



## Call for Papers

ICME – ICOM Arab – ICOM Tunisia JOINT HYBRID CONFERENCE

November 28<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### The Power of Museums

The global museum community met for the 26<sup>th</sup> ICOM General Conference from 20 to 28 August 2022 in Prague. This general conference focused on the strength, position, and capacity of museums in building a free, democratic, and educated society. It also considered how museums are changing and adapting to meet the challenges and needs of the 21st century. The ability to cope with the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic was also discussed by the global community of museum professionals.

The power of museums operates on many levels and in many contexts. Museums are unique human organizations with the ability for dialogic engagement with diverse communities and the broader public on the critical issues of our times. We are currently experiencing confronting challenges where there is a heightened sense of urgency for action and changes in many inter-related areas of nature and culture, perhaps the most challenging in all human history. We are challenged by climate change, the environmental emergency, inequality, social injustice, and the impact of Covid-19 on our professional practices and social and economic conditions. We are also challenged by economic and existential questions related to definition and purpose that test our capacity for adaptability, resilience and even survival.

Such big questions require broad debates at the widest possible level. ICME together with UMAC, NATHIST and ICR tried to answer to these issues at the 26<sup>th</sup> ICOM General Conference in Prague, but unfortunately some interesting papers could not be presented due to the lack of time. The Board of ICME decided to continue the Conference together with ICOM Arab and ICOM Tunisia in a joint hybrid conference from November 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in [Uthina](#).

ICME, ICOM Arab and ICOM Tunisia – joining their members for the first time – are calling for papers seeking answers and, perhaps, even more questions. Are museums effectively making progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Are museums becoming truly polyphonic and inclusive of many voices? Are the knowledge systems of First Nation’s peoples becoming part of the epistemic systems of the museum? Are museums truly transitioning from being points of cultural authority to being parts of a network of cultural agency? How can museums harness their power to become effective agents of change? The conference will be an opportunity to present and hear from case-studies of museums actively engaged in formulating these questions within their professional practice, and to discuss how different constituents can be involved in the transformation process of the 21<sup>st</sup> century museum.

Let’s share and be inspired by hearing of examples of projects across and between different collecting disciplines and across and between different institutional settings. We welcome experiences, case-studies, and in-depth reflections that help us power our networks and push the frontier of our understanding about these issues.

#### **Conference Format**

Hybrid, accepting both physical and virtual speakers. The papers should not extend 10 minutes.

Conference language: English, Arabic, French (simultaneous translation will be provided).

**Please send your name, email address, institution, ICOM number and the abstract before next Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, and indicate if you will perform in person or online

to

Ms Rema Zeynalova, ICME Secretary [remazeynalova@gmail.com](mailto:remazeynalova@gmail.com)

and

Ralf Čeplak Mencin, ICME Chair [ralf.ceplak@etno-muzej.si](mailto:ralf.ceplak@etno-muzej.si)

**Conference fee in person is 250 Euro, and online is free.**

#### **For more info**

ICME: <https://icme.mini.icom.museum>