

Contribution to YLG Cultural Commission Response

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- a) Education – Youth libraries will play a considerable part in supporting the cultural development of young people. This may be “passively” through the knowledge bank of books, cd-roms, cds, and Internet access they provide and through their acquisitions policy to ensure that young people have access to a broad range of resources that serve as cultural assets.

More actively, youth libraries will use the skills of specially trained and experienced professional staff to interact with young people and to stimulate their cultural maturity through activities, discussion and thought-provoking interaction. The future cultural inclusion of young people is especially dependent on youth librarians, who will not only continue to develop a rapport with young people, but have the ability and resources to encourage young people to achieve their full cultural potential.

- b) Infrastructure - Using youth libraries as a the cornerstone for cultural activities not only ensures that young people have full access to the resources necessary for their cultural development within the information-rich environment of the 21st century, but also other youth workers can use the professional resources of the library so as to optimise their own contact with, and encouragement of, the young people of tomorrow. By providing a network whereby youth librarians are part of an integrated structure that also involves school librarians, community education, youth workers and young people’s organisations, the Cultural Commission can ensure that service provision and targeting of resources are optimised, and that mutual co-operation and development can be more successfully achieved than in the current disjointed and inconsistent picture, which militates against a coherent and co-ordinated approach
- c) Young people’s libraries have already got the wherewithal to be a gateway to the whole world of culture – through books, through cd-roms, through music cds and through the world-wide cultural access available through the Internet. Using youth libraries as the focus or hub for service delivery promotes wider access, since well funded youth libraries have the resources, access times and welcoming ambiance to attract young people; work with young people and with other organisations to ensure that all young people recognise that – wherever they are and whatever their background or interests - they are part of a wider cultural picture.
- d) By establishing a cohesive and inclusive national infrastructure (as referred to above), the Cultural Commission can establish clear parameters that make it much easier to facilitate the broadening of the cultural baseline. This national infrastructure would ensure that all organisations that worked with young people were working in co-operation and harmony, and that the organisational pattern was similar in all local authorities. This would ensure that national strategies could be developed, but would also ensure that these strategies could “roll out” to all local authorities in a uniform fashion, rather than being diffused and confused through the current fragmented nature of local authority organisation; no two neighbouring authorities appear to have the same

departmental structure, thus causing a dilution of the potential for attracting and retaining interest and input from young people. It is one of the key precepts of marketing that all promotion and advertising needs to be disseminated through clear unambiguous channels – these currently do not exist.

e) –

f) Cultural rights are very important for all, but are crucial for young people, in order that they have the opportunity to develop their potential as creative citizens. The first priority prior to the process of formulating these rights is inclusiveness – ensuring that all aspects of culture, and all avenues for the dissemination of cultural objectives are included in the process. The Commission should establish a provisional database and distribution network of relevant organisations, publicise this widely and then add any accidentally omitted organisations to the database. This would enable the Commission to be confident that, when formulated, the rights would cover the whole cultural dimension; thus “universal” rights would be established, which would then be used as the guiding principles by each aspect of the national cultural network, thus ensuring that everyone was working towards fulfilling the same cultural aims and objectives within the overarching umbrella of young people’s cultural rights.

Ian

From: IMcCracken [IMcCracken@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk]
Sent: 23 September 2004 13:15
To: info
Subject: Public Consultation (our remit)[Scanned]



Cultural Commission
Response c...

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find my comments attached.

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