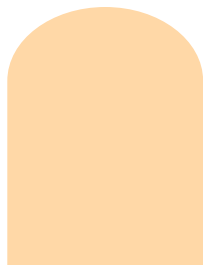


Villa

De

cius





Villa Decius/ photo by P. Mazur

*Since the Villa Decius  
rose from the ruins,  
Kraków has become  
a slightly different  
town.*

*As if in a house full of  
beautiful old furniture,  
someone put a bouquet  
of fresh, colourful  
flowers on a piece of it.*

prof. Jacek Woźniakowski

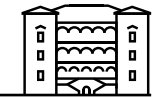
Founder and first chairmam  
of the Villa Decius Association



Villa Decius/ photo by P. Mazur

## The Villa Decius

The Villa Decius is one of the most outstanding examples of residential architecture in Poland. It was constructed in the 1530s, on the initiative of Justus Ludovicus Decius, a secretary of the King Sigismund I the Old. Born in Wissembourg in Alsace and living in Krakow, Justus Decius became a classic Renaissance man. Well educated and proficient in a wide range of fields, deeply interested in the humanities, became a writer, a publisher, and an author of important historical and economic treatises. He was as knowledgeable about economic and financial issues, as he was about literature and culture. He was respected and valued not only in Poland, but also abroad, including the Habsburg Court. He greatly contributed to the development of the whole kingdom and was, amongst others, the governor of one of the largest trading companies in Europe at that time – the Wieliczka and Bochnia salt mines, as well as the owner of several mines, including a silver mine at Olkusz.



## The Villa Decius Association

Justus Decius dreamt of transforming his Villa into a meeting place for people of culture and art. He continued to broaden his knowledge but at the same time he wanted to create a space for others, so that they could also develop in a Renaissance, humanistic spirit. This idea of cultivating excellence in humanities and at the same time creating space for important debates has been taken over and maintained by the Villa Decius Association.

The Association operates in the historic palace and park complex which consists of three buildings: the Villa Decius palace and two outbuildings: the Łaski House from the 1630s, and the Erasmus House, built in the 21st century. All of it is surrounded by the Decius Park.

Important events on the Polish and global political and cultural scene have taken place in this unique scenery. The Villa has been hosting heads of states, presidents, prime ministers, ministers, diplomats, scientists, artists and personalities who play a major role in European cultural and political life. The Villa hosted meetings of: Aleksander Kwaśniewski, the President of Poland, Valdas Adamkus, the President of Lithuania and Rudolf Schuster, the President of Slovakia (2002); the meeting of US Vice President Dick Cheney with the President of the Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko (2005); the meeting of President Bronisław Komorowski with

the Presidents of Italy and Germany, Giorgio Napolitano and Joachim Gauck (2013), and the meeting of President Andrzej Duda with Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović (2015).

The Villa Decius has also been visited by members of the Royal Family: Charles, Prince of Wales in 2002, and Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex in 2004.



## The mission

The mission of the Villa Decius Association is **to care about historical and cultural heritage, initiate and moderate dialogue based on universal values, create space for an exchange of thoughts, and to engage public in order to enhance new quality of the socio-cultural scene.**

Strong sense of social and civic responsibility allows to care about providing effective tools and models for local and international dialogue. Building narratives on key political and cultural challenges such as European cooperation or the question of cultural minorities facilitates understanding of developments which the world is facing today and shape attitudes of civic openness and tolerance.

Association identifies with belief that broadly understood humanism, as perceived by the creator of the Villa, Justus Decius, based on knowledge,

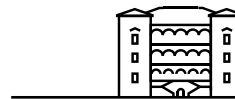


Wisława Szymborska and Karl Dedecius, Villa Decius 2006/ photo by P. Mazur

respect of others, exchange of ideas and curiosity in approaching the world is a chance for self-development and the right path for democracy and social order. This attitude is interpreted very broadly by **activities addressed both to the local community and to cultural and scientific circles on the national and international platform.**



Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, prof. Andrzej Zoll, Villa Decius 2004/ photo by P. Mazur



## Awards

Over the past twenty years the Villa Decius Association has become a respected opinion-forming intellectual and cultural institution of international importance. The Association's activities have been honoured with many awards and distinctions. The most important ones include: *The Publico Bono Award* (1st place) in the category of international and interethnic contacts (2004), The Diploma of the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Adam D. Rotfeld for outstanding contributions to the promotion of Poland worldwide (2005), The Diploma of the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk (2005), The Silver Medal of the Slovakian Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Kukan (2005), The *Honoris Gratia Award* from the Mayor Jacek Majchrowski for contributions to the city of Kraków (2006), and the International Visegrad Prize granted by four Ministers of Culture of the Visegrad Group countries (2012).



## Regular Programmes of the Villa Decius Association



### Villa Meetings

Promotion of democracy and the idea of civil society as well as literary and translation programmes have been implemented by the Association since the beginning of its existence in various forms: from international conferences and seminars to regular scholarship programmes and literary residencies (since 1998) addressed to talented creators and translators from around the world.



#### CREATIVITY GRANTS

Programme is built as a series of residences and open meetings with writers and literary translators. Its aim is to support creativity and mobility of authors, create a platform for intellectual cooperation and promote contemporary literatures locally and internationally. Awarded scholars carry out their own literary projects in the Villa and participate in meetings with the public. The texts created during their stay are published in books, magazines and portals.



#### THE VISEGRAD LITERARY RESIDENCIES (VLRP)

Programme is an initiative of the International Visegrad Fund. It is a complex series of residency stays and literary events organised since 2012 and each year addressed to 32 writers, poets, essayists, critics, literary translators, and journalists from the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary). The programme is based on a partnership and implemented simultaneously by four institutions: The Institut umění in Prague, The Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum in Budapest, The Villa Decius Association in Kraków, and The Literárne informačné centrum in Bratislava. The Villa Decius Association acts as the operator of VLRP on behalf of the International Visegrad Fund.



International Summer Art Academy, 2014/ photo by P. Mazur

## THE ICORN SCHOLARSHIP

Residential programme of the City of Krakow implemented in cooperation with the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) and the Krakow Festival Office since 2011. The Association acts as the operator of annual residence grants for writers persecuted for their writings and until 2017 has hosted: Maria Amelie (Madina Salamova) from North Ossetia, Kareem Amer from Egypt, Mostafa Zamani from Iran, Lawon Barszczeuski from Belarus, Aslı Erdoğan from Turkey, Felix U. Kaputu from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Monem A. Mahjoub from Libya.



## THE VISEGRAD SUMMER SCHOOL

Programme has been organised with the support of the International Visegrad Fund since 2002. Over the years it has become a flagship educational programme for students and young scientists, implemented each summer as two-weeks of lectures and workshops. It is based on cooperation with international partners: The Cracovia Express Foundation – Hungarian Centre in Kraków, The Vaclav Havel Library in Prague, The Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture in Bratislava, and The National Association of Regional Development Agencies in Kiev.



## THE POLISH PRIZE OF SÉRGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (2002-2003)

Award has been granted annually to persons and non-governmental organisation for their actions promoting peaceful co-existence and co-operation of societies, religions and cultures since 2003. The honorary patrons of the Prize are: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden in Poland.



The Laureates of the Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello, 2015/ photo by P. Mazur

## Villa 2.0

The Association's programmes are successively expanded and include, amongst others, new methods of presenting literature, interdisciplinary workshops or publications, including the electronic ones. Opening up to new technologies resulted in realisation of experimental multimedia projects, like:



### WRITE THE GAME

First in Poland summer school dedicated to teaching how to write computer game scripts, and designed to support creative industries, including computer game producers and developers.



### VISEGRAD URBAN CREATIVITY CLUSTER NETWORK

Programme is focused on an exchange of knowledge and practice between educational organisations and public institutions operating in the creative industries sector, and a search for innovative solutions.

The Polish-British Round Table, 2015  
photo by P. Mazur



Visegrad Summer School, 2015/ photo by P. Mazur



# Villa Creativa

The Villa Decius located in a green residential area, 15 minutes drive to the centre of Kraków, can provide intimacy unparalleled in large cities. Over the years, it has become recognised as a unique venue for meetings, workshops and artistic events conducted in harmony with silence and greenery of the surrounding park.



## VILLA ARTIS MUSICAE

Series of concerts of classical and contemporary music that recalls the tradition and history of the place associated with Frédéric Chopin and the artistic salon created by his student and close friend – Princess Marcelina Czartoryska.



## SAGA. CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Project is run exclusively for people over the age of sixty. It mobilises citizens to not only come with their private stories but also to reflect on how individual events have changed and continue to change the world. Organised as a series of weekly meetings during which participants, led by professional writers, learn to write their own stories, observe how the great authors write, and look for their individual means of expression. The texts created during the workshops are published on the [www.saga.villa.org.pl](http://www.saga.villa.org.pl) website.



## A BIG DOG DOESN'T BARK

Project promotes tolerance and equal opportunities in small local communities. Organised as a series of artistic workshops for schoolchildren, it fights discrimination and hate speech by means of irony, comedy, music and film.



## SUNDAY AT DECIUS

An annual educational and artistic outdoor picnic held in the Villa Decius palace and park complex since 1996. Implemented in collaboration with local cultural and educational institutions, it gathers hundreds of families and young artists each year.



## DECIUS' ACADEMY

It is a cycle of interdisciplinary workshops dedicated to cultural heritage and economic history (Decius' Ducats) which are addressed to primary school pupils and their tutors from the whole region of Małopolska.



Concert Unknown Villa, 2017/ photo by P. Mazur

Ballroom, Villa Decius/ photo by P. Mazur



Chamber of Marcelina Czartoryska, Villa Decius/photo by P. Mazur

## Visiting

The Villa Decius palace and park complex is open to visitors, inhabitants of Krakow and tourists. There is also a possibility of booking a special tour of the Villa Decius for organised groups by prior appointment.

[zwiedzanie@villa.org.pl](mailto:zwiedzanie@villa.org.pl)

## Conference Centre in The Villa Decius

Historical building in a residential area of Krakow, formerly the residence of Justus Decius and the most important Polish aristocratic families, due to its location and architecture **is an ideal place for organizing conferences, seminars, promotional events, banquets or concerts as well as private events.**

Thanks to ongoing cooperation with the Civil Registry Office, the Villa Decius hosts ceremonies of registering civil marriages which gain a unique atmosphere in the historic surroundings of the Villa.

The Villa offers access to eight representative rooms equipped with modern audiovisual equipment and an outdoor area, including a terrace and loggias. Additional assets of the place include prize-winning The Villa Decius Restaurant housed in its renaissance cellars, and car parks located next to the building.

The Centre offers comprehensive and professional assistance in planning and implementation of events in various conventions, as well as organisation of complete visits to Kraków and its surroundings.

For more information please look at:  
[www.willadecjusza.pl](http://www.willadecjusza.pl)  
or contact us.  
tel.: +48 508 688 516  
e-mail: [centrum@willadecjusza.pl](mailto:centrum@willadecjusza.pl)



## Results in 2016



**58** programmes

in total, including:

**24** programmes related to cultural education

**16** programmes related to arts

**13** programmes related to international cooperation

**5** programmes related to human rights



**222 243** website viewers



**15 673** participants of events



**32** collaborating volunteers



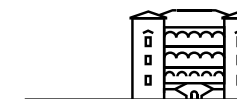
**16** scholarship holding  
writers hosted

## Patronage and sponsorship

Funds for development of programme activities of the Villa Decius Association come from targeted donations and grants, as well as support of companies and foundations. Each year, **institutions helping to develop initiatives of the Association receive titles of the Villa Decius Patrons, Gold and Silver Sponsors, and a Special Award – The Decius Statuette – a bronze sculpture made by an outstanding Polish artist Andrzej Renes.**

For the support provided in 2016, titles of the Villa Decius Patrons were granted to the City of Kraków and the Małopolska Voivodeship, and The Decius Statuettes were awarded to ZUE S.A. and RE-Bau sp. z o.o.

The Association grants numerous honorary privileges to its benefactors, as well as special conditions for participating in organised events and using facilities of the Conference Centre.



## 1% of the tax amount for the Villa Decius Association

The Villa Decius Association is a non-profit and public benefit organisation and its mission is to support and develop artistic, literary and international cultural and intellectual cooperation, as well as implementation of educational programmes addressed to children and young people.

By transferring 1% of your tax to the Association, you help to implement the programmes whose beneficiaries are the broadly understood local community and inhabitants of Kraków and Poland.



Our KRS (National Court Register) number: 0000059074



Kraków

Forum for Dialogue of Cultures.  
Project cofinanced by the Municipality of Krakow



Bank Polski



1st floor loggia, Villa Decius/photo by P. Mazur

Edited by: Katarzyna Trojanowska, Dominika Kasprowicz  
Proofreading: Małgorzata Majewska, Danuta Glondys  
Translation: Esplanada

The Villa Decius Association

ul. 28 Lipca 1943 17a, 30-233 Kraków

phone: 12 425 36 44

e-mail: [villa@villa.org.pl](mailto:villa@villa.org.pl)

[www.villa.org.pl](http://www.villa.org.pl)

Villa Decius Conference Centre

phone: +48 508 688 516

e-mail: [centrum@willadecjusza.pl](mailto:centrum@willadecjusza.pl)

[www.willadecjusza.pl](http://www.willadecjusza.pl)

We are:



7 km away  
from the Kraków  
Airport



5 km away  
from the A4  
motorway



6 km away  
from the Old Town  
Market Square