



**IPS 20th Anniversary Edition of
The Young Singaporeans Conference (YSC) 2008
“Cultivating a Singapore Creative Class”**

DRAFT PROGRAMME
(As at 19th September 2008)

**20 – 21 November 2008
Orchard Hotel**

8.45 am Registration

9.15 am - 10. 45 am **Session I**
Where are the Singapore Stars? Two Views

The new creative economy is no longer an economy of nations; it's an economy of places with cities around the world competing for highly mobile talent. The mobile nature of the creative economy has broken the age-old connection between where people are educated and where they work.

Richard Florida

Singapore seems to be strategically poised to take advantage of the new phenomenon we could term, 'the rise of the creative class' since where the creative economy is located is no longer a question of where traditional factors of production are located, or the size of a country's population. We do not need a hinterland, and immediate market base to succeed in this knowledge-driven economy. This creative and knowledge-driven economy relies on 'brain power', innovation, the spirit of enterprise as well as an intangible power to attract more creative talent to create a lively 'scene'.

Speakers are asked if we should, or have cultivated our own creative talent – the Singapore Stars, and what more do we need to get talent to choose our city?

10.45 am - 11.15 am Coffee Break

11.15 am – 1.00 pm **Session II**
Society and Creativity

Do we have a society – the people climate - which provides the larger ecosystem by which a creative class can emerge? We ask some of Singapore's best creative talents this

question.

1.00 pm – 2.15 pm

Lunch

2.15 pm – 4.00 pm

Session III
Business and Creativity

We recognise that the emergence of innovative businesses requires not only the creative talent at the heart of it. It also requires a business ecosystem too where there are entrepreneurs, technologists, venture capitalists, management and marketing experts that cluster around innovation and build it into viable products and industries. We ask speakers what are the business elements that have been critical to their journey of creating thriving companies. Is anything missing in Singapore?

4.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Coffee Break

4.30 pm – 6.15 pm

Session IV
Politics and Creativity

To complete our 360 degree review of the conditions for the cultivation of a Singapore creative class, we ask what the connection is between politics and creativity.

Time and again, commentators claim that there is a close nexus between the two in Singapore. The lack of political pluralism and regulation of the freedom of expression and assembly are often spoken of as stumbling blocks to a more pervasive culture of creativity. Speakers are asked if they feel that there is such a connection between politics and creativity and if so, what is that connection? Do the political conditions and the laws in Singapore then help foster or hinder the emergence of a creative class here?

6.15 pm - 9.00 pm

Session V
Dinner and Talk

We ask the speaker to share about his life journey especially about 'paths not taken'. This should flesh out the decisions made and offer participants insight into what makes all the difference for people wanting to find and develop their creative talent.

9.00 pm

End of Day 1

Day 2

9.00 am – 10.45 am

Session VI **Wrap-up Session**

Participants are asked to work in their groups to come up with three key messages each that they would like to put out to government, business and civic sectors based on their reflections from the conference.

10.45 am -11.15 am

Coffee Break

11.15 am – 1.00 pm

Session VII **Dialogue with Guest of Honour, Cabinet Minister**

Participants make presentations of their reflections to invited Cabinet Minister and other participants. Dialogue session to follow.

1.00 pm – 2.30pm

Lunch
Guest of Honour is invited to join group for closing lunch.

2.30 pm

End of Conference