

PRESSEMEDDELELSE

Helsingør, 24. februar 2026

Bred politisk opbakning til Helsingørs ansøgning om Europæisk Kulturhovedstad 2032

Et stort flertal i Helsingør Byråd har i går aftes besluttet at afsætte midler til udarbejdelsen af en ansøgning om at blive Europæisk Kulturhovedstad i 2032.

Beslutningen indebærer finansiering af arbejdet med både prækvalifikationsansøgning og endelig ansøgning samt en økonomisk ramme til sekretariatsdrift i forbindelse med et eventuelt værtskab. Midlerne vedrører organisering og sekretariatsarbejde. Finansiering af program, aktiviteter og kunstnerisk indhold skal rejses gennem partnerskaber, fonde, statslige og europæiske midler samt privat engagement.

Med beslutningen indleder Helsingør formelt konkurrencen om at blive Danmarks kandidatby i 2032.

Formand for foreningen Elsinore 2032, Jens Frimann Hansen, udtaler:

“Vi vil gerne kvittere for den brede politiske opbakning. Det er en beslutning, der kræver både mod og strategisk overblik at prioritere et langsigtet udviklingsprojekt, hvor resultaterne først for alvor kan måles om flere år. Byrådet har vist, at man tager Helsingørs fremtid alvorligt.”

Han fortsætter:

“Det særlige ved Helsingørs kandidatur er, at det er vokset nedefra og går på tværs af sektorer. Det bliver altså ikke kun løftet af kultursektoren. Initiativet blev taget af borgere, kulturinstitutioner og erhvervsliv, før der forelå en politisk beslutning. Den brede lokale opbakning har givet os et bredt og dybt fundament. Nu trækker vi i arbejdstøjet.”

Foreningen Elsinore 2032 består i dag af mere end 100 individuelle medlemmer og 36 virksomheder og organisationer. Siden 2021 har foreningen arbejdet for at samle kommune, erhvervsliv, kulturinstitutioner og civilsamfund i et formaliseret partnerskab om kandidaturet.

Det kommende arbejde organiseres i et partnerskab mellem Helsingør Kommune og foreningen Elsinore 2032. Ansøgning om prækvalifikation skal indsendes senest 5. oktober 2026, hvorefter en videre proces frem mod endelig udpegning finder sted i 2027.

Uanset udfaldet vil er det foreningens ambition, at ansøgningsarbejdet styrker samarbejdet på tværs af sektorer og udvikler Helsingørs kulturelle og organisatoriske kapacitet.

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PRESS RELEASE

Helsingør, 24 February 2026

Broad political support for Elsinore's bid to become European Capital of Culture 2032

A large majority of Elsinore City Council decided last night to allocate funding for the preparation of an application to become European Capital of Culture in 2032.

The decision includes financing the preparation of both the pre-qualification bid and the final application, as well as establishing a financial framework for secretariat operations in connection with a potential host year. These funds are dedicated to organisation and administrative capacity. Financing the artistic programme, activities and content will be secured through partnerships, foundations, national and European funding, and private engagement.

With this decision, Helsingør formally enters the competition to become Denmark's candidate city in 2032.

Chair of the association Elsinore 2032, Jens Frimann Hansen, states:

“We would like to acknowledge the broad political support behind this decision. It takes both courage and strategic foresight to prioritise a long-term development project where the real results will only become visible in the years ahead. The City Council has demonstrated that it takes Helsingør's future seriously.”

He continues:

“What makes Elsinore's bid distinctive is that it has grown from the ground up and cuts across sectors. It is not driven by the cultural sector alone. The initiative was launched by citizens, cultural institutions and the business community before any political decision was made. This broad local backing has given us a solid. Now the real work begins.”

Today, Elsinore 2032 consists of more than 100 individual members and 36 companies and organisations. Since 2021, the association has worked to bring together the municipality, business community, cultural institutions and civil society in a formalised partnership around the bid.

The upcoming work will be organised as a partnership between Elsinore Municipality and Elsinore 2032. The pre-qualification application must be submitted no later than 5 October 2026, after which the further selection process towards final designation will take place in 2027.

Regardless of the outcome, it is the association's ambition that the application process will strengthen cross-sector collaboration and further develop Elsinore's cultural and organisational capacity.

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Fakta

European Capital of Culture er en titel, som EU hvert år uddeler til to medlemslande. En komité af eksperter udpeger blandt ansøgerne hvilken by, der skal indstilles til titlen.

Senest 5. oktober 2026 skal danske byer som ønsker at deltage i konkurrencen indlevere deres ansøgning om prækvalificering til Kulturministeriet.

En by kan arbejde sammen med andre byer i regionen om projektet, men titlen uddeles kun til én by.

København havde titlen i 1996 og Aarhus i 2017. Næste gang Danmark får titlen er i 2032, samtidig med Bulgarien.

Kiruna i Sverige har vundet titlen i 2029. Norge kunne som EØS-land deltage i 2024, hvor Bodø havde titlen. I 2026 har Oulu titlen i Finland og Trenčín i Slovakiet.

Foreningen Helsingør Europæisk Kulturhovedstad 2032 blev stiftet i 2021 med det formål at gøre Helsingør til kandidat til titlen i 2032.

Borgere, foreninger og virksomheder kan melde sig ind i foreningen. Helsingør Kommune har været medlem siden 2025.

Læs mere på www.elsinore2032.dk

Facts

The European Capital of Culture is a title awarded each year by the European Union to cities in two Member States. A panel of experts selects from among the applicants, which city will be recommended for the title.

No later than 5 October 2026, Danish cities wishing to take part in the competition must submit their pre-qualification application to the Ministry of Culture.

A city may collaborate with other cities in the region on the project, but the title is awarded to only one city.

Copenhagen held the title in 1996 and Aarhus in 2017. The next time Denmark will host the title is in 2032, alongside Bulgaria.

Kiruna in Sweden has been awarded the title for 2029. As an EEA country, Norway was eligible to participate in 2024, when Bodø held the title. In 2026, the title is held by Oulu in Finland and Trenčín in Slovakia.

The association Helsingør European Capital of Culture 2032 was founded in 2021 with the purpose of making Helsingør a candidate for the title in 2032.

Citizens, associations and companies can become members of the association. Helsingør Municipality has been a member since 2025.

Read more at www.elsinore2032.dk