



For a lifelong impact, the Creative Foundation Inc engages established and award-winning professionals in the arts, sciences, technology, social science and humanities to help foster innovation, inter-cultural understanding and art appreciation amongst youth of different cultural backgrounds and social groups so they can grow with motivation and confidently use creativity in all areas of life including problem solving and developing healthier life choices.

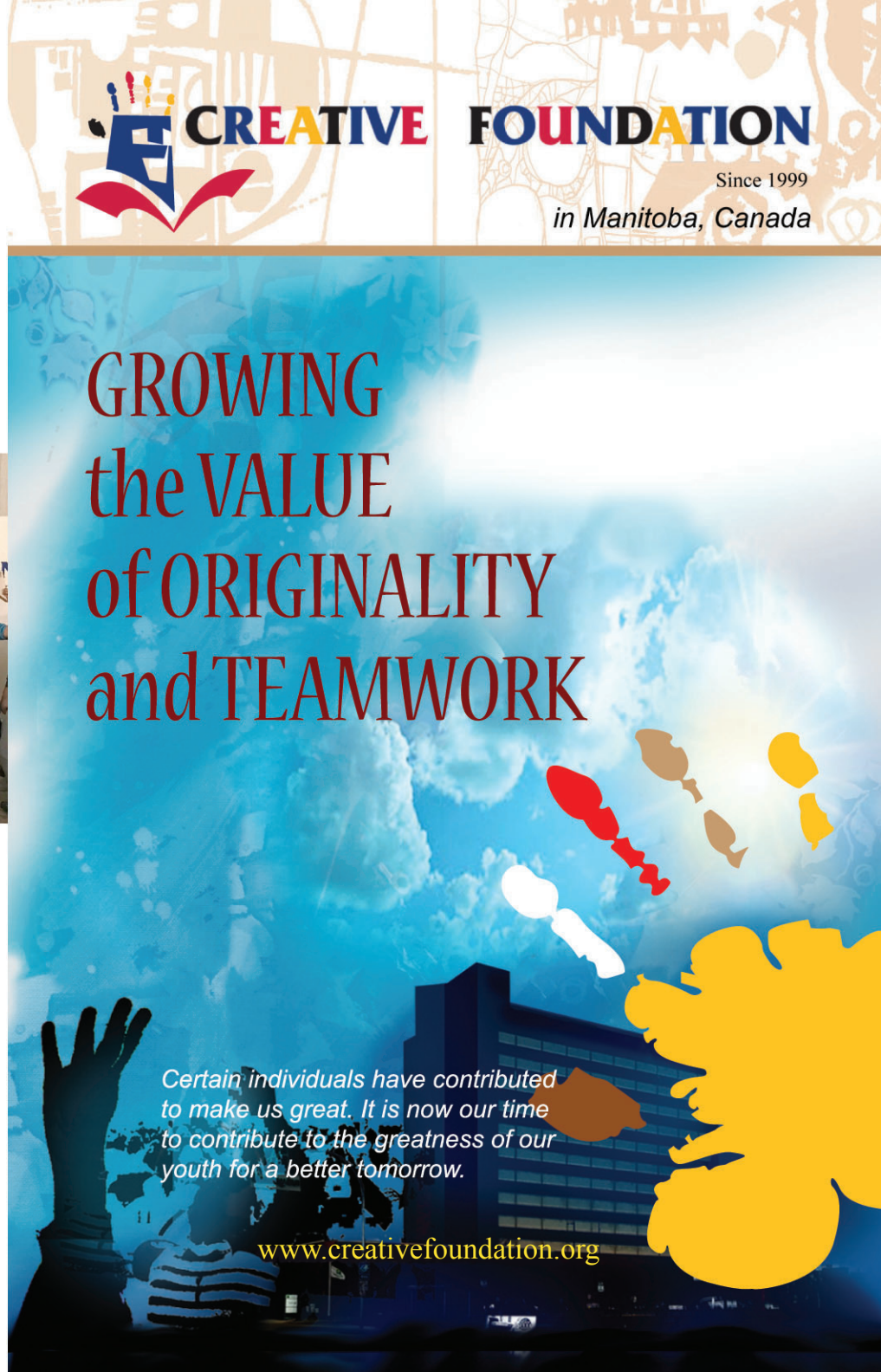
CORPORATE SPONSORS:



GROWING the VALUE of ORIGINALITY and TEAMWORK

Certain individuals have contributed to make us great. It is now our time to contribute to the greatness of our youth for a better tomorrow.

www.creativefoundation.org





CREATIVE FOUNDATION

GROWING the VALUE of ORIGINALITY and TEAMWORK

Presenters:

Beatrice Watson (*Human Rights Advocate & Publisher*)

Catherine Rust-Akinbolaji (*University College Professor*)

Lasha Mowchun (*Filmmaker and Art Educator*)

Dr. Sunday Akin Olukoju (*University Instructor, Writer & Movie Producer*)

Yisa Akinbolaji (*Interdisciplinary Artist*)

Keynote Speaker:

Hon. Rochelle Squires

Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage

Corporate Sponsors:

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Special Guests/Keynote Speakers:

Hon. Minister Rochelle Squires (2017)
Douglas Riske (2015)
Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles (2004)
Russ Wyatt & Larry Partap (2003)
Leo Mol & Bruce Waldie (2002)
Dr. Jon Gerrard (2001)
Larry Partap (2000)
Dave Williamson and Larry Partap (1999)

Presenters 1999

Samuel Afolayan, Ph.D
Madeline Coopsammy (Author)
Karim Dharamsi, Ph.D
DMitzi Ezzat (Dentist)
Rosie Hernandez (Designer)
Frank Reimer (College Instructor)

Presenters 2015

Randy Guest
Sue Hemphill
Becky Thiessen
Yisa Akinbolaji

Presenters 2004

Rick Baverstock
Chris Brower
Dean Cooper
Justin Deeley
Kenton Larsen
Garry Moir
Steve Vogelsang
Forde Oliver

Presenters 2003

Dr. Marcia Anderson
Mary Louise Chown
Bola Olorundare
'Segun Olude

Presenters 2002

Karim Dharamsi, Ph.D
Kay Stone, Ph.D
'Segun Olude
Bola Olorundare

Presenters 2000/2001

Pat B. Burns
Bola Olorundare
'Segun Olude



*We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship
of our special project:*



*Each year our event is held, we document it so that the positive message presented
can reach more people and inspire others to support our youth empowerment initiative.*

Speech by the Minister - May 11, 2017

Transcript of the speech by Guest Speaker

Transcribed by Carlene Kurdziel

Thank you, Sunday, and thank you, Yisa, for the wonderful invitation to be here this morning and thank you to everyone involved in the *Creative Foundation*. I think this is just a wonderful, wonderful organization with such admirable goals, and am delighted to be here for just a few short moments with you.



Hon. Minister Rochelle Squires

So, how many artists do we have in the room? Quite a few, but how many people ever hold a pen in their hand or hold a paintbrush or a crayon? Does that include everybody?

So, let's get something straight: we're all artists in this room, right? We agree on that? Everybody in this room is an artist. We're all artists. The reason I say that is that being an artist is a mindset. It's a part of who we are. It's not what we do. To be an artist, it doesn't mean you have to have a sculpture on display at the Assiniboine Park, which is lovely if you achieve that, but that doesn't make you an artist. To be an artist, you don't have to have published creative works on display at an art gallery. That is wonderful, those are lofty goals, but that's not the main reason that we create art.

Does anybody have an idea why we create art? Why do you think?

[Participant: Maybe to express yourself?]

Absolutely, yes. Why do you think?

[Participant: To express your imagination and show what you're capable of.]

Very good. Go ahead.

[Participant: To relax!]

Absolutely, to relax! Anyone else? Go ahead.

[Participant: Because it's fun!]

Absolutely, it's fun, yes.

We create art because it helps us to determine who we are and to know our own identity, and lets us explore who other people are through their work. Last night, I had the absolute pleasure of going to the *Winnipeg Art Gallery*. Has anyone been to the *Winnipeg Art Gallery*?



Photography: Creative Foundation Inc

So, they brought in an exhibit that's opening up today or soon this week. It's Pablo Picasso's work. Last night we got to do a little sneak peak of his work and got to see a little bit about who he was as a person. But you know, I didn't just learn about Pablo Picasso. I learned a lot about where he came from. I learned a lot about his country of Spain and I learned so much about the people in his life. I learned about the time that he lived in. And that's what we do when we explore other people's art. But what about when we explore our own art? We get to

decide who we are, and we get to know ourselves at a very, very intimate level. I've studied art in my past and I've also written two books. The books aren't published; they are sitting in a drawer. But those books have helped me become who I am today and allow me to do my job to the fullest.

In the writing of those two books, which someday might be published, or maybe not, they allowed me to explore aspects



Photography: Creative Foundation Inc

Participants working with Dr. Olukoju in groups.

of myself and my identity that I never knew I had, and that allowed me to step forth in the world with greater confidence. We bring our artistic talents into everyday. We bring our art to school everyday when we have to creatively imagine a solution to a math problem or a science problem. We use our imagination and our creativity when we explore nature. That's feeding the artist's soul.

It's fantastic that you are able to be here today and again thank you to Yisa and Sunday and the board of the *Creative Foundation* for putting together this amazing day where you can discover the power of your own creativity. I hope it inspires a lifelong love of art and a journey of artistic destiny.

Have an absolutely wonderful day today, and thank you for letting me come here to say a few words.

Mayor's Message

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and best wishes to the organizers and participants in this year's *Creative Foundation Inc.* interactive sessions - ***Growing the Value of Originality and Teamwork.***

For students attending this year's event, there will be even more opportunities to learn and participate - each student



Mayor Brian Bowman

will have a chance to attend and enjoy all the activities. Workshops on Human Rights, Poetry, Writing, Visual Art, and Animation will be offered with hands-on projects led by accomplished people working in the field. With a goal of inspiring and empowering youth, *Creative Foundation Inc.* is helping to expose young people in our city to some great talent, and Winnipeg's future will be better for it.

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg and my City Council colleagues, I would like to thank the organizers, volunteers, presenters and participants for your efforts. It takes a lot of work to put together an event like this, and even more work to continue to strive towards the goal of today's workshop - a creative, harmonious and prosperous Winnipeg. Enjoy the day!

Warmly,

Mayor Brian Bowman,
City of Winnipeg

“Growing the Value of Originality and Teamwork”: Workshops with a Difference

by Dr. Sunday Akin Olukaju



Photography: Creative Foundation Inc

Students eager to participate in discussion.

What is “originality” and why do we need to value it? And why should we talk about teamwork when the idea of individualistic success has been around for a while? These were some of the questions I initially wrestled with when Yisa Akinbolaji, the founder and coordinator of *Creative Foundation Inc.*, suggested the workshop title.

Originality is defined as “the ability to think independently and creatively” or “the quality of being novel or unusual”. Then, what is teamwork? It is “the combined action of a group of people, especially when effective and efficient.”

For generations coming behind us, they need to know that no matter how fantastic or ingenious a creative idea may seem, it must not be used for selfish or destructive reasons. Hence, the goal of the workshops was to help school children imbibe the spirit of constructive engagement and partnerships that will engender innovation and progress for humanity.

The event, ‘Growing the Value of Originality and



Photography: Red Moon Media

Sharon Li is admiring her colourful work on selfie with Winnipeg artist, Rosalie Olson.

Teamwork’, began with a grand opening speech delivered by the special guest, Hon. Rochelle Squires, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage. Her presence was inspiring. Her interactive message was empowering with stories about real people, real institutions and how nature can inspire our imagination and creativity.

Internationally-acclaimed visual artist, Yisa Akinbolaji, amazed the over 100 participants with his creative artistry through his invented Remoglue application for painting. Yisa’s invention is novel and all the students learnt a new technique by following his stress-free directives. He led two progressive sessions and everyone was left spell-bound by the time he asked the participating students to peel off the Remoglue to unveil their final original work. He concluded by encouraging all students not to ignore any of the subjects they are taught, but to value them and their teachers for their lifelong impact.

The Q and A session on Human Rights by Beatrice Watson, publisher and Human Rights professional, was fascinating and interesting. The session not only stretched

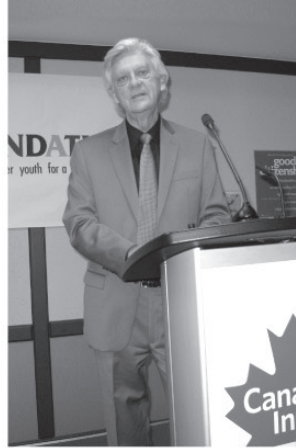
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*Photo mosaic
of past activities*





Photography: Creative Foundation Inc



Photography: Creative Foundation Inc



Photo mosaic of past activities





Photography: Red Moon Media

Workshop participants working on their original works.

the students' imagination, it also exposed them to timeless information. The World Music presentation by Catherine Rust-Akinbolaji, a university college professor, was stimulating. Participants gained a lot of insight into the world of others through an appreciation of the music from other parts of the world. Lasha Mowchun, a filmmaker, animator and art



Photography: Creative Foundation Inc

Lasha Mowchun, Filmmaker and Educator, teaching the process of Animation tech.



Photography: Creative Foundation Inc

Showing the wonderful animation created by students - taught by Lasha Mowchun.

educator, made the stop animation presentation a lot of fun and brought technology to life for the participants. The learners were also involved in an interactive poetry presentation facilitated by me. In teams, students were given the choice of singing, acting, story-telling or simply reciting one of the selected poems.

Garry Green, the master of ceremony, kept the day running smoothly. Other board members – especially David Fatimehin, Carlene Kurdziel and Xiaowei Qin – were simply phenomenal in their coordination and support roles.

This wonderful day of workshops promoted the spirit of teamwork and ignited the spirit of originality and ingenuity.

For generations coming behind us, they need to know that no matter how fantastic or ingenious a creative idea may seem, it must not be used for selfish or destructive reasons.

Everyone is protected by Human Rights

by *Beatrice Watson*

Human Rights Advocate & Publisher.

It was a privilege to speak to a hundred plus elementary school children about Human Rights at the May 2017 Creative Foundation annual youth conference.

Putting heads together with my coworkers at the human rights commission, emerged the brilliant idea to engage children with a question and answer presentation and it worked like a charm. I was pleasantly surprised at

how much the students knew about human rights, how eager and brave they were putting their hands up to give answers. This was very encouraging to me as a presenter as I was looking at a group of brilliant students who really cared about human rights. Below are a few of the many questions asked and the corresponding answers:



Beatrice Watson

Can my school insist on a dress code?

Yes. The Human Rights Code does not give students the right to dress any way they like. Rules about no shorts, no tube tops, no hats, no nose studs or that you must wear a school uniform are left to the discretion of the school. But...

If, for example, a person's religion or disability means they cannot meet the standard set, the school may be required to make an exception to the rule.

Can a student bring an animal assistant into the cafeteria?

Yes. The Code prohibits discrimination on the basis of "physical or mental disability or related characteristics or circumstances, including reliance on a dog guide or other animal assistant..." This protection applies to all service dogs, which are specially selected and professionally trained. Their owners also go through intensive preparation and training.

Can I decorate my locker/binders with any pictures I want?

No. Schools, like employers, must not allow harassment of students or employees. One way people are harassed (embarrassed or made to feel unwelcome) is to be exposed to pictures, graffiti, cartoons, or symbols which ridicule or offend them.

Can my teacher tell me to remove a nose ring?

Yes. Unless directly related to a religious or cultural group characteristic.

Is racial harassment in the school covered by the Manitoba Human Rights Code?

Yes.

Are children covered by the Manitoba Human Rights Code?

Yes.

Do I need my parent's permission to file a complaint with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission?

No.

This experience taught me more than I might have taught the students. Never underestimate the mind of a child. It is way more flexible and elastic than we think. Children have some knowledge that appears to be innate and they are not inhibited at a young age to express their thoughts and ideas.

Thanks to the Creative Foundation for organizing an event that stimulates the minds of our young generation in very creative ways and the board members for volunteering their valuable time.



Innovation through Creativity

by Garry Green

CFI Advisory Board and Entrepreneur

The highly original and exciting activities of the *Creative Foundation Inc* are designed to impress upon the students how powerful they can be when they work together to create new and innovative ideas. The students can also put to use creative strategies they learn from professionals which they encounter through the foundation's event in whatever field of endeavour they choose to follow. In today's complex world, it is important to note that the challenges we all face should be taken on by those who are willing and able to think and act creatively. As the world changes in an accelerated manner, our ways of thinking will need to change so that we may adapt and create the world in which we choose to live.



Garry Green

Learning to think creatively is the cornerstone of innovation and invention, and will prove to be the key to our successful future. "Disruptor" is a new word in our cultural lexicon. It indicates a new idea that departs so radically from the old ways, which will also redefine and reshape the world and our lives in positive ways never before dreamed of. Examples of people whose innovations fit the description of disruptors are Albert Einstein in science, Steve Jobs in technology and Pablo Picasso in art. We now enjoy the benefits which these innovative people brought to our world, the positive benefits we receive when citizens are encouraged to collaborate and think outside the box. Creative Foundation continues to seek to equip young future leaders to discover and express their creative abilities now and going into the future, so that we all may benefit.

This non-profit organization is the brainchild of our good friend



Photography: Rosalie Olson

Presenters, board members of CFI with special guest, Hon. Rochelle Squires.

and founder Yisa Akinbolaji, who was able to plant the tree almost two decades in Winnipeg and we see it now bearing good fruit. I have



been made aware that there have been a few young professionals, including a practicing surgeon who has taken inspiration from the empowering workshop of the Creative Foundation in the past.

The Creative Foundation seeks to bring activities and ideas to students with the goal of inviting and allowing the creative abilities of these children to be expressed and realized.

It was with great personal delight that I served as Master of Ceremonies for this year's event held on May 11th 2017 at the Holiday Inn, South Winnipeg. On behalf of the Creative Foundation, I would like to thank Minister Rochelle Squires for her support and inspiring presentation, and all board members, presenters and volunteers who worked so hard to make the event a huge success.

Lifelong Impact: The Best Future is in the Hands of Today's Children

by *Yisa Akinbolaji*

Convenor coordinator, *Creative Foundation Inc.*

The *Creative Foundation Inc* board believes that if our local community is to participate in and contribute to sustainable global development, we must positively prepare our youth for the task ahead. One significant resource that we can offer them is the knowledge and experience of distinguished intellectuals, innovators and professionals.



Yisa Akinbolaji

Knowing that there is magic in mere calligraphy and because creativity is not limited to one single field, the *Creative Foundation Inc* engages established and award-winning professionals in the arts, sciences, technology, social science and humanities to help foster innovation, inter-cultural understanding and art appreciation amongst youth of different cultural backgrounds and social groups so they can grow with motivation and confidently use creativity in all areas of life including problem solving and developing healthier life choices.

Over the years, the *Creative Foundation Inc* board has pursued excellence when selecting speakers and workshop facilitators for its mentorship events. The presenters and keynote speakers - which in the past have included great talents like artist Leo Mol, author Dave Williamson and medical practitioner Dr. Marcia Anderson - reinforce the excellent education and values that the youth are taught at school and at home. It does not end there. The professionals who we task are also generous to unwrap the secrets of their successes and innovations. The youth carry forward this legacy toward accomplishing their mission of making the world a better place.

Since certain individuals have contributed to making us great, it is now appropriate to contribute to the greatness of our youth for a better tomorrow. The impact of the positive exposure we extend to the grade school or high school participants from a series of thorough workshops will undoubtedly empower them and last a lifetime.