

COMMISSION ON CULTURE

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2010

The 13th Annual Working Session was successfully realized by the City of Turku, department of Culture 22-25 September 2009 on the theme “The Cultural Dimension of Baltic cooperation – Developing Creative Industries” with 7 lecturers and speakers. The session gathered together 20 participants from 8 countries and from 10 cities.

The 14th Annual Working Session was hosted by the City of Umeå 22-23 October 2010 on the theme “The Role of Culture in Cityplanning” with 9 lectures and speakers. The session gathered together 29 participants from 6 countries and from 15 cities.

The Board of the Commission met in Tallinn 22-24 April 2010 and in Umeå on 22-23 October 2010. The CoC board met programme director Jaanus Rohumaa and administrative director Elena Natale from SA Tallinn 2011 who gave an overview of Tallinn 2011 programme. The board discussed among other things the rules of the next election of the CoC board, budget, project plans for the future and decided about the winner of the UBC Cultural Prize.

The UBC commission on culture has been given out **the UBC Cultural Prize** since 2006. The idea is that the board of CoC invites the cities to candidate for the prize once a year and that the prize has a special theme each year. This year’s theme was “Multicultural dialog”. There were ten applications from five countries; Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. When choosing the candidate for the prize, the board of the commission on culture wanted to stress especially the Baltic dimension of the cultural activity. The prize of the year 2010 was given to Liepaja City Culture Department. The Liepaja City Culture Department has together with Liepaja Municipality, Liepaja City Puppet Theatre, Liepaja City NGOs and artist Aivars Kleins organized the Maritime Festival. The festival consists of three different parts; International Street Theatre Festival, Artists' Plein Air and the Stage of NGOs. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the annual working session in Umeå and it took place in the Umeå2014 “Glass house”.

The Festival of the Baltic Cities was held in St. Petersburg 11-13 June 2010. The main focus of the festival was drama.

European Neighbours Day was celebrated 28th May 2010. European Federation of Local Solidarity (www.european-neighbours-day.eu) contacted CoC in order to get the Neighbours Day more known in the UBC network. The board decided to support the idea by spreading information to the UBC member cities. CoC was successful in spreading information and some UBC member cities made some Neighbours Day events in their cities.

CoC decided to collaborate with Bridging Ages network as a partner. The Bridging Ages network organized 17-19 November 2010 in Kalmar a **conference “Applied Cultural Heritage, How telling past at historic site benefits society”**. CoC supported the

participation of the representatives of UBC member cities. The conference participants from the UBC member cities could apply support for accommodation and participation fee up to maximum 400 euros. An application form was made and sent to the contact persons of UBC member cities. All together 4 participants from UBC cities in Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden applied for the support.

A series of workshops and meetings for planning a **Baltic Creative Management project** and making an application in March 2011 to the BSR programme were held in Umeå 1-4 September, In Tallinn 12-14 October and in Jyväskylä 30 November – 1 December. The UBC cities that have shown interest to the project are Umeå, Vaasa, Tukums, Bergen, Riga, Rostock, Gdansk and Jyväskylä. Their interest to be partners in the project will be asked in March 2011.

Contacts with Les Rencontres, AER (Assembly of European Regions) Culture for health working group, Bridging Ages, European Federation of Local Solidarity and other **international networks on culture** were developed and kept alive.

CoC supported “**The Day of Culture**”, which is deeply related to the Pact of Peace established by Nicholas Roerich in 1929 and held every year 15th April, by spreading information about it and giving the right to use the name of UBC Commission on Culture in this connection

The Catalogue of Cultural Institutions is available on www.ubc.net. Since 2006 it has included a network of cultural institutions around the Lake Victoria, in order to stimulate contacts with and within the sister organisation of UBC: Lake Victoria Regional and Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC).

Vaasa, February 2010

Tarja Hautamäki, Chairperson