

Meeting date	17 June 2019
Agenda item	2019 AGM
Subject	Chair's Report
Author	Tonya Nelson
Report	<p>Key 2017-18 Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership grew and exceeded targets in all categories • British Council grant increased from £21.5K to £45K • Established relationships with Arts Council England and the Museums Association • Largest ever participation in Working Internationally Conference = 160 delegates • ICOM UK Chair selected to lead sessions on restitution and decolonisation at ICOM Triennial Conference in Kyoto <p>Membership</p> <p>ICOM UK membership has increased by 13.8%, from a total of 1,998 members in 2018 to 2,275 members in 2019. In fact, as detailed more fully in the membership report, membership in all categories grew and 3 members joined in the Supporting Membership category introduced in 2019. There has been consistent membership growth year-on-year and membership has grown 59% since 2016.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p><i>ICOM Secretariat</i></p> <p>The focus of our work this year has been to support the development of the ICOM Triennial in Kyoto. ICOM UK has collaborated with the Secretariat to develop two 90-minute sessions on restitution and decolonisation aimed at understanding how the ICOM network can support the development of long-term relationships between former colonised and colonising nations. In support of the conference, ICOM UK has also allocated travel bursary funds to four members to attend the conference.</p> <p>ICOM UK has also supported ICOM advocacy campaigns related to climate change, removal of ban of the use of nitrogen in conservation, support for rebuilding of National Museum of Brazil.</p> <p><i>British Council</i></p> <p>British Council has increased its grant from £21.5K to £45K (£28,500 to award as travel grants) in order to increase administrative support for Travel Grant scheme, cover the cost of up to two international speakers for the 2020 Working Internationally Conference and support the delivery of a</p>

roundtable discussion on decolonisation. The next round of the ICOM UK – British Council Travel Grant scheme will be announced at the 2019 AGM with an application deadline of mid-October 2019.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

We have met with the DCMS regularly and had the opportunity to provide advice and feedback on the potential impact of Brexit on the museums sector. As Brexit has dominated the government’s agenda, there has been little chance to take forward previous discussions about ICOM UK organising roundtables to help shape DCMS’s international agenda around museums.

Arts Council England

We had the opportunity to build a relationship with Arts Council England (ACE) this year, through the co-development of a roundtable session on restitution that we hosted at the 2019 Working Internationally Conference. Historically, ACE has had a very small allocation of funds for international work, which tended to be used to support international touring or showcasing. Renewed attention around restitution has given us the opportunity to demonstrate where ICOM UK can add value in relation to the ACE portfolio of work. As ACE has responsibility for cultural property policy and collections management standards, it will be re-issuing guidance on restitution. ICOM has been asked to be part of an advisory group that will help revise this guidance. The hope is that this will lead to further conversations about we can work with ACE.

National Museum Director’s Council (NMDC)

We have developed a good partnership with NMDC in delivering the annual Working Internationally Conference – we have worked closely the NMDC executive team to develop conference themes, identify speakers and content and plan logistics.

Museums Association

ICOM UK had a first meeting with the Museums Association to talk about how the organisations can strategically align themselves to leverage its networks. The conversation was positive and has led to conversation about a joint project to support museums with restitution and decolonisation.

Other

ICOM UK has engaged with a range of organisations, including the Museum Support Alliance and Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) in order to provide support and advice and explore partnerships and collaborations.

Conferences and Events

The 2019 Working Internationally conference was hosted by British Library this year with the support of ICOM UK Committee member Edmund Connolly. The conference had its largest ever attendance with 160 people registered. Speakers include Roly Keating (CEO of British Library), Lourdes Heredia (BBC Producer of *Crossing Divides*), Gerd Elise Mørland (Director of Learning, Munch Museum, Norway), Sophie Henderson (Director of the

	<p>Migration Museum) and Sandra Shakespeare of Museum Detox. We will review the feedback from the conference and start to plan the 2020.</p> <p>ICOM UK also hosted a fully booked luncheon at the Museums Association conference in Belfast. A member of the ICOM Kyoto Triennial organising committee gave a presentation on the upcoming conference. The luncheon was also attended by a delegation from Hong Kong and British Museum International Training Programme (ITP) participants.</p> <p>Projects and Programmes</p> <p><i>SARAT</i></p> <p>ICOM UK continues its work with the British Council Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) project Safeguarding Archaeological Assets in Turkey (SARAT). As reported last year, the project has faced numerous challenges, the most significant of which was the Turkish culture ministry's decision to decline to sign the protocol needed to deliver project as proposed – live, hands-on teaching sessions in museums. The project was subsequently redesigned to be delivered online with the support of Koç University. This year I am pleased to report that the rollout of the online course has been extremely successful with 600 people enrolled in the first offering of the course. SARAT will now look to extend the programmes in a number of ways.</p>
Action	<p>I want to thank Dana Andrew for her hard work as Executive Director and the ICOM UK Committee, particularly our new members Christian Baars and Arran Rees -- for their energy, insights, and contributions.</p>