



RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES  
BSR Cultural Pearls

# Svendborg

## Culture and Resilience plan summary

### Svendborg Municipality's Cultural Life

Svendborg Municipality boasts a vibrant and robust cultural scene, featuring both established cultural institutions and innovative emerging talents. Research indicates that culture and strong community bonds play a crucial role in the population growth and successful attraction of younger residents to the municipality.

### Our Challenges

We face two specific challenges that could potentially jeopardize the positive development in the municipality:

1. **Demographic Changes:** National forecasts predict a shift in the population composition, with a higher percentage of older individuals and fewer younger ones. Therefore, it is essential to stimulate culture and strong communities, known for attracting and retaining families with children, ensuring a balanced population development. The changing population composition puts significant pressure on the workforce, and if we fail to retain and attract adults in the workforce, we risk a shortage of labor. Similarly, it is important to have a healthy population in well-being. This applies to both the elderly and the younger population, who will constitute a significant workforce in the years to come.
2. **Increasing Discontent among Youth:** National and local studies show a growing sense of dissatisfaction among children and young people in recent years, with loneliness being particularly identified as a problem.

Both challenges call for strong cultural communities. We know that newcomers are drawn to the municipality's lively cultural scene, and communities centered around culture and collaboration can contribute to the development of resilience and rootedness.

### Svendborg Municipality's Cultural Resilience Action Plan (CuReAP)

Initiatives in Svendborg Municipality's CuReAP specifically target young people. The plan also contributes to the development and strengthening of collaboration between the municipality and cultural actors, thereby making cultural life stronger for the benefit of newcomers, all residents, and cultural communities in the municipality.



## Our Goals

The actions in our action plan are aimed at various groups of young people with the purpose of:

- Strengthening young people's community bonds through shared creative and cultural experiences.
- Supporting young people's ability to express themselves, have a voice, and make an impact in their surroundings.
- Stimulating young people's courage and skills to engage in, contribute to, and possibly develop communities.
- Supporting young people's grounding and sense of rootedness through participation in a community.

## Methods and Key Events during the title year

The overarching approach throughout the entire process is to support the democratization of culture in a way that participants experience culture as accessible and immediately available without any specific prerequisites. They are supported in the notion that their experiences and creative expressions are authentic and valuable.

### March-May 2024: Culture Connections

A 12-week program where a group of young people is introduced and included in cultural and creative activities through interactions with four different cultural actors (an art school, a music association, a library, and a nature passion association). Participants are young people experiencing discontent, aged 15-30 years. Referrals come from the municipality's job center, the municipal youth guidance, as well as teachers and study advisors in youth education institutions.

**FLUK (artschool)** works with a method called "**psychogeography**," which is a creative exploration and investigation of the relationship between people, places, and psychology. The method is inclusive and focuses on allowing participants to develop concepts for urban walks and create an emotional and subjective city map. Using various tools and materials, participants express and create their experiences of the city. Based on their walks, participants collectively build a city map, which also serves as a kind of multi-artwork.

**Svendborg Bibliotek** (City Library) employs **guided shared reading**, an intuitive, subjective, and experience-oriented approach. Participants are introduced to various literary texts, which are read aloud and immediately



connected with participants' observations, reactions, associations, leading to engaging conversations on relevant topics.

**NaturPassion** (NGO - Passion for Nature) activities take place on a large natural site on the outskirts of Svendborg city. The youth participants experience various ways of engaging with and staying in nature.

**Harders** (Music scene) employs the method of active listening/deep listening. The starting point is to come together to listen to and explore music. It is essential not to judge whether the music is good or bad but to understand what it does to each of us and how we can use it. The premise is that we all use music to support our lives and to open spaces that we can share with others through music.

In addition to the specific methods and creative approaches of the four actors, the program **CultureConnections** involves visits, bridge-building and engagement with other cultural actors in the municipality. Two cultural trips are organized to expand cultural awareness and foster camaraderie through shared experiences. The young individuals are involved in planning and programming these trips. The program concludes with a collective cultural event.

#### **16.-17. May 2024: Milife co-creating closing event**

A creative co-creation event designed to conclude the course “Strong Communities” for 340 7th-grade students in community schools. The action consists of two parts. Part one is the inclusive planning process of the co-creating event involving the students and part two is the creative event itself.

18. - 20. May: Closing event *CultureConnections*

May/June *Cultural Pearls Local Award Ceremony*

25 May: Start up day for *CultureConnections networkgroup*

August 2024: Kick off *Young Cultural Entrepreneurs*

October-December 2024: *CultureConnections*

December 2024: Closing Event *CultureConnections*

December: Start up day for *CultureConnections networkgroup*