

HYPER ISLAND

Drottningsskär Citadel - Living Art Festival

Background and Vision

Karlskrona is the host of the only remaining naval base in Sweden, and its attractions (one of them being Drottningsskär Citadel) have earned it a place on UNESCO's World Heritage List. This makes Karlskrona rather unique.

"The Citadel is well preserved and gives a good idea of seventeenth century fortress construction. The construction began with the establishment of the new naval base in Karlskrona in 1680, and the structure was designed by soldier and architect Erik Dahlberg. As it was of the greatest importance to defend the entrance to the naval harbour, fortresses were needed on the two islands of Kungsholmen and Drottningsskär, which lie on either side of the entrance to Karlskrona from the seaside." – Statens fastighetsverk

Drottningsskär Citadel played a crucial part in protecting Karlskrona and Sweden. It did indeed serve its purpose back in the seventeenth century. Many years later, it's still vital to protect, but not in the same way. Today, the focus is on protecting our heritage and taking care of this great building. And what better way to honour the Citadel than by making it come to life again? A building like this deserves much more.

We want to bring a new meaning to the citadel so it can keep on living, and make use of all the space that is currently not being used. We want to make Drottningsskär Citadel come to life through art. The Citadel will act similar to a modern museum, providing an art playground mainly during the summer season. Our vision is to create an environment that brings and nurtures talents by offering a platform for artists and inspires generations to come.

Our Proposal - Drottningsskär Citadel - Living Art Festival

Our purpose is to turn the citadel into a major attraction by adding art and making it come to life again. We've drawn inspiration from museums such as the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, where visitors from all over the world come to experience art.

We want to offer visitors a one-off experience using all senses; sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. An unforgettable experience that stirs up feelings, and keeps visitors wanting more and curious to see the next theme held at the fortress. This will result in visitors coming back in order to find new works on display.

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How Will We Achieve This?

A living art festival (during Skärgårdsfesten) that allows the visitors to interact with art in different ways and in some cases to be part of creating the art. One-Day pass gives you entry to living art festival at the Citadel, giving you access to all the different parts of the fortress. Food and drinks are to be purchased separately.

Every year a new theme will be presented allowing a wide variety of art to be displayed during this time. This way a broad target audience can be reached. There is something for everyone; street food, live music and art exhibitions. But also providing something for the niched audience. For example, an art camp for younger kids, street art competitions for young adults, and art installations for the mature crowd. This is a good way of engaging the audience and at the same time displaying the history behind the citadel and its great importance. We also believe that creating fond memories in this space, will more likely increase the desire for all generations to preserve this historic building.

Examples of art that can be showcased during this art festival; projection mapping, video installations, audio installations, wall origami, light shows. Projection techniques is for instance a great way of showcasing art on the walls and ceiling in the citadel as it's important to preserve the building. Projection technology is used to turn objects (such as buildings and walls) into a display surface for video projection.

Hosting the living art festival approximately the same time as the Skärgårdsfesten brings many benefits. It's a way to use another event to reach an even broader target group and spread the word through word of mouth. It's also a great way for artists and companies to market their brand. Hosting the living art festival during the summer season also means taking advantage of the great weather to highlight the beautiful setting around the islands, islets and skerries, which naturally adds to the experience.

What Will the Outcome Be?

The Drottningsskär Citadel will come to life again, bringing with it a new meaning and association for the generations to come, while still preserving it as a world heritage. It will also help spark interest in preserving our heritage. The living art festival will attract many different enterprises within the fields of arts, culture and creativity. People, businesses connecting and building long-term partnerships. This will in turn improve the city's competitive edge as well as attract new visitors.

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