

The logo for the Arctic Arts Summit 2026 is a stylized, layered composition. It features the word 'Arctic' in a dark teal, 'Arts' in a dark brown, and 'Summit' in a gradient of orange to red. The year '2026' is rendered in a solid dark red. The text 'ubmeje umeå' is written in a smaller, orange font to the right of the main title. The letters are thick and rounded, with some overlapping and a sense of depth.

Arctic
Arts
Summit
2026
ubmeje
umeå

LAND, POWER, ART

Ubmeje/Umeå, Sweden, 16–18 June 2026

Buerestbáhtieme! Buerie báheteime! Buriis báhtem! Buorisboahtem! Bures boahhtini!
 Tervetullui! Tervetuloa! Välkommen! Welcome!

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

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Many people and organizations are responsible for making Arctic Arts Summit 2026 a reality, and we thank them all for their support and contributions

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Co-Organizing Partners: Aejiilies, Film i Västerbotten, Gaaltje Saemien Museume, Giron Sámi Teáhter, Jillat Samiskt Danscenter, Sáhkie, Tjállegoahte, Tornedalsteatern, Verdde

Livestream and Media Partner: Taqramiut Nipingat Inc.



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

Buerie båeteme! Welcome!

From the heart of Saepmie, we at Viermie K welcome you to the Arctic Arts Summit 2026 in Ubmeje/Umeå and to the lands, stories and artistic visions of the North. At the Arctic Arts Summit, we gather artists and institutions to make possible deep conversations between lands, peoples and futures.

Viermie K is a Sámi network for organizational, artistic and curatorial collaboration, born from the belief that Indigenous culture and art is a force that shapes Sapemie's and the Arctic's cultural, political, social and ecological realities. Rooted in Saepmie and connected across borders, we work to strengthen Sámi cultural sovereignty — to make visible the knowledge, memory, and innovation that flow through our people, languages and movements.

As we welcome you to Ubmeje /Umeå in 2026, we invite you to listen deeply. To the sound of languages still spoken. To the knowledge we inherited long ago. To the rhythm of our joiks and to the silent voices of our lands. This Summit is an opportunity to move beyond representation, toward relationships and a common future.

Let Arctic Arts Summit be a space where Arctic knowledge meets contemporary expression, where art becomes a bridge between histories and futures, and where every meeting is an act of recognition. From Saepmie to the Arctic world — welcome to a Summit of voices, visions and vitality.

Jerker Bexelius
Viermie K, Chair of the Board

A Warm Welcome to the Summit

Culture is an essential part of a well-functioning democratic society and plays a vital role in society's robustness and resilience. The Swedish Arts Council's mission is to promote the development of and access to culture in Sweden, based on the national cultural policy objectives. As part of our work, we promote the culture of the Indigenous Sámi people and national minorities, safeguard artistic freedom, and support international exchange and collaboration with other countries.

At a time when the Arctic region is changing rapidly, climatically, socially, and geopolitically, the role of art and culture is becoming increasingly important. In an Arctic context, issues of artistic freedom and the ability of indigenous peoples and national minorities to preserve, develop, and share their languages, cultures, and stories are particularly urgent. The issue of collaboration is also central—both in an international and a national context.

As a co-funding partner and participating actor, we look forward to contributing to a forum for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration on the future of the Arctic. Through shared platforms like this one, we can strengthen partnerships, turn ambitions into action, and contribute to an open, democratic, and resilient Arctic.

We look forward to inspiring conversations, new perspectives, and joint efforts toward a sustainable and inclusive Arctic. Together, we can turn our ambitions into action and create the conditions necessary for long-term, sustainable development in the Arctic.

See you in Ubmeje/Umeå at the Arctic Arts Summit!

Klara Tomson
Swedish Arts Council, Acting Director General



Upinraksaq by Taalrumiq, part of A River Runs Beneath

Welcome to Umeje/Umeå and Västerbotten

On behalf of Region Västerbotten, it is my great honour to welcome you to Umeje/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.

Umeje/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 Umeje/Umeå. Welcome to Västerbotten.

Richard Carstedt

Region Västerbotten, Chairman of the Regional Development Committee

Welcome to the Heart of Sábmie

We are proud to welcome you to our part of the world and the fourth gathering of Arctic Arts Summit: a Summit where we hope you will encounter new perspectives, new knowledge, new ideas and new friends.

Our ambition is to reshape the narrative of the Arctic: from a region defined by resource extraction to one recognised for knowledge, creativity and cultural leadership grounded in Indigenous and northern perspectives.

The Arctic Arts Summit provides an important platform to raise and highlight key issues on an international stage, foster collaboration and strengthen cultural infrastructure. It is only natural that the summit is held here — Umeje is a vibrant city with strong cultural ambitions in the heart of Sábmie.

Welcome to Sweden. Welcome to Umeje. Welcome to Arctic Arts Summit.

We look forward to meeting you.

Jenny Skarstedt

Umeå kommun, Director of Culture



Welcome to Arctic Arts Summit 2026.

What began as an ambitious idea in Harstad in 2017 has grown into the Arctic's leading platform for cultural policy dialogue, artistic exchange, and international cooperation. Today, Arctic Arts Summit brings together artists, cultural leaders, researchers, institutions, Indigenous representatives, and policymakers from across the Circumpolar North to explore how culture can help shape the future of our region.

At a time of profound geopolitical change, environmental transformation, and societal uncertainty, the Arctic needs strong cultural voices more than ever. Culture is not a luxury—it is infrastructure for democracy, resilience, identity, and international understanding.

This year, we are especially grateful to our Swedish hosts and partners. Through their vision, dedication, and generosity, Umeje/Umeå has become a meeting place for the entire Arctic. Their commitment demonstrates the power of local leadership in building international cooperation.

As we gather for the fourth Arctic Arts Summit, one thing is clear: this platform is here to stay. Together, we are building lasting networks, stronger institutions, and a shared cultural future for the Arctic.

Welcome to Umeje/Umeå.

Maria Utsi

Arctic Arts Summit Secretariat, Director



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

Viermie K, Umeå kommun, Region Västerbotten, Swedish Arts Council, Umeå University and Arctic Arts Summit Secretariat are co-hosting the fourth Summit, themed "Land, Power, Art," in Umeå/Umeå, Sweden from 16–18 June 2026.

English is the official language of the Arctic Arts Summit because of its wide use throughout the Circumpolar region today. However, we acknowledge, respect and uphold the many languages spoken

throughout the Arctic and endeavour to make space for them in our programming on-site and online.

At the 2026 Summit, all major signage will be available in Ume Sámi, North Sámi, South Sámi, Lule Sámi, Pite Sámi, Finnish, Meänkieli, Swedish and English to celebrate Umeå/Umeå's enduring Sámi community as well as the broad linguistic diversity of other communities who call it home.

The 2026 Summit has six themes that guide programming:

SMALL PLACES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

Celebrating cultural life, language, and resilience in the Arctic. Arts and culture are drivers of thriving communities. These sessions will ask what defines a thriving community in the Arctic? What successful efforts are being made to revitalize northern languages?

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

Centering Indigenous knowledge, ways of being, and agency to transform institutions, practices, and policymaking. Almost all of the Arctic is Indigenous land, yet Indigenous People are rarely in agential positions in arts and cultural institutions or governments.

SOVEREIGN STORIES

Reclaiming narrative sovereignty to reshape stories about the Arctic on local and global stages.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Centering arts and cultural practices to reshape values, resources, and priorities in the Arctic.

THE ART OF GEOPOLITICS

Positioning arts and culture as forces of resilience, diplomacy, and preparedness in uncertain times.

SHARING AND SHAPING

Fostering networks, partnerships, and collaborative dialogue between artists, institutions, governments, and communities across the Arctic.

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)	TONSALEN (FOLKETS HUS)	VÄVENSCELEN (VÄVEN)	MULTISALEN (VÄVEN)	WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM (VÄVEN)
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	2F: Stages of Reconciliation - Indigenous Artistic Sovereignty and the Performing Arts Host: Arctic Arts Summit	2A: Power, Protocols and Indigenous Collaboration Host: Nordic Institute in Greenland	2D: Crafting Knowledge Host: Umeå University	
LUNCH 12.00-13.00								
13.00-14.00	3F: Rural Infrastructure and Northern Dance Ecosystems Host: Aira Dance Company AB and Davvi - Senter for Scenekunst	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	3A: Indigenous Approaches to Leadership: Lessons for a Changing World Host: Stiftelsen Gaaltje			3C: Ceding Power as Institutional Innovation Host: Luleåbiennial
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	4C: Voices From The Other Side Host: Pikene på Broen			4E: Collaboration and Trust - authorities, museums and Sámi organisations experience of return processes Host: Swedish Heritage Board's Government Assignments on Return Processes
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	5E: Building Foundations: Indigenous Infrastructure as a Pillar of Democracy and Self-Determination Host: Sámi Parliament Sweden			5B: Depositing Geoengineering Host: Umeå University



	IDUN (FOLKETS HUS)	STUDION (FOLKETS HUS)	MIKLAGÅRD (FOLKETS HUS)	TONSALEN (FOLKETS HUS)	PETERSON-BERGEN (FOLKETS HUS)	VÄVENSCELEN (VÄVEN)	WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM (VÄVEN)	TYSTNAD (VÄVEN)
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: Dáiddadállu	7F: Oadjut: Contemporary Sámi Architecture Host: Verdde Kiruna	7B: Art and Truth Telling Host: Umeå University	7C: Where Are the Spirits Today? Indigenous Spirituality in a Changing World Host: Tjallegoahte	
	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		8F: Intangible Cultural Heritage as Sites of Indigenous Resilience Host: Norwegian Center for Traditional Music and Dance	8A: Border Obstacles in Arctic Collaboration Host: Nordic Council of Ministers	8H: Indigenous Touring Network - Sápmi/Caribbean Host: Invisible People Contemporary Dance and Anisotrophie	8E: Art as Geopolitical Changemaker - Real or Hubris? Host: Pikene på Broen
	BREAK 14:00-14:15							
14:15-15:15	9E: More Than Territory: 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	9B: Writing the Arctic: Voices, Networks, Futures Host: Region Norrbotten Region Västerbotten Region Västernorrland Region Jämtland-Härjedalen AICA Sweden	9F: Strengthening Residency Opportunities for Craft Host: Nordic Craft Network, Danish Art Foundation and Norwegian Crafts		9A: Screen Sovereignty: Funding Indigenous Screen Futures in the Arctic Host: Arctic Indigenous Film Fund and International Sámi Film Institute

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026

	IDUN (FOLKETS HUS)	STUDION (FOLKETS HUS)	MIKLAGÅRD (FOLKETS HUS)	PETERSON-BERGEN (FOLKETS HUS)	VÄVENSCELEN (VÄVEN)	MULTISALEN (VÄVEN)	WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM (VÄVEN)	TYSTNAD (VÄVEN)
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: Inusa! 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		11F: Arctic Frequencies: Who Gets Heard in the North? Host: Taqramiut Nipingat, Inc.	11G: The Power of Knowledge, Art, and Activism in the Indigenous Arctic Host: Arctic Arts Summit	11D: Building Pathways: Mentoring Indigenous Professionals for Lasting Change Host: Alaska Native Heritage Center	11C: Art and Mining Host: Umeå University
	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: Allannguineq Host: Nuuk Art Museum	12G: Who Tells Arctic Stories? Host: Jillat Samiskt Danscenter	12D: Whose Memory, Whose Archive? Host: Sámi Lavdi and National Sámi Archives	12A: Resilient Radio Host: Umeå University	12C: Looking Forward: Long Table Discussion Host: LOKAL	
	BREAK 14:00-14:15							
14:15-15:15	13: Beyond the Summit: The Arctic We Choose Host: Arctic Arts Summit							

THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026

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 Lyngé, Drew Michael, Julia Rensberg, Trine Samuelsen Hansen, and Taalrumiq, mentored by digital artist Jordan Hill.



Det rinner bäckar i oss
Juhkkh gülggh 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!

The Many Ways We Love

The Many Ways We Love draws on the essay of the same title by the late Iñupiaq artist Jenny Irene, in which Jenny - whose life and work is celebrated for their deep commitment to storytelling, Indigenous, Queer, and Two-Spirit communities - expresses a desire to see a future where all expressions of gender and sexuality are celebrated, and where everyone can freely express the many ways we love, anywhere in the North. We undertake this project with the support of Jenny's partner, Nora, and her friends and family in Alaska.

The Many Ways We Love features Queer, Trans, Non-Binary, and/or Two-Spirit (or LGBTI) artists across all visual art disciplines, including images of performance art, by Indigenous Peoples, national minorities, Black people, People of Colour and other artists originally from or currently residing in the North. The artworks are prominently displayed outdoors in a banner installation encircling one of the main public venues. It is co-curated by the research team of Curating Change, a project that focuses on expanding decolonial and inter-cultural exhibition practices, in collaboration with the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Decolonial and Transformational Indigenous Art Practices.



Jake Kimble (Chipewyan (Dēnesy̓tīné) – Deninu K'ue First Nation), *Calling My Spirits Back*, 2023, Archival inkjet print, photography

I SAW YOU

During the Arctic Arts Summit 2026, Sámi artist Carola Grahn transforms the urban landscape of Umeje/Umeå through *I SAW YOU* — a large-scale public art intervention unfolding across the city. Originally created in 2016, the work takes the form of a love letter placed in unexpected everyday locations: gas stations, roadsides, and transient public spaces. In Umeje/Umeå, the text will appear on a monumental wall installation in the city centre, across selected petrol stations and in physical letters given to the Arctic Art Summit participants. A Dodge van is also specially decorated by the artist as a moving extension of the work itself.

Blending intimacy, humour, melancholy, and sharp social observation, *I SAW YOU* reflects on belonging, mobility, class, desire, and the emotional geography of the North. Addressed to an unnamed former lover encountered at a gas station, the text unfolds as a meditation on two fundamentally different relationships to place: one person who could never leave, and another who could never stay. By bringing this vulnerable and cinematic narrative into public spaces, Grahn challenges conventional ideas of where art belongs — and who it speaks to. The work moves between contemporary art, roadside culture, Sámi experience, and northern everyday life, inviting audiences to encounter art not only in institutions, but in the ordinary spaces people pass through every day.



Image courtesy of Carola Grahn

*I saw you filling up your truck at the station yesterday.
And I realized,
I can't go on without letting you know.*

Learn more about these projects and the rest of the Summit's program at arcticartssummit.com!

MULTI-DAY PROGRAMMING

* SEE TIMES

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

*



Location: Galleri Verkligheten
Organized by Tráppihe and UmArts

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

*



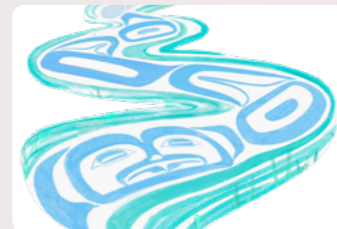
Location: UmArts
Organized by UmArts

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



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

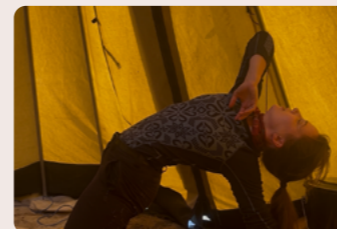
EXHIBITION
A River Runs Beneath
Multiple Artists
15–20 June 2026, all day



Various Locations
Organized by the Taqsiqtuut Indigenous Research-Creation Lab

PERFORMANCE
Lavvobottoš
Elle Sofe Company
16 June - 12.15–13.15 and 16.30–17.30
17 June - 12.15–13.15 and 15.30–16.30

*



Location: Årstidernas Park
Organized by Elle Sofe Company

ARTIST TALK
Tomas Colbengtson
16–17 June 2026, 16.00–17.00

*



Location: Västerbottens Museum
Organized by Västerbottens Museum

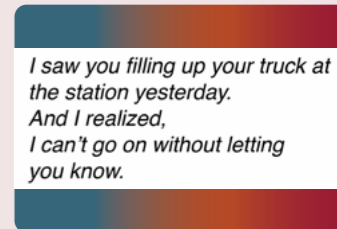
INSTALLATION
qiaqsutuq
Multiple Artists
16–17 June 2026, 16.00–18.00

*



Location: Ordet, Väven
Organized by Taqsiqtuut Indigenous Research-Creation Lab

EXHIBITION
I SAW YOU
Carola Grahn
16–18 June 2026, all day



Location: Renmarkstorget
Organized by Arctic Arts Summit

EXHIBITION
RANOR
Johdet Pirak
9–18 June 2026



Location: Rådhusplanaden
Organized by Konsfrämjandet Västerbotten

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



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

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



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

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

*



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

PERFORMANCE
Arctic Night LIVE!
NORDTING with Multiple Artists
16–18 June, 22.30–23.30

*



Location: Sjadduo

VIDEO INSTALLATION
Guhte gullá
Outi Pieski
17 June 2026, 12.00–21.30
18 June 2026, 12.00–14.00

*



Location: Vita kuben, Norrlandsoperan
Organized by Norrlandsoperan

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



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

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



Location: Renmarkstorget
Organized by UmArts

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



Location: Multisalén, Väven
Organized by Silence Organization

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



Location: Folkets Hus
Organized by Suialaa Arts Festival

Make sure to visit the duodji market organized by Sámiduodji Foundation in Kajscenen in Väven 16–18 June! More details online!

Please visit arcticartssummit.com for full details of these and all artistic projects at the Summit.



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
ARtTic: 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 Tjállegoahste

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
Folkraçe
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 Dancenter

PERFORMANCE
Duoggu Dággu
Ánndaris Rimpí and Tanja Andersson
20.30-21.30

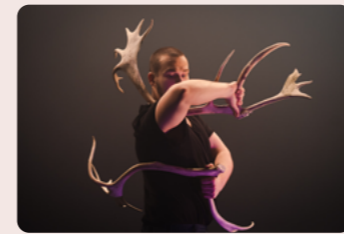
Location: Ögonblicksteatern, Västra Strandgatan 7
Organized by: Jillat Samiskt Dancenter

Opening Night Program +

Multiple Artists
20.00-22.30
Location: Väven
Organized by Arctic Arts Summit

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE, 2026

PERFORMANCE
ČSV
Multiple Artists
16.00-16.45



Location: Årstidernas Park
Organized by Suialaa Arts Festival

PERFORMANCE
Avant Joik
Multiple Artists
16.00



Location: Stora Scenen, Norrlandsoperan
Organized Norrlandsoperan and Bildmuseet

FILM SCREENING
Short Film Package - Life Beyond the City
16.00-18.00

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

FILM SCREENING
Short film package
19.00

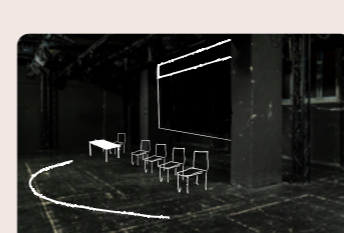
Location: Tagnig
Organized by Umeå Filmfestival and Film i Västerbottens, in collaboration with Tromsø Internationella Filmfestival

PERFORMANCE
Stilla
Multiple Artists
16.00-17.30 and 20.00-21.30



Location: Women's History Museum
Organized by Väven

PERFORMANCE
TIRRV. Divided
Multiple Artists
16.30-18.00



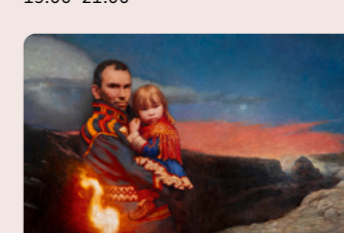
Location: Tystnad, Väven
Organized by Pikene på Broen

FILM SCREENING
Witness Films
Multiple Artists
15.15-16.00



Location: Tystnad, Väven
Organized by International Sámi Film Institute

PERFORMANCE
"Vidderna inom mig" - Sámi Oratorio*
Multiple Artists
19.00-21.00



Location: Umeå City Church
Organized in collaboration by Umeå Barockkör, Ersbodakören, Umeå pastorat and Sähkie Ubmejen Sámiessäbrrrie (Umeå Same Förening/ Umeå Sámi Association)

PERFORMANCE
Ávus
Multiple Artists
20.00-21.30



Location: Norrlandsoperan
Organized by Norrlandsoperan and Bildmuseet

PERFORMANCE
Sjadduo Live!
Multiple Artists
19.00-22.00

Location: Sjadduo
Organized by Arctic Arts Summit



PERFORMANCE
Ola and Ida Stinnerbom
13.00-13.35

Location: Sjadduo
Organized by Arctic Arts Summit

FILM EXCERPT SCREENING
+ ARTIST TALK
Árvu by Elle Sofe Sara
19.00-20.00

Location: Tystnad, Väven
Organized by: International Sámi Film Institute

* 100 tickets are reserved for AAS delegates on a first come, first served basis; additional tickets available for purchase

THURSDAY 18 JUNE, 2026

FILM SCREENING
Kiruna Underground
16.00

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

FILM SCREENING WITH DIRECTORS
Resilient Radio
Astrid Ardagh, Helena Wikström
18.00-19.30

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

PERFORMANCE
The gift
11.00-11.20, 15.00-15.20

Location: Rådhusparken, Västra Strandgatan 7
Organized by: Jillat Samiskt Dancenter

PERFORMANCE
Hiegke lin
Marika Renhuvud
17.00-17.45

Location: Ögonblicksteatern, Västra Strandgatan 7
Organized by: Jillat Samiskt Dancenter

FILM SCREENING
Short Film Package: UEFF: Life Beyond the City
16.15-18.10

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

FILM SCREENING
The Die Hard Village/ Sitkeähenkinen kylä
18.30-21.40

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

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 Märak.



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 Umeje/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!



WORKSHOPS AND NETWORKING SESSIONS

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

KULTURSKOLAN	GAMMLIA	UMARTS RESEARCH CENTER
13.00–15.00 NETWORK SESSION Roundtable on Sámi Culture and the Public Music and Arts Schools Host: Swedish Arts Council and Centre for Arts Education	12.00–13.00 WORKSHOP Archive! And Make a Historical Difference! English Language Session Host: Folkrorelsearkivet, The Forest and Saami Museum in Lycksele and Várdduo, Umeå University	17.00–19.00 NETWORK SESSION Curatorial Meet Up Host: Gaaltje Saemien Museum, the Swedish Curators Association, Bildmuseet and UmArts
15.30–17.00 NETWORK SESSION Let Young Voices Take the Stage! Host: Swedish Arts Council in collaboration with Met Nuoret and Sáminuorra, and Young Reading Council in Jokkmokk	14.00–15.00 WORKSHOP Archive! And Make a Historical Difference! Swedish Language Session Host: Folkrorelsearkivet, The Forest and Saami Museum in Lycksele and Várdduo, Umeå University	

TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026

GERE	MIMER	E,BLA
13.00–15.00 NETWORK SESSION Meet the Barents Secretariat Host: Barents Secretariat	13.00–14.00 NETWORK SESSION Art and Culture in the Arctic at the Speed of Light! Host: North Cultitude 6263	13.00–15.00 NETWORK SESSION Northern Belongings: Visioning a Circumpolar Indigenous Archival Network Host: Inuit Art Foundation
SJADDUO		
11.00–16.00 WORKSHOP Drop In Maker Space Host: Arctic Arts Summit		
13.00–14.30 WORKSHOP Joik with Jörgen Stenberg Host: Arctic Arts Summit		

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026

ASK	MIMER	BALDER	LOKE
14.15–15.15 NETWORK SESSION Indigenous Protocols Workshop Host: The Nordic Institute in Greenland (NAPA)	13.00–15.00 NETWORK SESSION How Can Sámi languages and culture become a natural part of life for the youngest children? Host: Swedish Arts Council in collaboration with Miessie	16.00–17.00 NETWORK SESSION Connecting Smaller Circumpolar Arts Organizations Host: Northwest Territories Arts Centre Initiative	16.00–17.00 NETWORK SESSION Introducing the Action Plan for the New Institutional Home for Joik Host: Norwegian Centre for Traditional Music
PROJECT SPACE	SJADDUO	TONSALEN, FOLKETS HUS	
13.00–15.00 NETWORK SESSION Relate North: Show and Tell * Open to all Host: ASAD Network and UmArts	11.00–16.00 WORKSHOP Drop In Maker Space * Open to All Host: Arctic Arts Summit	13.00–14.00 WORKSHOP Birgejupmi Through Art: Indigenous Curatorial Practice * Open to Indigenous participants Host: Dáidaddállu	
15.30–17.00 NETWORK SESSION Teaching in the Arctic Host: ASAD Network and UmArts	14.00–14.25 WORKSHOP Joik and Family Activities with Ola and Ida Stinnerbom Host: Arctic Arts Summit		

THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026

ASK	RIST	BALDER
10.45–11.45 NETWORK SESSION Hide Tanning Host: Dene Nahjo	13.00–14.00 WORKSHOP Art and Mental Health Host: Nordic Culture Fund and WHO	10.45–11.45 WORKSHOP Funding Opportunities in the Nordic Arctic Host: Nordic Council of Ministers

MAP OF UBMEJE/UMEÅ



LEGEND

- 1 Umeå Folkets Hus
- 2 Rådhus-torget – Sjadduo
- 3 Väven
- 4 Väven entrance river side
- 5 Scandic Plaza
- 6 Renmarkstorget
- 7 Busshållplats Renmarkstorget
- 8 Rådhusplanaden
- 9 Vasaplan bus station, line 2 and 7 to Västerbottens museum, bus stop Gammlia
- 10 NorrlandsOperan
- 11 Västra Kyrkogatan
- 12 Umeå stads kyrka
- 13 Årstidernas park
- 14 Länsresidenset
- 15 Bildmuseet
- 16 Galleri Verkligheten

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.

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