

- **No.74**
- **Creating Open Space for Arts and Science Interface**

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- **Abstract:**

- Recently various forms of art and creative communication productions have become an integral part of civic engagement and participatory research practices across disciplines. The linkage is making a significant difference particularly in community building efforts.

At the previous Living Knowledge Conference in Belfast (2009), we featured Workshop, Poster and Live presentations to explore the multifaceted dimensions and the linkages between Community-based Research through the arts and cultural productions.

We are extending the previous in-depth discussions, presentations and expressions of live events in this session using two formats: Workshop and Exhibition and Poster Presentations.

Both aspects taken together intend to provide the conference participants a great opportunity to understand how art and, as well as spaces for exhibition and knowledge dissemination enhance the complex community building narrative.

The focus of the workshop is twofold:

- 1) Creating space for dialogue to assess the current conceptual frameworks, methods of inquiry and practice challenges to help identify the critical role of art inspired and cultural productions in fostering community building, through creative work within the scientific milieu. Reflections on land use and the social definition of space, providing empowerment tools for marginalized communities and discourse into how art interfaces with the core infrastructure designs, could increase our understanding of the challenges involved ;
- 2) Examining the critical role partnership plays in enhancing community building narrative by reducing the gap in communication between arts and science and creating sustainable access points and resources to remove institutional and financial barriers.

In examining both aspects together, the session would unfold the interface between arts and science and demonstrate how open spaces for creative expressions could enhance knowledge dissemination and increase our understanding of the imperatives of the integration of these two domains.

The session will encourage presenters from different European and North American regions to share their research and practice outcomes.

Practice format:

This segment involves exhibitions or poster presentation of different art productions,

short performances in the form of story-telling, poetry, photo-voice, video, musical or satirical performances featuring one or more of aspects of the Community Building and the conference themes. This part could take as an Open Space format.

Guiding questions for the session include:

- How arts-inspired communication form could provide effective community access points to facilitate knowledge transfer and researchers with no exposure to the community knowledge of the arts to engage with local community building initiatives?
- How can we generate a process by which art-inspired productions could contribute to knowledge transfer in building and organizing community systems for civic engagement and social action to effect change, improve the quality of life and health and safety of communities?
- How do we evaluate popular cultural production methods and arts to assess their contributions to support sustainable environment?
- How do we advance scientific learning (e.g. land use) to facilitate capacity building through the arts marginalized communities, recognition for community-based research initiatives and effective role for civic society organizations?