Left to right: Liz Cuddy of DUCoL, Director of DUCoL Jane Alger, Lord Mayor of Dublin Críona Ní Dhálgaigh, Author Lia Mills, City Librarian Margaret Hayes and Jackie Lynam of DUCoL at the launch of Two Cities One Book 2016
CHAIR

Our work this year has been guided by the Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018, which provides the development framework for the realisation of Dublin’s ambition across six themes, each with local, national and international dimensions. It also connects strongly to the aims and objectives of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a whole.

The Irish National Decade of Commemoration 2012 to 2022 remembers, respects and reflects on the most important events in the history of the state. During 2016, the centenary year of the Easter Rising, Dublin has been a centre of activity and we were pleased and proud to contribute a strong literary strand to national events and to Dublin City Council’s award winning programme, Dublin Remembers 1916–2016: Is Cúimhnín Linn.

This year, the successful Dublin One City, One Book initiative partnered with Belfast City for the Two Cities, One Book programme of reading and community engagement. For the centenary year of 2016 two cities explored themes and topics focussing on the events of 1916, through the medium of Lia Mills’ imaginative novel, Fallen – and it is particularly pleasing that readers’ groups representing Dublin and Belfast libraries engaged in visits to each other’s cities during April. Feedback from these sessions was extremely positive. A legacy of this initiative is that further similar reciprocal events will be organised in the future.

In May Dublin City Libraries welcomed 17 delegations from sister Cities of Literature for the annual meeting of the UCCN Literature Sub-Network. Cities represented included recent and established members. At a reception in Dublin’s Mansion House, the city welcomed the delegation, which was addressed by Cllr. Rebecca Moynihan, Chair of the DCC SPC for Arts, Culture and Recreation. The conference was hosted in Dublin City Library & Archive over three days, with an agenda that involved discussion of future strategies for integration and development of the network, along with presentations from a number of individual cities. The network now numbers twenty members.

In June, DUCoL director Jane Alger resigned from her post. Jane was the inaugural director of the office and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking her for her outstanding contribution to the work of DUCoL, which has helped lay solid foundations for the city’s role as a leader in literary and cultural development in the years ahead.

At the same time, I am delighted to welcome Alison Lyons on board as the new director of DUCoL. I congratulate team members Jackie Lynam and Elizabeth Cuddy for their hard work in 2016. I also thank the members of the management group and the Steering Committee for their continuing commitment to making Dublin ‘A City of Words’ where reading, writing and storytelling are everyday experiences.

We acknowledge the ongoing resourcing and support of Dublin City Council, its executives and councillors and all programme partners.

Margaret Hayes
Dublin City Librarian
Chair Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Management Group
City of Literature Annual Report – 2016

The management and promotion of the designation “Dublin UNESCO City of Literature” is the responsibility of the Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Office (DUCoL), working under the auspices of Dublin City Council’s public library service. The Director of the office reports to a six person management group which is chaired by the Dublin City Librarian. The work of the management group is further informed by a steering group composed of representatives of local and national government, tourism interests, publishers’ and writers’ groups, the media, arts and culture organisations and the universities, all of whom drive the designation in their various areas of responsibility. See Appendix 1 for list of members.

This report underlines the ongoing commitment of DUCoL, together with the management and steering groups, to further developing awareness of the capital city’s unique literary culture, both at home and abroad – and to ensuring that writers and writing remain a central focus in the fields of innovation and creativity – now clearly identified as vital elements in Dublin’s economic future.

Strategic Plan – Main Themes
The compilation of the Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Strategic Plan 2016-2018 followed an extensive consultation process which involved stakeholder interviews, in-depth meetings with the DUCoL Management Group and a writers’ focus group. Priority areas, which should inform the focus and work of the office, were identified and then condensed into six main themes:

1. Identity, Advocacy and Promotion
2. The A-Z of writing, reading and storytelling
3. Building Relationships and Networks
4. Storyhouse – Creating new places for culture
5. Leadership – Structures and Resources
6. Research and Evaluation

These themes form the framework for the quarterly Director’s Reports presented to the management team and are reflected in this annual report.
Making Connections

Bram Stoker Festival
The fifth annual Bram Stoker Festival, inspired by the Dublin author of *Dracula*, took place in the city over the October Bank Holiday weekend. Events included Macnas street parade, family-friendly *Stokerland* in St. Patrick’s Park, *Behind the Dark* event in St. Anne’s Park and publication of *Young Blood* by Guts Magazine, with an accompanying event. Alison Lyons is on the steering committee of the festival, which is sponsored by Dublin City Council and Fáilte Ireland. The literary strand is grant-aided by the Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Readers’ Day
Dave Kenny hosted this popular annual event, forming part of the Dublin Book Festival, in front of a capacity audience in Smock Alley Theatre. Authors interviewed were Deirdre Purcell, Mia Gallagher, Mike McCormack, Diarmuid Gavin and Donal Ryan. Alison Lyons gave an opening address to welcome the book club members of Dublin City Public Libraries who have always been great supporters of this special event in the Dublin City of Literature calendar.

Dublin Book Festival
10th – 13th November
The Dublin Book festival, which promotes Irish writing and Irish publishing, north and south, took place in Smock Alley Theatre. Over 100 authors took part in the festival which is grant aided by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Arts Council Northern Ireland. The festival, now celebrating its 10th year, is administered by Dublin UNESCO City of Literature.

The Winter Garden was again a feature of the festival this year - an area created as a destination for families to relax and spend time browsing books and the artworks created by students of Ballyfermot College of Further Education.

Overall attendance was up by about 900 since 2015, as the festival continues to grow in popularity and appeal to a wider audience. As always, the programme included very popular free events for primary schools, along with walking tours, launches and author events, many of which were fully booked.
Two Cities One Book

2016 was the 11th year of the Dublin One City, One Book Festival and there was a month long celebration of Lia Mills’ novel *Fallen* in April, including for the first time, a collaboration with Libraries NI for a *Two Cities One Book* initiative. The festival was a key component of the Ireland 2016 State Centenary Commemorations Programme.

Over 70 events took place in Dublin including readings, talks, spoken word, book crawls, author interviews and exhibitions. One of the highlights was ‘All sorts of wild reports’, dramatised eyewitness accounts of the 1916 Rising by women from different walks of life, accompanied by singers and musicians from the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Talks in other venues such as the RDS, Newman House, Royal Irish Academy, dlir LexIcon, and libraries in all Dublin authorities covered topics such as women’s educational opportunities, children of the Rising, Irish Suffragette Movement, writing historical fiction and many more. Lia Mills also took part in several events in Belfast during the month.

The collaboration with Hot Press continued for a second year with the *Write Here Write Now* national writing competition for students. The 2nd and 3rd level students were celebrated at a heart-warming award-giving ceremony in the Mansion House. The winning entrants were published on the Hot Press website.

The Sister Cities Conference, organised by the International Relations Office of Dublin City Council, part of the DCC Commemorations programme, brought delegates from US cities which are twinned with Irish cities to Dublin in April. Lia Mills read from *Fallen* and young musicians from *Rithim na Reabhloide* played specially composed music at the conference dinner which was attended by An Taoiseach. This was organised by DUCoL.

The NI Minister for DECAL launched the Belfast programme in Belfast Central Library on 2nd March. Chair of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Margaret Hayes spoke at the launch and met with members of the Board of Libraries NI. Author Lia Mills gave a short reading. The Lord Mayor of Dublin launched the Dublin programme in the Mansion House on 9th March, with attendance by a delegation from Libraries NI as well as event organisers. Margaret Hayes also spoke at this launch, with Lia Mills again making an appearance. Other speakers included John Concannon, Director of the Ireland 2016 Commemoration Programme and Irene Knox, CEO of Libraries NI. Both launches attracted widespread media and social media attention including Canadian CBC and the BBC World Service.

A mobile library wrapped in the Two Cities One Book livery, along with a library bus transformed into an Edwardian drawing room, was the popular centrepiece of DCC’s presence at ‘Reflecting the Rising’ in Smithfield on Easter Monday. More than 70 events took place over the month of April.
INTERNATIONAL
DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD
2016

160 books
118 cities
44 countries
19 languages
6 judges
1 winner...
A WORLD OF READERS

LONGLIST 9 November SHORTLIST 12 April WINNER 9 June

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email: literaryaward@dublincity.ie
Find us on Facebook and Twitter

INTERNATIONAL
DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD
2016

WINNER

FAMILY LIFE
a novel
by Akhil Sharma

WINNER INTERNATIONAL DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD 2016
Book Club Twinning

Legacy event of Dublin Two Cities One Book 2016

Two book clubs from Dublin City Libraries travelled to Belfast on Saturday 15th October to meet up with book club members from Belfast. Libraries NI organised a wonderful day where readers got a chance to chat and bond over books. Belfast author David Park read from his short story collection *Gods and Angels*, which the book clubs had read and discussed, and then chatted at length and answered their questions about the writing process, inspiration etc. Feedback was extremely positive from the Dublin book club members.

The participants received a guided tour of Belfast City Library as well as Belfast City Hall.

The groups met up again in Dublin’s Mansion House on 25th November. Broadcaster Rick O’Shea talked about his online book club and then interviewed Dublin author Liz Nugent about her two books, *Unravelling Oliver* and *Lying in Wait*, which the book groups had previously read. The readers had lots of questions for Liz and she was happy to stay to chat and sign books at the end. The groups received a tour of the Mansion House before they left and returned to Belfast by coach, following a very enjoyable afternoon.

International Dublin Literary Award

*Family Life* by Akhil Sharma was announced as the winner of the 2016 International Dublin Literary Award at a ceremony in the Mansion House on 9th June. This was the first year the re-named prize was fully sponsored by Dublin City Council. The Indian-born novelist received the prize of €100,000 from the Lord Mayor of Dublin Criona Ní Dhálaigh, and took part in a reading and discussion in Dublin City Library & Archive the following day.

Akhil Sharma was born in Delhi, India, and moved with his family to the United States when he was eight. He is also the author of *An Obedient Father*, winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award and a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. He lives in New York City and is an assistant professor of English at Rutgers University, Newark.

The winning novel was chosen from a total of 160 titles, nominated by libraries in 118 cities in 43 countries. The shortlist of ten novels, as chosen by an international panel of judges, included novels from five continents. Akhil Sharma is the third American author to win the prize in its 21 year history.

ISLA Festival

The 5th annual ISLA Festival — Irish Spanish & Latin American Literary festival — took place from the 20th to the 22nd October. Irish authors Christine Dwyer Hickey and Dave Lordan’s appearances at the literary element of the festival were sponsored by Dublin UNESCO City of Literature.

Lingo Festival

The 3rd Lingo Spoken Word Festival took place from 21st to 23rd October. DUCOL sponsored the New Work Fund at the festival, which was awarded to Sorcha Fox. She performed her piece *Remember* in Liberty Hall. DUCOL also gave financial support for Lingo’s *Word Works* youth programme, which was performed in the Fringe Lab.

“In my opinion Book Club activity is greatly enhanced by diversity of members — as facilitated by this type of exchange.”

Mary Burke, book club member

E: International Dublin Literary Award 2016 winner – *Family Life* by Akhil Sharma
Dublin in the Coming Times project, met at an event in Dublin City Library & Archive on 7th June. Writers Jennifer Johnston, Christine Dwyer Hickey and Stephen James Smith talked about the craft of writing and offered advice. Some writers read from their work. Dublin in the Coming Times is a collaborative project between DUCoL, Dublin City Libraries, Fighting Words and the Irish Times.

An evening reception for Dublin City Public Libraries’ Fighting Words creative writing groups was held on Wednesday the 30th November. 61 participants from the creative writing groups of library branches attended, as well as volunteers from Fighting Words who have been key partners in the project to produce these collections. Group members were given the opportunity to read from their work. Dublin in the Coming Times is a collaborative project between DUCoL, Dublin City Libraries, Fighting Words and the Irish Times.

Writers and artists were asked to contribute short stories reimagining the city. Their work was published in The Irish Times during 2016

Participants in the creative writing groups, established in Dublin City Libraries as part of the

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**Fighting Words – Dublin in the Coming Times**

Dublin in the Coming Times is a collaborative project between DUCoL, Dublin City Libraries, Fighting Words, DCC Arts Office and the Irish Times and is a free, city wide programme of creative writing in which Dubliners, young and old, can create their own stories and poems as they look to the future of their city as it goes through another phase of evolution and renewal.

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WORDS ON THE STREET
European Literature Night

Wednesday
18th May
6:30 - 8:30pm

1 LOCATION
TEMPLE BAR & SURROUNDING AREAS

12 VENUES
VOICES COUNTRIES

Oíche Litríocht na hÉireann

Dublin UNESCO City of Literature

Carroll’s Café Bar
St. Audoen’s Church
Dublin City Council

Words on the Street

The Front Lounge

Liquor

Dublin City of Literature

www.dublincityofliterature.ie
Literary Events

Emma Donoghue
Emma Donoghue, the Dublin-born award-winning author, took part in a fully-booked special event in the Edmund Burke Theatre, Trinity College, on 17th September. Organised by Dublin UNESCO City of Literature in collaboration with the School of English, Trinity College Dublin, and Picador Books, Emma read from her new novel *The Wonder*, a psychological thriller, which is set in post-Famine Ireland. In her discussion with Dr Aileen Douglas, Head of the School of English, she spoke about undertaking research for the book as well as her writing habits and the inspiration for her award-winning novel *Room*.

She was an engaging interviewee and during the Q & A which followed she discussed writing for and about children and other projects of hers that were of great interest to the audience.

Roddy Doyle
Over 350 children attended Liberty Hall on October 10th for an event with Dublin author Roddy Doyle, where he read from his latest children’s novel *Rover and the Big Fat Baby*. The children were hugely engaged with the event and asked lots of questions about writing books and characters in the books.

Dublin: A Year In Words
Dublin: A Year in Words celebrates the breadth and diversity of our city’s living poets through a year-long series of poetry videos filmed across 12 Dublin bookshops. Over the course of a year a new poem connected with Dublin was released each month. This project was sponsored by the City of Literature office and was curated by Linda Devlin and Stephen James Smith. The poems we enjoyed during 2016 were:

- *Dublin* by Kerrie O’Brien in Books Upstairs (August)
- *Native* by John Cummins in The Winding Stair Bookshop (September)
- *You Think I Wear This For You* by Raneem Saleh in An Siopa Leabhar (October)
- *Vinyl Sublime* by Richard Brennan in The Secret Book & Record Store (November)
- *The Ghost Song* by Paula Meehan in Ulysses Rare Books (December)

This project will continue in 2017 with a new selection of writing by exciting poets in bookshops of the city.

“We were the only class from the whole of Ballyfermot chosen to go.”

“He writes lots of brilliant books, he is very famous.”

“He read us some of his book and asked us to shout ‘Shut Up!’ when 10 minutes was up. It was very very funny”

Pupils of St. Louise’s school, Ballyfermot

H: Emma Donoghue, author of *The Wonder*, at Trinity College Dublin
THE WONDER

EMMA DONOGHUE

What's the Story?

Dublin
UNESCO
City of Literature

www.dublincityofliterature.ie
Education Programmes

Citywide Reading for Children

The Book of Learning by E.R. Murray, published by Mercier Books, was this year’s choice for the Citywide Reading Campaign. The aim of the campaign is to encourage children to read for pleasure, with multiple copies of the books available through Dublin City Libraries, and hundreds of children attending events with the author in branch libraries across the city. There were also events in the National Library of Ireland, Waterways Ireland, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, Scoil Chiarán Special Needs School, and a final large public event in Merrion Square, as part of St. Patrick’s Festival.

The author appeared at 18 library events for over 1000 primary school children in Dublin city. These events included readings from the book, interactive storytelling sessions, 4 senses workshops, question and answers sessions and much more.

Cabra Library organised an event with children from St Josephs School for the Deaf, Marian School for the Deaf and St. Mary’s School for Deaf Girls, with the author performing a variation of her 4 senses event, which was signed by the teachers.

Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane held a high quality illustration workshop based on The Book of Learning with children’s author Oisin McGann during the mid-term break. As the National Library featured in one of the scenes in the book, they hosted a unique event for children which consisted of an illustration workshop, treasure trail and a special reading in the iconic Reading Room, normally out of bounds to children.

The final event of the campaign took place on Sunday 20th March as part of St. Patrick’s Festival Big Day Out in Merrion Square. The Royal Society of Antiquaries was transformed into a Book of Learning House, featuring author readings, magic shows, arts and crafts workshops, live pet rats and creative writing workshops.

“Walking into a room where all the children have read and enjoyed your book is just incredible”

E.R. Murray, author of The Book of Learning
UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) International Engagement

Cities of Literature Conference hosted by Dublin May 2016:

Mon 23rd to Wed 25th May

The sub-network meeting, held in Dublin, of the UNESCO Creative Cities of Literature Network, brought together representatives of Barcelona (Spain), Dublin (Ireland), Edinburgh (Scotland), Granada (Spain), Heidelberg (Germany), Iowa City (United States), Krakow (Poland), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Lviv (Ukraine), Melbourne (Australia), Norwich (UK), Nottingham (UK), Óbidos (Portugal), Prague (Czech Republic), Reykjavik (Iceland) Tartu (Estonia) and Ulyanovsk (Russia).

Participants shared their opinions on issues related to future developments of the Sub-network, shared best practices and discussed future partnerships. The meeting also included discussion of future organization, how to support new member cities and strategies nurturing freedom of expression within the Network. The representatives of the Network also enjoyed a special viewing of the Book of Kells, a bus tour of literary Dublin, and the opportunity to enjoy Irish culture in a special performance at the Lord Mayor’s residence, the Mansion House.

All cities, with the exceptions of Baghdad, Montevideo and Dunedin in New Zealand were represented. For the newly designated cities it was great opportunity to learn from other cities about how the designation works. Six cities outlined how their offices operated and other cities talked about various projects they are working on, highlighting best practices as well as proposed projects, many of which will allow for the different cities to collaborate. Dublin’s director Jane Alger gave a short presentation on the International Dublin Literary Award. Ideas for mentoring and development of Creative Cities Network were also discussed.

A drinks reception hosted by the Lord Mayor gave representatives of Dublin literary organisations the opportunity to meet the delegates. Literary Dublin was showcased through a private tour of The Book of Kells and Long Room in Trinity College, a bus tour of literary Dublin, including James Joyce Tower, and participation in the Literary Pub Crawl. Some delegates attended the IFLD talk with Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich.
10th Annual meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

The conference was held in Östersund, Sweden, (City of Crafts and Folk Art) in September and was attended by the director of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature, Alison Lyons, and Dublin’s Deputy Lord Mayor, Rebecca Moynihan. The event gathered over 250 participants, including 22 mayors, representing nearly 100 Creative Cities. This was the largest meeting in the Network’s history, which is now made up of 116 cities from 54 countries worldwide. The main outcomes of the meeting were to:

- Integrate the Network’s new members, designated in December 2015
- Strengthen the Network’s governance, notably with the first renewal of the Steering Group
- Define the Network’s priorities for the coming year
- Reflect on the future development and strategic objectives of a growing and geographically balanced Network
- Review the numerous initiatives undertaken by members to promote the contribution of creativity to sustainable urban development and establish the building blocks for developing cities’ actions aimed at achieving the Network’s objectives
- Review the first round of Membership Monitoring Reports submitted by the cities that have joined the Network between 2004 and 2006
- Coordinate the management and activities of the 7 sub-networks, with the recommended organization of at least one sub-network meeting per year
- Establish working methods enabling Creative Cities to actively contribute to UNESCO’s Culture and Sustainable Urban Development Initiative, with the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda to be soon adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, 17-20 October
- Reflect on the future strategy of the Network

A highlight of the conference was the Mayors’ Meeting, gathering 22 local authorities and enabling the sharing of diverse approaches and practical experiences from different regions around the world aimed at harnessing creativity for social, economic and environmental development and reinforcing support for the Network at the political level. Rebecca Moynihan spoke eloquently about Dublin One City, One Book as an example of a successful project that could be emulated by other cities in the network.

Alison Lyons was nominated as the Deputy Representative of the Cities of Literature cluster and will work alongside group Representative Justyna Jochym of Krakow for a term of two years.
A selection of UNESCO projects and engagement:

**Reykjavík Reads**, an exhibition of words and images from eighteen UNESCO Cities of Literature at the 2016 Reykjavík Reads Festival in October. The exhibition opened on October 1st at the Reykjavík City Hall and it ran through to October 21st.


**Melbourne – International Literacy Day**: A project with Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature. Melbourne piloted a joint project with all Cities of Literature to mark International Literacy Day on the 8th September. The idea was to stress the importance of children’s early contact with books, with each city being asked to nominate a popular children’s book of their country and give reasons why it is so loved, along with an image. Dublin’s nominated book was *A Bit Lost* by Chris Haughton.

The office hosted a delegation from aspiring City of Literature, Bucheon, Korea in December. AL gave presentations to the group of librarians and academics to illustrate the work of DUCoL and offered advice regarding an application to UNESCO.

Irish poet Michael O’Loughlin was awarded a writer’s residency in Prague UNESCO City of Literature, to begin in 2017.

**2016 Projects/Partnerships**

It is the policy of the Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Office to work with a wide range of partners. Below are the organisations to whom funds were granted for collaborative projects during 2016, in addition to those listed elsewhere:

- The Ark: Literature element of Ark Access Programme
- Beckett in Foxrock
- Children’s Books Ireland: Book of the Year Awards; Book Clinics
- Guthanna Binne Síoraí - Blood on the Rose music CD
- Heidelberg Short Plays Festival
- James Joyce Centre: Bloomsday interview
- Looking At The Stars: An Anthology of Irish Writing
- The New Theatre: New Writing Programme
- Poetry Ireland: *Reading in a Participative Culture*, A symposium on the life and work of Terry Pratchett
- Samuel Beckett Summer School: Rianta Ireland
- Tramp Press: Promotion of Irish literature to US audiences
- UCD Press: The Real People of Ulysses
Appendix 1

Management Group Members

- Chair – Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian
- Director – Alison Lyons (from August 2016)
- Valerie Bistany, Director, Irish Writers Centre
- Sandra Collins, Director, National Library of Ireland
- Thérèse O’Connor, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Alan Hayes, Publisher/Arts Programmer
- Maureen Kennelly, Director of Poetry Ireland

Office of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature Staff

- Jackie Lynam
- Elizabeth Cuddy

Steering Group Members

- The Abbey Theatre
- Booksellers’ Association of Ireland
- Children’s Books Ireland
- Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge
- Culture Ireland
- Dublin City Arts Office
- Fáilte Ireland
- Foras na Gaeilge
- Ireland Literature Exchange
- Irish Book Awards
- Irish Copyright Licensing Agency
- Irish Pen
- The Irish Times
- Irish Writers’ Centre
- Publishing Ireland
- RTÉ
- The Stinging Fly
- Sunday Independent
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Dublin
- Éilis Ni Dhuibhne (Writer)
- Colm Tóibín (Writers)
UNESCO Cities of Literature

Since December 2015 there are now 20 cities in our network

Baghdad, Iraq
Barcelona, Spain
Dublin, Ireland
Dunedin, New Zealand
Edinburgh, Scotland
Granada, Spain
Heidelberg, Germany
Iowa City, USA
Krakow, Poland
Ljubljana, Slovenia
Lviv, Ukraine
Melbourne, Australia
Montevideo, Uruguay
Norwich, England
Nottingham, England
Óbidos, Portugal
Prague, Czech Republic
Reykjavik, Iceland
Tartu, Estonia
Ulyanovsk, Russia

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