

CULTURAL
CENTRE

value



ENABLER FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

13.10.2025



OULU



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GENERAL CULTURAL SERVICES

Cultural Centre Valve is one of the City of Oulu's Culture Institutions and part of the City's General Cultural Services.

In addition to Cultural Centre Valve, General Cultural Services cover the Oulu Culture Centre for Children and Youth, as well as the promotion of Urban Neighbourhood Culture and Arts and Well-being.

MISSION

- ▼ To support and generate cultural services in the Oulu area.
- ▼ To establish the operational preconditions of arts, culture and creative field and to improve their accessibility
- ▼ To support the third sector and citizens' opportunities for creating cultural activities
- ▼ To develop arts and culture education as well as the diversity and equality of culture.
- ▼ To advance cooperation between different operators
- ▼ To develop the vitality of the Oulu City Centre
- ▼ To support Oulu's activities in the Unesco Creative Cities Media Arts network

CULTURAL CENTRE VALVE

Versatile centre of culture, platform for cooperation, and enabler of cultural activities in the Oulu city centre.

- ▼ Develops the accessibility and operational preconditions of arts and culture. Maintains facilities for events and organizers of recreational activities
- ▼ Works in close cooperation with arts and culture operators, associations and event organizers. In 2024 Valve was home for 14 cultural operators and the centre's facilities were used by over a 100 different operators.
- ▼ Functions as a platform for creative professional, offers the venue for projects and fosters collaboration.

Cultural Centre for all ages – open seven days a week.

- ▼ Three galleries, two performance halls and one movie theatre's worth of experiences!
- ▼ Events, opportunities for hobbies and recreational activities etc.



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CULTURAL CENTRE VALVE / YEAR 2024

Total Number of Visitors **245 178**

The amount of events and
performances combined **844**

Around **130** different operators

14 festivals

FESTIVALS AT VALVE 2024

- ▼ **Oulu Music Festival** in March
- ▼ **"Lumotut sanat" Literary Arts Festival for Children and Youth** in April-June (*Eng. Enchanted Words*)
- ▼ **Oulu Pride** in July-August
- ▼ **Oulu August Festivals** in August
- ▼ **Literary Art Festival Muusajuhlat** in August
- ▼ **Oulunsalo Soi – Chamber Music Festival** in August
- ▼ **Oulu Music Video Festival** in August
- ▼ **OuDance Festival** in September
- ▼ **The Irish Festival of Oulu** in September
- ▼ **Oulu Book Fair** in October
- ▼ **Kehä – multidisciplinary art festival for two** in November
- ▼ **Oulu Comics Festival** in November
- ▼ **Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival** in November
- ▼ **Lumo Light Festival Oulu** in November

OULU CULTURE CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Oulu Culture Centre for Children and Youth was founded at Valve in 2003. The new Culture Centre for Children and Youth – Kotilo opens in Central Library Saari in January 2026 as a part of the opening of Oulu's European Capital of Culture year.

- ▼ Provides arts education and cultural events for children, youth and families with special focus on literary arts and film.
- ▼ Develops children's cultural education in cooperation with education and early childhood education services and culture institutions.
- ▼ Culture Centre for Children and Youth acts as experts in national networks, and as a partner in international projects.
- ▼ A member of The Association of Children's Culture in Finland.



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YEAR 2024 OF OULU CULTURE CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Customer contacts combined **94 474**

Contents **396**

▼ Contacts **53 285**

Online Contents **10**

▼ Contacts **41 189**

Literary Arts and Film Education had a combined amount of **63** groups, in which **589** children and **206** adults participated.

Children's Cultural Centre Kotilo

Children's Cultural Centre Kotilo is the home for children's culture in the Central Library Saari. Kotilo opens on January 2026.

Kotilo offers children and families a diverse and high-quality children's culture experiences. The Centre offer activities inspiring children of all ages, as well as adults, to be creative and enjoy playfulness.



URBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD CULTURE

- ▼ Produces and organizes cultural services in neighbourhoods.
- ▼ Supports and promotes cultural activities within the areas.
- ▼ Operational environment covers the whole Oulu area – with a special focus on areas outside the city centre.
- ▼ Works in cooperation with third sector operators and different organisations within of the City of Oulu.



Through a variety of community art projects and placemaking, we aim to recognize the identities of districts and areas, strengthen their communities, and nurture the welfare.



YEAR 2024 OF URBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD CULTURE

Total number of participants (approx.) **30 000**

Productions **46**

Highlights Throughout the Years

Year 2024 contained multiple productions based on community art and placemaking. These productions utilized spaces that aren't usually seen as scenes for arts and culture.

- ▼ **Mediart: Cultivating Culture** - art project at the old Myllyoja health care centre
- ▼ **I was living in a strange place** - stage performance at Kaukovainio campus



ARTS AND WELL-BEING

The mission of Arts and Well-being services is to increase well-being through arts and culture.

- ▶ Service's focus groups are especially elderly people, families with children, people with disabilities, as well as youth and young adults who experience challenges with mental health or employment.
- ▶ Multidisciplinary cooperation and reinforcement of collaboration opportunities as well as structural development.
- ▶ Important partners are for example City of Oulu Youth Services, Byström One-Stop Guidance Centre and Preparatory Education for an Upper Secondary Qualification.



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YEAR 2024 OF ARTS AND WELL-BEING

Total number of participant contacts (approx.) **2 354**

- ▼ Children, Youth and Young Adults **1 260**
- ▼ Working-Age **100**
- ▼ Elderly People **994**

Productions **36**

Highlights of The Year

- ▼ Nurkan Gallery's activities in Valkea Shopping Centre's Youth Centre Nurkka
- ▼ Media workshops organized in hospital school units
- ▼ Art Clubs for elderly people
- ▼ Open Art Space group for young adults at Valve



Year 2024 of Kaikukortti Card

AMOUNT OF CARDS HANDED OUT:



2036

In total

1809

new
customer cards

227

old cards
updated

MOST POPULAR VISITATION SITES:

- Oulu Art Museum (840 registrations)
- Oulu Sinfonia (815 registrations)
- Oulu Theatre (633 registrations)
- Cultural Centre Valve (199 registrations)
- Turkansaari Open Air Museum (161 registrations)

AMOUNT OF VALID CARDS AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2024:



2364

In total

2289

customer cards

75

community cards

TICKETS HANDED OUT IN 2024:



3211

In total

2946

adults

247

children

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THANK YOU!



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