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Report on the Knowledge, Culture, Climate Action symposium (to be read with the powerpoint)

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The Knowledge Culture, Climate Action symposium is currently underway here in Santiago. KCCA was originally located within the COP as an interface between the official and civil society meeting with a focus on enhancing the ambition of the Paris Agreement. But now in light of the social crisis in Chile and the COP departure the event was reframed to highlight the connection between social crisis and climate crisis in Chile, and the rampant inequalities within the prevailing social, political and economic system that hinder climate action. Through this event we draw inspiration and practical lessons from grassroots activism, Youth, Indigenous, feminist leadership and eco-feminist practice, museum and art activism and leading edge scholarship in the humanities on diverse, post extractivist economies and deep decarbonisation, to provide alternative, transdisciplinary solutions that enhance the ambition of existing implementation strategies in the Paris Agreement.

We are reporting on these debates, discussions and practices.

The first report is Museums, Climate and Environmental Justice.

With a global infrastructure of close to 80,000 institutions, museums of all genres have a critical role to play in climate action, one that is also given further impetus with the inclusion of museums as named stakeholders in the 2015 *Paris Agreement*. Museums are not all edifices that hold precious collections but rather are places for people, they have a range of roles and agencies in climate action particular to their political, social contexts, genre and mission including more expected ones such as science pedagogy to research, to the establishment of global forums for collective action; the assembling of multiparty stakeholders for shaping future lifestyle options to more political ones such activist and governmental advocacy roles.

The Hot Science Project [Slide 3].

I reported on a section of the findings of the Australian Research Council project, *Hot Science, Global Citizens: the agencies of museums in climate change interventions*, involving quantitative and qualitative research in Australia and the US with communities, museum audiences, staff and

politicians. All these groups thought it important that museums tackle climate change and its politics.

As one of the most trusted information sources in society, second only to scientific research organisations and way ahead of media and government communication, museums are ideally placed to disseminate information on climate change, facilitate climate discussions and solutions and especially in a context where governments are slow to act.

Drawing on these findings overall the project developed recommendations for the sector. **[Slide 4]**

We tested a range of positioning statements to look at current and potential roles, gaps and role enhancements **[Slide 5]**

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Museums have the potential to act as sites at the centre of civic life in developing responses to climate change. They can:

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They can act as assemblies of peer and public review on climate science:

- Presenting the science on climate change including all views and conflicting positions; contextualizing the research underpinning debates including how science is produced;
- Weighting the debates and sources according to their levels of acceptance and making judgements about their relative credibility including stakeholder positions;
- Convene deliberations and debates with publics on climate science research and findings.

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Institutions can convene multi-stakeholder assemblies with scientists, government, economists, industry leaders alongside community groups such as Indigenous leaders, youth and present different views, practices and courses of action, access significant ideas and a range of options from which negotiations can be made. **SLIDE 9**

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Examine climate change as a cultural, political technological, economic and scientific issue by offering a critical and historical view of the debates, the world views that inform them, and the power relations that maintain them.

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They can take a critical stance on climate change policy and decisions by acting as places for debate on policy options; as collection points for gathering diverse and contending opinions on policy bringing together a range of inputs and responses across all sectors and outside mainstream economic and scientific expertise, and advocate to government for policy for framing future solutions.

[Slide 12]

Develop global forums for collective action, networking and connecting communities assembling and mobilising people from different national and cultural backgrounds for sharing local knowledge and experiences on the social and scientific dimensions of climate change, and for making decisions.

[Slide 13]

Act as a reference base for the coordination of resources across sectors and scales as places for documentation, collecting and archiving and providing different perspectives on media communication.

[Slide 14]

Raise awareness of climate change by providing access to clear information on what individuals and communities can do to mitigate and adapt, while empowering them to weigh-up options and make their own decisions.

[Slide 15]

Promote an ecological citizenship by providing advice on how people might change their lifestyle choices and incite collective systemic change by putting pressure on businesses to become more sustainable.

[Slide 16]

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Act as research sites for policy, technology and biodiversity.

[Slide 18]

Act as opinion leaders on ways to reduce emissions by presenting information and research on the options; by critically reflecting on the relations between society and the non-human world and how our lifestyles and values have led to climate change; interrogate how we might live in the world differently, what future lifestyle options might look like and by reviewing various social future scenarios and brokering decisions.

[Slide 19]

Promote new ways to think and act in the world by critiquing and reworking relations between nature and culture and build new social collectives that include non-humans as stakeholders in our future worlds entangled with human projects.

Above all museums of all genres can maintain the trust they hold in the community as long as present a range of options and aren't too political.

[Slide 20]

Museum of Tomorrow, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil presents what is coming in the future, proposes future lifestyle options, asks their audiences what future options they would like to take and encourages them to act.

Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia's Black Saturday bushfire collection of damaged objects, formed after Australia's worst natural disaster of 7 February 2009 offers new object lessons of bushfire events as human and non-human entanglements, of profound trauma, loss and recovery, and a glimpse of a rapidly unfolding future in a warming world if we fail to act now.

The regional museum of Ancud, southern Chile, highlights the devastating effects of cash economies and extraction practices on marine environments and Indigenous populations and their complex eco-systemic effects such as toxicity and the loss of traditional practices. These stories are documented through baskets made from waste fibers the products of ecosystem destruction and recuperation through the revival of traditional farming practices.

And finally works in the 14 Bineal in Santiago used to highlight the social crisis and environmental justice in the face of climate change and the promotion of attunement with non-human others. The work of Joselina Gullasil, a wax installation of the Andes melts in a gallery space to question what would happen if the range disappeared, the effects on people and non-human systems. Ignacio Acusla's work draws on files and archives on miners and mining in wetlands and glaciers to expose extractivist practices in the face of climate change.

Mauricio develops a photographic machine placed in the mist to record earthly movements to promote the idea of a more than human world in which we are part and depend.

