

Fourth International Conference on Learning Cities, in Medellín, Colombia

1 - 3 Oct 2019

Judith James
Swansea Learning City



Prifysgol Abertawe
Swansea University

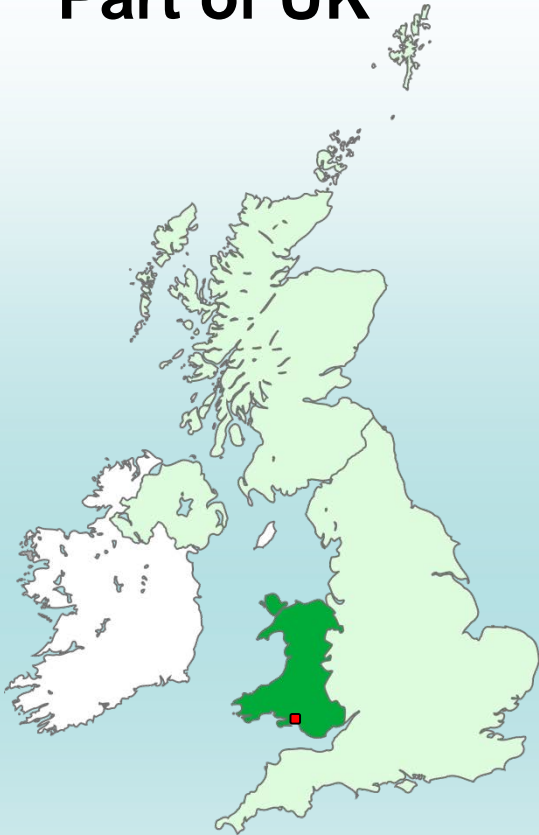


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Where is Wales?

Part of UK



Devolved government

**Different flag
and bilingual
Welsh/English**



Swansea Bay City Region

An aerial photograph of Swansea Bay City Region at sunset. The sky is a vibrant orange and yellow, transitioning into a darker blue over the sea. The city is illuminated with warm lights, and a prominent tall, modern skyscraper stands on the right side of the frame. The bay is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the distance, several islands are visible on the horizon.

- **Population – 667,000, Second City in Wales**
- **Fantastic coastline, beaches and countryside**
- **Beautiful maritime quarter and waterfront development**
- **Swansea voted “friendliest city in Wales”**

Industrial Heritage

“Copperopolis” By 1851 Swansea was at the heart of the global copper industry, importing ore from Australia and Chile. In the next century the industry declined.





Coal mining was the
largest industry in Wales.
The last deep coal mine
closed in 2008

30% fall in demand for steel products since the onset of the global financial crisis in 2007





Key Economic Facts

- 94% of companies employ less than 10 people
- High numbers in low value-added sectors
- Public sector employment high 10.2% (8.5% UK)
- Youth unemployment high 19.3% (18.6% UK)
- Economic inactivity high 26.3% (22.2% UK)

Economic prosperity...poor



**GVA per employee in the Region
is 74% of the UK average.**

a city of

two halves...



“Poverty is the city’s number one priority and issue.”



Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

Swansea Bay City Region has 76 communities (each averaging 1,500 people) suffering from multiple deprivation, within the 20% most deprived communities in Wales.

One in six children live in severe poverty (Save the Children)



“Swansea Anti-Poverty Strategy”

“Education has a fundamental role in helping to lift people out of poverty and in protecting those at risk of poverty and disadvantage.

There is a strong link between poor educational attainment, low skills and poor health and wellbeing.”



UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 Education



Target 4.7

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development

Our motives to develop a UNESCO Learning City

The Welsh Government identified two key themes, **“developing a buoyant economy”** and **“supporting social justice”**, as essential for development in Wales. (2009)

“Delivering a right to lifelong learning in Wales brings benefits to individuals through their career or personal development, as well as benefitting our economy and wider society.”

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Government Minister for Education and Skills, (2019)

Swansea UNESCO Learning City needs to be

innovative, entrepreneurial and inclusive

in order to achieve this



Why entrepreneurial skills?

Creative thinking: Innovation, Emotional Intelligence, Ability to understand root problems, Identify causes
Brainstorming, Technology, **Think outside the box...**

Leadership: Building a team, Persuasion, Sales, Tenacity, Perseverance, Collaboration, Initiative, Confidence, Competitive...

Risk Management, Experimentation, Risk taking, On-going improvement, Self-Efficacy, Negotiation, Analytical....

Work Independently, Consistency, Diligence, Focus, Project Management, Goal Oriented, Results Oriented, Strong work ethic.....

Primary schools- Mini Dragons



Secondary Schools- Young Business Dragons



Further Education



Higher Education



Learning at work



Community-led social enterprises



Community-led social enterprises which provide education, training and business start-up support to isolated post-mining communities and inner city deprived communities.

Inclusive Lifelong Learning which develops creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial skills- from pre-primary school to university level and throughout lifelong learning



Swansea gained the UNESCO Learning City Award in 2015

UNESCO defines a learning city as:

A city that effectively mobilises its resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education; to revitalise learning in families and communities; to facilitate learning for and in the workplace; to extend the use of modern learning technologies; to enhance quality and excellence in learning; and to foster a culture of learning throughout life.



Gŵyl Ddysgu Abertawe Swansea Learning Festival



Datgloi cyfleoedd
Unlocking opportunities



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Swansea Learning Festival

Theme: Innovative, Entrepreneurial and Inclusive

- Increase opportunities & involvement in lifelong learning
- Promote a culture of learning
- Increase participation in community learning opportunities
- Co-produce learning opportunities
- Celebrate learning activity in Swansea
- Create a legacy of learning from the Festival
- ***‘Lifelong Learning for all is our City’s future.’***



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Swansea Learning Festival - Work Streams

1. **Learning For Life** e.g. IT, Photography, Art, Music, Languages, Cookery, Local History.....
2. **Learning for Employment** e.g. short courses
3. **Family Learning in the Community**
4. **Learning Festival School's Programme** - based on theme
5. **Entrepreneurial City Fringe Festival** e.g. Business Start-up workshops, inspirational speakers
6. **Learning Co-production Days**
7. **Outdoor Learning**
8. **Learning Exhibitions**
9. **Co-ordination of all Learning Activity using webpages, social media, brochure**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Institute
for Lifelong Learning



Guiding Factors of the Swansea Learning Festival

- Start small and build up
- All participation voluntary
- All events free to attend and accessible to all
- Do not control programming
- No fee charged for taking part
- Be inclusive – embrace all ages, backgrounds, abilities
- Value all learning equally
- Event organisers generate their own attendances
- Use what is already happening
- Adopt a motto
- Work with the willing



100 ukuleles!



DEWCH A'CH IWCALILI! ...
BRING YOUR UKULELE TO ...

The BIG Strum

SGWÂR Y CASTELL / CASTLE SQUARE

DYDD SADWRN 6 EBRILL / SATURDAY 6 APRIL

From a “right to learn”
to a learning culture....

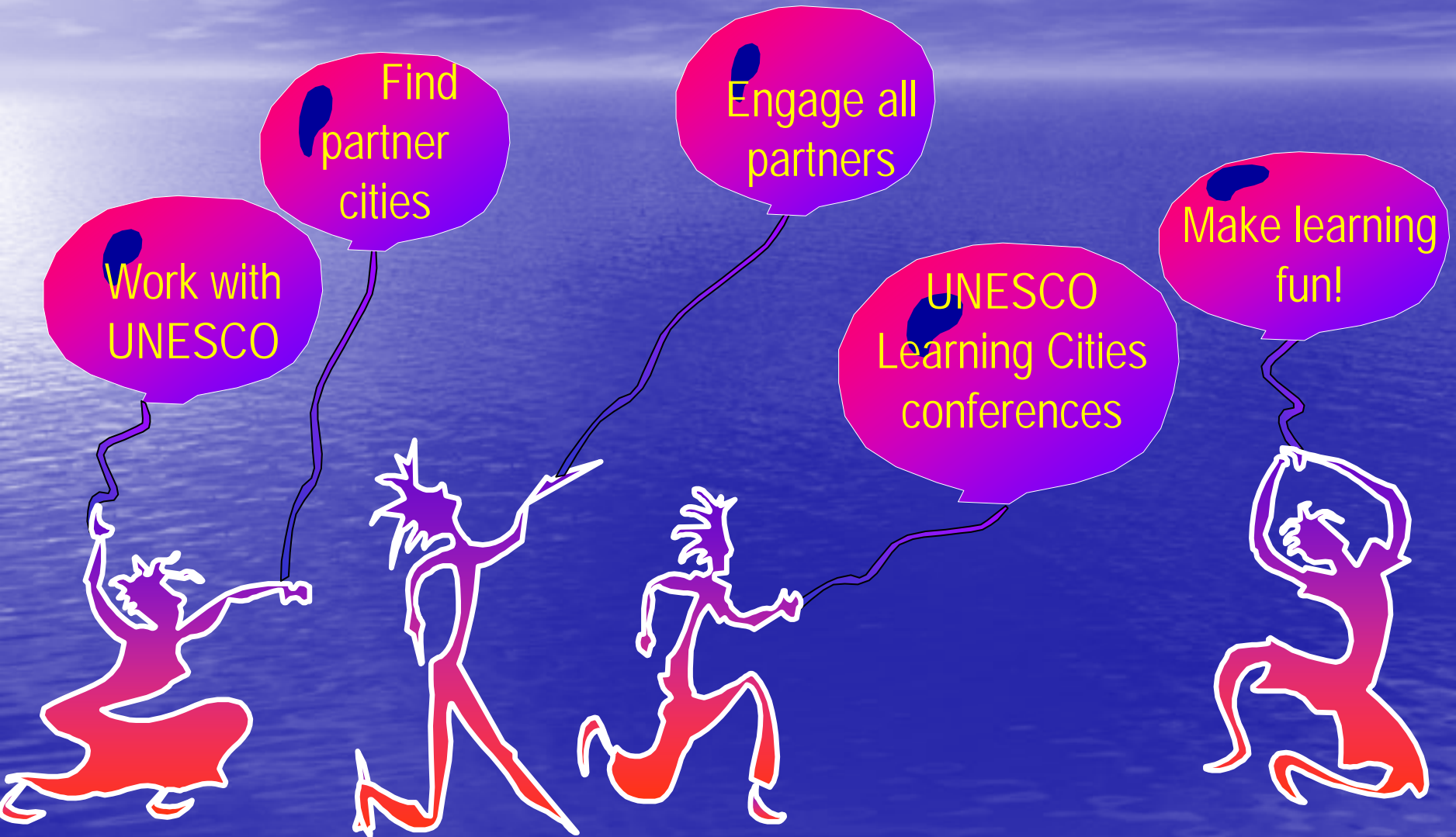




“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Lessons learned and recommendations



Thank-you



Contact:
Judith James

J.James@swansea.ac.uk