



RIAS | The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

Aonachadh Rioghail nan Ailtire ann an Alba

Mrs Anna Elisa Tryti
Commissioner for City Development
Hordaland County Council
Agnes Mowinckels gt. 5
Postbox 7900
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Norway

24th November 2015

Dear Mrs Tryti,

I am writing to formally invite the City of Bergen, through your good offices, to be one of fourteen cities to feature in the first ever *Pop-up World Cities Expo* in Edinburgh in June-July 2016. As you know, 2016 is Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, as designated by the Scottish Government. In celebration of the year, the Royal Incorporation has been invited by the Government to host the *Festival of Architecture* which will take place throughout Scotland. The centrepiece event is the *Pop-up World Cities Expo*.

The plan is that fourteen world cities should procure a (5mx5m plan) pavilion locally (young architects' competition perhaps). These can then be fabricated in the city or country of origin (or in Scotland for international exhibitors) and delivered to the site at Mound Precinct, Edinburgh, one of the most prominent outdoor exhibition sites in Scotland, right at the heart of the Capital.

The content of each pavilion will be a display of how each city is being taken forward in terms of infrastructure, masterplanning, urban design or significant new building projects. Obviously there will be no shortage of inspiration from developments in Bergen. A short brief for the Expo is attached. I also attach some update information which was issued to participants recently.

For the exhibition we will provide site, infrastructure, power, insurance, security and promotion. Each participating city is expected to pay for their own pavilion, including transport and erection on site, staffing costs and disposal. Materials should, as far as possible, be recyclable. We reckon the cost to each city should be about £30,000. However, this is entirely at your own discretion and I should emphasise that there is no entry fee or charge for participation.

So far we have Berlin, Bristol, Dublin, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oslo, Rotterdam and Vilnius signed up. We are awaiting confirmations from Barcelona, Brisbane, Copenhagen, Gdansk, Mumbai, New York, Shanghai, Singapore and Turin but are hearing only positive noises, so we are hopeful of having our full complement of fourteen cities very soon. We met with the representative from Vilnius last month and she indicated that, among those who would be attending will be the city's Mayor. This pattern of buy-in at ambassadorial and civic level will ensure that for the month of the *Expo*, we will have some very important visitors.

If you could check if the city of Bergen is amenable, we feel this could be a tremendous promotional platform for Bergen and great for the diversity of the *Expo*. If you need any further information, please just give me a call.

I sincerely hope Bergen will decide to take up the opportunity and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Neil Baxter Hon FRIAS
Secretary & Treasurer**