

# Resolution No. 7: Championing Higher Standards and Professional Development (S.O.3)

Considering the challenges museum professionals and volunteers are facing (e.g. on the political, financial, and structural levels) in the rapidly changing environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the ICOM General Assembly resolves:

- to address, develop, and enhance more effectively the education and training of museum professionals and volunteers, and to develop capacities to meet the needs of museums and the communities they serve;
- to implement the above through ICOM's operational mechanisms with special reference to developing countries, in particular through regional alliances and multilingual delivery platforms; and
- to partner with existing museum and heritage studies programs in universities and research institutions, as well as international and national NGO's.

## UMAC & the Latin American University Museums Network

**William Alfonso López Rosas**, UMAC, Professor, Director of the Museo de Arte and the MA in Museology and Cultural Heritage Management, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

A year ago, within the framework of the International Sixth U-Museums Congress, celebrated in Mexico City, I showed to my colleagues from the General Direction of Visual Arts of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, professors Graciela de la Torre and Rafael Sámano, the idea to create a Latin American museum network; they embraced it very generously and, during last May, within the framework of the First Latin American Congress of Museum Studies and Cultural Management: museums, university and "mundialización". U-Museums management in Latin America began to become real.

> The declaration of the Latin American University Museums Network was written and signed by the directors and staff from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Universidad de São Paulo, the Universidad de Puerto Rico, the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, the Caribbean University, the Universidad de Antioquia, the Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, the Universidad del Magdalena, the Universidad de Caldas, and the Corporación Univesitaria UNIMINUTO. In it, we agreed to the following:

### Declaration of the Latinamerican University Museums Network

> *The professionals from the Latin American University museums met in Bogotá, within the framework of the **First Latin American Congress of Museology and Cultural Heritage Management**, considering:*

- *That we share mutual cultural and historic ties, similar contexts and institutional missions, and compatible and parallel challenges within museum studies;*
- *That we recognize the great risks to our cultural heritages, given the globalization processes of the economy and the cultural industries;*
- *That we should take advantage of the potential held by the scientific, artistic, documentary and natural collections managed by our universities;*
- *That we recognize the strategic value of strengthening the social construction of memories and senses of belonging to our communities.*

*Declare our intention of configuring the Latinamerican University Museums Network, whose mission will be to generate and support actions and programs of interchange, cooperation and communication between its members in order to align policies and intertwine knowledge and practice that legitimize and spread its work, in an equitable and mobile environment.*

*The Latin American University Museums Network will recognize the diversity*



*of its members and will try to establish alliances with related institutions with the purpose of contributing to the associated museums development.*

*The signatories of the present declaration will present it to their respective universities in order to negotiate the interinstitutional frames that allowed us to achieve the goals expressed here for their solidification through the specific channels and covenants of every implicated country and legislation.*

> Signed on May the 10<sup>th</sup> of 2007, in the Auditorium Alfonso López Pumarejo of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

### Precedents

> The Latin American University Museums Network is an initiative of the Masters Degree Programme in Museum Studies and Cultural Heritage Management. Its main precedent is related to the disciplinary, professional and institutional goals that orient this program. These are: the foundation of an international academic and scientific dialogue between the professors joined in this postgrad program and the strengtheng of the museums pertaining to the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. (...) We should add to (...) strictly academic goals, others, related to the mobility of professors and students, as well as to the collections and exhibitions circulation within the framework of a regional university integration. All these depending on, of course, the declaration signatories and the help of those who decide to join us during the next months.

**For downloads of full text and all presentations from the UMAC 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference within the ICOM General Conference in Vienna, August 2007 see <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/2007?id=presentations>**

The list of directors and functionaries that signed the Declaration of the Latin American University Museums Network is the following: Graciela de La Torre y Rafael Sámano, from the General Direction of Visual Arts of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Margarita Fernández Zavala from the Project of Museums Accreditation of the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Camilo de Mello Vasconcellos, Director of the Museo de Arqueología y Etnología de la Universidade de São Paulo, Lilian Irizarry Martínez from the University Museum of the Caribbean University, José Delannoy from the Master in Museum Studies of the Caribbean University, Edmon Castell Ginovart of the Coordinator of the Museums and Heritage System at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, William Alfonso López Rosas Director of the Museo de Arte and the Master in Museum Studies and Cultural Heritage Management of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Yaneth Muñoz Saba Director of the Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Diego León Arango from the Museo Universitario de la Universidad de Antioquia, René Escorcia Barrios y Wilmer Jesús Martínez Manotas from the Museo de Arte of the Universidad del Magdalena, Esneider Agudelo Arango from the Museo Agrario de la Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, Helena Pradilla from the Museo Arqueológico de la Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, María Cristina Moreno from the Centro de Museos de la Universidad de Caldas and Gustavo Ortiz Director of the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo of the Corporación Univesitaria UNIMINUTO.