

Culture

Driving force for regional integration and social inclusion



**CULTURAL CITIES
COMMISSION**

Examples of best practices from UBC cities

- Presented by Ms Jaana Simula, cultural director of city of Pori and the chairperson of UBC Cultural Cities Commission at the 24th BSSSC Annual Conference in Hämeenlinna, Finland by invitation of EUSBSR Policy Area Culture
Session III Parallel Workshops – Workshop 5 (15 September, 14-16:30 h: Culture – Driving force for regional integration and social inclusion

UBC

- Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is the leading network of cities in the Baltic Sea Region with around 100 member cities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.
- Founded in 1991 in Gdansk, UBC is a voluntary, proactive network mobilizing the shared potential of its member cities.
- www.ubc.net

Floating Trunks by Simka

- Artist duo Simka (Simon Häggblom and Karin Lind) connects young people with established art in the creation of a work of art for the Pori Art Museum as well to the Cultural Capitals Umeå and Riga.
- In Umeå it was about young people outside of the society, in Pori it became a discussion about nature and in Riga about immigration.

A political art project with social dimensions

- The core of the project was immigration, the mouths of rivers, the Baltic Sea and interaction between the three Baltic Cities Umeå, Pori and Riga.
- The artists duo Simka, one assistant and 21 young adults from the three cities creating an artistic project in conjunction between the individual, the sea and the trees.

Baltic Sea

- Baltic Sea - Floating Trunks wants with the cooperation around the artwork to unite local forces - the trees, the water and the residents in a larger perspective of the Baltic Sea and its cultural community. Seeing the Baltic Sea as a common elastic, floating continent. That both unites and divides.

Umeå, Pori & Riga

- Key components of the project is the exchange of experiences and expectations along with following up and to work together within an artistic process. The trees are processed and sculpted in workshop format led by the artists. After the workshop the artwork was launched in rivers, where they formed a large floating grove of trees. Floating living trees located on lifebuoys out on the water. The installations were centrally located in each of the three cities.

Workshops in Pori with Ilaria Tucci



Salvationrings

- It gives an organic impression that evokes thoughts of man, the water and the trees strength, value, earlier as now, here joined in an unexpected way. The natural elements challenge with and against each other. Lifebuoys (eng. salvationrings) are associated with humans and the maritime dimension in travel and escape.

Floating trunks in Pori



Pori Jazz, SuomiAreena and Floating Trunks – when all was still beautiful



This happend in Pori: Floating to death

- [News](#) 13.7.2014 7:00 | updated 13.7.2014 11:50 **Dead mussels found in Kokemäki river after nearby nickel leak**
- **Experts first insisted that no link could be proven between the dead shellfish and last week's release of cooling fluids from the Norilsk Nickel mine in Harjavalta, southwest Finland. Pori environmental director Matti Lankiniemi now says that the link is highly likely.**



In Riga the political happend

- "The biggest political tension occured in Riga. Near our worksite an Isareli festival sponsored by the state of Israel was ongoing, while at the same time Israel was bomging the Gaza strip from which one of the partisipants had fled several years earlier. At Noass Gallery there was a reunion conference with people who had fled from Latvia due to war and occupatation. The question of migration was brought toa head while at the sema time the Ukraine was being invaded and boat refugees on the Mediterranean were intesifying" (From the book Floating trunks)

Riga



The Trees

- The trees were brought up on land after the summer, and placed to take root. This provides a long term aspect of the artwork: offering the co-creators an obvious place and part of the city. Baltic Sea- Floating Trunks becomes with its location a link between the river and the sea which leads on to an international context.
- In Umeå the trees live on in care of lifestyle indian, in Pori they are at the artist collective T.E.H.D.A.S's Sculpture Park and in Riga in the middle of the city in a park near Noass Gallery.

For more information

- <http://www.simka.se/sidor/news140910.html>
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- Facebook Floating Trunks
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/291599371017333/>