

MUSEUM INTERNATIONAL

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Call for Papers

ICOM is preparing a double issue of *Museum International* on the theme *Museums, heritage and capacity building*. The issue will be prepared under the direction of the Editorial Board with Prof. Dr Tereza Scheiner as Editor in Chief. All proposals submitted will be assessed for suitability and subsequent articles will go through a peer review process. The issue is expected to be published, in collaboration with Wiley Blackwell, by March 2016.

Professional capacity building has been a fundamental aspect of the reflection undertaken by the museum community since the 1940s. Recent changes in the knowledge environment and the development of museology as a discipline have given rise to a series of discussions on the topic on an international level. The need to specify what exactly transforms a 'museum worker' into a 'museum professional' led ICOM to define a wide range of theoretical and practical competencies required, and to outline the general profile that such professionals must have in accordance with the organisation's high ethical standards.

ICOM's International Committee for the Training of Personnel (ICTOP), created in 1968, has worked to encourage exchange among professional capacity building programmes. It has also helped ICOM to define specific ethical standards for museum theory and practice, and to develop a proactive approach towards the adoption of such standards. In addition, *The Basic Syllabus for the Training of Museum Personnel*, formally adopted by ICOM in 1971, influenced the curriculum design of museum studies programmes in many countries.

Museum professionals must have a deep understanding of museum theory and practice and be adequately prepared to work not only *in* museums, but *with* museums and heritage, in order to ensure the development of museums and the protection of world heritage at all levels. The transmission of inter-generational knowledge and skills, and learning from peers are vital elements of the learning process. University programmes in museology and heritage in different regions and at different levels embody such processes by providing theoretical and practical capacities in the field.

To adapt to contemporary challenges, museum professionals must simultaneously:

- a) recognise the new paradigms of thought that influence museums and the field of museology;
- b) increase their ability to act in accordance with such paradigms, developing discourses and practices that represent the values of different groups in today's society; and
- c) develop new forms of connection between museums and society, paving the way for community participation.

These developments require theoretical knowledge of museology and basic museum functions, technical competence in applied museology, and an ethical commitment to society.

To accomplish the above, museum professionals must be prepared to re-evaluate the concepts of Heritage and Museum, and to approach such concepts critically when developing their work.

You are all invited to contribute to this upcoming issue on the theme of museums, heritage and capacity building. We hope you will take the opportunity to offer new perspectives on and approaches to this fundamental topic for the museum community.

Submission process:

Abstracts of between 250 and 300 words, written in English, should be submitted for selection to publications@icom.museum

Contributions will be on a voluntary basis.

The submission deadline is 30 April, 2015.

The following information should be included with the abstract:

- Title of submitted paper
- Name(s) of author(s)
- Professional background

Museum International is currently produced in English language only. For this reason, proposals in other languages unfortunately cannot be considered for publication.

Further information:

For all queries on this Call for Papers, the submission process and guidelines, please contact Aedín Mac Devitt at aedin.macdevitt@icom.museum