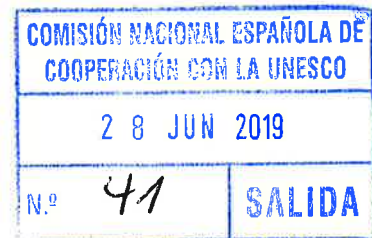


DIRECCIÓN DE RELACIONES CULTURALES Y CIENTÍFICAS
DEPARTAMENTO DE COORDINACIÓN DE RELACIONES CULTURALES Y CIENTÍFICAS



Mme. Audrey Azoulay
Director General
UNESCO
7, Place Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP



Madrid, 28th of June 2019

Dear Director General:

The Spanish National Commission for UNESCO is pleased to endorse the candidacy of the city of **Orihuela** for UNESCO's Creative City of **Literature**.

Orihuela, a Mediterranean city in the southeast of Spain, has a rich literary history dating from the Middle Ages. What makes this city a reference is to be the hometown of Miguel Hernandez (1910-1942) who has been called "the poet of the people". Hernandez an illiterate shepherd to poor parents, was self-taught in literature and poetry in an unfavorable environment, becoming one of the greatest and best loved Spanish poets and the youngest poet of the "Generation '27 movement" of which García Lorca, Rafael Alberti, Luis Cernuda and Nobel Prize Vicente Alexandre are part of.

In this context, Orihuela's involvement in all the different literary expressions has been favored, both in the creative as in the industrial aspect, incorporating literature not only in all the education levels but in society, always with a strong support and commitment of the City Council.

Orihuela is a diverse and open city, where more than 122 nationalities coexist today. Though being a medium sized city, it has an elevated number of libraries, bookstores and editorials and an active community of writers. The city has also important archives. The city is ahead on digital literary goods and services, its electronic edition representing 40% of the total production.

The local government has defined a "Strategic Transformation Plan" for the city through literature for 2020-2024, aligned with the SDOs, that would be facilitated with the nomination of Orihuela as UNESCO Creative City of Literature. For its part, Orihuela could contribute to the Network its experience on the integration of literature, and particularly of poetry, in society.

Therefore, this National Commission endorses the candidacy of Orihuela for the Creative Cities Network in Literature.

I avail myself of this opportunity to present to you the testimony of my highest consideration.



Carmen Pinar
Deputy Secretary General
Spanish National Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO