Introduction

Paris, as an innovative city, has refined itself many ways to cater to the creative class (Richard Florida)[i]. As the number one city for tourism, many of its amenities have drawn in numerous people internationally. Paris is also the biggest city for universities, as well as the biggest for R&D (research and development) within Europe. Though the city does hold many attracting features for talented people, it is lacking in certain areas. Paris is an innovative city that needs to improve on its tolerance in order to further sustain its creative class. To further pin point this problem, the city first needs to be accessed on what is working for it and secondly what it needs to improve on.

Amenities – Attraction

Amenities have shown to increase the attraction of the creative class by improving the quality of life. Some of the categories for amenities are "outdoor recreational activities"[ii] that are "preserving natural beauty"[iii], to which Paris "boasts more than 140 parks (*parcs*) and gardens (*jardins*), and two large wooded areas (*bois*)."[iv] Other attractions include environmentally friendly recreations in the form of transportation that allow for easy accessibility[v]. 'Velib'[vi] is a program setup in Paris to allow people to rent bicycles to get around the city quicker. Paris is also well known for its transportation system RER (Regional Express Network)[vii], which gives a tremendous amount of accessibility for people to get around Paris. Yet one of the main factors of attracting talented people is talented people. Where Paris is renowned for its art, architecture and fashion, it is one of the many contributing factors in attracting talented people that bare new knowledge.

Incubators – Absorption

While attracting talented people is important, there needs to exist "creative centers" to foster the talent they have to produce knowledge workers. Applying knowledge to knowledge is a key factor in innovation and education is the means in which it is absorbed. Paris is one of the biggest cities in Europe to have the most universities with approximately fifty thousand students.[viii] ParisTech[ix] is one of those institutions that foster technology through collaboration with IDEA League[x], consisting of the top five universities in Europe for science and technology. These collaborations allow for knowledge to be more effectively absorbed within these creative centers.

Creative Workers – Production

While fostering talented people allows for knowledge to be applied to knowledge, the result is to produce creative workers that contribute to the economic growth. These creative workers will need to now produce the knowledge that is needed and utilized by industries to also creative innovation. This is often seen in R&D. "The Paris region has the highest concentration of researchers in Europe"[xi] This allows for creative workers to be sustained so that they may concentrate their work in producing innovation.

Industries – Application

Industries are the means for opportunity and economic growth. Paris has begun to introduce a very interesting government funded, non-profit organizations in the heart of the city. These organizations are called "incubators" that act as a means to foster entrepreneurship with the help of experts existing in their respective fields. It is a collaboration and network of people that aim at creating new business ideas that can be utilized in the workforce to create new industries and jobs. It is a great means for spillover to occur with the convenience of resources and enforcing intellectual property rights. Though this organization is new, the concept is very innovative in the sense of raising the status quo for industries and promoting new sectors of development.

Tolerance

Although the attainment, absorption, production and application of knowledge are key factors in determining if a city is deemed innovative, it does rely on tolerance. Tolerance, as Richard Florida states, is one of the key factors that influence economic growth[xii]. Tolerance, in this case, is seen as the openness to diversity. "[L]ow-entry barriers are especially important today..by their ability to attract people from the outside"[xiii] If strong barriers exist to deter people from entering a city, it can deter its economic growth and its innovation. "[O]penness to immigration is the cornerstone of innovation and economic growth"[xiv] Nicolas Sarkozy, former Paris mayor and Prime Minister of France, is one of the deterring factors in immigration. With threats to deport immigrants[xv], Sarkozy has spurred riots in Paris and as a result much collaboration amongst native French people and immigrants have arisen to take action against his views. This includes the upcoming event called "Touche Pas A Mon ADN" (Don't touch my DNA) which is a event centered at Sarkozy's bill to test immigrants DNA to prove their heritage as French. Tolerance is a key factor that Paris needs to address to further counter deportation.

Conclusion

Paris is on the verge of not being an innovative city due to the political tolerance that hinders its attractiveness to the creative class. Though new efforts have been created to counter this tolerance issue and pre-existing means to foster talented people are currently working, Paris is in trouble. If these views by Sarkozy continue to thrive they will force Paris to become an exclusive city to which the expression "France is for the French" will have a greater meaning. Immigration is a key factor in innovation and Paris needs this to continue to thrive as an innovative city.

References

[i] Richard Florida (2004). *Cities and the Creative Class*. Routledge.

[ii] Richard Florida (2004). *Cities and the Creative Class*. Routledge.

[iii] Richard Florida (2004). *Cities and the Creative Class*. Routledge.

[iv] Microsoft Encarta (2007). *V Recreation*. Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from Paris (city, France)
Web site: http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761561798_5/Paris_(city_France).html

[v] Richard Florida (2004). *Cities and the Creative Class*. Routledge.

[vi] Unknown (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from http://www.velib.paris.fr/
Web site: http://www.en.velib.paris.fr/comment_ca_marche

[vii] Unknown (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from Web site: http://www.ratp.fr/

[viii] Unknown (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from Web site:
http://www.paris.fr/portail/Education/Portal.lut?page_id=121&document_type_id=5&document_id=2111&portlet_id=4292

[ix] Unknown (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from Web site:
http://www.paristech.org/fr/cooperation_reseaux_idea.html

[x] Unknown (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from Web site: http://www.idealeague.org/

[xi] Unknown (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from Web site: http://www.paris-innovation.com/paris_innovation_tours/program_2007

[xii] Richard Florida (2004). *Cities and the Creative Class*. Routledge.

[xiii] Richard Florida (2004). *Cities and the Creative Class*. Routledge.

[xiv] Richard Florida (2004). *Cities and the Creative Class*. Routledge.

[xv] CBC News (2007). Retrieved on Oct. 13, 2007, from www.cbc.ca Web site:
http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2007/09/18/sarkozy-immigration.html?ref=rss