



CULTURE PLAN

Region Norrbotten 2023-2026



TEXT: Culture Department, Region Norrbotten
DESIGN & PRODUCTION: Yours
PROOFREADING: Yours
PHOTOS: Simon Eliason. Kjell Öberg, Norrbottens Museum (Archive).
Maria Åsén (Library and reading promotion), Viveka Österman,
Magnus Stenberg (Norrbottensteatern), Patrik Öhman (Pride).
ILLUSTRATIONS: Yours
PRINTING: Lule Grafiska
E-MAIL: kultur@norrbottn.se
WEBSITE: utvecklanorrbotten.se



Introduction

This document is a version of Region Norrbotten's Culture Plan for 2023–2026 designed for a general audience, providing a summary of how Region Norrbotten intends to work in the coming years to help achieve Sweden's national cultural policy objectives. The Culture Plan is divided into two parts, the first of which describes the region's development ambitions, both in areas where culture is a significant driving force and in particularly important areas of cooperation. The second part of the Culture Plan describes conditions in various areas of culture and Region Norrbotten's policy preferences for the period 2023–2026.

We have chosen not to change the policy preferences linked to the different sections of text, but simply to summarise the associated text. If you would like to read the entire Culture Plan, you can find the complete document here: utvecklanorrbotten.se/kultur.

What is a Culture Plan and how was it produced?

The Culture Plan is based on a total of 30 dialogues and consultations with authorities, municipalities and stakeholders in the various cultural areas, which took place in autumn 2021 and spring 2022. The starting points for the dialogues included the areas that need to be prioritised, regional and intermunicipal cooperation, and the function of the regional Culture Plan. The current situation in specific cultural areas and the municipalities' local work on culture were also discussed. The points made in the dialogues were compiled, processed and presented to the Culture Committee, before being returned to the municipalities for consultation.

The Culture Plan particularly describes developments linked to the 17 regional activities that receive state support from Region Norrbotten through the cultural collaboration model. The structure of the plan, with policy preferences for each activity included in the model, creates clarity regarding implementation and enables easier follow-up.

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Norrbotten embraces a future with culture

The social transformation and the green transition within industry are creating major opportunities and challenges in Norrbotten. Successfully attracting workers and creating appealing living environments for those who choose to settle here is a prerequisite for the region's development and future. Access to a rich, open and equitable cultural life helps to create a vibrant region where people want to live and work. A cultural life where citizens come together can help to ensure a democratic, open and more equal Norrbotten. This is why sustainable and long-term investments in culture are needed throughout Norrbotten.



Cultural policy starting points



Cultural policy is conducted at national, regional and municipal level, with each level responsible for different aspects, and their work is governed by laws, regulations, objectives, strategies and plans. The national cultural policy objectives are intended to guide national cultural policy, but also cultural policy in the regions and municipalities.

Cultural policy is conducted at national, regional and municipal level, with each level responsible for different aspects. The national cultural policy objectives guide national cultural policy, but also cultural policy in the regions and municipalities. The aim is to promote access to culture and artistic experiences as well as personal creativity and participation. Region Norrbotten's cultural policy efforts must be based on the intrinsic value of culture, the protection of cultural diversity, the arm's length principle, and artistic quality and development.

The intrinsic value of culture and cultural diversity

The value of culture cannot be measured in terms of social benefit. Instead, it is the art that is produced, the artistic process and the experience itself that create value. Safeguarding cultural freedom and creative autonomy is a prerequisite for the development of culture – everyone should have the opportunity to develop their creative abilities and be an active participant in cultural life. Region Norrbotten's venues for different forms of artistic expression should be creative places for experimentation and innovation, not just for bringing in audiences and ticket revenue.





The arm's length principle

For the sake of artistic freedom, it is crucial to adhere to the principle of keeping political decisions at arm's length from artistic content. This implies a balance between the need for governance and control over the use of resources and the equally important need for freedom of artistic creation. The arm's length principle is a guarantee of freedom of expression and democracy.

There is a growing problem of threats and hate directed at professional artists in Sweden, which puts not only the individual artists and artistic freedom in jeopardy, but democratic society as a whole. For art and culture to be completely free, we have to have a free and democratic society, as well as conditions for safe and secure working environments that are supportive of professional artists. The arm's length principle should characterise and inform Region Norrbotten's governance of its own activities and the design of its grant systems.

Artistic quality and development

Enabling access to high-quality professional culture is a fundamental task of regional cultural policy. The definition of quality is not a given, but must be constantly discussed and challenged. It is important to promote the artistic development and renewal of the county's professional artists and institutions. A prerequisite for both quality and development is the ability to gather knowledge. Without knowledge, it is not possible to identify quality, or to know how a cultural area should be developed. And this endeavour requires the cooperation of the entire chain from the individual artist to the group and the institution. In the interests of professionalism, we need continuity, investment and a long-term approach.

The State – with freedom of expression at its heart

According to the national cultural policy objectives, culture should be a dynamic, challenging and independent force rooted in freedom of expression; everyone should have the opportunity to participate in cultural life; and creativity, diversity and artistic quality should underpin social development.

To achieve these objectives, cultural policy must:

1. promote inclusive opportunities for cultural experiences and education and for people to develop their creative abilities.
2. promote quality and artistic innovation.
3. promote living cultural heritage that is preserved, used and developed.
4. promote international and intercultural exchange and interaction.
5. place particular emphasis on children and young people's right to culture.

The Culture Plan for Norrbotten is based on the national cultural policy objectives and describes how Region Norrbotten will work to help achieve these objectives. The plan also supports the Region's application for state funding under the cultural collaboration model, whereby Region Norrbotten is responsible for allocating government grants that promote a good supply of culture for the people of Norrbotten.

The Region – together for Norrbotten

The Culture Plan is not alone in governing the Region's cultural policy. It interacts with visions, policy decisions, principles, plans, strategies and objectives at local, regional and national level. The regional development strategy describes how Norrbotten will be Sweden's most welcoming and innovative county by 2030. The strategy states that good and equal access to a rich cultural life plays a part in creating a dynamic Norrbotten that people want to live and work in, or indeed just visit. Creating the conditions so that men and women of different backgrounds and ages have the same opportunities for personal creativity is a central tenet in the implementation of the regional development strategy. Region Norrbotten provides a range of support to clubs and associations, organisations, artists and independent actors to promote a cultural life with breadth and quality and to strengthen different forms of cultural expression.

The support has a particular focus on children and young people's access to cultural experiences, and to the development of national minorities and indigenous peoples' culture and languages.



The Municipality – local responsibility

Norrbottnens 14 kommuner gemensamt bygger det lokala kulturlivet i länet genom sina verksamheter, aktiviteter och projekt, med varje kommun som beslutar om sin egen kulturella policy, lokala initiativ och prioriteringar. Region Norrbotten har till uppgift att komplettera kommunernas arbete från en regional synvinkel. Samarbete sker inom ramen för olika aktiviteter, nätverk och projekt. Framgångsrika åtgärder bygger på en kontinuerlig dialog mellan regionen och kommunerna, inte minst i möten mellan parterna – en forum för regelbundna diskussioner och uppföljning av arbetet med att genomföra Kulturlänsplanen.

Cities of Refuge

Writers, film makers, playwrights, journalists, artists and musicians around the world are being persecuted, threatened and imprisoned for expressing their opinions and practising their professions. Region Norrbotten wants to raise awareness in this area and supports refugee projects through the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN), which provides a safe haven for persecuted artists for two years.

Region Norrbotten is a co-founder of the Swedish Artist Residency Network (SWAN), which works with Artists at Risk to help artists who are stuck in war-torn areas or who are otherwise subject to persecution.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- set up a formalised cross-sectoral consultation with professional artists.
- support, inform and develop the skills of professional artists in accessing funding.
- encourage greater knowledge in the area of safe havens so that more municipalities in Norrbotten accept City of Refuge artists.



Strategic development areas 2023–2026

Region Norrbotten's strategic development areas for the Culture Plan period 2023–2026 are the designed living environment, culturally creative industries and digitalisation. The choice of areas is in line with the green transformation of society, industry and business, as part of which the cultural sector can play a crucial role in attracting new people to live and work in Norrbotten.

Designed living environment

In 2018, the Swedish Riksdag adopted a new policy area for the designed living environment in the field of architecture and design. The policy objective states that architecture, design, art and cultural heritage play a crucial role in community development, as the designed living environment affects everyone in their everyday lives, impacting on health and well-being, among other things. The designed living environment is set to be very much in the spotlight in Norrbotten, due to an influx of new industries, social transformations, increased homebuilding and new residents.

Under the one-percent rule, at least one percent of the budget for new buildings, refits and extensions must be invested in public art related to the building. Region Norrbotten applies the one-percent rule and will continue to do so, while also working to encourage more public art and more municipalities, companies and private actors to apply the rule.



Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- help increase knowledge of the designed living environment as a policy area.
- support the municipalities in their work on public art and work to ensure that more municipalities in Norrbotten adopt the one-percent rule.
- encourage more municipalities in Norrbotten to adopt a cultural environment programme for their municipal community planning.

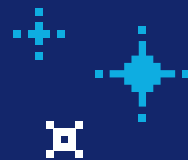
Cultural and creative industries

Region Norrbotten is working, within the framework of the Culture Plan, to improve the conditions for professional artists in the fields of visual arts, design, crafts, dance, music, theatre, literature and film. In Norrbotten, there is a strong link between individual artists, companies in the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) and other actors in all the

cultural fields. Among other things, Region Norrbotten has worked successfully to create meetings and exchanges between the tourist industry and professional artists in the field of arts, crafts and design. This work will be continued, taking a holistic approach in order to strengthen the area of design in Norrbotten.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- strengthen the position of professional artists by supporting arts and crafts collectives.
- establish a design centre to strengthen the position of craftspeople and designers in Norrbotten.
- support development in the CCIs by promoting cross-sectoral collaboration and innovation.

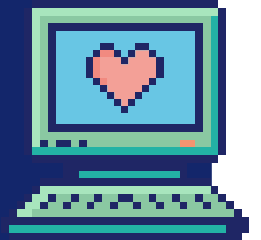


Digitalisation

We are in a rapidly changing digital age and this places demands on both structures and behaviours. Increased digitalisation has enabled cultural operators to offer their services in a different format and reach new audiences, but there are also major challenges such as a lack of digital skills and the difficulty of charging for digital cultural content. It is of utmost importance that copyright laws are respected and that digital events also attract payment and exhibition revenue in a similar way to physical events.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- raise awareness of copyright issues and the procurement of digital material.
- increase digital competence in Norrbotten through training and support.
- strengthen cultural infrastructure by promoting greater digital availability and innovation.



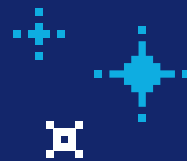
Themed years

There will be two themed years in the coming Culture Plan period. The first will be 2023 on the theme of Digitalisation. The second theme for the year 2025 will be decided in the middle of the plan period. Region Norrbotten's work on the theme years includes allocating human resources, commissioning regional cultural activities and organisations with operating grants to work on the theme year, and prioritising projects linked to the theme when allocating project funds.



Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- designate 2023 a themed year for Digitalisation and name 2025 a theme year, with the nature of the content to be decided in the middle of the plan period.
- encourage businesses, municipalities, organisations, actors and civil society to highlight the theme years in their operations and activities.

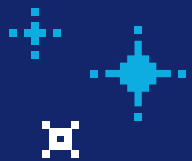


Culture for and with everyone

Culture for and with everyone is a question of accessibility: physical and digital, for both culture creators and consumers. All regional cultural operations and operations that receive cultural funding through Region Norrbotten must therefore meet the Swedish Arts Council's objectives concerning an accessible cultural life for people with disabilities. Culture for and with everyone is also a question of diversity of expression and perspective – who gets to be seen, whose story is told and what is considered the norm. Being able to identify with others is a prerequisite for feeling included in society. Region Norrbotten is keen to support initiatives that contribute to cultural participation and diversity, create conditions for equal treatment and raise awareness and knowledge about LGBTQ+ issues. Region Norrbotten is committed to promoting a cultural life that is accessible, relevant and important to everyone.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- see the regional cultural operations developing their work on broadening participation.
- monitor and analyse how different forms of cultural support benefit women and men.





Children and young people

Region Norrbotten will promote children and young people's access to and opportunity for individual creativity, and work to ensure broader participation, involvement and influence. The ability to be part of a network or context is important for identity and self-esteem, as is the ability to travel freely and participate in activities after school in the municipality of residence or in the county.

Increased accessibility

Teaching through the performing arts schools is offered in all Norrbotten's municipalities. This operation is of crucial importance for young people's access to and creation of culture. Funding is a challenge, as is recruiting

teachers, since many municipalities have a small population base while at the same time being geographically large. It is important to continue working on different ways to promote accessibility in places where the cultural offering is currently limited, especially outside the main centres of population.

Children and young people's right to culture

All children have the right to culture, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is enshrined in Swedish law, making compliance a shared responsibility. Putting the Convention into practice means giving more children equal access to high-quality culture and professional performing arts.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- promote initiatives for young people's influence and participation in cooperation with young people, municipalities and regional actors.
- explore the potential of different concepts to increase access to culture outside the main centres of population.
- see Norrbotten's cultural operations to pay particular attention to activities that promote children and young people's encounters with culture and personal creativity.



National minorities and the indigenous Sami

The culture of national minorities and the indigenous Sami people is an important, active and innovative element of the culture in Norrbotten. Sápmi is home to some of the region's most successful creatives and professional artists, and Tornedalen is bursting with engagement and developmental energy. In

addition, the county has a significant Swedish-Finnish and Roma culture. Region Norrbotten has a coordinating role for the actors in this area. Municipalities, organisations, professional artists and other actors come together to develop culture for national minorities and indigenous peoples. These stakeholders want to see collaboration between cultural forms, strong infrastructure for organising events, and forums for bringing people together.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- address the development of national minority and indigenous culture by creating the conditions for stable national minority and indigenous organisations.
- develop meeting places, forms of cooperation and forums for dialogue, where national minorities and indigenous peoples can exchange experience and develop skills.
- promote the creation of culture for children and young people and for children's educational activities in national minority languages and Sami.
- support culture creation by national minorities and indigenous peoples in order to develop forms of cultural expression, identities and languages.
- establish one or more areas within cultural heritage preservation for the Tornedalians, Kvens and Lantalaïset in cooperation with the minority group's stakeholders.
- improve Tornedalsteatern's scope for development by including the operation in the cultural collaboration model.



Organisers make culture accessible

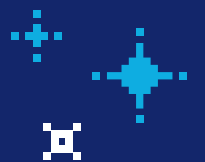
Norrbotten's provision of organised culture is supported by associations, institutions, municipalities, study associations, schools, cinemas, parishes, businesses and non-profit actors. It is important that the organising sector has the right conditions to ensure that high-quality artistic activities reach their audience and that everyone who wants to participate has the opportunity to do so.

Collaboration at various levels is needed to develop this sector, using training, coordination, networks and digital solutions as a means of increasing professionalism and making a diverse range of cultural experiences available to more people. In order to ensure continued growth and renewal, work focused on younger organisers and creating the organisers of the future needs to be encouraged.



Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- support initiatives for organiser development through increased coordination and skills development.
- continue strengthening the growth of the organising sector by investing in young organisers.





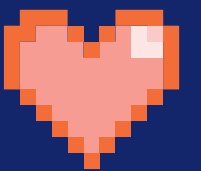
Culture and health

The area of culture and health is based on research showing that culture can have a positive impact on health, provide some perspective, reduce stress, break isolation and alienation, trigger memories, facilitate treatment and processing, and increase well-being. Culture and personal creativity can also strengthen self-esteem, identity and belonging. However, this area depends on cooperation between the cultural sector and actors in

health and social care. Experience shows that initiatives have succeeded best when based on the regular activities of cultural operations with a clear offer. Dance for Health is conducted in collaboration with the municipalities and performing arts schools. This preventive method, which is proven to have a good effect on young people's mental health, has been established in Norrbotten for a few years and is set to be developed further.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- continue developing Dance for Health in Norrbotten by supporting coordination and implementation.
- support initiatives and collaboration in the field of culture and health between cultural operations and actors in health and social care.



Collaboration

Collaboration at different levels enables access to a range of professional cultural activities throughout the county. Regional culture in Norrbotten enjoys broad and well-developed cooperation with regions, municipalities, institutions, authorities, professional artists, civil society and networks both nationally and internationally. Work on networking, exchanges, skills development and promotional activities for professional artists is ongoing at all times.

Kultur i Norr

Kultur i Norr (Culture in the North) is the collaborative structure of the four northernmost regions for developing policy on arts and culture. Meetings, knowledge-building activities and dialogues with regional and national actors are carried out within this structure. Collaboration in various cultural areas takes place through cultural policy cooperation,

training initiatives, peer exchange, collaborative projects and supply coordination. In particular, the northern regions see a need to develop collegial cooperation on analysis and follow-up. Common challenges can be overcome and access to culture increased by continuing to develop cooperation between the northern regions.

International

Cooperation with other regions and actors in the Nordic, Barents and Arctic regions is carried out continuously through projects, exchanges and residencies. This international exchange contributes to cultural diversity, gives Norrbotten's audiences and visitors access to new artistic expressions and stories, and it promotes artistic development.

Civil society and the non-profit cultural sector

Civil society in Norrbotten has a long tradition of contributing to development, whether through social enterprises, co-operatives, religious communities, trade unions, foundations or associations. Each organisation works independently and formulates its own role and mission. The organisations from the non-profit cultural sector, driven by the

commitment and cooperation of individuals and groups, are crucial in making culture available in Norrbotten. It is therefore vital to ensure good cooperation between the institutions and the non-profit organisations.

Adult education

Adult education consists of independent and voluntary education provided by folk high schools, study associations and public libraries. The adult education providers have an important role in Norrbotten's cultural life and are collectively the largest civil society actor in the field of education and culture. The folk high schools contribute to the education chain in a number of cultural areas, for example with courses in art, music, dance and media, while the study associations run study circles, cultural programmes and other popular educational provision in a wide range of areas and subjects.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- develop collaboration within Kultur i Norr and work towards updating the cultural policy position in 2024.
- see Region Norrbotten's cultural operations cooperate interregionally.
- promote exchanges and residencies nationally and internationally.





Cultural areas

Region Norrbotten allocates state funds to regional cultural operations within the seven areas of the national cultural collaboration model, in its drive to promote good access to culture for the county's inhabitants. Each chapter has a brief summary of the conditions in each area and the various actors, followed by a description of the policy preferences for the operations included in the cultural cooperation model.



Archives

The archives in Norrbotten manage elements of our shared cultural heritage, forming part of our collective memory. Containing texts, images, films, audio and objects, the archives are important sources of knowledge about our history and our understanding of how society and living conditions have developed. The archives also preserve contemporary information, so that future generations will have historical material to consult. Access to well-preserved archives creates transparency and the conditions for an open society, while also fulfilling a function and providing an opportunity for participation in the democratic process. Digitalisation, with its new technologies and different document formats, is the single biggest challenge facing the archives sector.



There are 14 municipal archives in Norrbotten, some of which have their own image archives. Ájtte Museum's archive, Ája, contains unique publications, documents and individual archives from Sami organisations and Sami culture. The outreach activities of the archives are important for raising

awareness of and interest in what they do. Public and educational work aimed at different target groups, especially children and young people and Norrbotten's schools, needs to be developed. Schools, groups and individual visitors should all have good access to the archives.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- develop a plan for the further digitisation of archival material.
- promote greater availability of digitised archival material.
- develop public and educational activities, especially with a focus on children and young people, to promote the archive as a resource and reach new participants.
- help increase collaboration between archives for joint skills development and coordination of development issues.
- support and advise on public-facing archive issues and raise awareness of the archives' activities.



Library, reading and literature promotion

Norrbotten has libraries under municipal, regional and state management and at independent schools, foundations and a folk high school. These libraries give the county's inhabitants access to literature, media, cultural experiences, information and knowledge. Promoting reading, digitalisation, digital participation and well-developed regional and national collaboration will continue to be strategically important areas in the future.

The libraries must be accessible to all and pay particular attention to national minorities and the indigenous Sami, people whose mother tongue is not Swedish and people with disabilities. Public libraries should give special priority to children and young people.



Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- develop and strengthen regional library cooperation and digitalisation work for citizens' access to library services, literature and media.
- support the development of the public library as an open and accessible place for democracy and participation and as a resource for increased sustainability.
- boost the promotion of reading to increase interest in reading and literature.
- support public libraries' work with media and information literacy for increased digital participation among the people of Norrbotten.
- develop Polarbibblo, the forum for children's own stories and creativity, as a resource for children in Sweden and Sápmi.

Literature

Literature is a repository of both language and culture, giving us access to the linguistic richness that is so fundamentally important for democracy and freedom of expression. The field of literature in the county comprises many small-scale actors, each of which forms an important cog in literary Norrbotten. Literature from Norrbotten is not reaching a sufficiently wide audience despite the well-developed infrastructure. More efforts therefore need to be made to raise the profile of professional writers from Norrbotten and to encourage more literature from the region, particularly in national minority languages and the languages of the indigenous Sami people.

To continue the line of professional authors, it is important to empower young writers through initiatives such as mentoring,

workshops and short writing courses. This is an area that can be developed in collaboration with the public libraries in Norrbotten.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- establish projects and initiatives that promote collaboration and create forums aimed at strengthening the position of literary professionals in Norrbotten.
- make more Norrbotten literature visible and possible, especially in national minority languages and Sami.
- develop forums for writing and mentoring programmes to support and develop literary works.
- support writers, publishers and other professional artists through training, residencies and advice.



Visual arts and design

Norrbotten has a vibrant arts scene with a large number of actors and activities. Over the past decade, the county has made considerable progress in the arts field, particularly in terms of establishing infrastructure such as institutions, organisations, professional artists and artist-led initiatives. Artists from Norrbotten are seen on both the national and international stage, with works and exhibitions featuring at well-known institutions alongside participation in biennial festivals, where Sami artists in particular have enjoyed major breakthroughs on the international art scene.

A holistic approach will be taken as we continue to strengthen the area of visual arts and design in Norrbotten. Initiatives that bring children and young people into contact with professional art and promote their own creativity remain central to the region's artistic operations.

Havremagasinet

Havremagasinet, one of Sweden's largest spaces for contemporary art, has worked since its inception in 2010 to ensure that art is a public resource for experiencing, thinking and reflecting, as well as prompting audiences to challenge themselves and seek new perspectives on life.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- promote more international and intercultural exchanges and collaborations.
- develop educational activities in minority and indigenous Sami languages.
- contribute to work on the designed living environment and the public debate on the role of art in community development.

Arts Consultant

The Arts Consultant works to showcase how art and culture are integral to a democratic society. Part of this work involves improving the opportunities for children and young people in Norrbotten to enjoy art and express their own creativity. The Arts Consultant is also a resource for municipalities on issues relating to the visual arts.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- advise and support new arts-related operations on development issues.
- support work to provide more art and culture for children and young people.
- work to establish a producer training course in the region.
- contribute to work on the designed living environment and the public debate on the role of art in community development.



Norrbottnen County Art Museum

Norrbottnen County Art Museum, known locally as Konstmuseet i Norr, exhibits socially engaged and critically oriented contemporary art with the Barents region as its geographical starting point. The art museum's task is to stimulate creativity and free thinking, create debate and make art an important voice in public and democratic discourse.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- develop networks for collaboration, creativity and democratic dialogue, using the Barents region as a geographical starting point.
- develop new forums throughout the county for public meetings and debate on contemporary art and the role of art in community development, through regional cooperation and a regional presence.
- establish the museum as a hub for contemporary art in northern Sweden.
- develop educational activities for the museum's outreach activities.

ArtNorth

ArtNorth (Resurscentrum för konst) works to support professional artists and artisans in Norrbotten by offering further training, brokering commissions, creating exhibition opportunities, running projects and working on international exchanges and residencies. Generating different types of commissions for artists in and outside the county supports the viability of living and working as a professional artist in Norrbotten.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- continue encouraging more exhibition venues and commissions, regionally, nationally and internationally, and to include new artists in the region's art scene.
- continue to develop residency activities in the region.
- strengthen the function and role of the curator in the region through training and networking.
- develop performance art in the county in collaboration with the Dance Consultant.



Film – cultural activities and education

Filmpool Nord is both a film company and an educational resource centre. In the latter capacity, Filmpool Nord works on film and film education for children and young people in and outside school, and on supporting young people's interest in film. It also promotes the distribution and screening of films. Filmpool Nord's film culture and educational work at the county's schools covers all the municipalities in Norrbotten. Raising awareness of how to create, critically review and get more people to watch films provides perspective and knowledge, while also helping more cultural practitioners to create stories on film. Filmriket is a platform created for children, young people and educators as a place to watch, create and talk about film regionally, nationally and internationally. The platform also promotes the democratic right to learn the language of film.



Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- develop and continuously update Filmriket with film-related educational content that makes the national platform relevant for the future.
- see films created in the county: being shown digitally and physically, regionally and nationally; employed in courses aimed at improving accessibility; and used as film-related educational material.
- revitalise the Norrbotten film industry through talent development via the cultural operation dedicated to film.

Museum and cultural environment

The cultural environment refers to the physical environment that has been affected by humans, and can range from individual objects to large sections of the landscape. Norrbotten's cultural environments convey the county's cultural and social development and the living conditions or activities that have characterised the county over the years.

As part of society's collective memory, museums should contribute to the development of society by promoting knowledge, cultural experiences and the independent formation of opinions.

Museum operations cover a broad range of activities, including the work of acquiring, preserving, communicating and bringing to life our cultural heritage. It is important that the cultural heritage institutions continually challenge and problematise their take on heritage, historiography, identity and heritage conservation ideology. National minorities and the indigenous Sami people remain an important part of Norrbotten's cultural heritage, hence the work to raise the profile of these areas and increase knowledge within the region.

Norrbottens Museum

Norrbotten's county museum is the largest institution with a focus on the cultural environment of the region, and has a broad mission regarding Norrbotten's cultural heritage, prehistory, history and present – including administration, public access and development. The region's cultural heritage is made available through research, active management of collections and an extensive range of programmes, exhibitions and other public activities.

Cultural environment at Norrbottens Museum

Norrbottens Museum carries out commissioned activities in the fields of archaeology and antiquities, as a key part of its operational work on the cultural environment. Other elements of the museum's cultural environment work include its in-house projects and research collaborations.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- develop a broader digital offering that reaches the whole county.
- find long-term solutions with appropriate facilities for objects, collections and public activities.
- further develop physical and digital accessibility in order to broaden participation by the target group "infrequent visitors".
- make Norrbottens Museum's collections accessible to researchers and the public through digitisation and digitalisation.
- continue developing research collaborations to boost Norrbottens Museum's knowledge building.
- increase collaboration and cooperation with other actors and parties in networks, research projects and programmes.
- develop the Forestry and Log-driving Museum in Storforsen in partnership with its stakeholders, initially in the form of a care and maintenance drive for the heritage buildings in the area.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- increase collaboration in the cultural environment network to bring about more joint research and cooperation projects.
- work with other stakeholders to generate more research project applications for increased knowledge building.
- create and develop collaborations linked to research-driven digitalisation.
- make Norrbottens Museum's collections accessible to researchers and the public through digitisation.
- highlight the impact of ongoing social transformations, industrial activities and climate change on Norrbotten's cultural environments and heritage.

Performing arts

The performing arts include dance, music and theatre, and cross-genre art forms such as contemporary circus, that are performed in front of a live audience. The performing arts ecosystem in Norrbotten is made up of various institutions, centres of excellence, organising associations and professional artists and groups. Several actors work specifically with the national minorities and the indigenous Sami people. Guest performances and international collaborations generate stronger networks and influences. Renewal and artistic development are encouraged through new working practices, exchanges and collaboration. Performing arts schools, arts programmes, study associations, folk high schools and university courses are available in the county. In Norrbotten, the performing arts are an important arena for open debate and for examining, entertaining, criticising and questioning.

Dance

Dance in Norrbotten has changed in recent years, as new actors emerge and structures develop. The field of dance is seeing positive developments, with increased activity and a growing interest in working professionally in the county, which in turn generates new

influences, collaborations and renewal.

As dance schools and performing arts schools are responsible for much of the dance that children and young people do themselves, these actors are a vital component of the dance infrastructure in the region.

Dans i Nord

Dans i Nord organises, produces and communicates high-quality dance, offering a varied range of performances for both younger and older audiences in Norrbotten's municipalities.

Dance Consultant

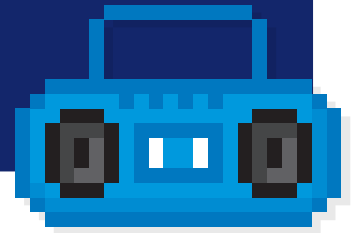
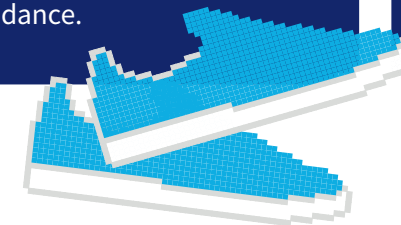
The Dance Consultant works strategically and operationally to boost, promote and develop dance as a form of culture. The role involves initiating and collaborating on various projects and acting as a link between the dance world and other actors such as schools, associations and municipalities.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- establish the conditions for professional dancers and choreographers to live and work in Norrbotten.
- work with the municipalities and existing dance venues to boost dance as an art form through in-house and co-produced dance performances and guest performances.
- improve the infrastructure through increased collaboration and coordination with cultural institutions, advocacy organisations, municipalities and other regions.
- collaborate with regional actors and participate in broad dialogues aimed at developing dance.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- promote the opportunities for children and young people to experience, create and practise dance.
- help strengthen the infrastructure and production chain through collaboration and coordination.
- support the professional dance scene and promote sustainable structures and coordination.
- develop performance art in the county in collaboration with ArtNorth.





Music

Music is a broad area in Norrbotten, with a range of live music from professional artists as well as from active amateurs and groups. The infrastructure includes everything from the county's music institution and educational institutions to pop music development companies, amateurs and professional artists across numerous genres. All the municipalities have performing arts schools and regional performing arts school coordination brings together resources for development and collaboration.

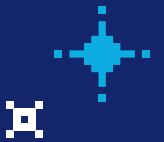
A strong body of organisers is needed to give people equal access to music of breadth and excellence throughout Norrbotten. Organisers and the independent music scene have expressed a need for support in the form of increased resources, skills development and networks. There is also a demand for unifying functions, both genre-specific and general.

Norrbottensmusiken

Norrbottensmusiken produces and promotes professional music events in the county. With Norrbotten Big Band, Norrbotten NEO, Norrbottens Kammarorkester, Piteå Kammaropera and extensive freelance involvement, this regional music body is able to offer professional, high-quality activities with a varied repertoire for children, young people and adults.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- accelerate the development of the music sector in Norrbotten through support, collaboration and dialogue.
- promote interest in music among children and young people by supporting the revival and growth of the wind band.
- develop a choral centre with a view to expanding opportunities for co-creation using the choir and singing as tools.
- push for digitalisation and innovation in the interest of greater accessibility.
- investigate the need for measures to create a platform for national minorities and the indigenous Sami people in the field of music.





Theatre

The theatre sector in Norrbotten, comprising institutions large and small plus independent groups and professional artists, has a tradition of amateur dramatics and local village revues. Various forms of cross-genre collaboration are developing and refreshing the art form. The Swedish National Theatre Company's local associations help to bring theatre from both regional and national sources to the whole county. The organising associations enable a wide range of theatre to be presented throughout Norrbotten. Children and young people are able to experience drama and theatre through the performing arts schools, drama specialisms at upper secondary school, theatre group activities, Ung Scen Norr and Riksteatern Norrbotten's LÄNK project.

Giron Sami Teáhter creates professional stage performances based on Sami culture and identity. The theatre's mission is to promote the Sami languages and shine a spotlight on topical social issues. Giron Sámi Teáhter needs to be given the status of a national Sami theatre in Sweden in order to continue its development. Stakeholders in the theatre world describe

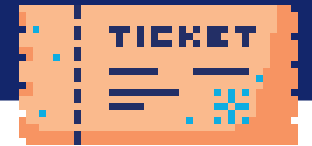
challenges for organisers, the need for appropriate premises in the municipalities and the need for forums where theatre producers can meet for support and to exchange knowledge and experience. A challenge for the whole theatre operation is that the organisers' funds for purchasing performances have been cut and touring costs are high in a county the size of Norrbotten.

Norrbottensteatern

The mission of Norrbottensteater is to offer professional theatre performances of high quality to all citizens in the county, prioritising children and young people as a target group. The theatre arranges regular guest performances by acts from all over the country and collaborates with the professional theatre and dance sector through co-productions and shared use of facilities and technology. The theatre is also being developed as a meeting place through various public discussion programmes and digital events. Work is underway to offer performances in digital format and, in addition, the theatre is working on being able to tour all of its productions.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- stimulate and develop a quality performing arts scene for the whole of Norrbotten.
- explore collaboration with other arts disciplines to develop the dramatic arts.
- be an open arena for conversations that explore, entertain, criticise and question in various ways.
- strengthen interregional and international cooperation in order to develop and broaden the dramatic arts.
- continue to develop Ung Scen Norr as a meeting place for youth drama in Norrbotten by encouraging, seeing and involving young people.

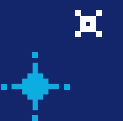


Riksteatern Norrbotten

Riksteatern Norrbotten helps to stage performing arts content at theatres, schools, child-care facilities, rural heritage museums and other venues in Norrbotten. It is a non-profit organisation with a regional mandate to support the theatre and dance scene, particularly for children and young people. Norrbotten has 14 local National Theatre Company associations, one in each municipality, that operate on a voluntary basis and organise around 200 professional theatre performances each year, most of them produced in the region. In the majority of municipalities, the local National Theatre association is the only permanent organiser of professional performing arts in the evenings.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- work to strengthen and develop the position of the organisers.
- explore tools for the coordination of performing arts provision, particularly for children and young people.
- work on sectoral development activities and projects.
- collaborate with regional actors and participate in broad dialogues aimed at stimulating the development of performing arts in Region Norrbotten.





Crafts

As a county, Norrbotten is strong in the area of crafting in various materials. It is part of the region's cultural heritage, involving traditions, customs and practices that have been passed down from generation to generation. Today's digital society is dissolving geographical and physical boundaries, leading to forms of expression where traditional designs and techniques meet references to the present and the future.

What is more, hand-crafted production and design processes and the use of recycled materials are increasingly being applied in large-scale production. This area is therefore well placed to help encourage sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as the building of sustainable cities and communities, based on the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Many Sami craftspeople live and work in Norrbotten, and duodji is a central part of Sami culture, as a cultural carrier, a source of income and a creator of identity.

Initiatives that enable children and young people to encounter and practise crafts and design in and outside of school need to be strengthened. Initiating projects and offering skills development for teachers establishes the groundwork for activities that bring children and young people into contact with craft and design as a means of expression on their own terms.

Craft and Design Consultants

Craft and Design Consultants work strategically and operationally to strengthen, promote and develop the craft and design sector in Norrbotten with a focus on various crafts and small-scale design work. Expanding children and young people's opportunities for crafts and design and developing their own ability to be creative with their hands is a core focus of this work.

Region Norrbotten wishes to:

- initiate and support initiatives for teachers and instructors in order to give children and young people in Norrbotten more opportunities to be creative with their hands.
- highlight the link between crafts and design and sustainable development, and support initiatives on reuse and sustainability.
- support initiatives that explore contemporary expressions and influences in crafts and design.
- establish the conditions for professional craft and design practitioners to develop and operate in the county.



Definition of terms

Civil society

Civil society can be defined as an arena, distinct from the state, the market and the individual household, in which people, groups and organisations act together in a common interest. Civil society is often synonymous with the voluntary and non-profit sectors. The term is often used to refer to study associations, independent adult education, community organisers and other non-profit organisations.

Duodji

Sami crafts, in hard or soft materials, are often collectively known as duodji. The Sami have always made their own tools and sewn their own clothes, creating products from materials found in nature: roots, birch bark, hide, sinew, reindeer antler and so on.

Non-profit sector

The non-profit sector comprises organised activities that are based on democratic values and promote the interests of members or wider society. Organisationally independent of the public sector, these activities are carried out by non-profit economic or voluntary associations, cooperatives, societies, foundations or similar non-governmental organisations.

Public art

Art is not just about paintings – it can be sculptures, textiles or other artistic expressions both indoors and outdoors. Public art is a work of art created and executed for a client, often site-specific and forming part of a building, site or landscape design.

Cultural infrastructure

Cultural infrastructure is about the practical conditions that enable culture to exist. The concept includes physical structures such as premises, stages, workplaces and meeting places as well as soft structures such as organisations and activities, financial support and investment in the viability of artists, for example through skills development and residencies.

Cultural and creative industries (CCI)

CCI includes the following sectors: architecture, design, crafts, film, photography, art, fashion, literature, music, performing arts, food, games and media, tourism and hospitality. In the Culture Plan, when Region Norrbotten mentions CCI, it refers to the professional artists in: visual arts and design, crafts, dance, music, theatre, literature and film.

National minorities

Sweden has five recognised national minorities: Jews, Roma, Sami, Swedish Finns and Tornedaliens. A national minority is a group with a distinct sense of kinship that: can be distinguished from the rest of the population; has a religious, linguistic, traditional or cultural identity that it does not share with others; has a declared desire to maintain its identity; has historical or long-standing ties with Sweden.

Professional artists

Region Norrbotten uses the Swedish Joint Committee for Artistic and Literary Professionals' definition of a professional artist, which is: a person who makes a living from their art or strives to do so, combined with a high level of professional expertise, for example through documented training and/or experience in their artistic field.

Residency

A residency involves an international, national or regional exchange with a focus on artistic exploration that can be both practical and theoretical. An artist, a group of artists or someone else working in a cultural field is given the opportunity to live and work somewhere different for a limited period of time – for example, in a different type of working environment, city or country.

Regional cultural operations

Regional cultural operations work on the basis of a regional mandate to produce, disseminate or develop culture throughout Norrbotten. They may be an institution or advocacy body within Region Norrbotten's organisation, an institution that is co-financed with a municipality or another activity with funding from Region Norrbotten. Many regional cultural operations are included in the cultural collaboration model.

Indigenous people

In Sweden the Sami have the status of an indigenous people. The designation indigenous people has a legal definition and is reserved for peoples that have retained their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions. Today's indigenous peoples originate from population groups that were living in the area when it was colonised or before the current national borders were drawn.

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