Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022

You are welcome to come any day!
The project is always full of content!
What is “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”? 
European Capital of Culture – the most important, largest, and most well-known cultural project in the European Union.

The slogan that brought Kaunas to the title of the European Capital of Culture is ‘From temporary to contemporary capital’.

For this reason, the main goal of this project is a change – from a city, nostalgic for its past, to an open and democratic city – through daily and extensive involvement of its citizens in culture and learning of new cultural activity forms.

Since 2017, Kaunas 2022 has organised over four thousand events of various scale, with continuously increasing participation and engagement. In 2022, 3 major events – the Contemporary Myth of Kaunas Trilogy, more than 40 festivals, 60 exhibitions, 250 performing arts events (of which more than 50 are premieres), and over 250 concerts are planned for Kaunas and Kaunas District. Culture will be inescapable!
Presentation of the Project

Abbreviation: Kaunas 2022 (pronounced: ‘Kaunas two thousand twenty-two’) / “Kaunas 2022”

Slogan of the project: ‘From temporary to contemporary’ / „Iš laikinosios į šiuolaikinę“

Introduction of a representative: Kaunas 2022 representative (name, surname) or curator.

Did You Know?
The project is sponsored by Kaunas City, Kaunas District, and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, but not by the EU.

Even though the EU is not a sponsor, it carries our regular supervision of the project through a specifically established committee.

The project’s sponsors implement continuous and transparent project control.

The project does not compete with any other cultural organisation. The designated funds are new, significant allocations for culture.

The project is being implemented with partners (currently 80 Lithuanian and 150 foreign cultural institutions) and acts as a coordination centre.

The project includes Kaunas and Kaunas District on equal grounds.
○ The project has started and continues as a public initiative and is based on the vision of an open European city which we are building together.

○ The project pursues the programme stated in the bid which won the EC’s competition. The project can not alter the spirit, values, and key elements of the programme.

○ By its nature, the project is educational. Educational activities began in 2015, when the team for drafting of the bid was collaborating with foreign consultants, was training itself, and trained the team of the future project consisting of cultural professionals, university lecturers, and city leaders.
Kaunas 2022

Authors of the Project’s Programme
Currently the team consists of

80 cultural producers, marketing and communication specialists,

with the CEO Virginija Vitkienė.

The project provides regular training for volunteers and new team members.

The Youth Programme is being developed by the youth who have been growing up alongside Kaunas 2022.

Project activities are implemented:

In Kaunas and Kaunas District together with their residents, communities, and cultural organisations.

All over Lithuania and abroad together with partners.
Project Outline
THE MYTHICAL BEAST OF KAUNAS

Strengthens the sense of community in residents of Kaunas City and Kaunas District by practicing cultural engagement: through joint activities residents are encouraged to form resilient and creative communities.

EMERGING KAUNAS

Dedicated to the young generation of various ages – from infants to young adults. The goal of the project is to assist the young generation in creating a city in which they wish to live.

CONTEMPORARY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Unites Kaunas District residents with artists and specialists, which help to discover the unique identity of each neighbourhood and jointly plan how to reveal it in the programme of 2022.

MODERNISM FOR THE FUTURE

Promotes community consciousness and its ties with the modernist heritage of Kaunas by organising new creative projects and strengthening the relevance of the heritage on the European level.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

The network of cultural organisations and creators which are developing more than 100 unique artistic projects dedicated to the special programme of 2022 in partnership with Kaunas 2022.

WE, THE PEOPLE

Strengthens the sense of community in residents of Kaunas City and Kaunas District by practicing cultural engagement: through joint activities residents are encouraged to form resilient and creative communities.

MEMORY OFFICE

Collects people’s stories, makes those stories heard and aims to revive the multi-ethnic memory of Kaunas City and Kaunas District, strengthen communication among different resident communities.

DESIGNING HAPPINESS

Creates a new perception of a convenient city and urbanism, based on the recommendations of designers and environmental specialists. This programme seeks to accommodate the city to everyone’s needs and cultivate contemporary citizens.

THE ENTERTAINING ELEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME.

Assists in developing the plots of the grand events of 2022 through all the existing and newly created stories of Kaunas. Creates an entertaining legend of the Mythical Beast of Kaunas.
Funders of the Project

Discussion:
The exchange between business, art, and culture – sponsorship, charity, investment or partnership?

Moderator:
Jūratė Tutytė
Lithuania / Kaunas 2022
Kaunas City Municipality

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania

Kaunas District Municipality

Other funds (upon applications) and private sponsors
Experts Representing the Project in Public
dr. Virginija Vitkienė
Project Manager
Topics: management, vision, values, strategy, finance, partnerships.

Rytis Zemkauskas
Curator
Topics: project ideas, Kaunas Mythical Beast, cultural context, entertainment section

Greta Klimavičiūtė-Minkštimienė
Head of Grand Events
Topics: grand events of 2022

Chris Baldwin
Artistic Director for the grand Kaunas 2022 events
Topics: The Trilogy of the Contemporary Myth of Kaunas, its concept and the idea behind it

Aistis Lansberga
Producer for the grand Kaunas 2022 events
Topics: The Trilogy of the Contemporary Myth of Kaunas, its implementation

Donata Jutkienė
Curator
Topics: design, culture accessibility, UNESCO Cities of Design Network.

Dr. Viltė Migonytė–Petrulienė
Curator
Topics: architecture, Kaunas modernism, UNESCO World Heritage Site application.

Aistė Paukštė
Curator
Topics: community integration, social business.

Aigul Paukštė
Curator
Topics: Jaunimo mokymai, jaunimo programa, Europos jaunimo sezonas 2022.

Marija Pulokaitė
Curator
Topics: volunteering, hospitality programmes for guests.

Lukas Alys
Curator
Topics: regional partnerships, Kaunas district programme.

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Dovilė Butnorūtė
Head of international relations
Topics: international relations and partnerships
What Are the Biggest Upcoming Events?
Major Events in 2022

**THE CONFUSION**
19–23 JANUARY
- MagiC Carpets Landed exhibition
- 13th Kaunas Biennial: “Once Upon Another Time... gyveno jį jau kitaip”
- That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge
- Modernism for the Future 360/365, an international exhibition
- An installation and a retrospective exhibition by Yoko Ono “Exit it”

**THE CONFLUENCE**
20–22 MAY
- Kaunas 2022 Summer Stage
- Exhibition “1972: Breaking Through the Wall”
- European Capital of Culture Forum
- Courtyard Festival
- Grand opening of Nemuno7
- Kaunas-Vilnius: Moving Mountains, an exhibition
- Memory of Being, an exhibition by Marina Abramović
- On Happiness. Presuppositions 2022. Communities, an international congress
- Audra, Contemporary City Festival

**THE CONTRACT**
25–27 NOVEMBER
- Fluxus Festival
- Magenta, Landscape Design Festival
- Kaunas Design Festival
- Ostrale Bienalle / Flowing Connections / Power of Water exhibition
- World Litvak Forum
- Kaunas Kantata
- The Learning Garden of Freedom, a retrospective exhibition by Yoko Ono
- ArtsThe Stars of Music at Pažaislis, a music festival conducted by Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla
- East-East, Kaunas Architecture Festival

Total of planned events: 1000+