

52nd ICAMT & 1st ICOM STORAGE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar - Quito, Ecuador
November 18, 19, 20 - Post-Conference Day: November 21

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

ICAMT - International Committee for Architecture and Museum Techniques of ICOM annually organises an important international conference bringing together experts from diverse disciplines such as architecture, museography, exhibition design, and museum studies.

ICOM STORAGE has been established to address a persistent issue shared across the global museum community: the vulnerability of collections in storage, particularly in terms of their care, management, and future.

This year, ICAMT and ICOM STORAGE will hold a joint conference at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, Ecuador, on November 18, 19, 20, followed by a post-conference day on November 21 under the main theme:

Transforming Museum Spaces and Practices: Architecture, Sustainability, Collections, and Exhibitions in Latin America, the Caribbean and Beyond

Museos que transforman espacios y prácticas: Arquitectura, Sostenibilidad, Colecciones y Exposiciones en Latinoamérica, el Caribe y el mundo

INTRODUCTION

Museums are undergoing significant transformations that challenge how spaces, narratives, collections, and professional practices are conceived and managed. In the face of climate change, social inequalities, technological innovation, and growing demands for sustainability and accessibility, museums must rethink the relationship among architecture, storage, exhibitions, museum techniques and collections care.

This joint conference of ICAMT and ICOM STORAGE invites critical reflections and shared experiences on the transformation of museum spaces and practices, with a particular focus on **Latin America and the Caribbean** and its dialogue with broader international contexts. Contributions are welcome from professionals, students and researchers engaged in innovative, interdisciplinary approaches that address both theoretical and practice-based experiences, highlighting innovative projects, research outcomes, and case studies.

MAIN THEME

Transforming Museum Spaces and Practices: Architecture, Sustainability, Collections, and Exhibitions in Latin America, the Caribbean and Beyond

Museos que transforman espacios y prácticas: Arquitectura, Sostenibilidad, Colecciones y Exposiciones en Latinoamérica, el Caribe y el mundo

The conference sub-themes include (but are not limited to):

1. Museums in Risk Territories: Architecture, Collections, and Resilience

Museums located in regions exposed to natural hazards or conflicts must integrate resilience into both architectural design and collections management. In territories where earthquakes, volcanic activity, floods, and landslides are recurrent, museums must develop strategies to ensure the protection of collections and the continuity of institutional functions.

Possible topics include:

- Designing museums and storage facilities in multi-risk environments
- Seismic-resistant display cases, mounts, and storage systems
- Disaster preparedness and emergency response for museum collections
- Architectural retrofits for historic buildings in seismic zones
- Coordination between risk management policies and museum design
- Museums designed for rapid recovery and operational continuity after disasters
- Storage as a Safe Haven for Collections in Conflict Zones
- International cooperation, collaborative and solidarity projects for museums in high-risk territories

2. Adaptive Reuse and Historic Museum Buildings

Historic buildings often host museums and storage facilities, especially in historic urban centers. Adaptive reuse requires balancing the preservation of architectural heritage with contemporary museum requirements such as climate control, accessibility, safety, and visitor circulation.

Possible topics include:

- Adaptive and sustainable reuse strategies for museums and storage spaces
- Exhibition design in historic buildings
- Integrating conservation requirements into heritage architecture
- Lighting, climate control, and acoustics in historic museum buildings
- Accessibility and visitor flow in constrained heritage environments
- Governance and intervention guidelines in protected historic centers
- Structural reinforcement, seismic retrofitting, and case studies of successful historic museum renovation

3. Museum storage as infrastructure: Sustainability Approaches

Museum storage facilities are increasingly understood as critical infrastructure for collections preservation and sustainability. As museums respond to climate change and limited resources, new approaches to storage design emphasize ecological thinking, energy and space efficiency, and the use of regional resources.

Possible topics include:

- Sustainable and low-energy storage facilities
- Passive environmental control systems for collections preservation
- Museum Storage Design in Response to Regional Climate Conditions
- Regional networks supporting collections care and expertise
- The Re-Org methodology as a strategy for optimizing storage spaces

4. Hybrid Museum Spaces: Visible Storage and the Public Interface

Museums are increasingly opening their “behind-the-scenes” spaces to the public, creating hybrid environments that combine storage, conservation, research, and exhibition. These new spatial configurations challenge traditional museum layouts and offer opportunities for greater transparency and engagement.

Possible topics include:

- Visible storage and open collection displays
- Designing conservation laboratories and study areas visible to visitors
- Visitor pathways through operational museum spaces
- Hybrid architectural solutions combining storage, research, and exhibition
- Interpretation and storytelling in behind-the-scenes spaces
- Storage spaces contributing to the social role of the museum
- Archaeological, Botanical, and Living Collections in Visible Storage and Hybrid Museum Environments

5. Professional Practices and Collaborative Design

Contemporary museum projects require close collaboration between architects, registrars, conservators, curators, designers, and technicians. This theme explores interdisciplinary approaches to museum design, storage planning, and collections management, as well as emerging professional practices and training needs.

Possible topics include:

- Interdisciplinary design methodologies in museum projects
- Collaboration between architects, registrars, and conservators
- Emerging professions in museum storage and collections care
- Standards, specifications, and quality control in museum projects
- Training and capacity building for museum professionals
- Hands-on practices in exhibition installation, hanging systems, lighting, and graphics
- Partnerships between Universities, Research Institutions, and Museums for Education, Training, and Applied Research

WAY OF PARTICIPATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Prospective presenters across the world are encouraged to help shape the conference and contribute through

- **ORAL PRESENTATIONS** (on-site paper presentations – max. 15 minutes)

If you are interested in the 52nd ICAMT & 1st ICOM STORAGE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026, please:

- Fill out this [APPLICATION FORM](#) no later than **June 30, 2026, midnight CET**.

* Filling out this form does not imply mandatory participation.

* The proposals received after the submission deadline will not be considered for evaluation.

* Important note: All submitted material must either be original works created by the author or have been licensed under a Creative Commons or similar agreement.

- Prepare and submit your abstract according to the instructions given below:

Please note: All Short-Bios and Abstracts should be sent in **English**

In case of joint participation, the required information in points from 1 to 5 refers to each author:

1. Name, surname
2. Affiliation
3. Country, e-mail address
4. ICOM membership number and committee (ICOM membership is not mandatory)
5. Short bio (max. 200 words)
6. Title of contribution
7. Sub-Theme (please choose 1 from the suggested 5 sub-themes)
8. Abstract (do not exceed 300 words / No images or bibliography)
9. 3-5 Keywords
10. Technical requirements for the proposed presentation

IMPORTANT DATES

May 20, 2026	ANNOUNCEMENT of the conference and Call for Abstracts
June 30, 2026	DEADLINE for Abstracts submission
July 20, 2026	ANNOUNCEMENT of APPROVAL of Abstracts
July 20, 2026	REGISTRATION opening
October 31, 2026	DEADLINE for Presentations submission (PowerPoint format: PPT / PPTX)
November 18-21, 2026	CONFERENCE & Post-Conference DAYS
February 15, 2027	DEADLINE for Full-Papers submission

For any additional information, please write to icamt.storage.conference2026@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest and participation!