CECA Newsletter SPECIAL - February 2021

Take part in the new definition of the museum!

Dear CECA members,

In this newsletter we would like to update you on the process around the formulation of the new museum definition. This process has been redesigned by the Committee for Museum Definition, Prospects and Potentials (ICOM DeFine), after the proposal was rejected at the 2019 General Conference in Kyoto. A key focus within this process is the voice of ICOM members in order to collectively arrive at a supported definition.

Thank you in advance for your contribution, *ICOM-CECA President and board*

The new process of exploring a new museum definition explained by MDPP 2

Process

After the great success of the ICOM Define webinar of the 10th of December 2020, the Standing Committee for the Museum Definition is pleased to announce the beginning of the third step of the Methodology: **Consultation 2**, a phase which will be conducted between January and April 2021.

During this period all Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organizations are encourage to consult with their membership on what a new museum definition needs to contain. Based on these discussions, each committee will fill an online form (**one per NC, IC, RA, AO**), submitting **up to 20 key words/concepts** that are considered essential within a new museum definition. We'll select the final 20 key words among the thematic input more frequently addressed.

All responses can be submitted in any of the three official languages of ICOM (English, French or Spanish).

CALL: Take part in the new definition of the museum!

As CECA board, we need your input for this. Until **1 April 2021** you can contribute to the new museum definition by filling in this document. Make an effort to include the diverse range of perspectives that exist within the museum profession, and also to take into consideration all the material available at the ICOM Define member Space page.

Examples:

To clarify any doubts on what a key word/concept is, we invite you to look over the prior definitions proposed and adopted by ICOM so as to guide you through the process of conceiving your own key words/concepts. Here are a few examples randomly chosen within the currently adopted definition (2007):

- *'Open to the public'* (key word/concept): 'Museums are public spaces that should be accessible to different audiences and sectors of society. The word 'public' refers to the museum users but also to the whole population addressed by it' (description).
- *'Conserves'* (key word/concept): 'Addresses both the action and the intention to protect cultural property, whether material or immaterial' (description).
- *'Tangible and intangible heritage'* (key word/concept): 'Refers to all natural or man-made goods and values, whether material or immaterial, without restriction of time or space, whether they be simply inherited from the forbears of earlier generations or gathered and preserved to be transmitted to the descendants of future generations.' (description).

(These definitions were inspired by what is put out by ICOM in the publication "Key concepts of Museology").

Marker concepts of the definition

As President of one of ICOM's largest international committees, I was invited to be part of the working group on a renewed definition of the museum. Our goal is to reach a result that is as widely accepted as possible in 2022 at the next General Conference in Prague. From the beginning of 2020, the members of CECA were invited to take part in a survey conducted through the regional coordinators. The survey was designed to highlight the essential points related to the professional specificities of our committee that our members wanted to see included in a renewed definition. The marker concepts of this survey were: **education, institution, inclusion, social role of the museum, importance of the materiality of the collections**. The summary of this joint work is published in ICOM Education 29.

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