



**ICOM** international  
council  
of museums

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# INTRODUCTION

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is proud to present the 2023 annual report, highlighting our progress and achievements aligned with the Strategic Plan (2022-2028). This year, we strengthened ICOM's global presence, governance, financial stability, communication, diversity, and sustainability efforts. At the G20 Culture Ministers Meeting in India, we advocated for the role of museums in cultural preservation and sustainable development, resulting in the **Varanasi Declaration**. Our collaboration with ICOMOS, Blue Shield, ICA, and IFLA reinforced heritage protection efforts, establishing partnerships that led to the 2024 **declaration on protecting cultural property during armed conflicts**.

We updated ICOM's Statutes and Rules for better organisational coherence. The President welcomed Medea Ekner as Director General (interim) and Eunice Baez Sanchez as Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council. Digital initiatives like the digitisation of the ICOM archives and the ICOM podcast expanded our reach to new audiences. ICOM's Membership base grew to 57,208, an increase of 11.5%.

We launched the **ICOM Award for Sustainable Development Practice in Museums**, the first global award recognising innovative initiatives and exemplary museum practices in sustainable development. This award aligns with ICOM's 2019 Kyoto Resolution on sustainability and Agenda 2030, promoting sustainable development in museums worldwide.

**International Museum Day 2023** focused on the theme of **Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing**, emphasising the crucial role museums play in supporting the wellbeing and sustainable development of our communities. Museums contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by supporting climate action, fostering inclusivity, tackling social isolation, and improving mental health.

2023 has been a year of proactive engagement and achievements.

We remain committed to our Strategic Plan and thank you for your continued trust and support.



**Emma Nardi, ICOM President**  
**Medea Ekner, ICOM Director General**

# ICOM IN NUMBERS

**57,208 Members**

+ 11,5% growth compared to 2022

**120 National Committees**

in 129 countries and territories

**24,405 Members in  
International Committees**

**7 Regional Alliances**

# ADVOCACY, GLOBAL OUTREACH & COLLABORATION

“

**In the context of the G20 countries, which are focused on reducing carbon emissions, museums can play a significant role.”**

Emma NARDI, ICOM President at G20

# ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

ICOM continued to advocate for museums on an international level in 2023, representing the interests of the museum sector at high-level gatherings such as the **2023 G20 Culture Ministers Meeting** in Varanasi, India, and **COP28 in Dubai** for the adoption of a framework policy to recognise culture as a contributor in climate action. Through strategic statements, policy briefs, and collaborative initiatives, ICOM addressed pivotal issues such as the evolving definition of museums, the ethical implications of cultural exchange and repatriation, and the preservation of intangible cultural heritage.

By fostering dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect among diverse stakeholders, including governments, cultural institutions, indigenous communities and partners such as **IFLA**, **ICA**, **ICOMOS**, and **ICCROM**, ICOM reinforced its commitment to excellence in museum practices, ethical stewardship of cultural heritage, and the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue on a global scale. It highlights the importance of specialised international organisations like ICOM in the implementation of international standards for the protection of heritage and in reinforcing dialogue, solidarity and international cooperation. As in the **Statement concerning Israel and Palestine**, ICOM stands firm in its commitment to preserve cultural heritage.



*Emma Nardi and Medea Ekner at G20, Varanasi, India*

# PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

“ Culture is a powerful force that shapes all of our lives, wherever we are in the world.

[Global Call to put Culture at the heart of Climate Action](#)

# STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

Throughout 2023, ICOM remained steadfast in its commitment to foster inclusivity, equity, and sustainability within the museum community. For instance, by being part of the founding signatories and supporters of the 'Global Call to Action to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts, and Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action' launched by the Climate Heritage Network.

ICOM took a number of actions in relation to decolonisation including the Museum International issue "Towards Decolonisation", featuring diverse perspectives from indigenous peoples, curators, and museum professionals. With the interest generated by this issue, Museum International has seen a 36% increase in downloads, reaching 77,032 downloads in 2023.

Upholding principles of human rights, we endeavored to ensure that museums are inclusive spaces, accessible and welcoming to all members of society, regardless of background or identity. By championing **diversity, equity, and inclusion**, we sought to create environments where every individual feels valued, represented, and empowered to engage with cultural heritage in meaningful ways.



*Tata Somba eco-museum, West Africa's first ecological museum, Sèmè City, Benin*



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**ICOM's expertise is invaluable in finding solutions to threats to cultural heritage.**

Ernest KPAN, President of ICOM Côte d'Ivoire



# TRAINING INITIATIVES

In 2023, ICOM organised multiple training and exchange initiatives to support museum professionals worldwide. Key programs included the **ICOM-ITC workshops** in March and November, focusing on conservation, exhibition development, and museum education. **Regional training** sessions in Africa, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific region addressed museum management, digitalization, and disaster risk management. Additionally, ICOM provided **online webinars and e-learning courses** on museum ethics, inclusive practices, and use of technology in museums. A notable professional exchange was the **Germany-Zambia exchange programme**, where a German museum professional spent 20 days at the Livingstone Museum in Zambia.

By nurturing a vibrant community of practice and providing avenues for ongoing learning and collaboration, ICOM strengthened the capacity of museum professionals to meet the evolving challenges of the field with confidence and expertise.



*Exchange Programmes 2023 - Germany - Zambia*

# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ICOM GOVERNANCE

**The Executive Board, President and Director General are committed to ensure an ongoing dialogue between the different roles within the governance.**



# GOVERNANCE UPDATES

As the landscape of cultural heritage governance continued to evolve, ICOM embarked on a journey of transition in 2023. The **adoption of new statutes** and the establishment of **two new International Committees** marked significant milestones in our organisational development.

**With the appointment of Medea Ekner**, former Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council, as Director General (interim) and the formation of dynamic working groups and standing committees, ICOM positioned itself to navigate emerging challenges and capitalise on new opportunities in pursuit of its mission.

Through transparent and inclusive governance processes, ICOM sought to foster a culture of innovation, collaboration, and excellence across all levels of the organisation.



*Participants at ICOM-CC Triennial Conference 2023 in València, Spain*

# INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY



**The theme for the 2023 International Museum Day edition was Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing.**

Museums are key contributors to the wellbeing and to the sustainable development of our communities. As trusted institutions and important threads in our shared social fabric, they are uniquely placed to create a cascading effect to foster positive change.

As highlighted in the ICOM Resolution “On sustainability and the implementation of Agenda 2030, Transforming our World” (Kyoto, 2019), all museums have a role to play in shaping and creating sustainable futures, and they can do this through educational programmes, exhibitions, community outreach and research.

Each year since 2020, International Museum Day is underpinned by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In 2023, we focused on:

- Goal 3 **Global Health and Wellbeing**
- Goal 13 **Climate Action**
- Goal 15 **Life on Land**



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**សារមន្ទីរ និងរដ្ឋាការ និងសុខុមាលភាព  
ទិវាសារមន្ទីរអន្តរជាតិ**

IMD2023

國立歷史博物館 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

518國際博物館日系列活動

518nmhxtnua

國立歷史博物館

北藝大博物館研究所

Plant-ology: Breathe in Makara, Connect with Others!

好好呼吸的植感提案

行艸學

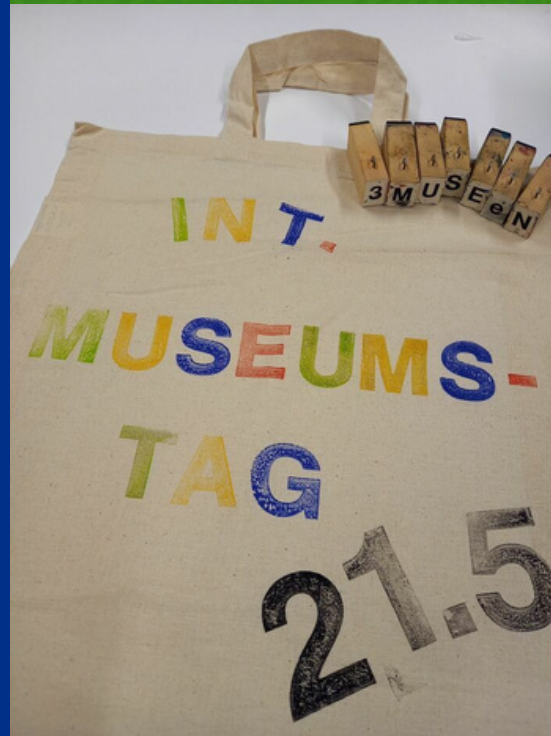
5/8-5/27

MUSEO PONTEVEDRA

**O peirao, de Diáspora Teatro**

Sábado 20 de maio, ás 12:30 h

Edificio Castelao



18 MAYO 2023

DÍA INTERNACIONAL DE LOS MUSEOS MUSEOS, SOSTENIBILIDAD Y BIENESTAR

19 MAYO 2023

MUSEO CARAL

Vida en armonía entre los Seres Humanos y con la Naturaleza «Vivamos cuidando nuestro ambiente natural»

Desde las 4:00 p.m.

Transmisión por zoom y Facebook Live

MuseoCARAL ICOM



# PROJECTS FUNDED BY ICOM SAREC

Special projects 2023 (€70,211 allocated):

- *Les musées face à leurs responsabilités environnementale et sociétale : vers un modèle éthique et durable* – by **ICOM France** together with **ICOM CC, NATHIST, ICTOP, ICOM Arab, ICOM LAC, ICOM Espagne, ICOM Canada, ICOM Liban**, and **Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières**
- *Two Horizons: two-way museology, a cross institutional and multi-knowledge system exploration* – by **UMAC**, together with **ICOM Australia, Shanghai Foundation, ICR, ICME, Council of Australian University Museums and Collections, Anant University & UNESCO Cultural Heritage Chair, Australian National University**, and **The University of Sydney**
- *Young people shaping the future of museology through the lens of the SDGs* – by **ICOFOM**, together with **University of St Andrews, Qatar Museums, ICOM UK, ICOFOM ASPAC, West Harris Trust, Association des Musées et Établissements Patrimoniaux de Nouvelle-Calédonie, National Gallery of the Cayman Islands**, and **Cayman National Cultural Foundation**
- *City Museums Global Mapping Project - Year 3* – by **CAMOC**, together with **COMCOL, ASPAC**, and **National Taipei University of Education (NTUE)**

*Continued on page 17*

# PROJECTS FUNDED BY ICOM SAREC

## Special projects 2023 (€70,211 allocated):

- *Historia de la Museología en América Latina y el Caribe (colecciones fundamentales): consolidación de la Red* – by **ICOM Brasil**, together with **ICOFOM**, **ICOM LAC**, **ICOM Mexico**, **ICOM Guatemala**, **ICOM Barbados**, and **Centro de investigación NUMMUS**
- *Annual Conference of the ICOM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Natural History - Costa Rica 2023* – by **ICOM Costa Rica**, together with **Museo Nacional de Costa Rica**, and **ICOM LAC**
- *Europe of Museums: New Definition, New Perspectives. Identity, Credibility, Sustainability* – by **ICOM Greece**, together with **ICOM Europe**, **ICOM France**, and **ICOM Cyprus**

## Solidarity projects 2023 (€50,270 allocated):

- *Effective museum leadership in mitigating risks in conflict and crisis* – by **ICOM SEE**, together with **INTERCOM**, **ICOM Zambia**, **ICOM Tanzania**, and **ICOM Arab**
- *A trans-national network for social museology* – by **MINOM**, together with **ICOM Brazil**, **ICOM El Salvador**, **ICOFOM-LAC**, **ICOM Sicily-IT**, **University of Catania**, **Universidade Lusófona Lisboa**, **MINOM Portugal**, and **ICOM Barbados**
- *Objets de Mémoire* – by **ICOM COSTUME** together with **ICOM Madagascar**





## INSTAGRAM

39.5k followers **+21.52%**

882 posts



## FACEBOOK

51.8k followers

1.3 million people reached **+23%**



## LINKEDIN

51.681 followers **+31.8%**

679k impressions

# ICOM ONLINE



## X

42.8k followers **+5.4%**

2.3 million impressions



## WEBSITE

916,923 pages views

70 news articles



## ICOM Voices

24 articles

21,235 unique pageviews

# KEY FINANCIAL DATA FOR 2023

ICOM's membership dues reached **€4,667,850** in 2023, representing an **increase of 12.6%**.

This increase is mainly due to the growth in membership numbers to **57,208 in 2023**.

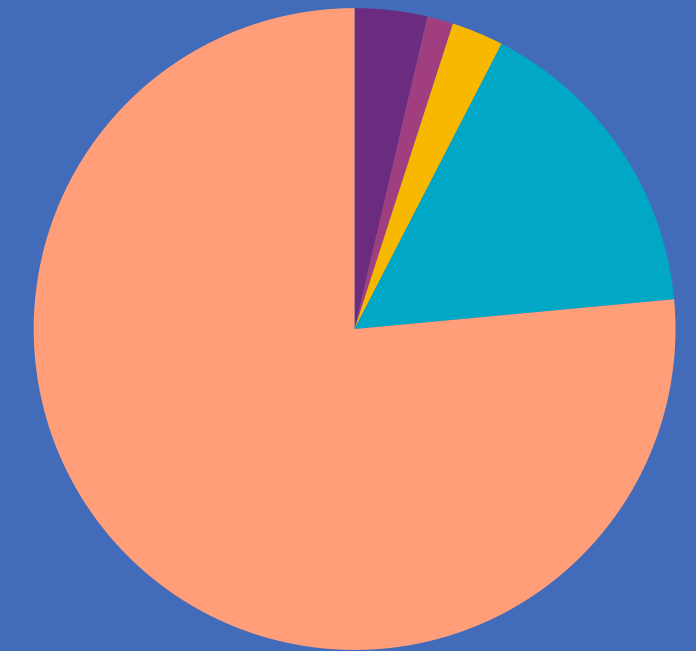
In 2023, ICOM received a total amount of **€736,355**, from:

- European Research Executive Agency (REA): €262,625
- Subsidy from National Committee ICOM GREECE concerning the translation of the red list « ICOM Red List of Greek Cultural Objects and Risk »: €15,000
- Subsidy from the Pegaso University, for the «Conference on Museums, Technology and the Future of Cultural Heritage »: €16,350
- Donations from the ICOM Foundation: €300,000
- Financial support from the Getty Foundation for the International Committee ICOM-CC annual conference: €74,000
- Financial support from the Getty Foundation for the International Committee CIDOC annual conference: €41,395
- Financial support for hiring apprentices : €8,000

## BREAKDOWN OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR 2023

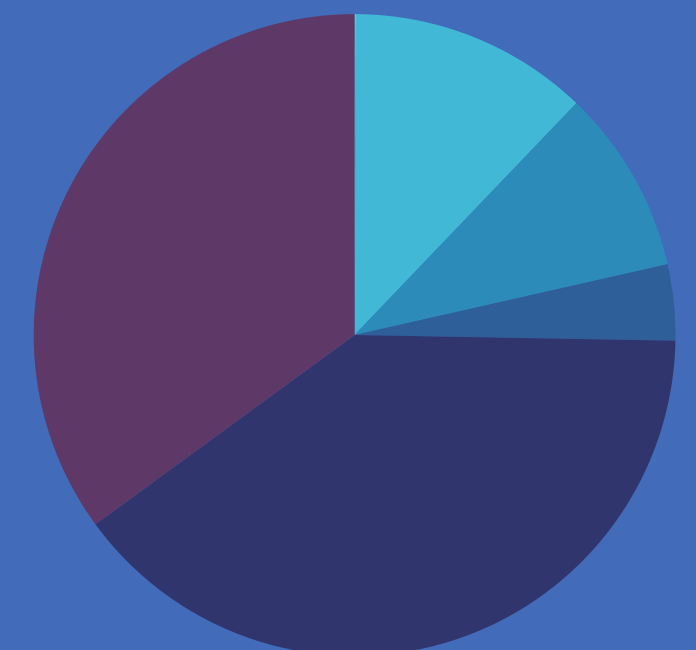
### REVENUES

- Exceptional income
- Joint operations
- Financial income
- Other income
- Subsidies
- Membership dues



### EXPENSES

- Financial expenses
- Exceptional expenses
- Expenses allocated to programmes
- Depreciation and provisions
- Support to the network
- Salaries, social charges and taxes
- Operating expenses



Please, point on the pie-chart sectors to see the related data

## 2023

Resources	5,800,649
Minus operating expenses	2,748,768
Minus salaries, social charges and taxes	2,140,097
Minus depreciation expenses	502,130
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>409,654</b>

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**Joint operations** **80,130**

Financial income	222,535
Financial expenses	3,201
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>219,334</b>

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**Exceptional result** **0**

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**Final result** **709,118**

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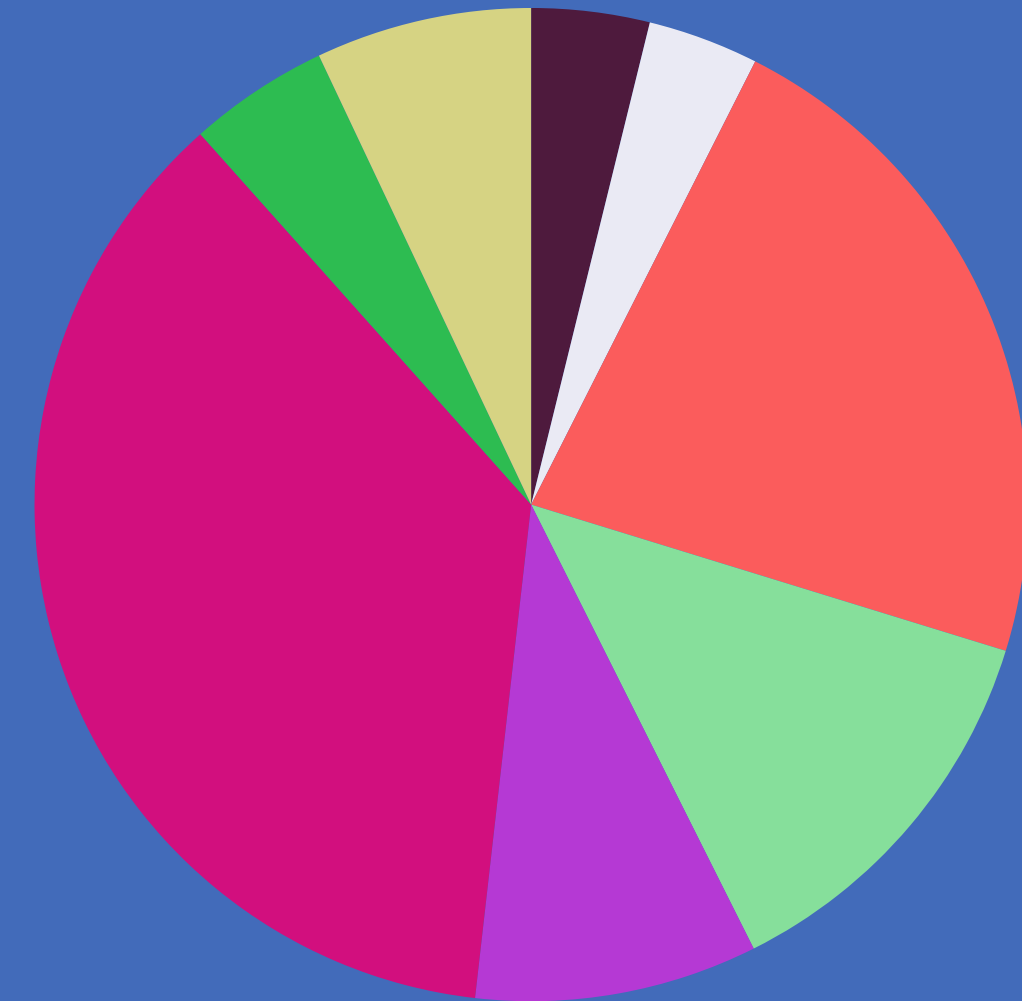
**Voluntary contributions** **0**

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**Average staff number** **31**

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All figures expressed in euros



## SUPPORT TO THE NETWORK

- Subsidies for the Regional Alliances
- Funds allocated to the Standing Committees and Working groups
- Regular projects funded
- Solidarity projects funded
- Subsidies for the International Committees
- Partnerships
- Bursaries allocated to attend ICs annual conferences
- Projects to support Ukraine

Please, point on the pie-chart sectors to see the related data

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES' WEBSITES



AVICOM



ICLM



CIPEG



ICOMAM



GLASS



CIMUSET



CAMOC



ICMAH



COMCOL



INTERCOM



ICAMT



ICMEMO



CECA



ICME



COSTUME



ICTOP



ICDAD



ICMS



CIMCIM



ICOFOM



DRMC



ICOM-CC



DEMHIST



ICEE



ICOMON



ICR



ICFA



MPR



NATHIST



UMAC

## Concept

ICOM Secretariat

## Editor

Emma Nardi, President / Medea Ekner, Director General

## Editorial coordination, graphic design and redaction

Communications and Public Relations Department

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