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**RECLAIMING THE CITY**

**SEMINAR 3**

**CHAIR’S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the final seminar in the 2016 Engage seminar series ‘Reclaiming the City *from consumer and stranger to citizen and neighbour’*. Our theme tonight is *‘from consultation to collaboration’*.

And welcome to this outstanding Grade II listed building the Victoria Gallery and Museum of the University of Liverpool in which we find ourselves tonight in the Leggate Theatre. This most prestigious of venues was designed by the renowned Liverpool architect Alfred Waterhouse and was opened in December 1892 as the first building to house the emerging and growing University College Liverpool. To celebrate Liverpool’s year as European Capital of Culture in 2008 the building was lovingly renovated and restored to become the public venue it remains to this day.

This seminar series has been designed to take us on a journey from passivity to activity, from individuality to collectivity. We commenced with a shift from societal and self-identification as passive consumers to understanding ourselves as active citizens. Then we saw last time how individual citizens are also neighbours and that by taking concrete steps to be more neighbourly we can transform the individual citizen into the collective neighbour. Tonight we want to explore the power of collective action as collaborative residents who are also co-creators of the city.

Last seminar I quoted the Founder of the Big Lunch and the Eden Project, **Sir Tim Smit**, who in an article in the i newspaper on 10th June 2016, stated his firm belief in the power that emerges when people act together. He went on to say in that article that: “Wherever you see communities collaborating, you see huge efficiencies and resources. The most important thing in my view is you start to get a sense of what can be achieved through collective action. We’re all made to feel powerless by being little old us. You can be made to feel powerful by linking with another person. It creates the warmth that enables people to take collective action for our collective good. I think we are moving from a period when people say ‘They will do it’, ‘They should do it’. It is dawning on us that there is no ‘they’ – it’s just us.”

Engage has worked hard to get people who live in the city centre and waterfront to come together using the opportunities offered by Neighbourhood Planning to genuinely empower both residents and workers to collaborate in designing the future of their neighbourhood. When we submitted the application for a Neighbourhood Forum on the Waterfront having achieved all that was required by law it was refused by the city council and even though legislation required them to offer an alternative none was forthcoming and no support offered with our efforts to get people working together collaboratively on the Waterfront.

The Waterfront is common to us all and many of us have made our home in that neighbourhood. There are many aspects of the city that are held in common, tangible ones like the neighbourhoods, public transport, our highways, and intangible ones like our World Heritage Site status, the air we breathe and the water and energy we use. When we start to understand the City as a Commons we begin to realise the commons, or what is held in common, should be a major way of thinking about how we govern the city.

We are in a new moment in Liverpool with complete destitution and bankruptcy looming in the next couple of years due to central government cuts and austerity policies. We need to rethink how the city governs itself and does business. Some of our politicians, particularly Cllr Steve Mumby, are working hard to think outside the box and find ever more creative ways to save money and continue with a level of service provision to which people have become accustomed. Others cities and countries have also been involved in rethinking participatory democracy and civic engagement using the idea of the city as a commons to explore new ways of governance and drawing more and more people into the decision-making process.

Tonight’s speaker is a world-renowned expert in facilitating the process whereby people who live in cities are invited into a collaborative form of governance that is transforming how many cities in Italy and beyond are responding to the new economic realities they are facing.

I am going to repeat what we have been doing at each of the seminars so far. Will you just spend a moment **introducing yourself** to those people around you, either side, in front and behind – simply your name and where you are from is enough for now!

Thank you! In a moment I will introduce our speaker and then following his presentation you will be given a few moments to share your first impressions and reactions with those around you. Then we will ask our panel members for their brief reflections following which I will open the discussion to everyone. We will bring the proceedings to a close by 7.30pm.

But first I want to welcome and introduce 2 or the 3 Local Panellists we expected this evening:

POLITICIAN: **Cllr Alan Dean**: Chair Constitutional Issues Committee

ACADEMIC: **Dr Peter North**: Reader in Alternative Economies, Dept of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool

Please Tweet during the seminar and the hashtag is **#reclaimingthecity** and we are @engageliverpool.

Finally I want to thank our Sponsor who has contributed to the series – **Moda Living** – and also to our supporter the **Heseltine Institute for Public Policy & Practice** for facilitating tonight’s seminar.

Now let me introduce our guest Speaker from Rome – **Dr Christian Iaione:**

We came across Professor Iaione through our connections with the European Cultural Foundation (which we will sadly lose once Brexit is invoked) and our Liverpool Air Project. An article he wrote appeared in their magazine Build the City in both the February and June editions of this year. I knew immediately we needed to hear his ideas in Liverpool.

Christian Iaione is Associate Professor of Public Law at the Guglielmo Marconi University of Rome since May 2014 and a fellow of the Urban Law Center at Fordham University. He is also Associate Professor of Institutional Communication and Governance of the Commons at LUISS Guido Carli University, School of Law in Rome since September 2011 where he is also Associate Professor of Administrative Law since September 1999.

Prof. Iaione has published extensively in the field of public and administrative law and, in particular, land-use, public goods and the commons, public services and public contracts, urban law and local government. He has authored two books on in-house publicly-owned companies: *Contribution to the Principle of Self-Organization and Self-Production of Local Governments* (Jovene, 2007 – 2012, II ed.) and *The Regulation of Urban Mobility* (Jovene, 2008) and has co-authored *Italy of the Commons* (Carocci, 2012) and *The Age of Sharing* (Carocci, 2015).

Christian is co-founder of **LabGov** (the Laboratory for the Governance of the Commons) which initially came into being through the LUISS Guido Carli University Department of Political Science, and is now an independent organisation. LabGov is based on the idea that, in order to achieve social and institutional regeneration, it is necessary to create collaborative relationships between citizens, administrations and businesses to share scarce resources and to take care of the commons, whether tangible or intangible, in urban and local communities.

LabGov believes the current economic crisis has impoverished all of us from an individual and collective standpoint and the only way to maintain a good quality of life is to create a new institutional and economic system based on the model of “civic collaboration”, “collaborative governance of the commons” and “circular subsidiarity”, in which public institutions and political administrations work with all citizens, as individuals or organisations, who are willing to care for the common good.

Please welcome to the podium **Dr Christian Iaione.**

THANK YOU

**Sponsors:** ModaLiving and James Blakey Planning Director

**Venue:** Claire Coombes from VG&M and Julia Zielke from the Heseltine Institute and its Academic Director Prof Rhiannon Corcoran, who was a panellist last time, for the enormous support the Heseltine Institute has given to enable us to use this magnificent venue tonight

**Panellists:** Cllr Alan Dean, Dr Peter North

**Speaker:** Dr Christian Iaione

**Marketing, Design and Digital Agency:** Nonconform, especially Rachael Biggs but all the team

**Video:** Joe Campbell of Culture City TV for videoing

**Engage Board:** for helping to make tonight run so smoothly

**Residents and all Participants:** for attending the series and not asking for a refund! Very grateful to each of you.

THANK YOU GIFT

**10 WORDS booklet:** Thanks to the generous support of our Hotel Partner the Titanic Hotel we have been able to publish a 2nd edition of our 10 Words arts project which is an attempt to suggest positive ways that city centre dwellers can take action to become more engaged with their city. **Take a free copy home with you**, keep it handy and use it as often as you can to aid a behavioural change. We would like to share this booklet with others too so let us know how you would like to help us distribute them to city centre and waterfront residents.

We are considering for the **2017 Engage Seminar Series** the theme of World Heritage Site status; if you’ve any ideas and suggestions please let us know.

Thank you and Goodnight!