

The closing process of the World Appreciative Inquiry Conference in Ghent

*Your Presence Highly
Appreciated!*

*Playing
for
Change*

BY JEANNETTE SCHONEVILLE AND SASKIA TJEPKEMA



The fifth World Appreciative Inquiry Conference ended with a musical note. musicians. Francois Viguie delivered the final interesting story about Playing for Change: a group of musicians on a mission to 'connect the world through music'. It started one decade ago when filmmaker Mark Johnson and his team set out to create a documentary about 'music from the streets' with the subtitle 'Peace through music'. Mark deliberately visited different parts of the world – also nations with tense relationships, or histories of (civil) war – and investigated the power of music in bringing people together and inspiring positive change.

The project was a huge success – especially the music clips which spread very fast on the Internet, and got millions of 'hits' on Youtube and Vimeo. The documentary was one of the 'Disruptive Innovation Awards' honorees of 2012 Tribeca Film Festival because of its impact. Mark kept on traveling, shooting new videos, and the group of musicians grew steadily. They were invited to perform on ever more events and went on tour. This success inspired them to take the next step and they started in 2007 the Playing for Change

Foundation for building music schools. This Foundation is investing in music education for children in areas where schools are otherwise scarce. Francois Viguie is involved in building music schools in Ghana and Mali and spoke about it with passion: 'In music education we do so much more than teach music and arts. Music is a tool for positive change because it is about creating. Children also build a sense of self when they learn to express themselves through music' Moreover, whole communities are involved in building the school, these buildings then often become meeting places, where knowledge is shared and music made.



Francois Viguie



Tula

Generative connections, dreams, stories & songs

All in all, it is a story that fits the basic spirit of Appreciative Inquiry very well... The power of the initiative lies in a strong dream, and the generative connections that these musicians make. Stories (and songs) are shared, people join, get into action, and the whole project grows, the 'building the bridge as you walk it' -way, improvising steps as new challenges and opportunities arise, involving and activating more people at every step along the way.

In order to make us feel what it is about, Francois brought some musicians with him, amongst them were Clarence (Netherlands), Tula (Israel), Hugo Chavez (Angola) and Roberto Luti (Italy). They delivered a very special musical ending to an inspiring conference.



See you in
South Africa
2015

See you in South Africa 2015

We are looking forward now to South Africa where the next World Conference will take place in 2015. Dr. Anastasia Buskashe said absolutely Yes to the question: 'Will Africa host the 2015 World Appreciative Inquiry Conference? Participants from Africa responded with spontaneous excitement. Immediately at the thought of it, dreams came up; dreams of establishing AI in Africa and internalizing it in humankind. AI will be a great opportunity. Asking Anastasia Buskashe about her wish for the next World Conference she answered: 'I am wondering how to invite the global community to come to Africa. My hope is to co-create the 2015 World Appreciative Inquiry Conference with the whole global system represented in the room'.

With this aim in mind she is starting up a dialogue and invites everyone to answer the following questions:

1. What is your greatest hope for the proceedings and outcomes of the 2015 WAIC?
2. How would you like to contribute to the conference?

Anastasia invites to send your answers to:
anastasia@wilgespruit.com

More on the Playing for Change Foundation can be found [here](#).
Playing for Change music clips can be found on their [site](#).

j.schonewille@cbo.nl - @JeannetteSchone
stjepkema@kessels-smit.com - @saskiatjepkema

Video Playing for Change 1 ▶

Video Playing for Change 2 ▶

