

Citizen's Basic Income Trust

A proposal for the BIEN congress to be held in London in 2019 or 2020

'Basic Income: Past, present, and future' - or some such title.

Introduction

The 1994 BIEN Congress was held in London, so 2019 would be the 25th anniversary of that event, and would be a significant occasion on which to review the way in which the Basic Income debate has developed during the past 25 years and to look forward to the next 25 years.

(If the Congress were to come to London in 2020 rather than 2019 then we would have to pretend that it was 25 years from the 1994 event.)

Proposed plan for the Congress

The congress would be in two parts:

1. The first two days would be an academic conference of the usual kind, with keynote addresses, and themed streams for papers. Some of the themes would be determined by paper proposals, but we would be seeking proposals on the history of BI, on the current state of the debate, pilot projects, research, etc., and on where the debate might go next, what the prospects for implementation might be in the medium and longer term, etc.. This last theme would spill over into the third day of the event and would be an opportunity to invite politicians from a number of political parties both in the UK and elsewhere.
2. The third and final day would be more of a festival, with round tables, panel discussions, short presentations, etc.. A UK festival of this kind is being planned for February 2018, so we will have had recent practice in running such an event.

Collaborators

The core collaborating organisations would be the Citizen's Basic Income Trust (a BIEN affiliated organisation), the Royal Society of Arts (a major independent think tank), and the think tank Compass (the three organisations collaborating on the 2018 festival). Basic Income UK (a UBI Europe affiliate) and the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath would also be collaborators.

Location

The conference would be based in London. For the first two days we would seek an academic venue in or close to London, preferably with accommodation attached so that discussion could start over breakfast and go on into the evening. The final day would be at a different and larger venue within easy reach of central London: larger because the attendees would be all those who had attended the first two days, and a lot of other people as well, mainly from the UK, but from elsewhere too, who would just be attending the festival.

Financing

The congress would be largely self-financing. Those attending for all three days would pay a fee of the usual level and also accommodation costs. Those just attending the festival would be asked to pay a small charge to cover costs. We would also raise funds and seek sponsors so that the fees could be kept as low as possible.

Malcolm Torry, July 2017