



Welcome to join us in building Turku's 800th anniversary celebrations!

6.3.2026





When Pope Gregory IX issued the bull...

Turku's birthday is considered to be 23 January 1229, when Pope Gregory IX issued a request to the Swedish bishops, urging them to move the Finnish bishopric to a better location.





The stages of the Turku 800 journey





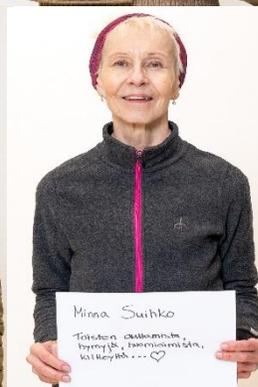
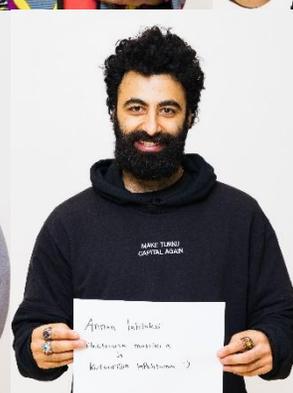
The concept is based on the ideas of city residents.



- More than 1,500 people participated in various ways in brainstorming ideas for the anniversary year and preparing the concept.
- Ideation event for city residents, workshops, numerous discussions, online and social media surveys.
- In April, work began on crystallising the Turku 800 concept and testing and refining it with selected groups.
- The city council approved the concept in October 2025.



The residents' gift resolutions for Turku 2029





**Turku 800
celebrates,
strengthens,
and renews.**





Nyt,
ikuisesti,
Turku.

A large, white, stylized infinity symbol (∞) that serves as a logo for the University of Turku. It is composed of two interlocking loops that form a continuous, flowing shape.





How can the anniversary year strengthen the city's sustainability and resilience?





**What gift does the anniversary year
bring to Turku?**



What makes Turku's anniversary different from other cities' birthdays?



Image: Mika Kurkilahti





The **first** city in Finland through which numerous remarkable things have come to Finland for the **first** time...

Image: Mika Kurkilahti



The key theme for Turku 800 is...



New firsts

Image: Mika Kurkilahti





Turku 800 inspires new firsts and strengthens urbanism

Image: Pasi Leino



What can I do first?



The city of phenomena gives birth to new firsts

Turku makes being first a call for action and inspires new firsts: phenomena, innovations, bold experiments, new creations and new ways of thinking.

The content projects selected for the anniversary programme must demonstrate the theme firsts in some way and at some level.

Finland's first city strengthens urbanism

Turku is strengthening urbanism, collaboration, and the city's sustainability, and is initiating a discussion on future urbanism with other cities.

Turku invites major Finnish cities and Nordic partner cities to exchange experiences and ideas on active, communal urbanism and urban resilience.



Main and sub-themes



NEW FIRSTS

STRENGTHENING URBANITY

A City for Everyone

A City of Nature

City of Know-how

A City of Joy

City of Oases





What can I do first?

A City for Everyone

Let's strengthen and celebrate working together as well as taking responsibility for our own city, urban space, and fellow city residents. Let's strengthen the experience of Turku residents so that everyone can feel like they belong to the city.

The anniversary year is a platform for campaigns to promote collaboration between neighborhoods, e.g. through volunteer work.

The anniversary year will be a laboratory for developing and testing new models for resident participation and local democracy.



Image: Pasi Leino



What can I do first?

A City of Nature

Let's strengthen and celebrate Turku's climate goals, biodiversity and the city's relationship with nature. Let's strengthen the maritime experience in the city and among its residents and visitors, as well as celebrate and cherish the archipelago.

The anniversary year will be implemented according to the principles of sustainable development, and all the city's residents, including busy little bees, will be recognised as guests of honour.

The anniversary year inspires and creates opportunities for residents to participate in caring for their local environment.



Image: Pasi Leino



Image: Pasi Leino



What can I do first?

A City of Know-how

Let's strengthen and celebrate city dwellers as future creators who know their roots, as well as Turku's art and culture, science and thirst for knowledge, diverse expertise and education, as well as vibrant bilingualism and strong internationality – in general, culture.

Let's build special anniversary cooperation with the Turku region, Finland's largest cities, and internationally, especially with Stockholm.

Let's identify, remove, and lower barriers to new experiments.





What can I do first?

A City of Joy

Let's affirm and celebrate positivity and joy in a city where the word 'no' has traditionally come first in everyday language.

Let's celebrate Finnish urban culture and the 800th anniversary through urban culture, through old and new phenomena: from art to food culture, from exercise to exploring your own city.

Let's create a variety of small and large experiences and festive moments for the anniversary year that bring together city residents and visitors from elsewhere.

The anniversary year will be a platform for campaigns, inspiring, among other things, to smile at passers-by and do good deeds for co-residents.



Image: Jussi Vierimaa



What can I do first?

A City of Oases

Let's affirm and celebrate the city's small and large, personal and shared oases, from parks to libraries, from riverbanks to terraces, from the local forest to your own yard or balcony. Let's develop the city into a space for active urbanism and jointly promote its comfort and functionality.

Let's present our own urban oases to fellow residents and visitors, discover new oases in our city, visit different neighborhoods, and participate in their celebrations.

New urban oases will be developed and built in honour of the celebration.



Image: Sara Levänen





What can I do first?

Image: Jussi Vierimaa



The spirit and atmosphere of the anniversary year



Creating something new

Focused on people

Polyphonic

Maritime

Positive

International

Curious

Bubbly

Shared

Colourful

Empathetic

Self-ironic

Inspiring

Bold

Happy

Wise

Warm

Layered

Trusting

Optimistic

Friendly

Inviting

Touching

Valuable

Nordic

Unashamedly old

Casual yet festive

Open

Surprising

Genuine

Heartfelt

Unprecedented



Highlights of the anniversary year's goals



The anniversary year...

- strengthens the vitality of the city by making the culture of firsts a Turku way of doing things – and spreads the culture of firsts to other places as well.
- strengthens the experience of residents of their own Turku identity and active urbanism, and increases inclusion.
- promotes national debate on future urbanism.
- increases community spirit and comfort, strengthens a positive atmosphere, and encourages good deeds among fellow residents.
- increases interest and understanding of the city's history, inspires continuous learning, and promotes the appreciation of science and researched knowledge.
- promotes Turku's urban culture and vibrant bilingualism.
- increases the city's appeal and boosts domestic and Stockholm-area tourism to Turku.
- increases cooperation at various levels.
- strengthens Turku's image and visibility.



How will the objectives be achieved?

- The programme and communications are central to the implementation of the anniversary year.
- The anniversary programme is a distinctive set of activities in terms of communication (the Turku 800 stamp).
- The compiling of the Turku 800 programme will begin in March 2026, when the project application is opened.
- Most of the projects will be included in the anniversary programme without funding. Co-financing is also possible if certain criteria are met.
- As a general rule, all projects must implement the distinctiveness of the anniversary year and the theme firsts.

The anniversary year will be marked by major events and projects

Special projects for the anniversary year

Gifts and anniversary deeds

Festive decisions

Integrating basic activities into the Turku 800 programme

The year 2029 will be created together



- The preparation and implementation of the anniversary year are based on extensive, network-based cooperation and joint efforts. Every resident of the city is an owner of the anniversary year.
- Coordination is carried out in the Turku 2029 Foundation by commission of the city.
- The celebration of Finland's first city is a celebration for all of Finland.
- The year also provides an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation with neighbours.
- International networks included, with a special connection to Stockholm.



The anniversary year as an economic investment



- The funding for the jubilee year will consist of the Turku 2029 Foundation's budget, as well as the jubilee year projects' own and other funding. The foundation's jubilee year budget is 6.9 million euros, of which the amount of 5.3 million euros is proposed to be funded by the Turku 2029 Foundation. Other funding consists of, among others, income from corporate collaborations.
- The total economic volume and regional economic impacts of the anniversary year are estimated to be many times greater than the funding provided through the foundation.
- Turku's funding can be seen as a kind of snowball effect initiator, which generates and gathers around the anniversary year a significantly larger entity in terms of functionality and economy.
- The achievement and effectiveness of the objectives are monitored through an evaluation and monitoring programme, which also includes research into long-term effects.



More than a year



The 200th
memorial year of
the Turku fire.

2027

Strengthening urbanism,
i.e. building 'new
urbanism' will be initiated

The anniversary
year for firsts within
urban culture

2028

The buzz of urban culture,
highlighting old firsts, inspiring
new ones

Turku 800

2029

First results and
experiences
A time of celebration
and new
phenomena

Continuation /
legacy

2030

Establishing best new
practices



A young child with blonde hair, wearing a colorful patchwork hat and a purple long-sleeved shirt, is focused on painting a thick blue stripe on a white canvas. The child is holding a paintbrush and looking intently at the work. The background is blurred, showing other colorful elements, suggesting an art studio or classroom setting.

What will you do first?



**Turku is celebrating,
and you are the guest of
honour.**

