



RÉSEAU DES villes
créatives
city NETWORK

Conference

Conference November 6-9, 2002 Vancouver, British Columbia

The Creative City Network of Canada/Réseau des villes créative du Canada (CCN/RVC) will hold its founding conference from November 6 to 9, 2002 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The conference will bring together **100 cultural development professionals** working for municipalities nation-wide to explore professional development interests, provide support for collaborative practice, and create a network for strengthening municipal cultural development capabilities.

Conference Goals

The goal of the CCN/RVC is to strengthen Canadian arts and cultural development in communities of all sizes for the social and economic well being of their residents.

The conference is designed to build on the base of work begun using a listserv called Culture-L, which is an informal network of municipal cultural development staff from across Canada. This informal association of individuals with similar interests will meet face-to-face and form into a cohesive, mutually supportive Community of Practice (CoP).

The conference will bring in key expertise from beyond the Canadian municipal cultural development field where appropriate. However, the primary experts will be derived from professionals within Canadian communities. The CCN/RVC is about the electronic sharing of knowledge and expertise amongst peers. The conference will attempt to simulate this electronic experience in a face-to-face exchange.

Elements of the Conference

1. Visioning

Delegates will have the opportunity to explore opportunities for their municipality's cultural development. A facilitated process on the first day will lead delegates through an exploration of their own visions for their communities. The following session will profile how the network and the new online digital hub can assist them in finding the resources with which to achieve those visions.

2. Professional Development

Topics for discussion have been chosen using the advice of members of the Culture-L listserv. Three top choices have been included in the conference schedule: cultural planning and development, public art, and facility development and management. The concurrent sessions are tailored to address a range of levels of expertise within each topic to ensure all delegates will be well-served by the sessions. Sessions will be recorded to provide future development possibilities.

3. Networking

Within the conference schedule there are extensive opportunities for delegates to build relationships with colleagues working in areas of like interest. Topics such as amalgamation, human resource management, granting programs, partnership building, and heritage preservation have also been identified as areas of common interest. This face-to-face opportunity will create stronger bonds of trust and collegiality. It will also enhance the willingness to seek and provide information through the electronic network post-conference.

4. Technology Training

Moving Culture-L from a base-level listserv to an electronic Community of Practice support service will require advanced technology. A new web-based networking software will support participants in collaboration, publishing experiences and best practices, archiving information, finding resources and tracking opportunities in their areas of interest. Delegates will have the opportunity to explore the software's capabilities individually and in group interaction.

www.creativecity.ca