



SALZBURG
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SALZBURG GLOBAL FORUM FOR YOUNG CULTURAL INNOVATORS

YOUNG CULTURAL INNOVATORS: REGIONAL FELLOWS EVENT, NEW ORLEANS

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR IS GRATEFUL TO

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**SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR DONATING THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE TO THIS PROGRAM.
THANK YOU TO THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTRE NEW ORLEANS FOR HOSTING THE MEETING.**

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

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FORUM FOR
YOUNG CULTURAL
INNOVATORS

YOUNG CULTURAL INNOVATORS: REGIONAL FELLOWS EVENT, NEW ORLEANS



APRIL 7 TO 9, 2018

Session 594

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Seth Beattie, Arts & Culture
Program Officer at The Kresge
Foundation speaks to the group



INTRODUCTION

Young Cultural Innovators from Memphis, Detroit, and New Orleans were brought together for the second US Regional Fellows Event of the Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Innovators (YCI Forum). This meeting, supported by the Kresge Foundation, took place from April 7 to 9, 2018.

In total, 27 YCIs from both the third (2016) and fourth (2017) Salzburg programs of the YCI Forum gathered in the Contemporary Arts Centre, New Orleans, which hosted the meeting. Led by YCI Forum facilitators Amina Dickerson, Peter Jenkinson and Shelagh Wright, the two-day program focused on strengthening the network, through a series of discussions, workshops, site visits and interactive exercises. The workshop's theme was "Moving from Me to We," exploring further what it means to be a YCI Hub and what YCIs want to accomplish as a community of Fellows in their cities and local communities.

Clare Shine, vice president and chief program officer at Salzburg Global Seminar, framed the regional meeting in the context of recent changes in how Salzburg Global Seminar envisages itself as an institution. Underscoring the mission of Salzburg Global to "shape a better world," Shine reflected on the organization's new strategic framework, which has a greater focus on how the organization catalyzes creative, just and sustainable change in the world. Shine envisions the YCI Forum as a powerful global network with the potential to inspire new thinking and innovation. The program is part of a broader Salzburg Global portfolio that seeks out people with the potential to inspire and pioneer new models for cities. Shine said Salzburg Global Fellows were already thinking about new methods of measurement in global education practices; exploring the value of inclusive placemaking for healthy communities; looking at new models of philanthropy and social investment; discussing LGBT and human rights issues; and much more.

Seth Beattie, program officer for arts and culture at the Kresge Foundation, explained how attending the Young Cultural Innovators Forum in Salzburg, Austria in October 2017 was a moving experience for him. Describing the Kresge Foundation's dedication to social justice, Beattie discussed the Foundation's focus on combatting structural racism and the role it has played in communities across the country. He underscored the need for arts and culture to be integrated into equitable development strategies. Reflecting on the potential the YCIs represent, he indicated that with YCIs being on the ground, they have the individual knowledge and experience to tackle issues that matter around the world. Stressing a common frustration within the arts and culture sector, Beattie stated that often the arts and culture are sidelined, but he reiterated the belief of the Kresge Foundation that arts and culture are at the very core of what drives social change. He believes YCIs are pushing for change in communities every day and true change will come from resourcing people like YCIs.

Susanna Seidl-Fox, program director for arts and culture at Salzburg Global Seminar said momentum is growing in the YCI Forum network, especially in YCI Hubs like Memphis, Detroit and New Orleans where a critical mass of YCI Fellows now exists. She described the creative power of the network – now more than 250 YCIs in "Hubs" of cities and regions around the world – as a global force. Seidl-Fox reaffirmed Salzburg Global's long-standing commitment to the transformative power of the arts and the need for the arts to be placed front-and-center.



Clare Shine, Vice President & Chief Program Officer at Salzburg Global speaks to Young Cultural Innovators

WHAT KEEPS ME UP AT NIGHT?

By way of introductions, participants, staff, and facilitators at this year's meeting shared what kept them up at night.

Common themes were the distribution of power, diversity, inclusion, and equity. In the face of recent societal and political events, many felt a strong responsibility for bringing positivity to their communities. One YCI said they asked themselves, "Am I living the change that I want to see in the world?" Collectively there was a feeling of uneasiness that, as individuals, they may not be doing enough to change the systems and situations within their cities. Many YCIs voiced concerns about the under-resourcing of the cultural sector and the subsequent implications on the ability of cultural actors and institutions to have a meaningful impact

on quality of life in the communities they serve. The view that every artist must be an entrepreneur was also seen as reductive. Philanthropy was cited as having the potential for positive change, but YCIs cautioned that neither entrepreneurship nor philanthropy were solutions to the real issues of under-resourcing in the cultural sector. One YCI described this approach as like "putting a band-aid on a gunshot wound." Another YCI remarked that they struggled with balancing the past and its legacies with the needs of the present. A concern for many was racism and inequality, with each of the cities represented being predominantly African American.

YCIs introduce themselves to the group



FROM ME TO WE: CITY-BASED CHANGE-MAKING AND CIVIC INNOVATION

Amina Dickerson, a Forum facilitator, led a discussion on city-based change-making and civic innovation. She expressed how she was struck how YCIs had inherited the legacy and burden of the past. Dickerson outlined what she saw as the fragility of what we as a society thought we had gained and the progress that we thought we had made. Alluding to the current political environment in the U.S., Dickerson noted things which we once thought were permanent were now eroding before our eyes.

She urged the group to think: What is our collective opportunity? How can communities take their voice? How do we activate and mobilize? What is the power and the force of the YCI network in the US? What is the collective power and potential of the network globally? How are the cities of Detroit, Memphis and New Orleans connected? What can you learn from each other?

REFLECTIONS ON DETROIT, MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS

With Dickerson's rousing questions fresh in the mind, the group moved on to an analysis of their own cities. Framing this portion of the program, facilitators **Shelagh Wright** and **Peter Jenkinson** underscored the power of cities by highlighting the Fearless Cities Network and municipalism movement, which harness the power of the city as sites of change and innovation.

Before the meeting, members from each of the YCI Hubs prepared a brief about critical characteristics of their respective cities including population, demographics, the political, social and economic landscape, the cultural infrastructure, and prospects for the future.

Members from the **Detroit YCI Hub** described urban planning and development as a key issue for their city. New developments and public spaces, combined with a focus on public infrastructures such as bike lanes, buses, and trams are changing the landscape of the city. The city government has also hired new staff members to focus on sustainability. A new superintendent for schools is giving more resources to schools, while the mayor is also trying to effect positive change in education systems. While these changes are viewed as a step in the right direction, YCIs did voice concerns about a lack of transparency in government, particular in areas such as redevelopment.

Members of the **Memphis YCI Hub** attended this regional meeting directly after the launch of MLK50, a year-long commemoration recognizing the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination and a movement to motivate and activate change. Focusing on Memphis, the YCIs reflected on half a century of trauma and posed the question: Where does the city go from here? YCIs expressed their determination not to make it another 50 years of inequity and to honor King's legacy by moving the city forward. Discussing arts and culture in the city, YCIs recognized that creative density in the city is on the up and represents an increase in creative opportunities. This is tempered, however, by a lack of art writing or connectivity in the arts sector, and the closure of the city's MFA program at a major educational institution.

The **New Orleans YCI Hub** highlighted how issues around housing, gentrification and displacement in New Orleans affect the arts and culture community. Tourism and the commodification of culture that transpires afterward also presents challenges. From a policy standpoint, YCIs asked how New Orleans could move forward and support the cultural industry in a sustainable way. Citing tensions between city and state, reinforced by silos within city departments, YCIs said there was a clear need for a cultural policy advisor within the city government.

View of New Orleans skyline. Photo credit: Yasmine Omari



LEARNING FROM NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans-based YCIs led site visits with cultural actors and institutions in their city. During this segment, YCIs considered how the learning from their chosen site visit could relate to their own work and home city.

CULTURAL CORRIDOR TOUR:

ORETHA CASTLE HALEY BOULEVARD

This tour included visits to the Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Carol Bebel) and the Tulane Small Center (Sue Mobley) for Collaborative Design and Roux Carre. Each of these organizations is located within two blocks of each other and are engaged in community-based art, education and design.

EXHIBITION OPENING AND PERFORMANCE:

THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH

This event was a combination of visual art with performance and political satire, which explored themes of home, belonging, cultural transmission, gentrification and displacement. Andreanecia Morris, executive director of Housing NOLA, moderated a mock-debate in which historical figures Marie Laveau, Thomy Lafon, Juan San Maló, and Rose Nicaud outlined their platforms and visions for New Orleans' next 300 years. This performance was hosted by comedian Riga Ruby and DJ'd by RQAway and the event was organized by New Orleans YCI Fari Nzinga.

EXHIBITION TOUR AND TALK:

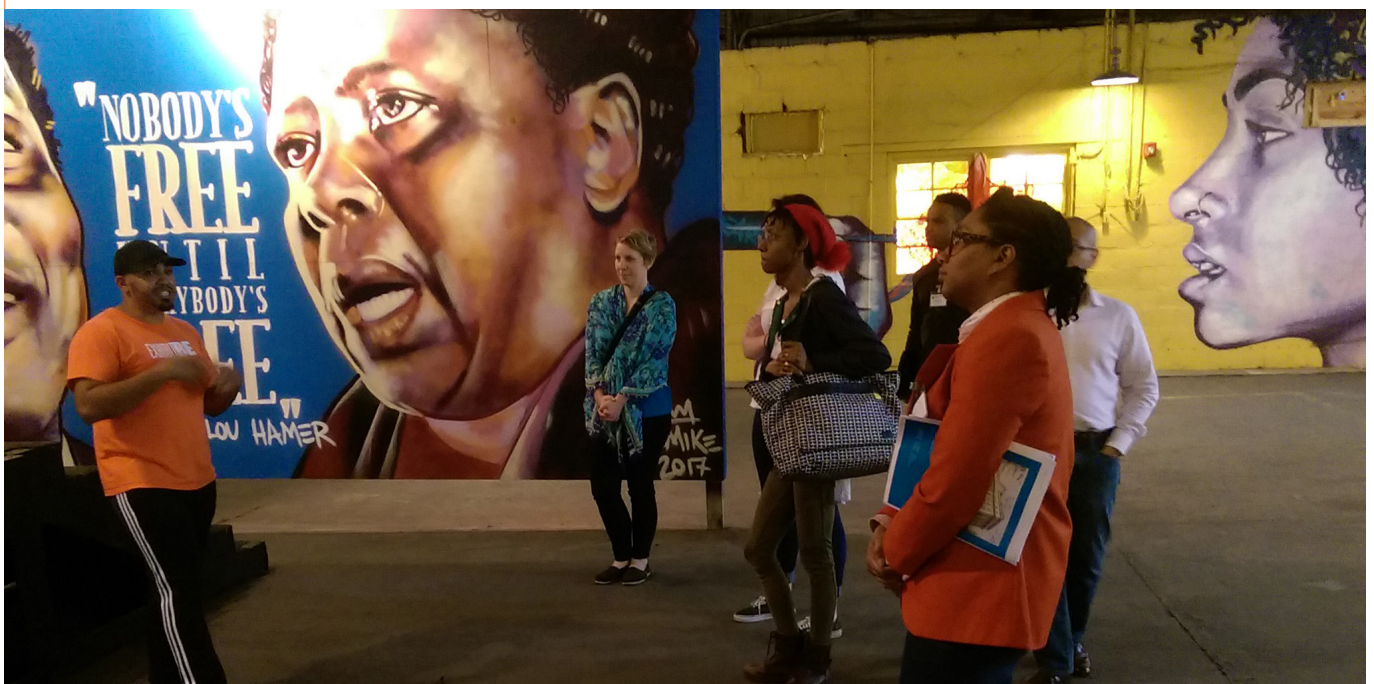
NEW MODELS FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS CENTERS

Participants were taken on a tour of Jockum Nordström's "Why Is Everything A Rag" exhibition and Sarah Morris' "Sawdust and Tinsel" exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans with senior curatorial associate Jennifer Francino. This was followed by a conversation about new models for interdisciplinary arts centers and their role in supporting the development of inclusive communities.

TOUR: STUDIO BE

This tour visited Studio BE, a 35,000 square-foot warehouse of graffiti art designed by local artist Brandan "Bmike" Odums. The exhibition features larger-than-life murals of African-American icons like Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr. A New Orleans native, Bmike aims to criticize how the city neglected under-resourced neighborhoods after the 2005 natural disaster but also wants to celebrate the residents of these mostly-black neighborhoods and the pride and beauty of their communities.

YCIs visit Studio BE



MODES OF COLLABORATION

The second day began with participants sharing insights from their site visits and conversations with change-makers in New Orleans. The group moved onto a discussion about their follow-on projects supported by grants from the Kresge Foundation.

YCIIs from the 2016 cohort reflected on their already-completed projects, while members of the 2017 cohort were able to gain advice on their planned projects.

Following this, YCIIs worked in small groups to mentor each other, sharing thoughts about different modes of

collaboration. Key questions were: What works well? What blockages are we confronting in terms of collaboration with each other and across sectors?

The following was a list produced by the group:

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD COLLABORATION

Humor	Diversity
Humility	No fear
Diversity	Listening
Patience	No vulnerability
Open heart	Respect
Equal levels of commitment	Space
Mutual benefit	Commitment
Discomfort	Intimacy
Empathy	Humility

CHARACTERISTICS OF BAD COLLABORATION

Power struggles	Lack of shared vision
Lack of timeliness	Exploitation
No respect	Idea theft
Procrastination	Mansplaining!
Selfishness	Manspreading!
Undermining others	Language barriers
Censorship	Mediocrity
Dishonesty	Pettiness
Territorial	Sabotage
Assumptions	

YCIIs from Detroit, Memphis and New Orleans discuss collaboration

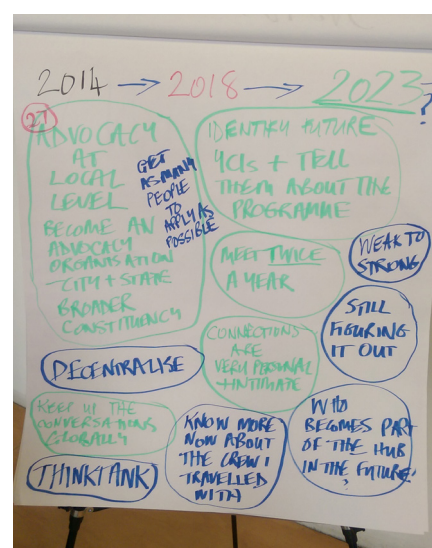
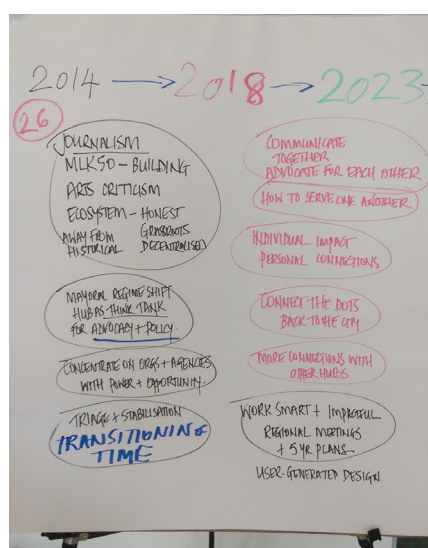


DEVELOPING CITY HUB IMPACT PLANS

Picking up on themes from the Modes of Collaboration peer-mentoring session, participants reflected on the cultural ecosystems in their respective cities and considered how they, their colleagues, and civic innovators in their cities could work together more imaginatively and effectively to bring about needed change.

Following this, YCIs conceptualized action plans for their city hubs going forward. Focusing on questions such as: Who are we as a hub? What do we aspire to be? What

contributions can we make locally, regionally, and globally? Each group came up with one commitment or strategy that they would make for their hub.



YCIs from Detroit, Memphis and New Orleans discuss collaboration

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

Peter Jenkinson and Shelagh Wright concluded the program by reviewing the discussions which had taken place and looking toward the journey ahead. Positioning the YCI Forum as genuinely global in vision and scope, they commented on the Forum's ability to connect people who are not normally connected. Regarding values, both reaffirmed their belief that YCI is more about the "we" than the "me," with a focus on collective action for positive social change.

Participants were reminded the YCI Forum is not a traditional professional development program about teaching or training, but is values- rather than goals-based. While emphasizing the potential of YCIs as agents of change, both urged the group to consider how within their city hubs they can think about creating systems change.

Adding to their remarks, Clare Shine, vice-president and chief program officer of Salzburg Global, reminded participants of the new strategic aims that Salzburg Global

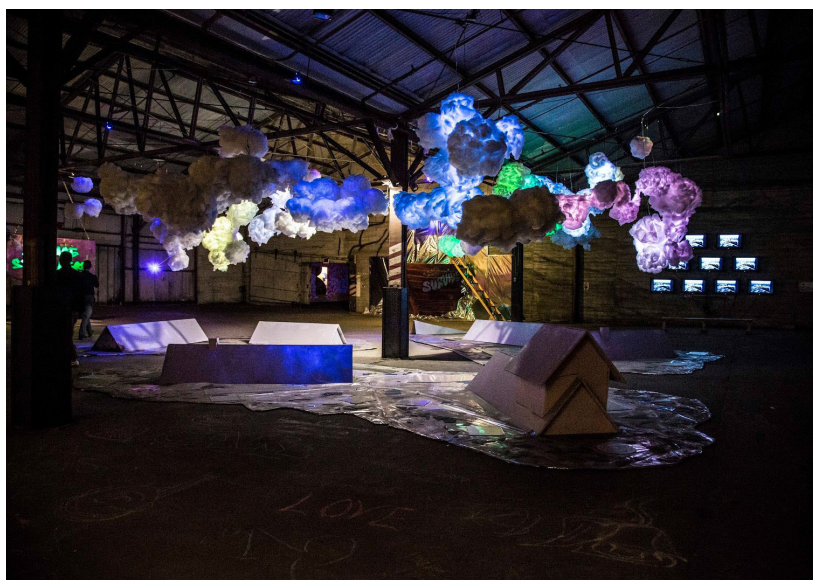
had set itself: to bridge divides, expand collaborations, and transform systems.

Susanna Seidl-Fox, closed the meeting by saying, "As creative change-makers, the YCIs confront similar challenges in their cities. Detroit, Memphis, and New Orleans are all contending with social inequality, weak public education systems, high unemployment levels, economic disparities, and a general lack of public support for the cultural sector.

"Working at the intersection of the arts and social change, all 27 YCIs are committed to addressing these challenges. This regional YCI meeting in New Orleans provided a rich opportunity for the YCIs to share experiences, coach each other, and strategize for the future. They represent and will shape the future of their cities.

"Their energy, talent, and commitment are what Detroit, Memphis, and New Orleans need to help them overcome the challenges of the 21st century."

REFLECTIONS CONNECTIONS: PHOTOS BY YASMINE OMARI



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(Did not attend)
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Fari Nzinga
Samuel Oliver
Heidi Schmalbach
Cameron Shaw
Mariana Sheppard
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Attendees of the meeting pose for a group photograph on the steps of the Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans



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Faye Hobson joined Salzburg Global Seminar in January 2017 as a Program Associate. She primarily supports the planning, management and implementation of the *Culture, Arts and Society* program and networks, which includes the *Young Cultural Innovators Forum*. Previously, she worked across a range of non-profit arts organizations in Northern Ireland in roles including community engagement, arts administration, and development. She was non-executive director at artist-led gallery and studios Platform Arts, Belfast, for two years. Following her studies, she undertook an internship with the Metropolitan Arts Center, Belfast focusing on fundraising and event management. In 2016, she participated in the inaugural Global Cultural Leadership Programme facilitated by European Cultural Diplomacy Platform, convened alongside the 7th World Summit in Arts and Culture. She was also a British Council Research Fellow at the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2014. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Photography from Falmouth University, UK, and a Diploma in Management from University of Ulster, UK.

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Series SalzburgGlobal.org/multi-year-series/yci
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SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

Salzburg Global Seminar is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1947 to challenge current and future leaders to shape a better world. Our multi-year programs aim to bridge divides, expand collaboration and transform systems.

Salzburg Global convenes outstanding talent across generations, cultures and sectors to inspire new thinking and action, and to connect local innovators with global resources. We foster lasting networks and partnerships for creative, just and sustainable change.

Over 36,000 Fellows from more than 170 countries have come together through our work, with many rising to senior leadership positions. Our historic home at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria – now also an award-winning hotel – allows us to welcome all participants in conditions of trust and openness.

SALZBURG GLOBAL FORUM FOR YOUNG CULTURAL INNOVATORS

The Young Cultural Innovators Forum empowers rising talents in the creative sector to drive social, economic and urban change. Launched in 2014, it is building a global network of 500 competitively-selected changemakers in “hub” communities who design collaborative projects, build skills, gain mentors, and connect to upcoming innovators in their cities and countries.

The Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Innovators (YCI) is a ten-year project launched by Salzburg Global Seminar to engage fifty of the world’s most dynamic young creative changemakers in Salzburg every year, with further regional events held in YCI Hubs.

For more info. please visit:
www.SalzburgGlobal.org