

Newsletter
May 2024



International Conference - Save the Date

Re: Action

**- Time Travels in a changing world.
How has the world changed Time Travels and how
have Time Travels changed the world?**

29-31st Jan 2025 Kalmar County, Sweden

In Year 2004 an international group met in Vimmerby, Kalmar County, Sweden and created Bridging Ages International. Since then, a lot has happened, and the world around us has changed a lot. New matters have arisen, and the Time Travel method continues to develop in many directions.

This conference will explore the past, the present and the future. How is the Times Travel method adapting to the world around us, and how can we keep the Time Travel method relevant for another 20 years?

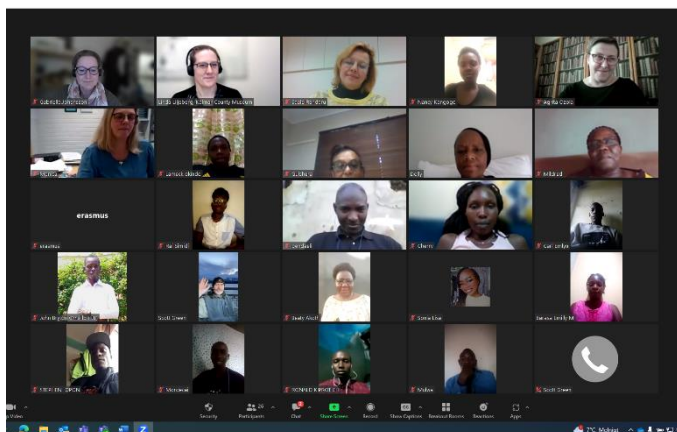
More conference information, a call for papers and registration will come.

Funding tip for European countries: <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/creative-europe-culture-strand/culture-moves-europe> Deadline 31 May.

In this Newsletter you can also read about:

Report from the 5th Digital EGM hosted 20th March and a word from the new president
Baltic Sea time travels for community building – final project meeting in Gdansk, Poland
Time travel and intangible heritage – a new mix? Cooperation between Finland and Kenya
Time travels and cooperation with schools. Report from webinar between, Bridging Ages, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden, Casa San Ysidro and Scott Green, U.S.
New – “Ebbe’s Corner.” 40 years of Time Travels, 20 years of Bridging Ages

Report from the 5th Digital AGM



On the 20th March 2024, Bridging Ages hosted their 5th annual AGM. At the meeting, 31 persons from 10 countries were represented.

Mildred Ayere from Maseno University, Kenya chaired the meeting. During the meeting, Gulshera Khan, Port Shepstone Association, South Africa, stepped down as president after 4 years but will stay on the international board. The new president is Linda Liljeberg from Kalmar County Museum, Sweden. The rest of the board members were reelected.

Word from the president.

As I read through old Newsletters, I got reminded how much is done within the Bridging Ages network each year. It is inspiring to see the variety of countries represented and the different ways in which the Time Travel method is used. Covid-19 forced us to re-think much of how we do things. Since then, a lot has gotten back to the old ways. But seeing us all connect in the 5th digital annual meeting with such ease, we have learnt something: it is in some ways easier than ever to connect. In projects we can travel less, but still connect more.

With the conflicts going on in the world it is important to keep connecting, getting new friends. In the Time Travel Method, we use the past to create a future. Today it is as important as ever. We need to maintain perspective and hope for the future.

Bridging international board

Linda Liljeberg, Sweden, President
Mildred Ayere, Kenya, Vice President
Scott Green, USA/Kanada, Secretary
Monica Mattbäck, Finland, Treasurer
Gulshera Khan, South Africa
Samson Semakula, Uganda
Hakan Adanir, Turkie
Saale Randaru, Estonia
Kristine Ozola, Latvia

During the AGM the action plan 2023-2025 was presented along with a discussion on the implementation where participants expressed their interest in a future webinar on how to bring the Time Travel Method into the academic world.

Vote of thanks was given by Saale Randaru, Estonian National Museum, Estonia.

For me, Bridging Ages is a fantastic network where you can find colleagues and partners worldwide.

So let's keep connecting, uniting and working together!

Linda Liljeberg



Linda Liljeberg. Curator and coordinator for Pedagogy and Time Travels at Kalmar County Museum with 15 years of experience in Time Travels. Linda has been vice president in the board and has experience of international Time Travels in many of the active counties in Bridging Ages.

Baltic sea Time Travels - Final project meeting in Gdansk, Poland

In March the final Project meeting in the Baltic sea project BSTT were held in Gdansk, Poland. The goal of the project was to create a network in the Baltic sea region and prepare for a larger European application. Already before the meeting in Gdansk we had submitted a application to Creative Europe. So the meeting focused a lot on how to cooperate in the future, with or without funding, and we also discussed different topics that can be relevant for the whole region, such as, climate, migration, democracy and waste. There was also a session about the possibilities of the cultural heritage sector supporting the reconstruction of Ukraine, a rather difficult topic for several participants who have a very direct experience with the consequences of the war. When the project was summarized, it was clear that this has been a successful project and hopefully this work will continue in a larger project for the next three years.

Adam Norman and Linda Liljeberg, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden



Photo: Rebecka Egfors, Kalmar läns museum



About the Project:

- BSTT Baltic Sea Time Travels for Community building
- Partner countries: Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
- Associated counties: Germany and Estonia
- Financed by: Swedish Institute

Time Travel and intangible heritage – a new mix?

As part of a new project focused on intangible heritage, the possibility came for the Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network/Regional Council of Ostrobothnia to do international collaboration as well as a training in Uganda and Kenya. In Kenya we collaborated with Bridging Ages Maseno University Chapter in Kisumu.

The main topics of the training were new forms of the Time Travel method; digital and hybrid formats and then a workshop on intangible heritage. The methodology of the training used a combination of the lecture, discussion, workshop and group presentations. The training took place for three days (25th -27th March 2024) in Maseno University and the participants were ten university lecturers, two officers from the museum, two teachers from a primary school in Kisumu and twenty university students.

This report presents the students' voices in reaction to the training. They responded to the following key questions: Was the training helpful? (In what ways?) What were the key lessons learned? What can you do as a result of this training? and how can future trainings be made better?

Benefits of the training

The training was highly beneficial as it provided a comprehensive understanding of utilizing Time Travel methods for educational purposes. It equipped us with practical knowledge on how to effectively implement the concept of



the Time Travel that provides safe space to talk, tell stories and relate historical events to the current world as a way of educating the present generation. We also gained insights into the significance of immersive digital experiences in engaging learners and fostering a deeper understanding of local history using local heritage for reflection. For teachers, it is one of the most inclusive methods of teaching

regardless of the students' individual difference, all students can research and share a certain tradition of their community when called upon. It made us realise that most of our current problems like migration, climate change, economic problems, unemployment and tribal clashes, among others, can be easily solved using the Time Travel method through reflective dialogue. Its methodology is very procedural, from identifying a problem, creating a scenario, moving back in time, and using reflective dialogue which makes it relevant and applicable in solving existing problems and emerging issues.





Lessons learned

We learned that local heritage and stories is a powerful tool for conveying historical knowledge in a memorable and engaging manner. We discovered how immersive digital experiences, such as virtual reality, simulations or interactive exhibits, can significantly enhance the learning process by making history come alive for learners. We also gained an understanding of the ethical implications of altering historical events through Time Travel and the importance of preserving historical accuracy while educating future generations. We further understood the place of intangible living heritage as a useful source of information. It exposed time travel as a powerful unifying tool that provided us with a sense of belonging as it was empowering to stand together as a group and discuss development of the future, without any discrimination. And also, that, through teamwork, we are able to make a bigger difference in the world today and impact the young, old and children alike and better our lives and futures.

Action points from the training

We can advocate for the preservation of historical accuracy while educating future generations, ensuring that the stories told reflect the diversity and complexity of the past.

We plan to engage in storytelling, traditional dance and songs as a group or through writing, multimedia production, or oral historical projects, to bring historical narratives to life and make them accessible to a wider audience. We will use dance, stories, songs and drama as part of therapy. We will use the knowledge gained to contribute to the development of educational programs that utilize time travel methods, such as designing interactive exhibits or curating historical narratives for use in education. Planning to apply peace building initiatives using living heritage from at least three major African tribes of my class any time conflict arises. Helping to improve our society especially among the youth by looking for possible solutions to rampant social problems such as financial and mental health issues, relationship, and sexuality among others. Incorporate the Time Travel method as an important tool in the teaching-learning process. Engage in community building through heritage education. Use time travel as a tool to motivate challenged learners and explain difficult concept in mathematics from the environment.

*Mildred Ayere, Maseno University, Kenya
Annina Ylikoski, BARK, Finland*

Time travels and cooperation with schools.

Report from webinar between, Bridging Ages, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden, Casa San Ysidro and Scott Green, US

In the spring of 2018, I pitched the idea of Time Travels to the site manager, Emily Stovel, at Casa San Ysidro, a historic site in Corrales, New Mexico, U.S.A. Emily was very enthusiastic to give the concept a test drive. She came up with a U.S. \$500 grant and we scheduled training for early that summer. The ten or so volunteers who attended my three Saturday training sessions became enthralled with the Time Travel Method and embraced the idea of performing first-person interpretation. Much of that enthusiasm was instigated by both my passion for Time Travels and Emily's adept motivation of her volunteers. The Heritage Day event that summer at Casa San Ysidro was elevated by the interactive Time Travel we staged in the back area of the historic site. It was a success with many visitors stepping back into 1776 and learning a great deal about Spanish Colonial life in Nuevo México.

Unfortunately circumstances at the Museum in regard to staffing and my work situation, delayed expansion of a Time Travel program at Casa San Ysidro then COVID-19 tragically derailed everything across the globe. Emily took a new job but fortunately talked up Time Travels to the new site manager, Aaron Gardner. Aaron reached out in the summer of 2021 to tell me about the virtual Time Travel they were doing for a special event. Last year, Aaron contacted me and said they were ready to do another in-person Time Travel. I did trainings with a few returning volunteers from 2018 and some enthusiastic new learners. We staged the mid-summer event and it was a rousing success. (See Aaron's and volunteer's presentation at the 2023 Digital Conference for more information.)

During the training and after the event, Aaron and I discussed securing grants and reaching out to schools to expand the Time Travel program there in the town north of

Albuquerque. I knew the Time Travel Method and both of us were familiar with museum and school partnerships but neither of us had any experience with putting together a program of this kind. This came up during the 2023 digital conference and the idea of Kalmar Museum doing a Time Travel school program workshop via Zoom was born.

On February 7th of this year, Linda and Adam conducted a workshop titled, "Time Travels and cooperation with schools." Aaron, his assistant manager, Doug, myself and Gulshera Kahn attended the workshop. Linda and Adam stepped through the creation and organization of a Time Travel school program. We discussed such questions as:

- "How do you engage new teachers?"
- "How do you create engagement in the program?"
- "How do you connect the Time Travels to the school curriculum?"

Aaron and Doug added a great deal to the workshop conversation with questions that enthralled those of us who are Time Travel veterans. I and Gulshera enjoyed joining Linda and Adam in talking about how Time Travels so inspire school children to think outside the box. Aaron and Doug were left considering how they might connect with local schools and seek additional funding. Both are in the works.

The discussion was constructive for not just the Casa San Ysidro project but also for my current grant-funded Time Travel project with schools in Alaska and Seattle. I found Linda's and Adam's insight and stories about how they conduct their dynamic and successful Time Travel program there in Kalmar indispensable. The workshop helped me reshape the Alaska and Seattle Time Travel program to make it more accessible to school children and teachers in those regions of the U.S., and to

shape its construction for expansion to other parts of the country and Canada.

Time Travel workshops such as this one are a vital element in expanding the Bridging Ages network. They allow those of us with Time Travel experience to share our knowledge and

experience with others who are just getting started. And workshops create a greater sense of community inspiring both the learners and the teachers to continue building Time Travel programs.

Scott Green, Board Secretary

Ebbes Corner,

40 years of Time Travels, 20 years of Bridging Ages

Time Travels started in the mid- 80s in Kalmar, Sweden, Bridging Ages in 2004 in Vimmerby.

The Time Travel method has been going on for almost 40 years, Bridging Ages for 20 years. Isn't it amazing! Incredible! How come that this educational method has continued for so many years? And that Bridging Ages still play an important role with annual conferences (almost) every year.

The short answer:

The Time Travel method is a strong educational method that releases actions and emotions and make people reflect. It touches people, it is about our lives, then and now. Brain, mind, and hand together. The method is same, same but different- as from the start.

The strength with the Bridging Ages organization is relations, social interaction between people, common projects, to meet and greet. Without common projects and physical meetings, it is difficult to continue and expand. But to meet and greet, work together,

build trust and relations, Bridging Ages will be able to continue for another 20 years, or more...

In the next Newsletter I will reveal what the Time Travel method is. To be continued...



Yours Honorary President
Ebbe Westergren



To be part of the mailing list or subscribe to the newsletter,
please send an e-mail to: bridgingages@kalmarlansmuseum.se

Layout and editor: Kalmar läns museum. linda.liljeberg@kalmarlansmuseum.se

English edit: Scott Green