

Progress Report No. 4

December 2002

From Sarah Gardner, Executive Director

Greetings from IFACCA. Although members and associates receive announcements on a fortnightly basis via our online bulletin, ACORNS, we felt it timely to provide you with a more in-depth report and our latest information kit.

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1. The Second World Summit – 23-26 November 2003 – put it in your diary!

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. The Summit will be hosted by the National Arts Council of Singapore. Registration and accommodation details will be forwarded in early 2003.

The Singapore Summit will provide excellent opportunities to network with colleagues and debate the sorts of issues currently facing leaders in public financing of the arts and culture. To ensure the relevancy of the program which is currently being planned by IFACCA, we will shortly be seeking your advice about the issues you would like covered and the speakers you would like to nominate.

2. The First General Assembly – 23 November 2003

Immediately preceding the World Summit members of IFACCA will be invited to participate in the inaugural General Assembly which will see both the ratification of the Federation's constitution and the election of its inaugural board.

3. Rockefeller Foundation – financially supporting IFACCA

IFACCA is delighted to announce that the Rockefeller Foundation has generously provided the Federation with a grant of \$US100,000 towards 'the costs of information

sharing and skills exchange programs that promote service to arts agencies serving artists and societies in South East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe and Africa'. The funding will be of enormous assistance in expanding the Federation's online content, research capabilities into arts issues and national profiles, support for international meetings and staff exchanges, and in broadening the participation of developing countries in IFACCA board meetings.

4. The interim board – an update on activities

The members of the interim board, appointed at the First World Summit, have agreed to continue in their current roles until the first board elections are held in November 2003. Interim Board Members' contact details are listed in the information kit.

The fourth and fifth meetings of the board were held at the National Arts Council of Singapore on 22-23 April and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona on 7-8 November, respectively. On both occasions the board met with key regional leaders in government, research and the arts. The next board meeting will be held in Sydney, Australia on 31 March-1 April 2003.

Ø *Members: if you would like a matter raised at a board meeting, or would like to see the minutes of a previous meeting, please let us know.*

Apart from their obvious governance role, Board members play a vital part in raising the Federation's profile and encouraging membership, whether through their public speaking engagements, international travel or interaction with VIPs.

5. The next board – nominations to be called in 2003

In May 2003 we will be calling for nominations for the first full board of IFACCA. The deadline for nominations will be around mid-July. A Nominations Working Group (comprised of members of the interim board) will select from your nominations a list of people with the skills and backgrounds requisite to a diverse membership. These nominees will be presented for election at the General Assembly.

6. IFACCA's Constitution – final feedback on the draft

Eight responses were received to the request for feedback on the 'consultation draft' of the constitution circulated in early 2002. In April, the board reviewed the comments in detail and the Federation's lawyer has now finalised the changes. The 'final draft' will be sent to you shortly for another opportunity to comment. Once approved by the board, the 'agreed version' will be forwarded to you in mid-2003. You will be asked to ratify the constitution at the General Assembly.

7. Corporate Planning – laying the groundwork for the Federation

The Federation's vision, mission statement and three-year objectives are detailed in the attached information kit. At the April meeting the board conducted a SWOT analysis and a stakeholder analysis, which concluded that IFACCA should:

- Develop concrete projects that have a practical and immediate benefit to members.
- Differentiate itself from other international organisations and collaborate where possible.
- Ensure financial viability organisation through member contributions, funding from private foundations and partnerships with international organizations.

At the November meeting, Dr Jonathan Katz, Chief Executive of the US National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, shared with the board his 30 years' experience in running a service organisation focussed on government funders of the arts. His insights promoted extensive discussion about the functions and priorities of the board and secretariat and proved most helpful to the board in informing its planning.

The Executive Director of the Budapest Observatory (BO), Péter Inkei, also met with the board in Barcelona¹. Here is an excerpt from his BO Report for November:

... I had been concerned about IFACCA, the world federation of arts councils, to be deemed to the splendid isolation of the Commonwealth, keeping distance from the non-arm's-length formations of public granting to culture.... Yet by the time my turn came to convince IFACCA board ... they had decided to open their doors wide: all institutionalised forms of public support to culture are invited to exchange ideas, experiences and URL addresses...

8. Funding models – IFACCA is developing a database of issues

IFACCA is maintaining a 'watching brief' on the funding model issue. The chief questions appear to be: How prevalent are the various models? What is the incidence within and between countries of arts funding at arm's length versus direct ministry or departmental funding? What are the costs and benefits of the various models? What types of government arts support activity are best implemented in each way?

These questions are difficult to answer because of the variations in interpretation of such key terms as 'arms-length' and 'peer-assessment', let alone 'arts' and 'culture'. Global trends in government and international networking add further complexity to the challenge. What is clear is that governments wanting to establish or to improve arts support mechanisms are required to act and make policy decisions. IFACCA is ideally situated to be a source of information on the issues.

9. Finances – 2001-02 audit completed

The Federation's auditors, KPMG, have now completed IFACCA's annual financial statements to 30 June 2002. If you are a member, you will receive a copy with this progress report. If you would like to receive the financial report please email us.

10. Membership – new members and affiliates welcomed and 2003 invoices due

New Members

Since its inception, IFACCA has welcomed 30 national members. Many other national agencies have either expressed interest or are in the process of finalising their membership. Full details are contained in the information kit.

In 2001-02, the Federation received about \$US150,000 in membership income. The board and secretariat would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank our 14 major contributors (figures are in USD) :

\$25,000 or more	National Endowment for the Arts (USA), Canada Council for the Arts, Arts Council of England
\$20,000 – 25,000	Australia Council
\$5,000 – \$10,000	Arts Council of Ireland, Arts Council of Finland, National Arts Council of Singapore, Netherlands Council for Culture

¹ A paper by Mr Inkei, *Arm's Length Financing in Culture: Why? Why not?*, is available at: www.budobs.org/grant-paper-dec.htm

\$1,000 – \$5,000 Ministerio de Cultura Colombia, Creative New Zealand, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, National Arts Council of South Africa, Scottish Arts Council, Ministère de la Communauté française de Belgique

The Federation's success is the direct result of the financial support of its members and affiliates. To ensure that IFACCA continues to meet its objectives and fulfils the needs of its membership, it is vital that membership is increased.

Affiliates sought

In 2002 IFACCA was delighted to welcome its first ten affiliate members. The Federation is hopeful that 2003 will see a growing enrolment of affiliates, particularly arts funding agencies operating at the provincial or state level.

Ø *If you know an organisation that would benefit from being an affiliate member of IFACCA – please let us know or point them to our website.*

Membership fees are due for 2003

Every contribution IFACCA receives is vital to its continuing viability. Invoices for 2003 fees have been sent to members by email and a copy is enclosed – prompt payment would be much appreciated. Membership brings considerable benefits, particularly in 2003. To attend the first General Assembly and take part in board elections you will need to be approved as a member and pay an agreed membership contribution. While the board is prepared to consider applications for reduced membership fees, it requires at least a small financial contribution to be made.

Ø *If you haven't already joined the Federation just email us: ifacca@ozco.gov.au.*

11. Information exchange – latest developments in online resources

Website www.ifacca.org

Since its inception, the website has reflected the growing role of IFACCA and its activities. The website now includes Spanish as well as English pages. In January the Federation's site will be upgraded with a new look and improved functionality.

Ø *Please add a hotlink to www.ifacca.org on your own website.*

ACORNS – Arts Council Online Readers News Service

Within its first year of operation, ACORNS has distributed 24 editions, with the service currently reaching over 500 arts and policy leaders in over 120 countries. As evidenced by the attached selection of comments, feedback from readers has been extremely positive. In January we will be broadening the content to include much more news from non-English sources and will then focus on translating each bulletin.

Ø *Send your news to news@dramatic.com.au*

National profiles

The Federation has continued to build its profiles of national arts funding agencies. This impressive resource now includes profiles and/or contact details for over 75 countries and links to the ACORNS stories about each country. Country profiles have been added for the Ministerio de Cultura Colombia and the Philippines National Commission for Culture. Profiles were also updated for: the Canada Council; the Arts Council of England; the Guyana Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; the Arts Council of Ireland; and the Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture.

Ø *If you would like to add a profile for your arts council or culture ministry OR make any changes to an existing profile please email us.*

Discover: Descubrir: Découvrir or D'ART.

Four D'Art reports have been published², with another six in progress (as listed in the information kit). D'Art users have found the program extremely useful:

I can't tell you how valuable it is when organisations like IFACCA commission this kind of work, which we working in the industry unfortunately don't have the means to undertake or commission ourselves.

Tamara Winikoff, National Association for the Visual Arts, Australia

Thanks very much... we have received a number of replies to date, it is proving most useful.

Mary Cloake, Development Director, Arts Council of Ireland

The reports have also been cited in arts and culture research work -

- D'Art 1, on defining artists for tax and benefit systems, was quoted in Australia's Report of the Contemporary Visual Arts and Craft Inquiry.
- D'Art 2, on international comparisons of cultural statistics, was used for background to Arts Research Seminar 'The Use and Abuse of Comparative Research in the Arts and Cultural Sectors', held in Edinburgh in July 2002.
- D'Art 3, on copyright management systems, was used in a paper for the American Assembly meeting on the arts, technology and intellectual property.
- The D'Art process was acknowledged in Professor J. Mark Schuster's report as an 'encouraging development' in his 2002 report, *Informing Cultural Policy*³.

Bibliographies

IFACCA continues to facilitate access to arts and culture literature. Two publications portals were added to the website in August: one linking to the publications pages of arts and culture funding agencies around the world; the other to online arts and culture bibliographies. We anticipate that these portals will become the first point of call for arts and culture analysts undertaking literature searches. We also assisted UK firm, Euclid, in designing ACRONIM, a free online database of arts and cultural research.

12. Projects – building links between members

Mini-summits

Apart from the World Summit, the secretariat would like to work with members to organise mini-summits on key arts topics during 2003 and onwards. 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. Currently IFACCA is developing plans for a mini-Summit about Indigenous arts policy for 2004. Other possible topics might include art form policies, arts advocacy programs, grants administration or research.

Ø *Contact us if you want to host a mini-Summit or have a topic you'd like to explore.*

² A complete set of the four D'ART reports is being sent to IFACCA members with this report.

³ The report's publisher, Pew Charitable Trusts, kindly provided IFACCA with copies of this book to send to all its national members in November 2002.

Future Leaders Exchange (FLEx) program

In early 2002 the pilot program for IFACCA's Future Leaders Exchange (FLEx) was announced. FLEx, designed to build relationships and develop the skills of people working in national arts councils and culture agencies, is intended as a two-way program, placing a senior manager of an arts council or culture agency into a similar agency in a different geographical region.

Although a limited response has been received to date, with the generous support of the Rockefeller Foundation it is expected that this program will be an area of growth in 2003. The Federation encourages members to promote the program to senior staff. For information see http://www.ifacca.org/en/organisation/page08_exchanges.html

13. IFACCA Survey – what do you think?

It is now over a year since the Secretariat began operations. How are we doing? What can we improve upon? You will have a chance to tell us in an email survey to be sent in January. As YOUR Federation your input is central to ensuring that IFACCA continues to meet the needs of its members and the broader arts community.

14. The Secretariat – other items of news

IFACCA's secretariat, an independent not-for-profit company located at the offices of the Australia Council in Sydney, is comprised of Executive Director, Sarah Gardner and Research and Administration Officer, Christopher Madden.

With the Federation's financial and administrative procedures now firmly in place, the secretariat is well placed to promote IFACCA more widely. One of 2002's highlights was the recognition of the Federation in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the first Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities, held in Colombia in July. The Executive Director also took the opportunity of promoting IFACCA at a Japan-EU Round Table on Cultural Policy in Tokyo in May. A similar opportunity eventuated in August, when Ms Gardner was commissioned by the Singapore National Arts Council to present a three-day staff seminar on the Arts in Australia and the Role of Government.

Background information on IFACCA is available in an increasing number of languages including Japanese, Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and English, with an promotional brochure to be produced early in 2003. A PowerPoint presentation is also available on request.

With the approach of the Second World Summit in late 2003, IFACCA is facing a busy year. More than ever we need your help in order to fulfil our brief of creating 'a dynamic network, sharing knowledge and creating understanding to enrich a world of artistic and cultural diversity'. If the time available is limited to respond to our requests for assistance, please feel free to nominate a substitute contact within your organisation.

The Secretariat hopes you have found this report of interest and sincerely thanks you for your ongoing commitment and support.

Comments made about ACORNS, 2002

‘Thank you very much for your Newsletter. I was really impressed by it – and looking forward to receiving it in the future.’ Ritva Mitchell, Head of Research for the Arts Council of Finland, President of ERICarts and former President of CIRCLE.

‘Congratulations on the new bulletin, it's fantastic. What a great resource and good idea!’ Anna Dean, Creative New Zealand.

‘Thank you so much for this very good newsletter. All the best.’ Frédérique Chabaud, European Forum for the Arts and Heritage.

‘Excellent newsletter.’ Agne Nastopkaite, Lithuania.

‘Your IFACCA bulletin is really useful and there is lots of information.’ Lidia Varbanova, Arts and Culture Network, Soros Institute, Budapest.

‘ACORNS...seems to be such an informative newsletter and totally relevant in terms of what the Federation needs to address.’ Retha Hofmeyr, Directorate of Arts, Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture, Namibia.

‘Thanks – lots of interesting material there, and easy to work through.’ Dermot McLaughlin, Artform Director, Arts Council of Ireland.

‘Your ACORNS newsletter is very valuable.’ Mara Walker, Vice President of Programs, Americans for the Arts, USA.

‘I enjoy your E-bulletin ACORNS very much. It is really comprehensive.’ Tseng Sun Man, consultant and lecturer in arts management and former Executive Director of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

‘Glad to be a member – the newsletter is always interesting and informative.’ Margaret Wyszomirski, Professor and Director, Arts and Policy Administration Program, The Ohio State University, USA.

‘I find the newsletter very interesting and it keeps me up with what’s going on around the world. Keep up the good work!’ Cathy Craigie, Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board, Australia.

‘This is fabulous information. Congratulations.’ Victoria Henry, Director, Canada Council Art Bank.

‘Acorns is quick and simple to handle, with less gaudy glamour than many other products.’ Budapest Observatory newsletter.

‘I do like the format of your newsletter – it is like taking a quick look around the globe, a good reminder of all that is happening.’ Suzanne Callahan, Callahan Consulting for the Arts, USA.