



Bridging Ages, International Organization in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels Annual Report 2013

Board

- President: Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden
- Vice President: Annina Ylikoski, Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK, Finland Secretary: Eugenia Bolognesi, Association Palatina-Istanbul, Rome, Italy
- Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, USA
- Agrita Ozola, Tukums Museum, Latvia
- Ebru Iltenmis, Manisa Municipality, Turkey
- Terry Swanson, Gibbs Museum, Minnesota, USA
- Louis Marais, Bridging Ages South Africa/Western Cape
- Tiia Mets, Tallinn University

Office

Kalmar County Museum, Sweden

Committees

Nomination committee: Agrita Ozola, Louis Marais

Newsletter/ website committee: Helen Eklund, Annina Ylikoski

Conference committee: Jon Hunner, Ebbe Westergren, Agrita Ozola and others for the Las Cruces conference

Funding committee:

Board meetings

Skype: 30 January, 22 March, 26 June, 27 August, 12 November

Board meeting in Las Cruces: 16 April

Newsletters

Three Newsletters have been published, each of them eight pages, May, September and December

Bridging Ages International Conference at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, USA 15-18 April 2013 (excursion 19 April)

Host and local organizer: New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum and New Mexico State University, Department of History, Professor Jon Hunner

Theme: Crossroads in History

15 April: Welcome reception at NMSU College of Arts and Sciences

16-18 conference venue: New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. There were more than 20 sessions with 1-4 presentations at each session, some of them more of panel

discussions. Key Note Speaker: Dr Dwight Pitcaithley “Confronting Controversy in the US National Parks”. 17 April, afternoon, a field trip to Mesilla with historical dramas and museums. 18 April, Congress of Bridging Ages in the morning. The rest of the day focused on the Time Travel, first preparations, then the Time Travel to 1912 at Fort Seldon. The Time Travel was opened also for delegates of a conference for public historians in New Mexico and Arizona. 19 April, excursion, mainly with the foreign delegates including the historical town Lincoln and Billy the Kid, Petroglyphs and White Sands
About 80 delegates from nine countries and twelve US states at the conference

E-mailing list

About 450 persons are on the e-mailing list, from 22 countries on 4 continents: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland, Poland, England, Wales, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Serbia, Turkey, USA, Nicaragua, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa.

Literature

This place has meaning. Case studies of Time Travels and Historic environment Education, South Africa 2006-2010. Third edition

Five books in English and Afrikaans on stories from the elderly and one book on old recipes and stories was published within a project on elderly care and heritage between Cape Winelands, South Africa and Kalmar County, Sweden

Guideline for Time Travels and Historic Environment Education in Ostrobothnia, Finland, published by BARK

Comments

Bridging Ages continues to grow slowly as an organization. 16000 students and adults took part in Time Travel programs all over the world, the main part in Finland, South Africa, USA and Sweden, an increase of four thousand from the year before. From the start in 1985 more than 160 000 persons have taken part in Time Travels. In 2013 about 4000 adults participated in trainings, seminars and workshops.

Although the organization is growing there is a need for sustainable structures of HEE and Time Travels in many of the countries. The three-year plan 2012-2014 emphasizes sustainability, training courses, common projects and funding.

The International conference in New Mexico was a success and an inspiration for many. The program was very comprehensive with several parallel sessions and also common gatherings, Time Travels and excursions.

22 January 2014

The Bridging Ages board

Ebbe Westergren

Reports from participating countries and institutions

The Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK, Finland

Annina Ylikoski

In 2013, BARK did about 80 Time Travels on 14 different topics. The Time Travels were made across the region of Ostrobothnia and about 2600 children of the ages 5 – 18 years took part. BARK also did inspirational days about TT and Historic Environment Education in Helsinki and Iisalmi in the eastern part of Finland.

The themes of the Time Travels were for example; emigration, the civil war of 1918, the Home Front 1943, the fire of Vasa in 1852 and a day in court 1927. The TT was made together with museums, local heritage associations, libraries and archives across Ostrobothnia.

BARK also did collaboration with Åbo Akademi University and University of Applied Sciences in Vasa. With the University of Applied Sciences, the collaboration was with drama education students, who did a Theater in Education-performance with a historical theme. The performances were about the witch hunt in the 17th century and life in a 19th century mental hospital. About 500 8th graders saw the performance.

BARK published a guideline on Time Travels and Historic Environment Education which was distributed to all 175 schools in the area. Also all museums, local heritage associations and libraries got the guideline to be inspired by. The book can also be found online. In Finland, Time Travels were also made in different projects in the Kimito, Pargas and Helsinki.

6 persons from the Finnish Bridging Ages Network took part in the Bridging Ages conference in New Mexico.

Estonia

Pille Rohtla

In 2013 Tallinn City Museum made Time Travel events together with Vanalinna Hariduskollegium, old partner for this kind of events. Presentations about Time Travel methods were made for Rakvere museum and Rannarahva museum in Tallinn and for schools as an introduction for time travels in 2014.

In the beginning of 2013 plans were made by Tallinn City Museum pedagogues for possible summer-events in several museum branches and during medieval days in Tallinn. They had some meetings, also meeting with Riina Hein about possibilities for European projects. But because Tallinn City Museum made big changes, from spring they had a new director, this year plans were not possible to put into practise.

There were time travels in Tallinn into the year 1928 in February 2013; A visit to the Estonian writer Eduard Vilde, in cooperation with the Eduard Vilde House Museum. 1928 was a very interesting year in Estonia and this time travel gave lots of new ideas for the museum.

Information from Tartu City Museum by Kaari Siemer: In 2013 we took part in Grundtvig Learning Partnerships project „*Historical Environmental Education: 'A Place and its Story'*“ preparations. Unfortunately Estonian part of the project could not get financial support. In 2013 we also started to prepare the new project "Applied History“ leading to an application for the Creative Europe program in 2014 with ten countries involved. The main topic for us is probably integration of Estonians and foreigners in Tartu.

Bridging Ages Western Cape, South Africa

Louis Marais, Coordinator

Funders

Western Cape Department of Social Development (Intergenerational Project)
Cape Winelands District Municipality (More Living – Active Age Project and selected Time Travels)

Time Travels

25 historical role-plays with 1399 participants from various Service Centres for the Elderly, schools, museum staff and Cape Nature officials.

More Living- Active Age project

Collaboration between Cape Winelands District Municipality (South Africa) and Kalmar Regional Council (Sweden) to empower the Elderly. BA WC was a service provider in the project.

5 Service Centre staff members from the Cape Winelands were trained in Sweden.

9 Service Centres from Cape Winelands participated. End result was 2 Time Travels and 5 Booklets written by the elderly. Project concluded with the More Living Celebration in Worcester on 30 October 2013 with more than 600 elderly participating.

Landscape Education

In partnership with Kalmar Lans Museum and CapeNature. The first Time Travels in nature reserves (Knersvlakte and Klipgat Cave) with the focus on the human impact on the environment.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between BA WC, Kalmar Lans Museum and CapeNature towards future cooperation.

Training and Capacity Building

- Study Circle workshops, 10 Service Centres benefitted
- Oral History Research workshops, 9 service Centres received training
- Time Travel workshops, For Service Centres and a group of 7 from Port Shepstone (KZN). Focus on the Time Travels methodology, scenario writing and leading Time Travels.

Bridging Ages South Africa (BA SA)

- Two Western Cape members are serving on the BA SA Board (Brenda Matsau as Deputy Chairperson and Andy Peterson as Secretary)

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Port Shepstone Twinning Association, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

PSTA, under the lead of Gulshera Khan, has been very active 2013 with funding from the National Lottery for Time Travels. They have organized 20 Time Travels with thousands of participants, trained 6 Time Travel leaders and 20 activity leaders and given job opportunities for many.

KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, North West, South Africa

Trainings and Time Travels have been organized by KZN Museum Service, Hector Pieteron/Kliptown Museum and by the Time Travel group in Ikageng, Potchefstroom, most of them (but not all) together with Kalmar läns museum.

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA

Dr. Jon Hunner

It has been one year since the Bridging Ages conference was here and we want to thank once again all the people who came from around the world to participate. Since then, we have completed the New Mexico State University Time Travel course where 200 students when we returned to 1912. We also have presented to various schools and organizations around New Mexico about Time Travel and Historic Environment Education including appearances on several radio programs, and conducted a one day workshop on living history with the Heritage Square Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. The N.M. Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum continues to incorporate living history into their programming through “Ghosts of the Past” and in tours to school and adult groups.

Kalmar läns museum/ Bridging Ages, Sweden

Ebbe Westergren

Kalmar läns museum is the head office for Bridging Ages International, administration, website, newsletter

The Educational Department at the museum made 209 activities with 12367 people across the county: Time Travels, school programs, trainings, regional development and cultural tourism. 66 Time Travels have been organized with 4228 pupils in schools in all the 12 municipalities. The “Creative School” programs have given new opportunities.

Regional projects, examples:

Science and technology in a gender perspective in education, Västervik municipality; Crime and Punishment at Kalmar Castle; Emigration; Civil Courage; OnSpot Story; the Viking Age in Köpingsvik, Öland; Questions of Life and Faith with the Church of Sweden

Kalmar läns museum is leading a regional three-year project on Health and Culture

The Costume Studio has produced a series of new clothing, cleaned and packed thousands of clothes. Also a lot of new props have been produced and handled in the Time Travel programs.

Eketorp, the reconstructed Iron Age and Middle Age fort on southern Öland had 30 300 visitors from May to early September, quite many school classes especially in May.

The first international on-line course in Historic Environment Education, 15 credits, was held at Linnaeus University in Kalmar.

An international seminar on Landscape Education was held in Öland, Sweden in June.

Kalmar läns museum has been working on international joint projects on Historic Environment Education and Time Travels in and together with the following countries: Finland and USA, New Mexico: Living in two worlds, immigration and integration Lithuania, Klaipeda district – CreatLearn, aesthetic learning and Time Travels, more partners in Denmark, Germany and Sweden, South Baltic Program, Serbia, Belgrade and Kragujevac – Tolerance issues through local history education, C 31 organization for Children's Rights, Fund B 92 Media Company, Swedish Institute Finland, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Ireland and Iceland: A Place and its Story; Grundtvig Adult Learning Program Uganda, Entebbe – Sites and Stories, ICLD/ Sida Kenya – Mathematics in the Historic Environment, Linnaeus Palme Project South Africa – Cape Winelands, More Living-Active Age, elderly care and heritage, ICLD/Sida; Western Cape, Landscape Education, Cape Nature; KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and North West: Time Travel trainings and events

There have been 89 different arrangements outside Sweden, including training courses, workshops, presentations, conferences and Time Travels, with in total 4746 persons. Six different groups from abroad have been in the Kalmar region for capacity building and seminars, normally one week per group.

Kalmar läns museum signed an agreement on cooperation, Memorandum of Understanding, with Cape Nature and Bridging Ages Western Cape, South Africa and another MoU with National Museums of Kenya. The MoUs are focused on Landscape Education and Historic Environment Education.

Other countries doing Time Travels in 2013 within the Bridging Ages organization:

Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, Serbia, Turkey, Kenya, Uganda