

Spaces for culture and communities

Ilona Kyykoski 22.5.2025

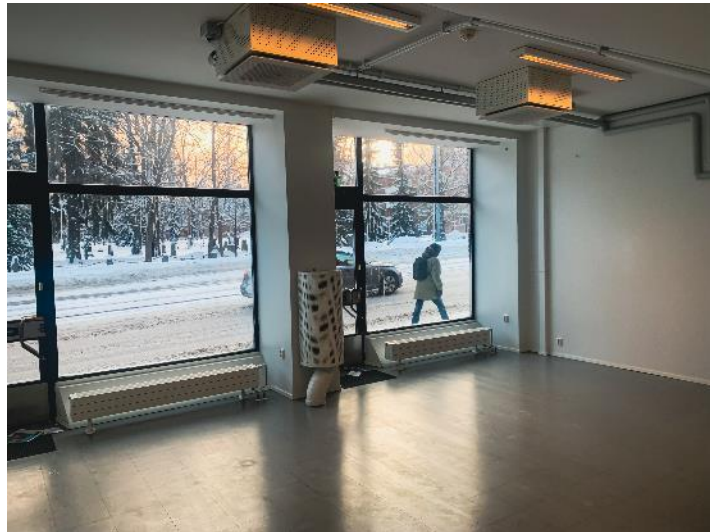


Space Matters and Their Development

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- Developing temporary spaces for cultural, artistic, and community use
 - Temporary use fosters intensive and organic activity — at best, it creates new kinds of cultural oases in the city
 - Vacant, underused, or soon-to-be-demolished spaces can be put to meaningful use through cultural initiatives
 - Temporary spaces can also spark social innovation.

The meanwhile use Spaces





The Mean-while Use Spaces

Offering temporarily vacant real estate properties for cultural use



Photo: Meanwhile use spaces, first pilot Narttu Live, Theatre Täsmä / Katri Kallio

The meanwhile use spaces

- Community Artist Meri-Maija Näykki proposed the concept of an “the meanwhile use spaces”
- The model promotes cultural use of temporarily vacant properties owned by municipalities
 - A clear operating model for the rotation of vacant spaces for municipalities
 - Aim of the model is to create new, surprising and site-specific urban culture
- The City of Tampere piloted the model as part of the extended Capital of Culture bid project, Operation Pirkanmaa, during 2022–2024.
- Näykki piloted the model in collaboration with Teather Täsmä, creating a feminist multi-purpose arena called Narttu Live at the Tampere Bus Station.



Photo: Meanwhile use spaces, first pilot Narttu Live,
Theatre Täsmä / Katri Kallio

The meanwhile use spaces

- Tampere has organized six open calls and each time given out rent-free 5–7 vacant spaces for a period of up to six months
- In March, the final round included 6 venues (one of which was a house), providing space for 20 artists or artist collectives.
- Thanks to the pilot and the accompanying user guide, the model is now replicable. It is being further developed not only in Pirkanmaa, but also in other parts of Finland, including Turku.
- Spring 2025 marked the first time private property owners also joined the initiative.



Body Canvas at Kaleva hall, photo Ilona Kyykoski

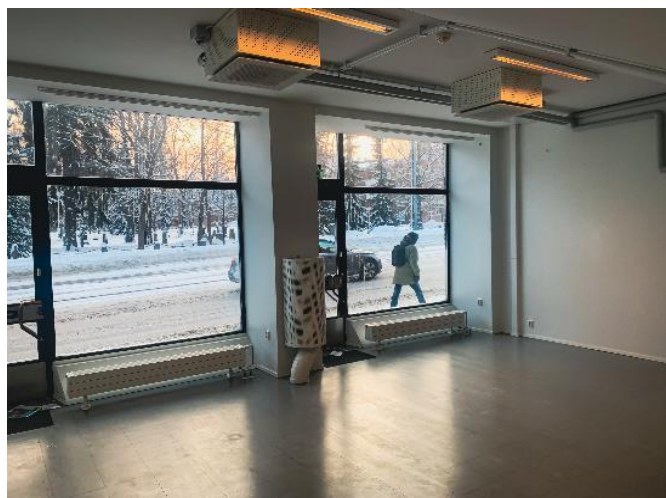
Why this model?

- Creative professionals often lack access to workspaces — while cities frequently have temporarily vacant premises due to tenant transitions.
- Temporary spaces can better support site-specific and community-based art than traditional cultural venues.
- This model increases the use of vacant spaces and brings surprising, place-based urban culture to life.
- It benefits both creative professionals and local residents.

Välitilatoimija Pispala Clothing

In 2022, a commercial space in Pyynikki was offered rent-free for six months to the art-fashion brand **Pispala Clothing**. The space hosted events and art exhibitions.

During the meanwhile use period, Pispala Clothing signed a collaboration agreement with Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma for a new clothing line and gained the confidence to open a permanent event space and shop in downtown Tampere.



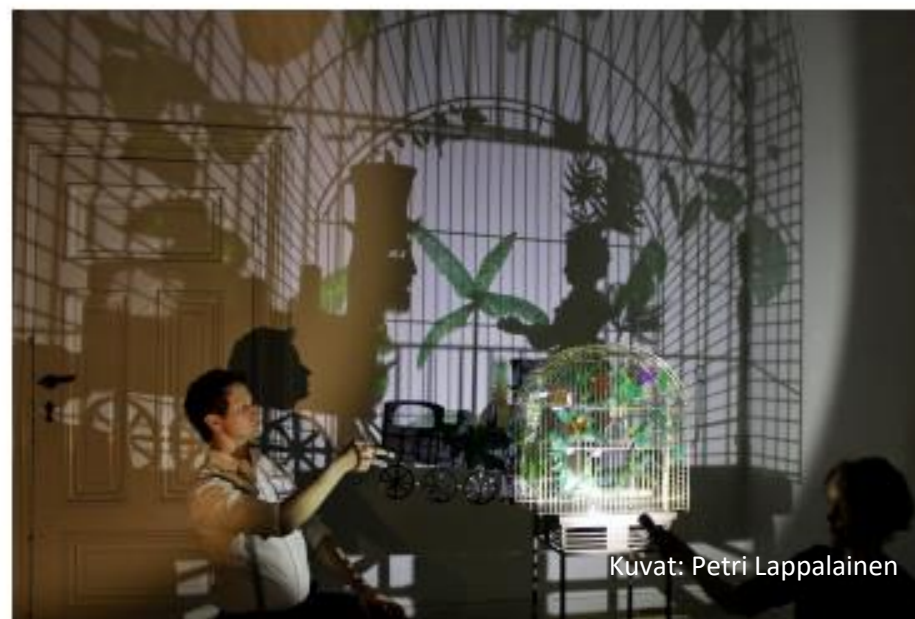


Kuva: Jaakko Laurila / Ilona Kyykoski





Kuva: Satu Keltanen



Kuvat: Petri Lappalainen

Center for Sustainable Life

TAMPERE.
FINLAND



An experimental platform in the Kaleva district, offering residents a space to engage in activities that enhance sustainable lifestyle

Co-operation with the city

Photo: Mikko Vares

Focus Points



The concept supports the implementation of the city strategy.

Spaces are enabled through collaboration, allowing **communities and businesses to implement the city strategy and create wellbeing-enhancing activities** that are open and accessible to all.

While much is already being done within existing support structures, **new forms of collaboration** allow a broader range of actors to contribute to the growth of **self-directed and inclusive community culture**.

This cost-effective concept supports local actors and city development programs while **promoting community engagement, wellbeing, and the prevention of social exclusion**.

Objectives from the city perspective

There is a need in the city for spaces that support sustainable lifestyles, wellbeing, and community. Participation and a sense of belonging foster trust and a willingness to contribute to the common good.

"The center for sustainable Living" pilots a model that offers residents a space where it is easy to both participate in and organize activities. The initiative aims to:

- Building a model for sustainable living to replicate it in other places
- Promoting wellbeing and preventing social exclusion and loneliness
- Strengthening the experience of community
- Enabling encounters and spaces for connection, fostering participation
- Advancing urban culture and supporting self-organized cultural activities
- Creating collaboration between residents and the city
- Deepening the connection to nature

Administrative model and the management

- Several city departments participated in the process and procurement — something that is not always standard practice
 - Welfare development programme
 - The Carbon Neutral Actions development programme
 - Culture department: "Developing a model for cultural activities in residential areas"
 - We Make Transition! -project
- The city commissioned Blok garden to manage the space, while also piloting a new model of collaboration.
- As part of the agreement, Blok garden has the right to use the space, which is shared-use: the city retains the right to use it for its own events, school kids' group visits, etc. The operator (Blok garden) coordinates the use and scheduling of the space.
- A new type of contract model was created for this purpose, although the core structure is based on procurement and a right-of-use agreement.



Art in Soon-to-be-Demolished Spaces





Kuva: Ulla Ruokolainen



Kuva: Ulla Ruokolainen



Kuva: Mikko Paakkonen / Upeart



WINDOW WALKABOUT

– Event Use of Commercial Premises

Window Walkabout

The Event Concept

TAMPERE.
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Window Walkabout project

What is Window Walkabout?

- *Window Walkabout* is an art concept and an art event, where windows serve as stages for art in the heart of the city, and it was the largest ever art event in Tampere region organised for the first time in October & November 2024.
- A multi-site art event brought 60 performances and installations behind window panes, with the audience watching them on the streets, outside the buildings.
- Impressive lighting of the art behind the windows and light art itself were important parts of the event.
- The concept is very scalable and the amount of windows and the content of the art can vary. At the first time in Tampere the event included e.g. circus, skateboarding in business premises, shadow theatre at the City Hall, kantele carving in the railway station tunnel and light art in an electric turbine hall, among other experiences.

The Window Walkabout photos









24.10.–3.11.2024

RUUDUN TAKAA

WINDOW WALKABOUT



Tutustu karttaan ja kohteisiin
sähköisessä karttapalvelussa:
www.ruuduntakaa.fi

-  SIRKUS, TEATTERI, TANSSI
-  KUVATAIDE
-  VALON JA VARJON TAIDE
-  JOTAIN MUUTA HELMEE



TAMPERE.
FINLAND







Kuva: Mikko Vares



Kuva: Mikko Vares

VISITOR SURVEY TAMPERE

WINDOW WALKABOUT

24.10.-3.11.2024
Tampere city centre
(+ 19 municipalities)



Audience
approx. 120 000 persons



Regional economic impact
Approx. 2,1M€



Respondents
1127 persons (1%)



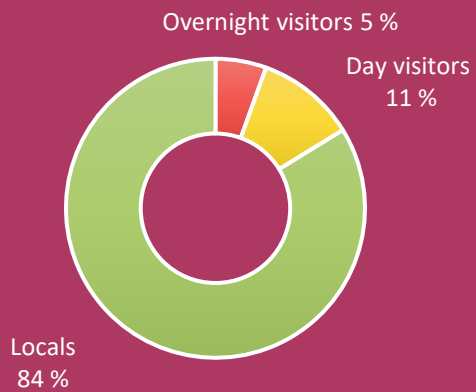
Average age
41,4 years

Event visitor's use
of money
(average)



20€

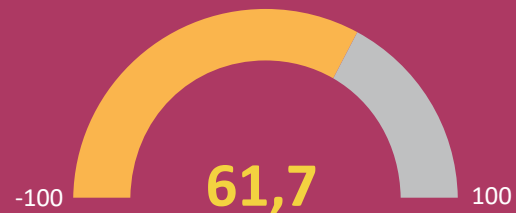
Visitor profile



Event satisfaction



Recommendation rate (NPS)

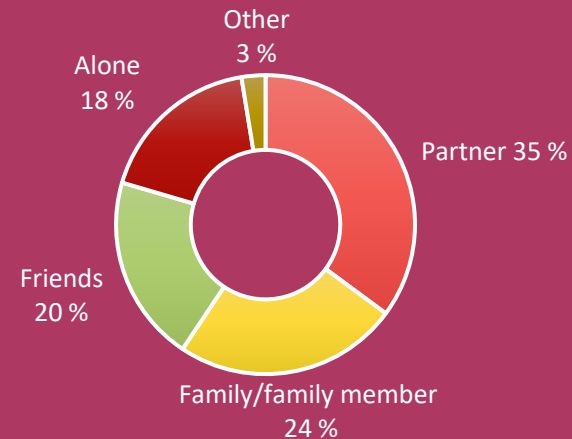


Rating of Tampere as an event city

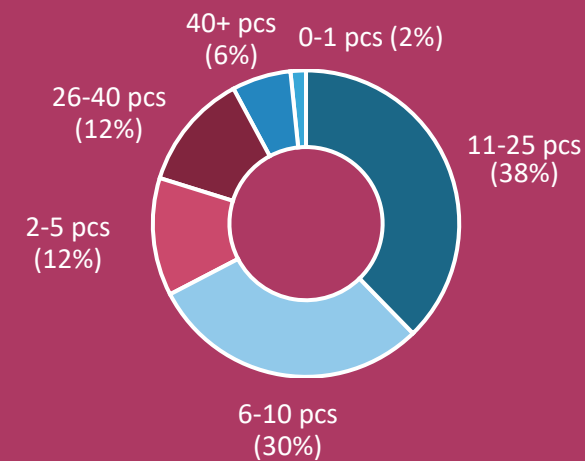


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Who did you visit the event with?



How many windows did you experience?



Contacts

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