



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE



Friday, July 29, 2005
For Immediate Release

OpenCity 2005: When Free Speech Isn't; Unique Festival Explores Creative Freedom in Digital Age

This enactment amends the *Copyright Act* to implement the provisions of the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, to clarify the liability of network service providers, to facilitate technology-enhanced learning and interlibrary loans, and to update certain other provisions of the Act.

Bill C-60 Summary
House of Commons

Who owns digital information? Who has a right to access digital information? Is the WorldWideWeb becoming a closed shop? **OpenCity 2005**, a vibrant, three-day festival, brings together independent artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, educators, students, software developers, government representatives, and Free Software advocates to wrestle with the implications of legislation like Canada's Bill C-60.

OpenCity 2005 takes place in historic downtown Winnipeg **August 17-20, 2005**. The unique festival opens on Wednesday, August 17 at 8:00 p.m. with an opportunity to take in jazz by the Bill Wsiaki Trio and mingle after a public lecture by **Russell McOrmond**, fair copyright activist, on the implications of Bill C-60. The OpenCity 2005 conference and panel discussions will take place Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, August 18 – 20.

Other festival events include a multi-artist art exhibit and musical performances by Random Interference, the Detentions, the Squareheads, the Rockadoras, SubCity Dwellers, the Quiffs, and many more. Demos and installations of Open Source software will also take place throughout the festival. Participants are invited to attend and learn how you can live without ever having to pay for software again!

Now in its second year, **OpenCity** is a cutting edge, multi-disciplinary celebration of free speech, creative freedom, political participation, and Open Source Software development. By bringing together individuals with many different interests **OpenCity** creates a "cultural commons"—a vibrant and creative forum for free thought and artistic expression, a multi-disciplinary community in which ideas can be built on and shared. This is an exciting and important opportunity to build a broad-based, community-driven dialogue about art, music, creative control, and freedom of expression.

The Cultural Commons is a concept in which free and transformative use of the work of others is recognized as a valid and important form of expression. This is precisely the type of use that is being restricted by current trends in copyright reform legislation. The conference and panel discussions will explore issues surrounding copyright reform, the implications of Bill C-60, and ramifications for artists, educators, software developers, musicians, and filmmakers.

The public is invited to attend the following events:

OpenCity Official Opening:

Public Lecture and Town Hall meeting with Russell McOrmond, Fair copyright activist
Wednesday, August 17, 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30)
WestEnd Cultural Centre, 586 Ellice Avenue at Sherbrook
Tickets are \$5.00 plus donation at the door or available at the UWSA InfoBooth at UWinnipeg
The event will be followed by music from the Bill Wsiaki Trio, discussions and a cash bar

OpenCity 2005 Conference: “Enclosing the Commons”

Thursday, August 18 – Saturday, August 20
Daily at 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Kismat Conference & Banquet Centre (formerly Opium Night Club)
280 Fort Street. \$25.00/day or \$50.00 weekend (which includes entry to all other events)

OpenCity 2005 Musical Performances:

Friday, August 19 – Saturday, August 20
Nightly at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 pm) (please check out freeculture.ca for details)
Kismat Conference & Banquet Centre
280 Fort Street
Tickets \$4.99 at the door (or free with a conference pass)

OpenCity 2005 Art Exhibit

Official Public Opening - Thursday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m.
Exhibit will be open from Saturday, August 14 – Saturday, August 20, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily
Pool Room, 100 Arthur Street
Admission is free

OpenCity 2005 Free Software Barnraising

Bring your computer down and have Linux installed by representatives from the Prairie Linux User Group. Join the revolution and never pay for software again!
Kismat Conference & Banquet Centre (formerly Opium Night Club)
Admission is free.

- 30 -

For further information on **OpenCity 2005**, please contact:
www.freeculture.ca or call Syd Weidman at 633-3259.

OpenCity 2005 would like to acknowledge its sponsors: the Winnipeg Arts Council, The University of Winnipeg Library, Prairie Linux User Group and Video Pool.