

UNIARTS HELSINKI'S STRATEGY

2021–2030

UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS HELSINKI 2020
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PRINTING
Hansaprint
UNIARTS.FI

ART CREATES THE FUTURE.

MISSION

Uniarts Helsinki is an open meeting place for the arts – an ambitious university community for bold reformers and experts in tradition. We cultivate a unique environment that helps artists grow and strengthens the power of art as a driver of change.

STUDENTS AND LEARNING

Graduates from Uniarts Helsinki change the world as artists, researchers and experts. Our students discover their own potential as artists and influencers, and don't shy away from their responsibility.

ART AND RESEARCH

We explore art and its practices and impact in our research and development activities. The unique quality of our research is based on artistic and art-pedagogical activities and our interaction with both the artistic and scientific communities.

SOCIETY

Art is a basic right and something that contributes to a meaningful life. Art, artistic thinking and creativity are tools that help us build an equal and sustainable world.

MEASURES

1. We enable the growth of our students and help them become highly skilled and broadminded artists and changemakers.
2. Our multidisciplinary research is internationally esteemed.
3. Art and artistic thinking have a strong role in society.
4. Art is part of the solution to the ecological sustainability crisis.
5. Our community is characterised by its wellbeing, international appeal and lack of discrimination.
6. Uniarts Helsinki makes way for renewal and bold initiatives.

SKILL

COURAGE

OPENNESS



FOREWORD

TOWARDS AN EQUAL AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Preparations for Uniarts Helsinki's new strategy involved intensive work over a span of two years, and the whole university community actively participated in the process. What unites the members of Uniarts Helsinki at the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy and Theatre Academy is the passion to make our university the best possible environment for growing into an artist, creating art and carrying out research.

Uniarts Helsinki is widely responsible for providing the highest education in the arts in Finland. We believe that our work has a big impact on society – art, artistic thinking and creativity are tools that help us build an equal and sustainable world.

Our new strategy extends out to the year 2030. During the next ten years, we will be faced with many kinds of profound changes, some of which are specific to Finland, while some are global.

May this strategy be our road map to the future.

Heikki Lehtonen
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jari Perkiömäki
RECTOR

VISION

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VALUES

Skill

Our idea of skill is based on a comprehensive view of what it means to be human: we are skilful, knowledgeable and emotionally aware. We aim to achieve the highest possible quality and expertise. We draw inspiration from our traditions but also reinterpret them.

Courage

We cultivate an environment based on trust where we encourage each other to be sensitive and responsible and to experiment fearlessly. We evaluate our operations critically and reform ourselves with a bold attitude.

Openness

We make decisions in a transparent and responsible way. We value diversity and consider it a resource. We seek an active dialogue with the world that surrounds us.



MAIN STRATEGIC GOALS



We enable the growth of our students and help them become highly skilled and broadminded artists and changemakers

We offer a unique environment for our students to grow into artists. They discover their personal strengths, renew the arts sector with a bold attitude and bring change to the world. They have the chance to apply their skills in various contexts during their studies and find employment as experts even outside the arts sector.

MEASURES

- ✕ We introduce curricula that are based on shared principles.
 - ✕ We strengthen our education, teaching and pedagogy by basing them on research and artistic activities.
 - ✕ We help artists adopt increasingly diverse professional profiles.
 - ✕ We widen the choice of study opportunities available in continuous learning.
 - ✕ We boost the international pull and impact of our degree programmes.
 - ✕ We support sustainable digitalisation.
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GOAL 2/6

Our multidisciplinary research is internationally esteemed

Uniarts Helsinki is recognised as a dynamically evolving research community. We have a distinct research profile, our researcher community has extensive networks and our research has an international impact. The structures laid out for our research activities are clear and support the researcher community in their pursuit of external funding.

MEASURES

- ✕ We define a joint strategic profile for our research.
 - ✕ We increase our research activities and gain a larger share of international research funding.
 - ✕ We promote the internationalisation of our researchers.
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GOAL 3/6

Art and artistic thinking have a strong role in society

We strengthen the role of art and artistic thinking in society by placing them in new contexts: discussions on social issues, public decision-making and working life. We create a national vision for arts education by collaborating as a network that brings together all levels of education and those in the field.

MEASURES

- ✕ We establish Uniarts Helsinki as a compelling collaboration partner for creating, testing and piloting new ideas.
 - ✕ We promote the accessibility and impact of art.
 - ✕ Together with other higher education institutions in the metropolitan area, we make the Helsinki metropolitan area the most appealing learning and innovation ecosystem in the world.
 - ✕ We outline a national vision for arts education.
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Art is part of the solution to the ecological sustainability crisis

The ecological sustainability crisis will become an increasingly defining factor for the development of society, changing the relationship between humans and the biosphere. We provide the tools to discuss this major change through art and artistic thinking. Ecological thinking permeates operations across the entire university.

MEASURES

- ✕ We define a strategy and measures that promote ecological sustainability to steer our operations.
 - ✕ We integrate the theme of ecological sustainability into our teaching, research and artistic activities.
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GOAL 5/6

Our community is characterised by its wellbeing, international appeal and lack of discrimination.

Our community has shared values and policies that support everyone's wellbeing, ensuring equality and the experience that their work and studies are meaningful. We appreciate and embody diversity, strengthen academy-level and university-level inclusivity and create a culture of constructive interaction.

MEASURES

- ✕ We develop our operations in a goal-oriented way to increase the wellbeing of our staff and students, as well as monitor our performance using agreed indicators.
 - ✕ We strengthen the kind of leadership and operational culture that honours our values.
 - ✕ We increase the diversity of our university community and strengthen the experience of inclusivity.
 - ✕ We strengthen the goal-oriented recruitment of staff.
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Uniarts Helsinki makes way for renewal and bold initiatives

We streamline and refocus our operations in a way that best serves our common goals and the implementation of our strategy. Our operational planning is based on our overall knowledge, and we make sure that the university's voice is heard in our decision-making. We actively seek external funding for our operations.

MEASURES

- ✕ We enable experiments and initiatives.
 - ✕ We make our services smoother, harmonise them based on user feedback and utilise digitalisation.
 - ✕ We strengthen the conditions for external funding and fundraising.
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VISION: ART CREATES THE FUTURE

Art provides the world with something that would not exist there without it.

When society is undergoing major changes, art has the ability to find new ways forward. The work done by artists, researchers and experts who graduate from Uniarts Helsinki expands our thinking and challenges us to reflect on whether we know how to ask the right questions.

Uniarts Helsinki encourages artists to discover their own path and walk it boldly. This means immersing oneself in one's artistic work. Uniarts Helsinki offers the best possible support for also pursuing international fame and success. Art does not settle for mediocre.

Artistic work can provide inspiration for new products, businesses and jobs, sometimes intentionally, but often unexpectedly, because art does not play it safe.

Once our lifestyles are adjusted to the earth's ecological capacity, material growth will give way to cultural growth. Art creates meanings and makes life worth living.

The arts and culture sectors increase the pull of countries and different regions and generate jobs and wellbeing. Art and research build a foundation for the success, culture and wellbeing of the Finnish society.

Art does not set boundaries. It crosses over them, and it does not separate people from each other but looks for the things that connect us. Uniarts Helsinki's operations are steered by three important values: skill, courage and openness.

Art belongs to us all. It is part of our lives in day care centres, schools, workplaces, nursing homes – or anywhere and everywhere in digital form. Art gives us joy and comfort and stimulates our thoughts. Arts education in schools and leisure-time activities can awaken our interest in art and spark the desire to grow into an artist.

Amid all the changes going on in the job market, the professions that maintain their value are the ones that create something new and unique or reach out to another human on an emotional level. That is why artists are irreplaceable. ✕



