

Urban informatics under the microscope

As part of the program for Information Awareness Month in May, the Aurora Foundation and the Australian Business Foundation launched their inaugural Research Fellowship report titled *Urban Informatics: Research and Insights for Libraries, Cultural Industries and Innovation Systems*, by Associate Professor Marcus Foth of Queensland University of Technology.

Professor Foth's paper explores the concept of urban informatics, which covers how knowledge is used and shared across the urban landscape via digital technologies. Urban informatics focuses on the intersection of people, places and technology, and the resulting implications for creativity, innovation and engagement.


The paper looks at findings from this field and how cultural and creative institutions (such as galleries,

libraries, archives and museums) can leverage these new developments to create greater opportunities for knowledge democratisation, individual and community engagement, and innovation for creative industries and practices.

Professor Foth also showcases a range of case studies from urban computing to community activism to show how urban informatics can inform the role of the cultural and creative sector in the new knowledge economy.


Aurora Foundation Board Member Brenda McConchie said the report offers a blueprint for "working with leaders who want to embrace current and emerging technology across the professional space."

The report is the result of a fellowship funded by the Aurora Foundation in cooperation with the Australian Business Foundation and will be used as a resource for an Aurora Masterclass in Strategy and Innovation to be held in Sydney in August. The full report can be viewed on the Australian Business Foundation's website at www.abfoundation.com.au.



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