



Bucheon City, The First in the East Asia!

## Designated as a UNESCO Creative City(Literature)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



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문학창의도시  
Since 2017

## Bucheon, Heightened Dignity as the City of Culture and Arts.

Bucheon was an anonymous city until the 1970s-1980s. As a small name-less city sandwiched between large cities, Seoul and Incheon, it was hardly neither distinctive nor unique as an industrial city.

Along with the foundation of the City Art Company, such a featureless city pursued the areas of comic, film and music and started to establish its identity as an icon of 'literature and arts'. Three decades later, now the world sees the city a UNESCO Creative City (Literature) with an upgraded brand value.

Bucheon was designated as a UNESCO Creative City not only for its modern and contemporary literature but also for its competence as a cultural city that owns unique infrastructure and contents in comic, film and music.

The authority and class of UNESCO Creative Cities can be assumed by looking at the aspects of other designated cities this year, Manchester (the UK), Milano (Italy), Quebec (Canada) and Seattle (USA). In particular, Bucheon was the only nation in the East Asia and the second to Bagdad (Iraq) in the entire Asia to be proudly designated as a UNESCO Creative City.

Eight cities in Korea including Bucheon joined the UNESCO Creative Cities, which include Seoul (Design), Busan (Film), Daegu (Music), Gwangju (Media Art), Jeonju (Gastronomy), Icheon (Crafts) and Tongyeong (Music).

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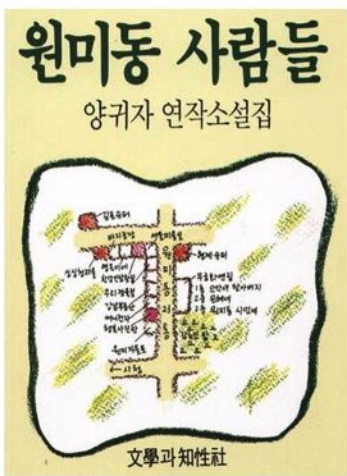
# The UNESCO Creative City of Bucheon, Raised to Global Cultural City

## Heightened Dignity as a City of Culture and Arts Across Comic, Film and Music as well as Literature

Bucheon proudly stands side by side with the world’s renowned creative cities by joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (Literature) as the first Eastern Asian nation. From an industrial city in the 1970s and 1980s, the city has laid a foundation to become a cultural city in the 1990s. Bucheon raised its dignity as Korea’s leading creative city across comic, film and literature.



Pearl Buck and orphans at Sosa Hope House



A Distant and Beautiful Place by Yang Gui-ja



Byeon Yeong-ro Statue in Suju-daero,  
Gogang-dong, Bucheon-si



Mok Il-sin <Bicycle> Children’s  
Song Monument (Central Park)



Jeong Ji-yong <Nostalgia>  
Poem Monument (Central Park)

Delightful news arrived from Paris, France early morning on November 1st, 2017 Korean time. The UNESCO Headquarters officially announced Bucheon is designated as a UNESCO Creative City. Bucheon passed the local review (by UNESCO Korea Committee) last December and successfully went through the international review by the UNESCO headquarter which started last June and the peer review by 20 UNESCO Creative Cities Members (Literature) to finally join the network.



# What makes Bucheon a UNESCO Creative City?

Bucheon is like a miniature of Korea as it cherishes space and time-wise significance of Korea's modern and contemporary history despite its short history.

## UNESCO Creative City (Literature) Designation Ceremony Celebration

November 18th (Saturday) 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Bucheon City Hall Eoul Square

## Korean Writer's Convention

November 17th (Friday) 02:30 pm-06:30 pm

Bucheon City Hall Eoul Square

## The 17th Book Festival

November 18th (Saturday) 10:00 am-05:00 pm

In and around Bucheon City Hall

Its historical legacy and activities in the modern and contemporary literature, abundant cultural contents and library infrastructure and its identity as the city of culture and arts have been highly recognized to make Bucheon being designated as the Creative City (Literature).

Along with literature group activities and citizen-driven cultural activities in various areas. Bucheon has vibrant cultural activities including the projects to commemorate the writers who were based on the city such as Byeon Yeong-ro, Yang Gui-ja, Pearl Buck, Mok Il-sin and Jeong Ji-yong.

Based on the cultural contents industry such as comic and webtoon, international film festivals, Bucheon Philharmonic Orchestra and other highly sophisticated cultural assets, Bucheon's joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network seemed to be recognized to have a huge ripple effect across Korean culture. And it has been also evaluated that its experience of transforming the old industrial city into a cultural city could present an example to cities of developing countries.

Bucheon showed respect to the writers from the city and their abundant cultural contributions by building commemorative monuments or naming parks, roads and schools following them.

One of them is Pearl S. Buck, a Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature. She established Sosa Hope House, a welfare facility for the unprotected mixed-blood and ordinary persons in Simgok-dong, Bucheon in 1967, which later became Pearl Buck International Korea Branch in 1999. Currently, Pearl Buck Memorial is founded on the site and Pearl Buck Festival is held every year.

And a writer who loved the city is a poet and English literature scholar, Byeon Yeong-ro. He named his penname following the old name of the city. Suju. He had his address registered in Bucheon even when he lived in Seoul and was buried in the hill at the back of his hometown house, Gogang-dong, Bucheon. His poem monument is built in Bucheon Central Park and his statue stands on the road named after his penname, Suju-daero. And Suju Literary Award is held every year.

## Writers of Bucheon and Assets of Modern and Contemporary Literature

Bucheon has a close tie with Jeong Ji-yong, who is known as the Father of Korean modern poem. As a faithful Catholic, he was pioneering in establishing the first Catholic church in Bucheon by inviting a catholic priest to a church in Bucheon and creating a Catholic parish. His memorial monument is built in 89-14, Sosa-dong where he lived and also in front of Bucheon Central Park and Sosa-dong Community Center. A poet and children's story writer, Mok Il-sin moved to Bucheon in 1960 and lived until his death in 1986. Children's songs such as <Bicycle>, <Lullaby> and <Soap Bubbles> which are composed based on his poems are included in the textbooks for primary school. To commemorate him and his work, the city erected a song monument in Central Park and made a memorial hill in Beombak-dong and it also founded Ilsin Elementary School and Ilsin Middle School, named after the poet.

The novelist, Yang Gui-ja finished her work, A Distant and Beautiful Place, while living in Wonmi-dong in the 1980s for ten years. Her English novel Daily Bread (9th volume of A Distant and Beautiful Place) was included in the Korean text book for the primary third grade in 2003, which made Bucheon widely known among young generations in Korea. Apart from them, many other established writers such as an essayist Sohyang Lee Sang-ro, a poet Hwang Myeong, novelists Ahn Jeong-Hyo and Kim Guk-Tae resided in Bucheon and produced historical literary works.



2017 The Integrity Assessment results from Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC)

Transparent city  
Bucheon

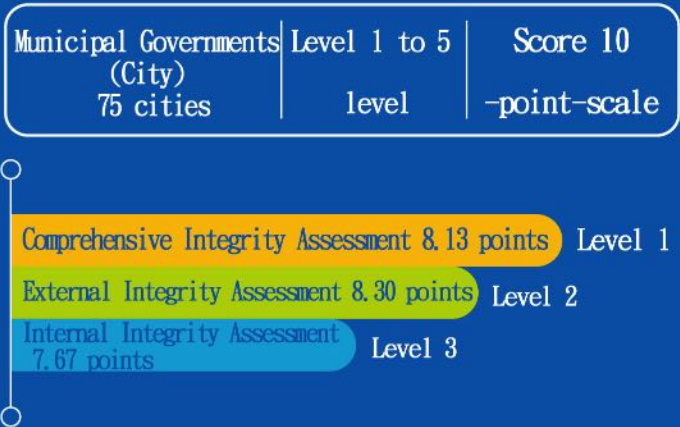
Transparent City Bucheon

Achieved Level 1 in Comprehensive Integrity Assessment

Ranked at No. 2 out of 75 Municipal Governments

Satisfy the citizens, and rewarding to the public officials!

2017 Comprehensive Integrity Assessment



Improvement of Integrity Assessment Results since 2011



"Transparent City of Bucheon Where Citizens are Happy"

Achieved Level 1 in 2017 Integrity Assessment of Public Organizations by Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC)

Bucheon achieved level 1 in the '2017 Integrity Assessment of Public Organizations' conducted by Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) and proved itself as being same in name and reality as 'Transparent City'.

The city got 8.13 points in Comprehensive Integrity Assessment and fairly and squarely achieved level 1. This demonstrates that Bucheon achieved the highest score in the index, and ranked No.1 among the metropolitan cities with over 500,000 residents as well as ranked No. 2 out of 75 municipal governments (followed by Gyeongsan, Gyeongsangbuk-do, which ranked No.1 with 8.20 points). It has been 4 years for Bucheon to achieve level 1 in the Comprehensive Integrity Index since 2013 and was ranked No.2 out of 75 cites. This is the highest ranking ever since 2013 when the city ranked No. 3. The city had been recognized as corrupted city with the notorious embezzlement of government money incident in 1994. Furthermore, the city ranked No. 72, the lowest scores in the 2009 Integrity Assessment from ACRC. Under this circumstances, all of 900,000 Bucheon city officials and citizens exerted years of efforts to change its negative image caused by corruption to achieve the image of transparent city. The city's inspector general office emphasizes that anti-corruption is No.1 priority and the most important value to the public officials. Furthermore, the office stressed that all of the public officials in Bucheon will stand in the forefront to enhance transparency and reliability in public administration.