

D'Art 23: Cultural development in rural and remote regions

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IFACCA has received a query from Jessica Latter, a researcher at the University of Technology, Sydney, who is working with interest groups from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and Cornwall in the UK, Montana and New England in the USA, and Regional Arts New South Wales in Australia. Ms Latter's network is looking for information on research and programs relating to cultural development in rural and remote areas.

The OECD has a convenient benchmark for defining 'rural and remote':

A region is rural if more than half the people there live in communities with a population density of fewer than 150 persons per square kilometer.¹

While much research is being done on the cultural and creative industries in cities and at the national level, the knowledge and models developed are not necessarily relevant to rural and remote areas. Ms Latter's network is exploring opportunities for and barriers to the sustainable development of creative/cultural industries in rural and remote regions. They hope to identify best practice models, partnerships and strategies that work to support development in these regions. The first phase is the preparation of a summary of: (i) research already underway or completed; (ii) existing strategies in place for development; and (iii) best practice projects or programs.

QUESTIONS:

- Do you know of any good practice projects/ programs/ partnerships/ strategies that are working in rural or remote regions in your country?
- Do you know of any existing research dealing with this theme?
- Would you like to be part of this network which aims to exchange information and ideas?

We would welcome any assistance you could provide in our search.

WHAT TO DO:

- If you can assist, please reply to both Jessica Latter and to IFACCA (info@ifacca.org).
- If you know someone else in your country who could help, please forward this query to them.
- The deadline for responses is 10 June 2005.

A summary of responses will be prepared and sent to respondents prior to publication.

¹ From Arts and *Cultural Projects in Rural and Remote Canada: A Review of Canada Council Support* http://www.canadacouncil.ca/publications_e/research/lb127234975508906250.htm