

CITY OF LONDON
CREATIVE CITIES TASK FORCE
NOTES FROM MEETING 06

Meeting held on January 13, 2005 at 4:03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

PRESENT:

Task Force Members: Controller G. Hume (Chair), Councillor J. Bryant, J. Adams, J. Glaser, P. Hoffer, C. Kehoe, G. Kerhoulas, J. Nicholson, B. Ohl, M. Sinclair, M. Williamson, R. Wood, L. Zajac, J. C. Purser (secretary)

Working Group Members: A. Cohen (Chair), R. Gloor,

ALSO PRESENT:

L. Simpson (public), G. Picken (Investing in Children) J. Wallace (LEDC), T. Johnson, R. Armistead

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| InterNETwork Meeting | 1. Controller Hume thanked J. Adams for inviting the Task Force to discuss the topic of creative cities at the recent meeting of his InterNETwork group. J. M. Fleming's presentation was well received and some interesting thoughts and opinions were generated. J. Adam's notes from the meeting are attached for distribution to the Task Force. |
| Next Meeting Jan 27, 2005 | 2. Controller Hume announced that the next regular Creative Cities meeting the Task Force will receive and review the Working Group report from A. Cohen and recommendations relating to heritage and planning from City staff. The Task Force will also consider the summary of recommendations in raw and rough draft form as prepared by the Chair. |
| Final Report Format | 3. Controller Hume asked the Task Force to consider what format the final report should take and what artwork should appear on the front cover. The Chair asked L. Zajac to coordinate the artwork. |
| Public Meeting | 4. Councillor Bryant announced details of the Creative Cities Public Meeting to be held in the City Hall Council Chambers Saturday January 22, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, doors to open at 9:30 a.m. Community groups have been asked to bring displays and brochures to promote their arts, cultural and technological events and activities. The format will differ from the previous public meeting. The intended approach is to attempt to generate more dialogue with the public. |
| Creative Cities Conference | 5. Controller Hume introduced G. Picken from the London based Investing in Children organization who announced their Creative Cities |

conference to be held from June 8 - 10 at the London Convention Centre. Mr. Picken explained that the conference will bring together people from the arts, business and municipal governments to focus on creativity and culture with an objective of raising awareness of the creative cities model.

Workforce
Development
Presentation

6. J. Wallace, London Economic Development Corporation's Director of Workforce Development gave a presentation on workforce development in the London area. Ms. Wallace described the results of LEDC's recent workforce survey, outlined the outstanding workforce issues and presented a development strategy and initiatives to encourage workforce growth.

Unemployed
Youth and
Graduates

7. A discussion took place on the issues surrounding unemployed youth and graduates in the London area.

M. Williamson commented that businesses need to hire from within the community.

G. Kerhoulas suggested the task force should hear from human resources executives and creative class employers.

C. Kehoe pointed out the need to define the skill sets, education and experience levels that businesses need and asked how can we encourage our youth to return after they have left and gained experience elsewhere.

J. Wallace commented that the leaving for experience stage is part of the process of life and that we need to facilitate their return by providing jobs for them to return to.

J. Adams stated the consensus of his group is that employers generally do not hire people straight from university however many senior business people started that way.

Small
Business

8. A discussion took place on the part that small businesses can play in the creative cities model.

J. Wallace commented that Toronto and Detroit offer small business workshops where external cities may participate.

Councillor Bryant suggested that small business is the way to go and that big box businesses are draining the local economy and energy of the City. She asked what can be done to stop thinking big - big box, big city, big industry? Councillor Bryant stated that we need to be the best small big city and asked what the LEDC can do to address this.

J. Wallace responded suggesting this may be a planning issue that can best be dealt with by Council.

M. Sinclair indicated that the City does not have an aggressive investor community and that our very conservative investor community is the biggest issue for small business financing. She indicated the difficulty for small and medium size businesses to move forward because they often do not know how to proceed and they need help.

J. Wallace stated we need to promote and acknowledge those

businesses that do well.

G. Kerhoulas suggested that as these businesses arise the press and the Mayor should acknowledge them very early on.

M. Williamson offered the services of her organization to anyone needing to hire or attract immigrant employees and she emphasized the need for cultural diversity.

Draft Direction
on Public Art
Policy

9. J. Nicholson announced the availability of a draft document containing 10 recommendations in two categories relating to public art policy. A copy of the document is attached.

Next Meeting

10. a) Public meeting City Hall Council Chambers, 10:00 a.m. January 22, 2005.

10. b) Regular CCTF meeting City Hall Council Chambers, 4:00 p.m. January 27, 2005.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.