Allyson Hewitt

Director, SiG@MaRS and Director, Social Entrepreneurship at MaRS Discovery District
Toronto, ON, CA

Creating the conditions that expand the realm of entrepreneurship so it incorporates a strong social component is what SiG@MaRS achieves

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A seasoned nonprofit leader with many social innovations to her credit, Allyson currently leads the social innovation program at MaRS that includes the creation of Social Innovation Generation (SiG@MaRS) along with partners across the country. This program develops capacity in the field of social innovation and social entrepreneurship; provides advisory services to social entrepreneurs and helps transform systems for greater impact. Allyson comes to MaRS from SickKids where, as the Executive Director of Safe Kids Canada, she was a passionate advocate in preventing injuries to children. Prior to that, Allyson was the Executive Director of Community Information Toronto, an agency that brings people and services together. In this capacity she helped lead the development of 211, providing three-digit and online access to social service, community and government information. For this work she was awarded the Head of the Public Service Award, as sponsored by HRDC and several other prestigious awards for meritorious public service. Allyson has been leading and volunteering in not-for-profit organizations for over 20 years, including shelters for homeless youth and battered women. Her academic background is in Criminology, Law, Public Affairs, Voluntary Sector Management and Leading Change. She has a BA in Criminology, a degree in Law, a diploma in Public Affairs and post graduate certification in Voluntary Sector Management and Leading Change/Organizational Development.

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance

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Fund-Raising, Social Services, Non-Profit/Charitable

Social Innovation, Social Finance, Nonprofit Management, Fundraising, Social Enterprise, Community Development, Corporate Social Responsibility, Stakeholder Engagement, Social Entrepreneurship

Social Innovation Generation @ MaRS
Allyson will share her insights and discoveries from her years at the helm of SIG@MaRS and lead the workshop in a dialogue about the broad social/economic and environmental impacts stemming from the rapidly expanding social innovation and social entrepreneurship sectors in Toronto and across Canada.

Social Innovation: Helping us ?do good? better!
Allyson will talk about social innovation (new ways to address old social problems), social finance (new ways of funding this important work), and social entrepreneurship (the people working to make money and make a difference).

Convergence Innovation

Innovation can happen anywhere but it accelerates on the margins. With this premise in mind Allyson Hewitt, Director, Social Innovation Generation at the MaRS Discovery District or SiG@MaRS, will outline the experience of MaRS in promoting ?convergence innovation?. She will describe the imperative to create a neutral space where all sectors are valued and how Canada is well positioned to not only jump on this train but to lead it.

Putting the Social in Ontario's Innovation Program: A Regional Story

From multinational corporations to not-for-profit organizations to new social entrepreneurs, finding new ways to address persistent social and environmental challenges while creating value and contributing to Ontario?s economy is everybody?s business. This workshop will present information about the opportunity for collaborating on social innovation from the perspective of the academic, community, health care and industry sectors.

Social Finance: From Theory to Practice

Foundations in Canada have been challenged by the Canadian Task Force on Social Finance to begin to invest more of their assets in ways that directly support their mission. This could be through program-related investments, investments in nonprofit loan funds or intermediaries, or equity investments in mission-related companies. This presentation will offer some practical examples of how innovative financing, driven by foundation investments, are making a difference in Canada.

Shared Value and what it means for the non-profit sector
MaRS Event Series

Social Innovation Generation @ MaRS
10 Carden Social Innovator Speaker Series

What Social Innovation Means to Durham Region
Exploring Social Innovation in Durham

Panel Moderator: Meet the Entrepreneurs ? Social innovation
Entrepreneurship 101 Event Series

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Innovation & Resilience
Innovation & Resilience for Nonprofits: A Community Conversation & Forum

KEYNOTE SPEECH
Open Ottawa Libre

Keys to the Collaborative City
Creative Places + Spaces: The Collaborative City Conference

On Line Collaboration Initiatives
2012 Guelph Technology Economy Conference

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Innovation for Community Change
Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre Speaker Series

Putting the Social in Ontario's Innovation Program: A Regional Story
Ontario Centres of Excellence Discovery 12

Panel Moderator ? Social Finance: From Theory to Practice
PFC Conference ? Changing Philanthropy: New Visions, New Voices

KEYNOTE SPEECH: The Social Innovation Ecosystem in Ontario
The Association of Nonprofit and Social Economy Research Annual Conference

Social Innovation Generation
Open Minds Speaker Series

Social Entrepreneurs in Action: Insights from the Front Lines
QSB Centre for Responsible Leadership?s Discovery Learning Workshops

HowTo.gov: Crowd-sourced Wikis in Government
GSA's DigitalGov University Workshop Series

People-led Policy Development
Roadmap: 2030

Carleton University
BA Criminology & Corrections

Carleton University
Law

York University
Graduate Certificate Voluntary Sector Management

Algonquin College
Diploma (incomplete) Public Affairs

University of Toronto
Graduate Certificate Leading Change

Executive Director, Safe Kids Canada, The Hospital for Sick Children

Executive Director, Community Information Toronto

Executive Director, Safe Kids Canada, Hospital for Sick Children

Director, Social Entrepreneurship & SiG@MaRS ? MaRS Discovery District
Social Innovation Generation (SiG) is a group who believes that serious social problems can be solved. In order to nurture the health, resilience and vibrancy of our linked social, economic and ecological systems SiG will work to develop a "living laboratory" of social experiments that have the potential to achieve system change and improve the well-being of Canadians. Our aim is to search for solutions that engage the creativity and resources of all sectors.

Steering Committee Member ? Ontario Centres of Excellences' Social Innovation Program
Ontario Centres of Excellences' Social Innovation Program brings together members of Ontario?s business community with not-for-profit organizations and social enterprises to collaborate on projects that lead to innovative products, services and business models. The program is designed to build new and enhance existing partnerships between Ontario industry, academia and the not-for-profit and social enterprise sectors.

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