

Meeting date	5 July 2024
Agenda item	03
Subject	Co-Chairs Report
Author	Christian Baars, Nick Marchand
Report	<p>ICOM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICOM meetings: We contributed actively to meetings of, and discussions at, the ICOM Advisory Council, General Assembly, and Extraordinary Assembly. 2. ICOM UK Conference 2024 in Belfast: Our 2024 Conference with the theme ‘Common Ground: the role of museums in divided communities’ was our second sell-out conference in a row, with more than 150 delegates attending in person from across the UK and a range of international contributors and presenters. Our conference partners and supporters were: National Museums Northern Ireland, Ulster Museum, National Museums Directors Council, ICOM Ireland, Irish Museums Association, Northern Ireland Museums Council, and Barker Langham. A particular note of thanks to the whole team who planned and delivered the event. <p>Governance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Several new or revised policies were drafted during the year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity b. Expenses c. Information Asset Register d. Reserves e. Risk Register 2. The ongoing governance review was paused, due to staffing changes at the end of 2023. It has now been picked up again within the work of the new Interim Strategic Director. 3. Due to the previously noted staff changes we have not yet completed the intended conversion of ICOM UK to a Charitable Incorporated Institution (voted on during the 2023 AGM). We are now looking to complete this work by the end of the 2024 calendar year. <p>Partnerships</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Devolved nations: We believe it is important ICOM UK represents all four nations of the UK, and so we are ensuring that at least one Committee representative for each of the devolved nations sits on the Board of Trustees. In addition, for the first time, we have proposed that a representative of the UK’s so-called Overseas Territories be voted onto ICOM UK’s Board to ensure appropriate representation.

2. **Arts Council England:** ICOM UK was represented on the ACE Reference Group reviewing the Government Indemnity Scheme guidance for loans between museums in 2022. The review was focussed especially on the environmental guidance part of GIS to enable museums to reduce their carbon footprint without compromising the safety of loan items:
<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-arts-museums-and-libraries/supporting-collections-and-cultural-property/government-indemnity-scheme#t-in-page-nav-5>.
3. **National Museum Directors Council:** NMDC were once again a key partner in the organisation of the ICOM UK 2024 Conference.
4. **Barker Langham:** Barker Langham supported the marketing of our ICOM UK 2024 Conference.
5. **Blue Shield:** we attend Blue Shield meetings through our permanent Blue Shield representative, Maria Blyzinsky.
6. **In addition,** we continue to engage regularly with other sector partners, including The British Council, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Association of Independent Museums, Museums Association, various ICOM National Committees (including Poland, Ukraine, Germany, United States, Uganda) and the ICOM Heritage Protection Department.

Public Programme

1. **Student and Emerging Professionals**
 - a. Conference: On the 7 December 2023, the conference *Crafting Experiences in Museums: Physical or Digital?* was presented online, with three panel conversations and a keynote speech from Professor Ross Parry, Director of Institute for Digital Culture, University of Leicester.
 - b. Talks: Other talks across the year included *Mediating Cultural and Economic Values: Western Art Museum's IP Licensing in China* (Mar 2024).
2. **Heritage in Crisis**
 - a. ICOM UK, in collaboration with the Ukrainian Institute London, Ukrainian Institute in Kyiv and ICOM Ukraine presented a series of online lunchtime discussions in November and December 2023 about the destruction of global cultural heritage - and how museum and heritage professionals could help.

Policy and Advocacy

1. We continued a dialogue with DCMS about options to support museums as they transition to being more sustainable and climate change resilient, as well as helping museums adapt to the climate change impacts on buildings, collections and staff/volunteers.
2. **Declaration on the protection of archives, libraries, museums and heritage places during armed conflicts and political instability** - May 2024 marked the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Accordingly, ICOM, The International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Council on Monuments and Sites

	<p>(ICOMOS) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) released a statement expressing profound concern about the escalating destruction of life and cultural heritage during armed conflict and political instability.</p> <p>3. Sustainable Development ICOFOM sustainability project: We supported a successful funding application to SAREC for a three-year special research project - ‘Young people shaping the future of museology through the lenses of the Sustainable Development Goals’, conceived by the International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM).</p> <p>Heritage Under Threat</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICOM Special Grant: Our application for funding for a joint project with ICOM Ukraine and Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra UNESCO world heritage site in Ukraine (also involving the University of the West of England) for material to facilitate digitisation of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra archive was approved. Full funding was received (23,497 Euro). We are now assisting ICOM Ukraine and local partners in Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra to purchase materials to facilitate this digitisation. 2. Ukraine Decolonisation Guide: We were approached by the Ukrainian Institute to assist with the production of a decolonisation guide (based on a document recently produced by the Museums Association), to provide a practical toolkit to support new decolonisation legislation in Ukraine. Our partners in this project are the Ukrainian Institute, the Museums Association, ICOM Ukraine, and the British Council who generously provided some funding to enable this project to happen. Following extensive consultation, the draft guide was almost finished at the time of writing. We are now in conversation with our partners and ICOM’s headquarters in Paris regarding the next step - a further funding application, followed by testing the guide.
<p>Decision to be discussed/ made</p>	