



Unveiling ceremony of Václav Havel's Place followed by screening of the documentary “Václav Havel - Living in Freedom”

Thursday 8th of May 2025 at 12.30 - 15.00

Time

Ceremony starts at 12.30

Place

Makasiinipuisto Park by
Helsinki Central Library Oodi
Töölönlahdenkatu 4, Helsinki
(map of Havel's Place location on page 2)

Guests of honour

Mr. Joakim Strand

Finland's Minister for European Affairs
and Ownership Steering

Mr. Juhana Vartiainen

Mayor of Helsinki



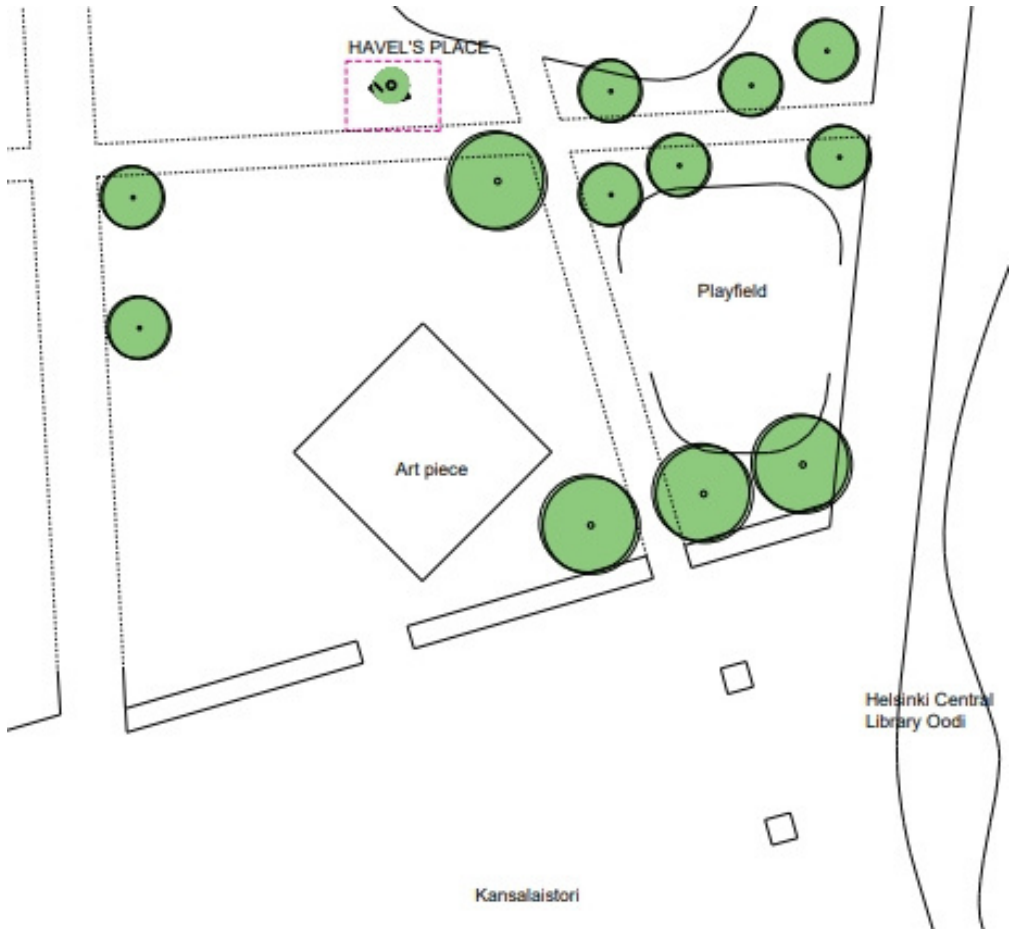
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Václav Havel (1936 - 2011) was a Czech writer and playwright, political dissident and leading personality in the course of political changes in November 1989. After the fall of communism, Václav Havel was the last President of Czechoslovakia (1989-92) and the first President of the Czech Republic (1993-2003).

Havel's Place is a memorial dedicated to Václav Havel. It comprises two chairs linked by a round table with a tree growing through its centre. The installation of Havel's Places is a worldwide project initiated by the Czech ambassador to the US, Petr Gandalovič, and the architect and designer Bořek Šípek. The aim of the project is to create a network of places in public spaces that can contribute to meeting and holding of genuine dialogue – places where it will be possible to hold discussions and reflect in the spirit of the ideals and philosophy of Václav Havel.

Havel's Places have been installed all over the world: in the United States, Japan, Peru, in more European countries (e.g. France, Spain or Ireland), there are many throughout Czechia. Helsinki will be the first place in Nordic countries where the memorial will be placed.

Map of the location of Václav Havel's Place:



Václav Havel's Place in Helsinki has been sponsored by



and by Teemu Lehto, Ivan and Hugo Chadima, Tomáš Vlasák, Gabriela and Petr Babický, Hannah and Jiří Balaščík, Miroslava and Jiří Voříšek, Marek Vinš

The ceremony will be followed by screening of the documentary “Václav Havel – Living in Freedom“

Place

Maijansali hall,
located on the ground floor,
close to the main entrance
of Helsinki Central Library Oodi
(Töölönlahdenkatu 4, Helsinki)

Director

Andrea Sedláčková

Duration

71 minutes

Language

Czech with English subtitles



A biographic documentary from 2014, telling the life story of Václav Havel, Czech writer, playwright, one of the first spokesmen of Charter 77, leading figure of the political changes in November 1989, last President of Czechoslovakia and first President of the Czech Republic. The ambition of the film makers has not been to map out history through an account of Havel’s life, but to draw his film portrait, with the story narrated by Václav Havel himself. By means of shots and photographs, they offer the viewer a look into Havel’s eventful life, all its stages and the roles he played in them – from childhood, compulsory military service and the beginnings of his theatre career to the Chartist and presidential periods.

The screening has been sponsored by

