

MUSEUM INTERNATIONAL
Vol. 69, No. 275-276 – Museums and Public Policy

Call for Papers

ICOM is preparing an issue of *Museum International* on the theme *Museums and Public Policy*. The issue will be overseen by 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 December 2017.

Museums and Public Policy

The next issue of *Museum International* Vol. 69, No. 275 – 276 aims to explore the ways in which public policy can affect museums, and how museums and museums associations can influence international, regional and national policy affecting cultural institutions.

Contemporary museums have widened their goals to ensure new audiences are served. As such, museums can strengthen public perception of and respect for cultural identities and diversity, support social cohesion and generate income and employment.

However, in today's challenging economic and social climate, museums are often considered a luxury that society cannot afford, with culture-related budget cuts resulting in disparities of wealth across museums.

With this reduced investment in culture, many museums are experiencing reductions in, or even the loss of, scientific and technical expertise. For others, employing skilled staff to fulfill their social roles and offer increasing activities to support their communities and local development remains an unachievable goal.

The relationship between governments and cultural institutions can largely determine the museum's role within the communities they serve and the type of services they provide, especially in countries where museums are dependent on government policy.

Government strategies and legislation can improve the way museums work to ensure a better public impact. For instance, legislation on equal opportunities and human rights has served to encourage museums to embrace a more diverse audience in many parts of the world.

In today's context, how can governments and policy-makers support museums to ensure our cultural legacy is preserved for future generations? How can museums and museums associations influence these policy-makers to ensure culture remains high on their political agendas? How can museums continue to fulfill their missions in the face of growing adversity, with increasing financial strain, privatisation, and competition with other entertainment industries?

The aim of this issue is to bring together contributions that will examine the impact of public policy on museums and strategies museums and museums associations can adopt to influence decision-makers. Authors are invited to submit contributions that will probe:

- The importance of legislation to increase the role and impact of museums in society, thus ensuring their sustainability.
- How museums and museums associations can advocate for favourable public policy affecting cultural institutions.
- Ways of achieving financial self-sufficiency in a context of shrinking budgets and privatisation.

We look forward to receiving your contribution for this forthcoming issue of *Museum International* on the theme of *Museums and Public Policy*. We hope you will take the opportunity to offer fresh insight into this fundamental topic for the museum community.

Submission process:

Abstracts of between 250 and 300 words, written in English, French or Spanish, should be submitted to Aedín Mac Devitt at aedin.macdevitt@icom.museum

Contributions will be on a voluntary basis.

The submission deadline is 7 March, 2017.

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. However, proposals in the other two official languages of ICOM (French and Spanish) will also be considered.

**GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS
FORMAT OF THE SUBMITTED ABSTRACT**

1. GENERAL

Language	Consistent use of English, French or Spanish.
Length	Maximum 300 words or 2,100 characters (spaces included).
Submission	Contributions should be submitted as an attachment to e-mail in MS Word (97-2003 or higher).

2. FORMAT OF SUBMITTED ABSTRACT

Margins	2.5 cm or 0.98 in. left, right, top and bottom.
Justification	The text should be both left and right justified (aligned) throughout.
Spacing	Simple.
Font	Arial.

Font size	9 pt. for the text proper but 10 pt. for title, subtitle and author's name.
Main Title	(10 pt.) Centre the title on top using bold small capitals. If the title is in English capitalise the first letter of the main words.
Subtitle	(10 pt.) If there is a subtitle, add a colon to the title and centre the subtitle on the next line using bold lower case.
Author's name	(10 pt.) Space twice and align left your name, using bold initial capitals only.
Indentation	Do not indent the first line of the abstract.
Citations	Do not include citations in the abstract.
Quotations	Do not include quotations in the abstract.

Example

**THE ARCHITECTURE OF BALTIMORE:
An Exhibition in the Peale Museum, Baltimore**

Wilbur H. Hunter Jr. and Rich Borneman

The abstract should be followed by a short biography of the author(s) of between 150-200 words, for which the same format as that described above applies. The short biography should include the following details: professional affiliation, exact title, current situation and research, past and forthcoming publications.

Finally, please indicate a contact email.