

To regional Offices and Consultants

Dear Mr/Mrs

On behalf of Region Västra Götaland I cordially invite your regional office or your firm to a project presentation – with the aim to find cooperation partners in your region.

During this pitch four culture projects (attached) will be presented; there will also be time for questions and a light meal.

We are aware of the fact that some culture players may wait for the next programme period to start or at least the budget to be decided. Rather seeking to be well prepared and knowing that forging strategic partnerships takes time, we continue planning.

The programmes relevant for these projects can be the *Creative Europe*, Interreg, *Youth, Lifelong learning* or perhaps the European Social Fund.

We hope a representative from your office or firm can make it (or even better, in the company of culture players from your region) and look forward to these and more collaboration ideas, to be discussed.

Welcome!

Sture Carlsson
Head of Culture Affairs, Region Västra Götaland

Time: November 6th 9.30-15

Venue: Sweden House, Office of Region Västra Götaland, Rue Luxembourg 3, 5th floor

Registration: helena.blomberg@vgregion.se, Registration deadline: October 24th

Inquiries: Annika Strömberg Tel: +46 705 25 47 87

Agenda:

Coffee from 9.30

10.00-11.00 Project 1: K-banan: Art, Tourism, Railways

11.00-12.00 Project 2: Arts in Schools – future development

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.00 Project 3: IAP: International Authentic Performances

14.00-15.00 Project 4: Young organizers and youth participation

K-banan – ART CULTURE NATURE

How it all started

Next year it will be 20 years since enthusiastic cultural workers along with many others saved the section of the Kinnekullebanan railway from Lidköping northward past the Kinnekulle mount to Mariestad.

At that time a large group of artists rallied round the theme *FLAGS AROUND KINNEVIKEN*. While school children from nearby Hällekis painted small pennants to decorate the trains during the summer, artists from Sweden, Germany, Scandinavia and other European countries created flags measuring 150 by 220 cm. The project was discussed on German TV and broadcast four times over the summer in Canada and once in Australia. The following year saw the flags in Kiel. The Kinnekullebanan railway is today one of the distances that runs on time and expands. Express trains have been added reaching Göteborg and Örebro.

The following year the County Administrative Board in Skaraborg took the initiative for yet another Art project in the region. This time the three municipalities Mariestad, Götene and Lidköping were involved in seeking to show the Swedish State Railways (SJ) that the Kinnekullebanan could attract summer tourists. The art works could be seen beside the tracks, on Läckö Castle as well and was an *Ars Baltica* project involving the countries around the Baltic Sea. The former minister of education and culture in Germany and the initiator of *Ars Baltica*, Björn Engholm, opened the exhibition.

A documentary titled *Rulla På (Roll On)* was made of the K-BANAN project by Swedish national TV.

Now

In order to demonstrate the positive results of a private initiative the K-BANAN ought to be made manifest with new, durable art. The specific focus would be the three municipalities Mariestad, Götene and Lidköping. Today the last one hosts a UNESCO biosphere area that includes the Lake Vänern archipelagos and the Kinnekulle mount.

The project also has the potential of linking to similar EU projects, such as *Art along Railways*, which is a collaboration among artists from different countries. One of these might be *Rushing Roland* on the island Rügen or the *die Schwäbische Eisenbahn* in Baden Württemberg between Ulm and Sigmaringen?

Content/artistic activities

The concept of the Kinnekulle railway project is to have sculptors shape animals to be cast in iron at the Lyrestad Gjuteri (foundry). The animals would then be fitted to coloured concrete or limestone from Kinnekulle. Shaped like suitcases and serving both as sculpture bases and as benches for travellers, they will be placed at twenty stations from Håkantorps in the south to Hova/Gårdsjö up north.



The Lizzie animal, in cast iron, by Lizzie Lundberg.

Ten to twenty artists from Sweden and the EU will produce series of five to ten works. Several will be placed at each station and the name of the station can be cast in relief on the plinths.

Possible national partners include the Swedish Transport Administration, the National Public Art Council Sweden, Region Västra Götaland, federations of local authorities, the municipalities of Vara, Lidköping, Götene, Mariestad and Gullspång, the tourist companies in the area and the business community as a whole. Other sponsors could include the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SNF), the Swedish Tourist Association (STF) and especially Biosphere Kinnekulle area that includes in archipelagos Lidköping and Mariestad. In order to market the K-BANAN project a publication should be produced presenting the areas surrounding the railway, describing the possibilities for activities, sights and shopping.

The planning has already started and we apply for national funding. An EU-application can be made as soon as the Culture programme as well as others, allows.

Contact: Lena Holmstrand-Krüger, lenaholmstrand@telia.com
Project owner, Municipality of Mariestad

Art + School = Future Development

We believe the combination of art and culture to be a path to knowledge. The Nordic Museum of Watercolour works since more than ten years with school development projects. At this stage finding cooperation partners is necessary. We want to increase our collaboration in Europe to create a network of professionals and in a project, take these ideas further. Our vision is a daily integration of art and creativity in learning processes in all schools.

The headmaster plays a key part. To find new ways of working in the classroom, to let creative thoughts flourish and to stimulate sustainable development the headmaster needs to have a distinct leadership. Creative ways of thinking and acting have to be implemented in the whole school environment.

Culture projects rarely have headmasters as participants - but that is our aim. We want to gather headmaster from different European countries to find ways to form the future school, using art to benefit the student's development.

All of Europe faces similar challenges today and the risk to simplify is immediate. One general tendency is to focus easily quantifiable data and knowledge, as the core value and function of a school. But the purpose of education is larger than that. Important questions about democracy and creativity – how a good learning environment is created, how we teach students collaboration, how to think new and critical is harder to address. We see the need of an international think tank to raise these questions.

How can learning-through-art be the driving force of school development?
What could you gain as headmaster with such an approach?
What challenges would you meet?
How can we support each other?

We want to build a project that is relevant for the practical every day work of a school, to create a network of professionals learning from each other but also from the latest academic research and scholars - as well as from the art world.

Both the UN declaration of human rights and the school curriculum support children's right to culture and creative learning.

Pia Wretlind
Lena Eriksson, Nordiska Akvarellmuseet

IAP, Internacional Autenticas Performances 2012

The performative art is anew a pathfinder and taking the lead for practise and studies in the contemporary art field. The interest is growing and day by day new audiences and participants are involved in this genre, also via visual arts, design, philosophical or sociological studies.

Sweden is not totally beside this development, but we have a few things to learn. We are not at the same level as for example France, Finland or Germany. The young tradition of Swedish performative art has now got a university degree at Gothenburg University.

One problem is that even this extroverted artistic field reaches often the normal and traditional audience of city centres. This situation does not develop the art form, we need new environments.

Therefore internationalization is absolutely necessary, a European cooperation should provide us with the exchange of experiences between cultures, which we need.

IAP is a project aiming at a permanent international platform where to practice, study and develop different performative ideas. We need to create methods and teaching tools for new generations, with publications, workshops and of course meetings.

Therefore I take the initiative to start a platform for performative arts focusing young people and immigrant younger groups. Guiding principles will be: creativity, participation and courage.

IAP is interested in a redefinition of “performances” and “public space”. Ethic basis, etymologic and philosophical research can be one approach to practice AUTHENTICITY IN PUBLIC SPACES.

The idea is to start this collaboration with artists and institutions from circa four different European countries.

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Master Contemporary Performative Arts
Academy for Music and Drama
Gothenburg University

Young organizers and youth participation/ art, culture and community development

The project

We would like to find partners in Europe, who believe that young people, with the right tools and some support, can make a difference in local communities; being convinced that this can have implications for themselves, as well as for the development of arts and culture outside of bigger cities. We wish to work with other municipalities, organizations and companies within the cultural and creative sector.

Background

A project named *Sabou* was initiated in 2010 - coordinating children and youth within the sector of Arts and Culture, in the municipalities of Mariestad, Töreboda and Gullspång. The municipalities have a population of 24 000, 9 000 and 5 000 inhabitants respectively. *Sabou* has managed to convey an interest in art and culture of a number of young people who never had a thought about its possibilities and potential. What proved successful was based entirely on young people's own ideas, in line with their responsibility and ability to arrange their own activities and projects within the field of arts and culture.

Right now, the purpose is to test and develop an approach taking advantage of, and developing youth participation regardless of social class. A model with a focus on cultural and creative industries will be developed. The project will contribute to the social and economic growth and strengthen the infrastructure for culture. The main goals are to increase employment for young people (unemployment among young people in this area is among the highest in Sweden) and at the same time, to create an attractive and progressive place in which to live and to visit.

One result of the recent activities is the decision of municipalities, local artists, organizations, companies within the cultural and creative sector, to build a sustainable long-term platform for young cultural organizers, aged 13-26 years. The platform will also involve young refugees and asylum seekers, thereby given the opportunity to explore and develop new methods of integration processes in society.

We would indeed welcome potential partners to contribute with resources in terms of skills, networks, facilities available to the young organizers. The basic ideas and businesses are entirely based on young people's own hard work and initiative.

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The municipalities

Mariestad, www.mariestad.se
Töreboda, www.toreboda.se
Gullspång, www.gullspang.se