



Our World, Our Responsibility: Re-energising Civil Society

The Inyathelo Conference 2009

2nd – 5th November

Lagoon Beach Hotel, Milnerton, Cape Town

The future is uncertain. Arguably, no sector understands this uncertainty more clearly than civil society. In South Africa, as in the rest of the world, the events within the global economic and financial fora have rocked the foundations on which we had, until now, based our operations into the future.

The world has undergone fundamental change. And so must we if we are to ensure the durability of civil society. The questions we have to ask are myriad: Does this new era bring with it a need for the role, shape and modus operandi of civil society to change? Are we operating in the most effective manner possible? How sure are we that we will continue into the future? Do we need to do so? Are we receiving the information that we require to do our work? Are we engaging with government effectively? Do we believe that our impact on our social environment is as effective as it could be? What stands in our way? What are the things we don't talk about and don't say?



The South African Institute for
Advancement

Inyathelo – The South African Institute For Advancement
P O Box 43276, Woodstock, 7915, Cape Town, South Africa
Telephone (+27) 21 465 6981 Fax (+27) 21 465 6953
www.inyathelo.co.za

Conversations about futures bring together people with preferred visions for the future. We may never share a common vision of that preferred future, but what civil society does do is open up the spaces where we can commit to a process that encourages people from all walks of life to frame how those different visions may be reconciled.

Our world is indeed our responsibility. By bringing together representatives from government, philanthropy, business, media, education, the non-profit sector and youth, Inyathelo hopes to bring about a frank and honest discussion on the shape and form of South African civil society in the context of a dramatically altered local, national and global environment. The responsibility rests in each of these sectors to re-evaluate how we work, how we achieve sustainability and how we measure what matters in order to declare success.

This conference does not promise a road map for the future or even a forecast of what the future might look like. This conference is the opportunity for the sectors that make up and influence civil society to stop and look up for a moment and to think about the context in which we work, and what a range of futures might mean for our organisations and institutions.

The conference offers plenary discussions, parallel sessions, masterclass workshops, and affinity group meetings that focus on the role of philanthropy, higher education, governance, non-profit organisations and government in determining the future of civil society in South Africa. In bringing together these sectors and conducting the discussion at a global as well as national level, we seek to stimulate understanding of how our actions in the present will influence the shape of the future, and to identify the kind of thinking we need to do now to ensure a democratic future.

In the past civil society was always ahead in predicting what the future would hold and has played a leading role in devising solutions on how to either optimise the best or avoid the worst of these predictions. To some extent civil society has moved over the years to a less predictive and more reactive mode of engagement. Necessary perhaps, given the particular circumstances of our social environment but we need to return to civil society the capacity and power to shape our future rather than respond in the aftermath. We need to figure out how we re-energise civil society so that we can indeed take responsibility for the future of our world.

Join us for:

1. Panel discussions
2. Plenary sessions
3. Master classes
4. Special events
5. Working groups
6. Focused discussions
7. Roundtable and networking opportunities
8. The opportunity to make a contribution to the future of South African civil society

Session topics: *(Speakers will be confirmed in the coming months)*

1. Philanthropy in our Time
2. Measuring what Matters – performance and impact for grantmakers and grantseekers
3. In Formation: civil society and access to knowledge
4. The changing nature of the state
5. A new global economy
6. An elephant in the room - what are we not talking about?
7. Grantmakers and grantseekers - mutual accountability and the formation of partnerships

8. Endowment investment for foundations and organisations

Why this conference?

1. **Bright ideas**

Take a leap with new ideas and with new people in fields related to your endeavours in the non-profit and philanthropy sector.

2. **Around the table**

Come together with others to discuss and learn about particular issues facing South African civil society.

3. **Build bridges**

Open up the possibility of building unexpected relationships with those you might not normally imagine as partners.

4. **Connections**

Grantees and grantmakers – come together to link with others towards maximising outcomes.

5. **Expertise**

Join a focused class for expert assistance on challenges in both grantmaking and grantseeking.

6. **Facilitation**

Become part of a group that gets ideas on the table and gets things moving – new ideas, new initiatives.

7. **Matchmaking**

Make the most of mutual-interest opportunities with grantees, donors, practitioners and policymakers

Five more reasons why you should join this conference:

1. Understand the new paradigm we are living in, and develop a sense of the different kind of thinking we need to engage with to be proactive about our future.
2. Interact with world-class thinkers, scenario-builders, civil society leaders, philanthropists and advancement practitioners.
3. Learn practical skills - you can join a couple of the five master-classes to get in-depth instruction on a specialised area of grantmaking and grantseeking practice.
4. Cape Town - with mountain, sea, beaches, wind, good food and the new 2010 stadium.

Who should attend?

- Non-profit board members, directors, CEO's and fundraising or advancement staff
- Vice-chancellors and institutional decision-makers
- Policy-makers, decision-makers and leaders in the corporate and government sectors
- Individual philanthropists and staff of local foundations
- CSI decision-makers
- Anybody interested in being part of ensuring a future for South African civil society



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