

Newsletter March 2013 from the Commission on Culture

New vision for the Commission on Culture

The commission has developed a new vision for the cultural area for the UBC cities. The vision aims to ensure that all of the members in the UBC achieve an added value by being a part of the commission. We want to realize this goal by creating and developing tools and a network between the UBC cities. We hope this network will make the commission a forum where the members exchange knowledge and experience through cooperation between the UBC cities. The vision consists of following four key elements:

1. A network based cultural cooperation

The committee is moving away from a project orientated structure to a more network based organization. The commission aims to strengthen the network between the UBC cities in the cultural sector in order to create a working network. The commission hopes the new structure will stimulate a cultural cooperation between the UBC cities that are user drive and generated from a bottom up approach. To achieve this part of the vision the commission has launched the exchange program, which focuses on stimulating professionalization, creating and developing network between the cities, and initiate project between cities. The cultural prize will in addition award cultural projects between cities every year. We will promote and encourage the UBC cities to invite cultural projects from other UBC cities for local events by covering travel expenses.

2. Professionalization of the cultural field

We will promote and develop tools to boost professionalism by sharing experiences and knowledge through the exchange program, conferences, newsletters and other media.

3. Strategic partnerships

We will work strategically with central national and international partners dealing with policy making in the cultural field. To achieve this successfully we will take local cultural issues into account in policies on regional, national and international level.

4. Research

The commission will stimulate third parties to provide research on cultural issues. Research is essential for the cultural field to promote the necessity of culture.

Library exchange between Kolding and Linköping

Kolding and Linköping were the two first cities to try the exchange program. The libraries were matched because of common professional issues the parties were interested in. In November 2012 the Danish librarian visited the Swedish library and four Swedish librarians visited the Danish library in January in 2013. The exchange gave the involved libraries opportunity to share experience and knowledge. The exchange has developed a network between the libraries and stimulated a potential project. Kolding Library is also developing an exchange on director level together with Gdansk library.

In 2013 we want to develop the exchange program to the whole cultural field. We will therefore invite you to find another UBC city partner and apply for the fund. We have the opportunity to support 3 exchange

programs with 1000 euro. The idea of the exchange program is that one person in the cultural field find another partner in another UBC city. The partners travel to each others cities and stay for at certain time e.g. 4-7 days. We see this as a cheap an effective means to enhance professionalism and to stimulate cooperation between UBC cities.

Jekapils Library in Latvia is still looking for a partner.

Deadline for application is 15th of April. Please send your application to Malu Uldall Møller (mamo@kolding.dk).

Cultural events between UBC cities

We welcome applications for cooperation's between UBC cities. If you are planning an annual festival for your city why not invite artist or a cultural project from your colleague UBC city. Or if you want to develop a joint program you can apply for covering part of the travel expenses.

Deadline for application is 15th of April. Please send your application to Malu Uldall Møller (mamo@kolding.dk).

Potential strategic partnership with Nordic Council

The Nordic Council is the official inter-parliamentary body in the Nordic region. The Council is working on a new strategy for the Baltic Sea that focuses on enhancing culture as a part of a sustainable development. The Nordic Council and the commission shares common views e.g. creating a better understanding of each others culture through cultural cooperation between countries on a local level. The Nordic Council also share the commissions view on the importance of research in the cultural area in order to give insight in best practice and effects.