

An ode to participation

- Citizen and staff involvement in Helsinki Central Library Oodi

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Picture: Kuvio

- Public library, part of City of Helsinki library network
- Helmet library coalition
- Developmental library



- Oodi was opened 5.12.2018
- 10 000 m2 of library space, 3 floors and a basement, 98 % for customer use
- Collection of 85 000 items
- Open seven days a week
 - 8 am – 10 pm on weekdays;
 - 10 am – 8 pm on weekends
- The best library of the year 2019 / IFLA



Picture: Kuvio

- First year: over 3 million visitors, on average 9000-10 000 visitors per day
- Approximately 55 000 checkouts per month, thousands of new library cards made
- Over 1000 events
- 1370 guided tours



Picture: Risto Rimppi



Picture: Markku Pelkonen / Yle

- ... and then came Covid -19 pandemic
- the "new normal":
4000-5000 visitors
daily



Picture: Kuvio



Ground floor is for information and events



The second floor is for **hands-on** activities. It is a place for working, creating, interacting and learning-by-doing.



The third floor is home to the Book Heaven: a place to relax and unwind with its books, reading oases and a café.

Library Law 2017

The objectives of this Act are to promote:

- 1) equal opportunities for everyone to access education and culture;**
- 2) availability and use of information;
reading culture and versatile literacy skills;**
- 3) opportunities for lifelong learning and competence development;**
- 4) active citizenship, democracy and freedom of expression.**

Oodi Helsinki Central Library



Contents and literature

- 85 000 items available to lend
- 14 languages
- Books, comics, films, newspapers, magazines, board games, console games, sheet music
- Events for families, concerts, lectures author visits etc.

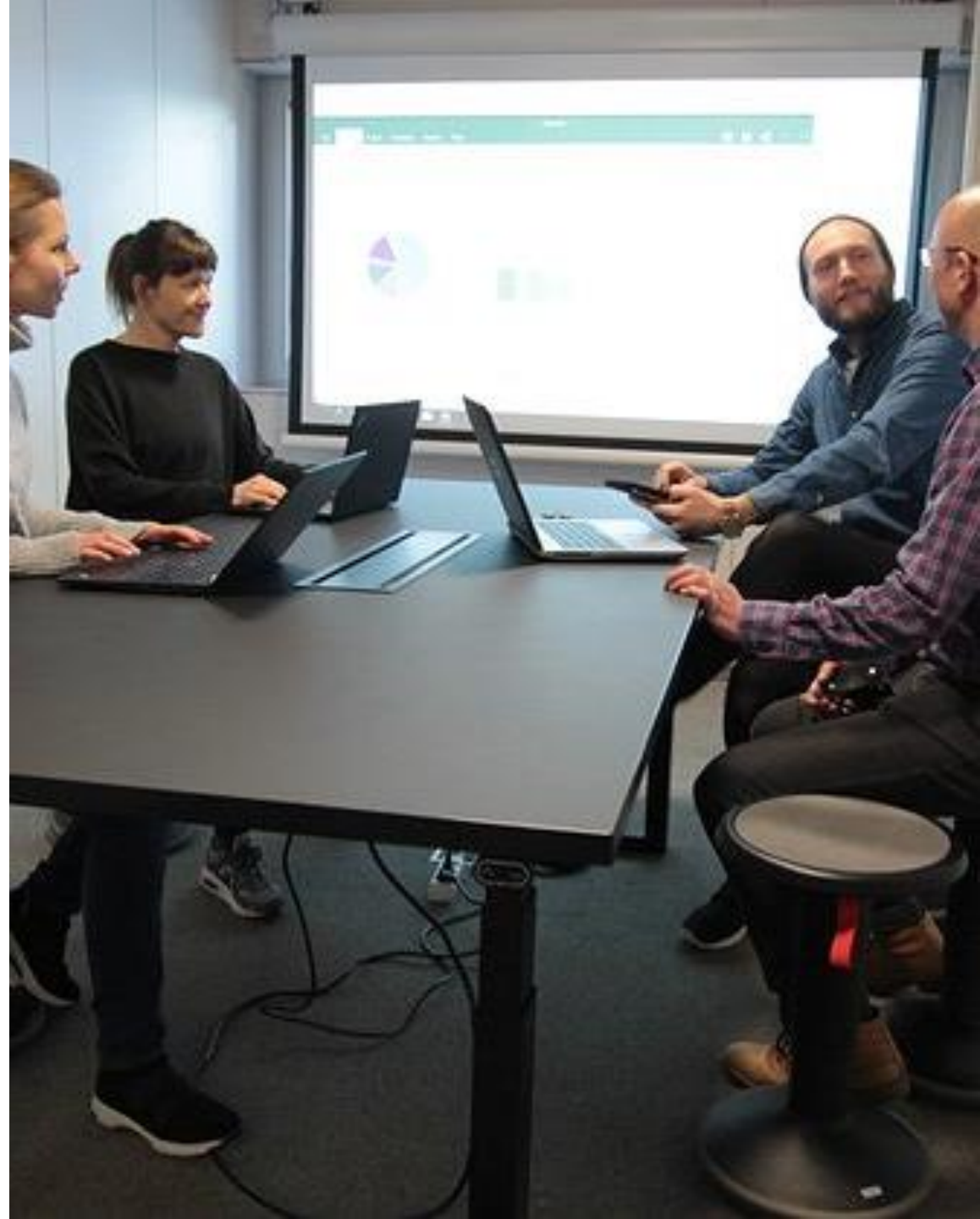
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Studying, working and meeting facilities

- Auditorium Regina
- Maijansali multipurpose hall
- Group rooms and workspaces
- Kitchen
- Reading room
- Customer computers, printing etc.



Gaming, makerspace and studios at Central Library Oodi

- Urban Workshop (Kaupunkiverstas in Finnish): makerspace
- Gaming rooms
- Music rehearsal rooms and recording studios
- Photo & video studio





Partnerships

- **Restaurant Oodi:** coffee and food from morning till evening
- **Helsinki-info:** advice on the City of Helsinki's services, immigration and digital services
- **EU@Oodi:** showroom about the functioning and objectives of the European Union
- **Kino Regina:** National Audiovisual Institute's cinema
- **City of Helsinki Youth services:** the newest addition to our partnerships
- **Playground Loru:** open meeting place for families / early childhood services



Partnerships

- Tukikohta ry

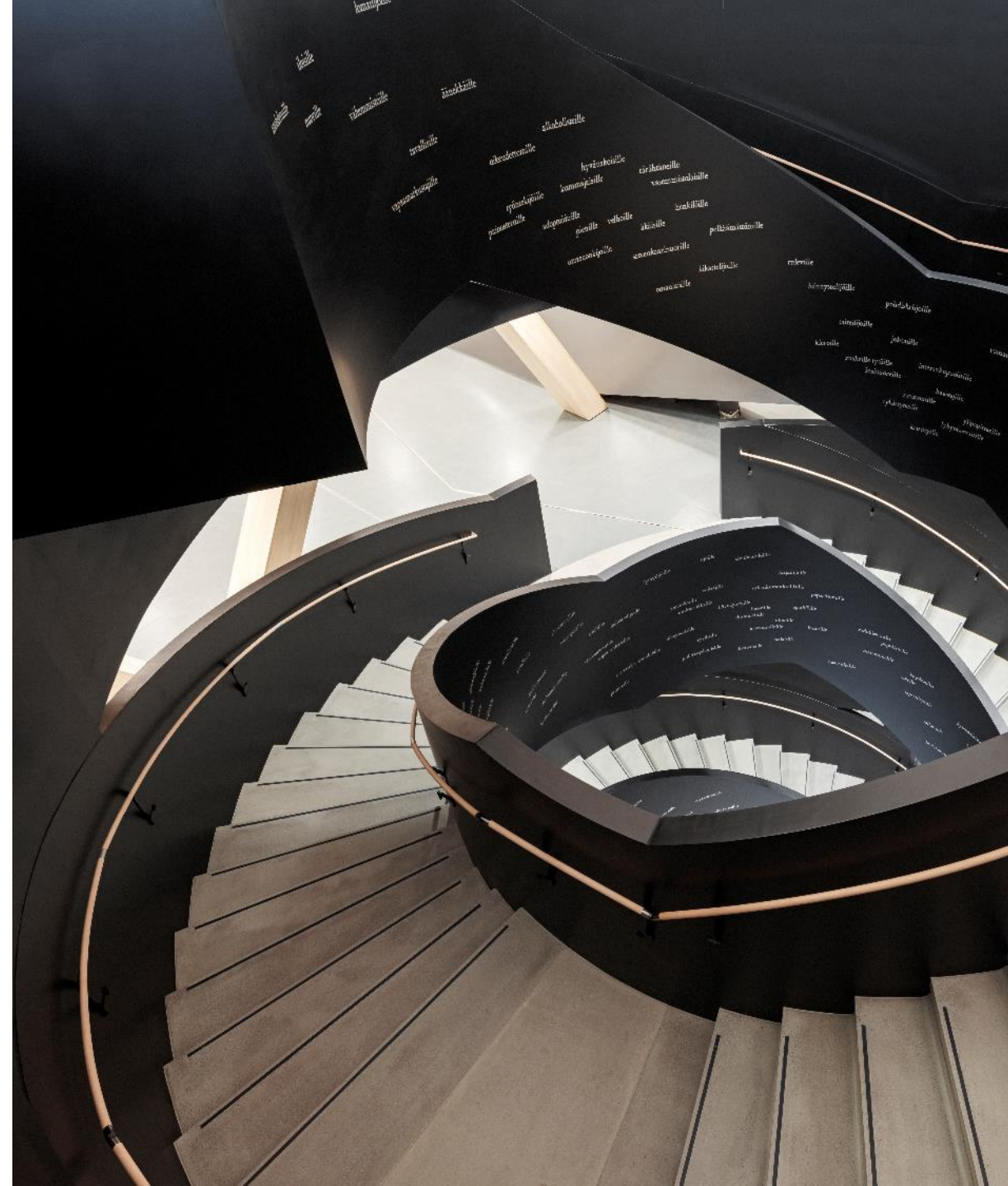
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The participatory model of City of Helsinki

- Based on law and on the City Strategy 2017-2021
- Knowledge and expertise of the people and communities
- Enabling people to use the services spontaneously
- Opportunities for equal participation in services

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Community building

- **Friends of the Central Library** operated during development
- **Library Tribe**, a user panel to help developing the whole library network: <https://kirjastoheimo.fi/>.
- **Name "Oodi"** was a result of a public name competition!

Oodi Helsinki Central Library





City of Helsinki online reservation system Varaamo, varaamo@hel.fi







The Beginning

- Recrutement from other libraries
- The staff came from 20 different libraries in Helsinki

Principles for a safer library

- Everybody should feel welcomed, regardless of gender, age, sexuality, race, culture, looks, etc.
- We do not tolerate any prejudice or harassment
- Physical and emotional safety
- The key is to understand your own behaviour - self reflection
- **We came up with these principles ourselves, for us.**



This is how we do it here

Non-discrimination

Everyone has the right to be at the library.
Idle hanging out is allowed, even encouraged.
Racism and discrimination have no place at the library.
Remember this when interacting with others.

Respect

Always take other people into consideration.
Everyone has the right to visit the library unharassed.
For any larger gatherings, please reserve one of the bookable work facilities.

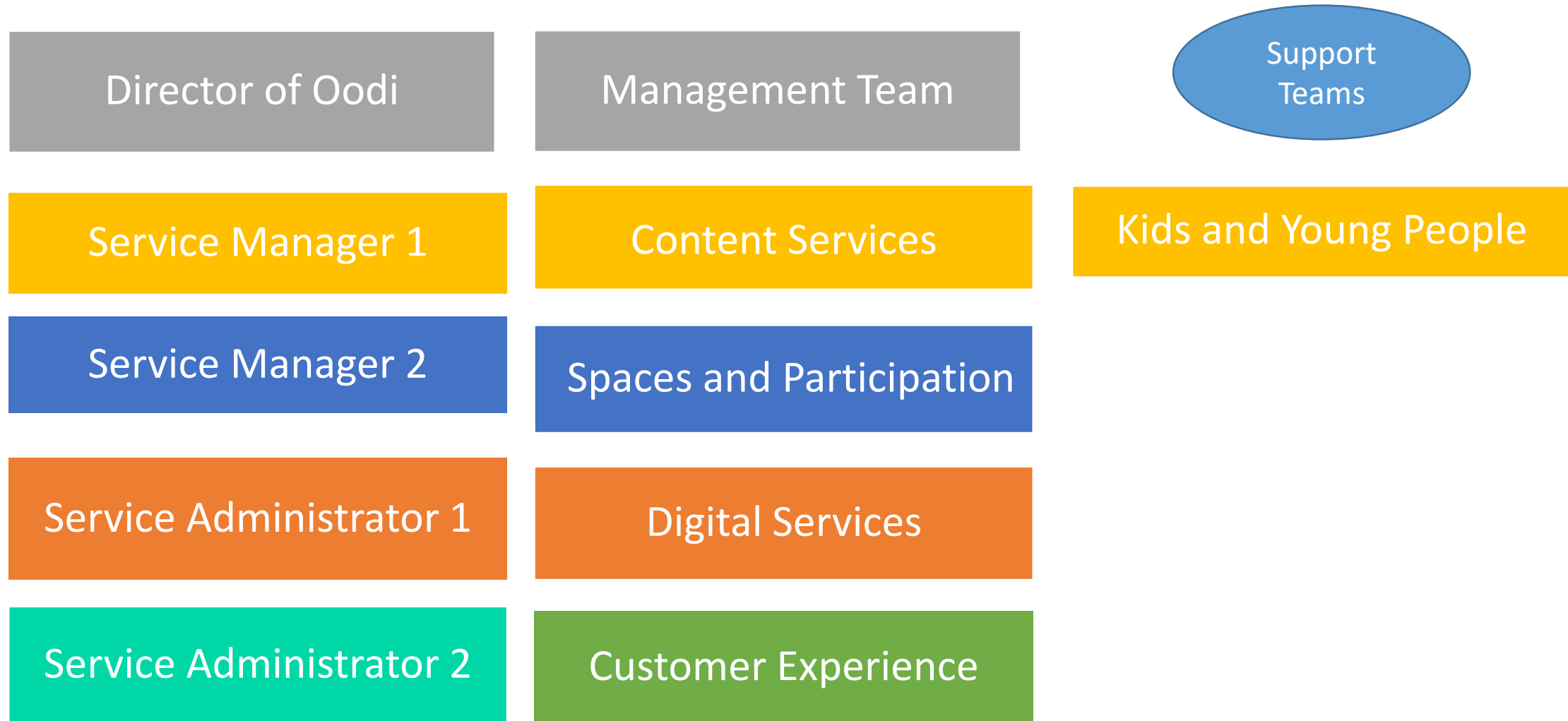
Comfort and well-being

Oodi is our common living room.
Everyone should respect the comfort and well-being of others. Behave with this in mind.
We will take action against any undesired behaviour.

Promise

Our staff are here for you.
It is our job to make sure that Oodi is a safe place for everyone – tell us if you are worried about something.

Oodi Teams



Team structure

5 teams, 65 employees

Team leader (max 2 yrs.)

Each team has 10–15 members

Exchanges between teams

All teams have members with different titles and different educational levels and background



1) Shared leadership

- We work in self-managing teams.

2) We have decided our mission together

3) No power play

- But equality and shared values.
- We work as community with peer support.
- Our differences are a source of richness.



What decisions have the teams made?

- Where to put the collection
- The number of events
- Locations and layout of the service desks
- Having unisex changing rooms
- Opening hours for our services
- What needs to be purchased
- How we work





Patu

MIR

Oodi
Ode Helsingin keskustakirjasto
Helsingfors centrumbibliotek



What has changed?

- From self-management into managing together
- From reacting into planning



Public library use in Finland

Statistics gathered by [Libraries.fi](https://libraries.fi)

