

MEDIA FACT SHEET

4th World Summit on Arts and Culture

Theme: *Meeting of Cultures: Creating Meaning through the Arts*

Landmark event for Africa:

- The 4th World Summit on Arts and Culture (4th WSoAC) is hosted by the National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC) and the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA)
- - The event will be held in Museum Africa in the Newtown Cultural Precinct
 - Dates: 22 – 25 September, 2009
- The theme: *Meeting of cultures: Creating meaning through the arts* provides the basis for Summit dialogues exploring:
 - the arts as facilitator or provocateur of intercultural dialogue
- The 4th WSoAC is the first of its kind to be held in Africa. The event is heralded as a landmark international event which will enable firsthand exchange between policy makers, funding agencies and other key players in the arts and culture
 - There will be a special focus on the African experience
- The South African partners for the 4th WSoAC are:
 - The Department of Arts & Culture (National)
 - The Gauteng Provincial Government Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation
 - The City of Johannesburg: Directorate of Arts, Culture and Heritage
 - The Johannesburg Tourism Company.
 - Business Arts South Africa
- International partners for the 4th WSoAC already confirmed include:
 - ○ Arts Council of Finland
 - ○ Danish Arts Agency
 - ○ Arts Council of Norway
 - ○ Commonwealth Foundation
- South African playwright, Mike van Graan, is the Programme Director for the 4th WSoAC. He currently serves as:
 - Director of the African Arts Institute in Cape Town
 - Secretary General of the Arterial Network - informal network of individuals and organisations committed to developing the African creative sector.

- Research on intercultural arts and arts policy and dialogue:
 - A major component of preparations for the 4th WSoAC is a survey conducted on IFACCA's behalf by ERICarts: 'Achieving Intercultural Dialogue through the Arts and Culture?' The results of the survey, and related resources, will be published at www.ifacca.org/topic/intercultural-dialogue-cultural-diversity/
- A series of 4th WSoAC legacy initiatives aimed at helping develop the arts and creative sectors on the African continent are currently in development and will be announced at the conclusion of the Summit.

About the World Summits on Arts & Culture:

- The World Summit on Arts & Culture is a triennial event created by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA).
- The World Summit on Arts & Culture is the only international event of its kind within the arts and culture policy development field
- The World Summits provide a platform for national arts councils, ministries of culture and other agencies active in the global arts and culture sector to:
 - Dialogue and exchange experiences and ideas about key issues affecting public support for the arts and creativity.
 - Engage in insightful, stimulating debate and thinking among policy makers about their work within contemporary global and national challenges
 - Challenge or affirm current practices by benchmarking good practice experiences against a variety of international voices and experiences
 - Create networking opportunities to build relationships and potential partnerships that will take further the themes, ideas and agreements initiated at each World Summit
 - Develop the networking, organisational and advocacy objectives and interests of IFACCA and its members in over 70 countries.

Previous world Summit events:

- The first World Summit of the Arts was held in Ottawa, Canada where agreement was reached to establish the organisation which became known as IFACCA (2000)
- The second World Summit was held in Singapore (2003)
- The third World Summit was held in NewcastleGateshead, England (2006)

World Summit delegate profile

Delegates at the WSoAC events include:

- a. Public arts funding agencies (governing boards, senior management and staff)
- b. Private national and international NGO arts funding bodies (governing boards, senior management and staff)
- c. Cultural policy makers (politicians, civil servants, think tanks, consultants, multilateral agencies such as UNESCO or the Organisation of IberoAmerican States etc, responsible for analysing, devising and implementing cultural policy)
- d. Representatives of international, regional and national artists' networks e.g. Arterial Network etc

It is estimated that the 4th WSoAC will attract about 400 delegates from about 70 countries – from Mongolia to Morocco, Kenya to Colombia and Finland to Fiji.

Registration:

- Online registration was recently opened at www.artsummit.org.
- Bursaries:
 - Delegates from developing countries, who need assistance to attend the Summit can apply using the application form available from the website.

Context for the 4th WSoAC theme and programme:

The context for the theme is a world increasingly divided by “cultural” rather than political ideology, where feelings of being threatened by “other” are largely based on ignorance about “other”.

Increased globalisation, through economic integration, is often criticised for threatening diversity and potentially “homogenising” the views and interests of economic and militarily powerful nations, while the desire to build “multicultural” societies has become increasingly important. The creation of the UNESCO Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is just one example of this.

The African connection

In 2008, the National Arts Council of South Africa launched the *African Dialogue on the Arts* initiative as part of the build up to the World Summit on Arts & Culture.

Designed as an information sharing platform, *the African Dialogue on the Arts* initiative plays an important role in ensuring that dialogue and networking outcomes from the World Summit will impact positively on creative sectors on the African continent.

It is envisaged that the World Summit will attract participation from a broad cross section of African nations. Through African-focussed intellectual and artistic dialogue at the 4th WSoAC, it is anticipated that stronger cultural and artistic bonds amongst African countries will be advanced.

About IFACCA (International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies)

The International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) is the first global network of national arts funding bodies.

- Inaugurated in December 2000, IFACCA's mission is to create an international resource and meeting ground for all those whose public responsibility it is to support excellence and diversity in artistic endeavour.
- IFACCA's vision is "to be a dynamic network, sharing knowledge and creating understanding to enrich a world of artistic and cultural diversity".
- IFACCA is funded by membership fees and contributions from the countries involved, as well as by grants or partnerships with other organizations.
- Membership comprises national and affiliate members, which together make up over 70 countries from all continents.

Key IFACCA activities

- ACORNS:
 - An online news service called ACORNS is produced and distributed biweekly for and about arts councils and culture agencies. Acorns was created to improve the management and sharing of information and ideas between arts councils, ministries of culture and arts and culture organisations
- IFACCA Directory
 - A unique directory providing information on national arts and culture agencies around the world. From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, the Directory contains:
 - Information on the key national arts and culture support agency
 - Contact information for sub-national government agencies and key cultural sector organisations
 - A quick tool to search news, publications and events specific to a country

- [ConnectCP](#) is the international who's who of cultural policy, planning and research. It is an online database that contains profiles of experts in cultural policy. Each profile outlines an expert's experience, current interests, and other information relevant to their work in cultural policy. It contains over 550 experts from nearly 80 countries.

Key website links:

- Official Summit Website www.artsummit.org
- IFACCA: www.ifacca.org
- National Arts Council: www.nac.org.za

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