

Arctic
ubmeje
umeå
Summit
2026

LAND, POWER, ART

Ubmeje/Umeå, Sweden, 16–18 June 2026

Buerestbåhtieme! Buerie båeteme! Buristbåhtem! Buorisboahtem! Bures boahhti!
Tervetullui! Tervetuloa! Välkommen! Welcome!

Keep up with the conversation online
throughout the Summit and beyond.

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WELCOME MESSAGES



Photo: Fredrik Larsson/ Visit Umeå

Buerestbåhtieme, Buerie båeteme **Warm Welcome to Sápmi and to Ubmeje.**

On behalf of the Sámi Parliament, it is my honour to welcome you to our traditional lands – to a land that holds generations of knowledge, stories, and lived experiences.

You have gathered here from across the Circumpolar region – artists, culture bearers, decision-makers, and storytellers – to share knowledge, experiences, and visions for the future.

Here in Ubmeje, you are on lands where the reindeer follow their natural migrations, and by the Ume River – a lifeline that for generations has carried people, and life itself. These are places that remind us of the connection between land, heritage, and survival.

Sápmi is not just a place, but a living landscape of languages, memories and relationships. Here, Sámi art and culture have always been a driving force – for identity, resistance, and creation. As in other parts of the Arctic, our stories are deeply intertwined with the land, and with one another.

The Arctic Arts Summit is an important meeting place. It strengthens cooperation across borders and brings forward Indigenous perspectives at a time when the Arctic is rapidly changing. Here, space is created for dialogue about the role of culture in societal development, self-determination, and sustainable futures.

I hope your days in Ubmeje are filled with inspiration, new connections, and bold ideas. That you listen, share, and carry with you what you experience here.

Johanna Njaita

Sámedikki ságadoalli / Chair of the Sámi Parliament



Upinraksaq by Taalrumiq , part of A River Runs Beneath

Welcome to Ubmeje/Umeå and Västerbotten

On behalf of Region Västerbotten, it is my great honour to welcome you to Ubmeje/Umeå and to our northern region of Sweden.

We gather here in a part of the world where land, water, forest and river shape not only our landscapes, but our identities, our livelihoods and our cultural expressions. Västerbotten is part of Sábmie and the broader Circumpolar North. The Sámi people have lived on and cared for these lands since time immemorial, and their languages, knowledge systems and artistic traditions continue to enrich and guide our region.

Ubmeje/Umeå — a city known for its vibrant cultural life and its year as European Capital of Culture — stands at the meeting point of tradition and innovation. Here, contemporary art, music, design and digital culture coexist with strong community-based practices and deep-rooted cultural heritage. Culture is not an accessory to development in Västerbotten; it is a driving force.

Across the Circumpolar region, we share common realities: vast geographies, climate transformation, demographic shifts, Indigenous resurgence, youth engagement and new forms of artistic collaboration. We also share a conviction that arts and culture are essential to democratic societies, sustainable development and social resilience.

In a time marked by rapid change, global uncertainty and environmental urgency, the role of culture becomes even more vital. Artists and cultural practitioners help us interpret change, imagine futures and strengthen connections — to the land, to each other and to coming generations.

Västerbotten is deeply committed to Circumpolar cooperation. Through regional, national and international partnerships, we work to strengthen artistic mobility, Indigenous cultural rights, creative industries and cross-border collaboration in the North. We believe that sustainable Arctic development must include culture at its core.

As you take part in this gathering, I encourage you to listen, to share, to challenge and to build lasting relationships. May this meeting in Umeå deepen our collective understanding and strengthen our shared commitment to a culturally vibrant and socially sustainable North.

Welcome to Ubmeje/Umeå. Welcome to Västerbotten.

Richard Carstedt

Region Västerbotten, Chairman of the Regional Development Committee

ABOUT THE ARCTIC ARTS SUMMIT



Arctic Arts Summit is a unique international platform that operates at the intersection of arts, cultural policy, and research in the Circumpolar North. It is both the world's only Arctic cultural policy summit and a catalyst for artistic development. The Summit brings together leaders, artists, cultural workers, academics and political decision makers of Arctic countries and Indigenous Nations across the Circumpolar North to strengthen arts and culture, stimulate international collaboration and facilitate timely dialogue from a northern perspective.

The Summit emphasizes the social and community-building role of the arts, foregrounds Indigenous knowledge and leadership, and strengthens international networks across the Arctic. By bridging art, research, and policy, AAS highlights the importance of culture as a driver for sustainability, resilience, and geopolitical dialogue in the North.

Since its inception, the Arctic Arts Summit has travelled across the Circumpolar North, growing in scope and significance. The first Summit was held in Harstad, Norway (2017), establishing a new platform for cultural policy dialogue in the Arctic. In Rovaniemi, Finland (2019), the Summit deepened its academic focus on Arctic research and cross-border collaboration. After a pandemic delay, the Whitehorse, Canada (2022) edition expanded the Summit into a hybrid model, centering Indigenous voices and reaching thousands of participants worldwide through a broad digital investment. Together, these editions laid the foundation for the Arctic Arts Summit as a unique meeting place where art, policy, and knowledge intersect.

For more information on the 2026 Summit, including detailed programming information and practical details, visit arcticartssummit.com

DISCURSIVE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

THEMES

- Small Places, Strong Communities
- Sovereign Stories
- The Art of Geopolitics
- Indigenous Leadership
- Sustainable Futures
- Sharing and Shaping

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026

ÖGONBLICKSTEATERN	IDUN (FOLKETS HUS)	STUDION (FOLKETS HUS)	MIKLAGÅRD (FOLKETS HUS)
9.00-10.30	1: Culture at the Core: Shaping Policy for the Arctic We Share Host: Arctic Arts Summit		
BREAK 10.30-10.45			
10.45-11.45	2E: Circumpolar Cultural Policy - From Development to Action Host: Swedish Arts Council	2C: European Capitols of Culture in Sápmi: Legacy, Visibility, Power Host: Oulu 2026 and Kirna 2029	2B: Returning Home: Approaches to Ethical Repatriation Host: Alaska Native Heritage Center
LUNCH 12.00-13.00			
13.00-14.00	3B: Culture in Total Defense - Strengthening Preparedness in the Arctic Host: Swedish Ministry of Culture	3E: Land-Based Art Learning Host: Umeå University 2029	3D: Regional Governments, Cultural Cooperation and the New Political Reality Host: Troms County and Region Västerbotten
BREAK 14.00-14.15			
14.15-15.15	4B: Co-existence by Design: Building Cultural Collaborations Across Borders Host: Nordic Culture Fund	4A: Resilient Voices : Language as a bearer of identity and the revitalization of endangered minority languages Host: Arts and Culture Norway	4D: Museums and Communities: Practical Strategies for Collections Engagement Host: Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center
BREAK 15.15-15.30			
15.30-16.30	5C: Nordic-Arctic Canadian Collaboration - what's next? Host: Nordic Council of Ministers and Canada Council for the Arts	5D: Indigenous Crafts Perspectives in the Arctic Region: Following Up on Duodji Reader (2022) with a Pan-Arctic Perspective Host: Norwegian Crafts	5A: Arctic Art Histories and National Galleries: Colonial Legacies and Geopolitical Futures Host: Arctic Arts Summit

DISCURSIVE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

	IDUN (FOLKETS HUS)	STUDION (FOLKETS HUS)	MIKLAGÅRD (FOLKETS HUS)	TONSALEN (FOLKETS HUS)
9.00-10.30	6: Preliminary Findings and Expectations of the Swedish Truth Commission for Sámi Peoples Host: Truth Commission Sweden			
	BREAK 10:30-10:45			
10.45-11.45	7D: What Comes After Truth? Art, Culture and TRC Legacies Host: Arctic Arts Summit	7F: Carrying Knowledge, Shaping Futures: Senior Indigenous Artists in Dialogue Host: Arctic Arts Summit	7A: Rooted and Rising: Queer Resilience Across the Circumpolar North Host: Swedish Performing Arts Coalition	7E: Birgejupmi Through Art and Duodji Host: Dáiddadállo
	LUNCH 12:00-13:00			
13.00-14.00	8D: Decentralizing Arts Funding: Experimenting with New Models for Funding the North Host: Canada Council for the Arts	8C: Dáddáriid Vásáhusat - The Lived Experiences of Sámi Artists Host: Giron Sámi Teáhter	8B: Settler Colonial Complicity - Truth and Reconciliation in Sápmi and Sweden Host: SSR: National Association of Sámi in Sweden	
	BREAK 14:00-14:15			
14.15-15.15	9E: More Than Territority: Culture, Coexistence and Competing Futures in the Arctic Host: Länsstyrelsen Norrbotten	9D: Envisioning a New Sámi Museum Structure Host: Aejllies and Stiftelsen Gaaltje		9G: Ice, Land, Art: Drifting Towards the Arctic Host: LOKAL Performing Arts
	IDUN (FOLKETS HUS)	STUDION (FOLKETS HUS)	MIKLAGÅRD (FOLKETS HUS)	PETERSON-BERGEN (FOLKETS HUS)
9.00-10.30	10: Holding the Center: Kalaallit Nunaat and the Arctic to Come Host: Arctic Arts Summit			
	BREAK 10:30-10:45			
10.45-11.45	11B: Inuusal Art and Mental Health in Greenland Host: World Health Organization and Nordic Culture Fund	11A: Curatorial Collaborations Across Borders Host: of Canada	11E: Performing Arts as a Force for Reconciliation Host: Tornedalsteatern	
	LUNCH 12:00-13:00			
13.00-14.00	12F: Reputational Security: Why Soft Power Matters Host: Arctic Arts Summit	12B: Land, Power and Art in the Arctic: Who is shaping the future in our home? Host: Sáminuorra	12E: Breaking Patterns: Allanguineq Host: Nuuk Art Museum	12G: Who Tells Arctic Stories? Host: Jillat Samiskt Danscenter
	BREAK 14:00-14:15			
14.15-15.15	13: Beyond the Summit: The Arctic We Choose Host: Arctic Arts Summit			

ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The Summit's Artistic Program creates opportunities both to showcase existing artistic projects and create new exhibitions, performances and artworks. The Artistic Program showcases the breadth and depth of contemporary artistic practice across the Arctic, and ensures artists' voices remain central to the Summit's activities. This year, we are thrilled to showcase artwork across many disciplines featuring critical perspectives from around the Circumpolar North. We encourage delegates to see as much artistic content as possible.

Some projects are unique to Arctic Arts Summit 2026 and can only be seen here, so make sure to experience them!

Arctic Night LIVE

NORDTING and the Arctic Arts Summit join forces to give the Arctic and the rest of world what it doesn't yet have (and might not even know it is missing): an original Arctic late-night TV show. NORDTING – known for its Northern People's Assemblies and Pan-Arctic Visions – will pick up on Summit themes, hosting surprise guests and live music to disturb and comfort us into the light Umeje/Umeå night. Arctic Night LIVE will be broadcast from the Summit gathering venue Sjadduo three evenings in a row. The stage is set for a fusion of art, political commentary, and late-night TV – all with the aim of forming a shared public conversation across the Arctic. Welcome to a new border-crossing exercise.

Arctic Night LIVE can be experienced live in person or watched through the Arctic Arts Summit web page. Featuring Amund Sjølie Sveen, Sirí Paulsen, Eva Svaneblom, Erik Stifjell, and more.



(Photo by Knut Åserud)

A River Runs Beneath

A River Runs Beneath is a Northern international Augmented Reality project created to debut at the Arctic Arts Summit and, specifically, in Umeje. Titled in reference to the river running beneath the city centre, the artists in this exhibition contribute works that think through confluences, movement, shared histories, place-making, site-specificity, language, land and waterways. Local and visiting artists from Sápmi and Inuit Nunaat invite Summit attendees to seek out the QR codes for *A River Runs Beneath* throughout the city and be the first to experience these thoughtful, fun, and dynamic works in person before they are shared with the world. Visit camp or hit up a disco, dress up in Arctic fashion, and experience language and culture like you never have before. *A River Runs Beneath* is co-curated by Dr. Heather Igloliorte and Maria Svonni, and features work by Ida Boman, Monica Edmonson, Glenn Gear, Guná, Tilde-Ristin Kuoljok, Coco Apunnguaq Lynge, Drew Michael, Julia Rensberg, Trine Samuelsen Hansen, and Taalrumiq, mentored by digital artist Jordan Hill.



Det rinner bäckar i oss
Juhkkh gūlggh mijjan sissnie / There are brooks running within us,
Ida Boman, part of *A River Runs Beneath*

To create these original works for the Summit, Indigenous artists from across the North and working in all media came together for artistic incubator residencies in Canada and Sweden in 2025 and 2026. Post your AR selfies with the hashtag #AAS_ARiver to be featured online!

ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

MULTI-DAY PROGRAMMING

* SEE TIMES

EXHIBITION
Future Cartographies
Rúri + Elena Mazzi
10–18 June 2026, 14.00–18.00

* EXHIBITION
House_FLOW Counter Move
Tonia Carless
10–18 June 2026, 14.00–18.00

* EXHIBITION
The Many Ways We Love
Multiple Artists
15–17 June 2026, all day

EXHIBITION
A River Runs Beneath
Multiple Artists
15–20 June 2026, all day



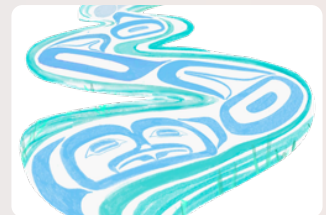
Location: Galleri Verkligheten
Organized by Tráppihe and UmArts



Location: UmArts
Organized by UmArts



Location: Sjadduo
Organized by Curating Change and Taqsiqtuut Indigenous Research-Creation Lab



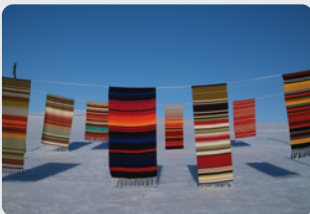
Various Locations
Organized by the Taqsiqtuut Indigenous Research-Creation Lab

EXHIBITION
RANOR
Johdet Pirak
9–18 June 2026

PERFORMANCE AND PARTY
BONJU
Multiple Artists
16 and 17 June, 21.00–late

EXHIBITION
Melting Barricades
Inuk Silis Høegh and Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen
16–18 June 2026, all day

INSTALLATION
Real Arctic
NORDTING
16–18 June 2026
12.00–1.00 and 10.00–19.00



Location: Rådhusplanaden
Organized by Konsfrämjandet Västerbotten



Location: Scandic Plaza
Organized by Organized by RFSL Umeå together with Garmeres



Location: Bus stop, renmarkstorget on Skolgatan
Organized by Nuuk Art Museum



Location: Tráppihe and Kommunhörnan, Väven
Organized by Tráppihe and UmArts

EXHIBITION
This Is Arctic Land
NORDTING
16–18 June 2026, all day

EXHIBITION
The Reindeer-Lion
NORDTING
16–18 June 2026, all day

INSTALLATION
The Rhizome Room
Multiple Artists
16–18 June 2026, 9.00–21.30
16 June: Artist talk 16.30–17.00, Performance 20.05 and 20.25

EXHIBITION
Flags from Suialaa
Cecilie Christiansen, Palleg Kristinasen and Lena Kuite Andersen
16–18 June 2026, 10.00–19.00



Location: Tráppihe (Helena Elisabeths väg 4), UmArts Studio (Östra Strandgatan 32D) and Västra Rådhusgatan
Organized by UmArts in collaboration with Tráppihe



Location: Renmarkstorget
Organized by UmArts



Location: Multisalen, Väven
Organized by Silence Organization



Location: Folkets Hus
Organized by Suialaa Arts Festival

MONDAY 15 JUNE, 2026

+ SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

BOOK LAUNCH
Sergie and the White Seal
15.00–17.00



Location: Tráppihe
Organised by Tráhppie

EXHIBITION OPENING
ARcTic: Art, Land, Power
Multiple Artists
16.00–18.00



Location: Väven, Umeå konsthall,
3rd floor
Organized by Umeå kommun in
collaboration with Aejlies - the
Sámi Centre

FILM SCREENING
Ninan Auassat: We, the Children
(with English subtitles)
18.30



Location: Tystnad
Organized by Umeå Filmfestival and
Film i Västerbottens, in collaboration
with Tromsø Internationella
Filmfestival

PERFORMANCE
Ajatuspaikka
17.00–18.30



Location: Vävenscenen
Organized by Tornedalsteatern

FILM SCREENING
**Twice Colonized (with
English subtitles)**
16.00



Location: Tystnad, Väven
Organized by Umeå Filmfestival and
Film i Västerbotten

FILM SCREENING
**Films from the North:
On the Edge Short Films**
12.15–21.50

Location: Tagnig, Väven
Organized by Umeå Filmfestival and
Film i Västerbottens, in collaboration
with Tromsø Internationella
Filmfestival

RECEPTION
Pre-Summit Reception
19.00–22.00
Location: Tystnad, Väven



Location: Bildmuseet
Organized by Bildmuseet

TUESDAY 16 JUNE, 2026

ARTIST TALK
RANOR
Johdet Pirak
12.15–13.00

Location: Sjadduo
Organized by Konstfrämjandet
Västerbotten

PERFORMANCE
Blue Snow
Aviana Steinbacher
16.00–16.45

Location: Tagnig, Väven
Organized by Arctic Arts Summit

ARTIST TALK
**When We Were Sámi:
How a Graphic Novel Made
a Difference to the Ume
Sámi Language**
Mats Jonsson, Tora von Platen
and Henrik Barruk
16.00–17.00

Location: Women's History Museum,
Väven
Organized by Tjállegoahte

PERFORMANCE
Sara Ajnnak
18.45–19.00
Location: Sjadduo
Organized by Arctic Arts Summit

ARTIST TALK + FILM SCREENING
**Oska Njajta Östergren
& Victor Lindgren**
15.30–16.30
Location: Tystnad
Organized by Umeå Filmfestival and
Film i Västerbotten

ARTIST TALK + FILM SCREENINGS
Marja Helander
17.00–18.00
Location: Tystnad, Väven
Organized by Silence Organization
Festival and International Sámi Film
Institute

FILM SCREENING
ISFI Shorts
20.00–21.00
Location: Tagnig, Väven
Host: International Sámi Film
Institute

FILM SCREENING + DIRECTOR VISIT
Folkraice
18.30–19.50
Location: Tystnad, Väven
Organized by Umeå Filmfestival and
Film i Västerbottens

PERFORMANCE
Sjaddo - Growing Together
Liv Aira and Vanessa Lindblom
17.30–18.30, 19.00–20.00
Location: Ögonblicksteatern, Västra
Strandgatan 7
Organized by: Jillat Samiskt
Dancercenter

PERFORMANCE
Duoggu Dággu
Ánndaris Rimpí and Tanja Andersson
20.30–21.30
Location: Ögonblicksteatern, Västra
Strandgatan 7
Organized by: Jillat Samiskt
Dancercenter

Opening Night Program +
Multiple Artists
20.00–22.30
Location: Väven
Organized by Arctic Arts Summit

EVENING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Experience music, performance, art and more from across the Arctic in our evening programs!

Opening Night as Väven

After dinner in Sjadduo, join host Natalie Carrion as we move to Väven for an evening of art and culture. Art from across the Arctic takes over Väven, including exhibitions *Real Arctic* and *ARcTic*, experiential spaces like Giron Radio and *The Rhizome Room*, and media experiences like *qiaqsutuq* and Arctic short films, while performers like Nunavut's Josh Q, Poromaa,

and Umeå-based dancer and choreographer Emelie Boman and Kuluk Helms from Kalaallit Nunaat activate the space. The night ends with a live concert featuring Sámi DJ Hulluella, Sámi singer and guitarist Elle Maija, local punk band Deppa and genre-bending artist Maxida Mäarak.



Sjadduo Live!

Enjoy an evening of live music in Sjadduo featuring acts from across the Circumpolar North! Tûtu is an award-winning singer-sound writer and producer from Kalaallit Nunaat known for his melodies and deeply emotional songs. Finnish musicians Jaako Laitinen and Harri Kuusijärvi blend northern musical traditions with Balkan rhythms and modern accordion techniques, respectively. Singer-songwriter Natalie Carrion, with roots in the Caribbean and Sápmi, began her career in Umeå before performing on some of Sweden's largest stages. Finally, Swedish hip-hop artist ræv (formerly known as Gonza-ra) will share atmospheric, reflective and distinctly northern beats, before the night ends with the last edition of Arctic Night LIVE!



MAP OF UBMEJE/UMEÅ



Many organizations and individuals contributed to making the 2026 Arctic Arts Summit a success. We are grateful to all of our partners, funders, and collaborators for their important contributions, without which the Summit would not be possible.

ORGANIZERS



KULTURRÅDET



FUNDERS



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Jan Wejdmark

MEDIA PARTNER



Keep up with the conversation online throughout the Summit and beyond.

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