

European Capital of culture



The European jury for the selection of the winning city for the title of European Capital of Culture in 2028 made its decision this evening, and we would like to congratulate the city of Bourges on its designation.

This choice consecrates a development project for a medium-sized town through culture. Along with Sète, the Occitanie region, the Hérault department, the communities of communes of Pays de Lunel, Grand Pic Saint-Loup, Vallée de l'Hérault, Terre de Camargue and the Hérault Méditerranée and Pays de l'Or conurbations, Montpellier has embarked on an unprecedented adventure: applying for the title of European Capital of Culture.

For two years, with heart, enthusiasm and conviction, we have worked together to make a real case for culture. We have brought together a large number of partners, economic, educational and social players, all of whom we would like to thank warmly today. Of the nine cities initially involved in the initiative, we reached the final alongside three (Bourges, Clermont Ferrand and Rouen) which, like us, have made a firm choice in favour of culture.

As the Minister for Culture pointed out during her visit, we were, in a way, already the European Capital of Culture. We are keeping in mind that this bid has brought us a great deal. Since 2022, 85 cultural projects have been designated as winners of Montpellier 2028, representing more than 200 events, most of them free, organised throughout the territory for the benefit of all its residents. It has also been a formidable accelerator of projects, involving us in numerous European networks and fostering cooperation with many European cities. But it has also had an impact on the way in which we build cultural policies, making them more inclusive and more participatory with the citizens.

Beyond that, the collective governance to which we are committed is undeniably an achievement. This dynamic must and will continue. We are going to pursue it in the spirit of cooperation that has emerged across the region through the association that brings us together. We are more united than ever for culture.

See you in the weeks to come as we continue to share our imaginations.

Michaël Delafosse : « Be that as it may, this bid is a victory for a peaceful region and for a clear cultural ambition for today and the years to come. The promise of new projects for the future. »

Montpellier
capitale
européenne
de la **Culture**
2028
ville candidate