



(C) Fredrik Nyberg, Liljevalchs



# Material storehouse

Nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed



(SE)



975,551

STOCKHOLM



Cultural heritage  
for sustainable development



## Challenge

When an exhibition or performance ends, a lot of material is left over or thrown away simply because of a lack of space. In Stockholm, several cultural institutions and museums opened a large material warehouse for reusing props. Material storehouse - an innovative project on sustainability and recycling - opened in the old premises of the Pripps brewery in the Ulvsunda industrial area of Bromma.



## Solution

Since January 2021, in Material storehouse, you can rent everything from clothes from the opera and expensive men's bed socks to headlights and screws. Scenery, decor, electronics, stands and other reusable materials from different museums and theatres are collected here after the show. Props can then be borrowed from the storehouse extending their life.



## How ?

- 1 The city's Culture Department started the initiative with the Liljevalchs art gallery. Now 15 culture institutions can share the props, and freelancers can rent from the storehouse too. However, it mustn't turn into a junkyard: only things that can be used again are stored.
- 2 The 600-square-metre facility in Ulvsunda Industrial Estate collects all reusable materials, from handy things like battens and decorative flowers to electronic products.
- 3 The material submitted is inventoried and posted on the storehouse's website to make it easier to see what's available. Everything in the storehouse can be booked in advance via the website.
- 4 The institutions funding the project can return and borrow materials for free. Other interested parties, such as art schools, theatre groups or artists with their businesses, can become customers of the warehouse and rent or buy materials. An initial goal is at least to double the life of the items in the storehouse.
- 5 It is a fun collaboration on reuse, but it also leads to more cooperation between the institutions partnering in Material storehouse.

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## Budget/Financing

The financing is based on two parts, on one hand the monthly fee from each culture institution, and the other from the rents from customers.

Each of the 15 cultural institutions that are part of the cooperation pay a monthly fee of SEK 3,000. This covers costs for renting the premises, administration and project staff who are on site during opening hours. The monthly fee also includes the possibility to borrow materials they need.

Other customers such as art schools and art associations can rent materials at a low cost. However, there is a minimum amount of SEK 400 to spend, which means that they need to rent more than one object per occasion.

To date, there have been hundreds of materials borrowed and reused.



## Management

Liljevalch's Art Gallery at the Culture Department has started the initiative for the Material storehouse, to which 15 institutions are now affiliated. So far, Dramaten (The Royal Theatre), Kulturhuset Stadsteatern, the Royal Opera, the Performing Arts Museum, the Nobel Prize Museum, the Nordic Museum and the City Museum have joined the project, and more partnerships are underway. Liljevalch's art gallery is responsible for the logistics of the warehouse.

Material storehouse can stay in the Pripps brewery until 2023, the project manager has found a more suitable room where the Material Storehouse will move in March 2023.



## Transferability

- Check what laws and regulations apply when renting materials, especially if you are a municipal business or authority.
- Check which suitable premises are available, how much space do you need? What is the rent and overheads?
- Check how to solve the payment system for organisations who wish to rent materials: is it possible to use direct payment via, for example, the mobile phone or do you have to invoice?



## Impact

Material storehouse proves that the culture sector can have impact on climate change. It has already inspired colleagues around Sweden as several cities are taking the first steps in creating their own Material Storehouse. The national network, which has been created as a positive side effect to the project, serves as a forum (and actor) to discuss even more issues than how to tackle waste in the cultural sector. The initiative will bring cultural institutions within the city closer to each other so that it can support actors with fewer funds to realise their aesthetic goals, and the city will have an active role in supporting progressive projects.



## Links

- [www.materialmagasinet.se](http://www.materialmagasinet.se)
- [www.instagram.com/materialmagasinet](https://www.instagram.com/materialmagasinet)
- <https://liljevalchs.se/om-oss/aktuellt/kulturmateri-far-nytt-liv-i-ulvsunda/>



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Stockholms stad



Project manager Fredrik Nyberg and Head of Liljevalchs Mårten Castenfors. (c) Tomas Boman

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