

Pursuant to the Decision of the Rijeka City Council of 17 April 2013 on presenting the City of Rijeka's candidacy for the European Capital of Culture 2020, the Department of Culture of the City of Rijeka hereby publishes the following

**INVITATION for programme proposals
that will be an integral part of the bid of Rijeka for the European Capital of Culture 2020**

I

Pursuant to the Decision no. 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033, one Croatian and one Irish city will be declared European Capitals of Culture in 2020.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia published an Invitation for the Submission of Applications for the Union Action for the European Capitals of Culture for the year 2020 in the Republic of Croatia, which is opened for Croatian cities until 17 April 2015.

In April 2013, the City of Rijeka adopted the Strategy of Cultural Development of the City of Rijeka for the period from 2013 to 2020, which is in line with the European Union objectives for the same period. One of the strategic cultural development objectives of the City is the candidacy for the title "European Capital of Culture" 2020 – ECOC 2020 (Croatian abbreviation: EPK 2020).

The City of Rijeka – City Administration Department of Culture undertook a series of activities for the preparation of the candidacy, including the drafting of the candidacy concept, which is based on the subjects of **Work, Diversity and Water**, unified under the umbrella subject of **Port**. Rijeka is the largest Croatian port. Historically, the city has had its ups and downs parallel with the ups and downs of its port. The fate of the port defined the fate of the city. Despite economic changes, the port maintained a strong position in the strategy of the city's economic development as the initiator of developmental projects. With its vast area in the very tissue of the city, the port is also strongly perceived in the citizens' daily life. In the context of ECOC project, the subject of "port" is transferred into all spheres of city life in which it plays a crucial role, both symbolic and real. The port is traditionally perceived as a shelter; it's also the location of the trade of goods and international communication. The desired "cargo" which the ships will deliver to the port in 2020 implies the artistic, creative, innovative products which arrive to Rijeka from all over the world, and are shipped from Rijeka to other – ports. In a broad, metaphorical sense we see the port as a place for connecting and creating a "free zone" for artistic experimentation, both in traditional, as in new formats and media. We are living a peer-to-peer digital culture, in which we can be a pirate port, but also a port of start-up risks. While the first option is more democratic, the second is more profitable. However, all forms of cultural activities of the future must be able to coexist in the New Port called Rijeka.

Along with the **Port**, the subjects of **Work, Diversity and Water** create a narrative on the city's particularities, its past, present and future, and present values that are deeply woven into the historical identity of Rijeka, both literally and metaphorically. At the same time, they also reflect the foundations of the European Union: multiculturalism, diversity, respect for otherness, openness to dialogue and cooperation. Regardless of political will and democratic

tradition, these values are naturally not guaranteed forever. On the contrary, precisely due to the real and constant danger of being jeopardised, especially in the circumstances of long-term economic crisis, they should be defended by consideration, evaluation and representation from the artistic and cultural perspective. The said determinants of the **Port, Work, Diversity and Water** should serve not only as a starting point for the story about our city and its bonds with Europe, but also for setting exceptionally important and urgent issues, such as the position and future of work and workers, the issue of work as art and art as work, the concern over water as an endangered resource, the questioning of our and European multiculturalism and interculturalism, etc.

Pursuant to the Rijeka candidacy concept, the following slogan was proposed:

Rijeka 2020. - Luka različitosti/Rijeka 2020 – Port of Diversity

Our next joint task is to create an original and innovative cultural programme that will rely on the proposed concept, with which the City will apply and which will represent the city and the region in 2020.

We want to turn Rijeka into an area in which citizens will have access to an entire range of our reality distinguished both by historical heritage and live modern art/culture, an area characterised by dynamics, openness, critical voice, and in which culture will have a transformative effect – on the consciousness of citizens, social relations, and on the physical area of the city. We want to restore culture and creativity and move them from the margins to the centre of everyday lives, especially the everyday lives of children and the youth. We want the programme of the Rijeka ECOC 2020 project to be innovative, bold, provocative, promotional, offering possibilities for opening mental and spatial horizons.

The City of Rijeka is building its bid together with its surrounding area and the entire region. We believe that Rijeka and its surroundings make an inseparable unit, the productive life of which is reflected in all spheres – geographic and traffic connections, economic development, as well as in social and cultural sphere. Its specific geographic position, the diverse natural environment, and the rich historical heritage are all facets creating a harmonious unit. The wider region of Rijeka includes areas that still nurture traditional forms of non-material culture, which we want to include in the wider cultural landscape. Also, Rijeka and its wider region make a unique combination of natural diversity and contrasts – from the mountain region to its Adriatic shore and Mediterranean climate.

II

The proposed programmes must be new (they may not be previously produced) and they must meet the following objectives, according to which they will be evaluated:

- 1) Be in accordance with the General Objectives of the European Capital of Culture action:

- Promote cultural diversity of Europe, intercultural dialogue and deeper mutual understanding among European citizens
 - Emphasise mutual aspects of European cultures, heritage and history, as well as European integration and current European subjects
 - Increase the citizens' sense that they belong to a joint cultural area
 - Plan the participation of European artists, cooperation with participants or cities abroad, and transnational partnerships
- 2) Be in accordance with the objectives of the City of Rijeka's candidacy for the European Capital of Culture 2020:
- Encourage the networking of creators and persons in charge of the programme in the area of the Primorje – Gorski kotar County and further
 - Encourage audience development and inclusion of the population
 - Activate many potential areas for creativity and culture in the city, especially former industrial areas
 - Create new forms of cooperation between culture and educational institutions, science, tourism, economy, sport, environmental protection, organisations caring for the needs of persons with disabilities and socially endangered persons
 - Emphasise the European dimension of Rijeka's past, present and future
- 3) Have a clear cultural and artistic content which implies:
- **Clear connection with the concept of the candidacy**
 - Clear and harmonious artistic vision and strategy of the cultural programme
 - Involvement of local artists and cultural organisations in the design and implementation of the cultural programme
 - Overall artistic quality
 - Ability of connecting local cultural heritage and traditional artistic forms with new, innovative and experimental cultural expressions and new technologies

III

Programme proposals shall be submitted in free form, where a concept level of development shall be acceptable, but they shall contain the following elements according to which they shall be evaluated:

- 1 Programme title
- 2 Person/persons in charge of the programme
- 3 Link with the concept of the candidacy
- 4 Partners or potential partners in the programme
- 5 Short description and structure of the programme
- 6 Audience development framework (e.g. whether the proposed programme allows the attendance or participation of a large number of citizens and in what way; whether the proposed programme has elements specially intended for the young,

marginalised and vulnerable groups, minorities, persons with disabilities and the elderly; whether the programme has a link to the education and participation of educational institutions, etc.)

- 7 The European dimension of the programme (e.g. how does the programme promote the cultural diversities of Europe and intercultural dialogue; does the programme emphasise the joint aspects of European cultures, heritage and history, as well as European integration and current European subjects; are there plans for cooperation with European artists, participants and cities in various countries or transnational partnership)
- 8 Programme budget estimate

IV

All legal and natural entities, from the field of cultural activities **and all other fields**, from Rijeka, Primorje – Gorski kotar County, Croatia and abroad, have the right to submit applications to the Invitation.

V

The applicants shall submit their programme proposals in PDF format, as an attachment in an e-mail sent exclusively to the address epk2020@rijeka.hr, while the subject will state **"PRIJEDLOG PROGRAMA _RIJEKA EPK 2020"**. Every received programme proposal shall receive an electronic receipt confirmation.

VI

All submitted programme proposals shall be evaluated by the Working group for drafting the programme proposal for Rijeka ECOC 2020 and the Department of Culture, after which further joint elaboration of the adopted programme proposals with the applicants is possible.

The accepted programmes shall be an integral part of the City of Rijeka's bid for the European Capital of Culture 2020 and shall be financed within the Rijeka EPK 2020 programme if the City of Rijeka is voted the European Capital of Culture 2020. The City of Rijeka's bid for the European Capital of Culture 2020 shall be adopted by the Rijeka City Council upon the Mayor's proposal in March 2015.

VII

The deadline for applicants to **submit proposals is 15 January 2015.**

VIII

All additional explanations regarding the Invitation will be provided by telephone: 051 209 226 or e-mail: epk2020@rijeka.hr.

Also, additional materials on the ECOC action and the full text of the candidacy concept can be found on the website www.rijekaepk.eu, under "POZIV ZA PREDLAGANJE PROGRAMA" ("INVITATION FOR PROGRAMME PROPOSAL").