Stockholm is growing! The rapid increase in population sets high demands on expansion, but the city needs more than homes, streets and squares to develop. Cultural content gives life to the infrastructure, and joyful experiences to the residents.

What role does culture play in a changing city? This year’s culture report highlights two of the most important cultural and sociopolitical challenges.

- Cultural diversity and a coherent city – culture needs to reach new places and meet several needs of the Stockholm residents.
- Room for culture and creativity as the city grows – the rapid growth of Stockholm and its international attractiveness demands new venues and facilities for culture of different forms.

Looking back at 2015, the Culture Administration cooperates more with civil society organizations. The development of our institutions, activities and funding to independent culture is strong.

The Culture Administration continues to invest in children and young people. The Stockholm City Library’s focus on reading, contributed to an increase in book loans and more children could share the same reading experience. El Sistema, a music activity for children in socio-economic disadvantaged areas, continued to grow and reached almost 1,000 children. Stockholm School of the Arts increased the number of student places and fees were greatly reduced. The City Museum, exploring and documenting the history of the city, gathered stories from unaccompanied refugee children.

As newly appointed director I look forward to leading the Culture Administration in this interesting and challenging time.

Stockholm, May 2016

Robert Olsson
Director of the Stockholm Culture Administration
Facts and figures

The budget of the Culture Administration 2015 was SEK 864 million. Investments in the Stockholm School of the Arts created more student places, an extended range of courses and reached more children and young people in the outer city through reduced fees.

New funding to film production and screening was allocated for Stockholm to take a leading role in the film region Stockholm-Mälardalen.

In addition, investments were made for meeting-premises, libraries and reading, free admission to the city’s museums, reduced entrance fee to Liljevalchs Art Gallery and higher focus on gender equality and diversity.

Over a six year period between 2011 and 2016, overall funding for independent culture and association activities has increased by over SEK 43 million, or 27 percent.

The festivals Stockholm Culture Festival, We Are Sthlm (youth festival) and Stockholm Culture Night, set a new record with a total of 990,000 visits.

The Stockholm City Library had a total of more than 9.8 million visitors and 4 million loans.

Kista library became the winner of the international Public Library of the Year Award 2015.

High focus on reading resulted in increased visits by children in preschool by 8 percent. Children book loans increased by 6 percent.

Stockholm School of the Arts, the largest of its kind in Europe, increased the number of student places to 15,876 of which over 50 percent are music courses.

Liljevalchs Art Gallery had more than 168,000 visitors. 91,000 visited Vårsalongen (the Spring Exhibition) – again a new record.

The Medieval Museum increased the number of visitors by 60 percent to more than 153,000.