

Celebrating Words and Ideas

This weekend, instead of picking up your cumbersome Kindle, how about kicking it old school instead? You know, books and paper, readers and writers mingling... meeting authors in person, shaking hands, making eye contact. It'll do your heart and soul good.

Dig into the feel-good feeling that books and knowledge can prompt by attending [The Globe and Mail Open House Festival: A Weekend of Words and Ideas](#), which is being celebrated at the University of Toronto this weekend, May 8 – 10.



Richard Florida will be speaking on Friday, May 8 about his groundbreaking book *Who's Your City?* and the critical importance of weighing the pros and cons of where you live. There's plenty of advice out there about careers and relationships, but finding your place in the world, literally, is just as crucial to creating a happy life.

Richard himself has moved 17 times. And as you'll learn by watching [Bravo!'s Seamus O'Regan's compelling interview with Richard](#) for this Arts&Minds special, mobility is something that can enhance your life and career, but there are also costs to leaving behind the people and things you love.

What have been your personal trade-offs in choosing the right city to settle in? Have you given up a certain job or left behind family and friends? Have you traded off on hobbies for a certain lifestyle? Is your life stage winning out over your personality's needs?

Trick or Treat!

Pumpkins, witches, candy, ghosts... it's all important. But Halloween just isn't Halloween without some pint-sized trick-or-treaters. How does your neighborhood rate?

[Playborhood](#) cites Richard Florida's concept known as the "Trick-or-Treater Index" which rates the child friendliness of a neighborhood:



The idea is simple: just count the number of trick-or-treaters at your door on Halloween night and you'll get a measure of how child friendly your neighborhood is the whole year. Certainly, it's quite simplistic, but I would agree that neighborhoods with lots of trick-or-treaters tend to have lots of children who are comfortable being outside in their neighborhood.

Tonight, count the number of rings and knocks at your door and report back to us with the details. What's your trick-or-treater index where you live? What are your thoughts on this annual event as a measure of the child friendliness in your neighborhood?

Happy Halloween from all of us at the Creative Class Exchange!