

IABx Expert panel (8 participants from education institutes) culture education 12 July 2017 –

Most important notes from the meeting

Part 1: - Comments/additions/ideas resulting from the IAB 5-pager;

- Strengths of the sector that we can build on in the future;
- How can the educational field contribute?

- The 5-pager does not mention the word 'student' at all. So far in this process students have been left out. Yet their influence on the cultural climate is not to be underestimated.
- Why do international students come to Rotterdam to study arts? (VR): Rotterdam has a good reputation with international artists and there are several major institutions here where they can study. Many of them stay once they're finished and become part of the grass roots initiatives in the city.
- It's an underground fabric off the radar and mostly outside of the city centre. Students survive within this fabric. This 'system' should not be formalised or institutionalised because then you kill it (all agree).
- Grass roots initiatives came about initially because something wasn't working. Formalising this system of grass roots initiatives will destroy this system (WvB).
- Grass roots initiatives don't want a mediator, coordinator or programme manager. They won't respond to that. They want something more open and free (e.g. Venture Cafe at CIC).
- Rotterdam should make arts/culture promotion a big part of their strategy (and not just focussing on promoting port/architecture/economy). Amsterdam seems to have this organised much better. We need to be proud of what we have and show it. Especially the rough, unorganised creativity. Sell that roughness! Sell it as experimental and innovative!
- We need to position ourselves as the most resilient city (not just focussing on our water management strengths). Resilience as an ingrained feature of the city and its people. It's a great thing that attract people.
- The larger institutions have a responsibility to help the small initiatives to become more professional. The bigger institutions can work together with educational institutions to organise this.
- New entrants need to be allowed to critique and question the existing system without being excluded by that same system as a result. At the moment you are either part of the system (and play by its rules) or you are out. This leads to frustration with new entrants

Part 2: moving from the 'what' tot the 'how'; what can cultural and educational institutions do together to realise our visions:

- Position Rotterdam's unique proposition as a unique working space for young creatives. Facilitate the maker-space. Students and creatives working and living together in maker-spaces outside of the school – and the city and schools working as equal partners in this. The facilities should not be used only by

students but also by young start ups and small companies. Young creatives don't talk about needing money, they talk about needing space.

- Look at how we can reach/create new audiences. Within the combination of arts and sciences we can create new audiences.
- You need to attract people from your own city to these initiatives first. There are still a lot of people in Rotterdam who think: 'art is not for us'.
- The big locals also need new audiences and need to foster the new generations to survive. We need to find a way to finance these types of initiatives long term.
- If the city could facilitate more maker spaces (there is a lot of space lying empty in the city) then in return the students can deliver teaching/education (and they can earn educational credits for doing this) and they can learn from their audiences. Over 2000 students could deliver education to the city. We need to look more at working in other ways and not necessarily only look at the monetary costs of things. Erasmus could provide studies/research into how this could work.
- We should not only focus on students (young adults) but on a wider range of education: From primary school on in- and outside the school-walls, children should be involved and seduced to discover and explore art & the creative industry.

Conclusions/actions:

- Students and young creatives and their value and contribution to the arts & culture field need to be firmly represented in the reports and recommendations of this IAB
- The value of students in experimentation and innovation needs to be acknowledged and represented in the outcome of this IAB