



BUCHEON'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Bucheon involves its artists and inhabitants in the collective fight against COVID-19

Amidst the confinement measures put in place due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the city of Bucheon (Republic of Korea) has launched several culture led online initiatives to maintain its vibrant cultural and literary life.

Literature and literary work has played an important role in the social development of the city. Designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Literature in 2017, Bucheon has committed to ensure greater access to books and education while raising awareness among the younger generation.

The city has initiated a series of programmes and events to encourage reading and promote literature amongst its 870,000 inhabitants. For instance, the Bucheon Cultural Foundation launched 'Online Culture Delivery', an initiative consisting of online book reading sessions conducted by theater artists for children. The sessions are streamed through the dedicated [YouTube channel](#).

The Foundation also offers city inhabitants the opportunity to participate in media production workshops via its Facebook page and YouTube channel. This has allowed inhabitants from diverse backgrounds to learn and discover new creative skills and remain positive during the current period of isolation. The various visual contents created during these digital seminars are also included in the initiative.

In addition, the Korea Manhwa Contents Agency (KOMACON), a dedicated agency for the Korean comic art style, has initiated a campaign in response to the pandemic. KOMACON invites Manhwa artists and aspiring students, and comic enthusiasts, to share cheerful visual messages to encourage collective efforts for physical distancing and other precautionary measures. The campaign shows gratitude to the medical staff and all the people working towards the protection and wellbeing of the inhabitants. Visit the [KOMACON Facebook page](#) to discover the visual messages shared by the participants.