

MANIFESTO

- We believe that arts and culture can bring all sections of Swedish society together and make refugee voices and perspectives a central and dynamic part of Swedish civic life.
- We believe that arts and culture can serve as a powerful tool for **active de-segregation** and inclusion.
- We believe that arts and culture can ensure that individuals are pro-active whilst waiting for official status and in the vulnerable period of transition into society.
- We are committed to ensuring 4 Essential Pillars: Equality, Access, Networking and Sustainability

Equality

- We recognise shared humanity and the concept of **integration as two-way interaction**.
- We understand integration as a process, which enables people to live well together and as the first step towards inclusion.
- We are committed to equality in terms of: legal rights, visibility, economic, social, educational, health and cultural recognition.
- We are committed to providing access to internships, mentoring and other life development opportunities for those waiting or in transition to a new community.

Access

Information: We are committed to providing access to essential information from the first day refugees arrive considering their rights to participate fully in cultural activities, and providing full information of what services are available, e.g. the right to a library card.

Transport: We are committed to lobbying for or providing transport to enable participation and access to events.

Language: We will use appropriate, accurate and accessible language in written and verbal communications about events and activities. Language learning is to be a high priority in all projects, services etc.

Education: Providing opportunities to participate in integrated activities in schools, universities and adult education, as art and culture can play a pivotal role in creating common ground for people to meet, create and share new experiences.

Representation/Visibility: Providing access to different cultural, political and public platforms is a tool for changing attitudes towards refugees, talking with them and letting them speak for themselves, and handing over tools to allow them to build their common voice.

Funding: We recognise the need for equal access to funding opportunities for self-organized groups like SGN, and arts projects focusing on the waiting and transition periods.

Networking

We will link people up and open organic networking opportunities and platforms for shared interest, recognising educational, cultural and social organisations and programmes can play a key role in providing opportunities and spaces for people to meet across disciplines and social groups.

Sustainability

We recognise the need to re-think how we plan our programmes, with **cultural inclusion** at their very core, and acknowledge that they will be enriched by welcoming new groups to participate equally. We recognise Support Group Network-SGN as a key resource for working in partnership.

This **Manifesto** is the result of a two-day Learning Lab in May 2017 inspired by the self-organising work of the refugees Support Group Network (SGN) from different camps and cities. This **Manifesto** has been collectively drafted by members of the refugee Support Group Network (SGN), representatives from Voland Academy, Save the Children, Re:Act project, Outgrain, Counterpoints Arts and individuals from a range of arts and educational organisations in Gothenburg and the surrounding regions.

COUNTERPOINTS ARTS

PARSE



VÄSTRA
GÖTALANDSREGIONEN

Kultur i Väst

