

Culture in the city of Leuven

Piet Forger

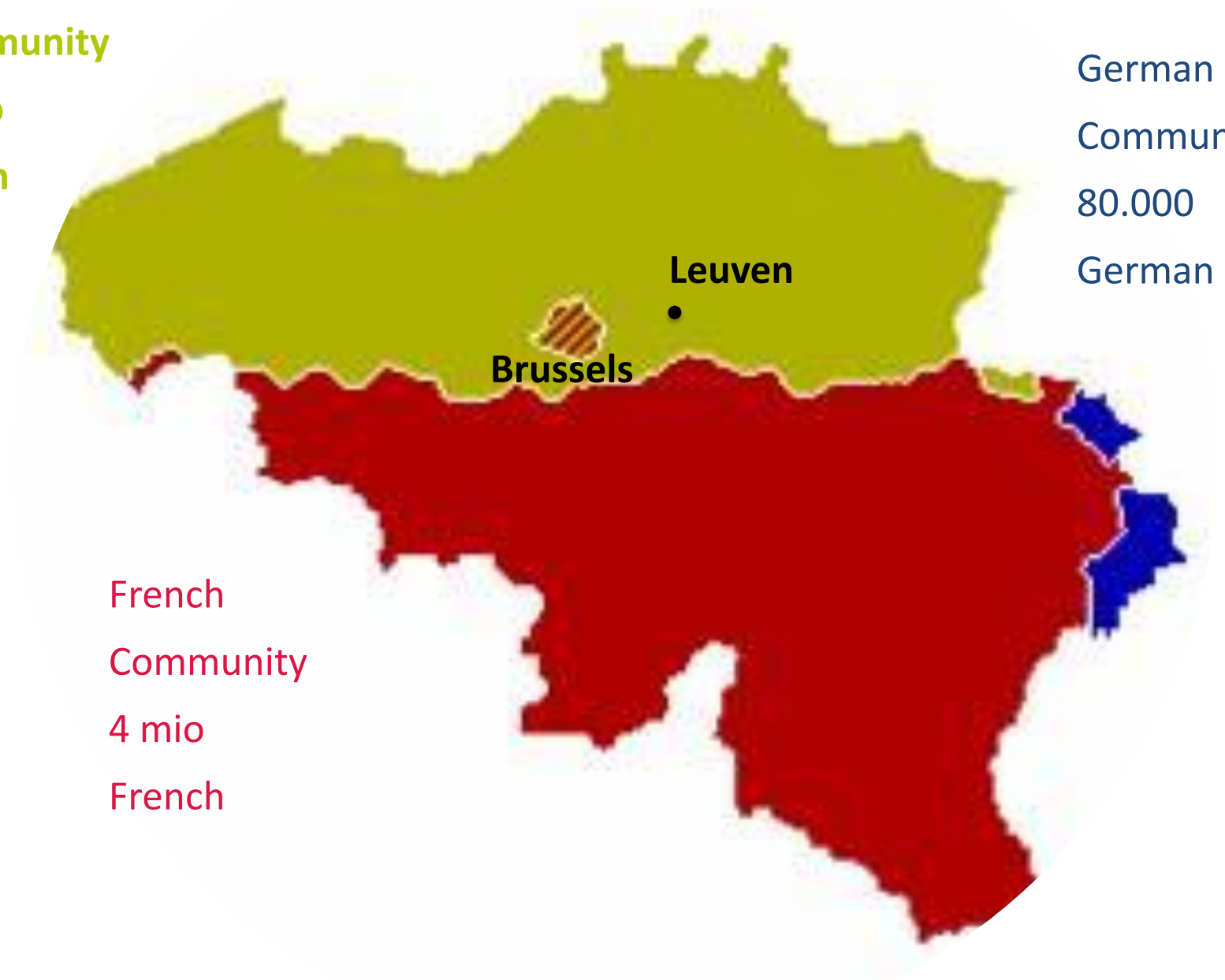
Director for culture in the city of Leuven, Belgium

Studyvisit colleagues from Sibenik Croatia

Leuven 23rd of April 2019

**Flemish
Community
6 mio
Dutch**

German
Community
80.000
German



City of Leuven

- **100.000 inhabitants + 50.000 students**
- **More then 150 nationalities**
- **1 out of 8 children in poverty**
- **University city and Stella Artois**



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KU LEUVEN



LEUVEN
EEUWEN OUD
SPRINGLEVEND

Brachwagen Stella Artois © collectie AB INBEV



Vibrant city for culture, the arts and heritage

- **More than 300 socio-cultural organisations**
- **Cultural institutions initiated by the city: cultural center, librarie, museum, ...**
- **A very vibrant independent arts scene: STUK, OPEK, Depot, ...**
- **Important heritage: Unesco heritage - Abby - University – Religious**
- **We work together very closely “The Leuven Model”: organisations with each other, city with organisations**









Joke van

ns kun je zinnenverzinzin hebben: zin om de zinnen die zingen vanbinnen naar buiten te spinnen als spinnen hun webben





Bibliotheek Abdij van Park © Pieter Baert





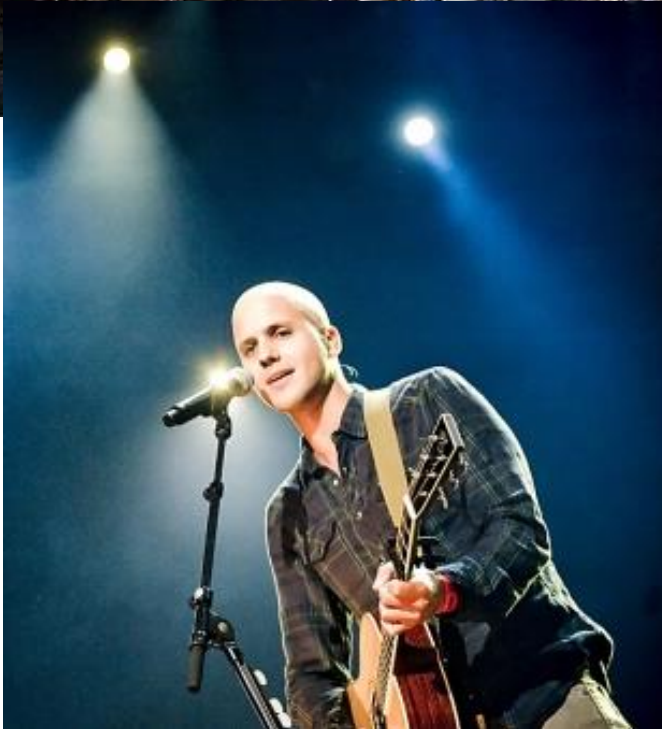


Collectiedag - Europeana 1914-1918 © Erfgoedcel































THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE CITIES MONITOR

2017 edition

Key Findings

02

Leading Cultural and Creative Cities are more prosperous

In 2013, the GDP per capita of European Cultural and Creative Cities was € 750 higher for each additional point in the Cultural and Creative Cities Index, compared to 2009.



03

The ideal Cultural and Creative City in Europe is a mix of eight cities of mostly small and medium size



Creative city

- The city of Leuven, only 25 kilometres east of Brussels, is a medium-sized city hosting a very rich student community (one third of the population). It is also the capital of the province of Flemish Brabant. The city of Leuven is known for its university, the KU Leuven — the oldest university of the Low Countries (1425) and of the most innovative in Europe, and for its beer, Stella Artois.
- Leuven thrives as a bustling young student town with a strong international allure, where various cultures meet — Leuven has more than 150 different nationalities — and where innovation is part of the soul of the city. Leuven has a vibrant arts and heritage field and counts more than 300 social and cultural associations, providing a wide range of activities.

Creative city

- The M Museum, known for combining classical and contemporary art in the historic centre of Leuven, welcomes more than 150,000 visitors every year, with many renowned exhibitions and masterpieces from Dirk Bouts to Rogier van der Weyden. The Grand Beguinage of Leuven, a well-preserved historical quarter containing a dozen streets in the south of downtown Leuven, is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The Vaartkom, the old industrial Stella Artois neighbourhood around the Vaartcanal, is in full expansion. All of the former Stella Artois industrial heritage buildings have been transformed into a lively creative district with, amongst others, the creative hub De Hoorn and the independent arts centre, OPEK.

Creative city

- Leuven MindGate is an important programme that underscores Leuven as one of the world's prime regions for health, high-tech and creativity, with a unique ecosystem of companies cooperating with knowledge institutions and the government, creating a perfect breeding ground for companies, entrepreneurs, investors and talent.
- Today, 37 % of Leuven's entrepreneurs are part of the cultural and creative sectors and 6.5 % of employees work in these sectors. All of those who are part of the sector in the city are part of the network called Leuven MindGate.



LEUVEN MINDGATE

TUNE IN TO HEALTH, HIGH-TECH AND CREATIVITY

Department for Culture
Piet Forger

Museum M

Staff members

Cultural Center

Librarie

Heritage & Archives

Support from the city for the cultural organisations

- **Funding:**
 - 150.000 for socio-cultural organisations.
 - 1 mio for arts & heritage organisations
- **Infrastructure**
 - From the city
 - Funding for renting space
- **People, personnel:** staf and expertise
- **Communication**
- **Network**

Big ambitions

- **Vaartopia: reforming the old industrial buildings of Stella Artois in to the creative heart of Leuven and region**
- **Performing Arts Quarter in the city center – 60 mio – 2027**
- **Becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2030**





OPEK 1



DE HOORN 3



4 DE STOKERIJ



9 DE DIJLE



10 ZEELANDT



12 BRANDWEERSITE



13 WERK-BOTEN



14 SILO'S



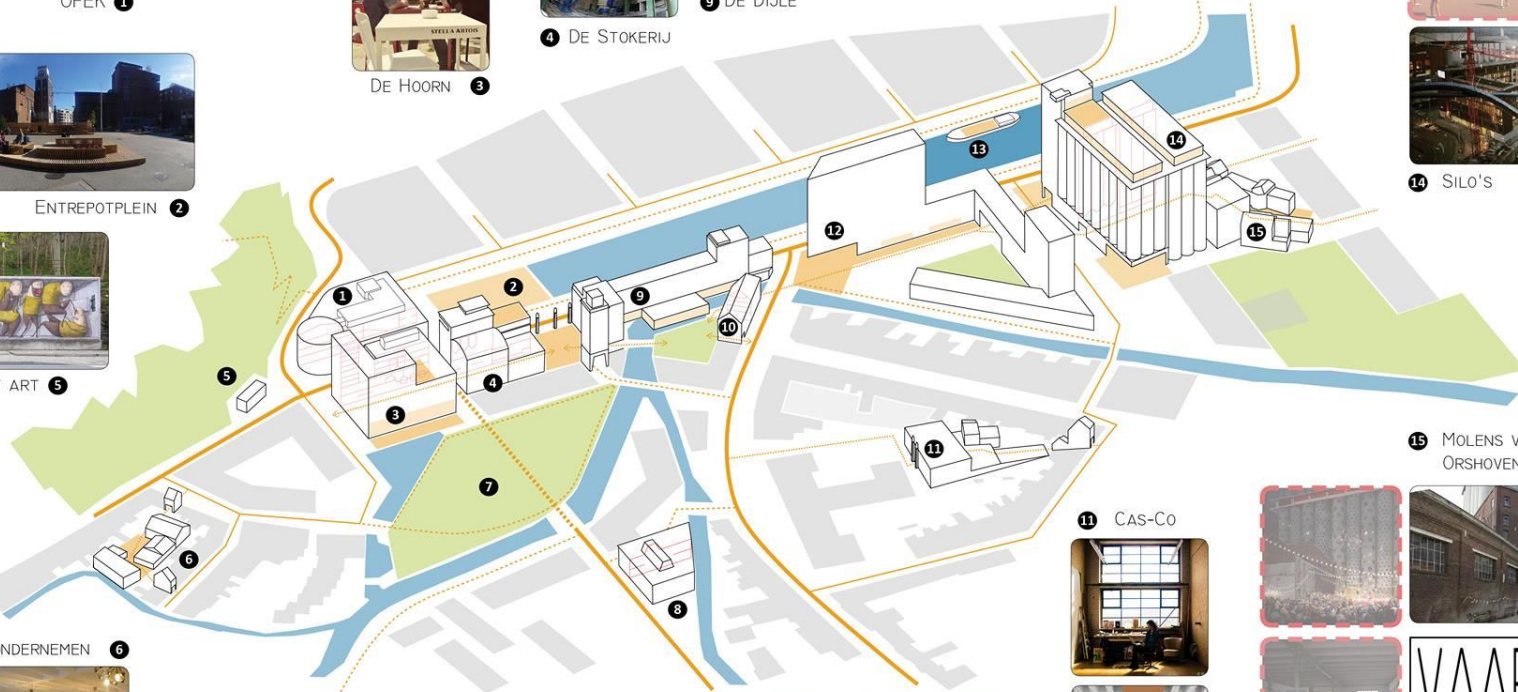
15 MOLENS VAN ORSHOVEN



ENTREPOTPLEIN 2



KEIZERBERG + STREET ART 5



ARKTOS + LEREN ONDERNEMEN 6



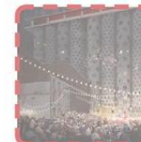
7 SLUISPARK



8 DE SMIDSE



11 CAS-CO



VAARTOPIA

VA-ART UTOPIE?

- 4. KAAPELITEHDAS (HELSINKI)
- 8. VAART-UTOPIE
- 9. KAAPELITEHDAS (HELSINKI)
- 12. HIGH LINE + STANDARD HOTEL (NY)
- 14. OLD BISCUIT MILL (CAPE TOWN)
- 14. M WITH A VIEW (RABOT GENT)
- 15. SCHIEBLOK (ROTTERDAM)
- 15. VAART-UTOPIE
- 15. ART FACTORY (BARCELONA)











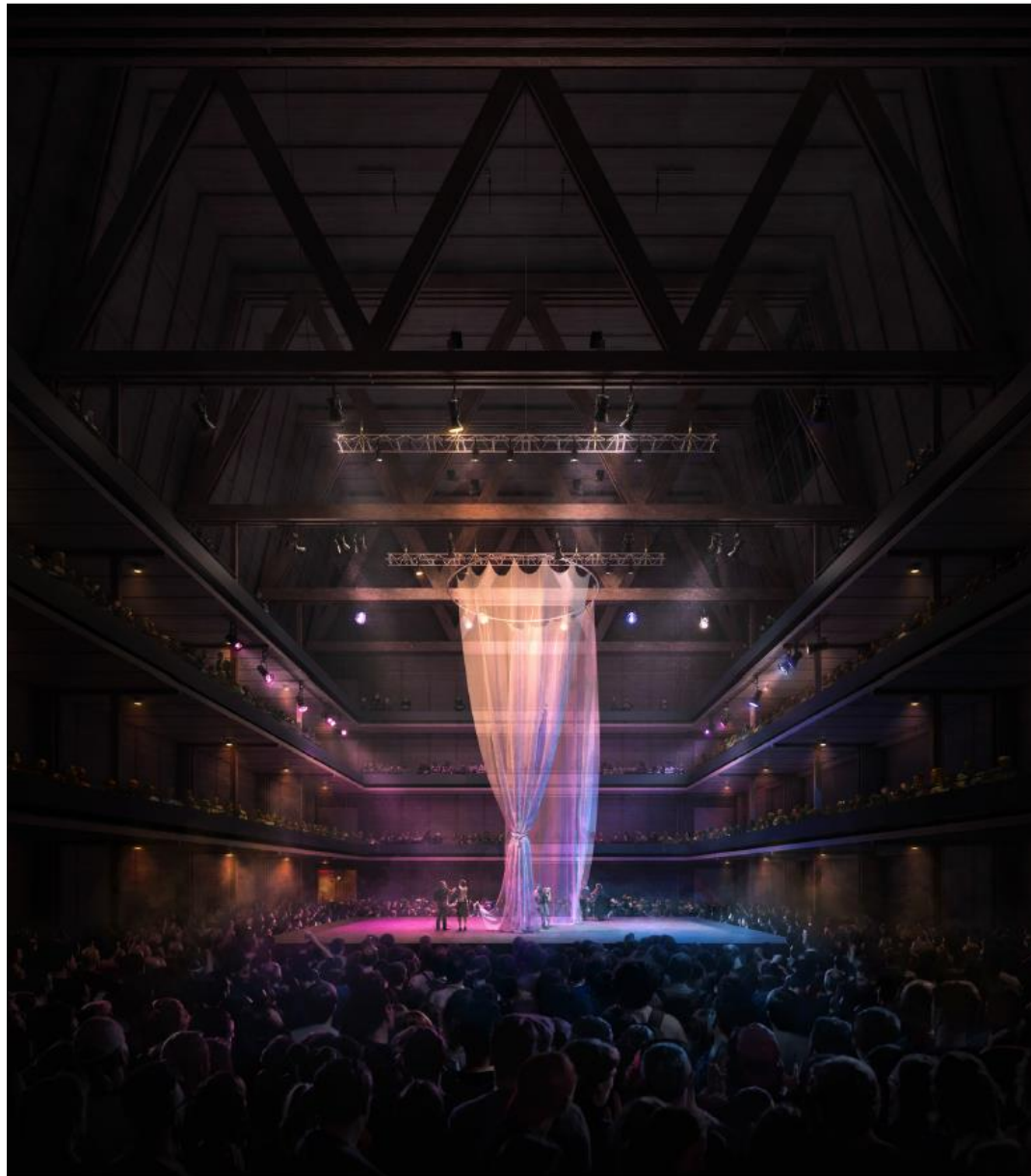




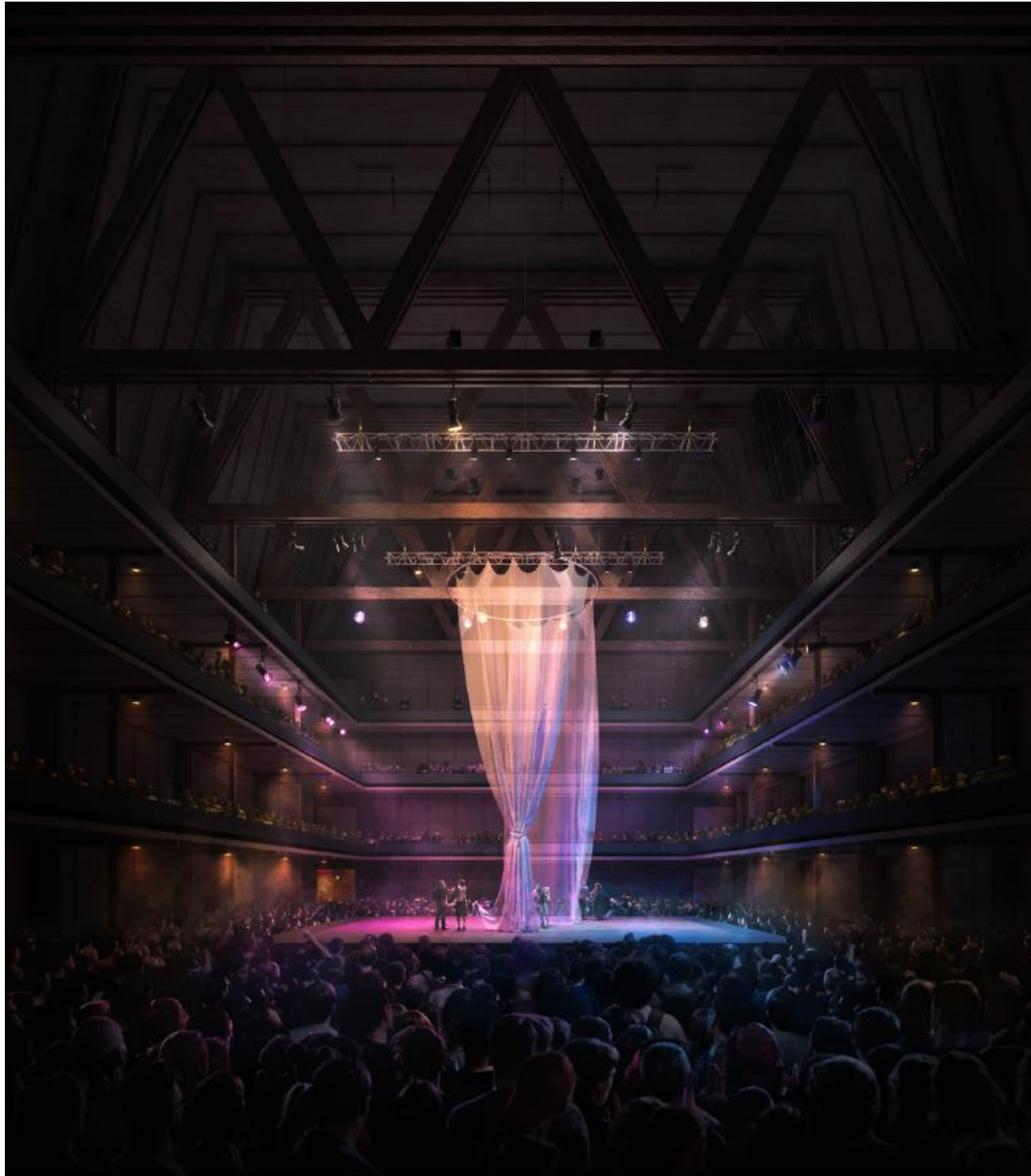
Performing Arts Quarter



Performing Arts Quarter



European Capital of Culture in 2030?



Thank you

Hvala

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