



## **International Council of Museums Operating Policy**

2007/DIV.03rev

(Original)

**SUBJECT:** Nomination and Selection of Honorary Members

**DATE:** June 1, 2007

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Operating Policy (OP) is to ensure understanding and a standardized approach to the nomination and selection of Honorary Members.

**REVIEW:** This OP will be reviewed in October of each even-numbered year by a Vice President assigned by the President, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee. Recommendations will be submitted to the President by November 1.

### **POLICY:**

#### **1. Honorary Members**

ICOM established a special membership category known as “Honorary Members.”

Honorary Membership status, the highest honour that ICOM may bestow on members of its organisation is granted to persons in recognition of their distinction for outstanding scholarly or practical achievement in the advancement of the international museum cause and the ideals endorsed by ICOM.

Honorary Membership may be granted by the triennial General Assembly, on the unanimous recommendation of the Executive Council.

There can be no more than twenty (20) living Honorary Members at any time.

#### **2. Nomination Procedure**

A. The Chairperson of a National Committee, the Chairperson of an International Committee, or a member of the Executive Council makes the nomination of an ICOM member for Honorary Membership. Nominations must be signed, dated, and endorsed by the nominating Chairperson.

Persons ineligible for nomination to Honorary Member status:

- i. Self-nominations are not allowed.

- ii. Members holding elected offices within ICOM are not eligible for Honorary Membership status, but may be nominated following their terms in office.
- iii. Nominees not selected for Honorary Membership may be re-nominated without prejudice.

B. A significant portion of the nominee's achievement must have been carried out while a member of ICOM to demonstrate continuing excellence in the attainment of international distinction for museological excellence.

C. All nominations must be submitted in writing and accompanied by documentation outlining the nature of the exceptional services for which Honorary Membership is proposed.

Examples of supporting documentation:

- i. Letters of endorsement from individuals with direct knowledge of the nominee's activities.
- ii. Listing of publications (books, articles, reviews, and other evidence particular to the museum or heritage fields).
- iii. Awards and prizes from professional organisations.
- iv. Record of relevant employment.
- v. Listing of professional activities.
- vi. Volunteer positions and services as expert consultant to museums and relevant educational Organisations.

D. Emphasis must be placed on the international contributions made by the nominee. Exceptional service to museums or the museum profession at the national level is not normally adequate achievement to warrant selection for the distinction of Honorary Member.

E. The complete nomination packet must be submitted to the Director General by November 1 in the year preceding the triennial General Assembly. This is to ensure adequate time for review by the Executive Council.

F. Once the Director General has reviewed the nomination documents to determine whether it is complete and meets the requirements, the packet of material is forwarded to the President with a memo confirming receipt of the nomination and noting any inconsistencies.

G. The President will review the nomination and assign one member of the Executive Council to present the material to the Council members. The presenter will review the nomination document, summarize the pertinent information, and be prepared to respond to questions regarding the eligibility of the nominee.

H. The status of the recommendation to the triennial General Assembly for persons to receive this honour will remain confidential until the General Assembly takes action.

- 3. Honorary Membership will be granted for life, and such members shall not be liable for any membership subscription.

4. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges set out in the ICOM *Statutes* except that they will receive an ICOM membership card and sticker without payment of any fee.
5. Honorary Members may be appointed by the President to positions in ICOM, but may not hold any elected office in ICOM.

**General Statement about Honorary Members**

Designation as an Honorary Member of ICOM is a high honour and therefore should be granted to only those persons who truly deserve recognition based on their commitment, dedication, and service to the highest standards of the international museum community. Honorary Membership is not to be restricted, limited, or granted based on race, gender, nationality, beliefs, or institutional affiliation.