CALL FOR PAPERS

Creative Communities: Sustainable Solutions to Social Inclusion

15th – 17th April 2009

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Queensland Australia

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Professor Helen Thomas (London College of Fashion) Francois Matarasso (freelance writer, researcher and consultant)

Conference convenors: Professor Andy Bennett and Dr Ian Woodward Conference organiser: Jill Jones (Centre for Public Culture and Ideas, Griffith University)

A three-day international conference hosted by the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas (Griffith University) with support from the Innovative Universities European Union Centre. This conference is affiliated with Griffith University’s Strategic Research Program ‘Social Change and Well-Being’.

Socio-economic and cultural dislocation are salient features of contemporary societies. Among both developing and post-industrial nations, rapid social change during the late 20th and early 21st centuries has brought with it significant levels of anomy as societies struggle to adapt to new socio-economic and cultural conditions. A number of factors contribute in this respect; traditional patterns of work and employment are now increasingly a thing of the past; societies are increasingly multi-cultural; individuals are living longer and have much greater expectations of lifestyle and leisure opportunities in later life than was the case in previous generations.

The need for new pathways and solutions to problems of social inclusion and cohesion within and across communities and neighbourhoods is now increasingly recognised. Among the array of ideas and projects currently being applied in this respect, the involvement of groups and individuals in creative pursuits has been highly endorsed in many national settings. ‘Creativity’ in this context has many meanings, but a central premise in all its applications is that involvement in creative pursuits – at the organisational, participant, or audience / consumer level – will engender a greater sense of individual and collective purpose and ultimately produce more socially inclusive and cohesive communities.

‘Creative Communities: Sustainable Solutions to Social Inclusion’ will be a three-day international conference featuring contributions from academic researchers and practitioners from the Pacific Rim, the European Union, Asia and North America. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for the sharing of ideas and knowledge about the value of creativity as a means of engendering social inclusion. The conference will allow academic
researchers, practitioners and organisations to explore aspects of commonality in their pursuits and avenues for possible collaboration both within Australia through the formation of international partnerships.

**Topics for discussion at the conference include, but are not limited to, the following:**

Community arts-based projects, creativity and cultural expression.

Festivals and carnivals as spaces for multi-culturalism and cosmopolitanism.

Rural communities, creativity and social inclusion.

Youth culture, cosmopolitanism, citizenship and political engagement.

Embodiment, performativity and pathways to inclusion.

Creative projects as a tool for social inclusion among indigenous cultures.

Street art and civic participation.

Creative projects and the prevention of juvenile crime and delinquency

Creativity, social inclusion and the role of education.

The internet and communities of creative interest.

Creativity, social inclusion and DIY initiatives.

Ageing, leisure and social inclusion.

Urban regeneration, city spaces and cultural participation.

Please send abstracts of between 150 and 200 words to: creativecommunities@griffith.edu.au

**The deadline for abstracts is 16th January 2009.**

For further information, please contact Jill Jones: j.jones@griffith.edu.au

Further details will appear on conference website which is accessible through the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas site: http://www.griffith.edu.au/cpci