

11 December 2015

MEDIA STATEMENT

Immediate release

WCN welcomes Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature

Writers' Centre Norwich (WCN), who led the successful bid for Norwich to become England's first UNESCO City of Literature in 2012, welcomes the news that Nottingham has become a world City of Literature.

As a literary organisation which works closely with other cultural partners to deliver programmes on a regional, national and international scale, it is hoped that this will offer new and exciting opportunities for collaboration and engagement across the cities network.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive of Writers' Centre Norwich and leader of the Norwich UNESCO City of Literature programme said:

"We're delighted to welcome all of the new cities to the network, and Nottingham above all as we have supported their bid from its early days.

"The network offers cities the chance to undertake cross-cultural and international working, increase their profile, improve engagement and support economic development and we will look forward to developing partnerships with Nottingham and the other new Cities of Literature over the coming months and years."

An ongoing part of Norwich's UNESCO City of Literature programme involves the campaign for a National Centre for Writing based at Writers' Centre Norwich Dragon Hall; a specialist space for teaching, learning, writing, celebration engagement and innovation.

/ENDS

Editor's Notes

1. **Writers' Centre Norwich** is a literature development organisation based in England's first UNESCO City of Literature, Norwich. We are interested in both the artistic and social impact of creative writing, and work with writers, readers and diverse communities on a wide range of ongoing and one-off projects and events. Writers' Centre Norwich moved into Dragon Hall, a medieval merchant's hall, in

April 2015. The building will open as a specialist venue for literature – the National Centre for Writing
- in 2017. www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk