

Letter of Intent

Application by Dornbirn and the Region of Vorarlberg to become the European Capital of Culture in 2024

More than two years ago several cities in the Vorarlberg Rhine Valley, together with the Regio Bregenzerwald, began the procedure of applying to represent Austria as the European Capital of Culture in the year 2024. In July 2016, at a joint meeting of municipal councils in Schwarzenberg, a project team was commissioned with an overwhelming majority to prepare measures for decisive action in the spring of 2018.

Those who have taken a deep interest in this subject matter and course of action are convinced of the purposefulness and significance of this venture for the entire region. There are three substantive cornerstones of central importance for the cultural development of the **living environment in the Vorarlberg Rhine Valley** and the **bordering Lake Constance area**:

1. Overcoming borders; interaction, cooperation and networking beyond geographical, political, historical and local boundaries.
2. Proactive preparation of the region for the challenges of the future; recognition of and action on opportunities for rural and urban development.
3. Advancement of the region in its European context; helping people experience the significance of Europe for regional improvement, while at the same time establishing the uniqueness of the region as a living and livable part of Europe.

At the end of 2017, Dornbirn took over the leading role in the application process. The cities of Feldkirch and Hohenems, along with the Regio Bregenzerwald, have also confirmed their interest and solidarity. Several other communities and cultural institutions in the Rhine Valley and the Lake Constance area have agreed to cooperate as partners. In the 2024 European Capital of Culture year not large lighthouse projects should be of paramount importance, but rather the organisation of a tight network of permanent, sustainable initiatives and activities in the areas of fine arts, culture, architecture, handicrafts, public spaces, living environments, mobility, tourism and economics in general. In addition, efforts should be made to network regional players from Vorarlberg with national and international professionals, educational facilities and institutions of all sorts.

This application to become the European Capital of Culture in 2024 is meant to enable an Austrian city, after Graz in 2003 and Linz in 2009, to once again have the unique opportunity to manage social developments and challenges from a changed cultural perspective, and to lay the groundwork for promoting cooperative lifestyles within the region.

Dornbirn, the tenth largest city in Austria and pivotal hub for the region, should be given this opportunity! Together with the cities of Feldkirch and Hohenems, and the Bregenzerwald region, Dornbirn is on its way to becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2024. This project has my full support and commitment!

Date, Signature, Occupation/Profession