

# CAMOC BARCELONA 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MUHBA Turó de la Rovira. © Teresa Macià



CONNECTING CITIES, CONNECTING CITIZENS.  
TOWARDS A SHARED SUSTAINABILITY

**Organised by CAMOC and MUHBA (Barcelona History Museum)**  
**December 1-3, 2021**

<http://camoc.mini.icom.museum/>  
[www.museuhistoria.bcn.cat](http://www.museuhistoria.bcn.cat)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

After more than a year of global pandemic, the previously chosen title of the CAMOC 2021 Barcelona annual conference, *Connecting Cities, Connecting Citizens. Towards a Shared Sustainability* has gained a new meaning.

Technological change, accelerated by the pandemic, and the current social and political uncertainty further emphasize the importance of cities and the urban network in the global future. In this context, the reinvention of city museums can play a key role in building a democratic world with more social justice and respect for the planet.

For this reason, the CAMOC 2021 meeting in Barcelona aims to deepen the role that city museums can play as strategic institutions of urban, social and cultural cohesion that make it possible to connect cities and citizenship in favor of a shared sustainability as a common social and democratic project and, also, as knowledge centers and polarities for urban development.

The city museum, conceived as a space of knowledge in urban history and heritage, can be configured as an innovative explanatory hub that fosters new links, echoing the struggles for truth, equality, and cultural dialogue. Connecting cities and citizens in a multi-scale network, taking into account the neighborhood, city, and global perspectives at the same time can also contribute to a more diversified and sustainable urban economy.

City museums can promote new tourism practices that are more respectful of the environment and the local population. At the same time, city museums should also be seen as key nodes of technical knowledge in heritage conservation and management, cultural innovation and urban cohesion that can contribute to local development.

CAMOC and MUHBA (Barcelona History Museum) propose three days of shared work to reflect on the main areas of a *new urban museology* for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to move from the “city museum” to the “citizens’ museum”, with solid foundations based on research in the fields of urban history, heritage management and citizen participation. The program is organized in three sessions, which will revolve around three concepts: *museum work*, *reporting the city*, and *enhancing citizenship*, plus a workshop on city museums in fast-growing metropolises.

We look forward to your proposals!

## Session 1 - ORGANIZING THE MUSEUM

The city museum as a center of knowledge and innovation in history, heritage and museology, with new technologies and new formats in a fast-changing urban environment. Some suggestions:

- The city museum as a knowledge-generating institution: urban history, heritage care, social inclusion, and education.
- How to define and how to create a *strategic city collection*.
- Museum structure and urban space: single-site, multiple-site, and other territorial arrangements of city museums.
- In a fast-moving digital revolution: the website as knowledge platform, the virtual museum, enlarging audiences through webinars, and new translation opportunities.
- Beyond visitors: museum know-how as an R&D agent for local development.

## Session 2 - REPORTING THE CITY

City museums are the portal and the mirror of the cities they exhibit. The city is their subject of study and action, at multiple scales, from the metropolis to the neighborhoods. Reporting the city requires a coherent narrative of urban processes. Some suggestions:

- The verbs of urban dynamics - work, feed, house, circulate, care, educate, vindicate, struggle, rule, create, etc. - and the museum narratives.
- Re-reading city history in terms of gender, sustainability, social power, and cultural diversity.
- Metropolitan issues and community specificities: the challenges of multiple-scale approaches.
- Diversification of city museum genres: from the primacy of exhibitions to the rise of new formats.
- The art of city walks: itineraries through urban history, heritage, and territories.

## Session 3 - BUILDING CITIZENSHIP

The role that city museums can play in the 21<sup>st</sup> century depends largely on their ability to explain the city by involving citizens, both those from the city itself and those who come to visit it, thus broadening the bases of cultural democracy and rethinking tourism. Some suggestions:

- The city museum in city policy and planning of cultural facilities.
- The school museum: removing barriers between education and culture.
- Dealing with the past, thinking of the future. The city museum as a laboratory.
- Community participatory management in city museums.
- Rethinking tourism and tourist practices after the pandemic.

## Workshop - CITY MUSEUMS IN EXPANSIVE METROPOLISES

The workshop will be in two parts:

1. The first part of the workshop will focus on *The hidden potential of city museums* in fast growing cities around the world. If city museums are a means of interpreting the city for its inhabitants and visitors, their presence in the most rapidly changing cities is a challenge to be addressed. Some suggestions:

- New city museums in expansive metropolises: how to proceed?
- What narratives, what objects, what spaces? Presenting migratory growth and urban developments.
- Collecting the formal and the informal city (shanties, self-built housing).
- Connecting projects, connecting continents.

2. The second part will be dedicated to a round table on *The 4 Meridians Project*, a new project in progress initially launched by MUHBA, with Barcelona City Council, for networking between African and European cities in order to promote the creation, development, and remodeling of city museums on both continents. With the support of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments).

## SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Joana Sousa Monteiro, *CAMOC Chair /Museum of Lisbon*

Catherine C. Cole, *CAMOC Vice-Chair*

Sarah Henry, *CAMOC Vice-Chair /MCNY*

Michal Niezabitowski, *CAMOC Board Member /Museum of Krakow*

Jenny Chiu, *CAMOC Board Member*

Jelena Savic, *CAMOC Secretary*

Joan Roca i Albert, *MUHBA /City History Museums and Research Network of Europe*

Elena Pérez Rubiales, *MUHBA*

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The participants may opt to travel to Barcelona or for a virtual participation. All conference sessions will be organized face-to-face, for those attending the meeting in Barcelona, and will also be livestreamed. Discussions and optional visits are an important part of the on-site program. Some of them will be recorded and uploaded immediately afterward to the MUHBA YouTube channel.

### DECEMBER 1, 2021 / WEDNESDAY (MUHBA Plaça del Rei)

- Conference, session 1, *Organizing the Museum*
- Workshop part 1, *The hidden potential of city museums*

\*Visit to *Barcelona flashback* (a synthetic interrogative exhibition) and MUHBA Plaça del Rei (Archaeological Site and Royal Palace: a heritage to manage). Debate on both projects.

\*Reception by the City Council (broadcast)

### DECEMBER 2, 2021 / THURSDAY (MUHBA Plaça del Rei)

- Conference, session 2, *Reporting the city*
- CAMOC Assembly

\*Visit to the exhibition *Feeding Barcelona* and debate with two more projects on a similar topic: *Hortas de Lisboa* (Lisbon) and *Die Stadt und das Grün* (Frankfurt).

\*A historical cocktail. Medieval wine (*vi piment*) offered by Fundació Alícia (food research center) and concert on “20<sup>th</sup> century Barcelona Jazz” in the medieval Royal Palace.

## DECEMBER 3, 2021 / FRIDAY (MUHBA Oliva Artés + MUHBA Plaça del Rei)

- Workshop part 2, *The 4 Meridians Project*
- Conference, session 3, *Building citizenship*
- Conclusions & *CAMOC City Museums Mapping Project*

\**Urban trekking* through the Eix Besòs City Museum's Heritage Track (Casa de l'Aigua, Fabra i Coats, Bon Pastor and Oliva Artés). Short visit to the exhibition *Barcelona & football*.

\*Closing dinner of CAMOC 2021 Barcelona.

## DECEMBER 4, 2021 / SATURDAY (Optional)

Optional visits for those attending the meeting on-site in Barcelona, based on two programs that can be combined:

1. A program with MUHBA proposals and methodologies to show the approach to the city that is taken on the urban walks:
  - War and postwar: Refugi 307 and Turó de la Rovira, ending with a bird's eye view of Barcelona.
  - Barcelona and literature: MUHBA Vil·la Joana (Verdaguer Literary House)
  - Reason, passion, and business in the construction of the Eixample (Barcelona 19<sup>th</sup> century New City with 20<sup>th</sup> century Art Nouveau buildings).
  - Park Güell beyond tourism: the perspective of a city history museum.
  - Urban museum trekking: From Turó de la Rovira to the Port.
2. A program shared with other city actors, from the municipal departments concerned with tourism to other institutions and private companies.

### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The deadline for abstract submissions is **August 15, 2021**.

We welcome participation in English, Catalan and Spanish, although all abstracts must be submitted in English. French will also be accepted for the workshop.

Simultaneous translations will be provided.

Participation in the CAMOC 2021 Barcelona conference can be in two different formats or modalities, but in all cases, a written abstract for the selection process is required.

The modalities of participation are the following:

- a) Oral presentations, supported with PowerPoint or other means, if necessary. If desired, they can be previously recorded but the subsequent debate will be live. Presentations must not exceed 15 minutes.
- b) Visual proposals, preferably recorded with a cell phone and not necessarily conceived as "presentations" (e.g.: new formats; urban walks; ways of doing in the Museum; participatory management; explanation of projects or spaces). Maximum length: 10 minutes.

All debates will be live and will be streamed. ▶

In all cases, please send an abstract up to 350 words plus 5 keywords and add a brief biographical note of up to 75 words to the CAMOC 2021 Organizing Committee at [camoc2021barcelona@gmail.com](mailto:camoc2021barcelona@gmail.com), until **August 15, 2021**.

**Subject: “ICOM – CAMOC 2021 proposal: [title of your proposal- session suggested (1, 2, 3 or Workshop)- modality - place - language]”**

## **Elements of the abstract:**

- Author(s)
- Affiliation(s)
- ICOM membership number, if applicable
- E-mail address
- The session theme your proposal fits best (1 *Organizing the Museum*; 2 *Reporting the City*; 3 *Building citizenship*; 4 *Workshop*)
- Title of the proposal
- Abstract in English (max. 350 words)
- Keywords (max. 5)
- Preferred modality (oral presentation; video)
- Place (Barcelona face-to-face, virtual participation)
- Preferred presentation language (English, Catalan, or Spanish, and also French for the workshop)
- Short biography (max. 75 words)

Selected participants will be invited to submit full papers for the CAMOC Barcelona 2021 Book of Proceedings, which will be published in the first half of 2022. More details will be announced closer to the conference date.

The selection and organizing committee may opt for varied participation modalities for this conference (oral presentations, visual proposals, ignite sessions, round tables). Please note that modalities will be precisely defined and further guidance provided upon completion of the evaluation process, depending on the number and profile of the successful applicants.

CAMOC will award up to three travel grants of 500 € each to participants who opt for taking part at the CAMOC Barcelona Conference on-site. Priority will be given to: accepted speakers, young members of CAMOC/ICOM, and participants from the countries belonging to Categories 3 and 4, as categorized by ICOM.

If you are interested in the travel grant, please send a short motivation letter together with your paper proposal.

**Note:** Grantees will be required to attend all conference sessions and to submit a grantee report, which will be shared in the *CAMOC Museums of Cities Review*.

## **Important dates**

Deadline for abstract submission and expression of interest for travel grants: ~~August 15, 2021~~  
**September 25, 2021**

Grant award notification: ~~September 25, 2021~~ **September 30, 2021**

Notification of acceptance: ~~September 15, 2021~~ **October 11, 2021**

Deadline for final paper submission (Book of proceedings): **March 2022**

**Conference dates: December 1-3, 2021**

**For enquiries regarding this Call for Papers, please contact:**

**Jelena Savic, CAMOC Secretary, at: [secretary.camoc.icom@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.camoc.icom@gmail.com) and**

**Elena Perez Rubiales (MUHBA) at: [eperezru@bcn.cat](mailto:eperezru@bcn.cat)**