List of UNESCO World Book Capital Cities

2024 - Strasbourg - Strasbourg will focus on the role of books in meeting the challenges of social tensions and climate change.

2023 - Accra - Accra presented a broad programme targeting groups with high levels of illiteracy including women, youth, migrants, street children and persons with disabilities.

2022 - Guadalajara - Guadalajara proposed a comprehensive policy plan and prioritized books for social change, combatting violence, and peace-building.

2021 - Tbilisi - Tbilisi highlighted technology’s role in promoting youth reading, promoting the slogan “Ok. So your next book is…?”


2019 - Sharjah - Sharjah’s innovative, inclusive program aimed to foster UAE’s reading culture and literary creation through community-based activities.

2018 - Athens - Athens aimed to create a society of knowledge by promoting universal book access alongside the industry in the city, including for migrants and refugees.

2017 – Conakry - Conakry acknowledged education and reading as drivers of change, emphasizing wider book distribution.

2016 – Wroclaw - Wroclaw proposed a program of high quality and emphasized grass-root community involvement.

2015 – Incheon – Incheon’s quality program aimed to integrate all stakeholders in the promotion of books and reading, and improve access to books.

2014 – Port Harcourt – Port Harcourt’s youth-centered program sought to boost Nigeria’s culture of books, reading, writing and publishing to improve literacy rates.

2013 – Bangkok – Bangkok’s commitment through its activities and community-focused program brought all the diverse stakeholders of the book chain together.

2012 – Yerevan - Yerevan's diverse, detailed, and realistic grassroots program focused on universal issues and linked all the aspects and actors of the book chain.

2011 – Buenos Aires – Buenos Aires' consolidated strategy underpinning the programme and the quality and variety of its file secured its nomination.

2010 – Ljubljana – Ljubljana’s diverse and complete programme was widely supported by all players involved in the book industry (publishers, bookstores and libraries).

2009 – Beirut – Beirut’s stimulating program and its focus on cultural diversity, dialogue, and tolerance contributed to its election.
2008 – Amsterdam - Amsterdam's diverse and international program focusing on freedom of expression led to its selection.

2007 – Bogotá – Bogotá engaged the public and private stakeholders of the book sector in order to creatively promote reading promotion.


2005 – Montreal – Montreal's internationally inclusive program comprised a whole series of subject areas with the cooperation and commitment of all the actors in the city's book chain.

2004 – Antwerp – Antwerp's broad-ranging program covered promotion, sales, services, youth, book professions, cultural diversity and urban cultural minorities.

2003 – New Delhi – New Delhi's publisher-rich environment drove its program, launching a programme to promote publishing linked to all professional associations and political and social actors concerned with books.

2002 – Alexandria – Alexandria's presentation of its project to reopen its great library project marked a significant modern endeavor.

2001 – Madrid – Madrid pioneered the title, with events such as the book mountain around the Puerta de Alcalá.