

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

New Challenges for Policy Makers and Arts Managers

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Presentation held in Cable Factory Talks 3: "INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE" - Challenges for the arts, cultural management and cultural policy, Helsinki, 13 May 2008

Why focus on ICD?

Is it the answer to fragmentation?

Benefits and drawbacks -

- ◆ Apparently offers common ground; unifying tool
- ◆ Transcends troubling 'back story'
- ◆ Aspirational: 'The more we share, the more we have,' - Mohd Mounir, Egyptian singer, author.

Drawbacks

No single agreed definition, hence policy confusions possible.

- ◆ *international cultural connections*
- ◆ *Diasporic connections (transcultural)*
- ◆ *internal mainstream/minority dialogue*
- ◆ *any projects bringing together distinctive groups.*

Trying out the new - Carrom



In the main arena



Crossing cultural continents



Playing with stereotypes



Variations on a Theme

Ambiguity of definition reflects range of types –

One-off exchanges

Showcases

Long-term relationships

High-profile 'Years of ...'

Cyberspace collaborations

Barriers and Drawbacks

Assumes natural growth, with no need for intervention

- ◆ *Habit*
- ◆ *Vested interests*
- ◆ *Inexperience (two-way)*
- ◆ *Inappropriate instruments*
- ◆ *Prejudice*

Focal Steps – the How

- ◆ ANALYSIS
- ◆ PERSUASION
- ◆ COMMITMENT

Analysis

- ◆ what is the function of the activity?
- ◆ what are its aspirations?
- ◆ what are its strengths?
- ◆ who are the main players?
- ◆ what barriers does it encounter?
- ◆ what potential partners?

Persuasion

- ◆ How can people recognise the value of change?
- ◆ What is the wider benefit of ICD?
- ◆ What implication for an arts manager?
- ◆ Are new players needed?
- ◆ New competencies?

Commitment

- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Consistency
- ◆ Long-term planning
- ◆ Strategic support
- ◆ Confidence

Long-term Goal – the Why

Seeking to create society that is

- ◆ characterised not by uniformity but equality
- ◆ offers the freedom to chose ones own cultural form and expression
- ◆ provides the freedom to participate, across the board
- ◆ develops art forms that spring out of the contemporary social/ethnic mix.