

5th World Summit on Arts & Culture, Melbourne, 3-6 October 2011

'Wrap-Up' by Summit Rapporteur, Professor Brad Haseman

In his 'wrap-up', Brad Haseman reminded delegates that his role was to:

- Summarise the discussion from the first two days and outline some key ideas for POLICY initiatives which will support artists involved in 'creative intersections' while maintaining the integrity of their development and practice
- Not to impose his view of the conference, not to squeeze the summit through 'a single brain', and 'Bracketing Brad'...as much as possible
- 'Harvesting up' through the network of rapporteurs and provide a tentative document for feedback from delegates

He proposed that as delegates leave the Summit, they think and act on:

- Policies
- Personal Pledges

'The Arts are not mere messengers' - A chance for each of us to **Be the Thing** by making a pledge.

He then proposed the following ways to summarise the Summit presentations:

Summary 1: The dynamism of arts and culture in the 21st century

- The creative force which drives artistic and cultural activity always survives and is abiding
- Arts and cultural activities are constantly changing and defy easy categorisation
- In settings of increasing complexity, arts and cultural activities are especially valued because they can produce both polished and confident outcomes AND provisional and speculative outcomes which represent unfinished processes of discovery.
- Art and cultural activities offer multiple methodologies for use
- Applied culture occurs alongside virtuosity, the poetic, the sublime and 'non-utilitarian' beauty.

Summary 2: The skills of 'intersecting'

- Cultural rapprochement means exchanges are marked by equity, mutual respect and just remuneration
- Scale is important and micro is as important as macro
- Build on community knowledges and expertise
- Sit still and LISTEN
- Success will mean others will follow – although remember Samuel Beckett's advice too:

'Try again, fail again, fail better.'

Summary 3: Policy Pressure Points

- 1. New arts and cultural practices**
 - Digital drivers
 - Trans-disciplinary networks
 - Heritage and experimentation
 - Arts and cultural organisations exist within a national innovation system
- 2. New consumption behaviours**
 - Technology eg high speed internet to increase audiences and regional and global reach
 - Counter commercial drivers above all others – exchange dominated by marketing language
- 3. New business models**
 - Specific arts and culture value chain analysis: production-transformation-distribution-commercialisation (for micro and macro settings)
 - New investment models
 - Revised IP and legal regimes
 - New economic activity – increased employment, increased artist income, region/city vibrancy
 - New creative teams of artists, scientists and business people
- 4. New government relationships with the arts, artists, culture sector and creative industries**
 - Not to be ignored any longer
 - Need powerful and fresh arguments of public good and value – so governments will redirect/restructure an existing spend into the arts and culture
 - Benefits of ‘radical cultural inclusion’ programs
 - Whole of government approach needed – ‘joining up the dots’ (Arts Minister Simon Crean opening IFACCA World Summit)
- 5. New public funding approaches and structures**
 - Need to reward collaboration across forms, agencies and between arts and sciences
 - Targeted investment to areas of low arts and cultural infrastructure
- 6. New educational approaches for working with communities including young people**
 - Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary leanings
 - Linked up learning engaging community, schooling and cultural institutions
 - Dynamic models of preparing arts and cultural workers to work with young people
- 7. New training approaches for the arts and cultural sector**
 - Developing skills in building sustainable partnerships
 - International interaction and collaborations to build and sharpen contemporary practices
- 8. The Oldest Cultural Expressions on the Planet**
 - Valuing the autonomy, agency and sovereignty of indigenous, first nations people

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUMMIT (the following points reflect feedback from Summit delegates who had the opportunity to discuss and revise the wording)

'Diversity exists; we do not have to create it. We are diverse. Diversity of cultural expression is a fundamental human right.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members and all governments to:

Commit to activating and implementing the spirit and principles of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (2005) and deliver on its objectives by making it central to national, state and local cultural policies.

'Cultural policy is for all citizens, not only for artists.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members and their governments to:

Protect the right of all citizens actively to create and participate in all cultural forms.

'Citizens and communities must be at the core of all arts and cultural policies and provision.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, funding agencies and arts organisations to:

Affirm the right, and support and provide for active engagement in the arts so as to realise full cultural citizenship by all members of society.

'Development is not a neutral, uniform term especially when working across divisions of wealth, power and understanding.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members and their governments to recognise that:

Culture is a not only a tool, ornament, resource and catalyst but the fourth pillar of sustainable development... along with the social, economic and environmental.

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and cultural institutions to:

Ensure that the autonomy and authority of indigenous life practices remain sovereign to the purposes determined by their diverse individuals, communities and nations around the world. To counteract the slow loss of roots, identities and old cultures, government agencies, UNESCO, funding agencies, cultural and educational institutions must join hands in regaining, reconstructing, reinventing and documenting the ancient treasures, exactly in the place where they are dying.

Diversity of Storytelling

'You took the children away.

The children away

Breaking their mothers heart

Tearing us all apart

Took them away.'

From 'Took the children away' by Archie Roach

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and artists worldwide to:

- 1. Recognise the cultural and social rights of people and communities to self determine their identity; and**
- 2. Commit to supporting the ability of all people and communities to express themselves through arts, culture and the power of Storytelling.**

'In that country they do not have a ministry of culture; they have a culture desk in every ministry.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members and their governments to:

Implement cross-portfolio and 'whole of government' strategies to value arts and cultural activities as the great enablers to problem solving and sustainable policy development.

'Business follows culture...business is attracted to creative people.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and artists worldwide to:

Exert influence upon business leaders, decision makers from public and private sectors, and their governments to: ensure that arts and cultural workers are able to engage in the creative economy and support and implement projects and partnerships with the view to foster socio-economic development.

'Funding bodies behave like relief agencies rather than development agencies.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, governments and funding bodies to:

Commit to ongoing and open processes of self-examination and critical reflection to ensure that a sustainable infrastructure for arts and culture is developed and maintained in order to support the creation of great art and cultural outcomes.

'We must construct in the imagination the possibility of a different future with possibilities for beauty and hope.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and educational institutions to:

Ensure that the arts and education sectors work together to develop long term strategic cross-sectoral partnerships and make a commitment to develop new systems that reflect the needs of C21st learners.

'The sector needs a raised profile to attract not just funding but highly skilled workers.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and artists worldwide to:

- **Commit to long-term investment in industry and community focussed educational programs to attract, encourage and prepare visionary arts and cultural workers to lead their sector in inspired ways of thinking and new ways of engaging.**
- **Attract young people with a vision for a cultural future to enrich the 'gene-pool' of the arts industry.**
- **Open up the arts community to accept new ways of thinking new ways of engaging with communities and the industry.**
- **Commit to long-term investment in cultural leadership programs and mentorships.**

'Shift thinking – put artists first, not disability.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and artists worldwide to:

Adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure that people with a disability have equal access and opportunity to engage in all areas of the arts and be connected to their culture, creativity and communities, through access to infrastructure; creativity and leadership.

'You cannot measure the corners of the human heart'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, research agencies and arts institutions to:

Identify and share serviceable methods for gathering evidence of social, economic and cultural value in order to use that evidence to inform decision making by government, companies, agencies, artists and communities.

'There is nothing exceptional about the arts. We too have a carbon footprint.'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and artists worldwide to:

Commit to developing policies that ensure widespread adoption of environmentally sustainable practices in the arts by institutions, agencies, companies, artists and audiences.

'You have to let civil society in.'

'Don't do anything political – just do art!' Gallery owner in Malaysia to a subversive artist.

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and artists worldwide to:

- **Be conscious of those things which ensure a civil society and do their utmost to secure, nurture and maintain them.**
- **Protect the right of civil society and protect the right of artists to have a political point of view.**
- **Strengthen the movement for freedom of expression and recognise that all art is political.**

'The murder of an artist is the ultimate form of censorship'

From the floor of the 5th World Summit on Arts and Culture we call on IFACCA members, their governments and artists worldwide to:

Publicly declare their support for the protection of fellow artists and cultural workers who endure hostile circumstances and threat while exercising their right to cultural expression and social activism. Equally, governments globally are obliged to activate legal bodies and civil societies in the protection of artists and their expression.

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INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES – made by participants at the conclusion of the Summit

- *'My pledge is to continue my work as CCD practitioner, to remain optimistic, hopeful and to always give my heart to the communities I work with. Working with young people gives me the creative freedom I seek and in turn I give them my best and learn from them as they do from me'*
- *'As an emerging leader in the arts, I pledge to engage in deeper international discourse about social, political and environmental issues concerning the arts and to share this knowledge with my peers. As an emerging leader in Australia, I highly value the contribution made by Aboriginal people to the historical documentation of the country and to contemporary artistic development in general. I pledge to support the realignment of authority and autonomy of all decisions about Aboriginal issues to be made by Aboriginal people'*
- *'I pledge to support and honour the artist. Make them the centre and agent of cultural and community change, and growth'*
- *'I pledge to actively work to value the right of the citizen to live a full expressive life'*
- *'I pledge to facilitate others' learning to speak the languages of non-arts agencies'*
- *'I pledge to join a non-arts advisory body to government'*
- *'I pledge to continue my professional development with policy involvement'*
- *'I pledge to, more often, take a step outside the bubble of my own organisational objectives and look at the bigger global picture, in particular recognizing those places where access to create, participate and experience the arts in dangerous or difficult pursuit'*
- *'We pledge to explore "diversity" through developing an intercultural journey between Kangdong-Ku, Korea and the City of Willoughby. This is a last minute gift from the 5th Summit on Arts and Culture. And our journey starts today.'*
- *'La culture et la nature sont deux dimensions complémentaires de l'existence humaine. L'une ne doit pas de développer au détriment de l'autre. Les gouvernements et les autres acteurs culturels doivent planifier leurs interventions de manière à assurer le développement équilibré et durable des deux dimensions de la vie'*
- *'My pledge is to devote my extensive experience in CCD project development to the service of addressing some of the most pressing problems – socio-economic problems as we heard towards an energy descent society'*
- *'I pledge to integrate art in Fiji with all artists and policy people for the betterment of arts and culture. To also work with other Pacific neighbours to strengthen arts and culture'*
- *'I pledge to continue to make art!'*