

Norwich charity nominated for national corporate philanthropy award

The National Centre for Writing based in Dragon Hall, King Street, has been nominated with corporate partners WREN and FCC Environment for the Achatés Philanthropy Prize which recognises trailblazing cultural philanthropists.

In May this year, the National Centre for Writing opened in Norwich following a successful £2 million capital campaign. This included generous support from WREN and FCC Environment at a critical moment in the campaign. Together the three organisations have been nominated for the prize which seeks to raise the profile of philanthropy in the arts.

Chris Gribble, CEO of the National Centre for Writing, said:

“We are absolutely delighted to be shortlisted for the Achatés Philanthropy Prize in the corporate category. WREN and FCC Environment’s support helped us make Dragon Hall more accessible, more flexible and better suited to deliver our community and education aims. Their backing was the cherry on the top of the cake of the amazing support for our campaign from numerous trusts and foundations, to whom we are very grateful.”

Caroline McCormick, Achatés Philanthropy Prize Founder said:

“As the effects of austerity deepen, the need for fundraising has come to the fore. This year’s shortlist offers a powerful portrait of an emerging generation of cultural philanthropists and the far reaching impact of these new partnerships for arts organisations across the country – from Leeds to Devon, Norfolk to Cardiff.”

Paul Taylor, Chief Executive of the FCC Environment Group said:

“We are thrilled to be shortlisted for the 2018 Corporate Achates Philanthropy Prize. It’s a great honour to be associated with Achates Philanthropy Foundation and of course the National Centre for Writing, who had the vision and spirit to create such an amazing resource. This has been a fantastic opportunity for our business and we were keen to help the National Centre for Writing in their desire to establish a world-class centre for writing and literature from the outset. We hope that we have helped them to create opportunities for young people across the country as well as building strong links with local schools and communities.”

The National Centre for Writing (NCW) is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, literary translators and readers, based in the restored and extended 15th century Dragon Hall in the heart of Norwich, England’s first UNESCO City of Literature. NCW is particularly grateful to all the local trusts and foundations who got behind the campaign. Their support is a fantastic example of the power of philanthropic giving. A total of £98,500 was donated by: Geoffrey Watling Charity, the Norwich Freeman’s Charity, the Limbourne Trust, The Educational Foundation of Alderman John Norman, the Mr and Mrs Philip Rackham Charitable Trust, the Timothy Colman Charitable Trust, the John and Pamela Salter Charitable Trust, the RC Snelling Trust and the Brigadier DV and Mrs HR Phelps Charitable Settlement.

Through its year-round programme of events, festivals and courses NCW reaches over 15,000 people a year, with an additional 110,000 people engaged online. Through its learning and participation programme it aims to support 20,000 young people each year. Patrons include Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Kei Miller and Elif Shafak.

Now in its third year, the Achates Prize fund for the Corporate Award is £5000. If NCW were to win the money would be invested in developing their Individual Giving and Membership Schemes to help ensure the organisation’s resilience.

The winners of the Achates Philanthropy Prize will be announced by the eminent cultural philanthropist and founder of Fairlight Arts Trust, Sarah Kowitz DL at a special prize ceremony at The Roundhouse on Tuesday 23 October.

Notes to Editors:

1. For comment and interviews contact Alice Kent, Communications Director at alice@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk / 01603 877177

2. The National Centre for Writing (NCW) is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, literary translators and readers. Based in the restored and extended 15th century Dragon Hall in the heart of England's first UNESCO City of Literature, it explores how writing can inspire and change the world we live in. Its year round programme of events, festivals and courses reaches over 14,000 people a year with an additional 110,000 engaged online. Through its learning and participation programme it supports 20,000 young people a year and has a commitment to working with those in the most disadvantaged areas. NCW's patrons include Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Kei Miller and Elif Shafak.
www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk
3. The Achates Philanthropy Prize is a project of the Achates Philanthropy Foundation, which was created in 2016 to support innovation in the cultural sector and to support the development of models enabling organisational resilience.
4. The 2018 Achates Philanthropy Prize is sponsored by Achates Philanthropy Ltd. With Award sponsors BOP Consulting and Spektrix in partnership with the Roundhouse and with thanks to StudioF.