



PHOTO BY TYLER THE CREATOR

# ROSKILDE FESTIVAL

Roskilde Festivals is the largest music and arts festival in Northern Europe, gathering 100,000 guests and 30,000 volunteers from the Nordics, Europe and worldwide. It's also one of the oldest, dating back to 1971. At the end of each June, festival-goers gather south of Roskilde, 35 km from Copenhagen. Roskilde Festival presents a diverse and progressive music and, arts & activism programme with more than 180 acts.

It is an independent, non-profit festival organised by The Roskilde Festival Charity Society, and all of its profits are donated to initiatives benefitting children and youth or supporting humanitarian or cultural projects.

## CASE: DREAM CITY

### DREAMING AND CO-CREATING

Dream City is a participant-driven, sustainable, and community-oriented neighbourhood within the larger temporary city of Roskilde Festival. Dream City's inhabitants are young, creative festival participants called dreamers. Starting 100 days before the festival, the dreamers meet during weekends and build their camps. By dreaming and co-creating, they become citizens of Dream City. Together with other dreamers, they create a city and community based on the core values of innovation, curiosity, citizenship, commitment, and diversity.

One of the volunteers from the team responsible for Dream City, Emil Nielsen, explains how this initiative not only creates value for the festival but also has the potential to impact Danish society.

**“We often talk about whether we [Roskilde Festival] live in a bubble. Do the things we do at the festival have an impact on Danish society? How big is our effect as a festival? And is it the participants that bring this something to the festival, or do we give something to them that they can use with the rest of the Danish society? Dream city is in many ways representative of how good it can be, how much our community can bear, and in which directions we are going. (...) Dream city is not just the big parties. The Dreamers do events 24 hours a day during the festival shining a light on e.g., concerns for social- economic- and environmental sustainability.”**

– Emil Nielsen, Dream City, Roskilde Festival

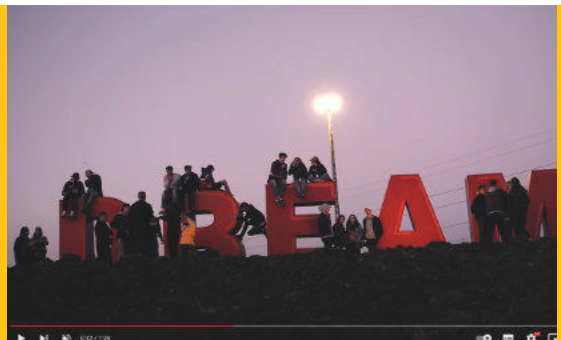
PHOTO BY NICOLAI HEGELUND VILHELMSEN





## A TEMPORARY, SUSTAINABLE CITY

Dream City has a formal, city-like infrastructure. Dream City's centre consists of a city hall, community kitchen, and recycling station, providing essential services, facilities, help, and guidance. All camps take responsibility for each other and the area by contributing to the community and creating meaningful events involving dreamers and other festival participants. Camps are encouraged to think sustainably regarding materials, resources, durability, and togetherness when planning their contributions.



## UNICORNY CAMP – DREAMING AND QUEERING SPACE

Unicorny Camp, one of Dream City’s many camps, is a safe space for LGBTQIA+ persons at Roskilde Festival. Its residents organise events, such as debates, glitter-wrestling competitions, pride parades and parties, that challenge norms for gender and sexuality dominating daily life in society and at Roskilde Festival. Unicorny Camp seeks to renegotiate concepts of inclusiveness. Emil Nielsen comments on camp life in Dream City:

**“Dream City is a place where you are also able to participate as a ‘legitimate peripheral participant’ meaning It’s okay to be a spectator. There are many different people, so you can almost certainly find someone you have a connection with. I’ve heard several people say that they have found themselves in those communities, e.g. in Camp Unicorny.”**

– Emil Nielsen, Dream City, Roskilde Festival

PHOTO BY PRESTON DRAKE-HILLYARD



**Name:** Roskilde Festival

**City & country:** Roskilde, Denmark

**Capacity:** 130,000

**Site:** Roskilde Dyrskueplads

**Camping:** Yes

**Number of days:** 8

**Established in:** 1971

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FESTIVALS AS SOCIAL INNOVATION INCUBATORS