

TO MUSEUMS, CITIZENS!

MUSEUMS AND CITIZENSHIP: EXPERIENCES, CONCEPTS AND CHALLENGES

About two decades ago, in October of 2005, the Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, known as the “Faro Convention”, promoted by the Council of Europe, deeply emphasized, for the first time in an international charter, the crucial role of citizenship in the defense of cultural heritage, as a central dimension of common well-being and individual happiness, the ultimate purposes of life. “Heritage communities” and the active intervention of citizens in all policies relating to cultural heritage were considered an integral aspect of human rights and a vital part of cultural democracy.

The same societal framework inspired the recent new definition of museums, adopted by ICOM in its last General Assembly (Prague, 2022). For the first time, museums are said to be “inclusive”, to promote “reflection and knowledge sharing”, to “foster diversity and sustainability” and to “operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities”.

Current times are especially challenging for museums in their fundamental function as citizenship promoters. Barriers to free circulation between and within different geographic regions are increasing, magnifying the challenges faced by migrants; narrow nationalistic and populist perceptions of the “other” are spreading; and longstanding democratic practices of community involvement in public cultural policies are often being weakening. In addition, climate change is reaching a possible point of no return and, for the first time in decades, humanity is confronted with the risk of large-scale conflicts.

This is the moment to reflect on the role of museums in this complex global scenario. It is time to call again for community civic involvement.

The conference “To museums, citizens!” (Museums and Citizenship: experiences, concepts and challenges) aims to draw an encompassing, worldwide panorama of the role of museums in promoting these most basic civic universal values. It is organized by the Executive Board of ICOM, in partnership with the Portuguese public entity in charge of national and world heritage classified museums, palaces and monuments, *Museus e Monumentos de Portugal*.EPE, and supported by ICOM Portugal, in the context of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of democracy in Portugal.

Invited speakers come from virtually the entire world: from South America to Australia, East Africa to China, North America to Korea, Europe to the Middle East, the Arab Region to Central America.

Emma Nardi

Program

10 April 2024 - Palácio Nacional da Ajuda

14h00 – Opening – greetings by the organisers (MMP.EPE e ICOM) e de tutela política (MC ou SEC)

14h15 – Keynote speeches

14h15 a 14h40 - Emma Nardi (President of ICOM) – *The Enlightenment, citizenship and the origin of National Museums*.

14h40 a 15h05 – Guilherme d’Oliveira Martins (Chair of the Steering Committee of the Council of Europe that drafted the Faro Convention) – *Cultural Heritage – Common Good of Humanity*

Session 1 – Museums and citizenship in times of incertitude. Moderator: Maria de Jesus Monge (MMP, E.P.E Board and ICOM Portugal)

15h05 – Deborah Tout-Smith (ICOM Executive Board member), Australia: *Making better citizens: museums as agents of change*

15h20 – Steph Scholten (ICOM Executive Board member), UK: *Stuck between a rock and a hard place: English and Scottish museums in times of populism*

15h35 – Kaja Sirok (ICOM Executive Board member), Slovenia: *Museums as actors of change and local empowerment*

15h50 – Alexandre Chevalier (ICOM Europe Board member). Belgium: *Museum and the exercise of democracy*

16h05 – Coffee-break

Session 2 – Museums and democracy. Moderator: David Felismino (ICOM Portugal Chair)

16h30 - Giuliana Ericani (ICOM Europe President), Italy: *Accessibility, participation, active citizenship: Policy and museum professionalism*

16h45 - Inkyung C Hang (ICOM Vice-President), South Korea: *Justice through citizenship: Jeju 4·3 Peace Park in Korea*

17h00 - Antonio Rodriguez (Advisory Council Chair), USA: *Museums as hubs for civic engagement: examples from the Americas*

17h15 – Discussion (sessions 1 and 2)

18h00 – Visit to the Royal Treasures Museum

11 de April 2024 – Museu Nacional de Etnologia

9h30 - Luís Raposo (ICOM Executive Board member), Portugal: *The Breath of democracy in Portuguese museums*

Session 3 – Museums as engines of education for democracy. Moderator Marta Lourenço (ICOM Portugal Member)

10h00 - Juliette Raoul-Duval (ICOM Europe Vice-president), France: *The role of ICOM in promoting the trust of citizens in museMart*

10h15 - David Felismino (ICOM Portugal Chair), Portugal: *Doing Diversity in Portuguese Museums and Heritage. Ways on changing practices and narratives in Postcolonial times.*

10h30 - Lana Karaia (ICOM Europe Board), Georgia: *Navigating Civic Frontiers: Challenges and Insights from Georgian Museums*

10h45 - Sara Brighenti (Plano Nacional das Artes), Portugal: *What can museums do towards cultural citizenship?*

11h00 – Coffee-break

Session 4 – Museums and citizen empowering. Moderator: Joana Sousa Monteiro (ICOM Strategic Plan Committee)

11h30 - Tayeebeh Golnaz Golsabahi (ICOM Executive Board member), Iran: *Museum's impact on citizens' perception of rural life*

11h45 - Mário Nuno Antas (ICOM Europe Board member), Portugal: *Inclusive and Solidarity Museum*

12h00 - Ahmed Mohammed (ICOM Executive Board member), United Arab Emirates: *Shindagha Museums experience in promoting the national identity of the United Arab Emirates.*

12h15 – Susana Gomes da Silva (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian), Portugal: *Museums as listening and empowering devices – reimagining CAM's relationship with audiences*

12h30 – Discussion (sessions 3 and 4)

13h00 – Free lunch

Session 5 – Museums and citizen empowering (cont). Moderator: Maria Isabel Roque (ICOM Portugal)

15h00 – Terry Simioti Nyambe (ICOM Vice-President), Zambia: *Museums acting as nexus between heritage protection and the community – The case of Zambian museums.*

15h15 - Jody Steiger (ICOM Executive Board member), Costa Rica: *Stretching our museums reach: Cultural institutions, inclusivity, and senior citizens*

15h30 - Carina Jaatinen (ICOM Treasure), Finland: *The new Museum of Design (Helsinki, Finland) and the transformative power of museums*

15h45 – Inês Bettencourt da Câmara (Mapa das Ideias, ICOM Portugal member), Portugal: *Unlocking Museums: Shifting from Treasure Box to Toolbox*

16h00 – Coffee-break

Session 6 - Museums in face of the future. Moderator: Mário Moutinho (NIMOM-ICOM)

16h30 – Nathália Pamio Luiz (ICOM Portugal) : *Museum as social technology? Contributions to museum management through. Sociomuseology practices.*

16h45 – Clara Riso (EGEAC, Casa Fernando Pessoa), Portugal: *Casa Fernando Pessoa – a home for literature. Make yourself at home!*

17h00 – Clara Camacho (MMP, E.P.E, ICOM Portugal Member), Portugal: *Public policies in face of the future: reviewing a Portuguese initiative, the “Future Museums Project Group”.*

17h15 – Elke Kellner (ICOM Europe Board member), Austria: *Art and Activism in the Climate Crisis: Between the Movement and the Museum*

17h30 – Discussion (session 5 and 6) and Final debate

18h15 – Closing session