

# Newsletter UBC Cultural Committee

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## The Cultural Commission has established itself with its new board.

*Lone Leth Larsen, head of dept. culture, Kolding, was elected chairman and Janna Simula is the vicechair.*



**Lone Leth Larsen**, who is head of Dept. Culture in Kolding, has worked for Kolding the last one and a half year. Before that she worked for the Danish Cultural Institute in Brussels for 16 years. She has worked for the Louisiana Museum of Modern art and has lectured on art history in universities and other adult education systems. She studied art history at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and at the university of Copenhagen.

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**Jaana Simulas** is Cultural Director of City of Pori, and was: Research Assistant 1987-1989, Wäinö Aaltonen museum of Art, Turku, Finland Research Assistant 1989-1990, Faculty of Art History, Åbo Akademi University, **curator** 1991-1997, Wäinö Aaltonen museum of Art, Turku, Finland, Project Manager 1997-1999, Management Consultancy Mimes, Helsinki, Finland. Information Officer 1999-2001, Theatre Academy of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Head of Information 2002- 2007, Theatre Academy of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland  
Head of Communications, 2007-2009, Theatre Academy of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland  
Cultural Director of City Pori 2009 -, Pori, Finland

NUAS - The Nordic Association of University Administrators, member of the Communication Group 2003-2005

Akava - Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland, member of the board

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**Aleksandra Szymańska,**

Graduate of the National Higher School of Theatre, Television and Film in Łódź (specialisation: Production Management) and the University of Warsaw (postgraduate studies: Public

Relations). British Council scholarship holder (postgraduate studies: Cultural Politics), graduate of City University in London (specialisation: Management of Institutions and Cultural Projects, Cultural Politics and Music Management; MA in Arts Management).

Involved for over 8 years (since 1993) with the music market: Zic Zac record music company (later BMG Poland and now Sony BMG), and then as co-owner of the independent events company JOT. Member of the Polish Phonographic Academy

Involved with media since 2002 – PR and Special Events Manager in Hachette Filipacchi Polska Publishing, marketing director, then publishing director in the G+J Gruner + Jahr Polska Publishing House.

Has been engaged in independent cultural projects: she worked with the ISAN foundation (Independent Street Arts Network) as co-ordinator of a market research pilot project for street festivals and with the City of London Festival (design of the festival's evaluation model and studio management for one of the main festival artists). In Poland, from 2002 she worked with the Commitment to Europe Arts and Business foundation as Business Development Manager.

Since August 2008, after winning the competition for a strategy to prepare the city for European Capital of Culture, Strategic Manager of the team responsible for the Gdańsk and the Metropolis – European Capital of Culture 2016 project. Since March 2011, Director of the self-governing cultural organisation: City Culture Institute.

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**Vision and Action plan for the Cultural Committee:**

The Cultural Committee wants to enhance cooperation between the UBC cities, and to enhance the development of knowledge and exchange of experience.

The action plan for 2011-2012 tries to put this into action, by promoting a new initiative in the UBC, namely an exchange program.

**Exchange program for professionals in the cultural sector.**

*Knowledge and new competences are crucial in the cultural sector and we need to develop new ways of exchanging views and knowledge, both to meet the ever increasing demands on quality and professionalism and the decreasing funds for education.*

The cultural Committee has developed an exchange program to meet this need.

It is quite simple.

A person wants to participate in the program. We ask a similar cultural institution in another UBC city to match this person.

He will then have contact with his counterpart, and visit the counterpart for 3 days, a week, as long as they decide. The visiting person will either stay at a hotel or at the home of his colleague. After the visit the host will travel to the other country and will repeat the process.

UBC Cultural committee has decided to help funding a part of the travel expenses. We recommend to stay at each others as you will gather a better knowledge of the culture you visit.

It has also been decided that the theme of the first year should be libraries, that all people who has some connection to libraries, be it in administrations or working in libraries,

We would like you to apply for travel funding before August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Do you work on a Cultural Project together with another UBC city?**

*Riga town is currently working together with Pori on a cultural project for children. Do you or does your town also work with another town on a specific project?*

We would like to encourage you to develop your culture by working with your sister organization in another UBC city on developing a project.

The criteria should be that you develop the project together with your sister organization – that the result can be seen at the end of this year or the beginning of the next year. And that you describe the result of the project for the UBC members.

The Cultural Committee has a small fund to support the cooperation project, and please send you application before August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Cultural Prize**

*The annual Cultural Prize will this year be given to two towns who has been working together on a joint project. The criteria that will be assessed are:*

1. The project can be in any discipline
2. The process is important and the development of the project together is important
3. The project should be sustainable in the sense, that the contacts or the project should be durable
4. We encourage pilot projects with the good idea!

Please send your suggestion and recommendation with a justification of your choice before August 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Minutes Boardmeeting UBC Cultural Commission 20th of April 2012 Kolding.**

Present: Jaana Simulaa, Thomas Werner, Olga.. Alexandra ... Lone Leth Larsen

Absent: Niini Berggren (notified) Sigitas... Agrita.

1. Minutes from Gävle were not approved, as we had not received them
2. Action plan:
  - a. Discussion on the aims of the commission and how we can implement the aims:
    - i. Best practice experiences":
      1. How to deal with classical culture versus new internetbased challenges
      2. Best practice concerning dealing with children and youth
      3. How to reach deprived groups of youth and children
      4. How to implement urban planning and culture
    - ii. Partnerships: e.g. EU applications
    - b. Annual conference at Vilnius with theme Creative industries and use of creativity as a driving force for Urban planning: ownership of conference: UBC cultural commission. Concerns about the timing, September seems to be around the corner. Need to meet the Vilnius local authorities to discuss content, timing and planning (Sigitas?) question was whether creative processes was belonging more to the financial department. Decision: we take contact to Vilnius, possibly through Sigitas and stick to the topic.
    - c. Other topics for future conferences: Children Culture planning; Culture as driving force (Culture +)
    - d. UBC culture Prize: the following criteria were decided:
      - i. Demonstration of cooperation between two UBC cities.
      - ii. An innovative promotion for promoting culture in you city
      - iii. the process of cooperation is important
      - iv. we want to emphasize sustainability
      - v. we want to encourage pilot projects
      - vi. we want to encourage creativity: The good idea prize
    - e. Festival of the Baltic Cities. The festival is mainly a theatre festival Olga will contact the Baltic Cities festival and ask for conditions, we will send a newsletter to local authorities to highlight the festival,
    - f. Exchange program: the proposal for the exchange program was agreed, and as there is a pilot exchange being planned between Kolding and Linköping Libraries, we will try to make Libraries the theme of the year. And maybe end the year with a seminar to evaluate the

project. The next years we will work on themes with a broader scope to include staff/professionals from different types of institutions.

g. Urban Planning and Culture: the head of dept. town planning Morten Hougård suggested a joint conference in October 2013. The theme should be how culture and urban planning is essential for the development of local societies. Morten Hougård will present a more substantial proposal, and urban planning should be one of the topics for the commission to work on.

h. Childrens culture, an important issue to be worked on in the futre, and to plan a seminar about , preferably in Gdansk

3.

a. Newsletter: content.

i. Presentation of board members: please forward to me a description and a photograph of each of you

ii. Presenting the action plan as noted in these minutes

4. Criteria to evaluate our work, put forward by UBC secretariat and board. We accept the criteria but would like to emphasize that we are a small commission that do not have the human resources to do extensive bureaucratic evaluation.

5. Finance and budget:

Minor changes were suggested to the budget: e.g. the cultural Prize should be 2000 as we want to cities to be candidates for the prize.

Funding for the leaflet, we would like to decide on, as we may want to use other communication means like Facebook.

Applications for funding – both exchange program and cultural funding should be August 15th

Next meeting: September: Vilnius, December : ?

LLL 24th of April 2012, Kolding.