



ICOM presents museums from Latin America and the Caribbean in August

From 1st to 31st August, 2010, the ICOM Pavilion will be presenting museums from Latin America and the Caribbean. This summer, children and their families will continue to take great delight in discovering and rediscovering museums through the temporary exhibition and many lively activities.



© World Museum of Tango. Photo: Graciela Weisinger

What's New

1 August, 2010

11.00 – 11.30, 15.00 – 15.30

Tango dance from Argentina

ICOM Pavilion and the Argentina Pavilion have forged a partnership with the help of the ICOM National Committee of Argentina for the opening of the ICOM Latin America and the Caribbean Month in August. They will be bringing us a performance of the Tango – a dance featured on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage – in the setting of a museum, so as to commemorate the month dedicated to the region.

11 August, 2010

14.30 – 15.00, 15.30 – 16.00

Music show from Brazil

The ICOM Pavilion will welcome the venue of Mr. Alessandro Golombiewski Teixeira, the Commissioner General of the Brazil Pavilion who will be bringing two sessions of traditional music show with the group Chico Lobo from the region Minas Gerais.

26 – 27 August, 2010

11.00 – 12.00, 15.30 – 16.30

Colombian Cultures

Mr. Gustavo Gaviria, Commissioner General of the Colombia Pavilion will present a 5-minute 3D film entitled 'Colombia, a country with a lot of dimensions', to be followed by a traditional Colombian dance show.



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Focus on the Temporary Exhibition

Museums in Latin America and the Caribbean are young and dynamic. It is a region of change and of hope.

The diversity of the cultures belonging to each nation is reflected in the different collections that the museums hold. A museum of Tango can well exist, and similarly one that is dedicated to football; a museum serves as the living memory of the past and witnesses

constantly the evolution of society.

ICOM has prepared a full month of exhibitions elaborating on the social, cultural, economic, environmental and technological developments of museums in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Glimpse of Museums and Economy

Museums hold resources that provide opportunities and benefits for local economies. They have the potential to be a major player in economic regeneration, particularly in relation to urban centres. Opportunities for diversified employment are but one of the many ways museums can help improve the economic profile of communities. Another significant way is through tourism, specifically cultural tourism which is centred around major museum exhibition exchanges.



M. Mayer © ICOM

Interview of the Month

Gladys Barrios, former Chairman of ICOM-Guatemala and Director of San Carlos University Museum (MUSAC), coordinated the Red List workshop in 2008 and contributed to the awareness campaign launching the latest *Red List of Endangered Cultural Objects of Central America and Mexico* in June 2010.

What is the purpose of launching a Red List of Endangered Cultural Objects of Central America and Mexico?

The main mission is to increase people's awareness about heritage preservation. The Editorial Board, who gathered various representatives of the different countries in Antigua Guatemala in 2008, pointed out numerous issues about this subject.

What is the current situation of the fight against illicit traffic of cultural properties in the region?

Unfortunately the area is highly exposed to looting and illicit trafficking of cultural goods. The archeological heritage and colonial background in this region are very rich while protection and security measures are not sufficient.

Museums are concerned about this issue as victims of robbery of invaluable artifacts that are really difficult to get back despite the fight against illicit traffic by specialised authorities.

How do countries work together for this fight?

We have been working together for several years for the fight against illicit trafficking in the region. Today there are Regional Agreements about the issue, and every country has dedicated institutions in order to gather a Regional Group to Fight against Illicit Traffic of cultural goods.

The Red List is a great regional mechanism for this fight. Through the institutional network founded at the regional level, together with local authorities, such as customs in each country and also through training campaigns, we can keep the fight efficient after the launch of the Red List.

Which is your favourite museum?

My favourite museum is definitely the University Museum of San Carlos. I worked for its founding in 1994. I led many projects about national culture and made the museum one of the most dynamic of the country.



X. Xu © ICOM

Highlight of July

Experts from ICOM International Committee for Education and Cultural Action (CECA) organised workshops highlighting the North American culture on the first weekend of July. 'A traditional way of life - Native people of North America', 'A journey into the Inuit culture', 'Fauna of North America' and 'Sweet tooth' excited and amazed the Expo public, especially school children who enjoyed the opportunity to learn about distant cultures through first-hand experiences.

About the 2010 Shanghai World Expo

The official website of 2010 Shanghai World Expo: <http://www.expo2010.cn/>

About ICOM Pavilion

Situated in the heart of Zone B of the Expo Park, inside the International Organisations Joint Pavilion, ICOM celebrates its participation under the theme of 'Museums, Heart of the City' throughout the six months.

About ICOM

Created in 1946, ICOM is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) maintaining formal relations with UNESCO and having a consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council. ICOM is the largest international organisation representing museums and museum professionals.

ICOM is:

- A diplomatic space that gathers 137 countries and territories.
- The standards of excellence which defines the norms and standards for museums in terms of conception, collections management and organisation. ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums is the code of reference in the world museum community.
- A professional network which has more than 28,000 members and comprises a unique professional network composed of institutions and museum professionals.
- A world think-tank. Museum professionals from ICOM's 31 International Committees conduct specialised research in their fields.
- The international missions such as the fight against illicit traffic of cultural property, and risk management in case of emergency or military conflict.

Press contact:

ICOM – Tel. + 33 1 47 34 91 76 – Fax: + 33 1 43 06 78 62 – worldexpo2010@icom.museum