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Startup Time Plan		
Open House	January 29, 2016	January 31, 2016
Applications	March 1, 2016	December 28, 2016
Sign Preliminary Contract with Renters	October 1, 2016	October 22, 2016
Contract Sign Due Date (option not to rent 5th floor)	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2016
Digital Infrastructure Development	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2017
Gallery Programming for First Year	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2017
Khib Moves Out	September 1, 2017	September 1, 2017
Rebuild Space	September 1, 2017	November 30, 2017
Move in Date For Artists	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2017

Introduction

Centralize Bergen is a large plan for centralizing and professionalizing production facilities and working conditions for the cultural field in this region. The project takes place in Bergen city center at C.Sundtsgate 55 and is also an initiative to ensure the presence of working artists in the city center. A lot of the resources needed to realize this project are already in place. The initiators of this project is Cameron MacLeod and Magnhild Øen Nordahl and are presented in the document "initiators"

Place and Opportunity

In the end of 2017 Kunst- og designhøgskolen i Bergen (Khib) will move to their new facilities in the North end of Bergen and will leave 1700 sqm of rentable space in C.Sundtsgate 55. We now have the opportunity both to take over their locales as well as their used equipment. Presently the building is also shared with the studio collective Kunstnerverksteder CS55 and Bergen Centre for Electronic Arts (BEK). We currently have obtained the "right to contract" from the landlord Grane Eiendom on this vacant space. Over these 4 floors we plan to develop an art gallery, a professional quality workshop and artist studios to accommodate approximately 50 artists. Our goal is to develop a robust infrastructure where we collaborate and share resources with BEK and Kunstnerverksteder cs55, so that the three organizations sharing one house together can function as a resource center for the cultural field of the whole region.

A New Studio Collective

This new studio collective will fulfill the Fylkeskommune programme points as it B) will be a platform for dialogue, networking, collaboration, competency exchange, it will create synergy effects, and C) provides an infrastructure and working facilities needed to make work of a high artistic quality, it will contribute to the development of the art scene in the region and it will be visible.

3 of the floors that we take over will be turned into artist studios. See the document "construction and development" for building plans. Our primary objective is to support studios for contemporary artists but we will also include a few practitioners from outside the visual art field in order to leverage a level of multidisciplinary collaboration in the building. For instance Borealis festival for experimental music has expressed interest in renting one of the spaces. We have had an "open house" in december 2016 to survey interest of potential tenants, resulting in over 30 people signing up for only one of the 3 floors. We are also in dialogue with other studio collectives in Bergen about them moving into this house. Most of the existing collectives don't have a long term lease like we do (10 years), and the studios are in general much smaller and without the type of facilities that we will provide.



Image showing one of the spaces on the 6th floor which will be turned into an artist studio

A New Workshop for Woodwork and Mechanics

This new workshop will adhere to Fylkeskommunens programme points as it B) is a development of a platform for dialogue, networking and collaboration, it will create synergy effects, it will strengthen production capacity of other arts institutions in the region and C) will contribute to a development and professionalization of the art field in the county.

The need for a large scale communal workshop in the region

At the moment there is a critical need for improving facilities for working with wood and metal in Bergen and the county. The contemporary art field is well covered in other production areas with BEK for video work/electronic art, Trykkeriet for printmaking, Flaggfabrikken for photography, S12 for glass and so on. When it comes to wood and metal work the artists in this region have two options - either to buy a minimum of tools themselves and make mini-workshops or try to sneak into the premises of the art school. Neither of these give adequate means to work in a professional way. Professional grade workshop facilities are also needed for the many arts institutions in Bergen who today are limited to their "basement workshops" and for the many designers who graduate from KHIB without anywhere to make their things after graduation. Such a workshop will make it more attractive to pursue a career both as an artist and as a designer in this region. Please see the "letters of support" where various professionals and institutions are expressing their support of such a workshop being built.

Ideal locations

The ground floor of the building C.Sundtsgate 55 is an ideal location for such facilities. It is large enough for both wood and metal and it has easy access with large gates opening up into the space for transport of materials and large scale artworks. With its central location in the city it is also easily accessible, and we consider that we are lucky to find a central building with a square meter price under 1000 NOK/year.

Donation of equipment from KHIB

We are in the lucky and unique situation that KHIB are moving to new premises and will not bring any used machines, interior or equipment, so we can more or less move all of this straight into our new workshop. Much of this is donated and much of it we will get for a very good price. Some of the donated equipment is both new and expensive, for instance the geovent air filtration system for metal work was new in 2015 and cost 1.000.000 NOK. Attached to this application is a document called "quotes, tenders and donations" which describes in more detail our agreements with our sponsors and suppliers.

The organizing and running of the workshop

The workshop will be open for a multitude of different users, but focused mainly on supporting contemporary art and culture in the region. It will operate with prices that are different for commercial and non-commercial projects. This means that when for instance an architect company wants to rent the workshop to build a model, they will help subsidise an artists use of the workshop. We are in dialogue with Fellesverkstedet in Oslo to learn from their experiences in finding good operation models. The workshop will be run by a workshop manager and a workshop assistant. To begin with we estimate this position to a 130% position which will possibly increase when the workshop gets more users. It is also a goal that the staff can take on commissions and assist in large scale productions, for instance for art in public space. More information about the staff positions can be found in the commentary section of the budget.

Synergies

The workshop will become a meeting place for producers within different parts of the cultural field. One example of a synergy that we are excited to explore is a connection between our workshop and the workshops and facilities of BEK. Today BEK provides open access to a variety of electronic equipment and tools where artists today can build their own electronics. Supplementing these tools with mechanics, the range of what can be built will be expanded dramatically, for instance one can start building drones, robots and more.



Images of some of the equipment we have received as donations for the workshop

A New Gallery Space

The gallery space will directly import the strategies and infrastructure from the Platform Stockholm gallery which runs two separate exhibition series; Evening Standard and Curatron. *These exhibition series fit well with Fylkeskommunen programme points A) because it employs a fresh approach to reaching an audience and B) makes use of Curatron which is a platform for dialogue, networking and collaboration and C) provides events of high artistic quality, develops artistic activity in the county and is highly visible.* Curatron and Evening Standard are projects that have successfully met these goals during the time they have been in use in Platform, something which opens up a new realm of possibilities for us within a safe frame.

“Evening Standard is an experimental exhibition series that engages the party as a working medium. These events are generally collaborative projects where a group or a single artist are chosen by a Curator, then define a party theme and collaborate on the final result.”

Evening Standard is a sustainable model where the exhibition is subsidized by the attending party goers. Beer sales pay for the staff consisting 100% of artists, the payment of artist and production, rental of the space and administrative fees. It is also an experimental method that allows the artist to work outside the traditional boundaries that he/she would normally have access to and also provides a large amount of visibility for the exhibiting artists. (usually an Evening Standard has around 500 attendees) It is a way to engage with a public that may not normally attend art exhibitions and increase interest in the arts by an outside audience.

Evening Standard requires large fridges and professional speaker systems which can we may receive as well from KHib when they move out. For more information about Evening Standard see the attached “Platform” document.

Curatron is an alternative strategy for exhibition production. Curatron as a project has received international attention with articles being published in various international press, for instance Kunstkritikk and Huffington Post. This has brought much international attention to the Platform Gallery but it has also increased the users in the system. Over 4300 artists have applied to the system and we currently have the highest amount of internet traffic of any art institution in Bergen including KODE. With more users the probability of receiving profile artists through the selection process and these shows in turn create more visibility for our gallery and institution. For more information about the Curatron software system see the attached Curatron document.

These two exhibition series build synergies between them. Evening Standard promotes on the local level producing exhibitions with high numbers of local attendance and Curatron creates the international visibility. Evening Standard drives local attendance for Curatron events and Curatron drives international attention for Evening Standard events.

In addition to the Platform Stockholm program there will also be added synergies to the Gallery through the connection to BEK and the workshop as our artists will have a greater production capacity. The gallery will not require installation tools as well as these can be borrowed from the workshop. The Flaggfabrikken printer lab will give our artists access to printing if needed and professional framing will be able to be done by Tom Kosmo who presently has a frame building workshop in Kunstnerverksteder CS55.



Organization Structure

The organization will be run by Cameron MacLeod in a 100% position with other staff positions at administrative assistant, accountant, programmer, workshop manager and workshop assistant. These positions and their salaries are described in the budget and comments document. The structure of this new institution will be loosely based on a hybrid of Kunstnerverksteder CS55, Flaggfabrikken and Platform Stockholm infrastructure. Please see further down in this document for explanations on the involved parties and their individual roles. As a legal entity Flaggfabrikken will take immediate responsibility for the start up of the project, but a new organization is in development in order to manage the dramatic increase of members. Kunstnerverksteder CS55 has much of the physical infrastructure in place which we will borrow from. For example we will use their floor plans as a model when we build our own studios and we will try to follow a similar economic model when it comes to covering of rental costs. This would ensure that our studios remain at the same price as those in Kunstnerverksteder CS55 and allow us to further share parts of our administrative structure. Platforms model will provide the innovative and robust administrative structure to support the large institution. The Platform infrastructure also forms the conceptual drive in the centralization project.

Digital infrastructure - Curatron, Art Engine, Smart Devices

As a response to the infrastructural needs that has occurred when starting up and running Platform Stockholm, Cameron MacLeod has developed two types of digital infrastructure, namely the software Curatron and the software Art Engine. Curatron is used to select artists for exhibitions or residencies, and Art Engine is a software which can run websites, control administration workflows and collect all administrative tasks into one overarching system tailored to fit a medium sized arts institution. Please see separate documents on curatron and ArtEngine for more information. Similar types of digital infrastructure is usually in place in larger institutions and businesses, but as the artist traditionally has been working alone this is an area which has not been given a lot of attention. This has often resulted in many inefficient organizations where much work is put into doing things in an old fashioned way, preventing us from reaching the potential our practice can have both as individuals and institutions. Digital infrastructure can free the artists and arts institutions from doing unnecessary, time consuming and irrelevant work and lead to an increase in professionalization and improve our working conditions. Centralize Bergen will receive and implement the Curatron and ArtEngine software, and further develop ArtEngine by connecting it to smart devices in the building. We will use smart devices for the following things:

- 3 Phase Outlet smart devices will be used to provide access to the heavy equipment in the workshops and monitor the power consumption. This reduces risk of person injuries, damage on equipment and fire in the workshop.
- Wireless Locks will be used to give people access to different areas of the building
- Smart Heater power monitoring of power usage and remote control of heating.
- Tile trackers can be put on tools that are not fixed in place. Alerts will be created if the tools leave the building and can be easily tracked down. The usage of such tools can also be monitored based on how often they are used.

In addition dropping administrative costs, digital infrastructure can also become extremely interesting as a political model when it is implemented in artistic institutions. Crowd-sourcing administrative duties is a way to decrease hierarchies and give members fast immediate control over their shared infrastructure or over the programming of exhibitions. *The way that digital infrastructure is used in Centralize Bergen corresponds to Fylkeskommunens programme points B) in being a platform for dialogue, collaboration and competency exchange, it will through software development make synergy effects between this institution and other institutions which further will lead to strengthening the organizers capacity, and it C) provides an infrastructure needed to make art of high quality and also making this art visible through for instance the Art Engine websites. Curatron and ArtEngine are also examples of artistic entrepeneuring.*

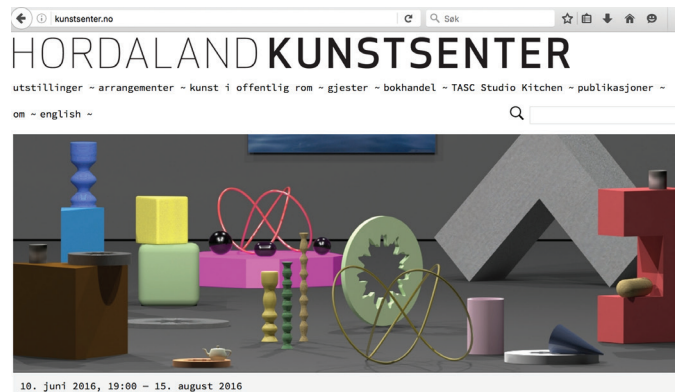
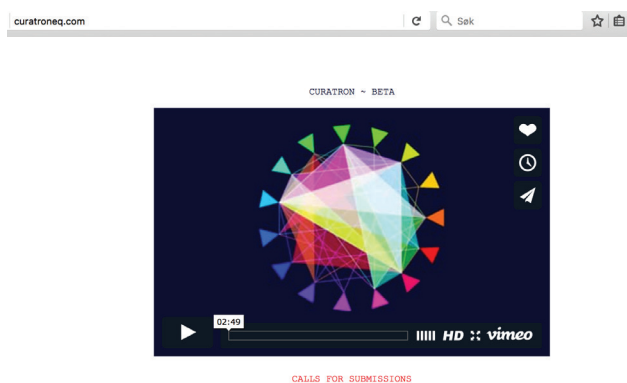


Image on the left showing the Curatron application portal, and on the right one of the webpages built using ArtEngine

Collaborating Institutions

Flaggfabrikken

Flaggfabrikken is one of the oldest studio collectives in Bergen and the legally responsible institution of the project in its initial stages. Cameron MacLeod is the director of Flaggfabrikken. Flaggfabrikken is using the Curatron software to select artists for their residency programme, and the Art Engine software to run their website. Flaggfabrikken also has a printlab which together with the residency programme will be imported into the Centralize Bergen Project. More information at Flaggfabrikken.net.

Platform Stockholm

Platform Stockholm is one of Scandinavia's largest studio collective is run by and initiated by Cameron MacLeod. It will both function as a model to build our new institution as well as be one of our most important collaborators. Platform has been the main investor in the development of the Curatron and Art Engine project, two systems that have developed in response to the needs of an arts organization of this type. One example of a system we will adapt from Platform is that every tenant is invited into a net-based voting system for making practical decisions, for instance on which new members should be admitted into the collective. More information at www.platformstockholm.com

Kunstnerverksteder cs55

Kunstnerverksteder cs55 is an artist collective established in 1999 and is currently renting 4 floors of the building where our project takes place. Around 50 artists currently have their workplaces here. Kunstnerverksteder cs55 will be close collaborators and one of the main user groups of the workshop. They currently have a project space which they rent out to artists for shorter periods, something which could be very useful for instance for people who are working on long term projects in the workshop or to host artists in residence. Their board has expressed interest in sharing our software when we move into the building. See attached letter of support from board leader Karen Kipphoff. Magnhild Øen Nordahl has her studio today at Kunstnerverksteder cs55 and is represented in their board. More information at www.cs55.no

Bergen Senter for Elektronisk Kunst

Bergen Senter for Elektronisk Kunst (BEK) is a national resource centre for work within the field of arts and new technology and is situated at the top floor of the building in C.Sundtsgate 55. They will be a close collaborator for our project, for instance they will move their electronics workshop down into the metal workshop. With BEK located in the same house as this workshop, there will be a centralized production facility for culture in the region, where it is possible to come and make anything from large scale wood and metal works to technology based art. More information about BEK: <http://www.bek.no/>

Collaborators sharing and co-developing software: Hordaland Kunstsenter (NO), Nida Art Colony (LT), Fabriken Senter for Kunst og Design (DK), Rogaland Kunstsenter (NO) and Entreé (NO)

Hordaland Kunstsenter is one of the users of the Art Engine software. Attached to this application is a letter of support from director Anthea Buys. Nida Art Colony is a new subdivision of the Vilnius Academy of Arts and it runs a residency programme which is currently using Curatron to select artists. Other institutions currently using Curatron is Fabriken Senter for Kunst og Design, a studio collective and production central for arts in Copenhagen, Rogaland Kunstsenter and Entreé visningsrom in Bergen. More information on collaborators at: www.kunstsenter.no, <http://nidacolony.lt/en/colony>, <http://www.ffkd.dk/>, <http://www.rogalandkunstsenter.no/>, <http://www.entreebergen.no>

Supporting institutions

Many institutions in the cultural field shares our view on the need for a centralized work and production facility for art and culture in the region. Hordaland Kunstsenter, Bergen Assembly, Visp, BKFH and Bergen Kunsthall have expressed their support in letters which are attached to the application as "letters of support".



Some images from the Flaggfabrikken residency programme which will be transferred into the Centralize Bergen initiative. Left side image shows Christinegård Hovedgård which hosts the residents, and the center image shows an event organized by residents in september 2015. In the right side image some of the previous residents enjoying excursions into the norwegian fjords.