

Progress Report No. 9

August 2006

This report summarises IFACCA's activities over the last 12 months. The highlight has been our third World Summit where members had a unique opportunity to network and learn about how the arts can play a role in regenerating places and communities. Associated with the Summit, we held our first leadership seminar and the General Assembly. We also presented several reports – *The First Five Years*, *Report to Members*, and *IFACCA Directory 2006* – all of which are included with the distribution of this report. If you need more copies, please let us know. Another highlight was the launch of our new 'who's who of cultural policy', ConnectCP. We welcome several new members – in particular the Ministries of Culture of Spain, Croatia, Malaysia and Indonesia and the Arts Councils of South Korea and Sri Lanka. As always, we welcome any assistance you can provide in hosting IFACCA events, sharing your expertise or encouraging new members to join the IFACCA network.

Sarah Gardner, Executive Director

World Summit on Arts and Culture

Over 500 people from 77 countries attended the third World Summit hosted by Arts Council England in partnership with IFACCA on 14-18 June 2006 in NewcastleGateshead, England. With the theme *Transforming places, transforming lives*, the Summit presented speakers, and case studies from over 30 countries. Papers from the Summit are now available to download from the Summit website www.artsummit.org. A report on the Summit is currently in production and will be sent to members next month. IFACCA offers enormous thanks to Arts Council England, particularly its North East office, and the NewcastleGateshead Initiative, for their superb organisation and generous support of this highly successful Summit.

CEO leadership seminar a success

Twenty CEOs and senior executives attended IFACCA's first leadership seminar held on 14 June 2006 to coincide with the World Summit. The seminar explored common issues faced by chief executives of arts funding agencies; how IFACCA can spotlight those issues and include them in future events; and how the group would like to

network in future. An evaluation of the seminar found that all respondents

- rated it as 'useful' or 'very useful';
- proposed to network with other CEOs after the seminar; and
- thought IFACCA should host similar events in future.

A report on the seminar will be circulated to members, and the board will consider options for future seminars.

Second General Assembly

Nearly 100 people attended IFACCA's General Assembly (GA) held on 14 June at the offices of Arts Council England North East. Delegates included 'official representatives' of 29 national members and 19 affiliates. The one-hour meeting, held prior to the opening of the World Summit, provided an opportunity for Chair, Risto Ruohonen, Treasurer, Lee Suan Hiang, and Executive Director, Sarah Gardner, to report on IFACCA's achievements, projects and finances since the last GA in November 2003. Professor Anne Bamford, author of the arts and education research compendium, *The Wow Factor*, and Diane Dodd, coordinator of ConnectCP, also addressed the GA about their joint

projects with IFACCA. Draft minutes of the GA are enclosed for members.

Marking the first five Years

To celebrate our 5th anniversary, the enclosed 12-page brochure, *The First Five Years*, was produced for distribution at the World Summit. The brochure highlights the five key assets created during that time – networks, research, information, dialogue and connections.

Report to IFACCA Members

A 48-page report, covering the period between the second and third World Summits, is enclosed for members. The report, which was distributed at the GA, provides details of membership, activities, an evaluation of IFACCA, news items, and future plans. An additional audited *Financial Report* for the 12 months to 31 December 2005 is also enclosed for national members.

IFACCA World Map published

The enclosed promotional map, also distributed at the Summit, highlights the 61 countries that our members come from. Copies are available on request.

IFACCA Directory 2006 published

Providing contact details for the national arts and culture agencies in 165 countries, the *IFACCA Directory 2006* has become a popular resource. Taken from the more extensive Directory on IFACCA's homepage, some entries list an agency's current strengths and challenges, providing a fascinating global overview of arts agencies. Visit www.ifacca.org to locate the profile and ACORNS stories about your country.

Constitution amended

At the GA, members agreed unanimously to three minor amendments to the constitution. The new constitution, in English, Spanish and French, is at www.ifacca.org/ifacca2/en/about/page09_constitution.asp.

New IFACCA Board elected

At the GA, seven members were elected unanimously to the IFACCA board for terms of three years. Kim Evans, the sole ongoing board member and chair of the nominating working group, presented the nominations: Clarisa Ruiz Correal (Colombia), Li Mu (China), Quresh Ahmed (Kenya), Georgia Iliopoulou (Greece) and Ian McRae (Australia). Risto Ruohonen (Finland) and Lee Suan Hiang (Singapore) were also appointed for a further three years. For profiles see www.ifacca.org/ifacca2/en/about/default.asp

Members-only dinner at BALTIC

Nearly 80 IFACCA members and affiliates joined World Summit hosts, speakers and guests for a spectacular dinner atop the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art on the opening night of the World Summit. We thank the Northumbria and Newcastle Universities for sponsoring the dinner.

Bids for World Summit 2009

Bids to host the next World Summit will be considered by the board at its next meeting, with a decision to be announced within the next few months.

ConnectCP gaining profile

We were delighted to launch the website for ConnectCP, the 'who's who in cultural policy', www.connectcp.org at the Summit. At the launch, Sarah Gardner thanked all those who have helped develop ConnectCP, in particular the coordinator, Diane Dodd, and the website/database developer, Paul Hosking of Innovetec, whose expertise and hard work have ensured the database's quality. A ConnectCP bookmark is enclosed.

Ms Dodd also presented ConnectCP to cultural policy researchers at iccpr2006, the 4th International Conference on Cultural Policy Research in Vienna, Austria, in July. This was the first major conference to make extensive use of

ConnectCP to provide many of the conference speakers' biographies.

We have now signed contracts with the Canadian Cultural Observatory and with the Australia Council to undertake national projects related to ConnectCP and we continue to seek other national and international partners.

Arts and education initiatives

IFACCA's collaboration with Professor Anne Bamford came to fruition with the publication in March this year of *The Wow Factor*, a global research compendium on the impact of the arts in education. All key IFACCA members and participants at the IFACCA mini-summit in September 2005 received a complimentary copy. The book can be ordered using the enclosed flyer or from the publishers, Waxmann, at www.waxmann.com. Our next initiative is to establish an arts and education policy group – more news will follow.

ACORNS

We have now sent out nearly 120 editions of ACORNS, with subscribers now numbering nearly 3,000. We maintain a full archive of past editions at: www.ifacca.org/ifacca2/en/new/page06_ACORNSArchive.asp.

IFACCA's website to get overhaul

Due to the high costs of website and database redevelopment, we are currently exploring a collaborative project which should see an improved website being launched in 2007. The new, more user-friendly site will have English and Spanish content as well as easy-to-use discussion areas, an archive of IFACCA research and resources, ACORNS news stories and country profiles.

Research activities

Since our last report, we have initiated two D'Art topics:

- Arts and culture in regeneration

- Coordination of research by national arts policy agencies and released two reports:
- Assistance to arts and culture festivals
- Culture and regeneration: literature review.

We also drafted and released the discussion paper *Independence of arts funding from government*, which was distributed to members only for comment and feedback. And we released *Indicadores Estadísticos para Políticas de Arte*, a Spanish version of our paper on statistical indicators.

From August 2005 to July 2006, we responded to 45 Ask IFACCA queries on topics ranging from government arts expenditure; to human resource issues in orchestras; to cultural statistics for an OECD project.

Versions of several IFACCA research papers were published in academic journals *The International Journal of Cultural Policy* and *Cultural Trends*.

Recent board meetings

The most recent full board meeting was kindly hosted by the Dutch Culture Council and SICA, the Service Centre for International Cultural Activities, in April 2006 in Amsterdam. The meeting prior to that was held in Medellín, Colombia, in November 2005, following which board members also visited Bogotá and met with the Vice Minister and members of the arts community. The next meeting will be in Beijing, China, in October. Short meetings were also held in Newcastle at the time of the Summit.

Asian Chapter of IFACCA underway

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council kindly hosted a second meeting of the Asian chapter of IFACCA in February this year. The chapter, chaired by Lee Suan Hiang, met again during the World Summit to share information on regional issues and priorities.

International meetings attended

Following the November board meeting, Sarah Gardner attended the INCP Ministerial meeting in Dakar as an observer. In April, en route to the Dutch board meeting, she attended a workshop hosted by the Asia Europe Foundation in Kuala Lumpur. Following the board meeting she attended a partners' roundtable in Brussels organised by the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa.

IFACCA survey results

An evaluation survey of IFACCA services was distributed to ACORNS subscribers in February this year. Results to note are:

- 148 people completed the survey (6 percent response rate), 10 percent of who were known to be members.
- Responses were received from 47 countries across all continents.
- Nearly all respondents (98 percent) find it 'useful or very useful' to have access to international information on arts support policies and strategies.
- Perceptions of IFACCA's performance were positive, with more than three-quarters of respondents considering IFACCA to be meeting its objectives well or very well.
- Nearly 90 percent of respondents rated the secretariat's performance as excellent or good.
- 93 percent of respondents rated IFACCA's ability to help them keep up-to date with international developments as excellent or good. Two-thirds of respondents rated

IFACCA as excellent or good at helping them do their job better.

- On average, 82 percent of respondents who had used an IFACCA service had found it useful or very useful.
- Comments were predominantly positive, with the main suggested improvement being greater diversity of information content.

Membership increasing

As always, the World Summit is a great stimulus to membership. Since our last progress report, membership has risen from 83 to over 100 members. New national members include Malaysia, Indonesia, Spain, South Korea and Sri Lanka; and new affiliates include Arts Research Digest, Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa, and Sharjah Museums Council (United Arab Emirates).

Become a member of IFACCA!

If your ministry of culture or national arts funding agency is not yet a member of the Federation (members listed here www.ifacca.org/ifacca2/en/about/page04_CurrentMembers.asp) then now is a great time to join! If you join in 2006, your membership contribution will also cover 2007. Please contact Sarah Gardner or visit www.ifacca.org for more information.

Secretariat staff

Our staffing profile has not changed – we are still three people – Sarah Gardner, Christopher Madden and Louise Godley.

We hope you have found this report interesting. We welcome any feedback and thank you for your ongoing support.