



## MEDIA ADVISORY

*February 12, 2008*

# **Ottawa Symposium To Explore Challenges of Cultural Infrastructure**

*Early Bird Registration Deadline February 15*

**Event:** The Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity  
Symposium

**Dates:** April 28 to May 01, 2008

**Venue:** Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa

**Information:** [www.cultureandcommunities.ca](http://www.cultureandcommunities.ca)

**Media Contacts:** Eileen Gillette or Lorenz von Fersen  
at 778.782.7978 or [eileen@cultureandcommunities.ca](mailto:eileen@cultureandcommunities.ca).

Early Bird registration closes Friday, February 15 for a major international symposium in Ottawa, April 28 through May 1, 2008, that aims to help transform the way our community planners, educators and elected leaders think about our cultural future.

The Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity symposium, organized by the Centre of Expertise on Culture and Communities at Simon Fraser University and the City of Ottawa, will bring together noted speakers, experts and artists from across Canada and around to world to examine the role and importance of cultural infrastructure in furthering culture and creativity in cities and communities.

Keynote speakers and other participants in Creative Construct will include representatives of some of the world's most exciting new cultural facility initiatives. Dave Peebles of Birmingham's Custard Factory will share the story of how a 19th century custard factory became a dynamic micro-environment for creative entrepreneurs. Sir Ken Robinson, whose controversial contention that we are educating

children out of their creativity has challenged everything we think we know about creativity, will speak on creativity as a core necessity of human and community development. Also joining the Creative Construct sessions will be representatives of the Cultural District of Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, where four of the world's foremost architects, Tadao Ando, Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid and Jean Nouvel, are collaborating on a multibillion-dollar project that will catapult Abu Dhabi to the forefront of international cultural destinations.

Delegates to Creative Construct will include cultural planners and policy-makers, civic leaders and elected officials, and educators and urban theorists interested in sharing ideas and learning about the latest innovations and developments from around the world.

Workshops and panel discussions on such themes as cultural convergence with industry and science, urban renewal, and alternative financing and partnership solutions will attract cultural sector leaders and entrepreneurs as well as private sector developers and investors.

For further information visit [www.cultureandcommunities.ca](http://www.cultureandcommunities.ca) .

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