Liepāja 2027
European Capital of Culture

Official partners:
Kuldīga Region
South Kurzeme Region

Wednesday, November 4, 9.00–18.30
Great Amber Concert Hall, Liepāja

International Conference "Cultural Renovation"

All my relations

9.00–9.30 | Registration, morning coffee

9.30–10.00 | Introductions & opening

Džemma Paintin, **Linda Krūmiņa**, Artists
Inta Šoriņa, Chairperson of the Board of Liepāja 2027
Baiba Bartkeviča, Artistic Director and Board Member of Liepāja 2027
Dace Vilsone, The Head of the Liepāja Culture Department
Gundega Laiviņa, Curator and Moderator of the Conference Program

10.00–12.00 | Morning session. Context

In three keynote speeches and a discussion, we will focus on the interaction between community and art, exploring how creative experiences shape belonging, knowledge, and skills, and how communities and places inspire artistic creation.
The session is hosted by **Gundega Laiviņa**, curator and producer of performing arts projects.

Agnese Cimdiņa (Latvia), PhD in social an anthropology, researcher
Community as a Space of Belonging, Cultural Literacy, and Participation
What shapes a community and our belonging to it? How does the interplay of identities, relationships, and participation help us find our place and be heard? And how does cultural literacy help us understand the different, form relationships, and expand our understanding of 'us'?

Ariane Bieou (France), architect and independent expert on culture
Culture is a Collective Game
Grounded in the conviction that culture is a collective matter, Ariane Bieou will examine the city as a playground, architecture and heritage as a stage, the artist as an instigator of change, citizens as storytellers, highlighting co-creation as a key principle for enabling the future.

Filipa André (Azores, Portugal), cultural practitioner, curator
Walk&Talk Biennial: An Island of Relationships
How to create an art project from an island? Since 2011, the Walk&Talk Biennial on São Miguel Island has been highlighting local knowledge, relationships, and resources in collaboration with local communities and nature. It explores how a place shapes cultural practices and how art can connect local communities with other geographies.

12.00–13.00 | Lunch

13.00–14.15 | Afternoon session. Practice

In this session, we will examine artistic practices that have succeeded in changing perceptions, creating resonance, and sparking broader change in close collaboration with diverse communities. During presentations from artists and discussion, we will talk about the motivation for collaboration and its impact on creative practices and worldviews.
The session is hosted by **Inga Surgunte**, researcher of relationships between culture, well-being, and health.

Participants: **Andy Field** (UK), artist, writer, and curator; **Laura Stašāne** (Latvia), contemporary dance dramatist, **Rūta Jumīte** (Latvia), designer and **Tīna Alise Kalēja** (Latvia), designer.

14.15–15.00 | Liepājnieki – Co-Authors of the European Capital of Culture

The discussion will introduce two initiatives of Liepāja as the European Capital of Culture 2027, the projects 'How to Garden Community' (visual arts exhibition 'Expect Nothing') and 'Karosta Children's Symphony. An Orchestra's Guide to the Life of a Young Person', which strengthen the involvement and participation of the city's communities in shaping the program, bringing together not only artists and producers, but also representatives of various communities.
The session is hosted by **Linda Krūmiņa**, dramatist and participatory project expert.

Participants: artists **Melissa Braden** & **Ingūna Skuja** (Skuja Braden) and **Gemma Paintin** (UK), head of the Liepāja animal shelter Lauvas Sirds **Anna Briede**, head of the Liepāja Agility Club **Linda Alksne**, participants of the project 'Karosta Children's Symphony' **Harijs Roziņš** and **Daniels Derkevics**.

15.00–15.15 | Coffee

15.15–16.45 | Workshops

Jānis Balodis, theater maker and dramatist
Trunk Poems, or Attention as a Prerequisite for Dramaturgy
(In Latvian | participants: 25)
In a practical workshop with Jānis Balodis, we will learn to notice and hear stories around us and turn them into material for art. We will try observation and listening exercises, create lists and procedural scores, and search for what can become a story and a starting point for a work of art.

Inga Surgunte,research assistant at the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies of the Latvian Academy of Culture, and **Eva Vēvere**, visual artist
Culture for Health. From Intuition to Practice
(In Latvian | participants: 40)
In a practical workshop, we will learn about opportunities for collaboration between the fields of culture and health in Latvia and Europe, examining successful examples of art and culture promoting physical and mental health. Through practical tasks, we will experience the impact of art on well-being firsthand and try out approaches that can also be used in our own work.

Andy Field (UK), artist, writer, and curator
This Workshop is Not Ready Yet
(In English | participants: 15)
In a practical workshop, Andy Field will share a method for creating unfinished works of art where the ideas, values, and opinions of children play an essential role. Participants will experience this approach themselves and make a collective decision on what can be created in the allotted time.

Laura Stašāne, contemporary dance dramatist
A Place that Opens to the Gaze
(In Latvian | participants: 25)
In a practical workshop with Laura Stašāne, we will explore how to look at familiar places and communities differently, hear less noticeable voices, and encourage participation. We will learn about community projects and focus on attention and noticing in practice.

Rūta Jumīte and Tīna Alise Kalēja, designers
Regenerative Textures
(In Latvian | participants: 20)
In the workshop, we will explore the urban environment as a multi-species habitat and micro-habitats that provide orientation and shelter for other species We will search for and identify regenerative textures in the local surroundings. The workshop is part of the Regenerative Textures project by Collective Fabula and the World Wide Fund for Nature Latvia.

Please note:
Conference participants will be sent an informative e-mail with a registration form for the workshops, including information on the locations of the workshops at the Great Amber Concert Hall.

16.45–18.30 | Conclusion of the conference. Film screening and discussion

The creator of the conference program **Gundega Laiviņa** is a curator and creative producer with over 20 years of experience in international theater and interdisciplinary projects, as well as establishing and managing small and medium-sized organizations. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Latvian Academy of Culture and a Master's Degree in Urban Placemaking from the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment at Pratt Institute (New York, USA). She studied social anthropology at Rīga Stradiņš University and supplemented her education with European courses on innovative cultural policies and cultural project management. Gundega Laiviņa was the long-standing director of the New Theatre Institute of Latvia and director of the International Festival of Contemporary theater Homo Novus. She has curated several Latvian exhibitions at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space and served on the artistic board of the 'Rīga – European Capital of Culture 2014' foundation.

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