

PRESS RELEASE

Lights out, stars on in Leiden on Sunday 25th September!

Roosegaarde captivates Leiden, European City of Science with his project Seeing Stars Leiden

Leiden, 24th March 2022 – Today, in the Oort Room of Leiden's Old Observatory, artist Daan Roosegaarde announced the date of the project 'Seeing Stars Leiden'. On the evening of Sunday 25th September 2022, the lights in a large part of the city will be switched off for an hour. Anyone who looks up may be surprised. Without light pollution, stars will appear. And you might wonder what light does to us humans. Scientific questions will be raised in a year that Leiden is the European City of Science. This is science for citizens in Leiden, European City of Science.

Lights out, starts on!

According to Roosegaarde, it is no coincidence that this project is now taking place in Leiden, after the lights went out in Franeker in Friesland last year. "Jan Oort is a born Franeker", explains Roosegaarde. "After that, he left for Leiden, became director of the Observatory and made world-famous discoveries. That is why it is so great to organise it here on a larger scale and with a greater focus on science and the citizen participation. Wonderful, especially now that Leiden is also the European City of Science this year" says Roosegaarde.

The target date of September 25th was chosen for good reason. The moon is in a good position, it gets dark earlier and with a bit of luck you can see Jupiter and Saturn. But of course, it must be cloudless. An alternative date has therefore also been taken into account.

Citizen Science

Director, Meta Knol is proud of the project under the umbrella of European City of Science: "Seeing Stars makes it possible to create a new connection with the stars and each other. A collective project in which the whole city works together to turn off the lights and turn on the stars. A project in which we will ask questions, count stars and get closer to science. We call on everyone to join in because we dream of looking at the stars together." Seeing Stars is a good example of Citizen Science in which collaboration between residents and scientists of Leiden University is central.

With this project, in which there is close collaboration with various city partners, the Municipality of Leiden is giving the city a gift: "With Seeing Stars Leiden we turn a beautiful late summer evening into a great moment for young and old, against the backdrop of the Old Observatory in our historic inner city. In this way we bring together knowledge and culture in the year that Leiden is European City of Science. I am really looking forward to it!" says Yvonne van Delft, Alderman for Work, Income, Welfare, Economy and Culture.

Stay informed about the project via www.seeingstarsleiden.nl

Seeing Stars Leiden is made possible by Studio Roosegaarde, Municipality of Leiden, Leiden2022, Citizen Science Lab of Leiden University, Old Observatory of Leiden University, Cultuurfonds Leiden, UNESCO and Leiden&Partners. The film Seeing Stars is a collaboration with Media Monks.