

**FRIDAY 22 AUGUST 2008**

**MELBOURNE ANNOUNCED AS THE WORLD'S SECOND  
UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE**

The world's second City of Literature has been announced today. Melbourne, state capital of Victoria and Australia's cultural capital, joins Edinburgh in the global network of UNESCO Creative Cities. Glasgow also joined this week as a City of Music.

Ian Rankin, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trustee said "We're really pleased to be linking up with a city on the other side of the world, building a stronger relationship between Edinburgh and Melbourne."

A pioneering live link between the two Cities of Literature is scheduled for Sunday, when three times Booker Prize winner, Salman Rusdie's event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival will be broadcast live to the Melbourne Writers' Festival in Australia. Nam Le, the renowned Vietnamese author, will be broadcast to an audience in Charlotte Square live from his event in Melbourne.

Catherine Lockerbie, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said "I'm delighted that Melbourne is joining Edinburgh and especially pleased that we will be celebrating the designation at the Edinburgh International Book Festival with the world's first live satellite link-up between the two Cities of Literature on opposite sides of the globe – a truly exciting prospect."

The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust held a Cities of Literature conference in Edinburgh earlier in the week in conjunction with the British Council, which was attended by representatives from 18 countries, including four cities bidding to be a City of Literature – Vancouver, Dublin, Iowa City and Kolkata.

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