

Creative Places CEO's blog – August 2011

The last few months at Creative Places have been particularly busy, seeing the arrival of two new members of staff and my travelling to Denmark to speak at the IASP conference in June. As well as continuing to work on our numerous projects across the UK, August also saw us move into new offices on Kings Parade in Cambridge city centre. The city has an environment rich in academic research excellence and high tech companies, so the move into the city centre has given us a central base, conveniently located within the vibrant hub of Cambridge activity. The move went well over a busy weekend and the team and I have settled nicely into our new environment overlooking the bustle of Kings Parade and Kings College.

Over the last few months there have been some news items which we have followed with interest, such as the June announcement that Arts Council England, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) announced the Digital R&D Fund for Arts and Culture. This is a new £500,000 fund for projects that will harness digital technologies to connect with wider audiences and explore new ways of working. Applications have now closed and we look forward to seeing what projects are shortlisted later this month. More info can be found at <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/digital-rd-fund-arts-culture>

In August it was announced that Public Service Review: European Union will now be made freely available. It covers Education and Skills and also Science, Research and Technology within the EU, so is well worth signing up to. A recent edition has confirmed, for example, that lifelong learning is one of the key concepts of the EU's action in the field of education and training. To manage this shift towards a society of lifelong learning the EU advises that it needs more commitment of both policy-makers and stakeholders. Closer partnerships between the education community and the wider world are essential to fully make use of the different contexts in which learning takes place today. The Commission plans to come forward with a communication on lifelong learning and competence development later this year. We will be doing our bit to contribute where we can. We are currently working on an exciting project with Eastleigh Borough Council that plays to this agenda.

Those wanting to sign up to newsletters need to go to <http://www.publicservice.co.uk/register.asp>

Now heading to Beijing to take part in a workshop with the Beijing International Business Incubator, involving their science parks, before flying back to speak at the Henry Stewart Property Conference: University and University Associated Real Estate on the 23rd September. I will be presenting on creating a 'New Funding Environment University Real Estate Master Plan', looking at the drivers of tomorrow's master plans such as changing academic requirements, delivering environments that work from both academic and

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business perspectives. I will also be looking at how you secure Local Authority support and approvals. The conference takes place at The Hatton,

Hatton Garden, London and you can visit <http://www.hsconferences.com> for more details.

Jonathan