

QUESTION OF THE WEEK, WEEK 24–25 (10–21.6.2026)

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 313

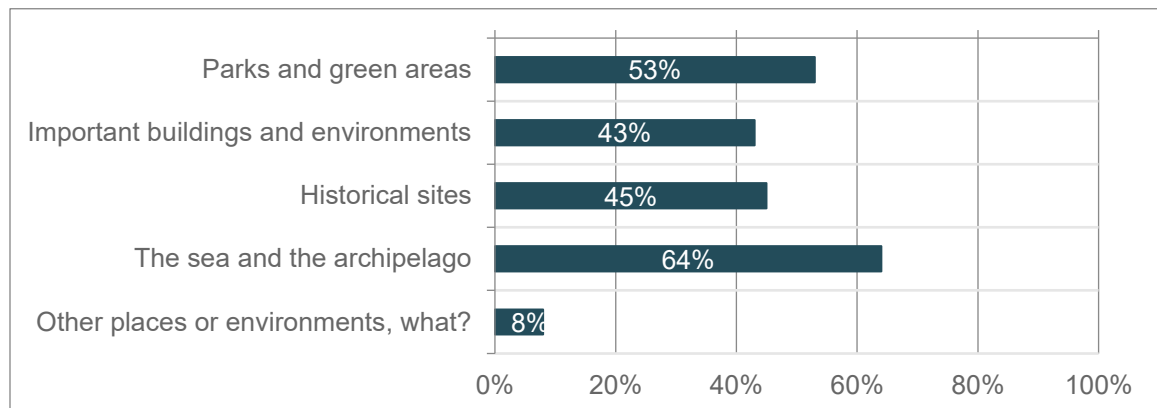
The margin of error is 5 % and thereby the answers are considered to reflect the opinions of the population in Jakobstad.

PUBLIC ART

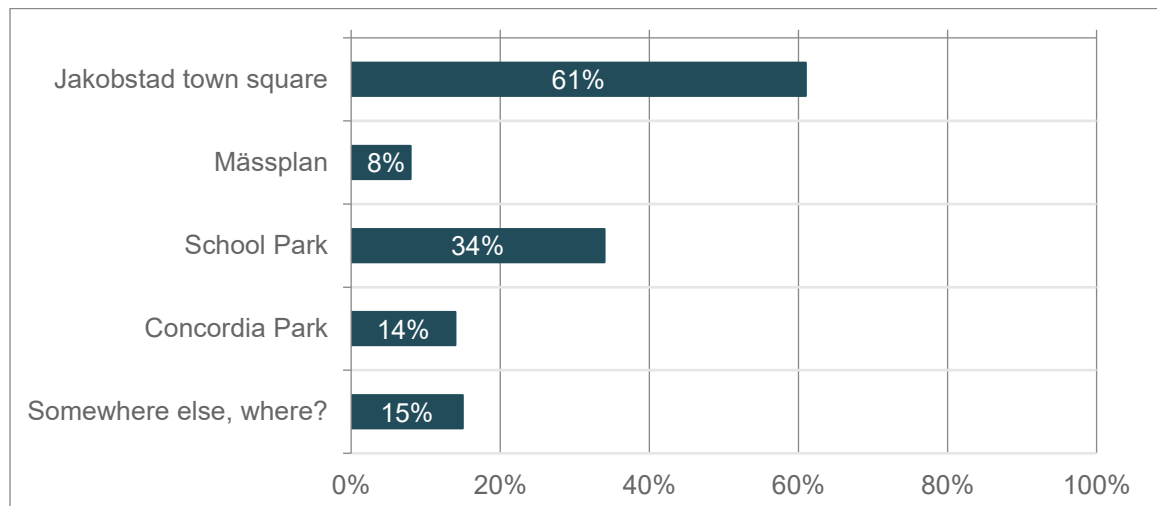
In the Question of the Week the residents were asked: *“The town of Jakobstad is currently working on an Arts Programme for public art. The programme will include the Percent for Art Principle as well as a vision for future art initiatives in the town. The programme will be discussed in the town council during autumn 2026. Before that, we would like to hear the residents' thoughts and opinions about art in the urban environment.*

The goal is to emphasize and develop art in the townscape by adding new works of art to the existing art. In this way art walks and art routes can be created where older and newer art meets and leads both residents and visitors to famous, beautiful, and important places in central Jakobstad.

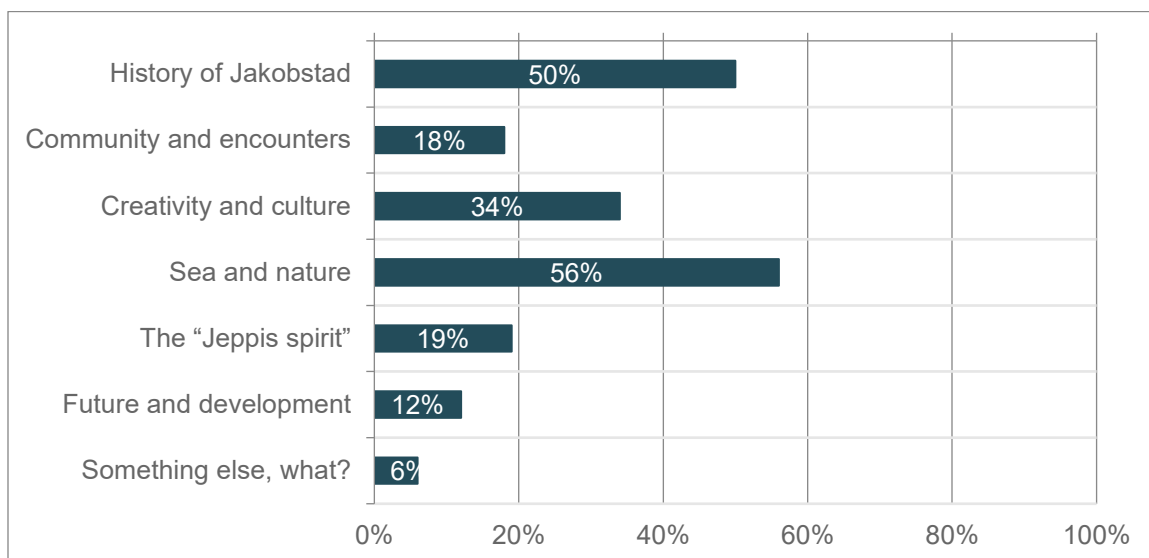
What do you think characterises Jakobstad and what could the public art emphasize?”



“Where do you think the next public artwork could be placed?”



“What themes could the public art in Jakobstad highlight?”



“What does it mean for you to be a resident of Jakobstad?”

152 people responded to this voluntary question. Many associate strong feelings of **belonging, roots, security, and community** with being a resident of Jakobstad, often combined with the closeness to nature and the sea. At the same time, many highlight the town’s characteristics as a small town, its culture, history, and bilingualism, which are experienced both as a strength and sometimes as a challenge. Several describe a sense of pride and well-being, but also a certain ambivalence, with criticism directed at development, language issues, or a declining sense of community. A smaller group feels little or no identification with the town, especially newcomers or people who experience exclusion.

“What values, feelings, or qualities do you think are important for Jakobstad and its residents?”

141 people responded to this voluntary question. Residents primarily highlight **a sense of community, togetherness, and a strong “we spirit”** as core values, often linked to a small-town feeling where people care about one another.

Openness, respect, inclusion, and diversity are also emphasized, as well as the importance of everyone feeling welcome regardless of background or language.

Many point to **bilingualism, nature, and proximity to the sea** as important aspects of identity, along with a safe and calm living environment.

At the same time, there are recurring critical voices that point to **exclusion, “cliquishness,” and a lack of openness or fairness in practice**, indicating that these ideals are not always fully realized.

“Is there an event, story, or tradition in Jakobstad that you think could be highlighted through art?”

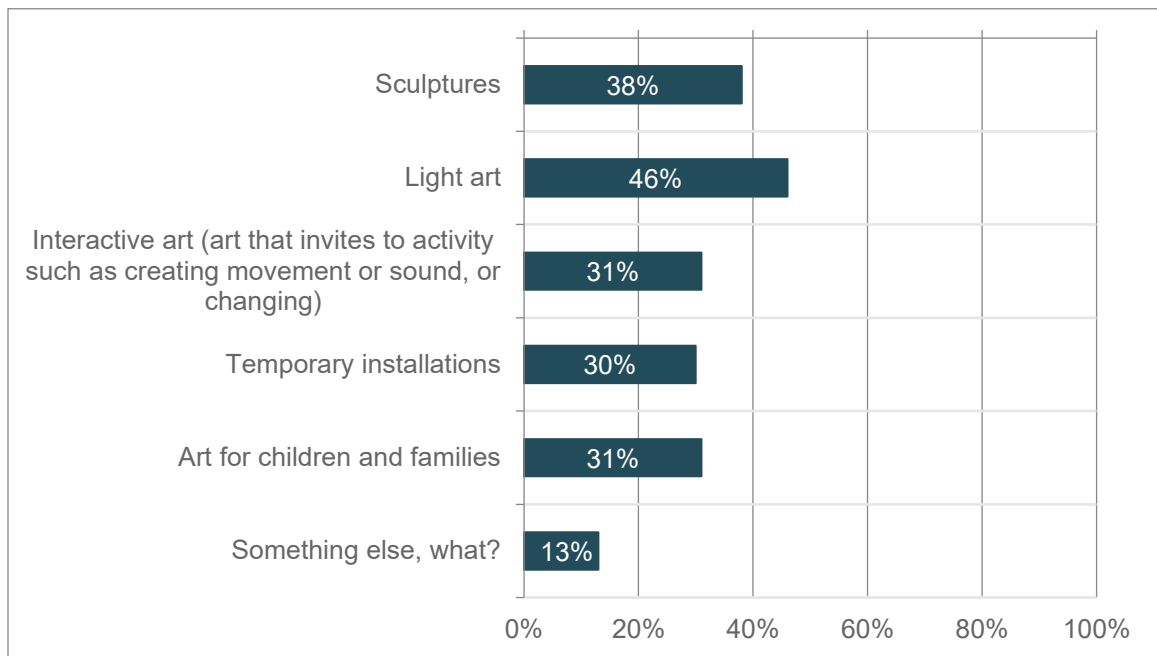
127 people answered this voluntary question. The residents’ responses show that **the town’s maritime heritage, shipbuilding, and industrial history** are perceived as the most central themes that could be highlighted through art, often together with the importance of the sea for the town’s identity.

At the same time, several **local traditions and events** are emphasized—especially Jakobs Dagar/Jaakon Päivät, venetiansk/venetialaiset, Lucia, and other community-building activities—as important parts of the town’s culture and collective memory.

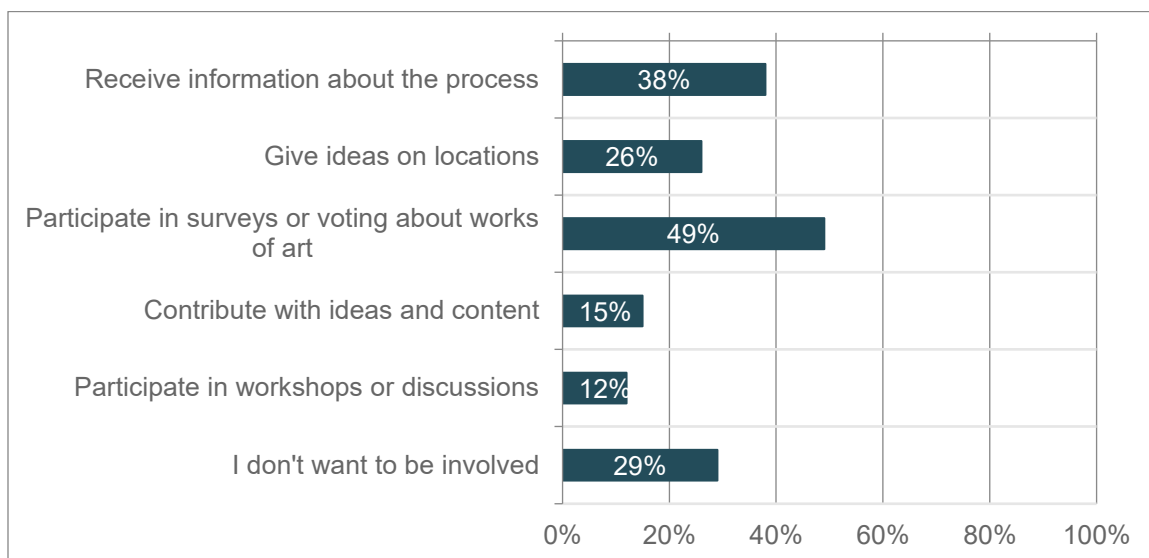
Many also highlight the need to make visible themes such as **community, bilingualism, migration, and multiculturalism**, as well as to include the perspectives of women and ordinary people in the story of Jakobstad.

Finally, a balance between **past and present** is called for, where art not only reflects history but also has intrinsic value and conveys contemporary lifestyles, meeting places, and an open, inclusive town.

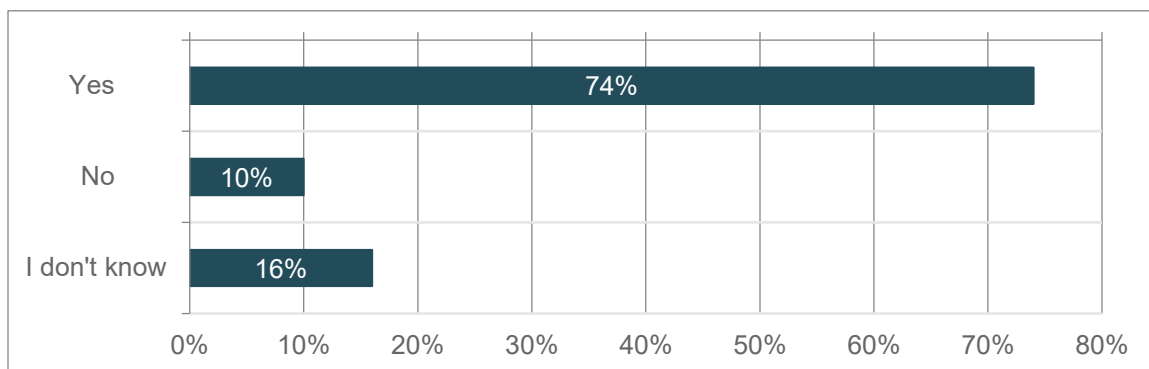
“What kind of art would you like to see at the town square in Jakobstad?”



“In what way do you want to be involved in future art initiatives in Jakobstad?”



“Would you like to see more public art in the various neighbourhoods in Jakobstad?”



NEXT STEP

Hearing residents is an important part of the working process for Jakobstad’s public art programme. Involving the town’s residents in the art created in the urban environment is one of the programme’s objectives. A working group, with representatives from the town’s technical services, culture and leisure services, as well as representatives of decision-makers, is developing an art programme in line with the town’s strategy, providing guidelines and a basis for decisions on public art investments for 2026–2040.

More information:

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