

Progress report #2

30 November 2001

From Sarah Gardner, Executive Director

1.0 Secretariat – now established

Greetings from the secretariat, which is now almost nine months old. While we operate independently, the Federation has an office in the Australia Council building in Sydney. We have registered a company (and are seeking not-for-profit status), opened a bank account and commissioned the new logo by Australian designer, Paul Clark. The one other staff member – research and administrative officer, Christopher Madden – started in September. Chris has a background in cultural policy analysis and cultural statistics.

We now have an ‘information kit’ about the Federation (attached). Please feel free to copy and distribute the kit.

2.0 The interim board – recent activities

2.1 Board membership

As Albanela Pérez-Suárez has left CONAC (Venezuela), she has also resigned her board position. Two new members have been appointed: Stéphane Martin (France) and Fernando Vicario (Spain). You can read their profiles at <http://www.ifacca.org/en/about/index.html>

2.2 Meetings

The third meeting of the interim board was held at the offices of the Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin on 24-25 September 2001. The meeting was attended by Doreen Nteta (South Africa), Patricia Quinn (Ireland), Risto Ruohonen (Finland) and myself. Due to the events of September 11, Shirley Thomson (Canada) and Choo Thiam Siew (Singapore) were unable to attend in person, but joined in via teleconference. The board met again by teleconference on 13 November to discuss the next World Summit. The next meeting will be at the National Arts Council of Singapore on 22-23 April 2002. The final meeting of the interim board will be held immediately before the first General Assembly, which will be part of the next World Summit in late 2002.

If you want a matter raised at a board meeting please notify the secretariat or a board member. Contact details are in the information kit.

3.0 Corporate Plan – agreed by the interim board

The Federation’s vision is: *A dynamic network, sharing knowledge and creating understanding to enrich a world of artistic and cultural diversity.* This vision, together with a mission statement and three-year objectives (as detailed in the information kit) were developed at the board’s September meeting.

4.0 Constitution – a draft to be circulated

We need your feedback on the draft constitution. The ‘consultation draft’ will be distributed to all potential members of the Federation next month with an invitation to comment. Responses must reach us by early April so they can be discussed at the board’s next meeting. A ‘final draft’ will then be sent to you in mid-2002 for final consideration. You will have three months to make any final comments, after which you will be sent an ‘agreed draft’ one month before the first General. You will be asked to ratify the constitution at the General Assembly.

5.0 The next board – nominations and election in 2002

The constitution proposes that a nominating committee selects a diverse range of board members and that this list be presented to you for election at the next General Assembly. We will send you more information and a request for nominations early in 2002.

6.0 Membership – benefits, new members, and fees for affiliates

6.1 Benefits of Membership

The constitution outlines two types of membership: Members and Affiliates. A description of each and the benefits are described in the information kit.

6.2 New Members

To date, the board has approved 21 national members: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Dominica, England, Finland, Guyana, Ireland, Micronesia (Federated States of), Northern Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, USA and Zimbabwe.

While the board is prepared to consider applications for reduced membership fees, it requires at least a small financial contribution to be made. Therefore, the board was unable to admit national arts agencies that have expressed interest in membership but are not currently able to make a contribution.

The board did, however, agree to extend the deadline for payment of the first year’s fee for ‘founding membership’ to **30 June 2002**. To be invited to the Federation’s first General Assembly and to take part in board elections, you will need to be approved as a member and pay the membership fee.

If you haven’t already joined the Federation, you can do so by emailing us ifacca@ozco.gov.au.

6.3 Affiliates fees

In September, the board agreed on annual fees for affiliates as outlined in the kit.

If you know of an organisation that would benefit from becoming an affiliate member of the Federation - for example, regional or provincial arts councils in your country - please let us know and we will send them more information.

7.0 Communications – exchanging information

7.1 The website <http://www.ifacca.org>

The website has been upgraded and new information added, including:

- profiles of arts councils produced for the 2000 World Summit
If you would like to add a profile for your arts council or culture ministry OR make any changes to a profile please email us.
- many more links to international arts agencies, networks and resources
If you have suggestions for more links please let us know.... and please add a hotlink to www.ifacca.org on your own website.

7.2 ACORNS - Arts Council Online Readers News Service

In December, a biweekly email news service in English will be sent to all potential members and affiliates. Commissioned from Australian company, Dramatic Online, it will contain information about arts councils' activities, new resources, conferences and employment opportunities. We will be translating the service into Spanish and French from early 2002.

We want your news!! Please send it to news@dramatic.com.au

ACORNS will be on trial for 12 months with regular evaluations. If needed, the service will become weekly during 2002. It will replace the current ad hoc emails from the secretariat.

If you haven't been receiving 'News' emails from the secretariat, please ask us to add you to the list.

7.3 Discover: Descubrir: Découvrir or D'ART.

This is a program of information sharing, to help consolidate our collective knowledge on key arts topics. You should have received news of this by email. If you are faced with an arts question that you think someone else might have answered OR you need assistance finding out about international experience on a particular issue – you can ask IFACCA for help. We can send your query to our extensive international network of arts councils and culture agencies to find out if anyone in the network can help. We will collate and analyse the responses, send a copy to all respondents and put the results on our website. The first D'ART questions have been about: how to define 'professional artists'; inter-country comparisons of cultural attendance/participation data; and conflict of interest guidelines.

If you have a question, email us at ifacca@ozco.gov.au.

7.4 Bibliography

Next year we hope to trial a new arts and culture bibliography, accessible to members in a password protected section of the website. We'll let you know more in January.

8.0 World Summit 2002 – to be announced soon

An announcement of the host and dates for the 2002 Summit will be made shortly.

9.0 Projects – to build links between members

9.1 Mini-summits

Apart from the World Summit, the secretariat is offering to work with Members to organise mini-summits on key arts topics during 2002 and 2003. Mini-summits offer a focused environment for managers from arts councils and culture agencies to explore

major policy concerns, develop joint initiatives and forge ongoing networks. The meetings are expected to be small (around 10 to 20 managers) and to take two to three days. Topics might include art form policies, arts advocacy programs, grants administration or research.

Contact us if you are interested in hosting a mini-Summit and or have a topic you'd like to explore.

9.2 *Future Leaders Exchange (FLEx) program*

In early 2002 we will be sending you information about IFACCA's Future Leaders Exchange (FLEx). FLEx is designed to build relationships and develop the skills of people working in national arts councils and culture agencies. It is intended to be a two-way program, placing a senior manager of an arts council or culture agency into a similar agency in a different geographical region. By doing this, the program aims to:

- give senior managers the opportunity to gain insights into alternative arts support policies and practices and develop their skills and cultural awareness; and
- give arts councils and culture agencies the opportunity to benefit from a different approach or perspective in tackling a special project or solving a challenging issue.

10.0 Finances - Budget approved and thanks to our supporters!

The interim board has approved last financial year's financial reports and approved a modest budget for 2001-02*. KPMG has been appointed to conduct the annual audit.

IFACCA has already received about \$US15,000 worth of in-kind support for accounting and legal services, airfares, the website and translations. Our supporters include KPMG, Simpsons Solicitors, Maxiem software and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Most significantly, the interim board members, by paying their own travel and accommodation costs to attend the two board meetings, have saved the Federation approximately \$US50,000 this year.

For the Federation to meet its objectives and fulfil your needs, it needs the financial support of its members and affiliates.

If you have not already joined to Federation please email or write to us today for more information.

11.0 Media Release – distributed in September

The media release circulated following the board meeting is in the kit.

We hope you find this report interesting. If you have any suggestions for future reports or projects please let me know.

Sarah Gardner
Executive Director

*Australia's financial year is 1 July to 30 June.