

PRESS RELEASE

Saturday 17th June 2006, NewcastleGateshead, England

Launch of ConnectCP, the international who's who of cultural policy

A unique new international resource for cultural policy, ConnectCP, was launched today at the third World Summit on Arts and Culture in NewcastleGateshead, England.

ConnectCP is the international who's who in cultural policy, planning and research which already contains 228 profiles covering more than 52 countries. It is an online database (www.connectcp.org) that contains profiles of experts in cultural policy from around the world. 'Experts' are those who have a national and international presence in arts and cultural policy, such as senior researchers, policy makers, teachers and managers, analysts and commentators. Each profile outlines an experts' experience, current interests, and other information relevant to their work in cultural policy.

Initiated by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) and the Boekman Foundation of the Netherlands, ConnectCP will have many benefits. It will help anyone looking for a cultural policy expert, or searching for people with particular expertise. Through ConnectCP, conference organisers will be able to find world class speakers, and they will have speakers' biographical information at their fingertips. Government agencies, management consultants and arts organisations will be able to find research partners or analysts from diverse backgrounds on a diversity of issues. Journalists will be able to find experts to comment on cultural policy issues in the media. And ConnectCP experts will themselves have the great advantage of always having an up-to-date profile accessible for peers, students and research partners.

The launch of ConnectCP was attended by prominent cultural policy professionals from around the world, including senior decisionmakers from arts councils and ministries of culture. At the launch, Sarah Gardner, Executive Director of IFACCA, thanked Diane Dodd, ConnectCP Coordinator, and Paul Hosking, of Innovetec, Spain, for two years' work in developing ConnectCP:

'Diane and Paul's hard work and dedication have produced a user-friendly and effective tool for the arts and cultural sector. With ConnectCP, we have a great international resource for improving the support for artistic and creative activity,' Ms Gardner said.

Ms Gardner also thanked the international panel of cultural policy experts who provided advice during the development phase, and supporting organisations Culturelink in Croatia, the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa, the 4th International Conference on Cultural Policy Research in Vienna, the Australia Council for the Arts, and Culturescope.ca.

'Culture, creativity and the arts are growing areas of interest to governments, NGOs and businesses. ConnectCP will be invaluable in serving the needs of these institutions. Equally, by raising the profile of a greater number of cultural policy experts, it will encourage a more diverse approach to analysis and commentary on cultural policy. And by increasing the international flow of ideas, skills and knowledge about cultural policy, we hope that ConnectCP will ultimately improve the quality of the cultural policy debate.'

For more information on ConnectCP, contact Diane Dodd, ConnectCP Coordinator:
Tel/Fax: +34 93 763 0162
info@connectcp.org

ConnectCP has been welcomed by sector as the following selection of quotes confirm!

*Thank you, ConnectCP is excellent and so useful!!!
Myrsini Zorba, University of Athens, Greece*

*An excellent and useful initiative!
Dr. Alan Stanbridge, University of Toronto at Scarborough, Canada*

*This is a great project, really useful and smart. Thank you for thinking on me.
Svetlana Jovicic, University of Arts, Serbia and Montenegro*

*ConnectCP is a great initiative and as someone who has been scouring the world for people both for the summit and other events it will be a really valuable resource.
Andrew Dixon, NewcastleGateshead Initiative, England*

*My congratulations and thanks for the efficiency and quality of the service that the ConnectCP project offers to the network of cultural policy researchers.
Emmanuel Wallon, University Paris X, France*

*This is a great and easy way to share my profile - thank you. It also reminded me that I should update my profile to make it more useful to an international community.
Kim Evans, Director, Arts, Arts Council England*

*I consider ConnectCP a good means of getting into contact with people.
Mikko Lagerspetz, Estonian Institute of Humanities, Estonia*

*It looks as if it's going to be a useful database, and I would appreciate being kept informed.
Sharon Jeannottee, Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada*

*Thank you and I'd be happy to jump on this bandwagon. Seems a very good idea and perhaps will make some of us even more busy.
Dr Dragan Klaić, Netherlands*

*Thank you for the invitation, I'd be happy to join. Great initiative, congratulations!
Annamari Laaksonen, Interarts, Finland / Spain*

*Thanks a lot for your invitation. I will be very please to be part of the ConnectCP database. It is an excellent resource. I'm looking forward to all the new contacts it will bring.
Dr Beatriz Garcia, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom*

*It is great to hear from you. As usual you are doing great work. I will be happy to be a part of the plan. Thanks for thinking of me in such a noteworthy project. I am truly honoured.
Sydney Bartley, Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture of Jamaica*

*How could anyone resist? Yes, it's a good project!
Mary Ann DeVlieg, IETM, Belgium*

*Congratulations on the ConnectCP project. And thank you for the honour to be among the key/star experts to help you launch this site.
Bram Buijze, Raad voor Cultuur - Council for Culture, Netherlands*

*Thanks for the invitation and I am happy to accept.
Corina Suteu, Policies for Culture, Romania/ France*

*Connect CP is a wonderful tool and resource that promises to network all cultural experts and strengthen collaboration. I am honoured to have my details in your database.
Henry Cheruiyot, AFRICOM, Kenya*

*The project is fantastic, the site is really easy to update and user-friendly.
Diego Fasciati, Arts Council, Dublin*

*The project really is fantastic - congratulations
Bilyana Tomova, University of National and World Economics, Bulgaria*

*Well done for the excellent initiative on launch of Connect CP. It is a tremendous initiative and will add value to your own work and many other people's involvement in culture.
Kalwant Ajimal, Asian Arts Access, England*

*Thank you very much for your wonderful initiative ConnectCP. I am very impressed with this tool and the new strategy to build a network of cultural policy experts.
Michael Soendermann, Arbeitskreis Kulturstatistik e.V, Germany*