

Progress Report No. 5

October 2003

As we approach the Second World Summit, we would like to update you on our activities for 2003 and outline the agenda for IFACCA's inaugural General Assembly. While much of our activity this year has revolved around the Summit, a lot has also been achieved in research and information exchange. Though world events have been contriving to threaten global gatherings such as the Summit, they also remind us of how interdependent we are and what a vital role the arts have in strengthening human connection and understanding. The World Summit is a unique opportunity for the world's leaders in public funding of the arts to work together to fulfil IFACCA's vision of 'sharing knowledge and creating understanding to enrich a world of artistic and cultural diversity'. We look forward to welcoming you in Singapore.

Sarah Gardner, Executive Director

Second World Summit

The Second World Summit on the Arts and Culture, *Creating Connections: Trends in Government Support for Artistic Creativity*, will be held in Singapore on 23-26 November 2003 in partnership with the National Arts Council of Singapore. The IFACCA secretariat has been responsible for organising the program and speakers, and the international funding and promotion of the Summit.

In setting the program, which was announced 28 July, the board considered over 150 suggestions for speakers. The aim was to give the widest variety of presenters the opportunity to share their expertise on issues of practical relevance to delegates.

We would like to warmly thank the Rockefeller Foundation, Commonwealth Foundation, Asia-Europe Foundation, Department of Canadian Heritage and the British Council for financial assistance which will enable the participation of speakers and delegates from developing countries. The National Arts Council of Singapore and the Singapore Tourism Board have also provided significant financial and operational support for the Summit.

The website www.artsummit.org, contains the latest program details. Other online arts

information services and arts journals have also assisted in promoting the Summit.

General Assembly

Founding Members of IFACCA will attend a special lunch at 12.30pm on Sunday 23 November. This will be followed by the inaugural General Assembly at 2.30-3.30pm. Members will shortly receive the agenda for the General Assembly.

ASEF Conference

The Asia Europe Foundation and the Arts Council of Ireland (in collaboration with IFACCA) are organising a post-Summit conference on 27 November. This will enable arts policy makers in Asia and Europe to discuss artist mobility and the establishment of a network of Asia-Europe Arts Promotion Agencies.

Corporate Governance

New Board to be Elected

In May this year we wrote to national arts funding agencies in over 120 countries asking for board nominations by mid-July. The letter detailed the nomination process and the roles and responsibilities of board members. Nominations were considered by IFACCA's Nominations Working Group and a list of people with the skills and backgrounds requisite to serving a diverse membership was compiled. The

new board will be elected at the General Assembly. Members will be sent a report on the election process shortly.

IFACCA's Constitution Now Final

The final version of the draft constitution has been approved by the board. A copy will be sent to members, who will be asked to endorse it at the General Assembly and sign the Federation's Founding Charter.

Meetings of the Interim Board

The interim board held its seventh meeting on 31 March-1 April 2003 at the Australia Council offices, where the secretariat is located. A reception, hosted by the Australia Council, gave board members the chance to mingle with the local arts and diplomatic community, and to publicly thank the Australia Council for its ongoing support of the secretariat.

The eighth meeting of the interim board was held by teleconference on 2 and 8 October and its final meeting will be immediately prior to the Summit. If you would like an issue to be discussed by the board, or are interested in the minutes of previous meetings, please let us know.

Financial Reports

On 30 June, IFACCA completed its second full financial year. The financial statements have been audited and will be distributed to members in November. Income was considerably boosted by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, which enabled research and communications with developing countries to be greatly improved. Conversely, a 20 per cent increase in the value of the Australian dollar, while popular domestically, reduced income from membership fees. Administration costs were trimmed accordingly, resulting in a slim \$A290 surplus.

Membership

New members

Membership of the Federation continues to expand. The organisations to have joined recently are:

- Council for Cultural Affairs, Norway
- Arts Council of Wales
- Ministry of Basic Education and Culture, Namibia

- National Cultural Foundation, St Vincent & the Grenadines
- Ministry of Culture, Republic of Cuba
- Ministry of Communications, Culture, Youth and Sport, Niger
- Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Trinidad and Tobago
- National Arts Council, Zambia

New affiliate members are

- Hong Kong Arts Development Council
- New South Wales Ministry for the Arts
- Arts South Australia
- Arts Victoria, Australia
- Arts Western Australia
- Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts, Australia
- Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Hong Kong
- Consultant Sue Boaden

IFACCA's membership now numbers 36 national arts funding agencies and 21 affiliate and reciprocal members with several other agencies currently finalising membership. To join IFACCA see www.ifacca.org.

Membership Payments

The deadline for Founding Memberships is 23 October 2003. If you still wish to join as a Founding Member of the Federation, we urge you to contact us immediately. Please note that if you have not paid your membership fee for 2003, you cannot be considered a member for the General Assembly, nor receive registration discounts for the World Summit.

Membership fees for 2004 will be invoiced in December 2003. Please note that invoices will, in future, be quoted in Australian dollars.

Online Information Exchange

ACORNS – Arts and Culture Online Readers News Service

We continue to receive very positive feedback on ACORNS. With the help of the grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, we are able to keep increasing circulation (now over 1100 recipients) and have been able to broaden the content to include much more news from non-English sources. We would like to produce a Spanish version of the bulletin in 2004. To submit your news for ACORNS email: news@dramatic.com.au

Website www.ifacca.org

During 2003 we have been continuously upgrading our website with many new features, including:

- quicker access to the latest arts and culture funding news
- a searchable archive of ACORNS articles
- online registration for ACORNS
- online forums
- country profiles and links to 'culturenet' portals

Developments in 2004 will include expanding the non-English elements of the site, improving the design and adding a 'members only' area.

National profiles

IFACCA's country profiles provide details of each country's national arts support agency, including, in many cases, an agency's perceived strengths and greatest challenges. The profile also links to ACORNS stories for that country. In August, the secretariat requested all national agencies to update their profile for inclusion in the registration pack for the World Summit. Updates were due back by September 26

Online Forums

You can now make comments on any of the research topics undertaken by IFACCA. Simply log on at www.ifacca.org using your email address and password, go to 'browse existing topics' and click on the forum icon.

Portals to facilitate research

We have added new portals to the IFACCA website. Select 'What we do/Research Assistance' and choose research links from four categories:

- University departments and university-related agencies
- Independent research agencies and 'think tanks'
- Cultural observatories
- Online descriptions of cultural policies

The websites of these agencies often have downloadable reports and working papers. The portals offer a quick and easy way to surf the latest research work being undertaken in arts and cultural policy.

Research Activities

D'ART : Discover:Descubrir:Découvrir

D'Art queries have been circulated on disability policies, dance programs, status of the artist legislation and policies, audience development issues and legal services for artists. Two full D'Art reports were released: *Musical instrument banks online resources*, and *Successful dance policies and programs*; as was an 'interim report' on *Encouraging philanthropy through tax provisions*, which contained selected online resources and references.

New 'Ask IFACCA' service

Since introducing the quick-response 'Ask IFACCA' service in June 2003, we have received five queries. Our responses to two of the queries, on *Comparing government expenditure in the arts* and *Arts advocacy arguments*, were of broad international interest and were published in ACORNS. Another, on arts and education, will be developed as a full D'Art query in 2004.

Examples of how the research is used

D'Art 1, on *Defining artists for tax and benefit purposes*, was used in Arts Council England's *Artists, taxes and benefits - an international review*, (2002). **D'Art 4**, on *Conflict of interest policies*, was featured in Canadian newspaper *Le Devoir* (25-26 January 2003; pg. A8); in the Budapest Observatory's December 2002 newsletter; and by Lluís Bonet (Barcelona) and Emmanuel Négrier (Montpellier) to develop a new research project comparing the situation in France and Spain. **D'Art 8**, on *Musical instrument banks*, will be used by UNESCO's Global Alliance as background in developing an initiative to collect and distribute musical instruments to musicians in Africa.

IFACCA's research is also mentioned in the enclosed publication, *The Research and Information Infrastructure for Cultural Policy*, about a meeting held in the USA to discuss a report by J. Mark Schuster. The project was supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Future Leaders Exchange Program

Australia-Ireland

We are delighted to announce the inaugural FLEx fellow is the Australia Council's Manager, Audience and Market

Development, Ron Layne, who is undertaking a 10-week placement at the Arts Council of Ireland. Jointly funded by each Arts Council, the FLEx will be carefully documented and evaluated as a model for future exchanges. We welcome expressions of interest in the FLEx program for 2004 – application details are on our website. Thanks to the Rockefeller Foundation, support is available for exchanges involving agencies in developing countries.

Eastern Europe

In May-June 2003, a series of meetings and workshops about audience development were held in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. Aimed at government and arts industry workers, the presentations were conducted by Anna Grega (Australia Council), with some support from IFACCA.

IFACCA's Survey

Your opinions of IFACCA

In January we surveyed members and ACORNS readers about IFACCA's services. The responses, from 37 countries, indicated a very positive perception of IFACCA's services. Some highlights are:

- The majority (around 80%) of respondents believe that IFACCA is meeting its mission and most of its objectives well or very well.
- Respondents are happy with the frequency and content of ACORNS.
- Respondents find ACORNS useful or very useful for their work.
- The least useful part of ACORNS is the 'employment' section.
- Awareness of IFACCA's other services varies, but there was a high awareness among respondents of the IFACCA website (84%) and the World Summit (63%).
- Respondents who have used IFACCA's other services found them useful or very useful.

Selected feedback

Respondents made some very encouraging comments such as:

- I enjoy the newsletter immensely (South Africa)

- ACORNS nicely crosses the academic, community, policy triad! (Australia)
- D'Art is extremely helpful (France)
- Astonishing all you reached and built up in the short time of your existence. (Switzerland)
- Well done! (New Caledonia)
- Overall you are doing a great job! (Germany)
- Keep up the good work! (Singapore)
- Excellent! Congratulations! (Croatia)

The main suggestions for improvement were:

- Increase the geographical and non-English coverage of ACORNS.
- Allow easier searching and navigation of ACORNS stories.

These have both been addressed.

Secretariat News

IFACCA's secretariat is an independent not-for-profit company located at the offices of the Australia Council in Sydney. This year Chris Madden became our full-time research analyst and we have been joined by Louise Godley as administrator, bringing staff numbers to three.

E-Culture conference Croatia

Sarah Gardner was invited to make a presentation at the Culturelink/CIRCLE conference on E-Culture in Croatia in May, outlining IFACCA's on-line information sharing programs ACORNS and D'Art. In August she attended the Melbourne meeting of the International Network of Business and Arts Associations.

IFACCA brochure

In August we released our first brochure. Designed by Paul Clark and illustrated by art works supported by IFACCA members around the globe, the brochure describes our objectives and services in three languages. Copies are enclosed.

IFACCA in Arabic

IFACCA Information Kits are now available in Arabic as well as Japanese, Chinese, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese. All can be downloaded from www.ifacca.org.

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