

# ICOM INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Submitted at 01/10/18 10:28 PM

**Name of Person filling this form:**

OPHELIA LEON

**You are:**

The Chair of

**Name of International Committee:**

ICMEMO

**Annual Conference jointly organised with (an)other Committee (s)?:**

YES

**If YES, please specify:**

ICAMT

**Title:**

MEMORY BUILDING: Engaging Society in Self-Reflective Museums

**From (Date):**

14/10/2017

**To (Date):**

21/10/2017

**Location:**

Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. & Washington D.C., U.S.A.

**Host Institution(s) or Organisation(s):**

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati Art Museum, The Holocaust & Humanity Center, Cincinnati Museum Center, Jacob Rader Marcus Center, U.S. Holocaust Museum, The AFRICAN AMERICAN Museum, The Smithsonian Indian Museum

**Conference Website:**

A dedicated website was created until the end of the conference with all pertinent information, registration, payment capabilities, etc.

Online only until the end of the year. <http://cincinnatiusa.simpleviewinc.com/rsvp/?action=details&noredirect=1&eventId=129>

**Sub-Theme(s) of Conference (if applicable):**

Engaging Society in Self-Reflective Museums

**Number of Contributors:**

8

**Number of Presentations:**

21

**Conference Language(s):**

English

Other: 8 Keynote Speakers. 21 Visual Presentations. 5 International Respondents. 7 Moderators. 9 Tour Guides.

**Number of Participants: ICOM-Members:**

42

**Number of Participants: NON-ICOM-Members:**

21

**Number of Travel Grants for young members:**

2

**Number of represented countries:**

16

**Please list the countries represented:**

Turkey, Italy, Ukraine, Japan, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Nigeria, Mexico, Germany, USA, Norway, France, Netherlands, Spain, UK, Czech Republic

**Further information related to the Annual Conference 2017:**

It was our intention to promote ICOM in the U.S., a first time for ICMEMO. Honoured by the presence of ICOM President, Ms Suay Aksoy, we were successful in attracting media, radio & TV interviews. Organizing the conference became a full time job, considering the large number of local partners, all of whom were museum directors immersed in their day-to-day tasks throughout the conference period. We raised \$50,000.00 between grants and in-kind services, afforded our participants guided tours, two full receptions at art museums, 25 partial member and speaker grants, including full travel and lodging for speakers from Nigeria, South Africa and Armenia. We delved into slavery, past and present, visiting historical sites and bringing foremost speakers on the subject. We visited the American Jewish Archives, the largest collection in the world and associated it with the American Civil Rights movement. We worked with ICOM U.S. and the Visitor's Business Bureau to overcome the challenge of grantors requiring a

local non-profit institution. With pledges in place, we finally conceded to hiring the services of a professional conference management firm in order to tie all the partners together into logistics for a seamless end result.

### **Activity 1:**

Research Activity

#### **Title Activity 1:**

ICMEMO Seminar on U.S. National Museums. Activity 1: Off-site Memorialization

#### **Description Activity 1:**

Location/Host/Partner: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Duration: All day

Purpose: To analyze

- a. the development of exhibits and changing perceptions from the museum's inset to today,
- b. the role of the Museum in alerting governmental agencies for genocide risk, and
- c. exchanges in educational programs nationwide.

Results: Commentaries from international panel of attendees, Q&A and feedback.

### **Activity 2:**

Research Activity

#### **Title Activity 2:**

ICMEMO Seminar on U.S. National Museums. Activity 2: The founding of New African American Museum

#### **Description Activity 2:**

Location/Host/Partner: African American Museum, Washington DC

Duration: Half-day

Purpose: To meet with the founding members of the museum, including director Lonnie Bunch, who took us through an insider's track of the history of the museum, from conception, to development, to the successful recent opening of the museum in prime Mall placement. Open discussion of the museum's role in speaking out over racial tensions, as a national institution. Visit of the all-new premises and exhibit.

**Activity 3:**  
Research Activity

**Title Activity 3:**

ICMEMO Seminar on U.S. National Museums. Activity 3: National Museum of the American Indian, its Educational relevance

**Description Activity 3:**

Location: National Museum of the American Indian

Duration: Half-day

Purpose: To analyze American Indian History, Narrative, Significance for Politics and Society in America.

Results: Round-up discussion of the two day Seminar between ICMEMO members.

**Website:**

YES

**If YES please specify:**

<http://network.icom.museum/icmemo/> . A dedicated website was developed for the conference, now obsolete, <http://cincinnatiusa.simpleviewinc.com/rsvp/?action=details&noredirect=1&eventId=129>

**Social Media:**

YES

**If YES please specify:**

Facebook: ICMEMO . Also contributed to Twitter during the 2016 and posted during 2017

**Newsletter:**

YES

**If YES please specify:**

We contribute to member museums' publications while we develop our own Newsletter. We also design new brochures every year in 4 different languages.

**Publication(s):**

YES

**If YES please specify:**

We're compiling contributors' texts from the 2016 and 2017 conferences on a volume to be published in 2018, both in paper

format and online. "Memory, Trauma, and Hope: The Experience of Memorial Museums in the 21st Century"

**Collaboration with ICOM and/or (an)other ICOM Committees, ICOM Regional Alliances, ICOM Affiliated Organisations:**

YES

**If YES please specify:**

In 2017, we worked closely together with ICOM U.S. in preparation for the 2017 Conference in Cincinnati. We asked ICAMT and they joined us for the 2017 Conference.

**Collaboration with other Institutions, Organisations etc.:**

YES

**If YES please specify:**

We have a standing collaboration with EUROM, the European Observatory on Memory in Spain, with the Primo Levi Institute in New York, with the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah

**Result(s):**

During the Paris 2017 annual Assembly, I met the representative of 'Sites of Conscience' and we invited them to be an international respondent, as well as to present themselves. From this, we are developing a series of conferences for a Special Project with Nigeria. I met twice with ICOM Spain in Madrid Conferences in 2017 and they will join our Special Project, "Art Focus on Human Rights: Nigeria" for a series of jointly-created conferences.

**Did you provide financial support for young members?:**

YES

**If YES please specify:**

We provided one partial and one full grant for the 2017 Conference from raised funding for our young members who applied but did not get the ICOM grant this year.

**Total number of grants for young members:**

2

**Number of grants for young members from category 3 and 4 countries:**

1

**Total sum provided for grants for young members (in €uro):**

2,000.00

**Number of Members in 2017:**

170

**Number of Members in 2016:**

150

**Number of represented countries:**

16

**Increase/Decrease of Membership in %:**

It is very difficult to retrieve up to date member information and unavailable for past years. In speaking to Sonia today, we could not come to a conclusion. Therefore, numbers are approximate

**Analysis of Diversity or Activities in Favour of Diversity:**

Every year, we invite and pay for members from category 2, 3 and 4 to deliver a presentation. These contributors become avid, loyal participants in subsequent years. This year, due to relentless fundraising efforts, we were successful in giving full grants to various speakers from Africa. We have already put out the notice to our members to submit applications for the Young Member Grant/s being made available to us.

We ask all of our Board Members to actively engage in the dispersion of ICMEMO/ICOM and enlist collaboration and membership during their conferences and activities.

Our brochures and conference programs are printed by member museums and distributed throughout the year.

We see to it that our hosts, partners and invited speakers are or become ICOM members.

**Further Comments/Information:**

Due to successfully sourcing alternative funding for the 2017 conference in the U.S., we were able to leave the 2017 ICOM subsidy untouched. This will be used in 2018 towards additional young professional grants, towards continuing to subsidize new speakers from categories 2, 3 and 4 and towards our ambitious Special Project to raise consciousness in and about Nigeria and the present challenges it is faced with, particularly that of the violation of rights for young women. This project came as a result of the presentation by our Nigerian colleague, a grant recipient at the 2017 ICMEMO Cincinnati Conference. When asked how we could help, she responded by raising consciousness. To this effect, we are developing a Special Project with art exhibits and conferences

in collaboration with Sites of Conscience, ICAMT, ICOM Nigeria, among others.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018: Jointly organised with (an)other Committee(s)?:**

YES

**If YES, please specify:**

ICOM Israel

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018: Title:**

Memory and Art / Memory and Identity

**From (Date):**

14/10/2018

**To (Date):**

18/10/2019

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018: Location:**

Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Lohamei Haghetat, Givat Haviva, Umm el-Fahem

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018: Host Institution(s) or Organisation(s):**

Massuah International Institute, Yad Vashem

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018: Conference Language(s):**

English

French

Spanish

Other: Hebrew and Arabic

**Further Information related to the Annual Conference 2018:**

Themes to be explored are the influence of memorial museums on shaping personal and collective memory:

- Use of representations from various fields of art (plastic art, video art, cinema, theatre, literature, street art) and memorial museums;
- Intergenerational transmission of memory — how it reflects different zeitgeists and multifaceted cultures in different periods of time and expresses them visually.
- Umm el-Fahem, expression of Arab and Palestinian contemporary Art.

- Visit to The Center for a Shared Society, aiming to build an inclusive, socially cohesive society in Israel by engaging divided communities in collective action.

### **2018 Project 1:**

Other

#### **Title Project 1:**

ART FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS & WOMEN RIGHTS: NIGERIA .  
Art Exhibits

#### **Description 2018 Project 1:**

This project aims to raise consciousness about a range of issues affecting Nigeria today, and how they inevitably affect the rest of the world. We aim to target that sweet spot on the Venn diagram: issues of vital local and global importance, which are nevertheless routinely underemphasized and ignored by the fast-paced world of social media and the 24-hour news cycle. Through the means of carefully-curated art exhibits and a surrounding series of conferences, this project will allow us to collectively take a step back and confront these issues of vital importance which are all too often made invisible by the pace of our daily lives, from a fresh new angle which will set out the problems before us clearly, and at the same time, offer a ray of hope.

### **2018 Project 2:**

Other

#### **Title 2018 Project 2:**

ART FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS & WOMEN RIGHTS: NIGERIA .  
Conferences

#### **Description 2018 Project 2:**

In collaboration with Sites of Conscience, ICOM Nigeria and local institutions where events will be held, we aim to develop a series of conferences that address the goals of this Special Project. Namely, to:

1. Advocate for human rights
2. Create awareness internationally
3. Educate the public nationally



4. Create a new frame of narrative for the victims and survivors of these issues: one of celebration and acceptance rather than stigmatization.

**Comments:**

Situating the 2017 Conference in the U.S. represented a huge challenge, given that, for one, the majority of our members are in Europe, and two, we were faced with a new state policy that is closing its frontiers, totally opposed to the ethos of ICMEMO. We believe we were successful in our aim to delve into racial issues, past and present, and learn of the struggle from experts in the field, as well as to raise visibility for ICOM and the issues ICMEMO stands for.

In 2018 we face, again, no small challenge in convening our annual conference in a state rampant with division and violence as we try to unite, in situ, speakers from all sides sharing their local phenomenons and bringing them to light in an international arena. This year, we don't have the possibility of raising funds locally so we must rely almost fully on our ICOM subsidy to bring in the international participants fundamental to the success of our mission. We thank you in advance for your support and generous contribution that we may continue to advance our mission and give new members the possibility of experiencing the warmth, the value and the support we work so hard to provide to all our members. Thank you on behalf of the ICMEMO Board and its members for your genuine ongoing commitment and a healthy and peaceful 2018 to all of you.

Kind regards,  
Ophelia Leon, Chair ICMEMO

**Financial Report 2017 (Appendix 2.1) and Budget 2018 (Appendix 2.2):**

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**Supporting Document 1:**

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**Supporting Document 2:**

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**Supporting Document 3:**

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**Supporting Document 4:** [View File](#)