

On a rainy Tuesday night in mid-November, 63 cultural entrepreneurs gathered at TechSpace's King St. W. office for the first ever Innoversity at Night. Lured by the promise of amazing speakers **Karen King** and **Zev Shalev**, networking and Steam Whistle beer, they came together for an evening of journeys and inspiration.



Karen King engaged in post-interview conversations



Zev Shalev (far left) and **Karen Schaffer** (far right) speak with the audience

Featuring **Karen King** (Executive Director, New Voices Fund, Toronto 1) and **Zev Shalev** (Executive Producer, Current Affairs, Toronto 1), Innoversity at Night took attendees through a fascinating and entertaining tour of their careers. Moderator **Karen Schaffer** of IQ Partners expertly identified the key themes that have led to Karen and Zev's successes.

The lessons that emerged were:

- Take big risks - step out and go for what you want, or tell people your secret dream
- Get involved outside your job - when getting into networking associations contribute to the communities you love and want to be connected to
- Look for a mentor - someone older and successful who has less to prove, who is interested in helping you over hurdles they've already jumped. Nurture that relationship with care.
- Pick a box/pigeon-hole that's comfortable - you get known for what you do and projects you choose, so be sure you can live within its confines or you have a clear strategy for moving on
- Everyone has a bad experience or gets fired or has moments of not being treated fairly. Try and make the best of the situation or move on. Don't take it personally - it becomes part of the war tales you tell later in life!
- Believe in miracles - you never know when something completely unexpected will happen that you never could have predicted



The next Innoversity at Night will be held in January. Keep visiting our website for more details.



Innoversity co-founder **Hamlin Grange** (l) with Gemini-winner **Cyrus Sundar Singh**



Karen Schaffer (l) and **Zev Shalev** (c) answer questions from the audience



Moderator **Karen Schaffer** (l) and Innoversity's **Nikisha Reyes-Grange**



Pre-Event networking between **Sarah Brown** (l) and Innoversity Co-Founder and WIFT Crystal Award-winner **Cynthia Reyes**

Innoversity at Night would not have been possible without the assistance of our sponsors:

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Thank you to our sponsors, our speakers and everyone who attended! See you next time!