

ICOM General Conference 2007

Vienna

Concurrent session:
ICOM Cross Cultural
Task Force



Theme. Transformations: Museums and Cultural Diversity

Time. 09.00 - 13.00 Wednesday, 22nd August 2007

Venue. NIG II, University of Vienna, Dr.Karl-Lueger Ring 1, 1010 Vienna

Introduction

The integration of tangible and intangible heritage in museums continues to be a challenge that needs to be addressed worldwide. This requires a fundamental approach to connecting collections and communities in all their diversity. This concurrent session brings together directors of major museums and researchers across the world to discuss and debate methodological concerns based on their first hand experience in addressing heritage diversity and cultural diversity through the museum as critical cultural space. It is envisaged that their perspectives will be based on case studies at the level of the individual museums as well as national and regional experiences.

Purpose

The aim of this session is to interrogate critical issues that need to be addressed in bringing collections and their communities together within the universal and local contexts of museums, with a particular focus on cultural diversity.

Convenor: Amareswar Galla, Chairperson, ICOM Cross Cultural Task Force and Professor of Museum Studies, the University of Queensland, Brisbane

Moderators: W. Richard West, Jr. Director, National Museum of the American Indian, The Smithsonian Institution; Tereza C. Moletta Scheiner, Professor, School of Museology, University of Rio de Janeiro – UNIRIO; and Pascal Makambila, Conservateur en chef des musées, Brazzaville

Program

09.00-10.45

ICOM as an Inclusive Global Organisation

- Alissandra Cummins, President, ICOM and Director, Barbados Museums and Historical Society, Barbados

Regional Diversity and Cultural Diversity

- Museology and Diversity in Latin America - Nelly Decarolis, Director, Museums of Buenos Aires
- 'What Museums Africa' – Dealing with Diversity - George Okello Abungu, former Director General, National Museums of Kenya and Lorna Abungu, former Executive Director, AFRICOM
- Small island Countries and the Challenges of Dealing with Pacific Diversity - Emmanuel Kasarhérou, Directeur, Agence de Développement de la Culture Kanak, Centre culturel Tjibaou, Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie

11.00 -13.00pm

Museums, Diversity and Community Engagement

- Steven Engelsman, Director General, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden
- Corazon Alvina, Director General, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila
- Hongnam Kim, Director General, National Museum of Korea, Seoul
- Jatti Bredekamp, CEO, Iziko Group of National Museums, Cape Town, South Africa.

Rethinking the Nature-Culture Binary in Museums – A Critique

- Michel Van-Praët, Conservateur général du patrimoine, Inspection générale des Musées
Direction des Musées de France, France

Intergenerational Challenges – Youth Perspectives

- Lina G Tahan, Lebanon/UK
- Bruno César Brulon Soares, Brazil
- Kim L Selling, Australia/Sweden

Anticipated Outcomes

- A framework for critical engagement in addressing museums, universal heritage and cultural diversity
- Draft material for developing Strategic Recommendations for the General Conference
- Action Planning for the ICOM Cross Cultural Task Force

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