



**WECP**

WORLD ENERGY CITIES PARTNERSHIP

APRIL • 2016

The **World Energy Cities Partnership** is an international, city-led organization headquartered in Houston, Texas, comprised of some of the world's leading Energy cities, including:

- ABERDEEN SCOTLAND • ATYRAU KAZAKHSTAN
- CALGARY CANADA • CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA
- DEMAMM SAUDI ARABIA • DAQING CHINA
- DOHA QATAR • DONGYING CHINA
- ESBJERG DENMARK • HALIFAX CANADA
- HOUSTON USA • KARAMAY CHINA
- KUALA LUMPUR MALAYSIA • LUANDA ANGOLA
- PERTH AUSTRALIA • RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZIL
- ST. JOHN'S CANADA • STAVANGER NORWAY
- VILLAHERMOSA MEXICO

**WECP** goals are to collaborate on opportunities for economic growth, best practices and to ensure city-to-city learning.



Esbjerg, Denmark



Houston, USA

# Energy Cities Inspire Art Collaboration

**W**orld Energy Cities Partnership has inspired an art collaboration between the cities of **Houston** and **Esbjerg**. The idea came from artist Sue Reeves, who has lived in both cities due to her husband's work commitment within the oil industry. Sue Reeves and the local art community, Blå Døre in Esbjerg came up with the idea and reached out to a Houston art collective called Art Chatter. Artists from both cities formed *Art Friends*—the group responsible for the continued art collaboration—and the project was called *Rørpost* (Danish for pneumatic tube).

## Rørpost International Art Collaborative

In Houston, artists drew names from a Stetson hat and in Esbjerg; the Danes used a Viking helmet. The 42 artists from the two cities now had a partner with whom they would collaborate on pieces of art. The artists shipped unfinished paintings between the two countries, and the works of art became true collaborations since both an American and a Dane contributed to each piece.

Artists also created a new work in response to the experience of the collaboration in a media of their choice. The first *Rørpost* exhibition consists of 42 collaborative paper pieces and 21 individual artist responses.

## Opening in Denmark and Texas

In April 2016, the exhibition opened at the City Hall in Esbjerg. In May, the exhibition moves to University College Southern Denmark (UCSyD) in Esbjerg. In September, the *Rørpost* exhibition will be opening at the Art Car Museum in Houston, Texas, and that exhibition will be followed by another at Houston City Hall in December.

The collaboration and the exhibition has received support from the city administrations and sponsors. The art collaboration adds a new layer to the possibilities of the World Energy Cities Partnership. With the cultural exchange, the member cities experience how the membership of **WECP** has become widely founded in the general public.

## New collaborations

The artists are now in the process of including another city in the collaboration project. Through **WECP**, it was possible to contact an art collective in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and from the initial communication a new art collaboration inspired by **WECP** may come true.

Go to <http://www.artcollaboration.org/> to learn more about the collaborations.

*Below: Energetic members of Houston's Art Chatter Critique Group preparing to ship their 'rørposts' to Denmark.*

