

## **Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity**

### Note-taking guide for session rapporteurs

#### **METADATA**

**Session title:** Creativity as a Core Necessity of Human and Community Development

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**Presenter:** Sir Ken Robinson

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**Day:** Tues. April 29

**Time:** 9:15 AM

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#### **NOTES**

##### **1. Short overview/summary of presentation**

Keynote speech discussed the nature and potential of human creativity to develop cultural meaning and solve key problems facing humanity. The current state and goals of educational institutions is cited as a key factor in the lack of realization for potential human creativity. Robinson discusses the need for change from a systemic/mechanical approach to categorizing the value of human existence through the measurement of intelligence. He suggests a shift from the current state of infrastructure which stems from developments of the industrial revolution to a more organic, intuitive approach to organizing ourselves as the way to move positive human interaction and capabilities forward. He states that it is increasingly important to build infrastructure for our culture that will encourage the growth of human potential to find solutions to a mounting crisis of human population growth and other issues.

##### **2. Key points and significant themes of presentation**

Human Cultural achievement is an extraordinary thing, and can sometimes defy conventional logic – i.e. Las Vegas

Three global issues are of great importance today

1. A crisis of natural resources
2. A crisis of human resources
3. A crisis of education

These problems stem in part from institutional education, which was developed during the industrial revolution. The results of our current system of education are that many people lack knowledge of their individual talents and the means to develop them.

Three key points to remember when thinking of this problem:

1. we are part of evolution, and the type of work we are all doing is related to this.
2. we are at a time of human crisis (immense growth of populations)
3. we have to run our institutions differently, and the cultural sector can play a role here.

- creativity is the process of having a ritual of ideas that have value.
- most adults think that they are NOT creative and most small children think they are
- the work we do now education and cultural policy will engage children and shape their future

Three key misconceptions about creativity

1. Only special people are creative - this is not realistic. opportunities are for everyone
2. Creativity is about special things - there are lots of areas in which you can be creative, science, technology, mathematics.
3. There is nothing you can do about it.

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[www.symposium2008.ca](http://www.symposium2008.ca)

There is a process called divergent thinking, which is not the same as creativity. It is the capacity to see lots of possible solutions, and reinterpretations of the questions. Lateral thinking. Analogies/metaphors. Children excel at this sort of thinking, and modern education does not promote it.

Creativity is what makes us essentially human.

What is important and should be the goal of education is not a traditional measurement of intelligence, but rather making the conditions for growth of creativity possible. It is better to realize your own creativity, and be creative in every aspect of your existence. Don't ask how creative you are, but how you are creative.

Imagination and creativity are the way forward for humanity. Institutions that can be organic, encourage creativity, make the conditions for growth and the realization of human potential are important to this.

**3. Notable examples and links to websites**

[www.TED.com](http://www.TED.com)

Sir Ken Robinson on Ted.com:

<http://www.ted.com/index.php/speakers/view/id/69>

<http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/view/id/66>

[www.sirkenrobinson.com](http://www.sirkenrobinson.com)

Note taker: Allison Collins