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2025

PUBLICS YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

INTRODUCTION

PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board (PYAB) is a collective of creatives aged 18–21 who work collaboratively to explore, question, and expand the relationship between young people and cultural organisations within local and international art contexts. Through ongoing dialogue, workshops, and collaborative projects, participants contribute critical insights that inform institutional practices—questioning relevance, accessibility, and possibilities for change.

The activities of the Youth Advisory Board 2025 were part of the project Reaching Out (2023-2026) with PRAKSIS Teen Advisory Boards (Oslo) and Index Teen Advisory Board (Stockholm). Reaching Out questioned and expanded how cultural organisations connect with and address new young audiences. The three Boards formed the Nordic creative youth network Future Futures.

This year’s learning program focused on publishing, printed matter, text culture, and the relationship between editorial and curatorial practices. PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board 2025 worked towards a collaborative publication together with the Index Teen Advisory Board 2025 and Praksis Teen Advisory Board 2025. Through a range of activities, they reflected on how printed matter is still relevant in a digital world and collectively explored how books, (maga)zines, etc. continue to act as meeting points between people and ideas across time and space.

WHO WE ARE?

PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board 2025 was a group of nine young people aged 18-21 who for an entire year acted as advisers and collaborators of PUBLICS as part of a year-long paid programme.

The 2025 board members were: Aino Kaatra, Amran Ahmed, Casper Langenskiöld, Daryna Taushan, Evi Volosnikova, Miya Zenina, Nea Lähdekorpi,



PUBLICS Youth publication-making workshop with Arja Karhumaa and Maarit Bäu Mustonen of Multipöly at their studio, Helsinki, May 24, 2025 Photo: Bilge Hasdemir

Parinaz Estebary, Viivi Auerlehto. They worked with project coordinator Bilge Hasdemir.

Coming from varied backgrounds with diverse experiences and interests, the board was connected through a shared interest in arts and culture, with a particular focus this year on publishing, printed matter, and related practices.

HOW DO WE WORK?

The Board met monthly and worked closely with the PUBLICS team and invited artists and cultural workers. Meetings that combine collaboration, discussion, and practical work began with a check-in to create space for everyone to arrive and connect with each other.

Throughout the year, PUBLICS Youth engaged with artists, publishers, printmakers, designers, and cultural practitioners, participated in visits and workshops, and worked together with the Teen Advisory Boards of PRAKSIS and Index on a shared publication. Working with Gerrie van Noord as the editor and Tuukka Kaila as the designer of the publication was a significant part of the process; they accompanied the youth with generosity and attentiveness, helping publication grow into a form the boards feel connected to.

The process was based on collective learning, shared responsibility, and ongoing exchange. A key part of working together was maintaining a space that feels comfortable, supportive, and open to all kinds of questions and reflections.



PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board 2025, PUBLICS. Photo: Bilge Hasdemir

PUBLICS YOUTH MEMBERS 2025

- Aino Kaatra (she/her), is currently studying Social and Economic History at the University of Helsinki, with a minor in Comparative Literature. Literature plays a central role in both her academic and personal life, alongside her passion for visual arts. Aino has been drawing and painting from a young age and is currently exploring printmaking and figure drawing.

aino.kaatra@gmail.com

- Amran Ahmed (she/her), grew up between Norway and Kenya, a duality that shapes her multifaceted perspective on identity, culture, and human behavior. With an academic focus on psychology and human development, she's equally passionate about the arts, social issues, and creative expression. Through poetry, journaling, and reading, she explores the intersections of self, society, and emotion.

amranfaahiye01@gmail.com

- Casper Langenskiöld, (he/him), is passionate about filmmaking, photography, writing, and political issues—especially those related to nature and climate change. He sees the arts as a powerful tool to reflect and engage with the world around him.

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- Daryna Taushan (they/she), is an artist and designer originally from Ukraine, now based in Helsinki and studying at Aalto University. Their interdisciplinary work explores the intersection of visual culture, design, film, music, and linguistics—translating perception into visual palpable things.

daryna.taushan@gmail.com

- Evi Volosnikova (she/her), is passionate about creativity in its many forms, especially videography and photography. She enjoys reading, visiting art exhibitions, and exploring different ways of expressing ideas and emotions through art.

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- Miya Zenina (she/her), is a multidisciplinary creator whose work spans music, visual arts, and digital storytelling. Influenced by digital culture and liminal aesthetics, Miya is also passionate about publishing and editorial work as a means of preserving and sharing emotions and ideas.

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Nea Lähdekorpi, (she/they), studies Global Development Studies at the University of Helsinki with a minor in Comparative Literature. They are particularly interested in how market forces influence which stories get published, and the hidden narratives behind publishing decisions.

lahdekorpi.nea@gmail.com

- Parinaz Estebary (she/her), is a Persian artist from Iran with a lifelong connection to music. She plays the Qanun as her main and first instrument. Alongside music, she has always been engaged in graphic, visual arts and photography, combining both forms in her creative journey.

parinaz.estebary@gmail.com

• Viivi Auerlehto (she/her), is an artist and a future art educator. Her deepest passions are visual arts—especially painting and drawing—storytelling, and nature. These elements shape both Viivi’s artistic expression and her vision for future creative work.

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TIMELINE

April 26	First gathering of the board, including an online meeting with Index Teen Advisory Board 2025 (ITAB) and PRAKSIS Teen Advisory Board (PTAB)
May 6	Development of mind maps, safer space guidelines, and access rider
May 17	Introduction to PUBLICS and collective ways of working with Paul O’Neill: visit to Kalasataman Seripaja and meeting with Jan Konsin; lecture & workshop with Sezgin Boynik, Rab-rab Press
May 24	Editorial workshop with Gerrie van Noord (with ITAB and PTAB) Experimental publishing workshop with Multipöly, resulting in a small publication titled “?”
June 4	Visit to Tekstin Talo and meeting with residency coordinator Heidi Backström & Planning session
June 14 & 28	Workshops with Gerrie van Noord and Tuukka Kaila focusing on editorial and design processes respectively
August 23	Planning session
September 2	Working session
September 20	Publication and conference planning - workshop with Gerrie van Noord with ITAB and PTAB
October 9-11	Future Futures Network Conference in Helsinki
November 29	Working Session
December 19	Site Visits to Sinne, Mymälä 2, and Oksasenkatu 11, meeting with Eveliina Tuulonen, Timo S. Tuhkanen, and Baran Caginli respectively
February 1	Book launch planning
February 1	Printmaking workshop with Ilkka Kärkkäinen at SO Helsinki
February 23	Book launch of Reaching out: A book on Agency, Care, Identity and ... at PUBLICS

PRODUCTIONS

●REACHING OUT: A BOOK ABOUT AGENCY, CARE, IDENTITY AND...

The publication Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and... offers insights into how young practitioners approach publishing as a field of relations. In their respective contexts, the young people who developed the content of this publication met with artists, writers, curators and publishers to consider questions of authorship, voice and visibility. The resulting interviews and conversations, reflections and visual contributions offer propositions for how art institutions might use the strategies deployed here to connect with wider communities, different voices and new publics.

The book includes contributions from Jo.o Doria de Souza, falk, Amelia and Adam Greenhall (ANEMONE), Sara Kaaman, Hikari Nishida, and Mia Wennerstrand, as well as interviews conducted by PUBLICS Youth with Rami Alwhithawi, Angela Eldips, Sofia Koivuneva, Pepe Sivunen, and Eme Tähtinen.

The book is edited by Gerrie van Noord, with Bilge Hasdemir, Tony Karlsson Savci, Kristian Schrøder, with Index, PRAKSIS, and PUBLICS, designed by Tuukka Kaila and published by Rooftop Press with Index, PRAKSIS and PUBLICS.



Cover of Reaching Out: A Book on Agency, Care, Identity and ... , Design by Tuukka Kaila. On the cover: Expansion by Dasha Taushan.

SELECTED WORKSHOPS & ACTIVITIES

Throughout this past year, PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board traced the many layers of publishing – as process, infrastructure, artistic practice, curatorial process, act of community building and way of being and working together. This project became a shared learning space, where publishing is understood as building connections, imagining otherwise and nurturing collaborative ways of working.

Through workshops, visits and ongoing conversations, the group moved through Helsinki's independent publishing scene and into wider worlds of publishing. Along the way, they met practitioners whose work engages with publishing and printed matter from many different angles, reflecting the many positions and possibilities that publishing holds.

● TALK WITH PAUL O'NEILL AT PUBLICS

An introduction to publishing as a relational practice, discussing publicness, shared authorship, and collaborative modes of working.

● VISIT TO KALASATAMAN SERIPAJA WITH JAN KONSIN

An introduction to the significance of artist-run printmaking infrastructures and their role in the local cultural ecosystem.

● PUBLISHING WORKSHOP WITH MULTIPÖLY, ARJA KARHUMAA AND MAARIT BÄU MUSTONEN

A hands-on workshop where PUBLICS Youth explored experimental publishing together and collectively created a small publication, titled "?", built around the questions that connect them. The visit to Multipöly also involved an introduction to Eurantie Window Publication, an experimental format that brings writing into everyday public space.

● VISIT TO TEKSTIN TALO

Introduction to the Text Laboratory Residency and its role in cultivating text based culture and experimental, cross-disciplinary approaches to the text as artistic inquiry.

● PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP WITH ILKKA KÄRKKÄINEN AT SO-HELSINKI

PUBLICS Youth was introduced to various printmaking techniques and processes and designed and printed posters using letterpress printing. The posters were later presented at the book launch of *Reaching Out: A Book About Agency, Care, Identity ...* at PUBLICS.

● WORKSHOPS WITH GERRRIE VAN NOORD

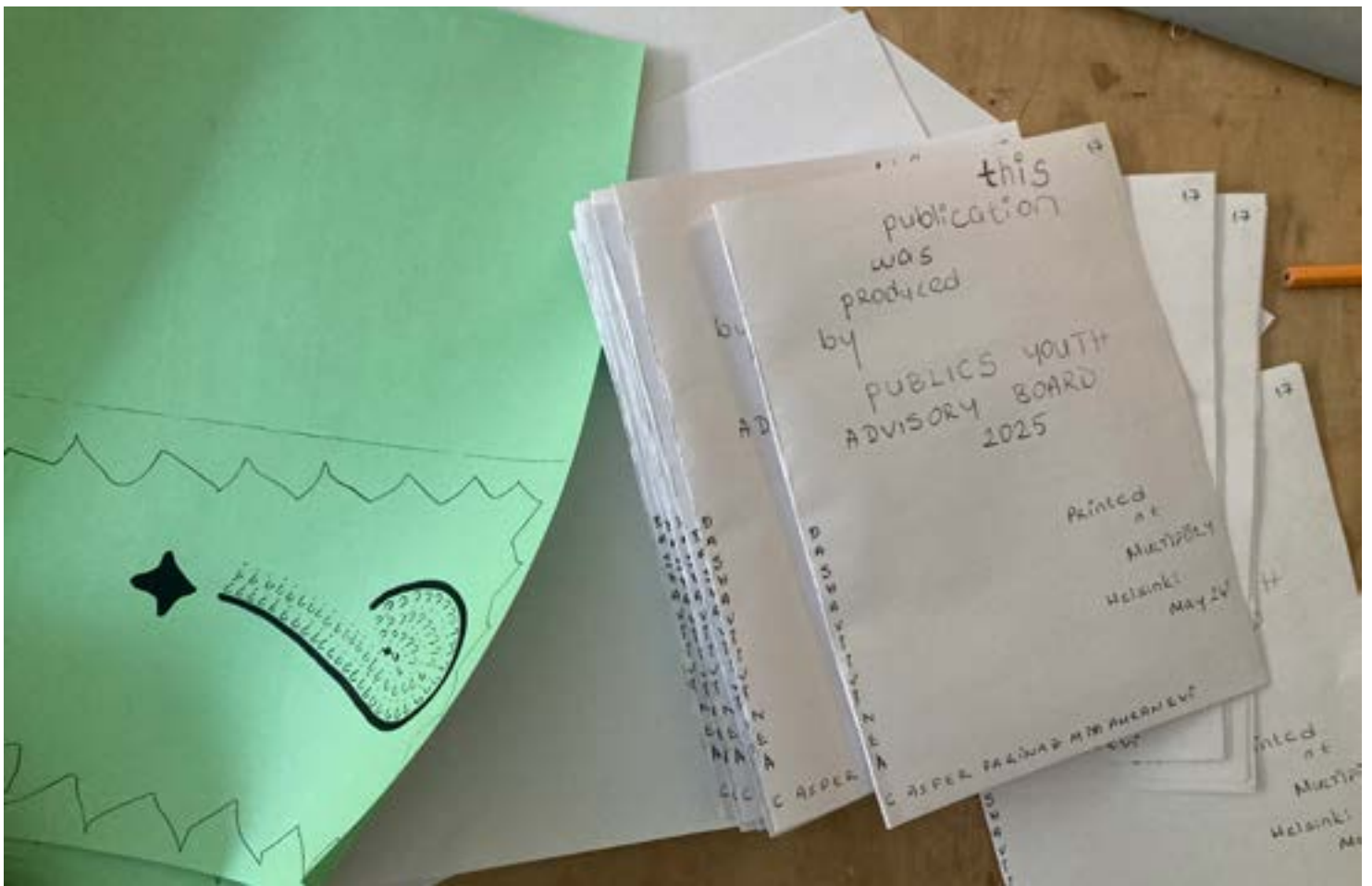
As managing editor of the publication, Gerrie van Noord, met several times with Teen Advisory Boards of PUBLICS, PRAKSIS and Index to guide them within the collective process of developing their contributions to the book, while inviting the boards to collectively reflect on and decide the book's purpose, audiences, and the responsibilities involved in making something public.

● WORKSHOPS WITH TUUKKA KAILA

As designer and publisher of the publication, Tuukka Kaila met with the boards multiple times to introduce the book concept, to share the evolving design process, while inviting the boards to consider what the book could become, who it could address, how its form could shape its circulation, accessibility, and the kinds of encounters it could enable.



Workshop with Tuukka Kaila at PUBLICS, October 11, 2025 Photo: Kristian Schrøder



PUBLICS Youth publication-making workshop with Arja Karhumaa and Maarit Bäu Mustonen of Multipöly at their studio, Helsinki, May 24, 2025 Photo: Bilge Hasdemir



PUBLICS Youth workshop and lecture with Sezgin Boynik at Rab-Rab Press studio, Helsinki, 17 May 2025



Printmaking workshop with Ilkka Kärkkäinen at SO-Helsinki, February 1, 2026. Photo: Bilge Hasdemir



Group photo of board members with their Dada-inspired collages from the workshop facilitated by Marit Silsand at PUBLICS. Photo: Kristian Schrøder

● THE FUTURE FUTURES: REACHING OUT TEEN ADVISORY BOARDS NETWORK CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI

This year, PUBLICS Youth hosted the Teen Advisory Boards of Index and PRAKSIS for the “Future Futures: Reaching Out” conference, held from 9–11 October 2025 in Helsinki. The event brought together youth leaders for three intensive days of collaborative thinking, writing, and un/learning across borders.

Marking a pivotal stage in the co-production of their collaborative publication, the conference centered publishing as a shared and transformative practice, with each day combining internal workshops and site visits to Helsinki-based artworkers, cultural institutions and artist-run spaces.

Day 1 featured the workshop Group Writing as Form of Exhibiting led by Paul O’Neill, where writing was explored as a collective and performative method, followed by visits to Trans Library Helsinki, where Iona Roisin discussed queer archives and printed matter as community tools, and to the Library of Labour Movements, where Minna Henriksson introduced the exhibition Counter Libraries (co-curated with Sezgin Boynik) on exile printing and antifascist struggles.

Day 2 opened with Oraklets ark, a speculative role-play script by Sara Kaaman and Tony Karlsson Savci, activated through a reading by Michaela Yarmol-Matusiak and tiny, inviting participants into collective storytelling, followed by a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, where Saara Hacklin reflected on youth agency and intergenerational engagement, and later to Kalasataman Seripaja, where Jan Konsin presented print works and discussed artist-run infrastructures alongside the Longest Night exhibition at Paja Gallery.

Day 3 began with reflections on care facilitated by Marit Silsand and continued with a Dada-inspired collage workshop using materials gathered throughout the week, before concluding with a workshop led by Tuukka Kaila.



“Group Writing as Form of Exhibiting” workshop facilitated by Paul O’Neill during Future Futures: Reaching Out - Teen Advisory Boards Network Conference, PUBLICS, 9 October 2025 Photo: Bilge Hasdemir



Visit to Kalasataman Seripaja & meeting with Jan Konsin during Future Futures: Reaching Out – Teen Advisory Boards Network Conference, Helsinki, October 9, 2025. Photo:Kristian Schrøder



“The Oraklet’s Ark” role playing workshop led by Michaela Yarmol-Matusiak & Tony Karlsson Savci, Future Futures: Reaching Out - Teen Advisory Boards Network Conference, PUBLICS, Helsinki, 10 October 2025

● BOOK LAUNCH OF REACHING OUT: A BOOK ON AGENCY, CARE, IDENTITY AND ... AT PUBLICS

PUBLICS launched *Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and ...* on February 23rd 2026. The joint book event included contributions from PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board 2025, Index Teen Advisory Board 2025 and Praksis Teen Advisory Board 2025, the book's editor Gerrie van Noord, designer and publisher Tuukka Kaila, commissioned artists Hikari Nishida and Mia Wennerstrand, and PUBLICS Youth project coordinator Bilge Hasdemir. The program also included the book presentation of *Configurations of Time: Imagining Other Temporalities* in the Artist Residency by Angela Serino, followed by a conversation with Taru Elfving.

PYAB shared excerpts from their individual contributions to the book. The group approached the book through the lens of identity—a theme that continually resurfaced throughout the year in conversations and collective mapping exercises. Identity emerged as relational, fluid, and multiple, resisting fixed categories and institutional labels that often seek to simplify it. Each member wrote from their own perspective, sustaining a multiplicity of voices rather than merging into one. Together, these distinct yet interconnected texts trace how identities are shaped through relation, experience, and ongoing negotiation.

The launch also included two panel discussions: the first, a conversation between PUBLICS Youth and Gerrie van Noord; the second, moderated by PUBLICS Youth, bringing together editor Gerrie van Noord, designer and publisher Tuukka Kaila, project coordinator Bilge Hasdemir, and commissioned artists Mia Wennerstrand and Hikari Nishida.

The evening ended with a DJ set by Vera Eskelinen, bringing the *Future Futures: Reaching Out* to a celebratory finish.

CREDITS

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Book Launch of Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and... at PUBLICS, February 23, 2026.
Photo: Aman Askarizad



Book Launch of Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and... at PUBLICS, February 23, 2026.
Photo: Aman Askarizad



Book Launch of *Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and...* at PUBLICS, February 23, 2026. Photo: Aman Askarizad



Book Launch of *Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and...* at PUBLICS, February 23, 2026. Photo: Aman Askarizad

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