



Region Jönköping County's Culture Plan 2015-2017 is a plan for the development of the cultural scene in the county. It also constitutes Region Jönköping County's foundation material when applying for state subsidies from the Swedish Arts Council, for the parts of the plan that have co-financing from the government.

Who does what?

Swedish Arts Council

Represents the state in discussions with county councils/regions. Allocates state funds to each county. Is responsible for ensuring that all relevant cultural areas are included. Provides support for competence development and experience exchange regionally and locally. Is responsible for follow-up and reporting nationally.

Region Jönköping County

Represents the county in discussions with the state, and is responsible for and coordinates efforts to produce the Regional Culture Plan. Allocates its own and state funds directly to regional cultural organisations in the county. Is responsible for the county's reporting to the Swedish Arts Council.

Municipalities

Work with Region Jönköping County in the production of the Regional Culture Plans. In some cases shares principal responsibility and/or funding of relevant institutions and organisations. Supports local culture. Works with the region in following up the Culture Plan.

Why a Culture Plan?

Since 2011, there has been a new co-operation model for allocating state funds to regional cultural operations in Sweden.

This means that the county councils, or the equivalent regional body, have taken over the task of allocating government funding for different regional cultural activities. Jönköping County joined the co-operation model in 2012. The aim of the cultural co-operation model is to bring culture closer to the citizens. The model provides a basis for increased regional influence and responsibility.

The Regional Culture Plan for Jönköping County 2015–2017 is a cultural-political document produced in association with municipalities, and in consultation with cultural organisations, non-profit organisations and professional creators in the cultural field. In each of the operational areas covered by the plan, there have been discussions with affected parties. A preliminary Culture Plan was referred for consideration on 11 June–10 September 2014, and the plan has since been supplemented. The Regional Culture Plan for Jönköping County 2015–2017 was established by the County Council Assembly on 26 November 2014.

National goals

Culture shall be a dynamic, challenging, independent force, based on a foundation of freedom of speech. Everyone shall have the opportunity to participate in the cultural scene. Creativity, diversity and artistic quality shall characterise developments in society. In order to achieve national cultural-political goals, cultural policy shall:

- promote opportunities for everyone to experience culture, participate in educational programmes and develop their creative abilities;
- promote quality and artistic renewal;
- promote a dynamic cultural heritage that is preserved, used and developed;
- promote accessibility;

- promote international and intercultural exchange and cooperation in the cultural sphere; and
- pay particular attention the rights of children and young people to culture.

Regional goals

Based on Region Jönköping County's vision entitled *For a Good Life in an Attractive Region* and on the national cultural-political goals, the region's goals can be summarised as follows:

- everybody's opportunities to enjoy cultural activities and experiences
- the county has a well-developed art and cultural scene, characterised by high quality in both its range and focus.

Cultural-political priorities

In order to achieve national and regional goals in the areas of operation, the following areas will be prioritised:

- Cultural infrastructure
- Conditions for artistic creation
- Culture with a focus on children and young people
- Accessibility to cultural activities and the cultural heritage
- Interregional, international and intercultural collaboration
- Co-operation and dialogue.

The regional cultural-political priorities aim to strengthen all parts in the cultural infrastructure, both the producer and the organiser stages, as arenas for individual creation. Regional cultural policy shall have a distinct focus on citizens, with full awareness of how important the regional and local cultural scene is to regional development.

Starting from the cultural-political priorities, the needs for development initiatives during the plan period are described in

each area of operation, to enable greater goal achievement in the cultural area.

The following areas of operation are described in the Regional Culture Plan

- Professional theatre, dance and music operations
- Regional museum operations
- Operations that promote art and culture
- Regional individual archive operations
- Film culture operations
- Operations that promote handicrafts
- Regional library operations
- Promotion of literature and reading
- Adult education.

Special initiatives 2015–2017

The Culture Plan outlines several projects/operations for particular focus:

Professional theatre, dance and music operations

- Eksjö kammarmusikfestival
- ShareMusic & Performing Arts

Operations that promote art and culture

- Vandalorum – Art & Design Centre
- Dance, development operations for greater accessibility to dance for children and young people.

Film culture operations

- Animation festival

Promotion of literature and reading

- Safe havens

Other

- Smålands Kulturfestival
- The independent culture scene
- Strategy for children and young people's culture.

Included in the Culture Plan Strategy for children and young people's culture

One of Sweden's five national cultural-political goals is to particularly highlight the right of children and young people to culture. There is a strong political desire in Region Jönköping County to get behind the national cultural-political goals, which state that the cultural scene should place particular emphasis on children and young people as a group – both in terms of productions and events created for this group, and also as regards opportunities for children and young people to take part in and create culture themselves. Focus areas in the strategy for children and young people's culture in Jönköping County 2015–2017:

- New cultural habits – new culture
- Own creation
- Participation and influence
- Accessibility
- Cultural values
- Structural issues

Regional library plan

By law, all municipalities and county councils/regions must have a plan for their library operations. The priorities in Jönköping County's library plan for 2015–2017 are:

- Co-operation
- Quality-related work
- The library arena
- Education, and promotion of reading
- Stories and storytelling
- New technology and digital participation.

Follow-up and evaluation

The Culture Plan is valid for three years, but can be revised annually. The content can be influenced by contributing comments and suggestions at meetings and/or in writing. Follow-up will primarily take place in consultation with the Swedish Arts Council, which is developing systems and criteria for statistical follow-up of each county/region's culture plan.

How are our regional culture funds used?

Region Jönköping County receives about SEK 30 million in subsidies from the state, since we are part of the cultural co-operation model. Region Jönköping County also invests a further SEK 96 million in regional cultural operations.

These regional culture funds are used as follows:

- Theatre, dance and music operations SEK 97 m
- Museum operations SEK 17 m
- Regional library operations SEK 5.5 m
- Operations that promote art and culture SEK 2.1 m
- Operations that promote handicrafts SEK 1.8 m
- Archive operations SEK 1.8 m
- Film culture operations SEK 0.7 m.