

European Capital of Culture Oulu2026



Oulu2026
European Capital
of Culture



Now is the time to get excited!

- **Finnish culture is in the European Spotlight in 2026**
- **In addition to Oulu, 39 municipalities** from Northern Ostrobothnia, Kainuu, Southern Lapland, and Northern Savonia are committed to cultural climate change
- Joint projects for the program area:
 - **Arctic Foodlab**
 - **Art & Nature Trails**
 - **In Europe's Spotlight**





Oulu
2026

Cultural Climate Change

has begun





Brave Hinterland

Northern dimension,
arctic nature, Sami
culture



Wild City

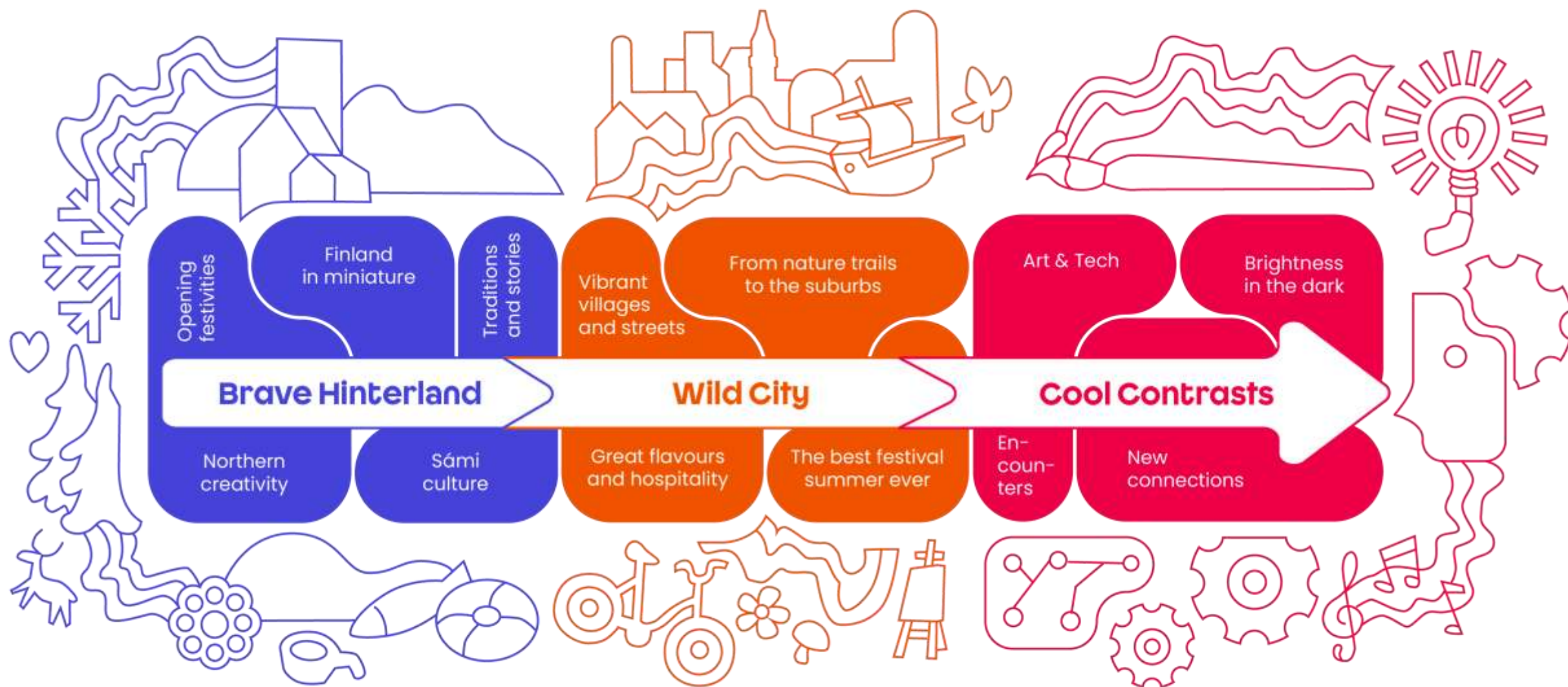
Urban culture, Community,
Festivals, Arctic Food
Culture



Cool Contrasts

Art & Tech, Media and
light art

365 days of exciting events, works of art and experiences



Budget 2021–27

€50 M

→ 2 million
event visits
→ 20% increase in
the number of
tourists

Finland
celebrates
European
Capital of
Culture
year 2026

Oulu + 39
municipalities +
hundreds of partners
all over the Europe

European visibility
for Finnish culture

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VISUAL ARTS & EXHIBITIONS

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2026

Fotografiska Tallinn at Oulu2026 Exhibition Center

- Fotografiska Tallinn produces a brand-new exhibition for **Oulu2026 Exhibition Center** in Pekuri Shopping Mall
- **The exhibition is inspired by the theme of Cultural Climate Change.**
- Fotografiska exhibition is a **destination to discover world class photography in Oulu** during 2026.

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/programme/culture-programme/fotografiska-tallinn-x-oulu2026/>

Info:

- The exhibition is open Mon–Fri 11 am – 7 pm, Sat 11 am – 7 pm, and Sun 11 am – 6 pm. Closed on public holidays.
- Inquiries and group reservations: bookings@oulu2026.eu
- Tickets for groups €12 per person, free for the tour leader



City hall exhibitions: Layers in the Peace Machine and Media Art from Kiasma

Oulu City Hall transforms into a center for media art. Two special exhibitions can be experienced there.

- **Layers in The Peace Machine** is an immersive and multidisciplinary media-installation, entangling technology and art.
<https://oulu2026.eu/en/programme/culture-programme/layers-in-the-peace-machine/>
- **Media Art from Kiasma** presents a selection of video works in which music and sound are integral to the atmosphere and narrative. The video works spread out into the space through sound, making the experience multi-sensory
<https://oulu2026.eu/en/programme/culture-programme/media-art-from-kiasma/>

Info:

-Free entrance

-Opening hours: Tue–Fri 1 pm – 7 pm and Sat–Sun 11 am – 5 pm. Closed on Mondays and public holidays.

-Changes are possible; groups must arrange their visit in advance.

-Inquiries and group reservations: bookings@oulu2026.eu



Climate Clock

13.6.2016 ->

Artworks created by world-leading international and Finnish artists will create a permanent 200km art route around Oulu. This route links the region's most interesting destinations to world-class art.

Climate Clock is one of the most significant productions of the Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture year, where art intertwines with the theme of climate change, and global warming in Northern Finland.

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/programme/culture-programme/climate-clock/>





Permanent artwork commissions:

Oulu City - [Rana Begum](#) (UK)

Haukipudas - [Superflex](#) (Denmark)

Yli-Ii - [Ranti Bam](#) (Nigeria/UK)

Ylikiminki - [Takahiro Iwasaki](#) (Japan)

Oulunsalo - [Gabriel Kuri](#) (Mexico)

Kiiminki - [Antti Laitinen](#) (Finland)

Info

Free entrance

Inquiries about guided tours and packages:

info@goarctic.fi

+358 841527770

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2026



Underground Clash

18.9.-22.11.2026

Danish Jakob Kudsk Steensen is an artist and 'digital gardener' working with environmental storytelling through 3D animation, spatial sound and enveloping installations.

Jakob brings together physical, virtual, real and imagined landscapes in mixed reality, focusing on how humans, technology and natural environments connect. This all will happen underground at the heart of Oulu City Center.

Info

Price: 10€ free for the tour leader

Groups and Inquiries: bookings@oulu2026.eu



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Major events

16.-18.1.2026

Opening Festival

- **Oulu2026 Opening Festival in 16.-18.1.2026** Invites locals and all of Europe to join the celebration.
- This urban winter festival unveils the essence of Oulu2026, in a weather-proof way
- The vibrant festival area brings you to the heart of urban culture. The festival energy will spread throughout the city centre – there's something unique for everyone!

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/programme/culture-programme/oulu2026-opening-festival/>

Free entrance



Frozen People

28.2.2026

Frozen People is a **festival of electronic music and northern art on the ice of Nallikari Beach** in Oulu.

The frozen sea provides the brutal and unique arctic conditions for the world's most chilling dances and art experiences.

<https://urbanculture.fi/en/frozenpeople>

Info:

Free entrance

Contact: heikki@urbanculture.fi



AUGUST 2026



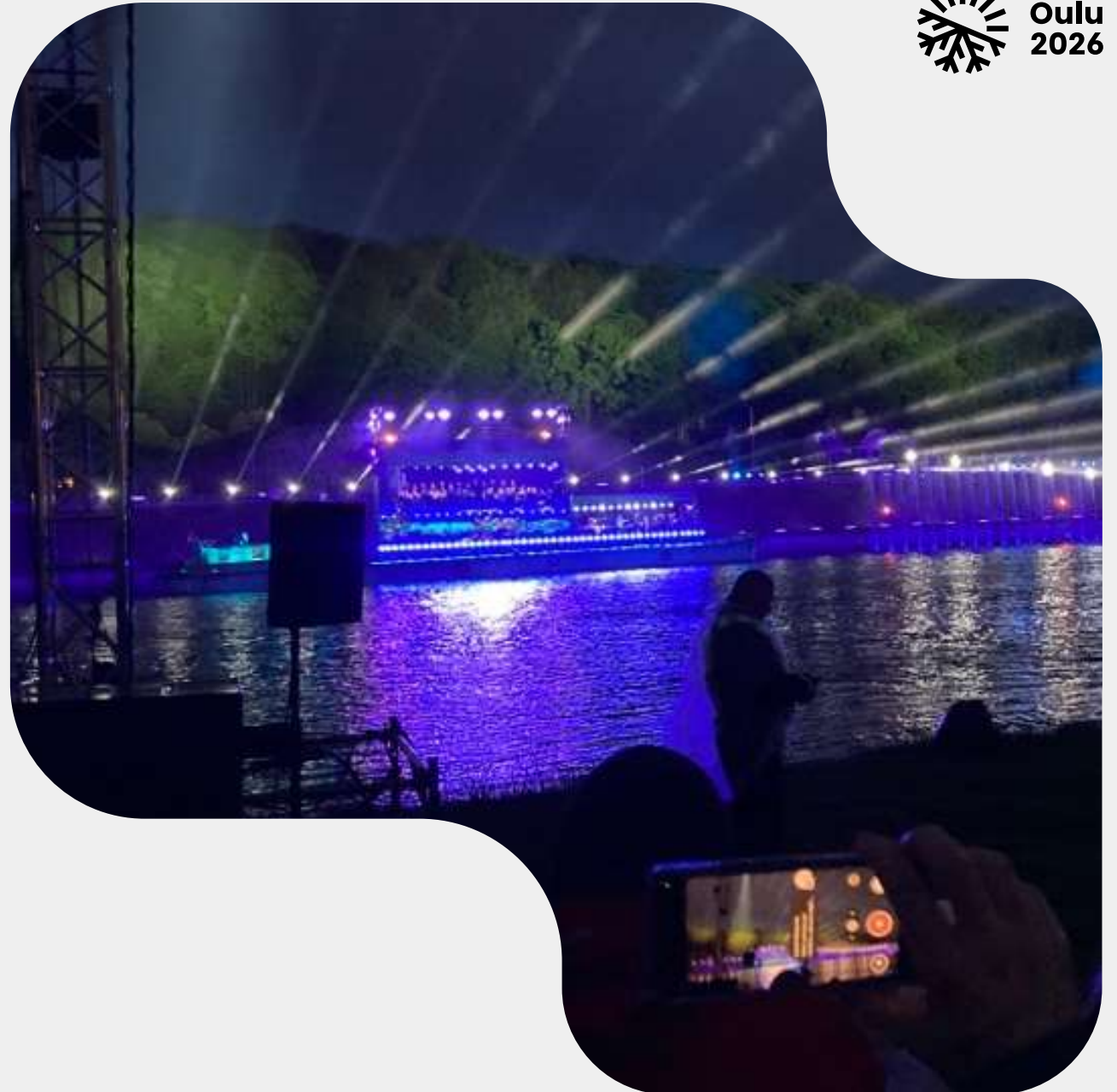
Delta Life 28.-29.8.2026

Delta Life is a journey along waterways. Along the Oulu riverfront there will be a series of immersive performances - expect unexpected pop-up-performances, workshops and community gatherings.

The Delta Life project invites an international group of artists to explore time, place and stories with locals along the shores of the rivers of the Oulu region.

<https://www.deltalife.fi/en>

Free entrance



Christmas Musical The Snowball

- Oulu's European Capital of Culture year culminates with the world premiere of a major musical. The protagonist, Krista, is Santa's goddaughter and has lived in Santa's village, surrounded by Christmas magic, all her life. However, she has now started to crave adventure. At Christmas, an ancient spell is broken unexpectedly, revealing Santa's mysterious past. Krista must rise to the challenge and save Christmas for children around the world.
- The world premiere of *Snowball* will take place in Oulu Hall on 4 December 2026. Screenings in the 2,500-seat auditorium will continue until 19 December, with a total of 19 screenings.
- The musical will be performed in Finnish, with Swedish and English subtitles. Group ticket sales start on 1 October 2025, followed by regular ticket sales on 2 February 2026.

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/snowball-musical/>

Info:

Price categories: 29-79€

Groups and inquiries: bookings@oulu2026.eu



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Sámi culture

Eanangiella – Voice of the Land

- A major exhibition of Sámi art and duodji explores the diversity, resilience and sustainability of Sámi culture.
- The sustainability and beauty of Sámi culture are highlighted in the large-scale exhibition taking over the Oulu Art Museum. The culture, the Sámi languages and spirituality are still alive after 400 years of colonialism. Strong ties connect people to their own culture and, in the case of indigenous people, to their lands.

<https://ouluntaidemuseo.fi/en/exhibition/eanangiella-voice-of-the-land/>

Info

-Opening hours: Tue–Thu 9 am – 6 pm, Fri 11 am – 7 pm, Sat–Sun 11 am – 5 pm. Closed on Mondays and public holidays.

-Basic fee 10€ / person

-Groups and inquiries: info.taidemuseo@ouka.fi



Ovllá

An opera about the search for roots and the state-led oppression of the Sámi people.

- World premiere on the main stage of Oulu Theatre 16.1.2026 and last one 28.2.2026
 - 20 shows
- Production: Oulu Theatre, Oulu Symphony and the Sámi National Theatre Beaivváš in cooperation with Oulu2026
- Tickets:
 - A: 93 € / 88 € / 79 €
 - B: 88 € / 83 € / 75 €
 - C: 83 € / 78 € / 71 €

Groups and inquiries:
myyntipalvelu@oulunteatteri.fi



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Festivals in the region

SUMMER – AUTUMN 2025 AND 2026



Best Festivals in Europe

This program showcases the inviting all Europeans to join our northern festivals.

These events range from veteran machinery days to musical experiences, and from poetry weeks to film festivals held in the dim light of an old locomotive hall.

The events encapsulate the magic of our northern region and reflect the Cultural Climate Change throughout the Oulu2026 region.

Check out more:

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/programme/culture-programme/in-europes-spotlight/>



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Art, Nature & Arctic Food

JANUARY 2026 -



Art & Nature Trails

Explore Oulu2026 region!

There are a multitude of Art & Nature Trails in the Oulu2026 area for visitors to slowly wander, discovering along the way glorious nature sites, cultural and historical locations and areas and original events.

[Journey to Discovery in Art](#) Rokua

[Sanginkontu Art Trail](#) Oulu

[Walking Withing the Frame](#) Oulu

[Art Linnakallio Symposium](#) Kempele, from August 2026



Arctic Food Lab

Local flavours and gastronomic experiences!

Arctic Food Lab brings together those operating in gastronomy and food culture in the Oulu region and celebrates Northern cuisine and gastronomy.

- A registered Trade Mark
- Network of professionals and companies
- Food events & local food in cultural events

[Website: Arctic Food Lab - Oulu2026](#)
[How does Oulu taste like? -video](#)



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Art & Tech

Lumo – Art & Tech Festival

13.-22.11.2026

The City of Oulu is a member of Unesco Creative Cities 2023 – Media Arts network

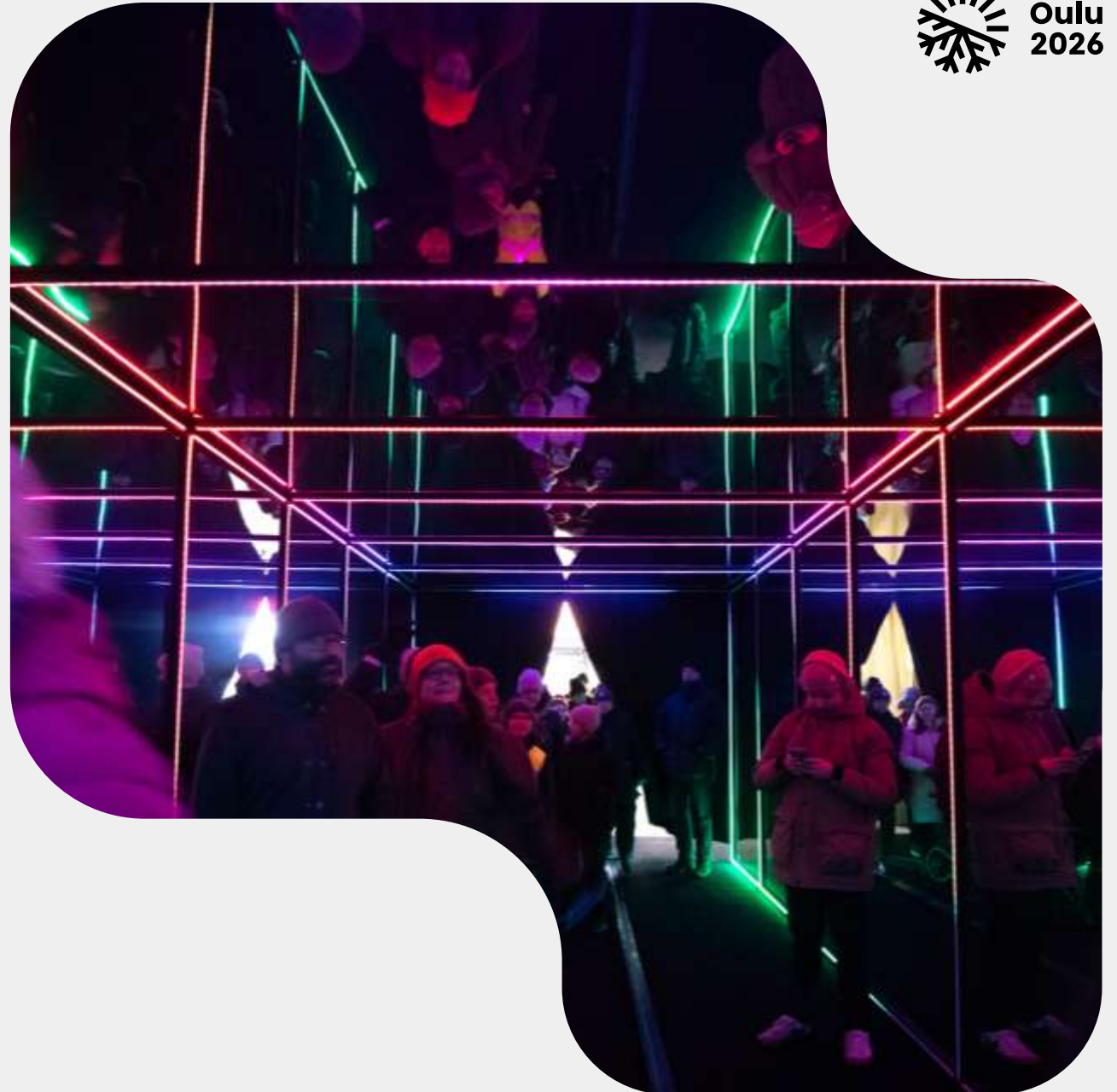
The international Art & Tech Festival will showcase new innovations combining art and technology.

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/programme/culture-programme/lumo-art-tech/>

Info:

-Free Entrance + ticketed events

Inquiries: bookings@oulu2026.eu



Festival highlights

- **Beyond the Sky**

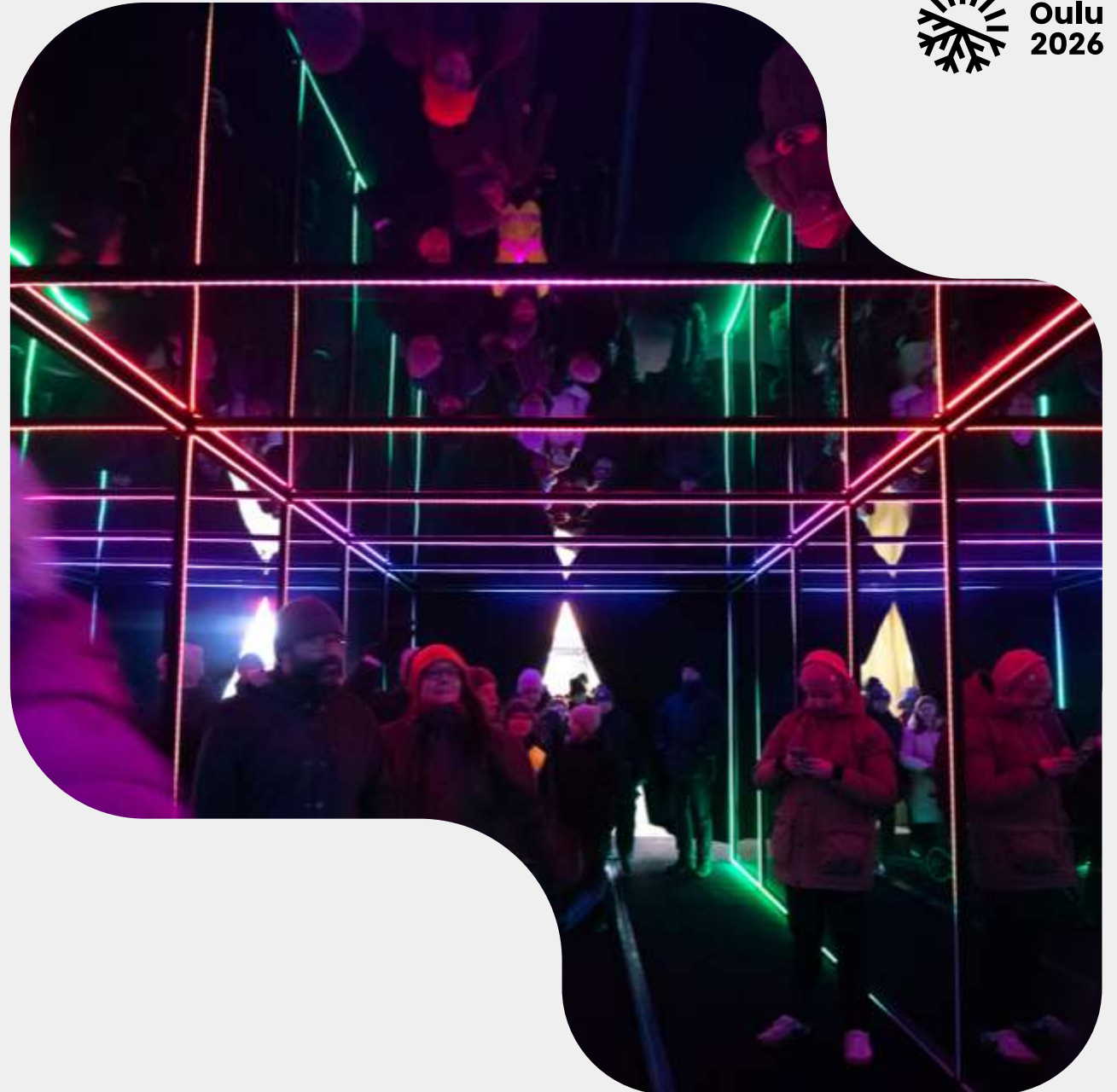
Beyond the Sky is an innovative work blending art, science, and technology, bringing distant nebulae within reach. Inspired by the life's work of Oulu-based astrophotographer Jukka-Pekka Metsävainio, the piece is elevated by music by Lauri Porra.

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/culture-programme/beyond-the-sky/>

- **Aurora Revelare**

Step into the magical spectacle of the northern night! Aurora Revelare invites you into a vivid dance of light, where science and stories meet.

<https://oulu2026.eu/en/culture-programme/aurora-revelare-dancing-lights-of-the-sky/>



Let's keep in touch!

→ www.oulu2026.eu

→ info@oulu2026.eu

 [oulu2026official](https://www.instagram.com/oulu2026official)

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Pohjolan OP  KALEVAMEDIA 

