

TaikaBox ry

operational report 2017



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1. GENERAL

TaikaBox was founded in Wales in 2010 and registered in Finland in 2015 as a not-for-profit association. The aim of the organisation is to create new ways for people to experience dance.

TaikaBox ry's long-term ambition is to create an internationally-recognised dance/tech hub in Oulu, the operation of which is based on unique partnerships between arts and businesses. At the heart of the dance/tech hub is:

- a) developing physical expression, dance through new technology,
- b) accelerate technology businesses innovation power through artistic risk taking.

The association works holistically and flexibly with the professional sector as well as with various community groups. TaikaBox ry supports dance/tech research and production; enhances the professional development and employability of artists; fosters a new generation of professionals and actively develops new audiences for dance using new technology.

2. ORGANISATION

2.1. Staff and office

TaikaBox ry has two artistic directors: choreographer/dancer Tanja Råman and digital artist/designer John Collingswood, who both work part-time. They share responsibility for the artistic planning, development and realization of productions, events and projects. Tanja Råman manages the finances, plans, develops and co-ordinates projects and acts as chairperson for the association. John Collingswood is responsible for the technical planning, development and co-ordination of the projects, branding, marketing and communications of the association.

In 2017 TaikaBox ry employed three musicians as part of Oulu Dance Hack 17, one musician in the Rajamailla project and three young people as Summer assistants for two weeks with financial help from Plan International Finland.

The office of the association is located at: Varjakantie 69, 90470 Varjakka, which also includes a small studio space.

2.2. Management

The association is managed by a board. During 2016-17 Tanja Råman acted as chairperson and the association's secretary John Collingswood acted as a vice chair. Other board members were director Simon Harris.

A new board was elected in accordance to the constitution of the association during the AGM on 13th March 2017. Tanja Råman continued as chairperson and John Collingswood as secretary. Tom Knuutila (University of Lapland) was elected as a new board member and Simon Harris continued as a vice member. The board met twice during the year.

The number of members increased during 2017. The membership consisted of: free members (25), silver members (13) and gold members (0). Silver membership costed 1€/year and gold membership a one-off fee of 500€.

A. Karppinen Oy provided the end of year financial statement for the association and Teresa Majuri acted as an operations' monitor.

3. MAKING OULU AN INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNISED DANCE/TECH HUB

During 2017 the association continued laying the foundation for the internationally-recognised dance/tech hub in Oulu by developing partnership networks in the arts sector and amongst businesses. The association aimed to increase awareness and visibility of dance/tech locally, nationwide and internationally through workshops, performances, partnerships and dissemination.

The main emphasis throughout 2017 was on developing operations locally.

In 2017, TaikaBox ry performed in front of 1250 people. Over 960 people watched live streams of the association's projects and 1825 people participated in workshops and masterclasses.

3.1. Oulu Dance Hack 17

TaikaBox ry and OAMK (EduLab Oulu and Performing Arts department) organised their second annual international Oulu Dance Hack event at OAMK on 23rd – 25th August 2017 in partnership with BusinessOulu, JoJo – Oulu Dance Centre and Voimala1889, as well as supported by Isadora,

Probot Ltd and funded by the Finnish Cultural Foundation. The event brought together artists from USA, Hungary, UK, Switzerland, Turkey, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Italy and Finland.

The aim of the event was to create networks between arts and business, encourage participants to taking artistic risks, develop new partnerships and projects and enhance the development of the dance sector locally and nationally.

Oulu Dance Hack 17 has already led to two new project being created in partnership: 1) between a local musician and a dancer and 2) international project between artists from the UK, Germany and Finland. Oulu Dance Hack 18 will take place in August 2018.



3.2. Varjakka Artist Residency

TaikaBox ry organised its first artist residency in the harbour of Varjakka, Oulunsalo in July-August 2017 in partnership with local village association. The aim of the residency was to provide an artist with time and space for research and process-led work. The aim is also to increase artistic activity in Varjakka and create new connections between arts and the local community. The first artist to work in the residency was Canadian visual artist Luke Fair. The next artist residency is planned to take place over two weeks in July-August 2018.



3.3. Performances

TaikaBox ry had a week-long residency at Napa gallery in Rovaniemi in February and Arts Printing House in Vilnius, Lithuania in May. In Rovaniemi, the association created performative installations in the gallery space as part of the Tanssilava programme curated by Titta Court. During its residency in Vilnius the association led DigiDance workshops for local students and professionals. The latter group also performed as part of TaikaBox ry's Please Switch On project to sold out audiences. TaikaBox ry was also part of

HulaHula Finland programme by YLE1, in which Tanja Råman danced with Probot Ltd's industrial robot.

3.4. TaikaBox ry and the Community



photos from a
TaikaBox DigiDance workshop
at Zodiak, Helsinki
March 2016

3.4.1. DigiDance workshops

In 2017, TaikaBox ry provided two larger workshop packages:

- 1) open DigiDance workshops funded by Kaaos project. These workshops were aimed at young people and they were led in various public space in and around Oulu;
- 2) DigiDance workshops for primary school children in the periphery of Oulu City funded by Arts Promotion Centre.

The association organised also other DigiDance workshops as part of Oulun Päivät festival and arts night in Rovaniemi. Throughout 2017, TaikaBox ry led DigiDance workshops for over 1800 participants.

3.4.2. Rajamailla Project (On the Borderland)

The association created its second long-term multi-cultural project for young people. The project was organised in October-December in partnership with Laanila School and High School, Oulu Adult Education and Culture House Valve. Arts Promotion Centre and Oulu City supported the project. The aim of the project was to provide immigrant and local young people with a supportive artistic environment in which to find new friends and to create a piece of performance together. 20 young people participated from Afghanistan, Congo, Iran, Germany, Uruguay and Finland. The performance that was created at the end of the project was performed as part of the Colourful Culture festival at Culture House Valve on 4th December and as part of Independence Day celebrations at Laanila school and Oulu Adult Education on 5th December. Over 940 people saw the performance.



As part of the project, the artistic directors mentored a young participant from Afghanistan to lead workshops relating to the project in local primary schools. 90 children participated in these workshops.

3.4.3. Summer Jobs

TaikaBox ry participated in a project co-ordinated by Plan International Finland which aimed to employ young people from different cultural backgrounds for Summer jobs over two weeks. The

association employed 3 (2 immigrated and 1 local) young people in June 2017. The young people assisted developing an open DigiDance workshop at Oulu City Centre as part of Oulun Päivät Festival.

3.5. Partnerships

In 2017 TaikaBox ry emphasised developing partnerships and projects in the Oulu area. The aim was to develop further projects that had been piloted during the previous year, utilize the partners' communication channels in dissemination and raising the association's profile. TaikaBox ry strengthened already existing connections and created new partnerships. The association also initiated new connections nationwide and in Lithuania.

4. Communication

The communication was mainly based on local and nationwide dissemination and activities that raised the association's profile. The association also collaborated with its partners to widen the reach of its communication.

The association sent a total of four newsletters to its members.

5. Finances

5.1. Income

The total income in 2017 was 25 568,92 euros. The association gained 10 868,92 euros as earned income, mainly from DigiDance workshops.

5.2. Grants

Total amount of grants gained in 2017: 14 700€: Arts Promotion Centre 5 000 euros Rajamailla project (enhancing multi-culturalism), Ministry of Education and Culture 2 700 euros (Parkour after school club), Finnish Cultural Foundation 4 000 euros (Oulu Dance Hack 17) and Arts Promotion Centre 3 000 euros (DigiDance workshops in schools in the periphery of Oulu City).

5.3. Expenses

The total expenses in 2017 were 24 663,93 euros, of which staffing costs were 18 917,37 euros. Two people were paid part-time wages. Temporary wages were paid to seven people. The total of other expenses were 5 746,56 euros, of which the biggest sums were for buying outside services, paying for rehearsal space and travel.

6. Appendix

Members

Free members(25): Zosia Downmunt, Helen Laws, Ben Ridler, James Thomas, Christy Anson-Harris, Theo Brueton, Sanna Näätänen, June Campbell-Davies, Sanna Kangasluoma, Janina Rajakangas, Julian Sykes, Simon Harris, Tina Pasotra, Linzy Na Nakorn, Anna Maria Luiro, Gertjan Biasino, Carole Blade, Elina Valtonen, Ida Vernersson, Maria Ruottinen, Xavier Eidglas, Jessie Thorne, Hannu Qvist, Harriet Macauley and Derya Demiroglu.

Silver members(13): Tommi Autio, Tanja Råman, Nick Minns, Jeremy Treays, Hannu Karjalainen, Helen Di Duca, John Collingswood, Ville Aunola, Petri Ainonen, Tomi Knuutila, Alex Nantschev, Iria Arenas and Lucy Jones.