

TaikaBox operational report 2019

1. GENERAL

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

TaikaBox's long-term aim is to create an internationally-recognised dance/technology hub in Oulu which is based on a new kind of collaboration/partnership between the arts and business sectors. The aim is to find ways of benefiting both parties through ongoing interaction and dialogue. TaikaBox works in a holistic and flexible way within the dance sector and with different groups of society. It supports research and development of new work and creates new production frameworks which enhance the professional development and employment of freelance artists. The artistic directors of TaikaBox mentor new, up-and-coming professionals, actively building a new kind of community and audience around their work.

2. ORGANISATION

2.1. Staff and home space

In 2019 TaikaBox had two artistic directors: choreographer/dancer Tanja Râman and video artist/designer John Collingswood, who worked part-time. Both were responsible for the artistic planning, development and co-ordination of TaikaBox's productions, events and projects. Tanja Râman takes care of the organisation's finances and acts as Chair. John Collingswood manages the technical production, branding and marketing. In 2019, the Association also employed 15 artists across a range of different projects.

TaikaBox's office is located at: Varjakantie 69, 90470 Varjakka that also includes a small studio.

2.2. BOARD

TaikaBox is governed by a board of directors. During 2018-2019 Tanja Râman worked as the Chair and John Collingswood acted as the Secretary and Vice Chair. The other member of the board was Tomi Knuutila from the University of Lapland.

The new board was elected at the AGM on 25.3.2019 in accordance with the regulations of the Association. Tanja Râman continued as Chair. John Collingswood continued as Secretary and Tomi Knuutila continued as one of the board of directors. Anthony Rice-Perттunen was elected as a new member of the board. The board met three times during the year.

The membership of the Association grew to 79 members during 2019 which consisted of free members (52), silver members (20) and gold members (0).

The end of year accounts were prepared by Oulu-based accountant: A. Karppinen Oy and the operations were checked by Piia Pengerkoski.

3. MENTORING

During the Summer 2019 TaikaBox offered one local young person a summer job as part of Warjakka Art Lab and Warjakka Artist Residency programme in partnership with the Culture House Valve. Her role was to look after the Konttori building on Varjakka Island and to create content for the Warjakka Culture YouTube channel in relation to cultural activity in the area.

TaikaBox also continued working with a young artist: Elina Tähtelän as part of Oulu Dance Hack. Elina continued practicing as a communications officer. TaikaBox's aim is to continue offering employment to young people in different projects and to train two new artists (one dance and one media artist) to lead TaikaBox's DigiDance workshops throughout the community.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

TaikaBox's communications of its projects was mainly based on regional and national distribution of information and on raising its profile through different channels and projects. Warjakka Art Lab and Artist Residency gained a considerable amount of media interest. Local newspapers Kaleva and Rantalakeus published more than one article. Yle radio and TV released news of the activities organised by the Association on Varjakka Island during July. The Northernmost culture magazine Kaltio published a long article about TaikaBox and its activities in August. Finnish Dance in Focus magazine published by Dance Info Finland included an article introducing Tanja Râman.

Communications relating to specific projects were tailor-made for the regional and national dance sectors, international dance/technology networks and local technology companies. TaikaBox collaborated with its international partners and networks to distribute information about its activities as far as possible. A record number of international artists applied to Warjakka Artist Residency and Oulu Dance Hack in 2019. TaikaBox sent out four newsletters to its members to inform them about its projects and other activities.

5. FINANCES

5.1. Income

The total income in 2019 was 65,014.19 euros. The actual earned income was 9,628.30 euros. Most was gained from leading DigiDance workshops

5.2. Funding

In 2019 TaikaBox gained funding 55,385.89 euros in total: Oulu City gave 66,500 euros for Warjakka Stories (of which 12,600 euros was used for the pilot in 2019. The rest 53,900 euros will be used during 2020-2022 during the production of the project); The Ministry of Education and Culture gave 17,500 euros for Warjakka Stories; Oulun Seudun Leader gave 17,584 euros for Warjakka Stories (of which 8,035.89 euros was gained in 2019 and the remaining 9,548.11 euros will arrive in 2020); Oulun City gave also 2,000 euros as an operational grant; Svenska Kulturfonden gave 3,000 euros for the production of Född Gammal (which will be used in 2020); Finnish-Norwegian Cultural Foundation gave 750 euros as a travel grant to Hammerfest; Finnish-Danish Cultural Foundation gave 1,500 euros as a travel grant to the Faroe Island (which will be used in 2020); Finnish Cultural Foundation gave 4,000 euros for Warjakka Artist Residency; as well as Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation 6,000 euros for Oulu Dance Hack 2019.

5.3. Expenses

The actual expenses of TaikaBox's activities totalled 67,705.20 euros, of which staffing costs were 42,335.81 euros. TaikaBox paid part-time wages to 2 people. Wages for short-term contracts were paid to 15 people in total. The other expenses were 25,369.39 euros which consisted of purchased services, per diems and mileage allowances.