

IFACCA Report No. 10

September 2007

This tenth progress report summarises our achievements and activities over the past year. A highlight was the announcement that South Africa will host the fourth World Summit on Arts and Culture in Johannesburg in 2009. Our new website is also a landmark, and one that will greatly enhance our ability to manage and share information on research, contacts and news from all parts of the world. During 2007 we welcomed the ministries of culture of France, Greece, Chile and Mongolia as national members, as well as several new affiliates. As described below, we also assisted a number of other international networks and event organisers to contact members of the IFACCA network. Facilitating such contacts helps to keep government arts agencies informed and contributes to intercultural dialogue. Senior executives of arts councils and ministries of culture have significant leadership responsibilities. As such, it is essential that they are well-informed and have ready access to models of good practice. IFACCA's goal is to maximise our network's knowledge base in order to support the development of arts and culture for the benefit of all. We can only achieve this goal with the support of our members. So, we thank you again for any assistance you can provide in hosting IFACCA events, sharing your expertise or encouraging new members to join the IFACCA network.

Sarah Gardner, Executive Director

New website launched

On 13 August we launched the new version of our website www.ifacca.org and its supporting databases. In the six years since our first site went live, we have added vast amounts of news, reports and contacts. The new system brings great improvements in the management and access to that information. However, we cannot achieve it all 'overnight' so please bear with us while we improve the design and other finishing touches. All major changes to the core site should be completed by mid November although we will continue to experiment with some additional features next year. We thank PhD student and musician, Julien Phalip, of the University of Technology Sydney, for his great work in developing the new site and integrating it with our current database. All feedback on the new site is greatly appreciated.

ACORNS improvements

In parallel with the website upgrade, we are also improving the production and distribution of the ACORNS bulletin. Since mid August, we have been producing ACORNS 'in-house', so all your suggestions

for news and jobs etc should now be sent to news@ifacca.org. The 'anti-spam' policy of our new web server means, however, that we can no longer add recipients and edit email addresses on your behalf. So, if you have been a recipient of ACORNS and wish to keep receiving it, you must personally confirm that by visiting www.ifacca.org and clicking 'confirm subscription'. If you are a new subscriber, you can click on 'subscribe'.

Flickr for IFACCA

You may have already seen on our website that we have compiled a visual record of IFACCA's events. The collection – of World Summits and other events, board members and even the secretariat staff at surf school – are displayed on our new site as well as at www.flickr.com/photos/ifacca

Fourth World Summit Johannesburg 2009

In March this year, IFACCA's chair, Risto Ruohonen, announced that the National Arts Council (NAC) of South Africa had been successful in its bid to host the fourth World Summit on the Arts and Culture in Johannesburg on 21-25 September 2009. South African Arts Minister, Pallo Jordan,

NAC Chairman, Nicholas Motsatse, and senior representatives of the Johannesburg and Gauteng governments and the arts community attended the launch. Following the launch, Risto and the Executive Director, Sarah Gardner, visited a number of potential venues for staging the proposed program.

We will work closely with the NAC of South Africa, its funding partners and international agencies to create another memorable event for IFACCA members and other international participants as well as provide ongoing legacies for African cultural workers.

We will keep you abreast of World Summit developments via ACORNS and, in due course, the summit website www.artsummit.org. Although we will call for speakers later this year, we are always interested to receive your recommendations for inspiring and knowledgeable speakers.

Third World Summit report

The final report on the third World Summit, containing perspectives from speakers, delegates, volunteers and the organisers, was well received by members and contacts. A copy is available at www.artsummit.org together with a range of the presentations.

Next mini-summit

In February 2008, in Adelaide, we will be co-hosting, with the Australia Council, a mini-summit on the funding of major performing arts companies. The mini-summit will coincide with the opening of the Adelaide Festival of Arts, the Australian Performing Arts Market, and the IFACCA board meeting. National members that are interested in attending, but that have not already registered, should contact the secretariat. In preparation for the meeting, we released in June 2007 a preliminary D'Art report on definitions and issues. Together with the Australia Council, we have also circulated an international survey to develop more detailed background information on the sector.

Recent board meetings

The October 2006 meeting, hosted by the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles (CFLAC) in Beijing, provided an opportunity for the board to meet a range of artists and officials including the Minister of Culture, Sun

Jiazheng. CFLAC also arranged visits to key institutions in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. More recently the board met in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2007, hosted by the Bomas of Kenya. Again, board members participated in meetings with the arts community and tours of cultural sites.

The next meeting will be in Athens, Greece, on 1-2 November 2007 with the following one in Adelaide, Australia, on 2-3 March 2008. Suggestions for board agenda items are always welcome and copies of minutes are available to members on request.

New IFACCA board members

Dr Augustus Casely-Hayford, Executive Director of Arts Strategy at Arts Council England and Ms Kathy Keele, CEO of the Australia Council for the Arts, have been elected to the board and will attend their first meeting in Athens.

ConnectCP gaining profile

More than 500 experts from 78 countries are now listed in www.ConnectCP.org, the who's who of cultural policy. ConnectCP Coordinator, Diane Dodd, recently presented the website to the International Congress on Culture and Development in Cuba and to the Culture.mondo group.

In a partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage, we have developed ConnectCP Canada and a French language mirror site of ConnectCP. We are currently in discussions with the Organisation of IberoAmerican States to produce a Spanish language version. We continue to seek other national and international partners.

Research update

Since September 2006 we have initiated six D'Art questions:

- support for major performing arts organisations
- models of support for older artists
- national visual arts and craft sector associations
- regulation of radio music
- multi-language literature funding
- toolkits for local cultural planning and provision

and we have released three reports:

- coordination of arts policy research by national governments
- support for major performing arts organisations
- cultural development in rural and remote areas.

In February we distributed to members a printed volume of all of IFACCA's research reports from 2004 to 2006.

Researchers' meeting

In partnership with the National Arts Council of Singapore, we held the second IFACCA researchers meeting, in Singapore, in March 2007. As well as providing an update on their own research programs and priorities, delegates discussed IFACCA's research program, statistics and indicators, and the independence of government arts funding. Delegates were treated to presentations on the Compendium of Cultural Policies in Europe, and UNESCO's cultural statistics program. A report on the workshop was presented to the IFACCA board at its meeting in Kenya, and was published at [www.ifacca.org/what we do/ifacca events/26](http://www.ifacca.org/what_we_do/ifacca_events/26).

Using our network to help others

In June, we assisted the internationally acclaimed *Salzburg Seminar* to reach government agencies and arts networks worldwide to invite nominations for participants for their seminar in October, 'Cultural Institutions Without Walls: New Models of Arts-Community Interaction'. We also assisted *UNESCO's Institute of Statistics* to obtain informal feedback on a draft revised version of the UNESCO framework for cultural statistics, in preparation for a full formal consultation with UNESCO members. In July, we collaborated with the *World Alliance for Arts Education* to facilitate the inclusion of several government arts policymakers in the World Creativity Summit in Hong Kong in July. And finally, we assisted organisers of the cultural program for the *2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting* in Uganda to reach arts agencies in Commonwealth countries.

IFACCA regional chapters

The fifth meeting of IFACCA's Asian Chapter took place in July 2007, in Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia, hosted by the Arts Council of Mongolia. A report on the meeting will be provided in ACORNS.

We will be inviting all our European members to attend a meeting in Athens to coincide with the board meeting in early November.

International meetings

In November 2006, Executive Director, Sarah Gardner, represented IFACCA at a meeting of the Organisation of American States and CINARS 2006 in Montréal. She then travelled to Toronto to attend the gathering of the Canadian Public Arts Funders, hosted by Ontario Arts Council.

Following the Canadian meetings, Sarah travelled to Argentina to meet with the President of the Fondo Nacional de las Artes and the Director of Arts of the Ministry of Culture. She then went to Rio de Janeiro for the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the International Network on Cultural Policy, the World Culture Forum and a WCF board meeting. With IFACCA's Latin America coordinator, Santiago Jara, Sarah attended a three-day workshop for culture networks and chaired a forum on cultural policy hosted by Brazil's arts funding agency, Funarte, also in Rio.

In July 2007, Sarah and Clarisa Ruíz Correal (IFACCA board member) participated in the World Creativity Summit in Hong Kong, the Asian Chapter meeting in Mongolia and a visit to Seoul, as a guest of Arts Council Korea.

Cultural policy seminar

Sarah Gardner has been commissioned to present a two-day seminar on cultural policy as part of the Australian Institute of Music's Master of Arts Management in 2007 and 2008. Chris Madden will be the co-presenter.

Audit report 2006

The audited financial statement for 2006 has been provided (with this Report) to all national members who have paid their fees.

Secretariat staff expands

After a long period with the same three staff here in Sydney, we are delighted to welcome Natasha Eves as our Research and Project Officer. Natasha will be researching and writing ACORNS items, coordinating IFACCA events and assisting with our varied research activities. We also welcome Janet

Piper, who has been appointed accounts clerk, working two days a month.

We also thank our Latin American Coordinator, Santiago Jara Ramírez, for his dedication to representing IFACCA in Latin America, and also to Diane Dodd, for representing both ConnectCP and IFACCA in European and international meetings.

New policy for lower-fee paying members

IFACCA's national members can be thought of as falling into two groups: 'higher' fee-paying members, whose contribution is \$A1,000 or more per annum; and 'lower' fee-paying members, whose contribution is less than \$A1,000 per annum. In 2006, IFACCA had 25 higher fee-paying members, who accounted for 99 percent of revenue from national members, and 31 lower fee-paying members, who accounted for the remainder. All of the higher fee members paid their agreed membership fees in 2006. Most of the 31 lower fee-paying members have paid one or more year's membership fees since joining. However, a tiny handful of the lower-fee paying members have never paid a membership contribution.

In order to address inequities that this situation may cause, and to reduce administrative costs for our members and the secretariat, we introduced a 'policy for lower fee-paying national members' in 2007 www.ifacca.org/memberships/fees.html. Under the policy, national members whose annual fee is below \$A1,000 are asked to pay three years' membership at a time; and benefits to non-financial members may be restricted.

Membership fees – time to update

During the six years of our operation we have managed to keep membership fees at the same level (based on the 2001 United Nations 'scale of assessments'). The only adjustment we made was to switch our invoices from US dollars to Australian dollars

in order to reduce bank administration costs and to mitigate variations in exchange rates. It is now time to look at two factors – the UN Scale and an annual percentage increase.

1. The UN has updated its fee scale based on 2006 wealth and population data. As the relative standings of countries have changed since 2001, it is only fair for members that IFACCA also adopts the new UN scale. The new scale will mean that fees for a small number of national members will increase, while others will decrease.
2. We have been able to keep fee levels constant over the years by continually growing the membership base. Clearly, this trend cannot continue. Accordingly, the board will, at its November meeting, consider the need to introduce a small increase in fees.

Full details of any changes will be provided when invoices are dispatched in December.

Membership increasing

Since our last progress report we have welcomed the Ministries of Culture of France, Mongolia, Chile and Greece as new national members, and new affiliate members: International Society for the Performing Arts, Peter Stark, Fonds Soziokultur, Scottish Museums Council, Arts Queensland and the Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau.

Become a member of IFACCA - savings!

If your ministry of culture or national arts council is not yet a member of the Federation (members are listed here:

www.ifacca.org/memberships/current_members.html) then now is a great time to join! If you join in 2007 and pay the full annual fee your membership will extend to 31 December 2008. Please contact Sarah Gardner or visit www.ifacca.org for more information.

**We hope you have found this report interesting.
We welcome any feedback and thank you for your ongoing support.**