



**NAMUR
CAPITALE**

NAMUR

●●●● **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE



Intermunicipal agreements

Quebec City

The cities of Namur and Quebec, twinned since 1999 and both members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and the AIMF, have continued their fruitful exchanges, notably through the circulation of artists and works of art between the two cities. They also signed a new agreement to further develop their collaboration.

Welcoming the Mayor of Quebec to Namur

In April, the City of Namur received an official visit from a delegation led by the new Mayor of Quebec City, Bruno Marchand. The delegation was joined by the Mayor of Sherbrooke, Ms. Evelyne Beaudin. A number of meetings and visits were scheduled to showcase the Namur ecosystem. These included the Governor of the Province of Namur, the University of Namur, the NID, the KIKK, the Citadelle Visitor Center, the Maison de l’habitat, Espace VIF, the Ressourcerie, the BEP and the Namur business parks.



Inauguration of the “Le temps d’un poème” exhibition

Taking advantage of his visit, the Mayor of Quebec City inaugurated the temporary exhibition “Le temps d’un poème”, developed by Québec BD and financed by the City of Quebec, at the Square de la Francophonie on April 23. Les Molons and Les échasseurs de Namur were also present.



The multidisciplinary mission of the City of Namur in Quebec

A delegation from the City of Namur, led by Mayor Maxime Prévot, and accompanied by BEP, UNamur, CPAS de Namur and the Consular Corps of the Province of Namur, visited Quebec last August. The mission had multiple objectives: meetings, visits, presentations and exchanges of best practices in the economic, social, academic, political and diplomatic fields.

PRESS REVIEW



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Namur donates digital work “FLEUVES” to Quebec City

The work by Gaëtan Libertiaux and Gaël Bertrand (Superbe) presents the meeting of the St. Lawrence River (Quebec) and the Meuse (Namur). Shaped to form a majestic “Y”, the work features the original courses of the two rivers, linked by intermediate strata, on the front and back.



A luminous trickle catches the eye. This colored flow translates the speed of river currents into light. Transposed into a three-minute loop, the flow rates of each river are calculated on the basis of three years’ worth of actual data. The work was donated by the City of Namur to the City of Quebec as part of the twinning arrangement that has united them since 1999, and is installed in the brand-new Gabrielle-Roy library.

Quebec City and Namur share many similarities, one of which is their membership of UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network, in Literature for Quebec City and in Media Arts for Namur.

To honor the work “FLEUVES”, a literary initiative was added. The poem “amoures” was co-written by two authors (Vanessa Bell and Perrine Estienne), who took part in a cross-residency between the Maison de la Littérature (Quebec) and the Maison de la Poésie (Namur).

AMOURES POEM →

The two cities have signed their new 2024-2026 collaboration protocol



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Visit from the director of Quebec City's "Danse K par K" company

We met Karine Ledoyen, Artistic Director of Danse K par K, during the City of Namur's mission to Quebec City. As part of her visit to Namur in October, we organized a meeting and several get-togethers with members of Namur's cultural ecosystem.



City of Cluj-Napoca

A delegation from the City of Cluj-Napoca visited Namur in June, to discuss the twinning relationship, the ties that bind the two cities and to consider future collaborations. The delegation also had the opportunity to discover the Maison des Citoyens, the Council Chamber of the Town Hall and the NID.



Huế City



Last May, the City of Namur visited Huế, following the visit of the Mayor of this city, Mr. Vo Le Nath, to the Walloon Capital in July 2022. Meetings and visits took place as part of the City of Huế's wish to draw inspiration from the NID (Namur Intelligent and Sustainable) to develop a project to be co-financed by the AIMF, of which it is also a member. This mission was also part of the Huế Festival of Traditional Crafts, with the exceptional participation of Namur's stilt walkers. An academic meeting was also organized via the Délégation Wallonie-Bruxelles in Hanoi, facilitating exchanges between the universities of the two cities.



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City of Lafayette

The work, imagined by Louisiana artists Makemake and Burt Durand, was recently inaugurated. It can be seen on rue Mazy in Jambes, next to the Institut Saint Joseph de Jambes and a stone's throw from l'Enjambée.



PRESS KIT



l'avenir
l'avenir
LaMeuse

INAUGURATION →



INSTALLATION →



Produced on canvas in collaboration with the Namur-Lafayette non-profit association, this colorful creation highlights some of the special features of the City of Lafayette: its urban center, its waterways, its music, its dances...

There are also a few local expressions and the faces of eight personalities who played an essential role in the twinning. You can listen to their stories by scanning a QR code at the bottom of the canvas, which takes you to a website containing documentation on the work and its geographical and historical context.

This Namur-Lafayette fresco was created to celebrate the twinning of the two towns. It was the first to be printed on a stretched canvas and to include a digital component, developed in-house.



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International networks

AIMF

Interconnect Forum - Toulouse

In March, Namur took part in the Forum des Interconnectés in Toulouse. This event was part of the “Innovative Cities” Commission’s digital action plan to build a common foundation for territorial data charters. This project led to the development of an operational guide for local authorities wishing to embark on a data charter approach, and adapt it to their territories.



GUIDE TO TERRITORIAL DATA CHARTERS →

AIMF Office - Paris



ROUND TABLE SUMMARY →



The City of Namur participated to the 98th Bureau of the Association in Paris in April. The programme of this international meeting featured several key highlights, including a day dedicated to the Olympic and Paralympic Games as sustainable transformers of the city, a discussion on the role of cities in defending democracy, and a conference focusing on the contributions of diasporas to local economic development.

Annual General Meeting in Cotonou



The AIMF General Meeting and Board of Directors were held in Cotonou in October. For scheduling reasons, Namur was unable to attend this event.

March 20, Francophonie Day

To mark the International Francophonie Day, which took place on March 20, we made the day visible with a large-scale paving campaign. We also produced a video to celebrate Namur, its spaces, players and partners in the Francophonie.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONIE DAY →



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International networks

Namur continued its commitment to the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together and shared new initiatives in the field of living together. These are available on the following page: <https://observatoirevivreensemble.org/namur>

In June, we welcomed Mr. Esteban Benavides, Coordinator of the Observatory, whose general secretariat is based in Montreal. As part of the sharing of best practices and knowledge, a meeting was also organized with the City's Social Cohesion Department.



We continued our exchanges within the Network at the International Summer School held in Victoriaville from June 28 to July 8, 2023. The University of Namur took part in this project, which brought together cities and entrepreneurs to discuss the transition to a circular economy. We also continued to feed the Network's website.



Réseau des Femmes Leaders Maghrébines
شبكة النساء الرائدات المغاربيات

Since the creation of the Network in 2018, Namur has continued to provide its support in a variety of ways: in addition to hosting the association's headquarters in its offices, we provide the day-to-day management of the Network.



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Specific relationships

Adrano

On May 27, 2023, in the presence of the authorities of Adrano and Namur, witnesses to the friendship that binds them, the creation of the ADRANAM committee was formalized, bringing together the communities of Adrano and Namur in memory of the citizens who, as early as 1946, left Adrano for Namur and who have never forgotten their homeland. A Charter of Friendship was signed between the two entities on this occasion.

Signing of a collaboration protocol with the City of Terrebonne



The cities of Namur and Terrebonne met in August 2023 during a mission to Quebec organized by the City of Namur, accompanied by the University of Namur and the Province's Economic Office. Exchanges between Namur and Terrebonne bore fruit, resulting in the signing of a collaboration protocol on November 28, 2023 in the Walloon capital.



Boukè



A city tour for the University of Namur

We were asked by the University of Namur to host a half-day event for representatives of the Kircher Network member institutions, as part of their Annual General Meeting. On this occasion, we introduced them to the dynamic city of Namur through a tour of the city center.



A delegation from Hué University in Namur

Following our mission to Hué and the contacts established on site, a delegation from the University of Hué visited the University of Namur. We were asked to take part in the meeting and help them discover our beautiful city and the NID.



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Cousin towns

MRC-Papineau

A large delegation from MRC-Papineau, led by the prefect and three other mayors, was in Namur from September 13 to 20.



l'avenir



DELEGATION PROGRAM → 

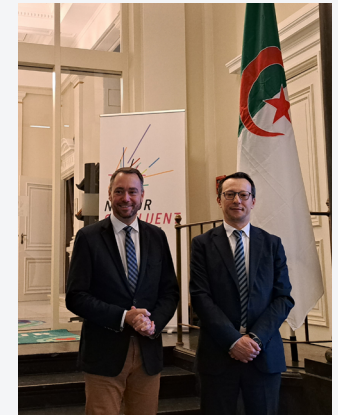
Namur, Winsconsin

Representatives from the Belgian Heritage Center in Namur, Wisconsin, visited our capital in October as part of their tour of the town of Grez-Doiceau. This year, the town celebrated the 170th anniversary of Belgian immigration to Wisconsin. It was an excellent opportunity to make contact and discuss the links between the two Namur.



Official receptions and consular activities

The city of Namur was honored to welcome a number of diplomats. Meetings were held with the Ambassador of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Andri Hadi, and with the Consul General and Vice-Consul of Algeria, Messrs. Moncef Mansri and Mohamed Alleg.



Wallonia Festival



As part of the Wallonia Festival, we renewed our excellent collaboration with the Communication department of the City of Namur and the Governor of the Province of Namur to manage the protocol reception at the City Hall, as well as the organization of the Ambassadors' Lunch at the Provincial Palace.



DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

MUNICIPAL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



Finally, an information session on the CIC partnership was held in Namur in November. It was an opportunity to present the work accomplished by the Namur-Masina partnership since the first contacts were established 20 years ago.

INFORMATION SESSION



Collaboration with the NGO PASCO



As part of the International Relations Office program, we had the opportunity to visit a facility run by the NGO Parlons Sida Aux Communautaires (PASCO) in Masina. Following this visit, the City of Namur held a meeting with potential partners of the NGO. This meeting led to the organization of an online training course by ASBL Namur Entraide Sida for PASCO teams. We also held several meetings with the NGO's Coordinator and submitted a file to WBI as part of its 2023 call for projects.

