



The City of Antwerp and the Antwerp diamond industry launch “In Antwerp we speak diamond – Antwerp Diamond Capital since 1447”

This year the Antwerp diamond industry is celebrating its 570th anniversary. A document recently discovered in the City Archives refers to the first signs of a diamond trade 1447. The City of Antwerp decided to celebrate this historic anniversary with events spanning five months dedicated to this brilliant stone. Focused on the theme, “In Antwerp we speak diamond - Diamond Capital since 1447”, the City, the Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) and the Province will offer an extensive, ‘brilliant’ program for residents of Antwerp as well as its visitors. It will include the MAS exhibition ‘Sparkling Desires’, a summer academy, a ‘Brilliant Foodies’ festival, a special edition of Winter in Antwerp and teasers for DIVA – the new diamond experience center – promising to be a brimming period.

Today Mayor Bart De Wever, Vice-Mayor and Alderman for Diamonds Ludo Van Campenhout, Provincial Commissioner for Culture Luk Lemmens and Ari Epstein, CEO of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) presented the various activities and initiatives that will be organized in the framework of “In Antwerp we speak diamond - Diamond Capital since 1447”, from October 2017 through February 2018. Festivities, exhibitions, art projects, as well as a food festival, a photo competition, a summer academy at the university, an elementary school project and a diamond conference promise to make it an exciting program.

An opening party featuring the food festival, “Brilliant Foodies” in the FelixArchief and on the Eilandje (harbor Island), will kick off the activities. Additionally, two exhibitions are on the program. Visitors to the MAS can, amongst others, admire Mary of Burgundy’s engagement ring and the bling of hip hop stars. The FelixArchief will exhibit the historical documents demonstrating the importance of the diamond trade for Antwerp.

Art is also on the agenda. For instance, the foundation for a graffiti route through the city will be laid. The first piece of street art will be created in the diamond district. AWDC and the Port of Antwerp will also organize a competition for creative photographers. A real ‘Diamond Expedition’ through the city will be held for Millennials. A summer academy focused on diamonds will be organized at the University of Antwerp, and a special syllabus will be created for third-year elementary school children.

Additionally, an international conference will be held, entitled the “African Diamond Dialogue”, where several African mining ministers will travel to Antwerp to discuss the future of the trade in these diamond producing countries. During the late fall, Winter in Antwerp will be fully dedicated to the sparkling stones. A teaser at DIVA, the diamond experience center on the Suikerrui in February 2018, will bring the “In Antwerp we speak diamond - Antwerp Diamond Capital since 1447” diamond year to a festive close.

The complete program and latest updates are available at the following website:
www.antwerpdiamondcapital.eu.