

## ICOM UK 2024 Elections

As part of our commitment to transparent governance and member involvement, we are pleased to outline the voting process for selecting Board Members of ICOM UK.

We encourage all members to actively participate in this process to help shape the future direction of our organisation. Your engagement and input are invaluable as we strive to uphold the highest standards of leadership and representation within ICOM UK.

Below is a breakdown of the process, detailing each stage from the call for nominations to the announcement of elected candidates.

Stage	Description
Announcement of Candidates: <b>31 May 2024</b>	Announcement of the final list of candidates (and their biographies) – with instructions for voting.
Voting Period: <b>Open until 5 July 2024 12:30 BST</b>	Designated period for members to cast their votes.
Vote Counting and Results Announcement: <b>5 July 2024 during the AGM</b> (providing there are no voting discrepancies)	Tabulation of votes, verification of results, and announcement of elected Board Members.

To facilitate the voting process for selecting Board Members of ICOM UK, we will be utilising Google Forms, a secure and user-friendly online platform. Google Forms allows us to efficiently collect and tally votes while ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of the election process.

1. **Access the Google Form:** click on the voting link [here](#). Please ensure you have access to the internet and a compatible device (such as a computer, tablet, or smartphone). A Google account is NOT required to participate in the voting process.
2. **Review Candidate Information:** Before casting your vote, we encourage you to carefully review the profiles of the candidates. This will help you make an informed decision.

3. **Cast Your Vote:** Once you have reviewed the candidate information, simply select your preferred candidate(s) within the Google Form and submit your vote. You may be asked to confirm your selection before finalising your vote.
4. **Participation:** Your participation in this process is crucial to ensure the representation of diverse perspectives within our organisation. We value your input and encourage all eligible members to exercise their voting rights.
5. **Deadline:** Please note the deadline of 5 July 2024 12:30 BST for casting your vote as specified. Late submissions will not be counted, so we encourage you to vote within the designated time frame.
6. **Votes will be counted and verified during the AGM:** Assuming there are no irregularities we hope to announce the results of the votes and confirm the elected candidates before the end of the meeting.

We appreciate your cooperation and engagement in this important process. If you have any questions or encounter any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact us at [membership@icomuk.org](mailto:membership@icomuk.org)

## **ICOM UK Trustee Candidates 2024**

### **Candidate for Co-Chair (2nd Term)**

#### **Christian Baars**

Dr Christian Baars has been Co-Chair of ICOM UK since 2021 and is now applying to continue in this role for a second term. He is Head of Collections Care at National Museums Liverpool and has more than 20 years of experience of working internationally on sustainability and heritage.

In his role as Co-Chair during the past three years, Christian has contributed to: ensuring all four nations of the UK are represented by at least one trustee each on the ICOM UK Board; increasing membership from 1,700 to more than 3,000; organising a focussed Away Day for the Board which resulted in formulation of a Strategy presented at the 2024 AGM; focussing on supporting heritage under threat by, for example, helping coordinate a shipment of conservation materials to Ukraine, and facilitating digitisation of the collection of a UNESCO World Heritage site in Ukraine; organising a networking event at the UK Embassy in Prague during the 2022 ICOM Conference; redeveloping the ICOM UK website; contributing to a review by Arts Council England of environmental guidance for loans between museums.

A number of initiatives Christian helped start are only partly finished and he would like the opportunity to see these through, including completion of our governance review; completion of a revised set of policies; representation of the UK's Overseas Territories on the ICOM UK Board; introduction of a new membership administration system; diversification of income sources; a closer relationship with ICOM Europe; implementation of ICOM UK's new action plan; improved programming and provision of training in the three core strategic areas environmental sustainability, decolonization and heritage protection.

### **Candidate for Wales representative**

## **Diane Gwilt**

Diane Gwilt is applying to be the Wales representative on the Board. Diane is currently employed by Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales as Head of Capital Projects – Collections. This new strategic role builds on the audience-focused conservation and collection management work that she was responsible for as Head of Collection Services from 2010 - 2024.

Since joining the museum in 1991 as a senior conservator, Diane has taken on roles across a wide range of functional areas of the museum, with a focus on project and risk management. Although she is employed by Amgueddfa Cymru, through her involvement since 2016 as Trustee of three local museums in Wales (Chair of the Board for one of these) she has practical experience of the wider museum and heritage sector in Wales.

Diane is currently assisting (at their invitation) the Welsh Museums Federation with the implementation of a governance review. She served as a member of both the Arts Council England Accreditation and Designation Committees for the full six-year term. She was Chair of The Institute for Conservation (Icon) and its predecessor UKIC, leading them through a governance review and restructuring. She published on a wide range of a range of topics. Finally, she has been an external examiner for Durham University and an Associate Lecturer at Cardiff University.

## **Candidate for Students & Emerging Professionals Representative (2nd Term)**

### **Huaiyuan Ren**

Huaiyuan (Robert) Ren is applying for a second term as Students and Emerging Professionals representative.

Huaiyuan is a scholar and cultural professional currently completing a PhD in History and Philosophy of Art at the University of Kent. His doctoral research focuses on the intricate relationship between art exhibitions and the general public in China from 1980 to 2000, building upon his master's degree in Curating, completed in 2018.

Huaiyuan is an experienced curator with a robust portfolio in negotiation, strategic planning, and academic research. His scholarly interests encompass the history of curation, contemporary art and exhibitions in China and Europe since the 20th century, Tibetan Opera and aboriginal art, as well as the evolution of Chinese contemporary art styles from the 85 New Wave to the present. Additionally, he investigates the dynamic changes within the contemporary art market.

Since 2021, Huaiyuan has served as the Students and Emerging Professionals representative for ICOM (International Council of Museums) UK. In this role, he has been leading the ICOM UK S&EP Working Group, which organises events for students and emerging professionals within the museum and cultural sector. He is now standing

## **Candidates for Overseas Territories representative (2 candidates for 1 position)**

### **Jayne Pierce (née Dunn)**

Jayne Pierce is applying to be the Overseas Territories representative on the Board.

After graduating with a Geology degree, a period of travelling and working abroad, Jayne began a 20-year museum career in London. Employed first as Curator of the BP Collection at the NHM, progressing to Head of Collections Management at UCL.

Passionate about geology, natural history and exploration, she took up the position of Curator of the South Georgia Museum in 2019. Curating a small, remote museum with an international audience has set many new challenges and fulfilled a life-long ambition to work in the Antarctic.

Jayne's area of expertise is Collections Management. Developing and undertaking collections review and benchmarking assessments, taking stock of collections, developing strategic actions to link policy and collections practise to accessibility and engagement.

Having travelled to South Georgia during outbreaks of covid and avian flu, Jayne has an understanding and insight into how UK Overseas Territories communities and museums operate within the framework of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She experienced funding hardships, witnessing how outside global issues impact remote territories with small populations. Her ambition is to raise awareness of overseas museums and their international stories, gain support and funding, bring people together to establish stronger networks to the UK, to create long-term partnerships.

### **Natalie Urquhart**

Natalie Urquhart is applying to be the Overseas Territories representative on the Board.

Natalie is the Director of the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands and the Cayman National Culture Foundation. She holds an MA in Art History, and Arts Policy and Management, and has more than twenty years' experience in the cultural sector specialising in strategic development, collections management, and curatorial programming.

Natalie is a past president of the Museums Association of the Caribbean (2017-2020) and a representative for their ICOM affiliated member committee. She has formally served as a core committee member of the Tilting Axis Caribbean arts alliance, the Nationals Arts & Culture Awards Committee, the Cayman Islands National Cultural Policy Committee, as well as contributing to working committees for UNESCO, ICOM, the EULAC Foundation, and others. She currently serves as a Project Advisor for the Shared Islands Stories Project (University of St Andrews), and as the Creative Director for Cayman Art Week.

Natalie is a leading authority on Caymanian art and author of the islands' first formal art history. Her own curatorial research explores the influence of traditional cultural heritage and memory on contemporary art practice. She is the recipient of several National Awards for her work and was recognised in the 2022 Queen's New Year Honours list with a British Empire Medal for her contribution to arts and culture in the Cayman Islands and wider region.