



June 14, 2017

UNESCO
Creative Cities Network
Culture Sector
Division of Creativity
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris
FRANCE

Office of UNESCO Creative Cities Network,

On behalf of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, I am pleased to convey the support and endorsement of Seattle's application to become part of the Creative Cities Network as a UNESCO City of Literature.

Seattle's writing traditions have been guided by a sense of place, particularly with respect to the natural world. The city can boast a 10,000-year history of Native storytelling tradition, and has produced such writers as Theodore Roethke, Richard Hugo, Carolyn Kizer, Denise Levertov, Tom Robbins, and Maria Semple. Seattle is host to multiple publishers of all sizes, creative writing programs, and dozens of literary and arts organizations.

The city displays a vibrant literary culture that is supported by bookstores and libraries, professional associations, and nonprofit organizations and centers. Through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Seattle looks to strengthen international literary exchanges, utilize public-private partnerships to highlight creativity as essential to sustainable economic urban development, and broaden access to resources to foster inclusivity in literary training and promote historically marginalized stories. The city would exchange knowledge with other cities that are integrating culture and creativity into their development strategies.

The U.S. National Commission for UNESCO appreciates the consideration of Seattle, Washington and would like to thank you and your Section's work to grow and maintain a strong UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul Mungai'.

Paul Mungai
Acting Executive Director
U.S. National Commission for UNESCO