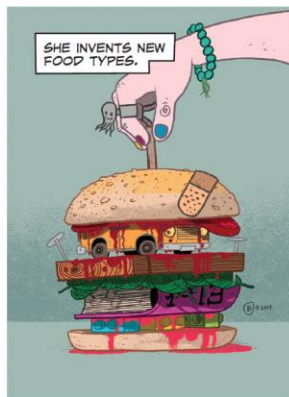
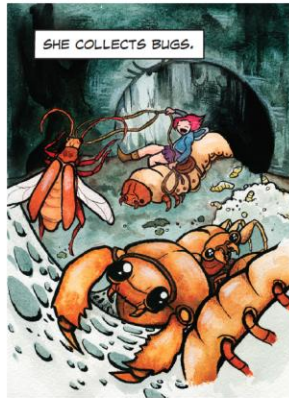
BOOKSHOP BINGO IS BACK!

Show your love for Victorian bookshops!



LOVE YOUR BOOKSHOP DAY

Saturday, October 12, 2024





TRAM LINES



Reading **VICTORIA**



10 YEARS CITY OF LITERATURE HEIDELBERG

HEY SIRI, SHOW ME ...

Silos, haystacks, one lonely horse.
We look for secrets
in number plates.
A greasy truck stop, then you
next to me.
Hey Siri, show me you.
We're not yet half way.
Hills ahead,
the impossible perspective of distance.
Canola flowers spread.
Quilts knitted yellow.

BEL SCHENK
MELBOURNE UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE

HEY SIRI, ZEIG MIR ...

Silos, Heuballen, ein einsames Pferd.
Wir suchen Geheimnisse
in Nummernschildern.
Schmuddelige Raststätte, dann du
neben mir.
Hey Siri, zeig dich mir.
Haben nicht mal die Hälfte geschafft.
Hügel vor uns,
die unmögliche Perspektive weiter Ferne.
Rapsblüten ausgebreitet.
Stepdecken gestrickt in Gelb.

AUS DEM ENGLISCHEN
VON DAGMAR BRENNEISEN

Mehr zu Poesie unterwegs - international auf
www.cityofliterature.de

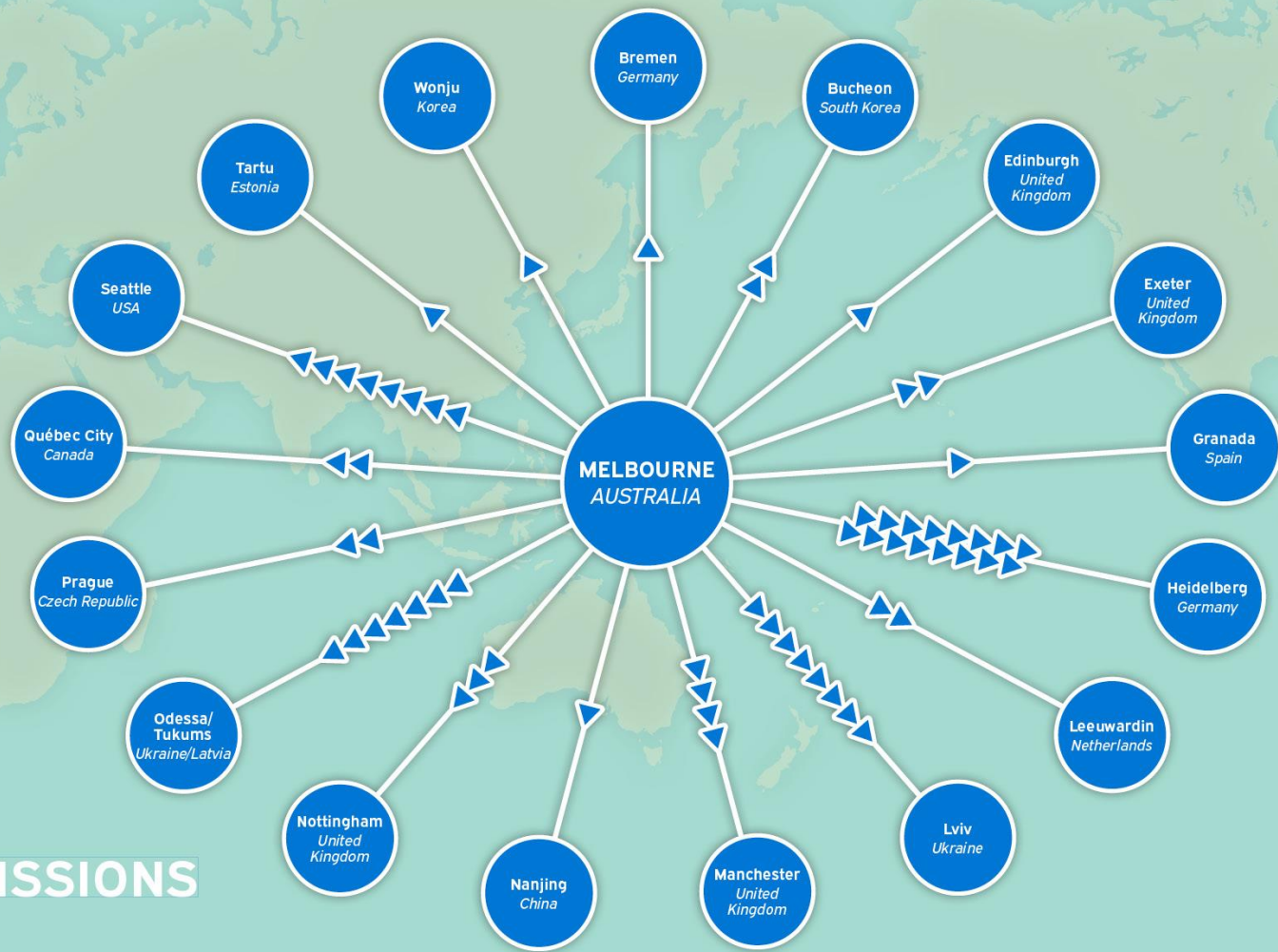
Melbourne
City of
Literature
UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE



Members of
the Creative Cities Network

 Heidelberg

COMMISSIONS



**From
Melbourne,**
with words

**Melbourne
City of
Literature**



*Supporting
Melbourne
as a
City of Literature*

Melbourne – City of Literature

EXPLORE



**Speaking for Others:
Women's Poetry as
Advocacy**

23 October 2025

PEN Melbourne

Speaking for Others: Women's Poetry as Advocacy is a poetry and conversation event hosted by Liquid Amber Press and PEN Melbourne. [...]

**Odyssey Literary Festival
2025: PULSE**

24 October 2025

RMIT's Professional Writing and Editing (PWE) program

Come and join us at this year's festival with keynote speaker Evelyn Araluen, award-winning Goorie and Koori poet, editor, and [...]

**In Conversation with Jane
Harper**

24 October 2025

Connected Libraries

Meet Australian author Jane Harper and listen to her speak about her newest novel 'Last One Out'. Jane has won [...]

**The Little Bookroom turns
65!**

25 October 2025

Little_Bookroom

The Little Bookroom opened its doors for the very first time on October 13th 1960 in the Metropole Arcade, Melbourne [...]

**BEST SELLER BOOK CLUB –
LIVE BOOK-THEMED GAME
SHOW**

25 October 2025

Matthew Hardy

The Best Seller Book Club is a quiz show like Aussie TV music trivia game shows Spicks & Specks or [...]

**Between the Lines:
Storytelling Salon**

25 October 2025

Chestnut Tree Bookshop

There's a kind of magic that only happens after dark. Between the Lines is a monthly gathering of storytellers and [...]



WALKING THE CITY OF LITERATURE

LITERATURE

INTRODUCING THE CITIES OF LITERATURE

In 2008, Melbourne joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among creative cities that work together towards a common objective: placing creativity and cultural life at the heart of their urban development plans. This network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.

BOOKSTORES

A Wheelchair accessible
S Shops that hold events

- All Star Comics A & S**
Level 5, 55 Queen St
Comic!
- Asphalt Books A**
Room 23, Level 4,
The Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St
Secondhand books!
- Books for Cooks A & S**
115 - 121 Victoria St, Queen Vic Market
Books about wine, food and the culinary arts.
- City Basement Books A**
407 Flinders St
Secondhand books!
- Critical Hit**
377 Little Collins St
Comic!

Melbourne City of Literature exists on the lands of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge the Bunurong Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples as the traditional custodians of the Melbourne region and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



#LITMAPOFMELBOURNE

- Dymocks Melbourne A & S**
Lower Ground Floor, 234 Collins St
Wide range of books and gifts!
 - Hill of Content Bookshop A* & S**
86 Bourke St
Traditional bookshop.
 - Key Craddock Antiquarian Bookseller & S**
151 Collins St
Fine and rare books & home of Rare Book Week.
 - Koorie Heritage Trust Bookshop A & S**
Level 1 & 3, The Yarra Building, Federation Square
Victoria's premier supplier of books relating to Aboriginal Australia.
 - Mary Martin Bookshop**
Queen Victoria Market, String Bean Alley
Independent store offering expert recommendations, excellent service and great books.
 - Metropolis Bookshop A & S**
3/252 Curtin House, Swanston St
Specialising in graphic design, architecture and fashion!
 - Minotaur A & S**
264 Little Collins St
Comic!
 - New International Bookshop & S**
Trades Hall 54 Victoria St, Carlton
Independent radical bookshop!
 - Paperback Bookshop A & S**
66 Bourke St
Independent bookshop!
 - QBD Books Emporium A & S**
Emporium Melbourne, Shop
3-001/287 Lonsdale St
Document bookstore!
 - Readings - State Library of Victoria A & S**
317, 285-321 Russell St
Wide range of books and gifts!
 - Readings - Emporium A & S**
Emporium Melbourne, Shop
4-116/287 Lonsdale St
Wide range of books and gifts!
 - Royal Historical Society of Victoria A & S**
239 A'Beckett St
History books and events!
 - The Little Library A**
Level 2, Cor La Trobe and Swanston Streets
Library and bookshop.
 - World Food Books A**
Rooms 5, Level 6,
The Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St
Specialists in contemporary art publishing.
 - The Wheeler Centre**
176 Little Collins St
Melbourne's home for books, writing and ideas.
- LIBRARIES**
- City Library A & S**
253 Flinders Ln
 - Melbourne Art Library A & S**
Testing Grounds, 438 Queen St
 - Melbourne Athenaeum Library A & S**
188 Collins St
 - narm ngarrgu Library**
Corner of Queen and Therry Streets
 - RMIT University Library A & S**
Level 5 Building 10, RMIT
University, 340 Swanston St
 - State Library Victoria A & S**
328 Swanston St

Festivals Road Trip

A regional Victorian Writers Festival Map

- 1 Melbourne Writers Festival
- 2 Glen Elra Storytelling Festival
- 3 Performing and Visual Arts in Emerald
- 4 Mornington Peninsula Writers Festival
- 5 Phillip Island Festival of Stories
- 6 Coal Creek Literary Festival
- 7 Prom Coast Festival
- 8 Latrobe City Literary Festival
- 9 Shakespeare on the River Festival
- 10 Stories of Influence
- 11 Write Around The Murray
- 12 Writers Readers and Poets' Weekend
- 13 Shepparton Festival
- 14 Bendigo Writers Festival
- 15 Mildura Writers Festival
- 16 Woolly West Fest
- 17 Apollo Bay Word Fest
- 18 Lighthouse Literary Festival
- 19 Queenscliffe Literary Festival
- 20 Portarlington Midwinter Words
- 21 Word for Word National Non-Fiction Festival
- 22 Brimbank Writers & Readers Festival
- 23 Williamstown Literary Festival
- 24 Christmas Hills Writers Festival
- 25 C.J. Dennis Poetry Festival
- 26 Dromkeen Literary Festival
- 27 Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 28 Words in Winter
- 29 Clunes Booktown Festival
- 30 Newstead Short Story Tattoo
- 31 Castlemaine Children's Literature Festival



This map is an initiative of the Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature Office
 Produced by Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature Office
 Design by Michael Owen
 Illustrations and map concept by Marc Martin

Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature (2008) is acknowledgment of the breadth, depth and vibrancy of Victoria's literary culture as highlighted by the state wide excellence of our regional writers' festivals.



*Connecting
Melbourne
as a
City of Literature*







1 Aberystwyth	<i>Wales</i>	14 Dunedin	<i>New Zealand</i>	27 Kozhikode	<i>India</i>	40 Milan	<i>Italy</i>	53 Seattle	<i>United States</i>
2 Abuja	<i>Nigeria</i>	15 Durban	<i>South Africa</i>	28 Kraków	<i>Poland</i>	41 Montevideo	<i>Uruguay</i>	54 Slemani	<i>Iraq</i>
3 Angoulême	<i>France</i>	16 Edinburgh	<i>United Kingdom</i>	29 Kuhmo	<i>Finland</i>	42 Nanjing	<i>China</i>	55 Taif	<i>Saudi Arabia</i>
4 Celje	<i>Slovenia</i>	17 Exeter	<i>United Kingdom</i>	30 Kutaisi	<i>Georgia</i>	43 Norwich	<i>United Kingdom</i>	56 Tangier	<i>Morocco</i>
5 Conakry	<i>Guinea</i>	18 Gdańsk	<i>Poland</i>	31 Lahore	<i>Pakistan</i>	44 Nottingham	<i>United Kingdom</i>	57 Tartu	<i>Estonia</i>
6 Baghdad	<i>Iraq</i>	19 Gothenburg	<i>Sweden</i>	32 Leeuwarden	<i>Netherlands</i>	45 Óbidos	<i>Portugal</i>	58 Tukums	<i>Latvia</i>
7 Barcelona	<i>Spain</i>	20 Granada	<i>Spain</i>	33 Lillehammer	<i>Norway</i>	46 Odesa	<i>Ukraine</i>	59 Utrecht	<i>Netherlands</i>
8 Beirut	<i>Lebanon</i>	21 Heidelberg	<i>Germany</i>	34 Ljubljana	<i>Slovenia</i>	47 Okayama	<i>Japan</i>	60 Vilnius	<i>Lithuania</i>
9 Bremen	<i>Germany</i>	22 Hobart	<i>Australia</i>	35 Lund	<i>Sweden</i>	48 Prague	<i>Czech Republic</i>	61 Wonju	<i>South Korea</i>
10 Bucheon	<i>Korea Republic</i>	23 Iași	<i>Romania</i>	36 Lviv	<i>Ukraine</i>	49 Québec City	<i>Canada</i>	62 Wrocław	<i>Poland</i>
11 Buffalo City	<i>South Africa</i>	24 Iowa City	<i>United States</i>	37 Lyon	<i>France</i>	50 Reykjavík	<i>Iceland</i>		
12 Dublin	<i>Ireland</i>	25 Jakarta	<i>Indonesia</i>	38 Manchester	<i>United Kingdom</i>	51 Rio de Janeiro	<i>Brazil</i>		
13 Dumaquete City	<i>Philippines</i>	26 Kahramanmaraş	<i>Türkiye</i>	39 Melbourne	<i>Australia</i>	52 San Luis Potosi	<i>Mexico</i>		



**VIRTUAL
WRITER
IN RESIDENCE**



HEIDELBERG

Expedition Poetry | Expedition Poesie

a Writers Room

MELBOURNE



The Green House

a writers' room



TODAY

YESTERDAY

TOMORROW





**PARALLEL
PANELS**



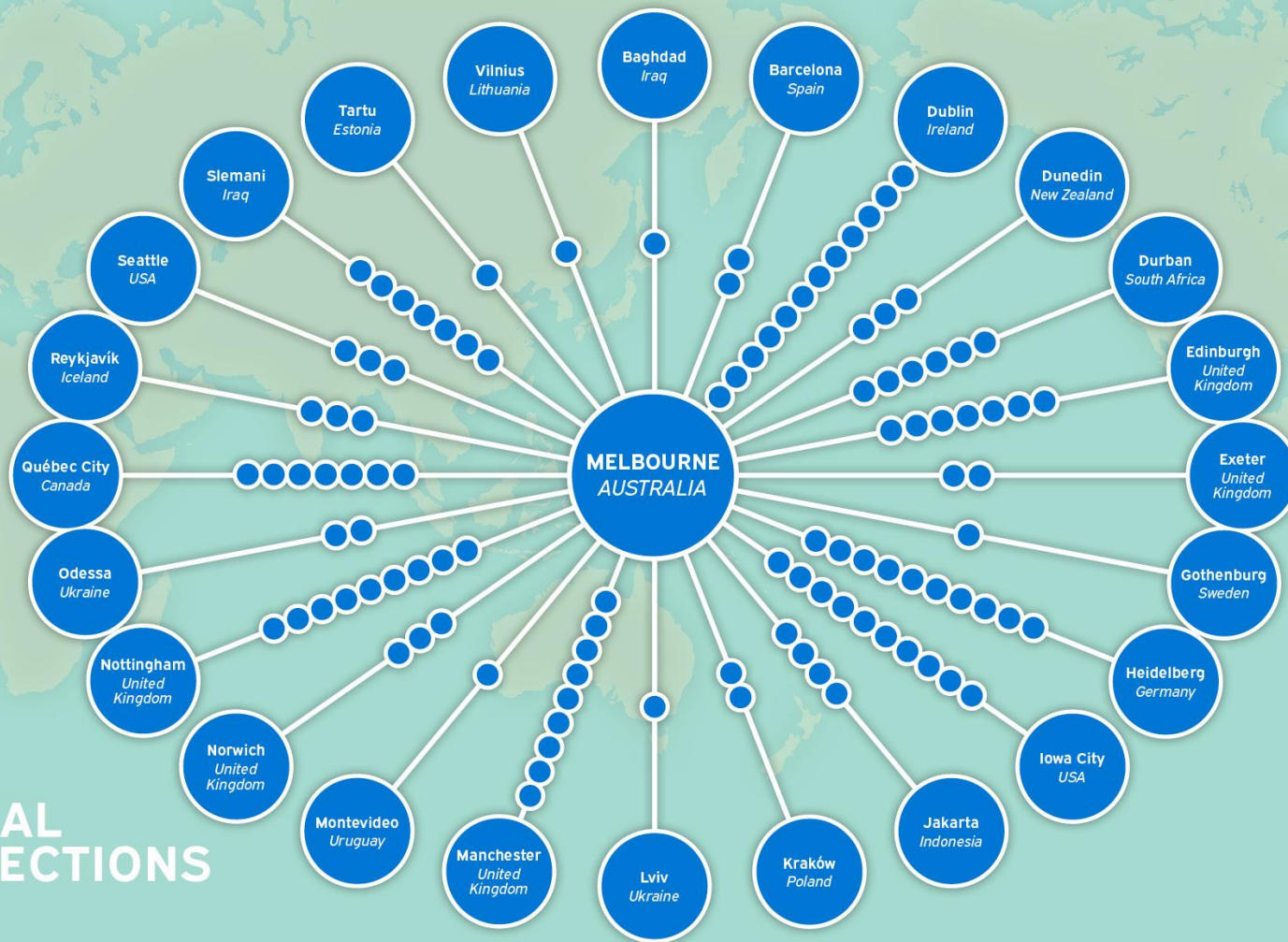
MELBOURNE

THE INKUBATOR

SLEMANI



VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS



226 outgoing connections

156 Incoming connections

384 writers commissioned



"What makes a milieu creative is that it gives the user the sense that they can shape, create and make the place they are in; that they are an active participant rather than a passive consumer, that they are an agent of change"

Charles Landry



David Ryding

Director

Melbourne UNESCO City of
Literature Office

