



Thursday, 6 October 2011, 11:30 am.

Keynote Session: Policies

Speaker

Alison Tickell, Director, Julie's Bicycle, United Kingdom

Moderator

Robyn Archer, Programme Advisor, World Summit on Arts and Culture

Rapporteur

Morwenna Collet, Program Manager, Arts Funding, Australia Council for the Arts

Description of the session

This session focused on the ecological impact of arts under the theme “the arts mean the world to us.”

Alison Tickell made points around the fact that what we eat, what we do and where we travel all have consequences. She underlined that we need to take our custody of the world very seriously. This is of particular importance to artists.

The earth's natural processes are no longer operating as they should and are changing rapidly. We need to be clear that the stakes around this problem are very high.

There are issues around super consumption at play. Food and water isn't cheap/available for everyone, droughts/floods can have huge impacts. Climate change is also a political battle.

The organisation Julie's Bicycle is responding to this epic drama through the lens of art. They work across all art forms and while they are based in the UK, they work globally. They work with companies to address issues of carbon footprinting as well as broader social and ecological issues. They initially started with music and particularly the touring aspects associated with the music industry.

Alison encouraged the audience that it is time to stop talk and start doing. She underlined that we need to start with the basics (things such as cooling and heating, artist and audience travel) and be accountable for the consequences.

Creative intersections discussed in the session

Climate change and the environmental issues discussed in the talk relate the conference themes of people and place.

Examples of good examples and practices

- Julie's Bicycle www.juliesbicycle.com/resources (The resources section contains tool kits, fact sheets, myth busters, case studies, research tips, campaign materials.)
- Shambala festival www.shambalafestival.org
- Sydney Theatre Company – greening the wharf www.sydneytheatre.com.au/visit/greening-the-wharf
- Corinbank Festival www.corinbank.com

Identified problems and obstacles (if any)

A wide range of environmental issues were identified and discussed throughout the presentation. More information is available at www.juliesbicycle.com

Recommendations for future actions in the field

The session finished with a video clip featuring Wangari Maathai, a female Nobel Prize winner who passed away very recently.

The message from this clip was: *'I will be a hummingbird, I will do the best I can.'*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGMW6YWjMxw