

June 20

On June 20 some 50 stakeholders from the Cultural Sector met in 'Worm'. The findings (see chapter 3) of the meeting of the IAB in April were presented by Jan Peter Balkenende en Siobhan Burger (R'damse Nieuwe).

After the presentation the findings were discussed in five groups.

Some important observations:

Authenticity

The IAB really was spot in pointing out that it all starts with authenticity and civic pride; We really have to come up with a clear narrative;

Potential

Most people seem to agree with the conclusion of the IAB that there is not one institution so prestigious that it can lift the whole sector to a higher level. 'In Rotterdam it is not so much about the icons but about the vibe, the atmosphere' ;

Most participants seem to agree about the potential of the grassroots and were open to a new discussion. The merging and the tensions between all kind of cultures, groups, etc is a source of energy. 'The' solution is in diversity. If culture really contributes to inclusivity than we can be an example in the world. Perhaps this does not attract mass tourism but a more interesting kind of tourism.

Interconnectivity

Most participants agree with the findings about the lack of interconnectivity: Let's start some kind of a dialogue with other stakeholders. Compared to other cities we're not doing it that bad. The music sector is a good example of sector well interconnected;

Interconnectivity is also about recognizing that all stakeholders (big and small) are just as important; interconnectivity starts with knowing each other, trusting each other; Interconnectivity asks for thinking in terms of process and movement instead of individual kpi's and targets (subsidy model)

Other conclusions

Most participants agreed that the division in in big locals, grassroots, etc should be left behind. It made some things clear but it also sometimes blurred the picture;

Rotterdam is not a global Arts-city like Berlin, Amsterdam, New York or London; Rotterdam is a city of change, of progress, of emancipation. This should be reflected in our cultural portfolio;

There is agreement about the model of governance (incl. subsidy system) standing in the way of necessary change and of interconnectivity;

Possible actions

Rotterdam needs a huge project (Nothing big happened since 2001) in which the sector really can cooperate.

The sector needs places, freezones to meet, to get interconnected and to experiment. The City executive could really help with this;