



Kolibrí Festivaali's 15th Edition Celebrates Long Live Community

- A free multicultural arts festival for children and families, bringing together artists, languages and communities across the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.
- The event brings together 34 artists from around the world bringing creative concerts, performances, multilingual storytelling, dance, and art workshops.
- Award-winning Brazilian illustrator Roger Mello makes his Finland debut as Kolibrí's 2026 guest artist.
- The festival takes place from 29.8 to 26.9 across Helsinki, Espoo, and Vantaa.

Celebrating its 15th edition under the theme **Long Live Community**, Kolibrí Festivaali returns from 29.8. to 26.9. With 34 artists from around the world presenting concerts, performances, multilingual storytelling, dance and art workshops across Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa. The festival opens at Helsinki Central Library Oodi on 29.8. The opening programme features the debut performance of Kolibrí's youngest-ever artist, Rio Saarto—born the same year as the festival—alongside an interactive multilingual children's concert by Trio Mandeng.

The guest artist of the 2026 edition is Brazilian author and illustrator Roger Mello, one of the most influential contemporary voices in children's literature and visual storytelling. The recipient of the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award, Roger's multidisciplinary work connects literature, visual arts, memory and cultural research. His artwork defines the visual identity of this year's edition, and his visit to Finland

brings a diverse programme for children, families, students, educators and reading mediators.

Roger Mello's programme in Finland includes a public conversation at the University of Helsinki, the exhibition - "Diversidade Secreta" at Aurora Children's Culture Centre (Espoo), a non-stop workshop for children, and book signing sessions at at Kulttuurikeskus Caisa (Helsinki). All Roger Mello activities in Kolibrí are free access. Don't miss it!

The **traditional Kolibrí Family Days** will take place from 11am 5 pm at

- Saturday 12.9 — Sello Kirjasto, Espoo
- Sunday 20.9 — Kulttuurikeskus Caisa, Helsinki
- Saturday 26.9 — Lastenkulttuurikeskus Pessi, Vantaa

The Family Day at Kulttuurikeskus Caisa will also host the Kolibrí Children's Book Fair, featuring new and second-hand children's books in Spanish and Portuguese, with a book signing by guest artist Roger Mello.

Kolibrí 2026 brings together **34 artists from 21 countries**. The event will be accessible in more than 15 languages across Argentina, Brazil, China, Chile, Finland, France, Guinea, Germany, Italy, Iran, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom, Venezuela and West Africa.

This year, Kolibrí Festivaali also celebrates the 10th anniversary of Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry, the association behind the festival, which has created spaces for encounters, creativity and community for children and families in Finland since 2016. The 15th edition of Kolibrí and Ninho's 10-year milestone come together under this year's theme: Long Live Community.

"Fifteen editions of Kolibrí and ten years of Ninho are more than milestones — they represent a community built with love, persistence and the deep belief that every child deserves to see their language and culture celebrated. Long Live Community is not only this year's theme; it captures what Kolibrí has always been about. Culture is not a privilege of a few. It belongs to every child, every family, and every language. After ten years of Ninho, that intention only grows stronger," says Laura Gazzotti, Artistic Director of Kolibrí and Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry Producer.

Kolibrí Festivaali is a free, open and multicultural arts festival for children and families — the only festival of its kind in the Nordic countries.

The full programme at www.kolibrifestivaali.org.

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube: @kolibrifestivaali

For **more information or to arrange interviews with the artists or production team**,
please contact: Gitika Kapur, Communications Coordinator- gitika.kapur@ninho.fi

About Kolibrí

Kolibrí is produced by Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry, a multicultural Finnish association working to promote a more diverse and multilingual children's culture in Finland. This festival is made possible thanks to the support of: City of Helsinki, TAIKE, Svenska Kulturfonden, Suomen Kulttuurirahasto, Ministry of Culture of Spain, City of Espoo, Otto A. Malm Foundation, William Thuring's Stiftelse Foundation, City of Vantaa, Helmet Espoo, Vantaan Kulttuurilapset, Ibero-American Institute of Finland, Embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Portugal, Aalto University Wood Program, LIVE, Kuvittajat ry, Pequeño Mundo, Helsinki Festival, University of Helsinki, Globe Art Point, Association of Portuguese Teachers of Finland, A buen paso Editorial