

Gimhae, KOREA

City of Gimhae Starts Anew by Being Designated a UNESCO Creative City

As a new member city joining the UCCN in November 2021, Gimhae held a proclamation ceremony for its designation as a creative city in March 2022. The ceremony was attended by only a small group of about 50 people due to COVID-19 prevention measures. Instead of sending representatives, all ten Korean creative cities delivered congratulatory messages through videoconference, and a live stream was also provided on YouTube.

The city of Gimhae set out the work of establishing a creative city development plan in August 2022 to advance as a new creative city. In September 2022, the Creative City Advisory Committee was created with experts and specialists from various fields and collected expert opinions at the first meeting. In the future, the city will finalize its development plan by January 2023 by sifting through fact-finding surveys, opinion polls, interviews and forums.



A proclamation ceremony for Gimhae's designation as a Creative City.

Exchange with Creative Cities, One Step at a Time

In April 2022, we signed an agreement with the city of Gangneung (the city recommended by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO to join the UCCN in the field of gastronomy by 2023) to work together. In October 2022, the two cities ran a joint promotional booth at each city's festival. At the Gangneung Coffee Festival, the Gimhae Ceramics Association held a pottery wheel experience event along with the exhibit and sale of porcelainware. At the Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Festival, a free coffee sampling event and a crafts experience session were held jointly with the Gangneung Coffee Roasting Club at a leftover coffee recycling plant. It was a great opportunity for local residents of both cities to experience pottery and coffee at the same time, as they are five hours apart by car.



The Gangneung Coffee Festival: the exhibit and sale of Gimhae porcelainware



The Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Festival: Gangneung coffee sales



The “Gimhae City–Daegu City–Gwangju City” collaborative performance

At the Creative City International Forum held at Daegu in August 2022, the three cities including Daegu (creative city of music), Gwangju (media arts), and our city put on a show celebrating the occasion. On a stage directed by a Gwangju media artist, the Gimhae Municipal Gayageum Orchestra and the Daegu City Traditional Korean Orchestra performed together.

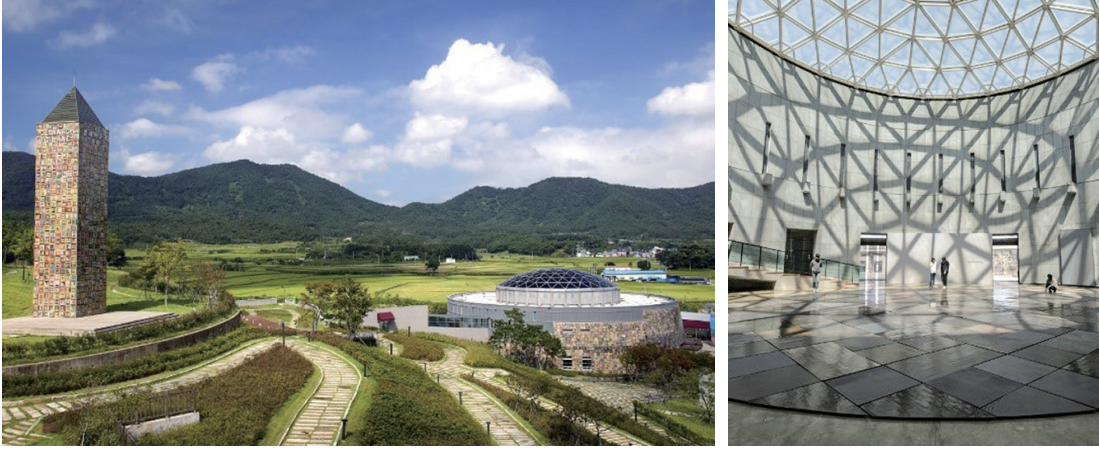
Pottery Studios Clustered in Gimhae’s Jillye-myeon

In Jillye-myeon, major establishments such as the Support Center for Small Ceramics Manufacturers, a ceramics art museum, a ceramics exhibition and distribution center, and a ceramics museum are clustered in one place. More than sixty ceramic studios are also located there.

1) Clayarch Gimhae Museum

Established in 2006, the Clayarch Gimhae Museum specializes in architectural ceramics. Clayarch is a compound word for clay and architecture, meaning the mutual cooperative relationship between the two concepts.

The museum has an exhibition hall and an experience hall, where visitors can create their own works of art after viewing the displays, and many different events and educational programs are held, including



children's art competitions and exhibition-related education sessions. The Ceramic Creative Center within the museum provides visual artists in various fields such as architecture, ceramics, design and painting with workspaces including woodwork and ironwork rooms, plaster rooms, and kiln and glazing rooms, as well as living spaces such as guest rooms and a kitchen as part of a residency program. The museum announces the program for domestic and foreign artists annually on its website (<http://english.clayarch.org>).

2) Gimhae Support Center for Small Ceramics Manufacturers, Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Exhibition and Distribution Center, and Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Museum

The Gimhae Support Center for Small Ceramics Manufacturers and the Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Exhibition and Distribution Center support pottery artisans in various ways. The support center supports the artisans with ceramic art education and consulting, technical assistance, joint marketing, overseas market development, and projects to improve their working environments. The exhibition and distribution center runs an integrated online and offline sales center and displays the invited works of local artists while also offering services such as allowing the artists to have

access to difficult-to-own equipment such as an X-ray fluorescence analyzer and a portable 3D optical scanner.

The Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Museum opened in 2009 as Korea's first Buncheong (grayish-blue-powdered) ware exhibition hall and has been exhibiting and promoting the history and culture of Gimhae-based ceramics. In addition to displaying historical and modern Buncheong ware pieces and invitational exhibitions by local artists, we are offering a variety of programs



Gimhae Support Center for Small Ceramics Manufacturers



Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Exhibition and Distribution Center



Gimhae Buncheong Ceramics Museum

in which local residents can participate, such as traditional kiln experience and citizens' ceramics academy.

3) Living Tech Project to Modernize Traditional Handicraft Techniques

The Gimhae Cultural City Center is engaged in the Living Tech Project that discovers artisans with traditional handicraft skills within the city to develop modern items that can be used every day and supports them in marketing and sales. Gimhae is opening up channels for cultural content that takes full advantage of its unique traditions in pottery and metalwork. For example, a variety of content was developed last year, including coffee mugs utilizing the ten representative colors of Gimhae and other household products featuring 100 species of plants and animals inhabiting the Hwapocheon stream.

The Team of Creative City in Gimhae