



**CITIES NEED FESTIVALS
(MORE THAN YOU THINK)**

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ARTS FESTIVALS SUMMIT 2019 – 16/04/2019**

POLICYMAKING IN CITIES NOWADAYS: SHIFTING PARADIGMS

Searching for new forms of **urban governance** :

- 1. Relation with citizens** : combining representative democracy with new practices of citizens participation, direct democracy and bottom-up citizenship
- 2. Relation with civil society and economy** : the need for inclusive “**growth coalitions**” bringing political, cultural and economic elites together in a joint agenda for a city (without necessarily sharing the same interests)

POLICYMAKING IN CITIES NOWADAYS: SHIFTING PARADIGMS

Searching for new forms of **urban governance** :

- 3. A City is not a Country** : ‘Power oriented’ nation states are not capable of addressing global issues, whereas cities tend to search for “glocal” solutions for their citizens. → Prof. Benjamin Barber (CUNY, New York) proposed the creation of a “Global Parliament of Mayors”
- 4. Cities as laboratories for the 21st century intercultural society** :
imagining futures and “testing” solutions

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5. **A system error in policymaking** : policies are thought in terms of **competences**, but need a transversal approach : who shares **responsibility** for addressing an issue ?

Example : Educating kids in a city is not just implementing an education policy, it's also about youth policy, welfare, culture, housing policy,...

Example : The City Councillor for Culture is not the only one responsible for shaping the culture(s) of a city

6. **A system error in how society discusses important issues** : in highly “formatted” contexts such as Parliament, schools and universities, the media, protests,... But where can we bridge between these different segments of “formatted” thinking ? Where can these issues be discussed “out of the box” ?

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Conclusion :

- Cities are trying to find new narratives and shape new relations
- Cities are trying to find solutions to organise these relations and express these narratives
- They are in need of creative solutions
- They won't get there if they don't think "out of the box".

→ **transformative power of the arts as a tool kit**

**YOUR CITY NEEDS
YOU MORE THAN
YOU THINK**

**YOUR CITY NEEDS
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THEY THINK**

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE ARTS?

- Artists are engaged in **reading, analysing and translating** pertinent developments of society.
- **Cities**, with all the diversity they contain, are a **fertile ground** for artists, because it's exactly this hybridity the artist is often looking for.
- Artists, cultural institutions and arts festivals not only provide their communities with joy, interaction, and inspiration, but they also give **thoughtful critique** to our political, economic and social systems — **pushing communities** to engage thoughtfully and **make steps toward** social progress.

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE ARTS?

Artists were being asked : **“What is your role as an artist in society, your local community, and the world at large ?”**

“The artist looks at society from another perspective”

“Artists tell stories and pass on traditions”

“Artists are a vehicle for expressing universal emotion”

“Artists are responsible for unearthing the truth”

“Artists work to illuminate the margins and make societal changes”

“Artists connect with and inspire people globally”

“Artists offer messages of hope”

“Artists create a sense of community”

**YOUR CITY IS NOT
JUST A LOCATION**

**IT IS A CONTEXT THAT
SHAPES YOUR FESTIVAL.**

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RETHINKING THE RELATION BETWEEN THE ARTS FESTIVAL AND THE CITY

The relation between an arts festival and **city authorities** has to be thought beyond the financial relation.

→ Your contact point in the City Administration is not only the Culture Department.
It's every Department.

RETHINKING THE RELATION BETWEEN THE ARTS FESTIVAL AND THE CITY

The relation between an arts festival and **citizens** goes way beyond audience development.

→ You should not only get in contact with citizens when you have a program and want to sell tickets. You should do it before you have a program.

RETHINKING THE RELATION BETWEEN THE ARTS FESTIVAL AND THE CITY

The relation between an arts festival and the **media** is not only about promoting the festival.

→ It's also about searching for complementary platforms of societal discussion. Connecting the artists' expression on stage with a societal debate.



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