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**Guest Editors:** John Smithies and Kim Dunphy,  
Cultural Development Network, Victoria

**Vol 1, Issue 2: 'Creative Local Communities:  
Cultural Vitality and Human Rights'**

This issue of the UNESCO Observatory refereed journal presents peer reviewed papers in the areas of cultural policy, cultural development, community-based arts, government and civil society, cultural diversity and cultural rights. Authors come from Australia, Poland, Spain, Canada, the United States and India and examine the way policy and practice impacts on the cultural vitality of their regional and local communities.

Authors were asked to consider notions pertaining to:

- pro-active planning for creative communities
- the relationship between creativity and cultural expression on health and well being, and the ability of local communities to keep pace with change
- the significance of freedom of expression and cultural rights, as an aspect of a broader human rights agenda
- the impact of cultural vitality frameworks as necessary ingredients for the sustainability of local communities alongside economic, social and environmental concerns

### **Background:**

This issue takes its title and motivation from the declaration of the 2007 World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments in Jeju, Korea, that placed culture as a priority for cities, councils, local government associations and communities.

**Declaration II.** *'Act to promote all human rights and respect diversity in our cities and territories as a foundation for peace and development'*. In this declaration, the Congress recognised 'that cultural policies form part of the different dimensions of good local governance in the same way as economic and social development or environmental protection'. United Cities and Local Governments represents more than 1,000 cities from more than 125 countries worldwide – and the organisation's membership is growing. Through its Agenda 21 for Culture, UCLG has established the first document with a worldwide mission that advocates an undertaking by cities and local governments for local cultural development. This leadership by a growing number of the world's cities provides an important balance between national agendas and the voice of local governments and communities. United Cities and Local Governments information can be found at: [www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/)

<p><b><u><a href="#">Editorial: The impact of policy and practice on the cultural vitality of local communities</a></u></b>  Kim Dunphy and John Smithies, Cultural Development Network, Victoria, Australia</p>			<p><b><u><a href="#">Cultural policies, human development and development innovation: or why we need an Agenda 21 for culture</a></u></b>  Jordi Pascual, Coordinator, United Cities And Local Governments' Committee On Culture, Barcelona, Spain</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Arts, culture and local government</a></u></b>  Dr Kevin Johnson, Geografia and Professor Kevin O'Connor, University Of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia</p>			<p><b><u><a href="#">Cultural citizenship and community indicator projects: approaches and challenges in the local / municipal context</a></u></b>  Nancy Duxbury, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Alive: culture, sustainability and intergenerational democracy</a></u></b>  Kirsten Davies, Sydney, Australia</p>			<p><b><u><a href="#">Graffiti Vandalism?</a></u></b>  Jeff Stewart, Daylesford, Victoria, Australia</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Just imagine: placing culture and imaginative education at the heart of modern society</a></u></b>  Max Wyman OC, Canada</p>			<p><b><u><a href="#">The role of aesthetic and legal communities in the struggle for sexual human rights in Poland</a></u></b>  Lisiunia A. Romanienko, Wroclaw University, Wroclaw, Poland</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">How not to commodify the arts: exemplary entrepreneurial practice from India</a></u></b>  Anmol Vellani, India Foundation For The Arts, Bangalore, India</p>			<p><b><u><a href="#">"Making the 'arts' and 'net' work" to help achieve MDGs: an art4development.net story</a></u></b>  Nil Şişmanyazici-Navaie and Emine Etili-Serter, Arts For Global Development, Inc., Maryland , USA</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Celebrating communities: community festivals, participation and belonging</a></u></b>  Isabel Jackson, University Of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria</p>			<p><b><u><a href="#">Creative Communities, Cultural Vitality And Human Rights: A Paradigm Shift For Community Cultural Development</a></u></b>  Raelene Marshall, Director, Culture In Action, Melbourne, Australia</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Creativity – the great equaliser</a></u></b>  Maud Clark, AM, Artistic Director; Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company, Victoria, Australia</p>			<p><b><u><a href="#">A narrative and arts-based inquiry exploring the impact that recognising individual identity has on the sense of community in a residential aged care facility</a></u></b>  Catherine Dinkelmann, Melbourne, Australia</p>