

Press Release

Embargoed

National Centre to Writing to be housed in historic heritage site of Dragon Hall, Norwich

Writers' Centre Norwich is pleased to announce a new development in their plans to evolve into a National Centre for Writing; their intention to take over the lease of the historic Dragon Hall, a Grade 1 listed medieval trading hall in King St, Norwich.

The heritage building has been subject to much improvement in recent years, and is already fitted out with many of the spaces and services that Writers' Centre requires as NCW.

WCN was recently approached by Norwich City Council with the option to take over the lease, and after careful consultation with their board, partners and stakeholders, have decided that this exciting new opportunity is the perfect home for the National Centre for Writing.

Chris Gribble, CEO of WCN says:

"We are delighted with this new opportunity for the Centre to be based in Dragon Hall. This was not an option when we were originally looking at venues, and an opportunity that, after careful consideration, we are delighted to accept. The Hall already offers much of what we need as a National Centre for Writing. It allows us to meet our targets with greater return for the City, reduced financial outlay, and better community and regeneration returns."

Graham Creelman, Chair of Writers' Centre Norwich says:

"We will be really proud custodians of Dragon Hall – and we all feel that a building full of such rich stories is the perfect embodiment of Norwich's UNESCO City of Literature status."

Given these developments, Writers' Centre Norwich is now withdrawing from the Arts Centre England Large Capital Funding Campaign for the NCW at Gladstone House, with the full backing and support of Arts Council England.

"QUOTE from ACE about how delighted and supportive they are..."

Writers' Centre Norwich will move into Dragon Hall in **spring 2015** and evolve into the National Centre for Writing in winter 2016.

In the run-up to the 2016 opening, the organisation will be running a significantly reduced fund-raising campaign in order to develop the south wing as an innovation and education space (for which there is existing planning permission) and to fit out the building for the NCW.

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