



Annual report 2016 – Bridging Ages International

2016 in Review

As we reflect on the past twelve months, we have a lot to be grateful for. With the support from various stakeholders and the work from different partners, we have made big steps in promoting social cohesion and community-building around the world.

In South Africa, with the support from the Department of Arts and Culture, the Time Travel method has spread across the whole country and is regarded as a catalyst for change in targeting contemporary issues in the society of today.

Finland continued their work and conducted about 100 time travel events during the year. Focus has been on integration. Together with four other Baltic countries, they started the project “Heritage Bridge” to promote and institutionalize the Time Travel method.

Bridging Ages Kenya was launched in 2016. During the year, various trainings in the Time Travel method were conducted and new areas targeted. The intention is to follow South Africa’s footsteps in implementing the method nationwide.

In Uganda, Entebbe municipality is working to implement the Time Travel methodology as a structure to promote social cohesion and local democracy with the municipality. The intention is to launch Bridging Ages Uganda by 2017.

In Sweden, approximately 100 Time Travel event and 100 workshops on issues like integration, democracy and inclusion were conducted. Sweden ended the year on a high note at Bridging Ages 12th International

Conference which was held in Kalmar. 220 participants from 15 different countries participated.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Mrs. Rejoice Mabudafhasi made an impassioned speech about the role of cultural heritage today and set the bar high in promising to implement the Time Travel method across South Africa. She challenged the other Ministers in other countries to do the same.

In September, Bridging Ages and the Time Travel method was presented at the Nordic youth conference Sillat-Broar-Bridges in Helsinki.

None of these successes would have been possible without our partners, our national Bridging Ages offices and all the passionate individuals worldwide.

Despite new partner commitments, financial support for cultural heritage related activities remains too low to meet many of the challenges confronting our children, youth, women and men. Tackling this pressing problem will remain a key priority throughout 2017.

***Use the past to reflect on today
and create the future!***

Board members

- President: Annina Ylikoski, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland
- Vice President: Tina Lindström, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden
- Secretary: Jabulani Phelago, Freedom Park, South Africa
- Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, USA (until October 2016)
- Agrita Ozola, Tukums Museum, Latvia
- Ebru Iltenmis, Manisa Municipality, Turkey
- Pille Rohtla, Audentes School, Tallinn, Estonia Tallinn University
- Cecile Franchetti, Venice Italy (until November 2016)
- Steven Labarakwe, Marsabit County, Kenya
- Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden

The Finland office

The Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK consists of 16 municipalities and was founded in 2009. The network is administrated by the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia and as a Children's Culture Center BARK is funded partly by the Ministry of Culture.

The work in the region is done with museums, schools, universities, heritage associations and other groups. Each municipality has a different structure for its group working with Time Travels, coordinated by BARK.

2016 was the year the Bridging Ages office grew to be an office in between Sweden and Finland and close collaboration on the international projects, Time Travels and trainings.

Overview/highlight of the year

Integration and culture for all were the overall themes of the year. Integration came through in Time Travels as well as in other educational packages for both refugees and Finnish people.

During the year, the new curriculums and culture curriculms were introduced in the region. Most municipalities now have a clear plan for their cultural activities, including the Time Travels.

Projects and programs: local, regional and national

"Integration through culture"- packages were done through the year. Using the heritage and linking it to today through dance, music and living history lessons like "History chock" and

"How Finland became Finland" both refugees and Finnish people got to . These sessions with music and pictures links to the heritage and history as well as the society today.

Projects: international

The "Heritage Bridge"-project started with Finland and the Baltic countries. In this we exchange work models for education and museums with regards to our countries 100 year celebrations.

The Finland office also collaborated with South Africa through the different trainings and programs with BASA and DAC.

In Kenya we had the honor of participating in trainings as well as the launching of Bridging Ages Kenya.

Trainings, seminars, conferences held/attended (short description and number of participants/ also speaking at conferences etc. that was not organized by BAI)

BARK did collaboration with different universities on heritage, drama and music through the Time Travel method. Through this the students created productions and packages, which toured the schools.

Time Travels organized:

In the region, about 100 Time Travels were conducted on different themes. Integration and migration in different ages were a huge part of the Time Travel work. About 4000 children and youth took part in the Time Travels.

Annina Ylikoski, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland

The Sweden Office

Bridging Ages – the Swedish office

Bridging Ages has developed in structure and expansion in Sweden since 2004, with its headquarters at Kalmar county museum. In 2009, a Development Center was created at the museum with the intention to strengthen regional, national and international collaborations. Bridging Ages was established as a non-profit organization in 2015. The administrative tasks of Bridging Ages are shared between Kalmar County Museum and the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia in Finland, where the president of Bridging Ages International is located. An international coordinator was employed at Kalmar county museum during the end of 2016 with the responsibility to develop the museums' international collaborations and administrate its international projects through Bridging Ages.

Regional projects

Kalmar county

During the year, the educational department at Kalmar County Museum have worked with various projects, exhibitions, public and educational programs, staff training, lectures, guided tours, school activities, time travel events and several international projects. The common methodology is applied heritage/Time Travel method. It is an educational method where the local site and story meets contemporary issues to promote social cohesion and community-building.

During 2016, Kalmar County Museum have continued to develop its educational method. Focus areas during the year has been diversity and integration. The museum has worked in all the county's twelve municipalities. Educational programs on contemporary issues like democracy, human rights and integration have been conducted for schools, municipality officials, immigrants, etc. Approximately 100 time travel events were conducted in Kalmar

county during 2016. Kalmar county museum attended several regional, national and international conferences during the year, conducting presentations and workshops on how to use heritage to promote social cohesion and community-building.

Kalmar County Museum, in collaboration with the Regional Council and National Exhibitions, conducted a preliminary study with the intention of making Bridging Ages and the Time Travel methodology into a support structure in Kalmar County. Focus area was integration and diversity, targeting "newcomers" and the civil society. A national think-tank was conducted to reflect on social cohesion and cultural heritage.

Applied Heritage

The collaborative project between Kalmar County Museum and Linnaeus University, "*Applied Cultural Heritage*", was completed in December 2016. The purpose was to explore how the skills and resources of the cultural sector can be better used to strengthen social cohesion and regional development. This has been done, inter alia, by applying new perspectives on cultural heritage, finding new strategies to work with cultural heritage and reaching new target groups. The project results have been compiled in a manual *Research Development and Heritage: A manual for promoting cooperation between museums and universities* and a brochure *Applied cultural heritage: Research and practice in collaboration for sustainable social development*. An online platform was also created.

Bridging Ages Conference in Kalmar

Bridging Ages' 12th International Conference was held in Kalmar in September 2016. The conference was a collaboration between Kalmar County Museum, Linnaeus University, Church of Sweden, Regional Federation of Kalmar County and Bridging Ages International. The theme was "*Let's Do It! Social Cohesion through Applied Heritage and the Time Travel method*". 240 participants from 20 countries participated. During the conference; speeches, parallel-sessions and workshops were held on themes like cultural heritage today, culture and

health, heritage and religion, integration and social cohesion.

The opening key note speaker was Mrs. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, the Deputy Minister of Culture from South Africa, together with Mrs. Alice Bah Kuhnke, Minister Culture and Democracy in Sweden. During the conference, Kalmar County Museum wrote a MoU with Freedom Park in South Africa on a 3-year development project on Social Cohesion and Time Travel Methodology.

The week before the conference, an international training in the Time Travel methodology was held with 12 participants from six countries (Sweden, Norway, Latvia, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa).

International projects

South Africa

Cooperation with the Department of Arts and Culture continued during the year. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the accompanying Action Plan was written between Freedom Park and Kalmar County Museum in 2016. The agreement involves cooperation for 3 years on "Social Cohesion and Community Building through the Time Travel Method."

In March 2016, an expert seminar was held in Pretoria to discuss goals, definitions, foundations and content for the Time Travel method. The seminar was a collaboration between the Department of Arts and Culture, Freedom Park, Swedish Embassy in South Africa, Bridging Ages South Africa and Bridging Ages International. 35 participants from eight Bridging Ages countries participated. The result was a new Bridging Ages folder, "*Make a Difference*", which explains the Time Travel method. Training sessions in the Time Travel methodology were held in Northern Cape, Western Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng during the year.

Kenya

The project "*Mathematics in the Historic Environment*" – a collaboration with Linnaeus University, Kenyatta University, Maseno University and National Museums of Kenya - was completed during 2016. Several exchange visits to Kenya and Sweden were conducted. Torslunda School took part in the exchange with a school in Kisumu. In conjunction with the BA conference, the book "*Tools in Life: Mathematics in the Historic Environment*" was presented. Kalmar County Museum continued the project around Community Heritage Centers in northern Kenya. During 2016, Bridging Ages Kenya was launched in Uhuru Gardens in Nairobi. Keynote speakers were Irene Wanjoyke, Vice President of the National Cohesion and Integration Committee, Kenya. The 1st part of the Time Travel methodology course was conducted in Nairobi with about 50 participants from different regions of Kenya. The 2nd part of the course will take place in the beginning of 2017.

Uganda

New funds from ICLD were obtained for a continuation of the *Sites & Stories*-project; a cooperation between Entebbe and Kalmar municipalities. The new project focuses on the program and organization of Cultural Heritage Centers. Kalmar County Museum serve as the project leader in collaboration with the Kalmar County theatre and ABF Vux Gothenburg. The delegation from Entebbe came to Kalmar during the BA International Conference in September 2016 and the training the week before. A Swedish delegation with three participants from Kalmar County Museum visited Entebbe later during the year for introductory workshops and training.

*Johanna Ejderstedt, International coordinator,
Kalmar county museum*

The South Africa Office

Introduction

In 2008 Bridging Ages South Africa was formed - a network organization made up of museums, municipalities and non-governmental organizations, and the same year the Bridging Ages international conference was held in Worcester. Bridging Ages has expanded from the Western Cape to KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng, Northern Cape, Free State, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga in a cooperation between local and provincial organizations, museums, schools, NGOs, Kalmar County Museum and the Ostrobothnia Regional Council.

Through the South African national Department of Arts and Culture - International Relations, many training programs and seminars on the Time Travel method have been conducted in Kalmar, Sweden, Region of Ostrobothnia – Finland, various provinces and museums in South Africa since 2006.

Overview/highlight of the year

The highlight of the year was the three-day international expert's seminar on the Time Travel method which was held on 29-31 March. There were delegates from 7 countries i.e. South Africa, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Estonia, Lithuania, and Kenya.

Another highlight was the opening of the experts seminar by the South Africa Arts and Culture opening by the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi. The joint support of the seminar by the Department of Arts and Culture, Embassies of Finland and Sweden, Freedom Park was also a highlight for an organization like Bridging Ages South Africa.

Projects: international

The three day international Time Travel experts seminar was a major event. Additional events and activities in which members of the Bridging Ages International board members played a key role were quite numerous. Those events included Time Travel method introductory workshops, training workshops,

seminars, Time Travel events, etc. Those activities were carried out in provinces such as Gauteng, Western Cape, KZN, North West, Northern Cape, etc.

Trainings, seminars, conferences held/attended (short description and number of participants/ also speaking at conferences etc. that was not organized by BAI)

A number of events including Time Travel method introductory workshops, training workshops, seminars, Time Travel events, etc. were conducted and they included the following:

- A mental Time Travel was held at Freedom Park on the Mamelodi massacre.
- Theoretical and practical issues of the Time Travel method were revisited at the International Experts Seminar.
- Workshops and Time Travels in provinces such as Northern Cape, Western Cape, KZN, etc.
- Human Rights Day public event was held in March 2016, Gamalakhe Tin Town.
- Commemoration Women's Month August 2016.
- Piloted educational Time Travel with Grade 10 on the importance of education.
- Piloted TT with children from a children's institution – successful- applying the holistic approach

Partners and funding

The major partner and driving force for Bridging Ages South Africa is the Department of Arts and Culture.

Future projects, goals, collaborations

Present and future focus areas for South Africa included:

- developing a 3-year plan South Africa and Sweden,
- establishment of the BASA office,
- co-operation with Finland,
- sourcing funding,
- get the education department on board;
- and finish the booklet.

Jabulani Phelago, BASA and Freedom Park

The Lithuania Office

Lithuania became a new member of Bridging Ages in 2016. Since then 1 Time Travel have been done (Time Travel, 1946, 30 pupils took part).

Project „Heritage Bridge“ introduced Lithuania with Time travel methodology. Coordinator of this project Annina Ylikoski (The Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK) helped to engage different model of education and use it in Lithuania.

Members from Lithuania participated in 3 trainings in 2016.

There is 1 active partner, since it is the beginning for Lithuania. Education center of Klaipeda region is helping with schools (involving teachers to know what is Time Travel).

Dovilė Vaičiulytė, Gargzdai Area Museum

The North America Office

Introduction: structure of the organization, network, focus, partners

North America Bridging Ages is currently conducting Time Travels in New Mexico, United States and Yukon Territory, Canada. In New Mexico we are partnering with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service to conduct workshops and Time Travels in Las Cruces. We are also applying for grants to conduct workshops at Casa san Ysidro historic site near Albuquerque.

In the Yukon Territory, we are conducting workshops in Whitehorse and Dawson City.

Overview/highlights of the year

We conducted Time Travel living history workshops in New Mexico and the Yukon.

Projects and programs: local, regional and national

We conducted a Time Travel workshop in Las Cruces, NM on August 5, 2017.

We have scheduled a Time Travel event for October 26, 27 and 28, 2017 in Las Cruces, NM.

Projects: international

We conducted a Time Travel workshop in Dawson City, YT, Canada from August 14th to the 18th.

We conducted Time Travel living history on the 18th, 19th and 20th of August in Dawson City.

Time Travels organized: short description and number of participants (students/adults, women/men)

We conducted a Time Travel to 1881 at Dripping Springs Natural Area in Las Cruces, NM on August 5, 2017 following an all-day workshop. Nine children and four adults participated. 21 visitors attended the 1 hour event.

We conducted Time Travel living history at the Dawson City Museum on August 18th, 19th and 20th. Six children and two adults participated. 152 visitors interacted with the performers over the ten hours of program time at the Museum.

Partners and funding

Funding for the Las Cruces workshops and events is provided by the Friends of the Organ Mountains- Desert Peaks.

Funding for the Dawson City workshops and Time Travels is provided by Lotteries Yukon.

Future projects, goals, collaborations

1) Plans for Dawson City, Yukon Territory for summer of 2018 include:

- Time Travel Fair (long weekend of games, contests, etc.)
- Historical music camp and Time Travel- the week before the city's Music festival
- Time Travels each week to a different era (1905, 1915, 125, etc.) with murder mysteries and other interactive audience experiences included

2) Plans for Las Cruces, New Mexico (Dripping Springs Natural Area) include:

- Several workshops for children and adults
- Workshop for teachers on utilizing the Time Travel method in their classrooms
- Time Travel events throughout the year
- Working with local schools to conduct Time Travels

3) Plans for Corrales, New Mexico (Casa san Ysidro) include:

- Children's Time Travel workshop
- Time Travel event

Quotes (from participants, partners, officials, etc.)

The parent of one of the Dawson City participants, Liam, said, "He was never interested in performance before." Also, "He never finished a week-long class until this one."

The parent of another Dawson City participant, Anya, said "We both learned so much this week."

A parent of one of the Las Cruces children, "When we saw this advertised we were so excited because she (her child) loved these workshops at the Farm and Ranch Museum."

A parent of one of the Las Cruces children, "This was great! Are you doing anymore in the future?"

A representative for the Friends of the Organ Mountains- Desert Peaks, commented on how poignant it was when the children commented on what drew them to the Organ Mountains. She thought it elevated the preservation message that is their group's mission.

Scott Green

The Estonia Office

In 2017 museums offer Time Travel already by themselves, the figures can be seen next year in the annual report. Time Travels at different Estonian schools, no precise overview but there have been events. All in all, in 2016 about

855 people have been involved with themes of Time Travel in Estonia. FB group of Time Travel 1918 has been created.

April-August:

- School in the Middle Ages in 1516 (about 60 students)
- People at Kirov collective-farm in 1982 (about 40 students)
- Preparations for the Republic of Estonia 100 (Heritage Bridge)
- June: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania – the first two-day meeting in Tartu (10 + 4 teachers)
- August: introducing the idea at the summer school of the society of Estonian History teachers (60 people)
- Meeting potential collaborators in Viljandi (25 people)

September-December

- Conference in Kalmar - 6 people participating from Estonia
- Giving information to history teachers and teachers of other subjects and museum workers and asking people to participate in the Project. About 600 people got informed.
- October: training and sample Time Travel (School in the Middle Ages in 1516) for teachers
- (about 50 people)
- Cooperation meeting in Tartu (Pille, Katrin, Kaari, Saale: putting together more precise schedule)
- December: collaboration with Tartu University started, they tend to include into 07.02.2018. Time Travel students of teacher training and students of schools outside Estonia.

The Latvia Office

Tukums museum represents the international organization Bridging Ages in Latvia. The year 2016 was very active in a field of museum education/. Tukums museum had 12 different programs elaborated for children and students audiences. There were 126 events in year 2016 with 2735 participants. The most popular place

was Pastariņš museum (situated in the farmstead of 18th /19th centuries) where 40 programs with 1244 participants took place in 2016.

Traditionally each year Tukums museum starts its educational programs with so called public Time travel devoted to Barricades of 1991. Last year this event was organized together with the Museum of Barricades of 1991. The public Time travel took place at the central square of Tukums, called Freedom Square (Brīvības laukums). There were 258 participants (10 groups from 5 different schools) which met eyewitnesses of the Baricades of 1991 near a fireplace and were acquainted with time of their parents' youth.

Because the Celebration of Latvia's Centenary is planned in 2018, preparations for new national program *Latvian Shool bag* was started. This school bag will contain a variety of professional art and cultural events experience which we will be a present to children and young people. Tukums museum workers has done a deeper research of

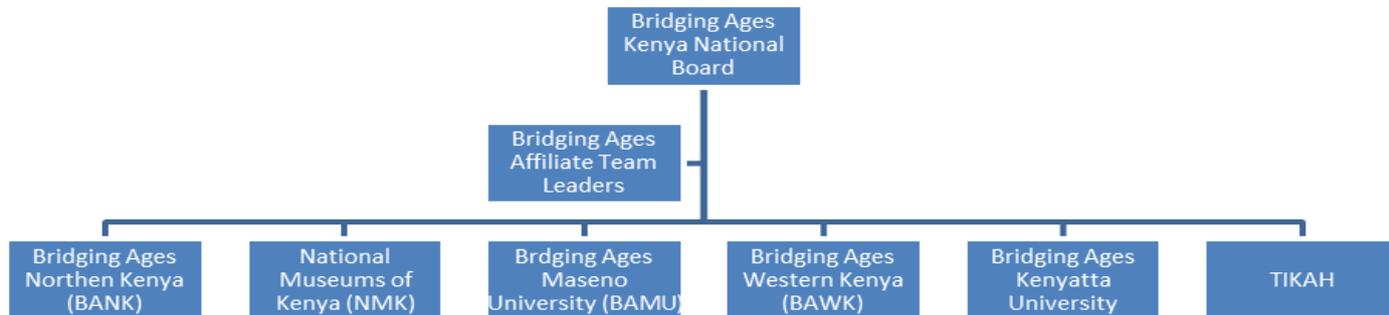
Curriculum in order to develop new programs, including Time Travel. Some regional seminars for history teachers were organized and new partnerships created with museums and regional non-governmental organizations.

Tukums museum was represented also in the annual conference of Bridging Ages organization in Kalmar, September 2016. The director of the museum Agrita Ozola spoke about experience gained at the Pastariņš museum where many programs, including Time Travels, are provided. She has mentioned also international project "Heritage Bridge" which is going on in partnership with Estonian National Museum (Estonia), Gargždai regional museum (Lithuania) under the leadership of the Osterbotnian childrens' and youth education organization *BARK*. The project is financed within a NORDIC Horizontal program. It's aim is to develop cooperation of schools and museums and look for new models of education.

The Kenya Office

Introduction

Bridging Ages Kenya (BAK) is the Kenya chapter for Bridging Ages International (BA) formed in 2011 and with membership in 5 main institutions (Kenyatta University, National Museums of Kenya, Maseno University, TIKAH, and selected primary and secondary schools in Kisumu town) across six counties in Kenya. As composed currently, BAK is a network bringing together different Bridging Ages Teams.



Highlights of the Year

The key highlights in the BAK calendar include:

1. The launch of BAK in November 2016
2. The Marsabit County Cultural Festival at Loyangalani in 2017
3. National Time Travel and training at the Karen Blixen Museum in Nairobi
4. BAMU Time Travel on Post-Election violence in Maseno and Kisumu

Local programs: Time Travels and Trainings

From the table the following observations can be made:

1. The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) organized two national training events at Uhuru Gardens for 2 days and at Karen Blixen Museum. It also organized 5 Time Travel events:
 - Opening of the first Christian church on the East African Coast at Rabai in 1848
 - Land Disputes and justice system at the District Commissioner’s Office in Meru in 1964
 - Welcoming Karen and Bror Blixen in 1917
 - Preparation for the Independence celebration at Uhuru Gardens 11th December 1963
 - Opening of the new Railway station in Kisumu 1972
 - Kapenguria Museum on “The trial of Kapenguria six” as a future event.
2. Bridging Ages Northern Kenya (BANK) training and TT events in each of its 4 centres of Kalacha, Ngurunit, Loyiangalani, Gadhamoji under the theme of “Traditions to keep, traditions to leave....”.
3. Bridging Ages Maseno University (BAMU) has had 3 training sessions with students and staff of the university. At the same time, BAMU held two time travels: one in Maseno and the second in Kisumu all under the theme of “Post-Election violence in Kenya 2007/8. BAMU in future hopes to organize a Cultural week in the January – April term on “Peace and Reconciliation”.
4. Bridging Ages Western Kenya (BAWK) held 4 Time Travel events and training for members on:
 - Opening of the new railway station in Kisumu 1972
 - Welcoming the school inspector at Shaurimoyo primary school
 - Visit of the president 1978

In future TT events on the “The coming of the inspector” at Shaurimoyo and Obinju primary schools

5. Bridging Ages Kenya University participated in all the national BAK activities. We need to join hands with them to help the team stand and grow.
6. TIKAH is cultural activity group affiliated to BAK.

International Projects

BAK has received tremendous support from the international team in terms of activities, projects and training. The National Board wishes to show gratitude and sincere appreciation for the support from the international team members: Lena and Ebbe Westergren, Berit Johansson, Annina Ylikoski and Johanna Ejderstedt for having held our hands to show us direction guide and offer the much needed training, emotional and moral support that led to the birth of BAK.

Partners and funding

BAK so far has been funded by donations from institutional partners and membership fees from individual members. The main contributors have been County Government of Marsabit; National Museums of Kenya; Maseno and Kenyatta University; Shaurimoyo primary school.

Future projects, goals, collaborations

1. BAK hopes to bring on board the National Cohesion and Integration Commission of Kenya and Machakos University.
2. BAK is toying with the idea of hosting an experts’ seminar in 2018 subject to availability of funds
3. Seeking partnership through an MOU with any interested partners from the international community

Compiled as received from partner teams



Mildred Ayere, President, Bridging Ages Kenya.