

The First Chapter

YEAR ONE
OF THE

NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR WRITING

2018
2019

The Patrons of the National Centre for Writing are:

Margaret Atwood
John Boyne
J.M. Coetzee
Anthony Horowitz OBE
Jon McGregor
Kei Miller
Sarah Perry
Elif Shafak
Ali Smith CBE
Rose Tremain CBE

42
We've provided intensive professional development to 42 early career writers and translators

498
We've paid 498 writers for original commissions and event appearances during our first chapter

57,040
We've welcomed 57,040 audience members and participants across our local, national and international programmes

667
667 aspiring writers have taken part in our programme of workshops online and at Dragon Hall

£2.02m
We raised £2.02million to create a National Centre for Writing in Norwich

4,440
We've worked with 4,440 children and young people from across Norfolk and Suffolk as part of our Learning & Participation programme

£1.6m
We estimate our spend on goods and services in the Norwich and Norfolk area to be £1.6million during our first chapter

During our first chapter we have welcomed writers, translators and cultural partners from 32 countries to the National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall, Norwich.

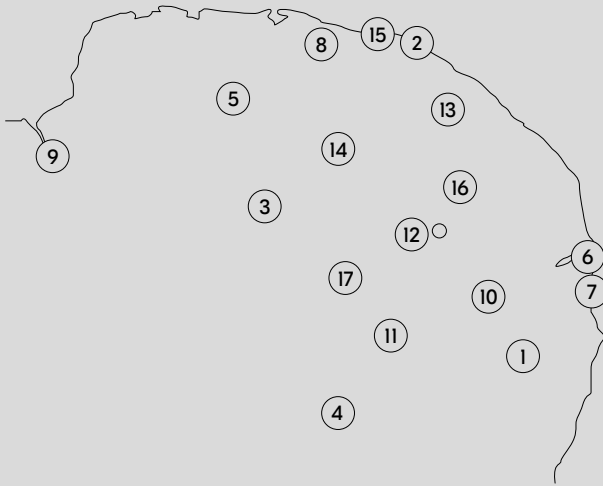
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| America | India |
| Australia | Indonesia |
| Belgium | Iran |
| Bulgaria | Ireland |
| Canada | Japan |
| Czech Republic | Korea |
| Estonia | The Netherlands |
| Germany | New Zealand |
| Hungary | Norway |
| Iceland | Poland |
| Italy | Portugal |

- | |
|--------------|
| Russia |
| Serbia |
| Singapore |
| Slovenia |
| South Africa |
| Spain |
| Turkey |
| Ukraine |
| Uruguay |
| Zimbabwe |



During our first chapter as part of our Learning & Participation programme we have engaged with pupils across Norfolk and Suffolk, including in the following locations:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Beccles | 10 Loddon |
| 2 Cromer | 11 Long Stratton |
| 3 Dereham | 12 Norwich |
| 4 Diss | 13 North Walsham |
| 5 Fakenham | 14 Reepham |
| 6 Great Yarmouth | 15 Sheringham |
| 7 Gorleston-on-Sea | 16 Wroxham |
| 8 Holt | 17 Wymondham |
| 9 King's Lynn | |



Sharing stories has
never been more crucial

We are delighted to be able to celebrate and share with you the highlights of our first chapter as the National Centre for Writing. Norwich has been a literary city for over 900 years: a place of words and ideas – a city of stories – that has welcomed the world and in turn helped change it for the better. At a time when global horizons seem to be shrinking and human rights are under increasing threat, we believe that sharing stories, helping stories travel, and supporting writers and translators has never been more critical. At home in the wonderfully restored and extended Dragon Hall, but alive online and across the globe through our many partnerships, we are committed to exploring how the written word can inspire, challenge and change the world we live in. Thank you for your support and help as we push the boundaries of writing and literary translation.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive,
National Centre for Writing

“It will be Hermes presiding over Dragon Hall. The opener of doors, the God of travel and exchanges of all kinds.”

— Margaret Atwood



NCW Patron Margaret Atwood
tours Dragon Hall during the
construction our new south wing.
C. Thom Law





01

- 01. Guests at NCW, Dragon Hall.
C. Hannah Hutchins
- 02. NCW Patron Elif Shafak launches
our International Literature
Showcase programme at
London Book Fair. *C. Simon Jones*
- 03. *Kumkum Malhotra* by Preti
Taneja is brought to life by Story
Machine Productions, an NCW
commission. *C. Thom Law*
- 04. Capacity audience for our
London Book Fair event with
Elif Shafak. *C. Simon Jones*

03



Writers, Translators & Readers



02



04



During our first
chapter we...

“Our first chapter is a love story between the National Centre for Writing and you: a write-our-own-adventure, a space opera limited only by our collective imaginations.”

— Peggy Hughes, Programme Director, at the launch of the National Centre for Writing

57,040

Welcomed 57,040 audience members and participants across our local, national and international programmes

42

Provided intensive professional development to 42 early career writers and translators

Welcomed writers and translators from 32 countries to Dragon Hall

32

Held over 100 free events at Dragon Hall

100

87

Spent £57,140 on new commissions from 87 writers

9,000

Livestreamed highlight events to a total audience of over 9,000

Welcomed 411 writers for paid festival and event appearances

411

Provided free writers' resources — including the weekly Writing Life podcast — which have been accessed 101,153 times

101,153

Our first chapter is a story of ambitious artistic programming, creating opportunities for writers and literary translators, and supporting a diverse and vibrant literary ecology...

- 01. Writer Panashe Chigumadzi speaking during Worlds 2018. *C. Steph McKenna*
- 02. Kirsty Lang interviews Chris Gribble for BBC Radio 4's *Front Row* as the National Centre for Writing opens. *C. Alice Kent*
- 03. Ali Smith CBE during the opening week celebrations. *C. Steph McKenna*

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Worlds Symposium

Writers and translators from ten countries gather at Dragon Hall to discuss the future of writing as the National Centre for Writing (NCW) opens its doors for the first time. Original commissions from writers including Max Porter, Vahni Capildeo and Panashe Chigumadzi respond to Orwell's 1946 essay 'Why I Write'. The week culminates with a public celebration of the launch of NCW with Patron Ali Smith CBE.

International Literature Showcase

A partnership between NCW, British Council and Arts Council England continues at London Book Fair with a view to exporting outstanding UK writers to international markets. As part of the programme Elif Shafak selects ten extraordinary women writers, followed by Val McDermid’s ten LGBTQI+ writers at Edinburgh in August, and Jackie Kay’s ten BAME writers at the Cheltenham and Manchester Literature Festivals. The showcases are livestreamed to a total audience of over 9,000.

Inn Crowd

NCW supports 33 writers to bring 150 live literature events to rural pubs as part of a Strategic Touring Programme with Creative Arts East and Applause Rural Touring, with the support of Arts Council England. Over 5,000 people enjoy new writing in non-traditional venues.

City Of Literature at Norfolk & Norwich Festival

Audiences enjoy a vibrant programme of events within the City of Literature strand of Norfolk & Norwich Festival, programmed by NCW. Highlights from our first chapter include Sarah Perry’s Harriet Martineau Lecture which brought a full-to-capacity Spiegeltent audience to its feet; and a series of events which question the state of contemporary Britain with Priyamvada Gopal on empire, James Meek on Brexit and Nicholas Jubber exploring the myths that made Europe.

01



- 01. Inn Crowd performer Jemima Foxtrot, ‘Kiss Me, Help! I Hate you’.
- 02. Hannah Jane Walker is one of NCW’s first Associate Artists. During her associateship she works with her director in the Dragon Hall residency cottage to devise a new show, *Highly Sensitive*, which premieres at City of Literature 2019. C. Alexandra Cameron

02



“I felt supported, trusted and acknowledged. Being an NCW Associate Artist was a great opportunity to take a risk with a new piece of work while having a safety net.” — Hannah Jane Walker



“The National Centre for Writing has built a unique and vital support system with the Emerging Translator Mentorship programme, and it’s truly heartening to witness and become part of the NCW’s continued efforts to nourish early-career translators and champion voices from outside the Anglophone world.” — Yan Chen, 2019 Emerging Translator mentee



Common People: An Anthology of Working-Class Writers

We support two of sixteen emerging writers from across the country who self-identify as working class, providing them with mentoring and professional development opportunities. The project culminates in the launch of a new anthology of work.

The Sebald Lecture

Emily Wilson delivers the annual Sebald Lecture. A capacity audience at the British Library listens to her talk entitled ‘Translating the Odyssey’. The Sebald Lecture is named after W G Sebald who founded the British Centre for Literary Translation. The annual lecture is presented by BCLT in partnership with NCW.

Publishing Partners

Through East Out (a programme supported by ACE’s Ambition for Excellence Fund which promotes East Anglian-based writers and publishers), NCW works with Norwich-based Galley Beggar Press and Salt Publishing, based in Cromer. NCW funds the promotional activity for Galley Beggar’s *Ducks, Newburyport* by Lucy Ellmann, which is shortlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize.

Writing Places

A three-year literary exchange between Norwich and Kolkata culminates in the launch of two new anthologies of work. NCW took writers, translators and photographers to the Kolkata Literary Meet and invited writers and photographers from Kolkata to document a visit to Norwich. The exchange was a partnership with UEA supported by British Council and Arts Council England’s ReImagine India Fund.



Photographer and curator Parni Ray and writer Samit Basu tour the Norfolk Broads as part of the Writing Places exchange with Kolkata. C. Sarah Hickson



“It can be enormously helpful to emerging writers to know that self-doubt and battling with your inner demons is a normal part of the writing process and can be overcome. So much good has come from this opportunity and it continues to be a positive force, not only encouraging and validating me as a writer but also by scaffolding my writing progress. It came at a time when I needed it most and I couldn't be more thankful.”

— Eva Verde, Common People project selected writer

Emerging Writers and Translators

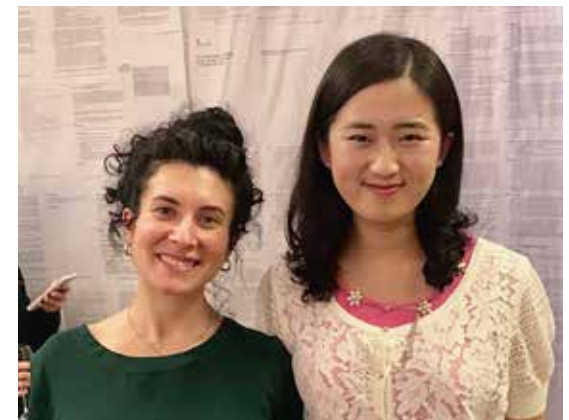
Through our Escalator and Emerging Translator Mentorship Programme we work extensively with 42 early career professionals; creating packages of tailored support including mentoring, industry showcases, London Book Fair attendance and the creation of new anthologies of work.

Meet the World

A new programme of activity brings 32 writers from 13 countries to Dragon Hall to explore the place of writing, translation and reading in an international context. Dragon Hall was built in the 1400s as a trading complex and through NCW the building is once again an international centre for cultural exchange. Audiences are able to enjoy events including Korean Writing Today, the European Writers' Tour, New Dutch Writing and Japan Now.



Yan Chen and Elena Pala, two of the winners of the NCW Emerging Translator Mentorships Programme. C. Sarah Bower





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- 01. Holly Bourne, Yann W. Tanoé and Mariam Khan at the Handover Festival.
C. Taryn Everdeen
- 02. Children's City of Literature anthology launch.
C. Thom Law
- 03. Common Ground Project with Norfolk Wildlife Trust at Coltishall Primary School.
C. Anita Staff
- 04. Common Ground Project at Coltishall Primary School.
C. Anita Staff



03

Children, Young People & Communities



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During our first
chapter we...

“It is harder to see the long-term benefits of nurturing
creativity in an Excel spreadsheet. Because it grows in
the soul: of a child, a person, a community, a country.”

— Max Porter, speaking during the NCW launch week

10

Worked with 10 care home residents
as part of our Poems in Homes project
in partnership with Age UK

467

Delivered workshops and
courses to 467 aspiring writers

Worked in a sustained and
in-depth way with 23 schools
across Norwich and Norfolk

23

Had 200 participants on
our Creative Writing Online
programmes

200

30

Worked with 30 young people aged 15 – 17
as part of our UNESCO City of Literature
Young Ambassador & Engage! programmes

16

Worked with 16 people in addiction
recovery as part of free writing
workshops with the Matthew Project

Delivered fully-funded
(free to the school)
workshops to 21 schools

21

Welcomed 4,440 children
and young people to our
events in our first year as NCW

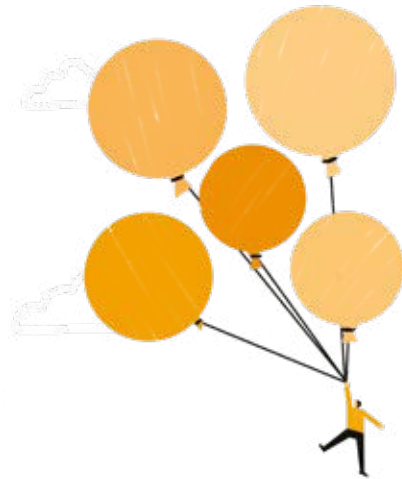
4,440

Our first chapter is one in which we've explored more deeply and with more people the ways in which reading and writing can impact lives and communities for the better...



Neverending Stories

Aimed at the parents and carers of 0-5 year olds, Neverending Stories is funded by Anguish's Educational Foundation to provide free storytelling workshops and colourful take home packs for all participants. Sessions have been held at libraries and with parent community groups across the county.



←
Original illustrations
by Studio Anark for the
Neverending Stories
free family pack.

↓
Launch of the Children's
City of Literature
anthology. *C. Thom Law*

The Children's City Of Literature

Thirty-eight pupils from five Norwich schools (Avenue Junior School, Catton Grove Primary School, Norwich Lower School, Sprowston Junior School and St William's Primary School) take part in the Children's City of Literature programme. Over ten weeks the pupils work in groups with a writing mentor to create their own story. They are taught about editing and proofreading and see their work published as an anthology of stories.



“Engage! has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have learnt so much about the different careers involved in the arts and it has really helped to broaden my horizons. Best of all Engage! has shown what young people can do and the positive impact we can have in our community.

One of the highlights of the festival for me was interviewing one of the speakers. I was very nervous but it was such a rewarding experience. I feel like the whole experience has really helped me to become more confident in myself.” — Amelia Platt, Young Arts Professional at Handover Festival

Engage!

Fifteen pupils from ten schools across Norfolk programme, promote and deliver a literature festival in a day (as part of Norfolk & Norwich Festival). The Handover Festival of Writing & Social Activism follows a nine-month project in which the young producers gain first-hand experience of the creative industries, including a study visit to Kraków, UNESCO City of Literature.

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01. Amelia Platt with writer John Dennehy.
C. Taryn Everdeen

02. Young Arts Professional at Handover Festival.
C. Taryn Everdeen



“I was a bit aimless before Creative Leaders and didn’t know how to pursue a career in teaching creative writing. The programme gave me what I was missing — hands on, practical experience in the classroom. With the responsibilities handed to me my confidence and desire to teach grew.” – Khal, Creative Leader 2018-19

01. Winners of the Young Norfolk Writing Competition: Will Forder, Otis Headon, Mia Sharrock, Colette Maxwell-Preston, Taryn Everdeen.
C. Thom Law
02. Writer and activist Mariam Khan at the Handover Festival.
C. Taryn Everdeen

“It was so lovely for our students to explore writing in a different way. I had comments such as ‘I loved that’ from students who sometimes struggle with the classroom environment.”

– Clare Barratt, Hethersett High School, following a workshop at Dragon Hall



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Creative Leaders

Each year up to 20 people aged between 18 – 25 take part in Creative Leaders, our professional development scheme for those in full or part-time education interested in a career in arts education.

Poems in Homes

Ten care home residents in three homes work with young writers to share poetry together. Led by NCW in partnership with Age UK. Photos from Norwich in the 1960s provide talking points between the generations on what has changed in the city, which leads to the sharing of poems about Norfolk.



02



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- 01. NCW during the annual
Norwich Crime Writing
Festival. *C. Matyas Paul*
- 02. Guests from the 28 UNESCO
Cities of Literature present
the Norfolk & Norwich
Millennium Library with a
collection of international
children's books.
C. Hannah Hutchins
- 03. Our free walking
book features original
commissions from ten
Norwich writers and receives
coverage in the *Guardian*, *The
Telegraph* and on Radio 4's
Open Book. *C. Róisín Batty*
- 04. Sarah Perry is interviewed
during the NCW launch
week. *C. Thom Law*



03

Norwich, UNESCO City of Literature Live, Work & Visit

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04



During our first chapter...

We hosted delegates from 28 cities representing five continents for the global gathering of the UNESCO Cities Of Literature

28

3,800

3,800 copies of the *Walking Norwich* free guide, featuring original pieces by ten writers, were distributed from bookshops across the city

£1.6m

We estimate our spend on goods and services in the Norwich and Norfolk area to be £1.6million

45% of Noirwich Crime Writing Festival attendees came from outside of the region

45%

Visitors have spent an estimated £400,000 in Norwich since the Noirwich Crime Writing Festival launched

£400k

5,545

5,545 people have attended the Noirwich Crime Writing Festival since its inception

Our first chapter is the story of Norwich, England's first UNESCO City of Literature. A home for excellence, exchange and innovation...

“A fantastic opportunity to showcase England's amazing literary prowess on the international stage. We're very pleased to have Norwich and Nottingham jointly hosting this gathering, putting them at the forefront of global literary activity.” – Darren Henley OBE , Chief Executive, Arts Council England

Nottwich

Norwich and Nottingham work together to deliver a week-long cultural programme for the global gathering of the 28 UNESCO Cities of Literature – the first time it has taken place in England. Representatives from five continents visit Norwich Playhouse, the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery and present children's picture books from around the world to the Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library.

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01. Poet Piers Harrison-Reid reads his poem 'What is a Norwich?' Commissioned by Norwich City of Stories.
C. Hannah Hutchins
02. Nottwich branding designed by Evie Borthwick-Clarke, a graphic communication student at Norwich University of the Arts.
C. Hannah Hutchins



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Writers' and Translators' Residency Cottage, Dragon Hall

Writers and translators from Belgium, Bulgaria, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea and Singapore have spent time in the Dragon Hall UNESCO City of Literature residency cottage since NCW opened. From weekend to three-month stays, our guests deliver free workshops in libraries and schools, hold public readings, write about our city and spread the word internationally that Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature and the City of Stories.

Talking Statues

Stephen Fry and Olivia Colman 'voice' Lord Nelson and Julian of Norwich respectively as Talking Statues take to our streets. Over 10,000 people listen to the talking statues during the project, hearing monologues crafted by writers with a deep affinity for the city including Sarah Perry, Molly Naylor and Luke Wright. An associated programme of free writing workshops takes place and a public competition sees two residents have their words recorded and available to listen to at the statues. A partnership led by Creative Nation with the support of Arts Council England.

Walking Norwich: The Real and Imagined City

3,800 copies of *Walking Norwich* are available for free from independent bookshops across the city. Featuring ten original commissions from writers born or drawn to the city, the booklet encourages visitors and residents to explore what a City of Literature means to them.

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01. Indonesian travel writer Agustinus Wibowo is interviewed for BBC Look East about Norwich as a tourist destination during his stay as a Writer in Residence. C. Alice Kent
02. Talking Statues. C. Creative Nation

Noirwich Crime Writing Festival

Forty-five per cent of visitors to Noirwich come from outside of the region. Now in its sixth year, the Festival – a partnership between NCW and UEA – attracts the biggest names in crime writing. In recent years it has hosted Val McDermid, Lee Child, Ian Rankin and many more. Through our Partners in Crime network businesses across the city get involved in the fun with themed food and drink offers for visitors. This year courtesy of Norwich-based Ghost Vodka and Suffolk-based Big Tom Tomato Juice, guests are able to enjoy the perfect Bloody Mary on the Dragon Hall lawn. With the support of the Norwich Business Improvement District.

In 2018 Noirwich won the UEA Innovation & Impact Award for Outstanding Social or Cultural impact.

- 01. Professor Henry Sutton launches *Postmortem*, an anthology of work by MA Crime Writing students, during Noirwich. C. Hannah Hutchins
- 02. Commercial partners Big Tom Tomato Juice and Ghost Vodka sponsor the Bloody Brunch. C. Matyas Paul
- 03. Drinks reception prior to George Alagiah's Noirwich Lecture. C. Hannah Hutchins
- 04. Season passes attract cultural tourists to the city. C. Matyas Paul



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- 01. Dragon Hall shadow.
- 02. During our Wedding
Open House. *C. Róisín Batty*
- 03. NCW Reception.
C. Thom Law
- 04. Livestream of our event
with Val McDermid at
the National Library of
Scotland. *C. Chris Scott*



03

Operations & Sustainability



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During our
first chapter...

We raised £2.02million
to create a National
Centre for Writing
in Norwich

£2.02m

50

We've hosted over 50 commercial
hires and weddings at Dragon Hall
during our first year

We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment by reducing our carbon footprint. During our first chapter we have established benchmark figures against energy, water, waste, recycling, composting, and travel. We will continue to work with suppliers to minimise the impact of our operations on the environment.

Each year we need to raise
£12,000 to carry out essential
maintenance and upkeep on
Dragon Hall's fabric

£12k

Our first chapter is one of planning for long-term sustainability to meet the needs of our audiences and communities, and the preservation of Dragon Hall for generations to come.

↓
Dragon Hall dressed
for a wedding.
C. Róisín Batty

“Dragon Hall was the perfect space to host our wedding reception. Celebrating in one of Norwich’s most historic venues was a real treat and made the day even more memorable.”

— Mr & Mrs Markham-Uden

Commercial hire at Dragon Hall

Our refurbishment of Dragon Hall included the addition of a new wheelchair accessible lift and the replacement of an old lift to all levels, disabled access toilets on all floors and a hearing loop in the Great Hall and The Norwich Freeman’s Charity Education Space. We’re proud to promote Dragon Hall and its surrounding campus as a unique venue for hire in the heart of the city.

Weddings at Dragon Hall

Following our capital project and renovation work Dragon Hall is once again the ideal setting for ceremonies and wedding breakfasts.



“We are delighted to have been able to support the long-term vision to create a National Centre for Writing. It is great for our business to be involved in the transformation of the 15th-century Dragon Hall, which is an incredible building.” — Steve Longdon, FCC Environment Regional Director

The Groundwork



During the capital campaign we raised £2.02million to create the National Centre for Writing in Norwich. The creation of our new south wing and the revamp of Dragon Hall – including improved disabled access – was delivered on time and to budget.

01 / 02 / 03 / 04 / 05 / 06
Construction of the new south wing and refurbishment of Dragon Hall. C. Simon Jones

07. Steve Longdon, FCC Environment Regional Director tours the Dragon Hall South Wing construction site with CEO Chris Gribble. C. Thom Law



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We gratefully acknowledge the support of our generous capital supporters:



Founding Partners

Arts Council England
Norwich City Council
University of East Anglia
Norfolk County Council

Major Partners

The Foyle Foundation
The Norwich Freeman’s Charity
New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Garfield Weston Foundation
FCC Communities Foundation

Partners

The Fidelity UK Foundation
The Geoffrey Watling Charity
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
The Wolfson Foundation

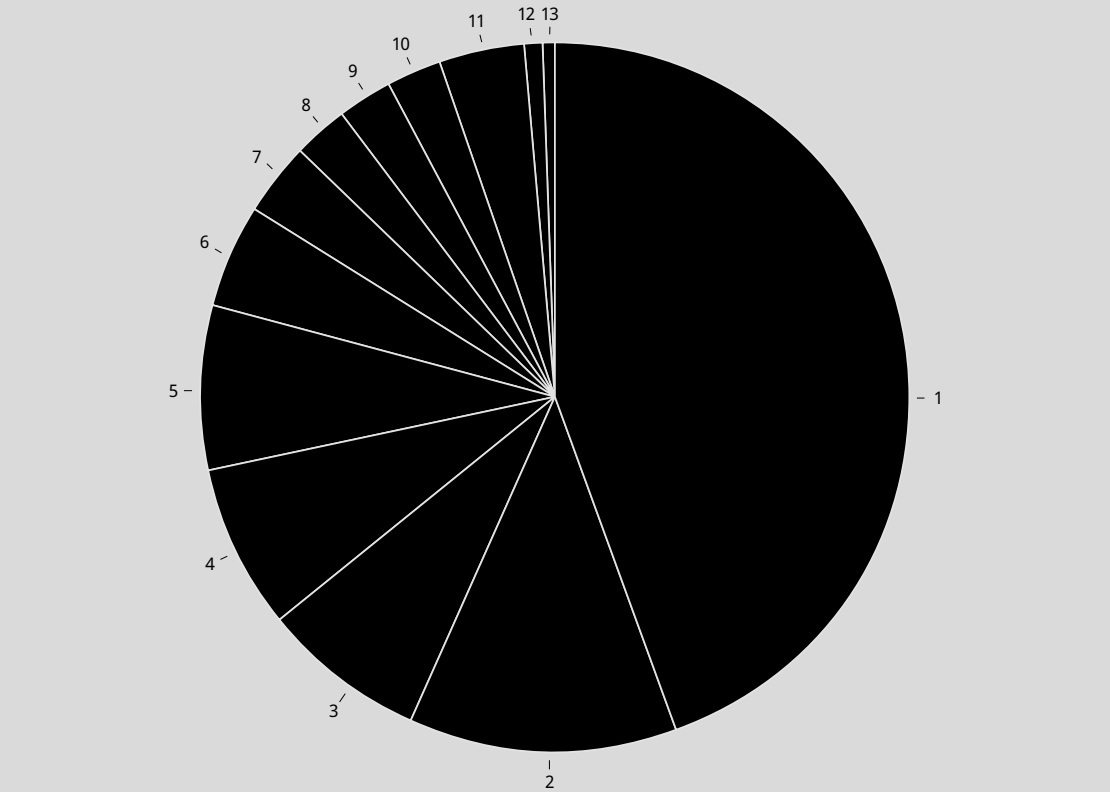
Supporters

The Paul Bassham Charitable Trust
The Timothy Colman Charitable Trust
The Charles Littlewood Hill Charitable Trust
The John Jarrold Trust
The Limbourne Trust
The Educational Foundation of Alderman John Norman
Brigadier DV and Mrs HR Phelps Charitable Settlement
Philip and Elizabeth Rackham Charitable Trust
The John and Pamela Salter Charitable Trust
The RC Snelling Charitable Trust

Individuals

Graham Creelman OBE
David Gilbert
Chris Gribble
Caroline McCormick and Bill Swainson
Jane and David Steward
Helen Wilson

Project Funding



Thirty-one separate organisations helped us raise over £2million in funding our capital project.

1	Arts Council England	£900k
2	FCC Communities Foundation	£250k
3	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership	£150k+
4	The Foyle Foundation	£150k+
5	Garfield Weston Foundation	£150k+
6	The Norwich Freeman’s Charity	£100k+
7	The Fidelity UK Foundation	£50k - £100k
8	The Geoffrey Watling Foundation	£50k - £100k
9	The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation	£50k -£100k
10	The Wolfson Foundation	£50k - £100k
11	Other Trust Funds and Foundations	Total £78k
12	Other Statutory Funds	Total £15k
13	Individual Donations	Total £9.6k

Financial Overview

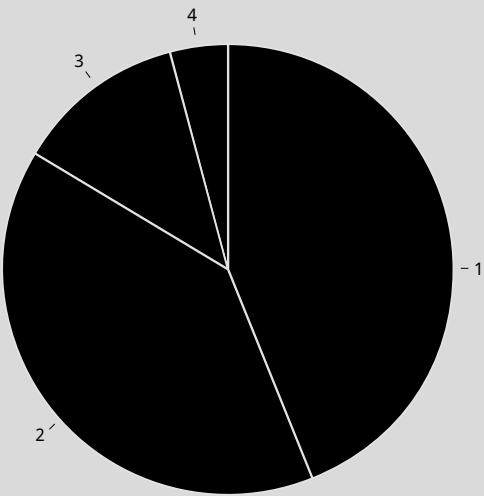
This year has been a year of achievement and change. In June 2018 we completed the capital project and relaunched as the National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall as well as delivering a large-scale programme of work locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

The analysis of income shows that for the year we generated 44% of our income from our core stakeholders (Arts Council England, University of East Anglia, Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council). Raised funds include trust and partnership income, other strategic funds and foundations, and partnership income in support of our wide-ranging programme. Earned income includes fundraising, ticket sales, course fees, and trading activities.

39% of our expenditure is artist, audience and communications costs. To support the programme and to run the building we also incurred staff and overhead costs of 45% and building and administrative costs of 14%.

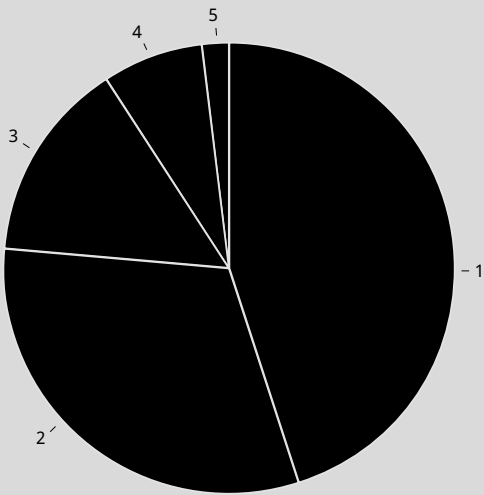
As a not-for-profit organisation, NCW ensures that its funds are used to support over 40 varied programmes in support of our charitable purpose.

Income



1	Core Stakeholder Funds	44%
2	Raised Funds	40%
3	Earned Income	12%
4	Other	4%

Expenditure



1	Staff & Overhead Costs	45%
2	Artists & Production Costs	32%
3	Building & Administration Costs	14%
4	Audience & Communications	7%
5	Other Costs	2%

Dragon Hall Renovation

Here

And so they built it here
this city of incomers and refugees
where Boudicca's chariot
first asserted her cause of public liberty.

They built it here because
our rivers run with ink,
enduring love and dark materials.

This place of language, pubs and churches
of ballads, plays and verses
where Dame Julian dared to conjure God as Mother.

Here where they threw wide the library doors
and said these shelves, these books, these words are yours.

Here where we *du diffrunt*, gob and lip
the job lot of us struck off the papal list.

Here where the Wensum meets the Yare
looking east to Europe.

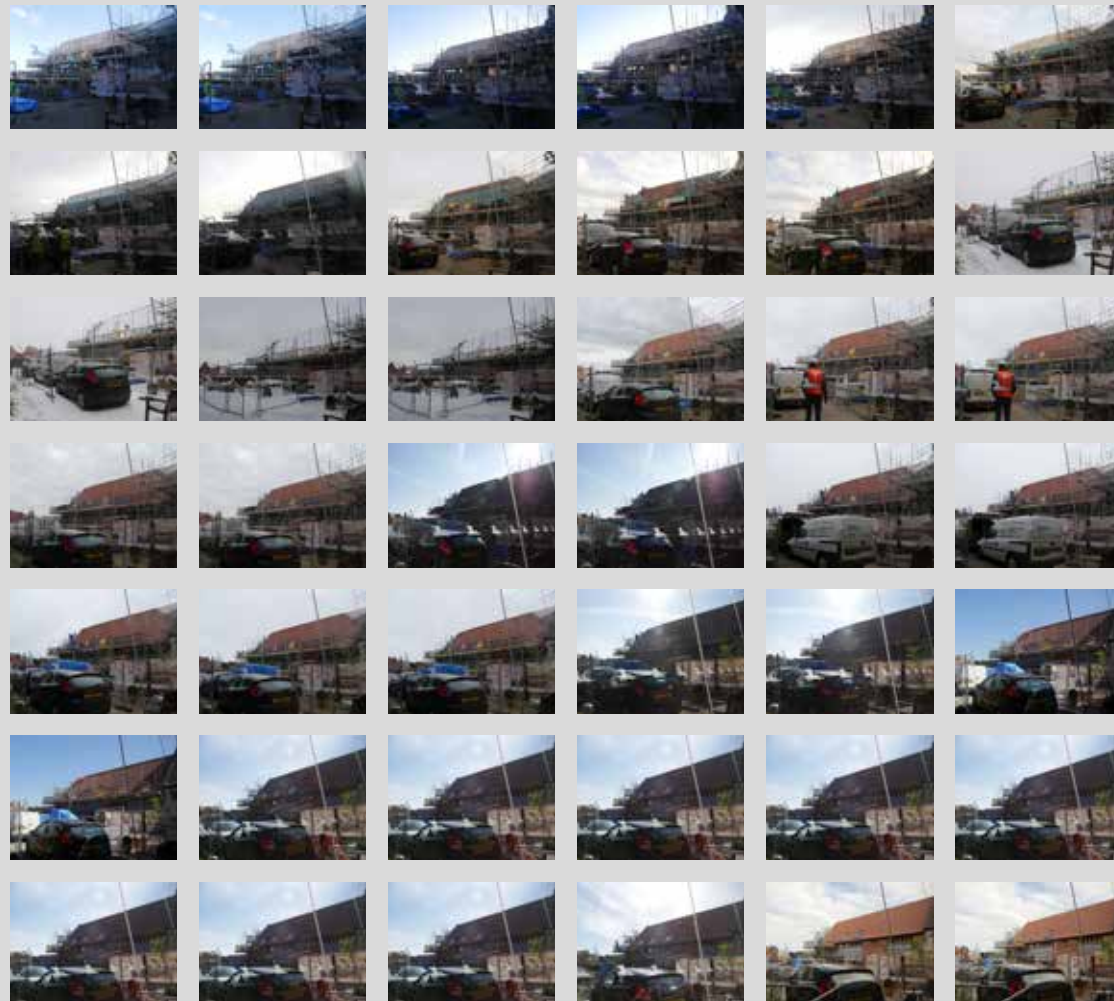
Here where we fight for what is fair
the rights of man and woman.

Here the home of Hansard
and the first local rag
where hacks first dispatched in ink
the savagery of battle.

Here the home of Martineau,
of Bale, Borrow, Fry and Sewell
a plus ton of languages
darned with dialect
and printed on the page.
A thousand years of love and genius and rage
dispatched from this place
to change the world beyond.
And so they built it here.

Started
10.10.2017

Completed
18.06.2018



By Luke Wright.
A poem to mark the opening of the
National Centre for Writing, June 2018.



01

- 01. An audience at Norwich Playhouse. *C. Martin Figura*
- 02. Audience member at one of our City of Literature events as part of Norfolk & Norwich Festival. *C. Joanna Millington*
- 03. Poet Ahmed Ali. *C. Martin Figura*
- 04. One of our Young Ambassadors at Dragon Hall. *C. Joanna Millington*



03

The next chapter...



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It has been an incredible year and we're excited about the next chapter and new ventures to come. During our second year we'll lead on a suite of new high-impact projects and further local, national and international collaborations.



←
Pupil at Avenue Junior
School. C. Dave Guttridge

NCW Early Career Awards

The Desmond Elliott Prize will be the flagship in a portfolio of Early Career Awards for new writers. ECAs represent a different model for literary prizes, combining funds from private trusts and foundations with statutory funding, and broadening out support for emerging writers across the year.



Collaboration: Place: Change

We will lead a new Transforming Leadership Project as a partnership with the New Anglia LEP Culture Board, with ACE support. Over 30 months we will work intensively with 40 current and future cultural leaders from the region focused on achieving public value (social and economic change) through the arts. This represents a major new initiative to support inclusivity and diversification in the region's cultural leadership profile and to create a model that can be adopted in other localities.

Inn Crowd Pubs +

Bringing live literature to rural pubs Inn Crowd Pubs+ is a strategic progression of Inn Crowd and follows a grant of £525,000 from the ACE Strategic Touring Fund to grow the project beyond the East and South East to cover the West Country, Midlands and North West. Working with the project partners Applause Rural Touring and Creative Arts East we will reach audiences of 30,000 across the country.

Lit From the Inside

A new programme for people aged 14 – 17 across Norfolk to explore the world of books from the inside. Whilst working towards their Bronze Arts Award the team will have a chance to interview writers, review events, collaborate with fellow Cities of Literature and find out more about the creative industries.

“The market for literary fiction is tough and getting tougher and we want to help find innovative ways to increase collaboration in the sector. With our Early Career Awards we are looking to contribute to an alliance between writers, publishers, the trade, libraries and readers to boost the environment for literary fiction and writers at the critical early stages of their career.”

— Chris Gribble, Chief Executive, National Centre for Writing

Projects, Partners & Funders

Our first chapter is a shared story involving friends and colleagues locally, nationally and internationally. We couldn’t have delivered a programme of such scale and ambition without a vast array of literary, cultural and civic partners:

The founding partners of the National Centre for Writing are:

- Arts Council England
- Norwich City Council
- Norfolk County Council
- University of East Anglia

Huge thanks to the generosity of the following organisations in funding aspects of our opening programme:

- Anguish’s Educational Foundation
- Arts Council Korea
- BEKRAF, Indonesia
- British Council
- Broadland Meridian
- Creative Europe
- Creative Scotland
- The Desmond Elliott Charitable Trust
- Dutch Foundation for Literature
- Elizabeth Kostova Foundation, Bulgaria
- Finnish Literature Exchange
- The Francis W Reckitt Arts Trust
- The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation
- Harvill Secker Young Translators’ Prize
- Icelandic Literature Center
- Institut Français
- Istituto Italiano di Cultura
- The Institute of Translation, Russia
- Latvian Literature
- The Leverhulme Trust
- Laura Kinsella Foundation
- Literature Translation Institute of Korea
- Lithuanian Culture Institute
- The Martineau Society
- Michael Marks Charitable Trust
- National Arts Council of Singapore
- New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
- Norwegian Literature Abroad
- Norwich Business Improvement District

- PACCAR Foundation
- Polish Cultural Institute
- Pro-Helvetia
- Royal Norwegian Embassy
- Virtuago

We have had the privilege of working with wonderful creative partners locally, nationally and internationally, including:

Local & Regional

- Age UK Norwich
- Creative Arts East
- Creative Collisions
- Creative Nation
- Dragon Hall Heritage Volunteers
- Eastern Daily Press
- Felixstowe Book Festival
- Galley Beggar Press
- Jarrold
- Marion Road Day Centre
- Norfolk & Norwich Festival
- Norwich Arts Centre
- Norwich, City of Stories
- Norwich Puppet Theatre
- Norwich Theatre Royal and Norwich Playhouse
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Salt Publishing
- Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Art and Culture
- The Matthew Project
- UEA Publishing Project & Strangers Press
- VisitNorwich
- Young Norfolk Arts Trust

We estimate our spend on goods and services in the Norwich and Norfolk area to be £1.6million during our first chapter

National

- Applause Rural Touring
- British Library
- British Centre for Literary Translation
- Cheltenham Literature Festival
- English PEN
- EUNIC London
- Free Word
- London Book Fair
- Manchester Literature Festival
- Modern Culture
- National Organising Committee for the Indonesia Market Focus at London Book Fair
- National Library of Scotland
- Nordic Poetry Festival
- Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature
- Penned in the Margins
- Poetry Translation Centre
- Tilted Axis
- The Literary Consultancy
- Translators’ Association

International

- British Council
- Dutch Foundation for Literature
- Litstock, Tokyo
- Passa Porta
- PEN Catala (international)
- RECIT
- UNESCO City of Literature partners

For a complete list of project funders and partners please see www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk

NCW has led / been a lead partner of the following programmes as part of our first chapter:

- Associate Artist Programme
- BCLT/NCW Annual Sebald Lecture
- British Centre for Literary Translation Summer School

- Children’s City of Literature
- City of Literature programme (for Norfolk & Norwich Festival)
- Creative Leaders
- Creative Writing Online
- Dragon Hall Debates
- Dragon Hall Social
- Early Career Awards
- East Anglian Book Awards
- Emerging Translator Mentorships
- Engage!
- Escalator Talent Development Programme
- Inn Crowd Strategic Touring Programme
- International Literature Showcase
- *In Other Words* (biannual journal of literary translation)
- Lit from the Inside
- Meet the World
- Neverending Stories
- New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Cultural Tourism Project
- Noirwich Crime Writing Festival
- Nottwich: global gathering of the UNESCO Cities of Literature
- Poems in Homes
- Publish East (with Galley Beggar Press & Salt Publishing)
- Really Wild Stories
- Talking Statues
- TLC: ACE Free Reads
- UEA Live
- *Walking Norwich: The Real and Imagined City* (book)
- Write Journeys
- Writers in Residence Programme at Dragon Hall
- Writers’ Toolkit
- Young Norfolk Laureate
- Young Norfolk Writing Competition

“I chose to join the Supporters’ Circle when I discovered more about the work the National Centre for Writing does with young people. These are our readers and writers of the future. Learning to love words and not to be afraid of reading, writing and books can expand our minds as far as our imaginations will take us. Ideas are communicated within words, understanding of other societies and beliefs are grown from words, and words can be an outlet for private pain. Any organisation that focuses on helping children to carry the extraordinary tool of reading and writing with them should have our support.”

— Sarah Passingham, Writer and Supporters’ Circle member

The Supporters’ Circle

NCW is a UK registered charity and having the support of individuals who share our belief in the importance of writing and stories and the power they unleash is vital to our work. Our Supporters’ Circle helps make Dragon Hall a place where everyone can discover the power of words. We are proud to welcome our first supporters this year.

If you’d like more more information about how you can help us increase the range and impact of our work, please contact info@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk or call 01603 877177.



→
Guests gather at the
National Centre for Writing.
C. Hannah Hutchins

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[@WritersCentre](#)

The report is available in large print format. Contact us for a copy.

The National Centre for Writing is a registered charity. Our charity number is: 1110725

**“The National Centre for Writing
is a vibrant hub for culture,
creativity and literature.”**

— Elif Shafak, *New Statesman*